

The Old Folks' Meetin'

They had a old folks' meetin' to the old church, nigh the town, Whar they preach the old religion like the Bible's got it down;

Twuz thar when they wuz Injuns, an' I've heard the old folks say That sometimes, when the brotherin wuz a kneelin' down to pray,

An' the broth'rin' an' the sisters, they'd they'd git down to business, an' Thar'd be a little shootin'—maybe fightin' han' to han';

But, talkin' 'bout the old folks an' their meetin'—forty strong— (I most forgot about it when the Injuns come along)

Thar was forty as I tell you— not a young un' in the crowd; An' it made the old church happy to hear prayin' done so loud,

How they all got up an' told it! Past as one 'ud take his seat -An' they'd sing fer just a minute, be another on his feet!

It wuz good to hear 'em tellin' how the promises come true; How the Lord wuz faithful to 'em an' done what he said He'd do;

An' that old "Firm a foundation" went a-sourin' up on high An' "From Greenlan's icy mountains" shook the big gates in the sky!

They wuz happy—them old brotherin'; they was right on Jordan's banks, With a wishful eye to Canaan, whar they seen the shinin' ranks;

Most of 'em's crost the river now, fer all its stormy foam, An' sometimes I kin hear the bells that rung their welcome home;

Value of Character.

Wherewith shall we do good? Multitudes are asking this question. They earnestly desire to be useful. They see that the world is full of sorrow and sin.

A fisherman must be careful of his steps. Simon Peter had caught fish not only with a net in the deep sea, but also with a hook near the shore.

Some years ago a young man in a certain community declared that to his certain knowledge leading members of a church in that place where he lived were base hypocrites, and he would not associate with them in church fellowship.

Sometimes, however, such accusations are justified by the facts. Professing Christians may be found who are not upright. They do not practice what they profess.

But true godliness will win souls. The world profits more by the life of one holy man than by all the eloquence and all the wealth in the world.

Those who think that godliness makes men disagreeable and unlovely are altogether mistaken. There have been men and women who believed that separation from the world means a long face, a sour disposition, and a melancholy spirit.

There is no better means of doing good than a good character. This is the Gospel translated into everyday life and exhibited before the eyes of men.

Mrs. Pulsifer's Featherbed.

BY GRACE JEWETT AUSTIN.

Sakes alive, girls, me make something for a fancy fair! Why, I never did such a thing in all my born days!

Yes, certain I used to knit years ago; but my old fingers are stiff now—days. Going to have an old ladies' table, and Granny Wood will make a dozen holders!

Now, draw up to the fire and tell me all you can. For the benefit of the Orphans' Home, you said? Widders and orphans', the Scripser says, and I guess it's expected we old widders will help the orphans all we can.

My sakes, ten tables! Say 'em slow, so I can remember. Now, I'll say them. Cornball, candy, cake and oocoo tables—where folks eat. Then doll, apron and cap, flower and cushion tables, and old folks', children's and remnant tables.

Brings to mind a fair for the soldiers we had in Civil War time at the town hall. My Mary was jes' eighteen, and pretty as a robin. Sarah, my eldest girl, had a big flower table, and made up lots of wonderful crosses and stars, besides bouquets.

little fat pin cushions in the shape o' hearts! I could 'a' shook her. A company from our town was going to join their regiment next day, and start straight for the front, so all the boys came out to 'em fair in uniform.

You've all got a piece of my heart, boys, you see, Mary said, and there were tears in her eyes. They were mostly schoolmates, every one. When her red hearts were gone, she went, as sober as could be, and helped Sarah sell her flowers;

I guess you'd be tired out if I tried to tell all the story of those hearts—how they were found in poor dying boys' pockets, how sick boys clung to them in hospitals, how one saved brave Sam Marsten's life by helping stay a spent bullet, and how one, all worn and frayed, was brought back to Mary by a lad who wanted her own heart as well.

There, there, what a rambling old woman I am, wearing out your time and patience! But it stirs me up as I haven't been for years to talk of fairs and Ma y. Seems as if she'd like to have me take some part in this one, wouldn't she?

Do you suppose 'twould do any to give a featherbed? 'Twas mother's spare bed, and nobody scarcely has ever slept on it, nor ever will now, I suppose; for mine last me through, and everybody is for mattresses now-a-days.

Why, girls, you're squeezin' the breath out o' me! Loveliest things you've had given yet?—oh, that can't be! One of you can help me get the sizes right, and fix ruffles to them; but they'll be my cushions and Mary's jes' the same.

When the night of the bazaar came, many gathered around that corner of the Old People's Table, where a sign announced: Pillows made by Mrs. Pulsifer, aged eighty-eight. They not only admired, but purchased, so that the next day one of the girls ran into the Pulsifer house to say: We sold every single pillow for five dollars apiece. Just think—fifty dollars from you and Mary!

M. S. Pulsifer nodded gently. Yes, from Mary and me. Widders ought to help the orphans.—Advocate.

Can You Undo?

BY J. R. MILLER.

A visitor in a hospital found a young man near death. Can I do anything for you? he inquired, as he bent over the cot. Oh, sir, cried the young man, can you undo? In answer to a kindly word he opened his heart and unburdened his soul to the visitor.

Can't I wear a white dress down into the mine? she asked petulantly. Yes'm, returned the old man. There's nothin' to keep you from wearin' a white frock down there, but there'll be considerable to keep you from wearin' one back.

Crude petroleum poured upon a burned surface and covered loosely with cotton will subdue the pain almost at once.

Hall's Hair Renewer enjoys the confidence and patronage of people all over the civilized world, who use it to restore and keep the hair a natural color.

The great demand for a pleasant safe and reliable antidote for all affections of the throat and lungs is fully met with in Bickles' Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It is a purely Vegetable Compound, and acts promptly and magically in subduing all coughs, colds, bronchitis, inflammation of the lungs, etc.

father's heart was almost broken with the thought of the ruin he had wrought in the lives of his own children. He pitifully warned all fathers that the time to save the children was in childhood.

If Father Holds My Hand.

BY BELLE V. CHISHOLM.

It was a bad wound, requiring a severe surgical operation, and on account of an inherited tendency to heart disease, the surgeons did not think it safe to administer the sleeping potion, so merciful in cases where there was strength to rally.

Once, when the agony was terrible, and he thought he would cry out, and he could not keep his tears back, the surgeon said pitifully, Cry all you want, my little man. Yell at the top of your voice if you think it will do you any good.

You are certainly a very thoughtful boy, said the surgeon gently. And I am sure your mother will appreciate the self-denying love that has led you to the sacrifice in her behalf.

What You Can Do. I think a Christian can go anywhere, said a young woman who was defending her continued attendance at some very doubtful places of amusement.

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For Mothers—To bring up a child in the way he should go, travel that way, yourself.

Stories first heard at a mother's knee are never wholly forgotten, a little spring that never dries up in our journey through scorching years.

Children need models more than criticism. We can never check what is evil in the young unless we cherish what is good in them.

Line upon line, precept upon precept, we must have in a home. But we must also have patience, peace, and the absence of petty fault-finding, if home is to be a nursery fit for heaven's growing plants.

There are no men or women, however poor they may be, but have in their power by the grace of God to leave behind them the grandest thing on earth, character; and the children will rise up after them and thank God that their mother was a pious woman, or their father a pious man.—Dr. McLeod.

Childhood determines character. Character fixes a destiny. Childhood in the hands of the mother.



Family cares and duties do not weigh down the well woman, and the children are never in her way. But when the womanly health fails, and there is a constant struggle with weakness and pain, household duties are a burden almost past bearing, and children are a ceaseless annoyance and worry.

Weak women are made strong and sick women are made well by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It establishes regularity, dries disagreeable drains, heals inflammation and ulceration and cures female weakness.

Sick women are invited to consult Dr. Pierce by letter free. All correspondence strictly private and sacredly confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

"I had been suffering some time, troubled with female weakness," writes Mrs. Wm. H. Johnson, of Avondale, Chester Co., Pa. "Every month I would have to lie on my back. I tried many different medicines and nothing gave me relief until I began Dr. Pierce's medicines, using two bottles of 'Favorite Prescription' and two of 'Golden Medical Discovery.' These medicines have cured me. When I began your treatment I was not able to do very much, but now I do the work for my family of nine, and feel better to-day than I have for a year. I thank you, doctor, from the bottom of my heart, for well do I know that you are the one who cured me."

"Favorite Prescription" has the testimony of thousands of women to its complete cure of womanly diseases. Do not accept an unknown and unproved substitute in its place.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets are the best laxative for family use.

Advertisement for Laxa-Live Pill. TAKE LAXA-LIVE PILL BEFORE RETIRING. It will work while you sleep, without a gripe or pain, curing Constipation, Biliousness, Sick Headache and Dyspepsia, and make you feel better in the morning.

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