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### Obligations.

It is pre-eminently in youth that the desire to meet obligations may be most firmly implanted and become a permanent possession. Children are quick to catch the spirit of those they are with; they soon learn to value the same things, and to strive for them. And the desire for a worthy object, continually striven for and obtained, grows into a habit of the heart as any long-continued process of thought grows into a habit of the mind, or any oft-repeated manual operation grows into a habit of the hand. And what habit can be so inestimable to the individual, or so valuable to society, as that which leads men and women to meet every obligation as it arises, gladly and speedily, with the same satisfaction that every honest man feels and enjoys in paying his debts?

### Water Before and at Meals.

Opinions differ as to the effect of the ingestion of water at meal time, but the view generally received is that it dilutes the gastric juice and so retards digestion. Apart from the fact that a moderate delay in the process is by no means a disadvantage, as Sir William Roberts has shown in his explanation of the popularity of tea and coffee, it is more than doubtful whether any such effect is produced. When ingested during meals, water may do good by washing out digested food and by exposing the undigested part more thoroughly to the digestive ferments.

Pep-in is a catalytic body, and a given quantity will work almost indefinitely, provided the peptones are removed as they are formed. The good effects of water drunk freely before meals have, however, another beneficial result—it washes away the mucus which is secreted by the mucus membrane during the intervals, and favors peristalsis of the whole alimentary tract. The membrane thus cleansed is in a much better condition to receive food and convert it into soluble compounds. The accumulation of mucus is specially marked in the morning, when the gastric walls are covered with a thick tenacious layer. Food entering the stomach at this time will become covered with this tenacious covering, which for a time will protect it from the action of the gastric ferments and so retards digestion. The viscid contents, a normal condition in the morning before breakfast, is not suitable to receive food. Exercise before partaking of a meal stimulates the circulation of the blood through the vessels. A glass of water washes out the mucus, partially distends the stomach, wakes up peristalsis and prepares the alimentary canal for the morning meal. Observation has shown that non-irritating liquids pass directly through the "tubular" stomach, and even if food be present they only mix with it to a slight extent.

### Life's Burdens.

A large part of life's burdens are self-imposed and wholly needless. Fears of calamities which never happen, a doleful habit of looking at the worst, suspicious disposition, a jealous turn of mind—these are the tyrants that load us with burdens heavy to bear and needless to carry. If we should honestly examine the various burdens of our lives, we should be surprised to find many of them are of this character. Not only may we drop them if we will, but justice to us demands that we should. A man or woman habitually unhappy is essentially selfish, and is always a thorn in the community. There are enough crosses and trials in life which must be borne, without manufacturing artificial and needless ones; and the more thoroughly we rid ourselves of the latter, the more energy and spirit we can bring to bear upon the matter.

### It is well to Remember.

That slander, like mud, dries and falls off.  
That he who gathers roses must not fear thorns.  
That to wait and be patient soothes many a pang.  
That all are not princes that ride with the emperor.  
That correction is good when administered in season.  
That it takes a great deal of grace to be able to bear praise.  
That you will never have a friend if you must have one without failings.  
That to have what we want is riches but to be able to do without is power.  
That there is no limit to the age which a man may make a fool of himself.  
That the roses of pleasure seldom last long enough to adorn the brow of those who pluck them.  
That a man who cannot mind his own business is not to be trusted with the business of others.—*Good Housekeeping.*

### TEMPERANCE NOTES.

Prohibition has been adopted at Midland City, Ohio.

Pennsylvania young women have taken the temperance cause to heart without reservation.

Killarney, Ireland, with a population of 6,500, supports eighty-three drink shops, besides hotels.

Rev. William Searles, it is said, lost his position as Chaplain of Auburn prison because of his temperance principles.

Petitions against the sale of liquor within five miles of Ann Arbor University are being circulated and largely signed.

Iowa Judges knocked the black out of the *Champion* and the liquor traffic by deciding that whisky brought into the State in original packages could not be sold.

G. G. Mandt, an editor at Horeb, Wis., who has been quite severe on the saloon interests, was called to his door and shot.

Miss Frances E. Williard says that the white ribbon women will endorse and support any political party who will declare for Prohibition.

One of the greatest curses in local option districts is the quart-house distillery. They have all juries summoned from men who run illicit bar-rooms, and thus thwart the meaning of the law.

The several W. C. T. Unions in Syracuse, N. Y., are planning a joint invitation to the teachers and boards of education of the city to listen to a lecture on Scientific Temperance Instruction.

Baltimore has 3,000 saloons. They furnish the overwhelming majority of her criminals, paupers, and insane. Out of 2,223 admitted to the Bay View Asylum, 1,711 were intemperate adults, and sixteen were children of intemperate parents.

### A Rosebud without A Thorn

It was bed-time in the nursery, and the evening prayers were said; only baby was kneeling, and the mother listened for the closing words of her short petition. They were these: Oh, Lord, make me a sweet rosebud without any thorns. And then the rosebud face was lifted, and with little arms around her neck the mother asked—

What did you mean about the rosebud, dear?

Oh, said baby, sometimes I get vexed and I'm naughty, and dey's de thorns.

Yes, said one of the older children, we call this beautiful nursery a little garden of the Lord, and we are the flowers in it, and if we are unselfish and obedient and gentle, our heavenly Father loves us, and is pleased, and if we are any other way the thorns hurt Him, and make us ugly, and our garden is spoiled.

The mother turned with a thankful smile to the good nurse who stood by. She came from one of the cold north countries, where the mind seems to revel in beautiful fancies, and with a heart set on all things pure and lovely, she was leading the little ones of her charge to goodness and happiness by pleasant paths. Should we not look up with the faith and prayer of the children, asking always to be more like Him till the smile of the Lord is the feast of the soul.—*New York Observer.*

### Subjects For Thought.

Art does not imitate but interpret. It searches out the idea lying dormant in the symbol in order to present the symbol to men in such form as to enable them to penetrate through it to the idea. Were it not for art, would be the use or value of art?

What the impulse of genius is to the great, the instinct of vacation is to the mediocre. In every man there is a magnet; in that thing which the man can do best there is a loadstone.

At whatever period of life friendships are made, so long as they continue sincere and affectionate they form undoubtedly one of the greatest blessings we can enjoy.

In youth one has tears without grief; in old age, grief without tears.

At twenty years of age the will reigns; at thirty the wit; and at forty the judgment.

Wisdom prepares for the worst; but folly leaves the worst for the day when it comes.

Seek not proud wealth; but such as thou mayest get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully, and leave contentedly.

The world is full of poetry; the air is living with its spirit, and the waves dance to the music of its melodies.

Cultivate forbearance, till your heart yields a fine crop of it. Pray for a short memory as to all unkindness.

There is a work advertised called every man a lawyer. What a state of society!

Say, Pomp; you nigger, where you get dat new hat? Why, at de shop, ob course.

What is de price of such an article as dat? I don't know, nigger—I don't know—de shop-keeper wasn't dar.

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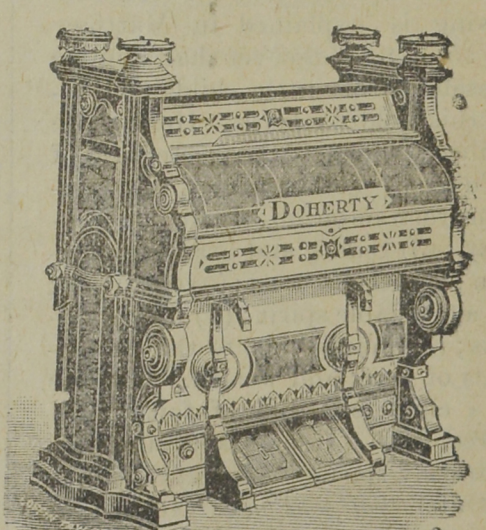
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FRANCIS C. D. BRISTOWE,  
Organist Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton (late of H. M. Chapels Royal, London, England).  
Fredericton, N. B., Aug. 1887.

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