

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Poetry.

HYMN OF FAITH.

BY MRS. L. H. MURRAY.

God sent me in this world to stay,
And He will take me hence away,
Whence His wisdom shall decree
It is the fitting time for me.

LEIGH RICHMOND'S MOTHER.

"My mother," says the Rev. Leigh Richmond, "had six children; three of whom died in infancy. A very affecting circumstance accompanied the death of one of them, which was a severe trial to her maternal feelings. Her then youngest child, a sweet little boy, only just two years old, through the carelessness of his nurse, fell from a bed-room window upon the pavement beneath. I was at that time six years of age, and happened to be walking upon the very spot when the distressing event occurred. I was, therefore, the first to take him up."

"I delivered him to our agonised mother's arms the poor little sufferer. The head was fractured, and he survived the fall only about thirty hours.

"I still preserve a very lively and distinct remembrance of the struggle between the natural feelings of the mother, and the spiritual resignation of the Christian. She passed the interval of suspense in almost continual prayer, and found God a present help in time of trouble.

"Frequently during the day did she retire with me, and as I knelt beside her, she uttered the feelings and desires of her heart to God. I remember her saying, 'If I ceased praying for five minutes, I am ready to sink under this unlooked-for distress; but when I pray, God comforts and upholds me; his will, not mine, be done.' Once she said, 'Help me to pray, my child; Christ suffers little children to come to him, and forbids them not; say something.'

"What shall I say, mamma? shall I fetch a book? 'Not now,' she replied; 'speak from your heart, and ask God what we may be reconciled to his will, and bear this trial with patience.'

A HAPPY HOME.

What a sweet picture is that of a happy home and a fond domestic circle! Thousands of such may be found in this Christian land. We will try to tell our young readers what are the principal things which make a happy home.

Next comes mutual affection. This helps to suppress every unkind word and action, and makes each member of the family anxious to regard the wishes and promote the happiness of each other. Love is better than sunshine in any dwelling, far better than costly furniture, or fine clothes, or plenty of money.

Thirdly, in every house where there are children, comes an obedient and respectable demeanour on the part of the children toward all who are older than themselves, and especially toward their parents. Such a demeanour leads children to be regarded as ornaments and comforts to society; otherwise they are likely to be considered as plagues and nuisances.

Fourthly, a love of reading. How pleasant to fill up the leisure hours, and especially long winter evenings with good reading! Thus the whole family may share the pleasure of reviewing the history of other times, & join in a common excursion to other lands, and all are furnished with food for reflection and subjects for conversation.

All these sources of indoor enjoyment are almost equally within the reach of the rich and the poor, of families in the city or country. Let each one of our readers try to do what he can to make his own a happy home.

A TOUCHING INCIDENT OF THE WAR.

In one of those fierce engagements with the rebels near Mechanicsville in May last, a young lieutenant of a Rhode Island battery had his right foot so shattered by a fragment of a shell that, reaching Washington after one of those horrible ambulances rides, and a journey of a week's duration, he was obliged to undergo amputation of the leg. He telegraphed home, hundreds of miles away, that all was going well, and with a soldier's fortitude composed himself to bear his sufferings alone.

Unknown to him, however, his mother, one of those dear reserves of our army, hastened up to join the main force. She reached the city at midnight, and the nurses would have kept her from him until morning. One sat by his side fanning him as he slept, her hand on the feeble, fluctuating pulsations which foreboded sad results. But what woman's heart could resist the pleading of a mother then? In the darkness, she was allowed to glide in and take the place at his side. She touched his pulse as the nurse had done. Not a word had been spoken; but the sleeping boy opened his eyes and said: "That feels like my mother's hand? Who is this beside me? It is my mother; turn up the gas and let me see mother!" The two dear faces met in one long joyful sobbing embrace, and the fondness went up in each heart subdued and pent up with its expression. The gallant fellow, just twenty-one, his leg amputated on the last day of his three years' service, underwent operation after operation, and at last, when death drew nigh, and he was told by tearful friends that it only remained to make him comfortable, said "He had looked death in the face too many times to be afraid now," and died as gallantly as did the men of the Cumberland.

How to TRAIN BOYS.—"Hosts of selfish, thoughtless mothers shall send upon us another generation of useless, vapid sons, open to temptation. Years ago, a son of my own was the object of pleasant stories and plans. An unerring teacher took him hence; but he has learned through him to look with loving eyes on other women's sons, and think what I would do for them. O mother! hunt out the soft, tender, genial side of your boys' natures. Make the most of them to love, flowers, pictures, and all the beautiful things which God has made. Talk with them, read to them, go out with them into the fields and woods, and hallow pleasant scenes with holy memories. A daily ministration to their unfurnished hungry minds, a daily touch to their informed taste, shall make them more cleanly than costly garments. They will bear you witness in the character and conduct of your children; but your lace and embroidery will crumble to dust. Why don't mothers teach their children more, and dress them less?"—A Lady in Springfield Republican.

THE SOUPLITES.

The Scripture style is noble and divine, It speaks no less than God in every line; It had not on dissolution power;

The things we must believe are few and plain.

A workman, writing to the Editor of the "British Workman," says: "Since I gave up smoking, I have put into a box the amount I formerly spent every week in tobacco. At the end of the year, on opening the box, I have counted out a sum of money sufficient to provide myself with periodicals and newspapers for the year, which sum I called 'solid smoke.'

God will either keep his saints from temptation by his preventing mercy, or in temptation by his supporting mercy, or find a way of escape by his delivering mercy.—John Mason.

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