

## MY MERCIES.

I'm so mmin' up my mercies, wife,  
That's come to me this year,  
How much I have to thank Him for,  
How little cause to fear.  
Now first an' foremost in the start,  
My faith was rather lean;  
I tried to stand in my own strength,  
An' then my heart wa'n clean.

I tried to put myself to rights  
By doin' of good works,  
Just like the old Crusaders did,  
Who went to fight the Turks.  
I tried to make myself believe  
That I was doing 'right;  
So every morn' I charged myself,  
An' credit give each night.

I kep' my book, the Lord kep' His,  
Till a'er a while, you see,  
The Lord, He showed me His account;  
I found they didn't agree.  
I found the cred' I'd give myself,  
He'd charged the same to me,  
Makin' me owe Him twice as much  
'S ever I thought 't would be.

But the parson set me thinkin';  
He preached from where it saith,  
(The word was full of spirit)  
'By grace ye're saved through faith.'  
He said, "You must believe w' the doin'."  
Though slow to grasp the word,  
I'd made a mistake an' knew it,  
So brought my case t' the Lord.

I've since been givin' an' doin',  
The best year of my life.  
I live at peace with my Maker,  
He keeps me from all strife.  
My barns have increased with plenty,  
I've lost no cows nor sheep;  
I'm trustin' Him, the Good Shepherd,  
Who watches while we sleep.

I've had more to give the Lord, wife,  
Than e'er I had before;  
But I first had to give myself—  
I wish it had been more.  
He gave me my wife an' children,  
My home, all I possess;  
All He asks in return for it—  
A heart full o' thankfulness.

Now, wife, the children are sleepin',  
An' all the stock is fed;  
Perhaps 'twill be doin' us justice,  
If we should go to bed.  
Altho' I'm not rich like some folks,  
I'm happy all the day;  
The Lord is so rich in mercy—  
Dear wife, let's kneel and pray.

Central Advocate.

## Applied Mnemonics.

Abijah Tomlinson had been taking lessons in memory culture, and so, when his wife said "Now 'Bige, I want you to be sure and get me that sugar, for I want to do up some peaches: now don't forget!" Mr. Tomlinson assured his wife he would remember.

"I know I used to be forgetful," 'Manda,' said he "but the new system of remembering, by association, that I have learned, makes it impossible for me to forget anything. All I have to do is to associate the thing I want to remember with something that is certain to come to my notice. You know I am going down town to see that farmer about the piece of woodland he wants me to sell for him. Now see how nicely I will make that meeting with the farmer remind me of the sugar.

"Sugar is to put in tea, tea comes from China, Chinamen wear pig-tails, pig tails grow on pigs, and pigs are raised by farmers; and so, when I meet that farmer I will think of pigs, thinking of pigs will remind me of pig-tails, pig-tails will remind me of—of—hams, and hams—and hams—oh yes, hams reminds me of eggs, and eggs—and eggs—(reflectively) now, you needn't laugh, 'Manda, I will come to it in a minute—and—lets see, where was I? Oh yes, eggs, why eggs remind me that I am to meet a farmer of course, and I must hurry up or he will be gone, for I was to meet him at half-past—now what was it? was it eight or was it nine? I believe it was eight—half-past eight, and here it is twenty minutes past eight now, and I must go this minute." He seized his hat and made a break for the front door, followed by the voice of Mrs. Tomlinson, which was saying, "Bijah, don't you dare to forget that sugar."

N. B. He brought home two pounds of tenpenny nails.—National Baptist.

## Two-And-a-Half-Dollar Christians.

There are a good many people in their religion that remind me of "Uncle Phil," a pious old darkey of the old times in Texas. Well, Phil was a fervent Christian with a great gift of prayer. He attended all the Saturday night prayer-meetings on the neighboring plantations, and could pray louder and longer than any of the brethren. But Phil had one weakness—he d'arly loved money; and, different from the negro generally, he loved to hoard it. Near by us lived a man who, not troubled by any scruples, would pay Phil a dollar to work in his fields on Sundays. One Sunday night, as Phil came home after dark, I accosted him with "Where have you been, Phil?"

"Oh just knocking about massa." "You have been working for Miller."

"Well, you see, massa, the old fellow is in need, and he just showed me a silver dollar, and I just couldn't stand it."

"Ain't you afraid the devil will get you for breaking the Sabbath?" Phil scratched his head a minute, and then said, "I guess the Lord'll 'scuse me, massa."

"No. He says, 'Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.'"

Phil went off looking pretty sober, and it was not long before I heard his voice in fervent prayer back of the barn, and so I thought I would slip down near enough to hear.

"O Lord!" I heard him say, "I have this day ripped and teared and sweared at them confounded oxen of Miller's, and jest broke the Sabbath day. O Lord! please forgive me; for you knows I's nothin' but a miserable heathen, anyhow. If you'll jest forgive me this time, I'll never do it again as long as I live, 'ceptin' he gives me two dollars and a half a day."

At this point I was obliged to beat a hasty retreat; but I am thinking that poor Uncle Phil isn't the only two-dollar-and-a-half Christian in the world.—Western Christian Advocate.

## Teaching A Child Generosity.

Parents sometimes wonder why their children grow up selfish and stingy, when they themselves are largely responsible for this. The editor of the *Sunday-School Times* says:

It is a question worth the asking, whether a child's best interests are not sometimes destroyed by the very means which a parent uses for their defense and preservation. A child's instincts are usually generous, and this very generosity, when joined with the natural impulsiveness of childhood, may lead to acts of indiscretion; but, at the most, these instincts call for regulation only, not suppression. There could be no better means for training a child into habits of selfishness than the custom which some parents have of offsetting every indiscreet act to which a child's generosity may have prompted him by some piece of worldly wisdom relative to a proper care for number one, or to the place where charity begins, or to some other of the principles by which the world justifies its selfishness. There are influences enough around the young which tend to slay their childhood, with its simplicity, its usefulness and its faith in God and man; the parent should be the last to join hands with these forces that war against the child's soul. If a child's generosity prompts him, in his childish ignorance, to unwise acts, teach him to be generous wisely, but never teach him to suppress his generosity. There is none too much unselfishness in the world; and he who cuts down a single growing blade of that rare plant sins against God, and wrongs universal man. Unwise generosity is not the highest kind of generosity; but it is a hundredfold wiser and loftier than that poor worldly wisdom which saves its money-bags and crushes out its heart.

## The Big Boy of the House.

Perhaps there is no mother, however wise and conscientious she may be, but feels that she needs help in grappling with the question, "How shall I hold and guide my big boy?" Along with other thoughts concerning "Your Boy and You," in the *Sunday-school Times*, Allyn Yates Keith gives the following:

Let your boy feel that you are always ready for him, always interested in his plans, however wild they may be. You can no longer command him. If that has been your only hold, then may God have mercy on you and on him!

His judgment is beginning to grow, perhaps. Encourage it. Take him into your counsels. It will not hurt you to ask his advice about family matters. See how kindly he will take to being looked up to. Do you not like to have your friends put confidence in you? He is only another you. If his self-respect be small, you are cherishing its growth. How do you treat the tender plants in your garden? Do you keep sunshine away from them, and step on each tender little shoot as it lifts itself up to the unknown light of a great and strange world? And as the plants gain strength and courage to stand alone, do you nip off their leaves savagely and water them as with a flood that they have hard work to stand against? Do you leave them to droop for a bit of encouragement, to grow awry for want of a little support to guide them till strong enough to stand alone? Or do you furnish props on every side, and leave the full-grown stem a derision to beholders?

Never let your boy feel that the household is complete without him. He may prefer anything and everything to his home, but when his "reasons grow," he can not help coming back to it, if you are faith-

ful to your trust. Never indulge in despair, however hopeless the case may seem, but keep a beautiful trust in him that will shine in your welcome. He may not be worthy, but he will grow to it.

## ENTERPRISE.

Sometimes the young man of enterprise "goes West," and sometimes he shows his good sense by staying at home.

Herbert Stevenson had a flattering offer to leave the inland town where he was a clerk, and come to the metropolis on a high salary. It is always flattering to a young man to be wanted in the great city. But Herbert reasoned in this wise: In my native town I am well and favorably known. The reputation of my father and grandfather is a heritage that would avail me comparatively little in New York; while here in M—it is of priceless value to me. All my relatives and friends are here. M—is a growing place; its facilities for manufacturing purposes are good, and I can make money right here in time, and probably sooner than in New York, where promotions are slow and where permanent success and gray hairs come together. I can live well on less money in M—than I can in New York, and when my new venture in manufacturing, which I am planning for, is an assured success, I can live in New York or anywhere else that I choose.

A great deal of what some young men delude themselves in thinking enterprise is mere restlessness, and they go from place to place like a rolling stone, and though they may be rounded and polished by attrition, they gather no moss.

"Let well enough alone" is a good motto to consider when changes of a radical order are proposed. There is no gain without some loss, but it is well to balance the loss and gain before taking steps that cannot be retraced.

## How to Make Life Happy.

Take time; it is no use to foam or fret, or do as the angry house-keeper who has got hold of the wrong key, and pushes, shakes and rattles it about the lock until both are broken and the door is still unopened.

The chief secret of comfort lies in not suffering trifles to vex us and in cultivating our undergrowth of small pleasures.

Try to regard present vexations as you will regard them a month hence.

Since we cannot get what we like, let us like what we can get.

It is not riches, it is not poverty, it is human nature that is the trouble.

The world is like a looking-glass. Laugh at it and it laughs back; frown at it and it frowns back.

Angry thoughts canker the mind and dispose it to the worst temper in the world—that of fixed malice and revenge. It is while in this temper that most men become criminals.

## Clues to Character.

Often we shall find these clues in seeming trifles. Says the *Youth's Companion*:

"How long have you been out of work?" asked a lady of a girl who came to apply for a position as chambermaid.

"Ten days," was the reply.

"And in that time you have not found opportunity to mend your frayed out dress? I do not think you would suit me," the lady said.

"I was on the point of asking that lady to be my wife some twenty years ago," said one of New York's prominent lawyers; indicating a maiden lady of his acquaintance, "but she was needlessly late in keeping two appointments with me, and I didn't ask her. The woman who makes a friend wait will be liable to try her husband's patience too sorely for happiness."

"Why! you engaged that governess for your children without a recommendation," said a lady to a friend.

"Her neat, plain dress and pleasant manners were a better recommendation than any written one," the friend replied; "and then in the hour's conversation I had with her I weighed every word, every movement, and I am convinced that Miss Snow is a lady worthy to be entrusted with my children."

It is the little things which help us to make up our estimate of a person's character, and it is the trifles of every-day life by which our friends and acquaintances judge us.

## Gospel Without Cost.

A wealthy Kentucky planter, a man of education, an eloquent speaker, a successful politician, was converted. He wanted to do good. His neighbors were irreligious, and he felt that his first duty was to them. He built a commodious church, put an organ in it, and hired an organist. He obtained a license to preach, and prepared some excel-

lent sermons. When the house was ready he sent his servants all over the neighborhood, and invited everybody to come to church at 11 o'clock Sunday. The people came and listened. At the close of the service, the preacher thanked them for coming, and invited them to come again next Sunday. On Saturday he sent his servants out to remind them of the Sabbath service. He did this year after year, paying all expenses himself, not taking collections from anybody or anything; for he wanted to convince the people that the gospel was free, "without money and without price." "And what was the result?" we asked. "Oh, he preached for twenty years, and there wasn't a single conversion in all that time!" People are not likely to prize very highly that which costs them nothing. If you want to get a man in the church, begin by getting him to do something for it. If you want to develop the piety of a church, train its members to work and to give.—Interior.

## Don't Hear Everything.

The art of not hearing should be learned by all. There are so many things which it is painful to hear, very many of which if heard, will disturb the temper, corrupt simplicity and modesty, detract from contentment and happiness. If a man falls into a violent passion, and calls us all manner of names, at the first word we should shut our ears, and hear no more. If in a quiet voyage of life we find ourselves caught in one of those domestic whirlwinds of scolding, we should shut our ear as a sailor would furl his sail, and making all tight, scud before the gale. If a hot, restless man begins to inflame our feeling, we should consider what mischief the fiery sparks may do in our magazine below, where our temper is kept, and instantly close the door. If all the petty things said of one by heedless or ill-natured idlers were brought home to him, he would become a mere walking pin-cushion stuck full of sharp remarks. If we would be happy when among good men, we should open our ears; when among bad men, shut them. It is not worth while to hear what our neighbors say about our children, what our rivals say about our business, our dress or our affairs.—Presbyterian.

PREACHING POLITICS.—An old pastor in Connecticut, a prudent, spiritual and faithful man, was damaged by a report from a neighboring community that he had brought politics into his preaching. A friend visited the place where the minister was reported to have done so, and asked a brother in the church, "Did Dr. Ely preach politics when here?" "Yes," was the response, "he did," said the interrogated witness, more dubiously, "if he didn't preach politics, he anyhow prayed politics." But what did he say?" still urged the friend. "Say!" echoed the respondent, "he said, 'Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not go unpunished.'"  
—Christian Secretary.

When John the Baptist, pointing to Jesus of Nazareth, said: "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" he not only furnished a text for preachers in every age, but also preached one of the vital doctrines of the Christian system. Christ himself and his apostles after him preached the same doctrine.

## Minard's Liniment cures Garget in Cows.

It is a great misfortune for the young and middle aged to be gray. To overcome this and appear young, use Hall's Hair renewer, a reliable panacea.

There are so many cough medicines in the market, that it is sometimes difficult to tell which to buy; but if we had a cough, a cold or any affliction of the throat or lungs, we would try Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. Those who have used it think it is far ahead of all other preparations recommended for such complaints. The little folks like it as it is as pleasant as syrup.

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DEAR SIRS,—I have been troubled with Lame Back for about 6 months, and thought I would try Hagyard's Yellow Oil, which cured me. Am now free from all pains, and recommend Yellow Oil very highly.  
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## "August Flower" Lawn Tennis!

How does he feel?—He feels cranky, and is constantly experimenting, dieting himself, adopting strange notions, and changing the cooking, the dishes, the hours, and manner of his eating—August Flower the Remedy.

How does he feel?—He feels at times a gnawing, voracious, insatiable appetite, wholly unaccountable, unnatural and unhealthy.—August Flower the Remedy.

How does he feel?—He feels no desire to go to the table and a grumbling, fault-finding, over-nicety about what is set before him when he is there—August Flower the Remedy.

How does he feel?—He feels after a spell of this abnormal appetite an utter abhorrence, loathing, and detestation of food; as if a mouthful would kill him—August Flower the Remedy.

How does he feel?—He has irregular bowels and peculiar stools—August Flower the Remedy.

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1886.....	319,987.05.	1,411,004.38.	7,030,878.77
1888.....	373,500.31.	1,573,027.10.	9,413,358.07
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