

Poetry.

A SISTER'S GRAVE.

[From Mr. Waterston's work on Moral and Spiritual Culture.]

The leaves by tranquil breezes fanned,
In summer beauty o'er me wave,
While here in loneliness I stand,
And muse beside my sister's grave.
My sister's grave!—Ah, who can tell
The thoughts that through my bosom swell,
In naming one who was so dear,
While mournfully I linger round
This spot of consecrated ground,
And feel that now she slumbers here?

Five years have passed,—five changing years,—
Since here, beneath the twilight shade,
With broken sighs and gushing tears,
That sister's lovely form was laid;
Five changing years! yet even now
I gaze, as then, upon her brow,
And seem to hear a low, soft voice,
Which bids my very heart rejoice;
And then I start and weep, to find,
That that which blessed my ear and eye
Was but a vision of the mind,—
The echo of a voice gone by;
For here I see the long grass wave
Sadly above my sister's grave!

Yet there is beauty here. The bee
Hums sweetly through the summer hours,
And the soft breezes wander free
Midst bursting leaves and budding flowers;
And on the air is borne along
The lonely wood-bird's pensive song;
While the mild sunlight, like a spell,
Slumbers upon each hill and dell:
What wonder, then, that to my heart
This grave, which in such beauty lies,
Where earth and heaven their charms impart
Should seem the Gate of Paradise,
Where Faith, with her sweet smile of love,
Points to the glorious heavens above?

And often thus, to this lone glen,
I will with thoughtful footsteps turn,
Far from the busy haunts of men,
The purposes of life to learn;
Till laid beside my sister's grave,
The same long grass o'er both shall wave.

The Family.

THE MOTHER.

A writer beautifully remarks that a man's mother is the representative of his Maker.—Misfortune and even crime, set up no barriers between her and her son. While his mother lives he has one friend on earth who will not listen when he is slandered; who will not desert him when he suffers; who will soothe him in his sorrows, and speak to him of hope when he is ready to despair. Her affections know no ebbing tide. They flow on from a pure fountain, and speak happiness through this vale of tears, and cease only at the ocean of eternity.

A Suggestion to Parents.

Try to interest your child as he gets more knowledge in your occupations, with a view to making him feel that he is useful. I have often been amused at the ingenuity of children, in finding themselves employment. Put them into a room ever so neatly arranged, and they will soon litter it all over. They will be equally industrious if you will say, "Come and help me to put all things straight," and there will be as much exertion as you could desire, to assist you. You will thus be well repaid for your self-command, by seeing the animated countenance of your child while trying to "help dear mamma." Remember that the unceasing activity of childhood is not mischief, but is a certain sign of both a healthy body and an active mind.—*British Mother's Magazine.*

Duty of Mothers to their Children.

"Mamma does not urge religion on me!" said an intelligent little girl, in answer to an inquiry respecting her religious knowledge.—Oh, surely the child must have been mistaken. Thy mother may not use compulsion with thee, but does she not ply thee with motives, and persuasions, and prayers, and tears, to become a child of God? If not, I pity thee. Who will be a friend to thee, and lead thee to the Saviour, if thy mother do not?

Mother, is it true that you do not urge religion upon thy child? Then your child runs the risk of being lost forever. For your daughter will be insensibly moulded by you. Your

influence over her is unbounded for evil as well as for good. If you are not exerting a happy influence over your children, you are still guiding them *unhappily*. Oh, Christian mother, in the name of our Divine Redeemer, I ask you, are you training your offspring for eternity or for time—for heaven or for hell? Who shall teach their infant lips to pray, if you do not? Who shall sow the seeds of virtue, as found in the Word of God, if you do not inspire your child with the love of it, if you do not watch and repress every rising exhibition of passion and folly? As the clay in the hands of the potter, the plastic heart of the boy or girl may be moulded to purity and piety.—*N. O. Pres.*

The Farm.

Hints on Harvesting Wheat.

As the time for harvesting wheat has arrived, I submit the following suggestions, through your paper to the wheat growers of this country. I am one of those who believe it best to cut wheat just as soon as it will do—that is, when it is "in the dough," as we term it. Having two neighbours, some five years ago, both thriving farmers, one contended for cutting wheat in the dough state, while the other as firmly contended that it should stand at least a week longer, until it was thoroughly ripe. At that time, I thought them both on extremes; but in the harvest of 1845, I determined to test the matter by a fair trial. Accordingly, in a field containing ten acres, I cut and shocked up six acres in one day when in the dough, letting the other four acres stand one week longer before I cut it. The result was, the first cut stood up well in the shock, the straw being stiff and the heads straight. In the second case, nearly all the shocks fell down, (there happened a storm of wind and rain before it would do to thresh,) in consequence of the straw being broken and limber, and the heads being curled. The last cut was more damaged by the rain than the first. I then threshed it out of the shock, keeping it separate; and on comparing the two, the first cut showed a plump, clear-looking grain—the last a grain somewhat shrunk, and of a darker brown colour. When made into flour, the latter showed a yellowish cast, while the former was almost as white as snow. The first cut did not scatter out and waste in handling, like the latter. The straw of the first was bright, and equal to hay to feed cattle on in winter, while the latter was comparatively worthless. By what natural process the sap ascends the stalk after it is cut, so as to prevent the grain from shrinking, I leave for the scientific to determine. It is a well-known fact among farmers, that Indian corn cut and shocked up after the blades are entirely dry, will turn bright and be good food for cattle—the from the substance remaining in the stalk, I suppose.—*Phill. Dollar Newspaper.*

Rules in Raising Poultry.

[Those of our readers engaged in raising poultry, will do well to preserve for future use the following rules, selected from various authorities by the "New England Farmer."]

1. all young chickens, ducks, and turkeys should be kept under cover, out of the weather, during rainy seasons.
2. Twice or thrice a week, pepper, shallots, shives or garlic should be mixed up with their food.
3. A small lump of assafetida should be placed in the pan in which their water is given them to drink.
4. Whenever they manifest disease, by the drooping of the wings or any other outward sign of ill-health, a little assafetida, broken into small lumps, should be mixed with their food.
5. Chickens that are kept from the dung-hill while young, seldom have the gapes; therefore it should be the object of those who have the charge of them, so to confine the hens as to preclude their young from the range of barn or stable yards.
6. Should any of the chickens have the gapes, mix up small portions of assafetida, rhubarb, and pepper, in fresh butter, and give each chicken as much of the mixture as will lie upon one half the bowl of a small teaspoon.
7. For the *pip*, the following treatment is judicious: Take off the indurated covering on the point of the tongue, and give, twice a day, for two or three days, a piece of garlic the size of a pea. If garlic cannot be obtained, onion, shallot, or shives will answer; and if neither of these be convenient, two grains of black pepper, to be given in fresh butter, will answer.

8. For the *snuffles*, the same remedies as for the gapes will be found highly curative; but in addition to them, it will be necessary to melt a little assafetida in fresh butter, and rub the chicken about the nostrils, taking care to clean them out.

9. Grown-up ducks are sometimes taken off rapidly by convulsions. In such cases, four drops of rhubarb and four grains of cayenne pepper, mixed in fresh butter, should be administered. Last year we lost several by this disease, and this year the same symptoms manifested themselves among them; but we arrested the malady, without losing a single duck, by a dose of the above medicine to such as were ill. One of the ducks was at the time paralyzed, but was thus saved.

On Making Bread.

Experiments enable me to speak knowingly. The quantity of nutritious matter destroyed in getting what our wives call a "light raise," is as eight to one hundred; or, out of every one hundred pounds of flour, we destroy eight, while the balance is largely injured by the process.

Nor is the practice of raising bread by the use of saleratus any better; indeed, it is infinitely worse. Why are ninety-nine out of every one hundred of the American people afflicted with poor teeth? Solely from the use of saleratus, not "sweet" things, as many suppose. I am confident that the love of gain ought to lead us to abandon the use of the first ingredient, while the love of health, and above all, a good set of teeth, should induce us to abstain from the use of the latter.

A sweeter and better kind of bread can be made by following the recipe given below.—One trial, I am satisfied will convince any one.

Three cups of flour;
Two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar;
One teaspoonful of carbonate of soda, dissolved in hot water;
A little salt, and a small piece of butter or lard.

Mix with sweet milk, roll out and bake them quickly. Add a little sugar, and it makes a very nice, healthy cake for children. The same proportions may be carried out to make a large batch of bread.

By placing the bread, when taken from the oven, in a current of sweet, fresh air, it soon recovers the oxygen that was expelled from it while it was in the oven. No bread should ever be eaten while it is hot. It is not fit for the stomach, and will certainly produce derangement,—such as flatulence, acidity, biliousness, &c. It is a want of economy to use warm bread. Many persons will eat three or four warm biscuits, while seldom will they eat more than two when they are cold; and yet the two cold biscuits contain more nourishment than the four warm ones.—*Valley Farmer.*

Useful Hints.

CRANBERRIES A CURE FOR CANCER.

The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) *Observer* says: "We have seen it stated, more than once, that the common cranberry was efficacious in the cure of cancer, but have never, until very recently been an eye witness to the fact. Mr. Middleton Belk, residing within four or five miles of this city, who was afflicted with a cancer on his nose for the last eight years, was induced to try cranberries, applied as a poultice; and to his great joy and satisfaction, has experienced a perfect and radical cure."

ANTIDOTE TO POISON.

A correspondent of the London Literary Gazette gives the following antidote:—"I may venture to affirm there is scarce even a cottage in this country that does not contain an invaluable and certain immediate remedy for such events—nothing more than a dessert spoonful of made mustard, mixed in a tumbler glass of warm water, and drank immediately. It acts as an instantaneous emetic, is always ready, and may be used with safety in any case where one is required. By making this simple antidote known, you may be the means of saving many a fellow creature from an untimely end."

CHARCOAL.

Charcoal ground to powder is one of the best things ever discovered to clean knives. This is a late and valuable discovery.

Spirits of wine rubbed on the gums will recover a person from fainting.

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PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY, FOR THE PROPRIETORS, BY

D. A. CAMERON,

At the OBSERVER Office, Prince William Street, corner of Church Street, opposite Sands' Arcade.

TERMS.—10s. per annum, in advance; 12s. 6d. if payment is deferred 6 months. Eight copies sent to one address for fourteen dollars; if payment is deferred for 3 months 10s. each invariably.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING:—For one square, (12 lines or less,) 3s. for the first, and 1s. 3d. for each subsequent insertion.

[All Communications, &c., connected with the paper, to be directed to the Editor.]

[No Letters will be taken from the Post Office unless post paid.]

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