

Family Circle.

"Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep."

In the quiet nursery chambers.
Snowy pillows still unpressed,
See the forms of little children.
Kneeling, white-robed for their rest.
All in quiet nursery chambers.
While the dusky shadows creep.
Hear the voices of the children—
"Now I lay me down to sleep."

On the meadow and the mountain
Calmly shine the winter stars.
But across the glistening lowlands,
Slant the moonlight's silvery bars.
In the silence and the darkness—
Darkness growing still more deep.
Listen to the little children.
Praying God their souls to keep.

"If we die,"—so pray the children.
And the mother's head droops low
(One from out her fold is sleeping
Deep beneath the winter's snow)—
"Take our souls," and past the casement
Flits a gleam of crystal light.
Like the trailing of His garments
Walking evermore in white.

Little souls, that stand expectant
Listening at the gates of life.
Hearing far away the murmur
Of the tumult and the strife:
We, who fight beneath those banners,
Meeting ranks of foemen there.
Find a deeper, broader meaning
In your simple vesper prayer.

When your hands shall grasp this standard,
Which to-day you watch from far,
When your deeds shall shape the conflict,
In this universal war,
Pray to Him, the God of battles,
Whose strong eye can never sleep.
In the warring of temptation:
Firm and true your souls to keep.

When the conflict ends, and slowly
Clears the smoke from out the skies.
When far down the purple distance
All the noise of battle dies.
When the last night's solemn shadows
Settle down on you and me.
May the love that never faileth
Take our souls eternally.

The Little Rocking-Chair.

It was a beautiful home, one whose memory
would warm and brighten the coming years, let
their experience be what they may.

It was a Christian home, where a father's
voice hallowed by prayer the morning hour, and
made the evening hour sacred also in its ascription
of praise to the Giver of so many mercies.

And yet in that pleasant home were vacant
places, and the echo of small feet in the distance,
treading with thousands of little ones
the shining streets of the New Jerusalem, a precious
reminder of the house not made with hands
which resound continually with sweet young
voices whose cadences will never know a tone
of sadness.

And there it stood in the sun-filled room, the
tiny rocking-chair, waiting for its wee owner.
How suggestive it was of cherished little ones
who, rejoicing in a like possession, rock away
the untrammelled years with the fresh morning
dew of youth glistening undimmed upon their
heads.

With swift and unerring precision the world,
like a huge pendulum, will sway its course, tell-
ing off the cycles into the hand of the faithful
wardens of the years, and we wonder if in the
evening time the halo of a life well spent will
encircle the heads which erst-while glistened
in the morning light.

The dear little feet must go out from Christ-
ian homes away from their precious associa-
tions, and the little rocking-chair will no longer
retain the happy forms, which took such abid-
ing comfort in their embrace. The oft-re-
turning tears of childhood have been chased
away by its soothing power, while to its motion
glad time has been kept by sweet young
voices.

How many the broad world over have, in mem-
oirs, homes hallowed by a mother's prayers
and unselfish love; and how vividly tender mem-
ory rise in the contemplation of these little
chairs. Peace be to such homes, and the good
Shepherd guide the little feet as they go out
from their sheltering care unto himself!

Hearts must grow weary and hands tired, but
when the flickering shadows of life's closing
day can outline the tiny rockers, and the sweet
home influence bridge the past and present, the
aged pilgrim almost within the golden gates of
heaven will echo with those who have not yet
reached the meridian of life, God bless the wee
occupants of the little rocking-chair.

Princess Louise and Her Dog.

Her Royal Highness is setting one good ex-
ample to the ladies of the Dominion which it
will be well for their health if they imitate. She
is an early riser and has been indulging in sev-
eral long walks before breakfast, of four or five
miles.

She is generally attended by one or more of
her suite, and walks with the ease and grace
which can only come from habitual exercise in
the open air. She dresses with great simpli-
city, but appears rather afraid of the cold as
she muffles up a great deal.

In these walks she is accompanied by a splen-
did Collie dog, a present from her mother, who
bears around his neck a very common looking
leather strap with a brass plate, on which is
engraved "I belong to H. R. H., the Princess
Louise, Kensington Palace." The dog is a
magnificent specimen of his breed, and the
Princess is said to be exceedingly fond of him
partly on account of his donor, and partly be-
cause at the fire of Inverary Castle it was the
barking of Rover which awakened her, and
saved her perhaps from a horrible death.

Friends Dead and Living.

Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love
and tenderness sealed up until your friends are
dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak
approving, cheering words while their ears can
hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled
by them. The things you mean to say when
they are gone, say before they go. The flowers
you mean to send to their coffins, send them to
brighten and sweeten their homes before they
leave them. If my friends have alabaster boxes
laid away full of perfume of sympathy and of-
fection which they intend to break over my dead
body, I would rather they would bring them
out in my weary hours and open them, that I
may be refreshed and cheered by them when I
need them. I would rather have a bare coffin
without a flower, and a funeral without a eu-
logy, than a life without the sweetness of love
and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends
beforehand for their burial. Post-mortem kind-
nesses do not cheer the burdened spirit. Flow-
ers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward
over the weary days.—Selected.

Crocodile Tears.

Mr. Philbrick, among many other living curi-
osities possesses an alligator about half grown,
and an infant which is old enough to crawl and
go about the yard unattended. A strange at-
tachment existed between the alligator and in-
fant, the former being so docile that the friends
frequently spent hours during the day in play-
ing together. The alligator would amble clum-
sily to his tank, take a sportive dive, and re-
turning, he would embrace the little one, so to
speak, and give unmistakable evidence of de-
light in receiving tender caresses in return. So
secure seemed the friendship between them
that Mr. Philbrick never thought of harm, and
left the playmates to themselves to pass the
time as suited their inclination. The friend-
ly relation did not last long however, for Mr.
Philbrick was startled, about 10 o'clock on
Wednesday last, by agonizing screams coming
from the back yard, and rushing out, he found
to his horror, that the alligator had bitten the
little fellow's arm almost entirely off, the frac-
ture of limb dangling by a slender bit of cuticle.
The poor suffering little thing moaned and wept
bitterly, and the alligator, seeing the distress
he had created, crawled up to his victim and
shed copious tears of sympathy, his expression-
less countenance giving him the appearance of
a subdued and sentimental ass. Mr. Philbrick
severed the lacerated member, dressed the
stump carefully, and the animal is now able to
waddle about on three legs. We have often
heard of "crocodile tears," but until Mr. Phil-
brick's statement our belief in their existence
could have been easily shaken.

A Great Preacher's Poverty.

Jonathan Edwards, by general consent holds
the first place among the original thinkers of
America. Mr. Parton, who has no sympathy
with his religious views, says of him:

"Upon every person reared since his day in
New England, he has made a discernable im-
pression, and he influences to this hour millions
who never heard his name."

But this great preacher fought a hard battle
with penury in his last years, and was often
sorely perplexed to find food for his large fam-
ily. Dismissed from the church in Northamp-
ton, Mass., over which he had been pastor for
a quarter of a century, he removed to Stock-
bridge to labor among the Indians. He was
obliged to support his family on a mere pittance.
In this seclusion he wrote his treatise on the
"Freedom of the Will," which is regarded as
a masterpiece in theological literature. So
great was his poverty at this time, that the
treaties was written largely on letters and the
blank pages of pamphlets, as letter paper was
beyond his means of purchase.

His daughters who were all young women of
superior mental powers, made lace and painted
fans for the Boston market, that they might
add something to the family resources.

Smiles.

Junior Clerk: "Would you kindly permit
me to absent myself to-morrow to attend to my
father's funeral?" Head of firm (deep in
figures): "You may go, Hawkins, but pray,
do not let this happen again."

"In my airy days," remarked the old man
as he shovelled coal into the school house bin,
"they didn't use coal to keep us young uns
warm, I can tell you." "What did they use?"
asked a boy near by. A sad far-away look
seemed to pass over the old man's face as he
quietly responded, "Birch—my boy—birch."

"Mary, my love, do you remember the text
this morning?" "No, pa, I never can remem-
ber the text; I have such a bad memory." "By
the way, did you notice Susan Brown?" joined
in Mary's mother. "O yes; what a fright! She
had on her last year's bonnet done up, an imita-
tion of Honiton collar, a lava bracelet, her old
ear-rings, and such a fan!" "Well, my dear,
your memory is certainly bad."

In a talk with Mr. Thackeray on the subject
of spiritualism at a breakfast table of the Pavil-
ion at Folkestone, he said: "You can get even
ghosts by asking for them." (laughter) and
then went on to tell that, shortly before, he
had spent an evening with a celebrated Ameri-
can spiritualist, and had requested a communi-
cation from the spirit of his aunt. She very
soon came, and gave Mr. Thackeray, through
the alphabet, some excellent advice as to the
management of his soul, and on the employ-
ment of his pen. "But," said he, "I had in-
vented my aunt. I had no aunt in Paradise, or
anywhere else."

Addressing his students at his Friday lecture
Mr. Spurgeon said: "When I was in Arran,
quite recently, I heard of a minister who pre-
ached in a certain church, and, at the close of the
service, was strongly urged to promise for a

future supply, the collection after his sermon
having been unusually large. 'Dear me,' said
the minister, with becoming pride, 'what might
your ordinary collection amount to?' 'Last
Sunday it was two-pence-half-penny.' 'What
is it to-day, then?' asked the minister, expect-
ing to hear a large sum. 'Eight-pence-half-
penny,' was the reply. 'Woe is me,' moaned
the minister within himself, 'for I gave the
saxpence myself.'"

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