

# The Family Circle

## A LITTLE PHILOSOPHER

A little philosopher sat on a step,  
And a deep, long sigh breathed he  
Over the ways of grown-up folks—  
Their inconsistency.

At night, when the sun has dropped over the hill,  
And the lamps are all lighted instead,  
They say so impressively, 'Now it is time  
For small boys to be safe in bed.'

And yet when you tumble and hurt you so much,  
They seem so astonished, they do,  
If you whimper. They say, 'Come, you shouldn't cry,  
A grown-up and big boy like you!'

It's queer they never can think you are large,  
At night when the dark's in the sky;  
It's queer they never will think you are small,  
When they know you are going to cry.

## A BLIND MAN AT THE DOG SHOW

A gentleman stopped suddenly before a sign which told that messenger boys were to be had on the inside. He hesitated and then went in.

'How many boys have you in now?' he asked.

'Six,' was the reply; 'it's dull to-day.'

'Boys,' said the gentleman, eyeing them scrutinisingly, 'I suppose you know there is to be an exhibition of trained dogs to-night?'

The faces of the boys showed that they were perfectly aware of that fact, and that some might even give him points in regard to it.

'Well, I'm looking for a boy to take a blind man to it.'

A titter was the response, then followed a variety of expressions, as, 'What could a blind man see?' and 'You can't guy us that way.'

'I'm not jesting, I'm in earnest,' said Mr. Davis; and then looking at one of the boys who had said nothing, he asked: 'Well, what do you think of it?'

'I think I could do it,' was the reply.

'How do you propose to make him see it?'

'Through my eyes, sir. That's the only way he could see it.'

'You're the boy I'm after,' said Mr. Davis, and he arranged for him to meet the blind man.

The exhibition was in a large theatre, and the blind man and his guide had a box to themselves, where they would disturb no one, but Mr. Davis, from his seat in the audience, knew what the boy was telling what went on so that the blind man could understand. Indeed no one applauded more heartily than the blind man himself.

The following day Mr. Davis again appeared among the messenger boys, and after a few words with the manager he said:—

'Boys, there was offered every one of you yesterday a chance for lifting yourselves up in the world, but only one of you grasped it. My friend, the blind man, has felt for some time that he might get much pleasure out of life if he could find some young eyes to do his seeing for him, with an owner who could report intelligently. My friend is delighted with the experiment. He says he is sure I hit upon the one boy in town who will suit him, and has offered him a good position with a fine salary. Messenger boys are easy to get, but a boy who can make a blind man see is at a premium. You see, that boy, though he did not know it, was on the watch for a good opportunity, and when it came he knew how to manage it.'

## POLITENESS

The reason that the French people enjoy the well-earned reputation of being the politest people in the world is because la politesse, or good breeding, is an accomplishment they always acquire at home and in childhood. A Frenchman, his wife, and a couple of children will observe all the most exquisite social amenities in the privacy of their own vine and fig tree, and the family life presents all the social advantages they require. A French boy of even the humblest parentage does not wait to go out in the world to learn how to offer a woman a chair, give an elderly gentleman his arm, invite you to dine, or discover the topics of conversation that engage your interest. He has lived from his babyhood in an atmosphere of family deference and cheerfully unselfish consideration, and he is charmingly polite by precept and example wherever he may find himself.

## A WOMAN IS NEVER OLD

Who allows herself to think only of pleasant things.

Who trains her tongue to utter only pleasant words.

Who remembers that frowns are unbecoming and that smiles are better.

Who keeps her nerves well under control and remembers that they are not an interesting subject to anyone.

Who enters into the plans and, as far as possible, into the doings of the young people about her.

Who never allows herself to become slouchy and careless in appearance.

Who treats others as she likes to be cared for herself, and never demands too much from her friends.

## TEMPERANCE SERMONETTES

A man who is loaded is far more dangerous than a gun.

It is better to pledge to the priest than the pawnbroker.

It's not what you make but what you save that counts.

There's many a slip due to bringing the cup to the lip.

The worst of the contagious diseases is the treating habit.

Among the beauty hints for the fair sex, none ranks higher than total abstinence. Did you ever see a bloated beauty?

The word 'abstinence' should have no terror for earnest Catholics. Days of abstinence from that which is not injurious are observed in honor of the death of our Saviour. Why not a life of abstinence from that which is dangerous in honor of His Sacred First?

## TOLD THE TRUTH

'Here's a cup I got in Morocco,' said an enthusiastic tourist, showing his collection of souvenirs. 'You see it has an Arabic inscription.'

His friend was turning the cup curiously around. At length he remarked dryly:

'Yes, the inscription is Arabic all right.'

'Sure!' replied the returned tourist, a little miffed at the intimation of a possible doubt.

'You can read it better if you turn the cup upside down,' suggested the friend; and, suiting the action to the word, he showed the tourist that the mysterious characters were nothing more than '1903' engraved in rough, irregular figures on the metal.

'The rascal!' exclaimed the outraged collector.

'He told me it was an Arabic inscription when he sold it to me!'

'He told you nothing more than the truth,' was the reply. 'You forget that our numerals are Arabic.'

But somehow from that moment the collector lost interest in the souvenir from Morocco.

## SAYINGS OF THE MONTENEGRINS

It is better to slip with the foot than with the tongue.

Every time the sheep bleats she loses a mouthful.

Marry with your ears and not with your eyes.

If you are going to visit the wolf, take your dogs with you.

What is the use of a fine collar if it strangles you?

The fugitive only covers one mile, the pursuer twenty in seeking him.

Even his own tail is a burden to the weary fox.

## ODDS AND ENDS

Why is it we remember what

We know should quickly be forgot?

Why is it we forget straightway

What we should bear in mind for aye?

A tourist who was sailing upon Loch Erne once wished to test the alleged character of Irishmen for politeness. Now there was a regular squall on, and at a moment when the old boatman had all his energies bent to keep the little craft before the wind, the inquisitive one, leaning over to the old boatman, shouted in his ear, 'Very little wind to-day.'

'Very little, indeed,' was the reply, 'but what there is of it is mighty strong!'