

The Family Circle

REMEMBER THE LITTLE MEMBER

You may keep your feet from slipping
And your hands from evil deeds,
But to guard your tongue from tripping,
What unceasing care it needs!
Be you old or be you young,
Oh, beware,
Take good care,
Of the tittle-tattle, tell-tale tongue!

You may feel inclined to quarrel
With the doctrine that I preach;
But the soundness of the moral
Sad experience will teach:
Be it said, or be it sung,
Everywhere,
Oh, beware
Of the tittle-tattle, tell-tale tongue!

HOW SHE SAW THE KING

Young King Alfonso, of Spain, is very fond of automobiling, and frequently acts as his own chauffeur, or driver. Shortly before his recent marriage, he was returning alone in his motor car to Madrid one day, when, at some distance from the city, he overtook an old woman who was trudging along in the middle of the road. The King stopped his automobile and cried out:

'Look out there, good mother, or you'll be run over! Where are you going?'

'To Madrid, to see my son, who is sick in the military hospital.'

'Well, then, get in here with me. I, too, am going to Madrid.'

The traveller gladly accepted the invitation, and the conversation soon became quite friendly. The old woman spoke about her past misfortunes, her fears for the future, and her actual needs. Then, all at once, she exclaimed:

'I wish I knew the King! They say he is so good to the poor!'

'I will take you to see him when we get to Madrid,' said Alfonso XIII., with a smile.

A few moments later the automobile entered the capital of Spain. Hats were raised as it passed along the streets, and there were frequent shouts of 'Long live the King!'

The old lady looked about her on all sides. 'But where is the King?' she asked her companion.

'I can't show him to you here,' he replied, 'the crowd is too big.'

On reaching the hospital, his Majesty got down, helped the sick soldier's mother out of the car, and said:

'Now, can I do anything else for you?'

'Nothing, sir, thank you! You are a charming young man, and the good God will bless you. But you promised to show me the King.'

'Well,' said Alfonso, pointing his finger at his breast, 'here he is.'

'You the King!' cried the old woman. 'Oh, what kindness!'

'Yes, the King, who is going to free your son from military service. As soon as he is cured, you'll have him back with you. And here,' handing her a purse, 'is something to live on until his return.'

Then Alfonso, jumping into his automobile, sped away, leaving the good woman overwhelmed with joy and gratitude.

It will be seen, says the 'Toulouse Semaine,' from which we borrow this account of a real incident, that the young monarch takes after his ancestor, Henry IV., and knows how to imitate his chivalrous acts.—The 'Ave Maria.'

A LIMIT TO ALL THINGS

He had been away on a long journey, and upon his return his wife was detailing to him a number of reforms and improvements which she had successfully engineered during his absence.

'And you know,' she said, 'the drawer that was locked for over a month and which you said couldn't be opened except by a locksmith?' Well—triumphantly—'I opened it.'

'Well, well; how in the world did you do it?'

'With a hairpin.'

'And the oven-door,' she continued, 'has been slopping around on one hinge for ever so long just because you were too lazy to fix it, but it's all right now.'

'Well, I'm glad you had it fixed.'

'Had it fixed? I fixed it myself—with a hairpin.'

'And then there's that crayon portrait of mother that stood in the corner for almost six solid weeks because you never would bring me any picture-hooks'

'Well, I intended to, but—'

'Oh, but! Well, it don't make any difference now; I got it up with a hook I made myself—out of a hairpin.'

'Ye gods!' he said.

'And there's Willie; you've been coaxing him and bribing him for a year, trying to break him off biting his nails, and I broke him in a week.'

'With a hairpin?' he inquired weakly.

'No!' she snapped. 'Don't be a goose! With a hairbrush!'

THE SELFISH GIRL

'Mabel, put down your book and help me a few moments,' called a mother to her young daughter.

Mabel read on without seeming to hear. Presently her mother called her again.

'Yes, mamma,' said Mabel; 'I'll be down in just a moment.'

The time went on, and presently the mother called a third time.

'Please let me finish this chapter,' called Mabel.

The mother did not answer, but, tired as she was, she did the work alone. Not being called again, Mabel decided that her mother did not want her, and bent over her book with renewed interest. She kept her room all the morning and did not think of her mother and the work downstairs. Mabel did not mean to be entirely selfish; she did not understand how much her mother needed her help. She thought only of her own pleasure, and was inclined to be cross and fretful if interfered with.

There are hundreds of such girls. They do not mean to be wholly selfish; no doubt they think they love their mothers, but they love their own way best.

AMERICAN ASSURANCE

A company of young American tourists visited the home of Beethoven in Bonn, and were unrestrained in their expressions of wonder, admiration, and approval of the room where the master had lived and worked. They asked many questions about Beethoven, and finally one young lady seated herself at his piano and proceeded with true American confidence to play the 'Moonlight Sonata,' Beethoven's own work, in his own room, on his own piano. Such an interesting combination!

The old caretaker stood there, stern and silent. When the performance was over the young lady turned to the old man and said:

'I suppose many musicians have been here and have played on this instrument?'

'Paderewski was here last year, madam—'

'Ah!' she sighed.

'But,' continued the faithful guardian, 'when some one urged him to play on Beethoven's piano he said, "No; I am not worthy!"'

TEACH THE BOY

To be true to his word and work.
To face all difficulties with courage and cheerfulness.

To form no friendships that can bring him into degrading associations.

To respect other people's convictions.
To reverence womanhood.

To live a clean life in thought and word as well as in deed.

That true manliness always commands success.
That the best things in life are not those that can be bought with money.

That to command he must first learn to obey.
That there can be no compromise between honesty and dishonesty.

That the virtues of punctuality and politeness are excellent things to cultivate.