

The Family Circle

"IN THEE, O LORD, HAVE I HOPED."

Afraid, dear Lord? No, not afraid
Of Thy Judgment's just decree.
But ashamed, my God. Ah! yes. Ashamed
To lift my eyes to Thee.
When the sands of life are drifting out
And I stand on death's lone pier,
My heart may sink with an honest shame,
But never a thought of fear.

Ashamed of One Whom I dearly love,
Who gave me a work to do,
Who coming at even findeth me
To my noble Friend untrue.
But fear, my God! Why should I fear?
You formed and fashioned the clay,
You knew the feeble thing I was
When you gave me the light of day.

The small, mean gifts that are mine to give
Other eyes would not deign to see,
But You stoop to take with a loving smile,
Well knowing 'tis only me.
If I feared Thee, Lord, I could not go on.
Then I'll choose the better part—
I will hide myself and my broken life
In the depths of Thy Sacred Heart.

I will kneel at Thy feet and with head bowed low
In shame at the waste of years,
But hopeful still, for my crucified God
Yet waiteth my penitent tears.
With Life's page, all blurs and blots throughout
I will trust Thee on to the end,
For there waits at the lonely pier of death
My kindest, truest Friend.

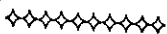


RELIGION IN THE SCHOOL.

Religion gives an entirely different atmosphere to a school. The horizon of the school, in which religion receives recognition as its due, is larger, vaster, and touched with celestial fire. The various topics are invested with a new interest and an added charm.

The teacher even of the secular subjects assumes a more spiritual character. Study and research take on the nature of a sublime duty and partake of the distinction of worship, for God is the truth. Every advance of our knowledge helps us toward some new glimpse of the Divine beauty. Religion infuses into the soul an enthusiasm for the truth and a zeal for study.

It is a mistake to think that the teaching of religion makes for indifference toward secular branches of learning. Quite the contrary is true, and can be readily observed. That is one of the reasons why the Catholic parochial school is nowise inferior to the best-equipped public school. The teaching of religion brings upon it God's own blessing.—*Standard and Times.*



A CHRISTIAN RULE OF LIFE.

1. Be careful to say your morning and evening prayers; for prayer is necessary for perseverance and is certain to obtain it. "Ask and ye shall receive," says Our Lord.

2. Often call to mind that it is appointed for you once to die—you know not when, nor where, nor how; only this you know, if you die in mortal sin you will be lost forever; if you die in a state of grace, you will be happy for ever.

"In all thy works remember thy last end, and thou shalt never sin."

3. Never neglect to hear Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation. By uniting our hearts with all the faithful in Mass, we offer first an act of infinite adoration to God; and second, we bring down the choicest blessings of Heaven. A dark cloud hangs over the Catholic family that neglects Mass.

4. Be careful about what you read, for bad reading is poison to the soul. Provide yourself with Catholic books. Take a Catholic newspaper and Catholic magazine.

5. Remember that a man is known by his company. Fly from the danger of sin; for "he that loveth the danger shall perish in it."

6. If you are so unhappy as to fall into sin be not discouraged; quickly beg pardon of God, and seek the first opportunity to go to Confession and start again a new life. "He that shall persevere to the end shall be saved."

7. Go to Confession and Communion once a week, if possible; at least never allow a month to pass without approaching the Sacraments. By Confession our souls are cleaned from sin and strengthened to resist temptation. By Communion our souls are nourished by the Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. "He that eateth Me, the same also shall live by Me," says Our Divine Lord.



ON READING BOOKS.

We hear a great deal of the importance of the selection of the books we read, but not nearly enough of the even greater importance of the manner in which we read the books after the selection has been made. Jeremy Collier once said, "A man may as well expect to create strength by always eating as to become wiser by always reading. . . . It is thought and digestion which makes books serviceable." It is quite true that, as Bacon explained, "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested," but this, after all, comes under the head of selection.

The whole question comes down to the real purpose of our reading. If it is mere gratification or to relieve ennui we may be as superficial or as thorough as we choose. If we read for relaxation alone we may skip pages which do not interest and absorb as little as we please; the fact that for the time being we have diverted ourselves into new channels justifies what might otherwise be considered as wasted time; to follow Jeremy Collier's analogy, we may say that the appetite sometimes craves food which is lacking in nutrition. But the human mind can no more be sustained by such food than can the body, and our intellectual palate sooner or later demands real sustenance.

Books have become so common that their significance is sometimes lost, yet it should not be difficult for us to pause long enough to realise fully that the paper, the type, and the binding of the volumes we read are merely the vehicles which convey to us truths which are entrusted to us as stewards, and that it is our privilege as well as our responsibility, after assimilation, to pass these truths on in richer form to those around us. - Exchange.



THE GATE OF LIFE.

Death! shall I fear it, Jesus?
Tremble Thy face to see?
Fear Whom each golden daybreak
Bringeth from Heaven to me?
Nay, I have met Thee, Jesus,
Often—and loved Thee long,
Why should I fear to cast me
Into Thine arms so strong?
Now in my poor heart's shelter
Thou tarriest awhile my Guest,
Then in Thy Heart in Heaven
I shall find endless rest.
Death will but chase the shadows
Veiling Thy Face away,
Death will but seal eternal
Our love-tryst of every day.

S. Lovell Central Hairdresser & Tobacconist
Proprietor :: New Plymouth

**Our Motto: Cleanliness,
Civility, and Attention.**