

# THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

## HOW THANKSGIVING SHOULD BE OBSERVED.

It should not be merely a feast but a Day of Thanksgiving to God for the Blessing of the Harvest—Lillian Dale's View of the Day.



IT HAS BECOME more or less the custom of late to speak of our celebration of a special Thanksgiving day with some disdain as a great obligation of roast turkey and cranberry sauce, mince-pie and nuts and raisins, and all the rest, instead of as an offering of thanks which we ought to be glad to make, if only with pulse and water.

Those who have grown to have this feeling about the day speak of it as a day of formalizing, reproach it with the manner of its observance, connect its existence in their minds with a responsibility for gluttony, and are in danger of losing all lofty or sacred association with it. As a day of real thanks to a source of all beauty and life they do not give it any peculiar regard. They call it Thanksgiving day because that is its name, always has been and always will be. They do not fail to observe it, because they are conservative and want to break in on no established order of things. They sometimes go to hear a sermon in which thanks are apt to figure but little, and politics are apt to figure a good deal; but on the whole, they think of it as a remarkably good dinner day.

Yet in the relations of every-day life with one another, if from any hand one received such a blessing as life, as love, as freedom from want, as friends, as family, as the roof that shelters, the food that leads the table, to say nothing of more personal gifts or of the minor myriad of blessings, it would be a matter of the most glaring incivility if any due rendering of thanks were omitted, and of ingratitude if one even desired to evade acknowledgment. The person who has been entertained over night in a dull country house sends a note of thanks to the host or hostess afterward; the beggar on the street, to whom a half-dime has been tossed, utters a modest word or makes a gesture of obligation, but those who enter into none of the interior reality of Thanksgiving day, who keep it as a matter of form and because others do, and because it makes one more holiday, and who in return for sunlight, sleep, waking joy, all the innumerable pleasures of existence, for the early and the latter rain, harvest, health, happiness, see no occasion for a season of special thank-offering, and in observing the day observe it rather in a Chinese commemoration of the ancestors who appointed it than from the force of an irresistible motion of gratitude in their own hearts, those people are less civil than the chance guest, less decent than the sidewalk beggar, and are really almost as much to be pitied as if they had nothing at all to be thankful for. Yet the idea of the day is something so beautiful, that it is a shame the day itself should not always and everywhere be kept with such warmth and freshness of feeling as it would be if it were but just newly instituted every year. It is a day that Christian and Jew and Gentle, Mohammedan and heathen, may observe with tenderness; for each and all of these have one great benignant source of blessing beyond the world of the senses, from whom they recognize that they receive all, to whom they know is due a worship which includes thanks. And how beautiful might be the offering of this worship and these thanks when compared with the offerings

made; from North and South on the crossing and interlacing lines, brothers and sisters and friends hasten to each other's houses this one season in the year, perhaps this one year out of many; mothers are speeding back, if they have been away, and fathers, whose errands have taken them into distant regions, make all haste to be at home again. What a wonderful human net-work is it thus stretched over the land, all pulsing and engorged and expectant of joy, heart-beats running along each line, love radiating from home to home, till one might think the very air above them would be electrified and vitalized with the human warmth! And what precious freight it has borne thus—the pearls and silks and teas and spices of the Orient far less so—precious with all that makes life dear, for wealth may go and health may go, but those we love are not to be spared, and their price is above rubies. And should disaster befall any of these Thanksgiving trains that go thus loaded, greeted at every station by glad faces of those that give some welcome and others goodspeed, delayed at every station, too, by entering and departing groups, what heart-break and what ruin follows!

Thanksgiving day, then is a day that stands for home and humanity more than any one day of the round year. Into the other great annual festivals, with the exception of those that are purely political, the divine element enters into a much stronger degree than into this day, which is not of divine appointment, nor of the recognition of any deity event, but only of our own gratitude to heaven and need of expressing it. It might be thought by any disinterested and unprejudiced observer, say, from another planet or another universe, were such things to be conjectured, that loaded tables, good appetite, sufficient digestion, friendly faces and all that sort of thing which might be described in Sir Lucius O'Trigger's



HOME FOR THANKSGIVING. graphic words, "I hope there is no dissatisfied person here but what is content." were subjects deserving instant and spontaneous thanks without waiting to reason upon them; although the fact is we are too prone to think that what we have is our own, won and deserved by our efforts, and due not at all to kindly Providence or heavenly permission. But if not for special providences and detailed blessings, thanks must by any intelligent mind be held due for the great laws and their operations by which these blessings have been brought into being. And in this view, let us all accept the day as another gift from heaven, and offer thanks not alone for all our separate happiness, but for Thanksgiving day itself.

Lillian Dale

### THANKSGIVING OBSERVATIONS.

#### How the Day is Observed in Out-of-the-Way Places.

Half of the observers of Thanksgiving day do not know how the other half spend that fine old Puritan festival.

On the plains of Montana and Wyoming the cow-boys supplement their Thanksgiving dinner with the grand, mysterious mince pie, so dear to the traditions of the day. It is the chef-d'œuvre of the prairie cook, and the boys drop their lassos and revolvers to watch the operation with breathless awe and expectancy.

Another picture incidentally illustrates the perils of gossip, particularly in a case where vigilance is the price of the dinner; and the fattened goose mysteriously vanishes, stuffing and all. The women folk will no doubt do up the affairs of their neighbors to their own mutual satisfaction; but, meanwhile, empty is the oven, goose is gone!

Truly, this festival of the last Thursday in November ought to be universal—there are so many general as well as individual reasons for giving thanks. We can be thankful that the elections are over—that Christmas is coming—that the beginning of frost is the end of yellow fever—that people have settled, or at least dropped, the question, "Is marriage a failure?" And unfortunate indeed is he that cannot at least fall back upon the stoical old maxim and be "thankful that things are no worse than they are."

#### The Christians Observe It.

Thanksgiving day is now celebrated by union services in all the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish churches in the United States. In the homes of citizens, without respect to religious faith or church affiliations, it is made a day of merriment and feasting, at which families long separated are reunited, and ceremonies of a social character prevail.

**\$300 Saved.**  
YORK, Neb., Nov. 19, 1892.  
Editor ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:  
In answer to your request for report on county funds deposited to the credit of the different counties will say:  
York county has on an average about \$10,000 on deposit at 7 per cent. interest.  
D. S. ZIMMERMAN,  
County Treasurer.

**Gossips.**  
Gossips may be found in every community. They are that class of people who make it their business to attend to other people's business.

They know nearly all about their neighbors' concerns, and what they don't know they are very anxious to find out. They know just how wicked their neighbors are, and how dirty their neighbor's wives are. They know just how lazy the school teacher is and how wicked the preacher used to be.

They know every foolish little thing a young lady does, just how often a fellow goes courting and how late he stays, and how worthless he is. Gossips never find out anything good. They don't seem to know that anyone, except themselves, ever did anything good.

Their highest delight is to injure the fair character of some young man who is trying to work his way up in the world, or some young lady who has a bright and happy future before her.

They are not only tale-bearers, but they are tale-growers; a story in their mouths will soon grow to huge dimensions.

If any unpleasantness occurs in a neighborhood all the gossips begin searching for it like buzzards after carrion.

If they can't find out all about it some one passes an opinion and this is told by the next one for the truth.

When there is no foundation in fact for a story, it is easy for the first class gossip to manufacture one.

While other people are listening to the cheerful happy voices of their fellow beings, the gossip's ears are listening for cross words, brawls, lies and oaths.

While other eyes are looking at the beautiful and pleasant things around them the gossip's eyes are employed in looking for dirt in other people's houses, and faults in other people's dress or actions.

While others are uttering words of kindness, encouragement and love the gossip's tongue is twisting itself around some vile and poisonous slander.

While others are scattering sweet flowers in the pathway of their friends, to cheer the rough places of life the gossip is engaged in hiding poisoned thorns in the pathway of others to pierce their feet and harder their hearts.

There are many people who thoughtlessly drink in the false reports circulated by these agents of Satan. They listen and believe. Indeed they are only too ready to believe these vile slanders. This ought not to be. Every true man and woman should turn from the gossip as from a deadly serpent.

Every young person should resolve that they will treat both gossips and their words with the scorn and contempt which they merit.

ELLA DALE.

### Resolutions of Condolence.

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst the companion of our worthy brother, W. E. Brown on Saturday, November 5th, 1892. In her death our brother has lost a loving and affectionate wife, the community a near and dear friend. Therefore be it

Resolved, That the secretary of Union Alliance No. 852, be requested to present a copy of these resolutions to Brother W. E. Brown in testimony of our regards for the deceased; also send for publication to THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT and county papers and cause the same to be spread upon the records of the alliance.

J. A. VANHOSEN,  
JAMES WATTS,  
C. L. STONER,  
Nov. 16, 1892. Committee.

### Think They Deserve a Flag.

BYRON, Neb., Nov. 12, 1892.

EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:

If General Van Wyck is not elected governor it is not the fault of Byron precinct, Thayer county. Without a single speech from the independents, and very little independent literature (except THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT) she gave General Van Wyck eighty-five votes to the other three candidates forty six, almost two to one. I think the general should give Byron a flag for her loyalty to the people's cause, and especially to the General himself. Yours for the good cause.  
I. H. PAGE.

### Low Rates for Nebraska State Teachers Association.

The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway will sell Tickets to Lincoln at low rates on certificate plan. Ask your Ticket Agent for particulars.  
JNO. SEBASTIAN, G. T. & P. A.  
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### Effect of Contraction.

No man ever yet was made who could do business and succeed on a decreasing volume of currency. Hard times are the inevitable result of contraction. Sherman tells us that to increase the purchasing power of the dollar benefits the laboring man.

At the close of the war the purchasing power of the dollar was:

1 steer..... 55.00  
1 horse..... 150.00  
1 bushel of wheat..... 2.00

Today the purchasing power of the dollar is:

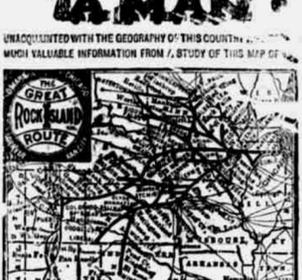
1 steer..... \$25.00  
1 horse..... 75.00  
1 bushel of wheat..... .75

When the farmer went to pay his taxes, then one steer would pay them; today it takes three steers to pay the same tax. His rate of \$1,000 then could be paid with 500 bushels of wheat. — National Watchman.

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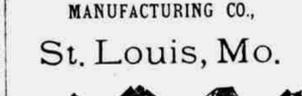
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