CALVERT, : : NEBRASKA

WHAT THE CIRCUS DID.

We were a quiet and sober set, Little accustomed to noise and fret, Decent and modest at work or play, And oh! so proper in every way. Before we went to the Circus!

Nobody ever had seen us go At all too fast, or at all too slow: No matter how gally we talked or sang, We never had used a word of slang Before we went to the Circus!

We went to church, or we went to school, By the very most orthodox kind of rule; For we were a people of Dutch descent, And rather phlegmatic in temperament Until we went to the Circus!

Alas and alas! 'tis a woeful sight
The way we are changed at the time I write!
Father is swaying against the breeze,
Hung by the toes from a high trapeze,
Trying to copy the Circus!

The boys on their heads, with feet in air, Are riding wild horses on each high chair; Or down on their backs on the sidewalk brick Are balancing tubs for a juggling trick:
And the girls have painted hands and face,
And got themselves up for an Indian race,
As they saw them do at the Circus!

Mother high up on the table stands, standing the baby with both her hands, Swinging the baby with many a rub, And brandishing him like an Indian club; While baby himself, in a terrible fright, Howls like a Zulu from morn till night, Since we went to the Circus!

We never had gone to the Circus!
-Wide Awake.

WHAT IS HOSPITALITY?

BEFORE THE PARTY.

"There, I believe old Mrs. Peckham's name completes the number! William, my dear, will you please listen to this list of invitations, and see if I have omitted any one to whom we are indebted?" The poor father-of-the-family, thus addressed, meekly laid by his spectacles and paper, and prepared to submit to the inevitable.

It was a way Mrs. Barnes had of planning with her daughter Alice some expensive indulgence, and, when too late to be recalled, springing the subject up-on her husband in an easy, matter-ofcourse way, which left him no alternative but a half unwilling consent.

"Why, you see, my dear," she went on, in answer to his questions of surprise, "we haven't had a large company in over a year, and we are really under obligations to all these people-fiftyeight I make in all,"

"I do detest large companies," began

Mr. Barnes.

"I'm sure you cannot dread this thing any more than I do," put in Mrs. B., "and all the work and care to come upon me, too; but it is not so bad as a number of small gatherings, just as it is better to have several doomed teeth all little silver or table ornaments. extracted at once, rather than to keep dreading them."

"What would these people say if they knew mother compared their entertainment to pulling teeth!"-this from Alice, in an aside to brother Fred; but that young gentleman, who had been to college, assured her that "it was the way with the world; they all felt just so."

"Well, we must at least study simplicity in our arrangements and that will ease both your labor and my pocket-book," said Mr. Barnes.

"Sure enough, let's institute a new departure, as Julia Dorr did in Rutthing, and lots of fellows went home hungry, not relishing the 'feast of reason and flow of soul.""

"That is very well for literary people, whose houses are full of objects of interest," said his mother-"And who have other ways of entertaining people than through their stomachs," whispered naughty Alice-"but we must have an elegant supper, or we will our friends and people whom we wish give up the party. Of course we must especially to make happy, in small have oysters and several cold meats, besides ices, ice-cream, fruits, coffee and chocolate. We will pinch somewhere else to make up; leave that to me, William." And the lady went on complacently reading her list. "Dr. and Mrs. Rollins; you recollect we were invited to their daughter's wedding.

"Both which 'obligations' cost us a pretty little sum for presents to people we don't care a thing about," said Mr. Barnes, bitterly. "Mary, if you ever hear me say a word about our having a metal wedding, know at once that I am either crazy or in my dotage. When we get so low as to invite people to give us presents, I will go round with a subscription paper, but I will never get up the modern farce of a silver or golden

"Then here are the Livingstones," pursued the lady, "who have just come to town, but real 'quality' people, whom it is best to place under obligations to us; and Squire Harding".

"Who invited me to his breakfast, because he wanted my vote," put in pater-familias, unpleasantly. "But it's all right, my dear, all right, I suppose, only one cannot help wondering what the Savior meant, when he said: When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends nor thy brethren, neither ing and nourishing food," said Mr. thy kinsmen nor thy rich neighbors, lest | Barnes, with a shake of the head. they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee.

the new translation," said Alice, who fully-"couldn't you take a little from ety, Baltimore; St. Mary's Industrial was disposed to be a bit cynical, like her | that?" father, and to see through the veneering of society shams.

Let us pass lightly over the dreadful

side-down of the house from top to bottom, the polishing of silver, the importation of crockery and extra help (?), and the endless cooking, cooking, for the Barnes family could not afford to order their supper from the local Delmonico's. So the younger children stoned raisins and beat eggs, and enjoyed immensely the confusion and general air of something coming; and the family subsisted upon outside slices of roasts, unfortunate biscuits and test pieces of cake. Some things went wrong, of course, and had to be done over, and there was hurry and terrible anxiety for Mrs. Barnes, who, I am sorry to say, lost her temper several times, and developed unknown powers of scolding. But everything was whisked into line at the very last moment, and the poor lady with a racking headache was trying to get dressed | for. and composed, when somebody announced the first carriage.

"How dreadfully early some people do come. Here, Alice, help me on with this lace quick; I hoped to have a mo-

ment to breathe.' "Mamma, these new boots hurt me comfortable child, who had not yet learned the ways of the world. "I would rather wear my old ones.'

"No, no, never mind if they do hurt a little, they are lovely, so slim and high, and such a perfect match for your dress." And so the poor child stood in simple misery all the evening, taking her first lesson in the ways of the world.

AT THE PARTY. "Good evening, my dear Mrs. Rollins; how kind of you to come early; we shall have time for a real little visit before there are other arrivals."

Mrs. Barnes had a headache; perhaps she had forgotten what she said upstairs. But why describe the usual routine of hollow compliment, of pretty nothings, of flattest platitudes, which make up the conversation of such a gathering. Of course, the guests discussed the flowers, the few pictures, the music, the supper, each other's dresses and the minister. O, much enduring clergy, what would society do without you, and

the weather? The supper was really good, and that constituted the "entertainment" mostly. There was some soulless music, for Miss Alice played the piano a little-of course, all young ladies must, whether they have any music in their souls or not.

The gentlemen smoked after supper, but that was done one side somewhere, as questionable things usually are.

About midnight the last guest had vanished into the darkness, each one saying in due form with his good-night: "A delightful evening, Mrs. Barnes, your companies are always so charm-

AFTER THE PARTY. Remarks like these in the going-home carriages: "Such a stupid affair! Why will people like the Barneses try to ape gentility, and give fashionable parties when they don't know how?"

"Why, indeed! Everything was stiff as a poker; and what a supper! such vulgar profusion in everything: and so

"Did you notice the spoons were plated, and half of them borrowed, I do believe. As for me, I wouldn't have a party if I couldn't afford the largest size

napkins.' "Well, we must at least give Mrs. Barnes the credit of being a most charming hostess. I think she thoroughly enjoys seeing her friends; but her husband must be a great trial to her, he is so distant and ungracious."

Meanwhile, in the confusion of the vacant rooms, the "genial hostess" had thrown herself wearily into a chair, exclaiming: "I am almost dead! Well, land," assented Fred. "She just had a there's one consolation, our guests all dainty bit of cream and fruit, or somereceived a great many compliments for the supper, and the entertainment generally; and we shan't have to endure this affliction again for one while, I

hope." "Why ever again, my dear?" urged Mr. Barnes, gently. "Why need we accept invitations we do not care to return? Why can we not hereafter invite companies, which will not tire you to death in preparation. I thoroughly enjoy receiving our friends in our home, but how can anybody enjoy such a farce as this, with hollowness on both sides. Why, I felt guilty and mean all the evening.

"It does seem as if that were the better way," assented the wife, absently, thinking how she could get breakfast out of that mass of confusion in the kitchen; "but then, society, you know,"

A few more days of hard work brought back the usual order and quiet of the family; it seemed like a calm fol-

lowing a small earthquake. But the bills began to come in. They looked large placed over against the small family income. The father and mother were talking them over one night after the children were in bed. They must be provided for by "pinchsomewhere else, as Mrs. Barnes had said. She was ready with her devices. "We all need new flannels this winter," she said; "the old ones are very thin, but they must be made to do with patching. Then we must do without beefsteak and oysters as often as usual; these articles are expensive, you

"It might be considered doubtful economy to dispense with warm cloth-

"Then there is the money you give "Probably that will all be changed in | you know," resumed the lady, doubt-

"Not one cent from that, my dear, the party was selfishness, not charity." days of preparation; the turning up flagnels and beefsteak, and in another -N. Y. Independent.

way which I am afraid they would not like me to mention. Not that they exactly planned it so, but the next summer it came about in this wise. Mr. Barnes took no vacation, but stayed in the city and worked hard all the hot, long season. Fred was luckily invited to the home of a college friend. Mrs. Barnes remembered a cousin of hers, who lived comfortably in a country home, not expensively far from the city, whom she had not seen in twenty years. and whom she really ought to visit. So with Alice and the two little ones, she gave to this "dear friend" the weeks usually spent in boarding at the mountains or seaside. Cousin Clarissa did her own work, and got rather tired, I fear, but then it was a wonderful saving, and the party had to be paid

If I had been writing a fable, instead of a fact, I would put at the bottom this little moral: We all wear masks. Things are not always called by their right names. There is still much slavery in the world, much voluntary servitude. We are all slaves to the burdensome social awfully," groaned little May, an un- customs, whose yoke we abhor, but dare not throw off .- Mrs. Julia H. Morehouse, in Everybody's Paper.

The New Comet.

At present the comet is about one hundred and sixty millions of miles from the earth, and its distance from us will probably not be less than eighty millions at any time, though further calculations will be necessary to settle that point. But though it will not approach us so nearly as other comets have done, it may be expected to make a fine display for a few days in the early part of June. Only ten comets have hitherto been known to approach the sun so nearly as this in all probability will. It is to be regretted, however, that its greatest brilliancy will occur at a time when it will be invisible to us, and seen only in the Southern Hemisphere. In this respect it will resemble the great comet of 1880. The present extraordinary intensity of its light which comes to us from the enormous distance of 160,000,000 miles, proves that it has plenty of material for future display, and it will probably show a long and nearly straight tail of enormous dimensions to our antipodes. How much of the same sort it will give us is still somewhat problematical, and can only be decided on the basis of further observations.

It is now invisible to the naked eye, and by a small telescope, though it is readily seen, yet owing to its smallness it can hardly be distinguished from the stars which surround it. After passing its perihelion it will probably become visible in the Northern hemisphere. It now appears in the constellation of the Lyre, near Vega. It will pass to the westward of that star, and will continue on its journey up into Cepheus, when in May it will make an abrupt turn and go plunging in toward the sun.

The elements of the orbit of the new comet are: Perihelion passage, June 15; perihelion place, 49 degrees, 35 venna, 60,306. minutes; longitude of node, 206 degrees 40 minutes; inclination, 74 degrees, 47 minutes; perihelion distance, 10,000,000 miles, motion direct.

This comet appears to have no analogue in the past, as no comet is known with elements sufficiently resembling these to constitute reasonable belief in identity. The elements of the comet of 1097 somewhat resemble those of the present comet, but the perihelion distance of the former is computed to be seven times as great as that of the latter. Two weeks of further observation will serve to remove many uncertainties which now exist as to the future of this comet, and these observations will unquestionably be awaited with the greatest interest. - Albany Cor. N. Y. Herald.

Atlantic Telegraph Stations.

A Frenchman, M. Menuisier, has just proffered a novel and bold plan for enabling vessels crossing the Atlantic to communicate with the mainland. Lay, he says, a telegraph cable between Saint Nazaire, Bordeaux, and New York, with a branch in mid-ocean to Panama. Every sixty leagues, the average daily distance covered by a ship, connect to the principal cable a vertical cable, ending in a buoy at the surface. To the right and left of the principal cable lay two branch cables, ten to twenty leagues each, ending in a vertical cable with buoys. These branches would form two crosses with the main cable. The chances of ships sighting buoys would thus be frequent. Each buoy has a number, and its position in mid-ocean is known from special tables. When a ship passing near a buoy wishes to telegraph, it connects its apparatus wire, one with the wire of the buoy, the other with the buoy itself, which serves as an earthwire. Thus the ship might communicate with a central post which should be established on an island or rock, or a ship moored according to M. Menuisier's system. A vessel in distress near one buoy might, through the central station, get help from a ship passing near the next buoy. The difficult matter would be the buoy. How would it resist storms that have broken cables? M. Menuisier has not yet described it in detail, but says it is pronounced quite successful by competent navigators. It is luminous by night, sonorous in fog, and easily accessible in any weather.

-General James M. Coale, who died at Frederick, Md., a few days ago, left \$10,000 each to the following instituaway to benevolent objects-our tenth, tions: Georgetown College, Georgetown, D. C.; St. John's Literary Soci-School for Boys, Baltimore, and the Little Sisters of the Poor, Baltimore; besides smaller bequests of from \$2,000 So the matter was compromised on to \$5,000 to other schools and charities.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

-The Baptist ministerial army in the United States numbers 16,514, beside the licentiates.

The Cincinnati Industrial Exposition of 1880 cleared \$11,624.46, Exposition of 1881 lost \$10,922.24.

-The large manufactories of heavy gloves at Johnstown, Fulton County, N. Y., have had scarcely any call for their goods this season, owing to the warm

-There were 1,756 races run during the season of 1881, and the amount of money that changed hands was \$987,-284, of which \$811,935 was won in the United States,

-A lead pencil should never be wet. It hardens the lead and ruins the pencil. This fact is known to newspaper men and stenographers. But nearly every one else does wet a pencil before using it.

The long-sought-for specific against hydrophobia, it is said, has been discovered in Cambodia in the shape of the bark of a tree, the effect of which is very similar to that of strychnine. - Indianapolis Sentinel.

-Jay Gould's total wealth is estimated at over \$60,000,000, of which \$40,000,000 is invested in railroad and telegraph stocks, and \$20,000,000 in bonds. He and Vanderbilt could byand-by afford to "pool their issues, and pay off the National debt. -N. Y.

-- The Alder gulch, in Montana, has been steadily producing placer gold for twenty years, and is now worked out as high as water can be carried on its sides. The amount of gold taken out is estimated at over \$30,000,000. More than a dozen gold-bearing quartz claims are now being worked at the head of the gulch. - Chicago Times.

-The great activity in business circles is made manifest by the fact that the outward-bound mails from New York City are unprecedentedly large. Recently 991,000 letters and circulars, and 1,219,000 newspapers and circulars were dispatched from that city, necessitating 152 wagon-trips from the postoffice to the railroad depots .- Chicago Journal.

-The Astors pay taxes in New York on \$11,500,000 worth of property; W. H. Vanderbilt on \$3,250,000; A. T. Stewart's widow on \$5,250,000; Amos R. Eno, \$4,000,000; J. G. Bennett, \$1,-200,000, and so on. The bulk of their wealth, however, consists of securities, which are not included in the personal estate taxable in New York.

-If the growth of cities be a criterion of prosperity, Italy is advancing rapidly. The new census returns show that Naples has a population of 489,334, an increase of 40,000 since 1871; Milan, 321,-000; Rome, 300,292; Palermo, 244,955; Genoa, 179,491; Florence, 168,000; Venice, 130,698; Bologne, 122,884; Messina, 120,000; Catanie, 101,000; Leghorn, 97,-615; Ferrare, 77,008; Padua, 72,174; Verona, 67,741; Lucca, 68,116; Alessandria, 62,634; Brescia, 60,630; Bari, 60,576; Ra-

WIT AND WISDOM.

-Immodest words admit of no defense, For want of decency is want of sense. -Earl of Rosecomm

-Nothing makes so much noise as a rickety wagon with nothing in it, unless it be a man who insists on talking when he has nothing to say. -N. Y. Herald.

-Eli Perkins cut open a Florida alligator and found pine knots in its stomach. That's nothing. An alligator is not obliged to make a diet off of rocks and gravel-banks all the year round .-Detroit Free Press.

-An oriental traveler says: "I have seen a heavy man fired several yards into a dense crowd by the kick of a camel, and picked up insensible." The American mule used to go to school to the camel. - Courier-Journal.

-The meanest man on record sent through a post-office presided over by a woman, a postal-eard on which was written: "Dear Jack: Here's the details of that scandal." And then the rest was in Greek. - Boston Post.

-A Philadelphia editor bears the name of Comet. He should have no difficulty in providing a tale for his paper, but it is hoped he will not get out of his orbit, and pitch into the Sun or the World .- Norristown Herald.

-A lazy young man complained that he was overworked in his business, to which the father replied: "I suspect, George, that overwork is not your trouble, but that it is that you need working over .- Home Treasure.

-Old Mrs. Skittleworth don't know why people will make counterfeit money. She says she "tried to pass a bad half dollar a dozen times the other day, but nobody would have it," and she thinks it a waste of time to make such stuff.

-A Philadelphia man told a postmaster from a rural village that his post-office clerk was "no gentleman," and the postmaster got as mad as a hornet and came very near getting himself arrested for assault and battery before he reflected that his clerk was a lady.

-"My brodders," said a waggish colored man to a crowd, "in all infliction, in all ob your troubles dar is one place you can always find sympathy." Whar? Whar?" shouted several. "In de dictionary," he replied, rolling his eyes skyward.—N. Y. Independent.

-A leading citizen of Dallas, one of the most intelligent property owners in the town, was reading a newspaper in the Texas Siftings office, when he came across the paragraph: "The admission of Dakota is a foregone conclusion at Washington," whereupon he said: "I can't keep up with the run of the Washington scandals, there are so many of them. What did Dakota admit?"-- Tex-W Siftings.

Both Useful and Ores.

Is is very easy to say that the decorative mania leads our women to waste time and to deface crockery and other objects. . Instead of thus ridiculing those whom we should treat with the utmost tenderness, why do we not take them by their respective hands-figuratively speaking, of course-and lead them into fields where their passion for decoration can be exercised in a way that will be of real benefit to the race? That this can be done has been practically demonstrated by Mr. Simeon Brewster, of West Middleton, Mass., and his example deserves to be held up to the imitation of his fellow-men throughout the country. Miss Sophonisba Brewster has for

some time delighted in decorating the family china-including the preservejars and the porcelain-lined preserve-kettle. Mr. Brewster regarded his daughter's labors with great disdain, but, unlike most men, he knew that ridicule would be of no use. Whether he had in view the train of consequences which followed his suggestion that Sophonisba should decorate "our new rooster," or whether he merely mentioned the rooster because he imagined that his daughter would regard the bird as beneath her notice, is not positively known, but in view of the fact that his daughter believed the proposal to be made in perfectly good faith, and pre-pared to carry it into execution, we may assume that he made it with a full knowledge of what would follow.

Mr. Brewster's poultry-yard at the time in question contained but two fowls-the new rooster and a venerable hen, and hence did not yield a large daily crop of eggs. Miss Brewster, in accordance with her father's wishes, caught the rooster, and binding him firmly, so as to prevent him from struggling, decorated him with admirable taste. Her first operation was to paint him a rich dark blue as a background. Upon this she spread designs in white or in gold-such as golden heads of grain, golden grasshoppers, pure white filies and arabesques of mingled gold and white. The appearance of that fowl when completed would have drawn tears of admiration from the most hardened naturalist. He was simply magnificent, and when he had surveyed himself in a mirror, thoughtfully provided for the purpose, he expressed his own appreciation of Miss Brewster's work by a triumphant crow.

The bird when turned loose in the yard soon became the subject of unrestrained admiration on the part of the hens of the vicinity, who came to the fence and, peering through at him, remarked to one another in a cackle too plain to be misunderstood: "Isn't he just too, too, too, too, too utterly utter?" Noticing their admiring glances, the decorated fowl flew over the fence and strolled down the street, followed by his enthusisatic adorers. He returned at dark in company with twenty-seven hens, all of whom had evidently sworn to follow him to the end of the world. The hens occupied the Brewster woodshed during the night, and on the next morning laid two dozen eggs in various available localities on the Brewster premises.

In the course of the day the owners of the hens appeared and carried them away, but before night the decorated rooster went fourth and brought back a new harem of thirty-four facinated hens, all of whom furnished the Brewster household with eggs on the next morning. Once more the neighbors came for there missing hens, and having discovered that the decorated Brewster fowl was irresistible in the eyes of the females of his species, no less than five leading citizens induced their daughters to follow the example of Miss Brewster and to provide their fond parents with blue and gold roosters.

The new rivals of the original decorated rooster were sufficiently gorgeous to retain the allegiance of their harems, and three of them challenged him to single combat, and whipped him so thoroughly that the discouraged bird persistently remained at home and shunned all female society. Mr. Brewster, however, was not discouraged. He sent to Boston for a game-cock of demonstrated prowess, and on the arrival of the fowl Miss Brewster decorated him in the Pompelian style, with black wings and a red body, picked out with geometrical figures in dead gold. Thus decorated, he was far more beautiful than his predecessor, and Mr. Brewster, after keeping him shut up for a few days, turned him loose, armed with a pair of long steel spurs.

That night the game-cock returned home, at the head of a procession of three hundred and eleven hens. In fact, as was afterward learned, there were not six hens left in the whole township who had not yielded to the fascinations of the gallant Pompeiian stranger. Furthermore, he had fought and killed thirty roosters who had rashly ventured to defend their marital rights, and among the dead were the five decorated roosters, the work of the pious daughters of West Middletown. Mr. Brewster now reaps an average of a hundred eggs every morning, and though the neighbors constantly come and take away their hens, the Pompeiian game-cock never fails to lure them away from their duty a few hours later.

Thus we see that woman's fondness for decoration may, if properly directed, be made a source of much profit to intelligent and upright men .- N. Y. Times.

-Massachusetts has been having an epidemic of big fires. In the words of a native of the Emerald Isle: "The inhabitants of that State are hardy, but the towns are tinder."

- Silver hair-pins are used by grayheired ladies.