

**RELIGIOUS READING.**

**RELIGION AND REFORMS ALL OVER THE WORLD.**

Common Things—Help That Comes from God—Duty of Being Cheerful—Things to Forget—Forget Neighbors Faults—Abstracts from Sermons.

**Common Things.**  
Give me, dear Lord, Thy magic common things,  
Which all can see, which all may share,  
Sunlight and dewdrops, grass and stars and sea,  
Nothing unique or new, and nothing rare.

Just daisies, knap-weed, wind among the thorns;  
Some clouds to cross the blue old sky above;  
Rain, winter fires, a useful hand, a heart,  
The common glory of a woman's love.

Then, when my feet no longer tread old paths  
(Keep them from fouling sweet things anywhere),  
Write one old epitaph in grace-lit words:  
"Such things look fairer that he sojournd here."  
—The Spectator.

**Help That Comes from God.**  
In the time of sore affliction, when the heart cries out for relief from its deep distress, nothing save the help that comes from the everlasting gospel can avail to sustain the spirit. Sympathy can do much. A cheery faith that all things work together for good to him who cultivates it can also do much to assuage the grief of a friend. But genuine sympathy is akin to that spirit of interest which is fostered by the gospel, and that faith which looks steadily upward and forward, confident that Goodness presides over all worlds, is the product of a prolonged and earnest quest for the truth which Jesus came to impart. To the eager and persistent questionings of a soul tried by deep sorrow Christ alone can give plain and satisfying answers. The aid that comes through the man or woman of faith has its source in the Savior's teachings—in the truths that He uttered respecting the Father, the endless life, the heavenly home, and in the same truths that had expression and demonstration in His rising in spiritual habilitments to the eternal world. Through Him the Father, the giver of life, assures the seeking heart that the departed loved ones live more really than ever before, and that the brief separation will be followed by endless association in a world more glorious.—Universalist Leader.

**Duty of Being Cheerful.**  
We speak much of the duty of making others happy. "No day should pass," we say, "on which we do not put a little cheer into some heart, make the path a little smoother for someone's tired feet, or help one fainting robin into its nest again." But we are not accustomed to think of the duty of being happy ourselves. Yet the one duty is taught in the Bible as clearly as the other. Jesus said his disciples should have tribulation in the world, but he said in the same sentence: "Be of good cheer." That is the problem which is set before us as Christians. We are to live cheerful. The fact is, however, that not all Christians are cheerfully Christians at all times. Some are scarcely ever cheerful—are habitually uncheerful. Others are cheerful only at times, when the sun shines, and all things go well with them. The truth is, there are in the ordinary life a thousand pleasant things to one unpleasant. It is a shame, therefore, to let the one roughness or pain spoil us for all the gladness of a thousand good things, the one discordant note mar for us all the music of the grand symphony.—Forward.

**Philosophy of Weeds.**  
So many people are mooning away their time as if they had a whole eternity to spend, and they pay so much attention to things that can help the individual soul but little, if any at all, and they neglect the weightier matters of the law. Tell me that my age will be ten thousand times ten thousand years, and I say, My brothers, halt! let us look into this weed; how did it come to be what it is? What other weeds are there round about its neighborhood? What is the relation of these various and apparently competing needs? and halt, let us gather a thousand little shells from the seashore, and number them, and appraise them, and wonder about how long they have been in their evolution. There might be some little grain of sense in that, but when you tell me that the days of our years are three score years and ten, I must reconsider the whole calculation, and get to understand if I can which is the more important, which the most important, what is the thing to be done now.—Joseph Parker, D. D.

**Things to Forget.**  
If you would increase your happiness and prolong your life forget your neighbor's faults. Forget the temptations. Forget the fault-finding, and give a little thought to the cause which provoked it. Forget the peculiarities of your friends and only remember the good points which make you fond of them. Forget all personal quarrels or histories you may have heard by accident, and which, if repeated, would seem a thousand times worse than they are. Blot out as far as possible

all the disagreeableness of life; they will come, but they will grow larger when you remember them, and the constant thought of the acts of meanness, or, worse still, malice, will only tend to make you more familiar with them. Obliterate everything disagreeable from yesterday, start out with a clean sheet for today, and write upon it, for sweet memory's sake, only those things which are lovely and lovable.

**Ryno.**  
[Omitted last week.]  
Christmas tree at Success was a hummer, passing off without a failure.  
A. J. Reeves has received his organ and is much elated. It is better than he expected.

Mr. McNulty, of Osonto, is wintering some cattle for Mr. Nelson, of Lodi. Last week twenty-six died, fifteen of them in four hours time.

Christmas was pleasant and well observed, if feasting is the way to observe it, as there were a lot of big roasts and neighbors invited to store them away.

Reported attempt to hold up the Broken Bow mail on last week was bloodless, and trothless; wonder whether the passengers and driver saw any snakes.

H. B. Headley, of Afton Iowa, has fenced his claim, located three miles east of Ryno. He will put down a well and erect a wind mill, and he and his brother James will run a cattle ranch.

B. F. Empfield reached his twenty-seventh mile-stone last Sunday. Several of his relatives helped him eat a turkey. He received some nice presents. We hope Ben will live to enjoy many birth-days, and kobblers.

**Ryno, Neb., Jan. 1, 1901.**  
G. A. Griffith has lost four head of cattle with corn stalk disease recently.

L. S. Empfield butchered a hog today, assisted by Squire Dean and Lloyd Rusk.

Mrs. Mary Wilcox has left Ryno. She will engage in dressmaking at Osonto.

Andrew Horn has finished picking corn for Squire Dean. He will herd cattle for H. Smith.

Wallie Griffith, of Johnston, Neb., arrived last evening. He will visit among relatives and look after some unsettled business.

Good-bye old century, good-bye. All hail the new century. Yesterday this generation saw what they will never see again, the close of a century.

Weather has been cold since Sunday's blizzard. Mercury below zero; seems like there is some truth in the old adage "as the days lengthen the cold strengthens."

G. A. Griffith, assisted by H. G. Donnel, buried the remains of a babe that had been raised on the homestead nine years, and interred it beside its mother, in the cemetery at Callaway on last Monday.

Our genial road overseer, John Mair, was rushing around Ryno yesterday, attending town board meeting and repairing the approaches to the Lisle bridge. He informs us that his term of office has expired for which he is glad.

**Cedar Forests Are Diminishing.**  
The cedar forests remaining in the northeastern part of the continent are in Aroostook county, Maine, the northern counties of New Brunswick and the counties of Temiscouata, Rimouski, Bonaventure and Gaspé, in Quebec. Here cedar grows large and there are more trees to the acre than farther south. It is found on the high land as well as in the swamps. In Nova Scotia cedar does not grow. In southern New Brunswick there is not enough left to supply ties for the local railroads.

**After He Comes**

he has a hard enough time. Everything that the expectant mother can do to help her child she should do. One of the greatest blessings she can give him is health, but to do this, she must have health herself. She should use every means to improve her physical condition. She should, by all means, supply herself with

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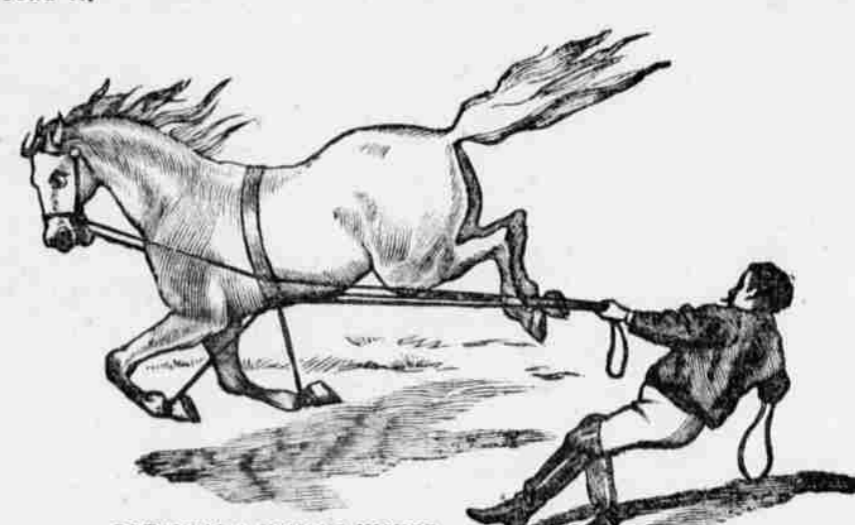
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