

A GENTLE WORD IS NEVER LOST

A gentle word is never lost, Oh, never then refuse one; It cheers the heart when tempest-tossed And fills the ears that bruise one; It scatters sunshine o'er our way, And turns our thorns to roses; It changes weary night to day, And hope and love discloses.

Benefits of Sunlight.

The unusual severity of the present winter has led a good many people to turn their thoughts and bend their energies in the direction of warming their houses who have heretofore left all that to the furnace and servants. There are many precautions that may be taken, by the selection of a furnace large enough for the service required of it, by providing the chimney with a proper "bonnet" to protect the flues against adverse winds, in the construction of a house, etc.; but all these things require the expenditure of money as well as thought, and there are those people who, with the best of intentions, have to take things as they find them. There is one simple rule, however, which almost everybody can observe without waste of time or expenditure of money, and which will always make the greatest difference in personal comfort during the cold season. This is to cultivate the sunlight to the largest practicable extent.

In all houses with a north front is the positive duty of families occupying them to transfer their living rooms to the south side of the house during the winter months. The sun rises and sets during the six cold months of the year to the south of east and west, so that south rooms are warmed up by rays of the sun more or less during the entire day. Those who have never experimented with the difference will probably be surprised to learn that there is a difference of from five to twenty-five degrees in the thermometer between the north and south exposures, five to ten degrees difference in the morning and afternoon, and from twenty to twenty-five degrees in the middle of the day. The glass in windows is a non-conductor of atmospheric cold, while it is an assistance to the active transmission of the sun's rays of light and heat. Wherever the sun's rays can be enjoyed longest during a winter's day is the desirable part of the house for living purposes.

Due attention to this fact will contribute enormously not merely to the comfort, but to the health, of the women and children, who spend the greater part of the time within doors in the winter season. There is a vast amount of talk about ventilation and change of air as necessary to good health; but the suppression of the light and mephitic sewer gases by affording proper avenues of escape, and an admission of all the available sunlight, are the two chief conditions to good health in household life. In France, Italy and Germany, though the winter climates are not nearly so severe as our own, the benefits of sunlight are understood better and cultivated more generally than among us. The comparative scarcity and costliness of fuel in those countries have led the people to take advantage of the sun's heat to the largest possible extent. The natural warmth of the sun's rays should be still more cultivated in a cold climate like this, and any change in a house necessary to the better enjoyment thereof will save more in the reduced consumption of fuel than it can possibly cost. The south exposure is not only warmer, but less damp, and in every way more conducive to good health than any other. — *Chicago Tribune.*

An Extraordinary Meteor.
Nearly all the inhabitants of Traverse City were awakened from sleep about half-past two o'clock Tuesday morning by a deafening report followed soon after by a rattling of glass and a general shaking of the buildings. The cause of this commotion appears to have been a meteor that passed over the town at the time. We have seen three or four different persons who were eye-witnesses of it and they seem to agree substantially in the statement that it came from the east and passed over the town in a westerly course. When a little beyond the town a dozen or more pieces were thrown off in appearance the size of a man's fist. In color it was a bright fire red. It rapidly approached the horizon and between four and five minutes after its disappearance from view a report like heavy thunder and the shock of the explosion came. Mr. S. R. Bassett, who lives on the shore of Carp Lake, informs us that he was awakened by a terrific explosion and that he found the next morning a place on the lake where it apparently struck the ice and went into the lake. He says the ice was solid and between twelve and fourteen inches thick, and that it was all driven downward into the lake, making a hole about fifty feet across. We have not heard from localities very far away yet, but at Mayfield and Williamsburg we are told the shock was felt very perceptibly. — *Traverse City (Mich.) Eagle.*

How to See the Wind.
Take a polished metallic surface of two feet or more, with a straight edge—a large hand-saw will answer the purpose. Take a windy day, whether hot or cold, clear or cloudy, only let it not rain or the air be murky; in other words, let the air be dry and clear, but this is not essential. Hold your metallic surface at right angles to the direction of the wind—i. e., if the wind is north, hold your surface east and west, but, instead of holding the surface vertical, incline it about forty-five degrees to the horizon, so that the wind striking glances and flows over the edge (keeping it straight) as water over a dam. Now sight carefully over the edge at some minute and sharply-defined object, and you will see the air flow over as water flows over a dam. Make your observations carefully, and you will hardly fail to see the air, no matter how cold; the result is even better when the sun is obscured.

APHORISMS FROM ROTH.

To a Christian church it is above all essential, that it shall frankly acknowledge an objective existence of the Gospel as a Norm entirely independent of its apprehensions and fancies. The traditional assumption that in the same people, the Church is more Christian than the State, can only come to pass on the condition, that the Church is an entirely free Association, and to belong or not belong to it a matter of perfectly free individual choice. This state of things, so familiar to us, is hardly beginning to break way in the German mind. — [C. C. S.]

A "national church" exists, where a people accomplishes its national ethical task, borne up by the consciousness of common faith in God as the basis of its activity. There is, thank God, not merely a Christian Church, but also a CHRISTENDOM, and, too, one which is not denominationally divided. To wish to keep up the Church at the expense of extra ecclesial life, is perverse and ruinous. The merely religious point of view brings with it in a high degree the danger of self-deceit. As all the noblest things spoil most easily, so also do Piety and Religion. Piety is not the foundation of human life, whether individual or universal, but its soul. Its foundation is material nature. The Casework of the clergy must also fall away, and the Pulpit descend into the midst of the congregation.

What sort of people do we need for clergymen? MEN; but such, that in them there lives a clear consciousness that they are essentially Men through Christ. A Parson is he who makes a trade of religion; but how sorely is he who makes religion his calling, exposed to the danger of turning his calling into a trade! Whoever enters into the service of Christ is not clad in his livary; for Christ has no livary. If anything speaks against Infant Baptism, it is that in its administration the specific rite of Immersion (baptizim) cannot be applied. It is not Infant Baptism that is censurable and that ought to be discarded, but the idea of Baptism which is in contradiction with it. I have not the slightest idea what this means, but I hope the reader has. — [C. C. S.]

The Redeemer has raised the means of nourishment (Bread and Wine) to means of grace. As soon as men take to making Dogmas, discord is inevitable. The whole expression "Christian truth" is a very equivocal one. What is "Christian" truth? Knowledge in the light of the fact "Christ"—a light that is continually increasing more and more. There is now no longer among us any privileged truth. Truth has now only so much claim to acceptance, as she is actually able to enforce in the persuasion of men. Theologians are even yet too much inclined, where they have a problem to explain, to fall back on God, in order to use him as a convenient hypothesis for the seeming solution of what costs them so much trouble. All the ecclesiastical reforms, which do not proceed from the point of view, that now our laymen understand better than our clergy, what is needed for the Church, can lead to nothing. It must be remembered that in Germany the laity and the clergy are widely apart. — [C. C. S.]

I am willing to avow my firm conviction, that the invention of locomotives and railroads has been a much more important positive advancement of the Kingdom of Christ, than the subtleties spent upon the dogmas of NICAEA and CHALCEDON. Inasmuch as the Redeemer temporarily limited the work of his life to Religion as such, he has made it possible, that his work, Christianity, should, through all phases of the development of history, abide immutably as the controlling religious force, inasmuch as it can remain in harmony with it, that the farther this knowledge advances, Christianity itself is thereby placed in a clearer light, and brought to a more perfect understanding. I know, that in our days there are vast numbers, who in the most thorough sincerity and earnestness hold Christianity to be the sacred centre of mankind, and, moreover, as respects themselves personally would not for any price suffer themselves to be robbed of the right to call themselves Christians,—who yet have to such a degree fallen out with ecclesiastical Dogma and its practical consequences, that they are not able in good faith to adhere to the profession of it. In Theology it is always the current assumption, that the measure of an individual's churchliness is the measure for the degree of his christianity. But will an assumption, which so utterly contradicts all experience, ever again be able to secure general credit? Universal priesthood of CHRISTIANS (as such) and not merely of church-members!

HOW TO FEED FOR EGGS.

A correspondent of the new *Poultry Monthly*, published at Albany, says: The question is asked me often how I feed my poultry to get so many eggs through the cold weather. They say they feed their fowls all the corn they will eat, but they do not get any eggs. My fowls are always healthy, never have any kind of disease, and I always get plenty of eggs when they bring the highest price. In the first place I get pure-breed poultry, not mongrels; next, my fowls always have all the old plaster, lime, oyster and clam-shells broken fine, burnt bones, charcoal and gravel they require, a good dust box to wallow in, plenty of good water, not snow and ice, bone meal and meat scraps twice of three times a week, and sour milk when I have it. Now, for the first meal, potatoes and meat scraps boiled, mashed, a little salt, thickened with corn meal and wheat short; second meal, buckwheat; third meal, corn. Second day, potatoes and turnips boiled mashed, seasoned, thickened with corn and oats ground; second meal, wheat screenings; third meal, buckwheat. Third day, potatoes and onions boiled, season, mash, thicken with ground feed and a few handfuls of bone meal; second feeding, oats; third meal, corn. Fourth day, potatoes and meat scraps, seasoned well with Cayenne pepper, thickened with meal and shorts; second meal, buckwheat; third meal, wheat screenings. Fifth, potatoes and sweet apples boiled, season, mash and thicken with wheat shorts; second meal, corn; third meal, oats. Sixth day, potatoes and onions boiled and mashed, thicken with corn and oat-meal; second meal, wheat; third meal, corn; an extra feeding of sunflower seeds once in a while I find is very good. Seventh day, potatoes and turnips boiled and mashed, season with Cayenne pepper, thicken with wheat shorts and bone meal, buckwheat. This is the way my fowls are fed through cold weather.

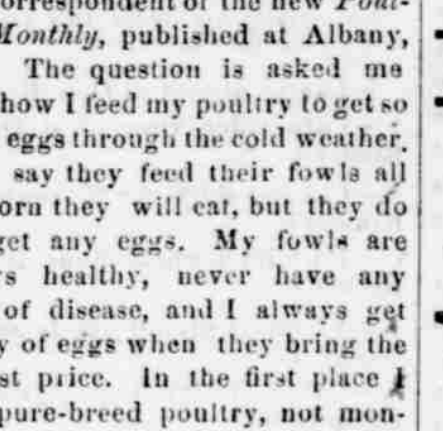
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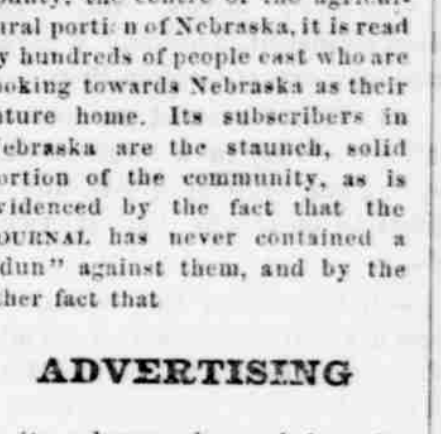
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