

# The Family Circle

## TO DISPEL THE CLOUDS

A laugh is just like sunshine,  
It freshens all the day,  
It tips the peak of life with light,  
And drives the clouds away;  
The soul grows glad that hears it,  
And feels its courage strong—  
A laugh is just like sunshine  
For cheering folk along!

A laugh is just like music,  
It lingers in the heart,  
And where its melody is heard  
The ills of life depart;  
And happy thoughts come crowding  
Its joyful notes to greet—  
A laugh is just like music  
For making living sweet!

## A BOY AND A WOODCHUCK

Teddy was sick in bed. The doctor had just come. Teddy could hear him talking with mamma in the next room.

'I can't persuade him to touch the milk,' his mother was saying. 'He never drinks it when he is well. What shall I do?'

Teddy listened eagerly for the answer. Dr. Huntington was such a kind, jolly man.

'Starve him to it!'

Teddy could hardly believe he heard aright. He trusted his ears still less when the doctor walked, smiling, up to the bedside.

'How do you feel this morning?' he asked, taking Teddy's wrist in his cool hand.

'I haven't had anything to eat,' whined the little boy. 'I can't drink milk.'

'You'd better try,' said the doctor.

'I can't! Mayn't I have a cooky?'

'No.'

'Or some bread and butter?'

'No.'

'Why not?'

'Because milk is better for you.'

'But I can't drink it!'

The physician was preparing a powder and did not reply.

Teddy wondered if he had heard.

'Did you ever hear the story of the little woodchuck?' (The woodchuck is a little rodent found in the United States and Canada). Dr. Huntington looked up with merry eyes.

'No, sir,' said Teddy. 'What is it?'

'Well, it was this way,' and the doctor settled himself comfortably in his chair. 'There was once a woodchuck that lived in a nice, deep hole with his mother. There was nothing he liked to do quite so well as to run around in the sunshine. At the other end of the lot there was a tall tree, and one morning the little woodchuck's mother said: "To-day you must learn to climb that tree. I can not always be here to protect you, and if a dog should catch you away from home, you'd be in a fine plight."

'But the little woodchuck looked up at the steep trunk, and said: "O, I can't!" and ran away.

'The next morning the mother said to him again: "To-day you must certainly learn to climb that tree!" But once more the little woodchuck answered: "I can't! I can't!" and ran off to play in the sunshine.

'It was not long before the mother went to visit a neighbor. The little woodchuck was having a glorious time, when all of a sudden he heard a yelp, and there was a dog rushing toward him! He looked longingly at his home across the lot; but the dog was between—and was coming nearer every second! The little woodchuck ran as hard as he could make his feet fly, but the dog ran faster. Just as he thought he couldn't run much farther, he came to the big tree. "Dear me!" he gasped. "I can't climb it!" And then, because the dog was almost upon him, and because there wasn't anything else to do, the little woodchuck just scrambled up that tree—up, up, up, till he was out of the dog's reach! You see, he had to, and so he did!

'I hope to-morrow morning I shall find you a great deal better.' And the doctor smiled a kind good-by.

Teddy lay, thinking, after his mother and Dr. Huntington had gone out.

'I wonder if I could,' he thought; 'I'm awfully hungry!' and he reached for a glass of milk on the table by his bed.

When his mother came back, the glass was empty, and Teddy was smiling contentedly among the pillows.

## NEATNESS

We all have among our acquaintances the girl who, without being in the least good-looking, always manages to look neat and well-dressed. Perhaps she has only a small allowance for dress, but whenever you meet her, she is sure to look smart and attractive, while other girls, with a great deal more money at their command, look shabby and ill-dressed. The reason is simply and solely that the first girl has the true secret of correctness and smartness in dress, that of having a place for everything and everything in its place.

Then, too, there is a vast difference in the manner in which girls put on their clothes. Some girls have a sort of knack of putting their clothes on neatly, and with a certain effectiveness, which shows itself in a plain shirt waist as in a more fashionable gown. Attention to detail helps to a large extent, and after that the selection of becoming colors and frills makes artistic dressing plain, saving to many girls whose pocket book boasts of no extraordinary amount of money.

## SCARED HIM

A certain excellent but loud-voiced member of the Bar was addressing a jury. Finally, in a perfect hurricane of sound, he closed his argument and sat down. The jury was impressed, and the other side was in danger. 'The barrister opposite had a sad, watery eye and a hatchet-like face. He sat patiently through the tumultuous gusts of his friend, and after the reverberations of the closing crash he rose quietly from his seat. As I listened to the thunderous appeals of my learned friend,' he said, addressing the jury, in a drawing tone, 'I recalled an old fable. You will remember, gentlemen, how the lion and the ass agreed to slay the beasts of the field and divide the spoil. The ass was to go into the thicket and bray and frighten the animals out, while the lion was to lie in wait and kill the fugitives as fast as they appeared. The ass sought the darkest part of the jungle, and lifting up his awful voice brayed and brayed. The ass was quite intoxicated with his uproar, and thought he'd turn and see what the lion thought of it. With a light heart he went back and found the lion looking doubtfully about him. "What do you think of that?" said the exultant ass. "Don't you think I scared 'em?" "Scared 'em?" repeated the lion in an agitated tone. "Why, you'd scared me if I didn't know you were a jackass." The jury laughed, the effect of the lawyer's sonorous eloquence was visibly weakened, and he lost the case.

## TIMELY MAXIMS

The world's greatest rewards go to the men who find the new way—the short cut.

Stick to the truth—nothing is better.

Once is enough for the same mistake.

Learn that promptness is not hurry.

Remember that you are company to the customer.

A faint heart never won fair dividends, and the man who does not believe he can, seldom does.

Impossible? There is no such word in the dictionary.

To improve your business, find its weaknesses.

A good business letter pleases without betraying an effort to do so.

A narrow and meagre education is not enough for the business man.

Opportunities neglected are worse than none.

Most is accomplished in anything by working along the line of least resistance.

## BEAUTY THAT LASTS

'Mamma,' said Nelly Brown to her mother one day, 'do you think I am really beautiful?' Mrs. Wilson said to me this morning, 'Nelly, you are very handsome, and you will by and by be a very beautiful woman.' Do you think so too, mamma?

Mrs. Brown gazed at her daughter in silence for a few moments, as if at a loss for a fitting answer to Nelly's question. She knew that Nelly was indeed beautiful; yet she regretted that Mrs. Wilson had praised her beauty so unsparingly, because she feared that such praise tended to feed vanity in her daughter's heart. At last she replied:

'Yes, my child, God has given you a beautiful face, and you no doubt found its praise by Mrs. Wil-