# The Family Eircle.

THE MYSTIC UNION.

A light of glory to our feet benighted! A voice of resurrection to the dead! E'en as the Father to the Son united, So shall ye be to Christ, your living head.

What does it mean! In these poor hearts of Can the Omniscient a sojourner be, As sunbeams nestle in the souls of flowers,

Or angels come to sleeping infancy? Ah, yes! Rejoice, ye contrite, broken-hearted! His holy presence dissipates your sin; Remember how the raging storm departed From the lone ship when Jesus slept therein

Oh, let His love a sacred fire out-going, Consume each molten image from our sight And be our spirits to his truth in flowing

Transparent as the diamond is to light It is the soul which makes its own external; All things are outbirths from her inmo sphere;

Sunshine of peace on landscapes ever vernal, And wastes of winter, come alike from her

The love of God-the fealty which we owe Him, Grafted upon our hearts and fruitful there, Will make the outward life a noble poem, By making first the inner life a prayer.

Is not the holy, beautiful Ideal,
The father of our hope and joy and love, Which come incarnate in the grosser Real, Remoulding it by patterns from above?

And daily death is but a happier birth: Then comes our Sabbath of regeneration, Uniting heaven forevermore with earth. W. H. Holcombe.

Joy springs from sorrow, virtue from tempts

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE AND THE BOUND · BOY.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "DAVID WOODBURN, THE MOUNTAIN MISSIONARY."

#### CHAPTER II.

Again it was a night in December, just such a night as the one on which Jake made his first appearance at our I sat by the fire, absorbed in the pages of some book of surpassing interest; but at length, in spite of my pleasant | be over. book, the storm without drew my at-

terror crept over me; I imagined that the wind sounded under the eaves, windows shook and rattled fearfully; appeared. I looked timidly around at last, and took a survey of the room, shuddering which were in reality nothing but the church member, in good and regular to interrupt her in her all-engrossing But his feet grew cold—so weary and cold—shedeware constitutions. furniture in the dim firelight.

At length, making a desperate effort at self control, I arose and stepped to numan being. not a little to my terrors.

her night gear, just as she had risen city of detective. from her bed. Holding the candle and what are you doing up this time of night, naughty child?

I dress; I am going to see."

Norah's resolve seemed to me like the extreme of rashness, but I did not light of a blazing pine-knot, he pored been on his farm lately, but that he dare to expostulate.

Norah set off. As they approached Jake, who always occupied the oppoleome to search. rose to its feet in the shape of a stal- thors more extensively, among which Scruggs. "I saw him there, not wart negro. Before Norah could speak, he ran away along the beaten path son Crusoe. John was strongly optowards the barn. Then she cried posed to light reading, and felt scandaafter him, "If you don't stop, I shall think you are here to do us a mischief, trifling books, especially in his immeand the dogs will be let loose on you; diate proximity. This would often but if you are an honest man, come lead to an animated discussion between houses everywhere, but the chattel

negro hesitated, and finally stopped. After a short parley, he owned that he was a runaway, that his master had caught him and was taking him back to bondage; but that he had broken away at the toll gate, about three miles distant; that he had run all the way, and his master was after him. The poor creature was in such mortal dread of being retaken, that he could scarcely make himself intelligible, and was so exhausted with fatigue, the request that she would unravel hunger and cold, that he was nearly the mystery.

It seemed that he had been lying in the woods, and travelling in a circle the course of some distinguished per-'he had managed, somehow, to separate

the men-stealers in the world.

after which, he brought a file from the | and riding on a white horse. carpenter's shop, and filed off the handcuffs. While this was doing, Norah prepared some hot supper for her Jake looked on with immense satisfac-

After supper, our black friend grew garrulous, and quite vindictive, in reobnoxious to that class of his fellow- slavery were drawing to a close, and thized with them in their forlorn condition.

He gave his name as John Cornish. said he was taken captive by Scruggs in hay harvest, Norah had risen very while he was asleep; that he had seen | early to direct Jake in some gardening his old master in Brookville with the operations. They had just reached Sheriff; that he would know him in a the gate, when the latter called her athundred, he was such a mighty tall tention to a man who was riding very man; that he wouldn't be "tooken leisurely along a road that skirted a again," he would kill himself first. clover-field below the house. And then he lifted the corner of Noroah's shawl and kissed it reverently; Scruggs again. Jake, run and hide, while great tears rolled down his black while I tell John." She then walked cheeks, saying the while, "Oh, Miss! slowly through the yard, and up the you won't betray me, I know you orchard path towards the barn. But won't." To which Norah answered that she never would. Then she made ed to understand it, for he urged his a shake down of blankets before the horse into a gallop. When Norah saw fire, telling John he might sleep there this, she too, set off at a brisk run. till morning. During all this, I was In a moment she reached the barn, in great perturbation, and did not feel and cried, "John, John, hide quickly, safe till Norah had led me off to our here is Scruggs." own room.

On the following morning, Norah laid the case before father. I thought from his manner that he was impresshouse. The family, with the excepted with the idea that she had done a tion of myself, had all retired to rest. good action. But the question was, what was to be done with the fugitive, till the hue and cry after him should the threshing floor, creeping face

After much consultation, it was concluded to send Jake to one of the de-For a while I listened quietly to the serted huts, with necessary bedding, tumult of the clements; then a strange | provision, etc., and there John was left 'alone in his glory," and as events turned out, not a minute too soon, like the wail of a lost spirit. The either, for by ten A. M., Mr. Scruggs

This gentleman scorned to own that he was a paid agent of the slave owner. being entirely occupied, did not see at the weird figures on the white walls. No, no, not he. Mr. Scruggs was a that gentleman at all. So he was fain shadows caused by different articles of standing. He, only, with the purest employment. This he did by saying, motives, assisted the Sheriff to main- in a very loud voice, tain the laws of the land.

On this particular morning, father the window. The light of the moon took Norah gently by the arm and led was obscured at intervals by scudding her from the room; he then stepped to clouds, and the snow, whirled by the the door and received his guest with wind in every direction, rendered ob- the utmost politeness. Mr. Scruggs so early." jects still more obscure; but I was was very urbane; and father, who was certain that I saw a dark-looking figure | usually a rather quiet man, launched | in the path that led along the upper forth into a steady stream of conversapart of the orchard to the house. The tion, which he kept up for nearly an garden palings shut out the view par- hour, so that Mr. Scruggs was appar- up quietly. We have him safe this tially, but I was almost sure it was a ently overpowered by such unwonted time. The whole place is surrounded, Whoever it was, seem- | eloquence. After several vain attempts ed to be in a stooping posture; he to turn the tide of conversation, which might be trying to hide, or possibly he seemed to run mainly on the subject was cowering from the effec's of the of missionary enterprise and church mischief as she replied, "Not the cold. This strange apparition added extension, he took his departure, with slighest danger of a fuss with a lady, At this juncture, greatly to my re- amine, as his manner was, when out with persons of your profession, and tion of the early life of John Brainerd. lief, Norah made her appearance in on one of his excursions in the capa- shall call my father. I dare say he will The writer's grandfather was his con-

John remained in retirement till the close to my face, she said, "Why, what's search was relinquished, and then the matter? Have you seen a ghost, came forth and commenced work as a hired hand on my father's farm. He was industrious and diligent, and was "Oh! Norah, "cried I," there's a man withal so eager to learn to read and up there in the orchard, come and see." write, that by the time spring set in, She looked out of the window, and he had acquired some facility in both then said, "it may be one of those poor | these branches, under Norah's faithful | him on the way. fugitives. Run and call Jake, while instruction. His chair in the kitchen long winter evenings. There, by the calm; owned that such a man had Jake soon appeared, and he and books which Norah recommended. might be in the barn, they were welhe object crouching in the snow, it site corner, dipped into different auwere. The Arabian Nights and Robin- twenty minutes ago, and that girl ran into the house out of the storm." The the two. On such occasions, Norah named John Cornish, was nowhere to was always appealed to, as arbiter; and whichever side she espoused, the opposite one considered himself, for the

time, as vanquished. Time passed on until it was nearly midsummer. John had fairly come to creature could be prevailed on to leave consider himself a free man, and told his retreat; he did not leave it, indeed, Jake confidentially that he had "embarked on a career." The meaning of fled to a mine in the neighborhood, which not being clear to that individual, and dwelt among the iron ore and the and all secular reading laid aside he carried the matter to Norah, with Irish miners, which last bound them-

Norah informed him that, in ordinary cases, a career meant a race, or their blood. for the last twenty four hours. The son, but in John's case, she thought it history had a depressing influence on shackles were still on his wrists, though might mean, that he felt he was no us all. John's willing hands and good longer the property of any one; but them. Holding up his hands with the his own master, and, therefore, free to broken fetters dangling from each run a race if he saw proper. Jake that John was overtaken by misfor- taught that time was a talent to be wrist, he besought Norah not to betray then went on to say, that he feared tune, forgot all his imperfections, and always improved; that industry was a much on the severity and too little on John was growing proud. On her in-She assured him that he might as quiring why he thought so, he informwell expect the stars to fall; she ed her that John often expressed himwould shelter and hide him from all self in this wise, "Jacob, why don't Scruggs's plans for the rendition of ful before he went to school; must fitted for another world at an unnecesyou go on and improve yourself like I John Cornish. She stated the case to be diligent there in study, and be Upon this, he surrendered at discre- do? Now, just look: one year ago, I a gentleman who was known to have promptly home to do "chores" at even-

suit; then Jake made a rousing fire, a white cravat, and a tall, white hat,

Jake intimated that he had treated man being \$1400 at that time. these brilliant anticipations with some contempt; that he had asked John, strange guest, who devoured it, I if he was not getting above his busithought, like a famished wild beast; but | ness? and if he didn't expect to pur- | and diligence. He grew erect in port, chase grey Bess? (grey Bess, being a vorite in the family.)

To this John retorted, that "he spect to a certain agent in the neigh- thought he, Jake, was wanting in pro boring village, whose, name was per respect to one so much his senior Scruggs, and who also, being well paid in years, and that he might live to see for hunting up runaways, had by his him, John, high up in the world, for zeal in the cause, made himself quite he had a presentiment that the days of creatures, as well as to all who sympa- then colored folks would take a stand a good deal higher than some poor

white trash he could name.' One morning about this time, it was

"Oh, me!" cried Norah, "that is Scruggs saw the movement, and seem-

John's black face turned a sickly yellow, as he asked, "Where for the Lord's sake, Miss Norah, where can I

"Under the threshing floor, you stupid, be quick."

Then John disappeared under the downwards, between the great beams.

Noah, then, with a very demure face, opened the door of the sheep-fold, and as the lambs, with their fleecy mothers stepped out, she patted their woolly heads, and was so deeply interested, that Mr. Scruggs having now arrived at the gate of the barn-yard, sat for some time, hat in hand, waiting to bid her good-morrow. But Norah

"A pleasant morning, Miss Norah." Norah looked up apparently in great surprise, and said, "Why, Mr. Scruggs, is that you? really. It must be urgent business that brings you out Some other baskets their garments fill—But mine! Oh, mine is emptier still!

"Miss Norah, its no use trying to "Miss Norah, its no use trying to Was taken by angels away, conceal it: you know you've got that And clad in a garment that waxeth not old, nigger, John Cornish hidden in the barn, and its better now to give him he can't get away, and you see, I don t want to make a fuss with a lady."

Norah's blue eyes sparkled with FROM REV. DR. BRAINERD'S "LIFE OF JOHN the barn."

By this time father had appeared, Jake having aroused the family, who back to the house, signifying John's retreat to her father, as she passed

Scruggs was very angry and insultcorner was never vacant through the ing to father, who remained quite over the Bible, and some few other had not seen him that morning; he

> "I known he's in the barn," cried and told him."

Saying this, he signalled his men; lized, that Jake should indulge in such they all came up and a vigorous trifling books, especially in his immessearch was made. The men worked with a will, looking into all the outbe found.

So, Mr. Scruggs, looking quite crest fallen, called off his myrmidons, and rode away.

It was a long time before the poor until driven by hunger, and then he selves by a solemn league and covenant, that they would defend him from all men-stealers to the last drop of

This little incident in our family dwelt entirely on his good qualities.

heroes. Norah's first precaution was and now I can read and write, and him, a negotiation was brought about such as bringing in fuel for the day, sary sacrifice of their amiability and to hang two heavy, stuff quilts over mean to study for a year or so, and with John's former master, wherein, the shutterless windows to prevent the then enter the ministry. Just you for the consideration of \$300, John's the swine, watering the horses, picklight from betraying us, in case of pur- wait awhile, and you will see me, with freedom was bought and presented to him. This was a very moderate price, the estimated value of an able bodied

> The delight and gratitude of the poor fellow was unbounded, and he strove to show it by renewed industry and looked every inch a free man, splendid young mare, and a great fa- never losing sight of the great aim he had set for himself, namely, to become a preacher of the Gospel.

TO BE CONCLUDED.

### ONE PAIR OF STOCKINGS.

An old wife sat by her bright fireside, Swaying thoughtfully to and fro, In an ancient chair whose creaky craw Told a tale of long ago; While down by her side on the kitchen floor, Stood a basket of worsted balls—a score

The good man dozed o'er the latest news, Till the light of his pipe went out, And, unheeded, the kitten, with cunning paws, Rolled and tangled the balls about; Yet still sat the wife in the ancient chair, Swaying to and fro in the fire-light glare

But anon a misty tear-drop came In her eye of faded blue, Then trickled down in a furrow deep, Like a single drop of dew; So deep was the channel—so silent the stream— The good man saw naught but the dimmed eye

Yet he marvelled much that the cheerful light Of her eye had weary grown, And marvelled he more at the tangled balls; So he said in a gentle tone,
"I have shared thy joys since our marriage vow,
Conceal not from me thy sorrows now."

Then she spoke of the time when the basket

there . Was filled to the very brim, And now there remained of the goodly pile

But a single pair—for him. Then wonder not at the dimmed eye-light, There's but one pair of stockings to mend to

I cannot but think of the busy feet, Whose wrappings were wont to lie In the basket awaiting the needle's time— Now wandered so far away: How the sprightly steps, to a mother dear, Unheeded fell on the careless ear. For each empty nook in the basket old,

By the hearth there's an empty seat; And I miss the shadows from off the wall, And the patter of many feet; Tis for this that a tear gathered over my sight At the one pair of stockings to mend to-night.

'Twas said that far through the forest wild And over the mountains bold, Was a land whose rivers and darkening caves, Were gemmed with the rarest gold; Then my first-born turned from the oaken door, And I knew the shadows were only four. Another went forth on the foaming waves

They'll never be warm any more-And this nook, in its emptiness seemeth to me To give forth no voice but the moan of the sea

Two others have gone toward the setting sun, And made them a home in its light, And fairy fingers have taken their share.

Another-the dearest-the fairest-the best-In a land of continual day.

Oh, wonder no more at the dimmed eye-light,
While I mend the one pair of stockings to-night.

## PURITAN CHILDHOOD.

BRAINERD.

make no objections to your searching temporary, and a deacon in the church of Haddam, only twelve years his junior, being born in 1732, and died 1815, aged eighty-four. My own were all peeping furtively out of the father was born in 1754, resided in windows and doors. Norah, with a Haddam fifty years, within three miles scornful toss of her little head, walked of John Brainerd's early home; and in possession of all his faculties, died in Lewis County, N. Y., 1838, aged eighty-four.

We had enforced on us in early life -with too little effect, we fear-many of the principles which formed the characters of David and John Brainerd one hundred and fifty years ago.

A boy was early taught a profound respect for his parents, teachers, guardians, and implicit, prompt obedience. If he undertook to rebel, "his will was broken" by persistent and adequate punishment. He was accustomed every morning and evening to bow at the family altar; and the Bible was his ordinary reading-book in school. He was never, allowed to close his eyes in sleep without prayer on his pillow.

At a sufficient age, no caprice, slight illness, nor any condition of roads or weather, was allowed to detain him from church. In the sanctuary he was required to be grave, strictly at | tions, left a smile on the conscience, tentive, and able on his return at least and bright and reasonable hopes for to give the text. From sundown the future. Saturday evening until the Sabbath sunset his sports were all suspended. while the Bible, New England Primer, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Baxter's Saints' Rest, etc., were commended to his ready attention and cheerfully pored over.

He was taught that his blessings were abundant and undeserved, his evils relatively few and merited, and natured ways were sadly missed, and that he was not only bound to conby none more than Jake, who, now tentment, but gratitude. He was cardinal virtue, and laziness the worst the goodness of the Deity,—the con-Norah, however, had set herself to form of original sin. Hence he must science may have been stimulated at He has never told us, however, that it is a work in earnest, to mar all Mr. rise early, and make himself usetion to Norah and Jake, and was mar- was a poor, ignorant slave. I did'nt little transactions of the kind with the ing. His whole time out of school shalled into the kitchen by the two know S from a side of sole-leather, owners of runaway slaves, and through must be filled up by some service,—

cutting potatoes for the sheep, feeding happiness in the present life. ing the berries, gathering the vegetaall errands. He was expected never the age and land, to save our young to be reluctant, and not often tired.

find fault with his meals,\* his apparel, his tasks, or his lot in life. Labor he caprices and sneering at strict housewas not allowed to regard as a burden, holds, strict governments, and strict nor abstinence from any improper indulgence as a hardship.

summer and winter, were mostly spun, Bradford, Jonathan Edwards, Timothy woven, and made up by his mother Dwight, and David and John Brainerd. and sisters at home; and, as he saw the whole laborious process of their fabrication, he was jubilant and grateful for two suits, with bright buttons, a year. Rents were carefully closed and holes patched in the "every-day" dress, and the Sabbath dress always in all cases let the young revere the kept new and fresh.

tions," the "multiplication table," the spectful to the occupant of the old arm-Prayer," and the "Shorter Catechism," at his tongue's end.

Courtesy was enjoined as a duty.

Those who imposed upon him early a filial and sacred duty upon the young.

store. Days. of election, training, of the Church of God. thanksgiving, and school-intermissions, were bright spots in his life. His long nesses done to the aged saint are the winter evenings, made cheerful by same as if done to Christ. And if the sparkling fires within, and cold, clear aged be poor, and if some of them skies and ice-crusted plains and frozen have been ungodly even, in earlier streams for his sled and skates, were | portions of life's journey, still be kind full of enjoyment. And then he was to them; for if God has borne with loved by those whom he could respect, such fourscore years, then our children and cheered by that future for which and grandchild en can a few days. he was being prepared. Religion he | "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary was taught to regard as a necessity and | head." luxury, as well as a duty. He was the Infinite, and made to regard himself as ever on the brink of an endless tion, a keen, sensitive conscience, and O Lord.—Christian Treasury. a tender heart, the great truths of religion appeared in his eye as sublime. awful, practical realities, compared with which earth was nothing. Thus he was made brave before men for the right, while he lay in the dust before God.

Such was Haddam training one hundred years ago. Some may lift their hands in horror at this picture; but it was a process which made moral heroes. It exhibited a society in which wealth existed without idleness or profligacy; social elevation without and a piety which, by its energy and martyr endurance, could shake the world.

We are not to suppose that the boyhood of John Brainerd under these influences was gloomy or joyless; far from it. Its activity was bliss; its growth was a spring of life; its achievements were victories. Each day garnered some benefit; and rising life, marked by successive accumula-

We might have desired that this Puritan training had left childhood a little larger indulgence,—had looked with interest at present enjoyment as well as at future good,—had smiled a fated to steal, I cannot help it." The little more lovingly on the innocent gambols, the ringing laughter, the gambols, the ringing laughter, the punish you, I cannot help it," and irrepressible mirth of boyhood; and had frowned less severely on imperfections clinging to human nature it-

self. We might think that, by insisting too much on obligation and too little on privilege,-too much on the law and too little on the Gospel,-too

\* When the writer complained of any thing at table, his father would say: "You don't like your mother's provision. You may leave the table

But in leaving this Puritan training, the world "has gone farther and fared bles, spooling the yarn, and running worse." To repress the iniquity of men for themselves, their country, and He was taught that it was a sin to their God, I believe we shall gain most, not by humoring childhood's Sabbaths, but by going back to many of the modes which gave to the world His clothes, woolen and linen, for such men as John Hampden, William

#### OLD AGE-

Let it always be respected. It has its dark side always; and its bright side, when the life has been godly. But aged, and honor the old men and aged He was expected early to have the women. Our heart always goes out stops and marks," the "abbrevia- to the children who are kind and reten commandments," the "Lord's chair, who love to wait on the grandmothers and grandfathers.

Old age—we are always glad to see it in comfortable circumstances. When He must be silent among his superiors. | people have been industrious to bear If addressed by older persons, he must the burdens of life in the heat of the respond with a bow. He was to bow day, it is a peculiarly pleasant sight to as he entered and left the school, and see them surrounded by a competency bow to every man or woman, old or in old age. It is a bad policy that young, rich or poor, black or white, squanders in youth and in the vigor of whom he met on the road. Special manhood, instead of accumulating punishment was visited on him if he something against the time of old age. failed to show respect to the aged, the At that period the sprightliness of poor, the colored, or to any persons youth and the strength of mid-life have whatever whom God had visited with passed. The infirmities of age, the infirmities. He was thus taught to load of years, when they that look out stand in awe of the rights of humanity. at the windows are darkened, when Honesty was urged as a religious one starts at the sound of the bird, duty, and unpaid debts were repre- when fear is in the way—all these make sented as infamy. He was allowed to it desirable that the aged be most be sharp at a bargain, to shudder at kindly administered unto by children, dependence, but still to prefer poverty grandchildren, and all other members to deception or fraud. His industry of the household. And this care and was not urged by poverty, but duty. respect of old age, the Bible enjoins as

responsibility and restraint led the way | Old age may be the lot of any of us; by their example, and commended and we have said that it has its bright this example by the prosperity of their | side. Sometimes it is contemplated fortunes and the respectability of with much pleasure. You and I love their position as the result of these vir to see an old man, reverend in years, tues. He felt that they governed and glorious in gray hairs, and in the ripe restrained him for his good, and not fruits of a long religious life. There their own. He learned to identify himself with resting on the last years and acts of the interests he was set to promote. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and He claimed every acre of his father's Moses There is a cheering record ample farm, and every horse and ox given us of Simeon in the temple, and and cow and sheep became construct. Anna of "about fourscore and four ively his, and he had a name for each. | years, who served God with fastings The waving harvests, the garnered and prayers night and day." Fathers sheaves, the gathered fruits, were all and mothers in Israel these, and his own. And besides these, he had thousands such there are among us his individual treasures. He knew | now, who seem preserved by a gracious every trout hole in the streams; he Providence as the salt of the earth, for was great in building dams, snaring the twofold purpose of connecting the rabbits, trapping squirrels, and gather- present with past generations, and of ing chestnuts and walnuts for winter praying for the peace and prosperity

Emphatically is it true that kind-

But religion shall make old age a daily brought into contemplation of welcome closing and ripening scene to a well-spent life. A glorious sunset is as pleasant to look upon as a sunbeing. With a deep sense of obliga rising. These wait for thy salvation,

## MORAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Insanity obliterates the distinction between right and wrong, and hence an insane person may violate human law and be guiltless. Such a person, however, should not be allowed to go at large, but should be restrained in confinement from doing damage. But to acquit an individual who is guilty of crime, on the ground that he is deranged, and yet permit him to have his freedom, is unjustifiable. Convictarrogance; labor without degradation; ed in a human court, let him be hung, or put into a prison, or put into a lunatic asylum. It is getting to be quite too common to acquit persons accused of crime, on the plea that they are insane and incapable of distinguishing right from wrong, and yet allowing them opportunity of preying further upon the community.

The question arises whether in case of any particular crime an irresistible propensity to the commission of it can be urged to screen the delinquent from the penaly of the broken statute. It may be urged; it is urged; but ought not to be successfully urged. There is no protection for the public, if such a plea at bar is a valid plea. A thievish boy once said to his father, "I am then proceed vigorously to apply the rod. If there is an indomitable obligation to sin, there is an indomitable obligation to punish sin. The iron rule works both ways.

THE SAVIOUR has, indeed, said that 'narrow is the way that leadeth unto life.' the expense of the affections, and men | thorny road. It is unbelief, in and out of the Church, and not faith in God, that has represented it as such a road. In denying ourselves and taking up the cross, as required, Christ promises us not sorrow and sighing, but joy unspeakable and full of glory, not wearisomeness, but rest.