# The Family Circle.

### FAITH AND SIGHT IN THE LATTER DAYS.

'I prae: sequar. Thou sayst, 'Take up thy cross, O Man! and follow Me: The night is black, the feet are slack, Yet we would follow Theel at the state of t

But O, dear Lord, we cry,
That we Thy face could see!
Thy blessed face one moment's space—

Then might we follow Thee!

Dimitracts of time divided and hardinger These golden days from me;

Thy voice comes strange o'er years of change: How can I follow Thee? Comes faint and far Thy voice

From vales of Galilee;
Thy vision fades in ancient shades;
How should we follow Thee? Ah, sense-bound heart and blind!

Is naught but what we see? Gan time ando what once was true; Unchanging law binds all,

And Nature all we see: IA I SEE COIS
Thou art a star. far off, too far, Too far to follow Thee! Is what we trace of law

Does our brief span grasp Nature's plan, And bid not follow Thee?

O heavy cross of faith 3 1 1 1 0 12 

If not as once Thou cam'st. The tentiment of In true humanity, Come yet as guest within the breast That burns to follow Thee.

Within our heart of hearts. an nearest nearness: bepares Set up Thy throne within Thine own: Go, Lord; we follow Thee.

- Francis Turner Palgrave.

#### JESSICA'S FIRST PRAYER. IX. THE FIRST PRAYER ANSWERED.

The barefooted and bareheaded child might be seen, every Sunday evening, advancing confidently up to the chapel, where rich and fashionable people worshipped God; but betore taking her place she arrayed herself in a little cloak and bonnet, which had once belonged to the minister's elder daughter, and which was kept with Daniel's serge gown, so that she presented a somewhat more respectable appearance in the eyes of the congregation. The minister had no listener more attentive, and he would have missed the pinched, earnest little face if it were not to be seen in the seat just under the pulpit. At the close of each service he spoke to her for a minute or two in his vestry, often saving no more than a single sentence, for the day's labor had wearied him. The shilling which was always lying upon the chimney-piece, placed there by Jane and Wipny, in turns, was immediately handed over, according to promise, to Daniel, as she left the chapel, and so Jessica's breakfast was provided for her week after week.

But at last there came a Sunday evening when the minister, going up into his pulpit, did miss the wistful, hungry face, and the hilling lay unclaimed upon the vestry chimney-piece. Daniel looked out for her anxiously every morning, but no Jessica glided into his secluded corner, to sit beside him with her breakfast on her lap, and with a number of strange questions to ask. He felt her absence more keenly than he could have expected. The child was nothing to him, he kept saying to himself; and yet he felt that she was something, and that he could not help being uneasy and anxious about her. Why had he never inquired where she lived? The minister knew, and for a minute Daniel thought he would go and ask him, but that might awaken suspicion. How could be account for so much anxiety, when he was supposed only to know of her absence from chapel one Sunday evening? It would be running a risk, and, after all, Jessica was nothing to him. So he went home and looked over his savings' bank book, and counted his money, and he found to his satisfaction that he had gathered together nearly four hundred pounds, and was adding more every week.

But when upon the next Sunday Jessica's seat was again empty, the anxiety of the solemn chapel-keeper overcame his prudence and his fears. The minister had retired to his vestry, and was standing with his arm resting upon the chimney-piece, and his eyes fixed upon the unclaimed shilling, which Winny had laid there before the service, when there was a tap at the door, and Daniel entered with a respectful but hesitating

"Well, Standring?" said the minister, nestioningly.

questioningly. It is a series of the said, "I'm uncomfortable about that little girl, and I know you've been once to see after her; she told me about it; and so I make bold to ask you where she lives, and I'll see what's become of her."

"Right, Standring," answered the minister; "I am troubled about the child, and so are my little girls. I thought of going myself, but my time is very much occupied just

"I'll go, sir," replied Daniel, promptly; and, after receiving the necessary information about Jessica's home, he put out the lights, locked the door and turned towards

his lonely lodgings. But though it was getting late upon Sunday evening, and Jessica's home was a long way distant, Daniel found that his anxiety would not suffer him to return to his solitary room. It was of no use to reason with himself, as he stood at the corner of the street, feeling perplexed and troubled, and promising his conscience that he would go the very first thing in the morning after he shut up his coffee stall. In the dim, dusky light, as the summer evening drew to a close, he fancied he could see Jessica's thin

It was not quite dark when he reached the court, and stumbled up the narrow entry leading to it; but Daniel did hesitate when he opened the stable-door, and looked into a blank, black space, in which he could discern nothing. He thought he had better retreat while he could do so safely; but as he still stood with his hand upon the rusty. latch, he heard a faint, small voice through the nicks of the unceiled boarding above his

"Our Father," said the little voice, "please to send somebody to me, for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.

"I'm here, Jess," cried Daniel, with a sudden bound of his heart, such as he had not felt for years, and which almost took away his breath as he peered into the darkness, until at last he discerned dimly the ladder which led up into the loft.

Very cautiously, but with an eagerness which surprised herself, he climbed up the creaking rounds of the ladder and entered the dismal room, where the child was lying in desolate darkness. Fortunately he had put his box of matches into his pocket, and the end of a wax candle, with which he kindled the lamps, and in another minute a gleam of light shone upon Jessica's white features. She was stretched upon a scanty litter of straw under the roof where the tiles had not fallen off, with her poor rags for her conly covering; but as her eyes looked up into Daniel's face bending over her, a bright joy sparkled in them.

"Oh! Reshe cried, gladly, but in a feeble voice, "it's Mr. Dan'el! Has God told you to come here, Mr. Dan'el?"

"Yes," said Daniel, kneeling beside her, taking her wasted hand in his, and parting the matted hair upon her damp forehead. "What did He say to you, Mr. Daniel?" said Jessica

"He told me I was a great sinner," replied Daniel. "He told me I loved a little bit of dirty money better than a poor, friendless, helpless child, whom he had sent to me, to see if I would do her a little good for His sake. He looked at me, or the minister did, through and through, and He said, 'Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be re' quired of thee: then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?" And I could answer him nothing, Jess He was come to a reckoning with me, and T could not say a word to him."

"Aren't you a good man, Mr. Dan'el?"

whispered Tessica. Table 1 "No. I'm a wicked sinner." he cried, while the tears rolled down his solemn face. "I've been constant at God's house, but only to get money; I've been steady and industrious, but only to get money; and now God looks at me, and He says, 'Thou Fool!' Oh, Jess Jess L. You're more fit for heaven than I ever was in my life.",

"Why don't you ask him to make you good for Jesus Christ's sake?" asked the

down Sunday after Sunday when the minister's been praying, but all the time I was thinking how rich some of the carriage people were. I've been loving money and worshipping money all along, and I ve nearly let you die rather than run the risk of losing part of my earnings. I'm a very sinful man "

"But you know what the minister often says," murmured Jessica. o" Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

"I've heard it so often that I don't feel t," said Daniel. "I used to like to hear the minister say it, but now it goes in at one ear | 3971 17s. it is; and Live said, Lord it's all and out at the other. My heart is very hard, Tessica.'

By the feeble glimmer of the candle Danel saw Jessica's wistful eyes fixed upon him with a sad and loving glance; and then she lifted up her weak hand to her face, and laid t over her closed eyelids, and her feverish

lips moved slowly.
"God," she said, "please to make Mr. Dan'el's heart soft, for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.Koredomest og blue ban binesf

She did not speak again, nor Daniel, for summer evening; and as he did so he re-membered the words which the Lord says for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen" He will pronounce at the last day of reckonand cried in the depths of his contrite spirit, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

## X. THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

was occupied in the miserable loft. He had dead, but is only asleep."
intrusted a friendly woman out of the court

Before Jessica was fully recovered, Daniel to buy food, and fuel, and all night long he rented a little house for himself and his had watched beside Jessica, who was light- adopted daughter to dwell in. He made headed and delirious, but in the wanderings many inquiries after her mother, but she God, and prayed for her Mr. Dan'el. The he was well pleased that there was nobody neighbor informed him that the child's to interfere with his charge of Jessica. ter receiving permission from him, he wrap- to serve the daily customers; and many a body of the profession are mournfully deserved the daily customers; and many a body of the profession are mournfully deserved the daily customers;

gleam of a half-sovereign, which Daniel slipped into the palm of her hard hand.

By that afternoon's post the minister re-ceived the following letter:—

"REVEREND SIR, "If you will condescend to enter my humble roof, you will have the pleasure of seeing little Jessica, who is at the point of death, unless God in His mercy restores her. Hoping you will excuse this liberty, as I cannot leave the child, I remain with duty, date "Your respectful Servant,

"D. STANDRING. "P. S. Jessica desires her best love and duty to Miss Jane and Winny."

The minister laid aside the book he was reading, and without any delay started off and the removes, were all tongues. for his chapel-keeper's dwelling. There was Jessica lying restfully upon Daniel's bed, but the pinched features were deadly pale, and the sunken eyes shone with a waning light. She was too feeble to turn her head when the door opened, and he paused for a minute, looking at her and at Daniel, who, seated at the head of the bed, was turning over the papers in his desk and reckoning up once more the savings of his lifetime. But when the minister advanced into the middle of the room, Jessica's white cheeks

flushed into a deep red. the stander and trans-"Oh, minister !" she cried, "God has given me everything I wanted, except paying Mr. Dan'el for the coffee he used to give

"Ah! but God has paid me over and over again," said Daniel, rising to receive the minister. "He's given me my own soul in exchange for it. Let me make bold to speak to you this once, sir. You're a very learned man, and a great preacher, and many people flock to hear you till I'm hard put to it to find seats for them at times; but all the while, hearkening to you every blessed Sabbath, I was losing my soul, and you never once said to me, though you saw me scores and scores of times, Standring are you a saved man?""

"Standring," said the minister, in a tone of great distress and regret, "I always took it for granted that you were a Chris-

"Ah," continued Daniel, thoughtfully, "but God wanted somebody to ask me that question, and he did not find anybody in the congregation, so he sent this poor little lass to me. Well, I don't mind telling now, even if I lose the place; but for a long time, nigh upon ten years; I've kept a coffee-stall on week-days in the city; and cleared; one week with another, about ten shillings: but I was afraid the chapel-wardens wouldn't approve of the coffee business, as low, so I kept it a close secret, and always shut up early of a morning. It's me that sold Jessica her cup of coffee which you paid for, sir,"

There's no harm in it, my good fellow," said the minister kindly; myou need make

no secret of it." 'I can't," he said. "I've been kneeling this poor little creature has asked me, have "Well," resumed Daniel, "the questions gone quicker and deeper down to my conscience than all your sermons, if I may make so free as to say it. She's come often and often of a morning, and looked into my face with those dear eyes of her sland said, 'Don't you love Jesus Christ, Mr. Dan'el?' 'Doesn't it make you very glad that God is your Father Mr. Dan'el?' 'Are we getting nearer to heaven every day, Mr. Dan'el?' And one day says she, 'Are you going to give all your money to God, Mr. Dan'el?" Ah, that question made me think indeed, and it's never been answered till this day. While I've been sitting beside the bed here, I've counted up-all my savings: thine; and I'd give every penny of it rather than lose the child, if it be thy blessed will to spare her life."

Jessica's feeble and motionless head lay and probably causes, and came to no satisupon her face, and she lifted her wasted fingers to rest upon the bowed head beside her. while she shut her eyes and shaded them with her other weak hand.

"Our Father," she said, in a faint whissome time. He took off his Sunday coat per which still reached the ears of the minand laid it over the tiny, shivering frame, ister and the beadle, "I asked you to let which was shaking with cold even in the me come home to heaven; but if Mr. Dan'el

For some minutes after Jessica's prayer ing, "Forasmuch as ye have done it unto there was a deep and unbroken silence in one of the least of these my brethren, ye the room, Daniel still hiding his face upon the room, Daniel still hiding his face upon have done it unto me." Daniel Standring the pillow, and the minister standing beside felt his heart turning with love to the Sat them with bowed head and closed eyes, as viour, and he bowed his head upon his hands, lif he also were praying. When he looked up again at the desolate and forsaken child, he saw that her feeble hand had fallen from her face, which looked full of rest and peace. while her breath came faintly but regularly There was no coffee-stall opened under through her parted lips. He took her little the railway arch the following morning, and | hard into his own with a pang of fear and Daniel's regular customers stood amazed as grief; but instead of the mortal chillness of they drew near the empty corner, where death, he felt the pleasant warmth and moistthey were accustomed to get their early ure of life. He touched Daniel's shoulder, breakfast. It would have astonished them and as he lifted up his head in sudden alarm, still more if they could have seen how he he whispered to him, "The child is not

figure and wan face gliding on before him, ped the poor deserted Jessica in his coat, happy day was spent in helping to sweep lict in duty touching the ruinous effects of and turning round from time to time to see and bearing her tenderly in his arms down and dust the chapel, into which she had this great and fashionable narcotic. if he were following. It was only fancy, the ladder, he carried her to a cab, which crept so secretly at first, her great delight and he laughed a little at himself; but the neighbor brought to the entrance of the being to attend to the pulpit and the vestry, laugh was husky, and there was a choking court it was to no other than his own soli- and the pew where the minister's children sensation in his throat, so he buttoned his tary home that he had resolved to take her; sat, while Daniel and the woman he em-Sunday coat over his breast, where his sil- and when the mistress of the lodgings stood ployed cleaned the rest of the building: ver watch and chain hung temptingly, and at her door with her arms a-kimbo, to for- Many a Sunday also the minister in his pulstarted off at a rapid pace for the centre of bid the admission of the wretched and neg- pit, and his little daughters in their news. lected child, her tongue, was silenced by the and Daniel treading softly about the aisles, glacer of a half sovereion which Daniel slip- as their glance fell upon Jessica's eager, earnest, happy face, thought of the first time they saw her sitting amongst the congregation, and of Jessica's first prayer:

#### A DINNER OF TONGUES.

Æsop was the servant of a philosopher iamed Xanthus. One day his master, being desirous of entertaining some of his friends to dinner, ordered him to provide the best things he could find in the market. Æsop thereupon made a large provision of tongues which he desired the cook to serve up with different sauces. When dinner came, the first and second courses, the side-dishes,

"Did I not order you," said Xanthus, in a violent passion, "to buy the best victuals

which the market afforded?' "And have T not obeyed your "orders? said Æsop. : "Is there anything better than tongues? Is not the tongue the bond of civil society, the key of science, and organ of truth and reason? It is by means of the tongue cities are built, and governments established and administered; with it men instruct, persuade and preside in assemblies it is the instrument with which we acquit ourselves of the chief of all our duties, the praising and adoring of the Deity."

"Well, then," replied Xanthus, "go to market to-morrow and buy me the worst things you can find. This same company shall dine with me, and I have a mind to change my entertainment."

When Xanthus assembled his friends the next day, he was astonished to find that Æsop had provided nothing but the very same dishes.

"Did I not tell you," said Xanthus "to ourchase the worst things for this day's east-? How comes it, then, that you have placed before us the same kind of food,

which, only yesterday, you declared to be the very best?" Æsop, not at all abashed, replied: "The

law-suits, the source of division and war, the organ of error, of calumny, of falsehood and even of profanity."

The conduct of Æsop, in this affair, my friends, is instructive. For it is certainly true that the tongue, according to circumstances, may be, and is the best or the worst thing in the world. Rightly used, it is the the fittest organ of wisdom; wrongly used, it becomes the foulest medium of folly and wickedness.

"For," says the Bible, "every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind; but the tongue can no man tame, it is an unruly evil, full of dead-ly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. and cursing. My brethren these things ought not so to be."

# INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF TOBACCO.

"Doctor," we said, to a splendid specimen of the profession, "tell us something about the baneful effects of tobacco."
"Its effects, sir," he replied, "are evil

and only evil, and that continually; and it is a perfect mystery that gentlemen of my profession care so little, do and know so little about a poison that is doing mischief at so terrible a rate."

"Sir," the doctor continued, "I was on a council of physicians the other day on the border of this town; the patient was a young a time I have been wakened out of a sleep man, prostrate by paralysis; he was de-prived of the use of his lower limbs from myself from them. When they enter a house Daniel's voice quavered at the last words, the abdomen to the toe; we overhauled him; they clear it of every living thing. Cockroaches and his face sank upon the pillow where we withdrew and talked about antecedents There was a very sweet yet surprised smile factory conclusions. Dissatisfied and impatient, I inquired of his attending physician whether the poor fellow used tobacco.

"O, no," he replied, "I guess not," and he does, that can have nothing to do with his case."

effects of tobacco, but simply if the patient used it

Gruffly he said, "Go and see." Stepping to his bedside, I said,

"My young friend, do you use tobacco?" With a squealing voice, more cat-like than numan, he answered: "I'use a little!" Fig. 1

"How do you use it?"

"I smoke a little."

"Did you smoke this morning?" "Yes, a little." "Did you smoke at noon?"

"Yes a little." "Before I quit his side I ascertained that

he had actually consumed sixteen cigars a day, and the poor fellow's soul was so obfuscated by smoke that he considered that prodigious amount, but 'little!"

"This,' continued the doctor, 'may seem strange but the strangest of all is the fact many millions there may have been. that his attending physician—regular and well bred did not know in the first place, that his patient used tobacco-and secondly, if he did, he did not know that a rank graphical profession, made one of the greatof her thoughts and words often spoke to never appeared again in her old haunts, and and deadly poison could have anything to est blunders on record in his day. In putdo with his case?"

#### EVILS OF GOSSIP.

I have known a country society which withered away all to nothing under the dry rot of gossip only. Friendship once as firm as granite, dissolved to jelly, and then ran away to water, only because of this; love that promised a future as enduring as heaven. and as stable as truth, evaporated into a morning mist that turned to a day's long tears, only because of this; a father and son were set foot to foot with the fiery breath of anger, that would never cool again be. tween them, only because of this; and a husband and his young wife, each straining at the hated leash, which in the beginning had been the golden bondage of a God-blessed love, sat mournfully by the side of the grave where all their love and joy lay buried. and only because of this. I have seen faith transformed to mean doubt, hope give place to grim despair, and charity take on itself the features of black malevolence, all because of the spell-words of scandal and the magic

mutterings of gossip.

Great crimes work great wrongs, and the deeper tragedies of human life spring from its larger passions; but woful and most melancholy are the uncatalogued tragedies that issue from gossip and detraction; most mournfully the shipwreck often made of noble natures and lovely lives by the bitter winds and dead salt-waters of slander. So easy to say, yet so hard to disprove throwing on the innocent, and punishing them as guilty or unable to pluck out the stings they never see, and silence the words they never hear. Gossip and slander are the deadliest and the cruelest weapons man has for his brother's

hurt .- All the Year Round.

### THE ANTS OF AFRICA.

M. Du CHAILLU thus describes one of the nsect tribes of Equatorial Africa:

"This evening time forbids that I should speak at any length of the natural history of the country. In these equatorial forosts there are found a vast number of ants, some tongue is the worst thing in the world as of which are so terrible to man, and even to well as the best; for it is the instrument of the beasts of the woods, from their venomous all strife and contention, the tormentor of bite, their fierce temper and voracity, that their path is frequently abandoned to them. The most remarkable and most dreaded of all is the black Bashikony. Bashikony is the name given it by the Bakalai. There are two other varieties of the Bashikony besides the black kind. These black Bashikony may well be called the lords of the forest. It is the most voracious creature I ever met. It is the dread of all living animals, from the leopard to the smallest insects.

It is their habit to march through the forests in a long, regular line—a line about two inches broad, and often several miles in length; all along this line are larger ants, who act as officers—stand outside the ranks, and keep this singular army in order. If they come to a place where there are no trees to shelter them from the sun v heat they cannot bear, they immediately build an underground tunnel, through which the whole army pass in columns to the forest beyond. When they grow hungry, as by a sudden command, the long file spreads itself through the forest, advancing forward, attacking and devouring all living things with a fury that is quite irresistible. The elephant and gorilla fly before them; the black men run away; every animal that lives in their line of march is chased. In an incredibly short space of time those that are caught are overwhelmed, killed, eaten, and only the bare skeleton remains.

They seem to travel day and night. Many myself from them. When they enter a house are devoured in an instant; rats and mice spring round the room in vain. They will not touch vegetable matter, thus they are very useful, clearing the country of many insects. When on their march the insect with an air of nonchalance, added: What if world flies before them, and I have often had the approach of a Bashikony army heralded to me by this means. Wherever they go "I did not ask you," I replied, "about the they make a clean sweep, even ascending to the top of trees in pursuit of their prey.

Their manner of attack is an impetuous leap. Instantly the strong pincers are fastened, and they only let go when the piece gives way. At such a time this little insect seems animated by a kind of fury which causes it to disregard entirely its own safety. The negroes relate that criminals, by which they generally mean wizards, have some time been exposed on the path of the Bashikony ants, tied to a tree that they might not escape, and they were devoured to the bones. They are larger than any ants we have in America. The number of one of their armies is so great that one does not like to enter into calculations, but I have seen a continuous line passing, at a good speed, a particular place for twelve hours. So you may imagine how

FRANKLIN, the St. Benjamin of the typoting to press a "form" of the Common We are indebted to the medical profession Prayer, the letter "c" dropped out of the mother had gone off some days before, fear. When Jessica grew strong enough, many a for the most effective testimony against this passage, "we shall all be changed in the ing that she was ill of some infectious fever, cheerful walk had they together, in the early popular poison, hence we have no wish to twinkling of an eye," without his noticing and that she, alone, had taken a little care mornings, as they wended their way to the arraign it and denounce it in wholesale it. When the book came into use, what was of her from time to time. As soon as the railway bridge, where the little girl took style. But account for it as we may, on the the consternation of the devoit when they morning came he sent for a doctor, and, af her place behind the stall, and soon learned score of selfishness or ignorance, the main read, "we shall all be hanged in the twink-