

The Echo

“Never Give Up”

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Linden wood

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Sadness

It is not our nature dimmed and polluted by sin as it is always to be gay and lively and no person can say with truth that they have not at times felt a sadness for which they could assign no evident cause & many times when we are in a greater state of excitement & hilarity than usual a gloom will momentarily steal over us causing us to forget all that is going on around us while the mind is contemplating some event which is in no wise connected with our gaiety. Persons who are called always cheerful are in truth sometimes sad as we should see could we follow them to their quiet chambers & there note their feeling when no mortal eyes scans the unloosing of the bonds the restraints of society impose.

The question often arises. Is it right or even well to indulge in sadness & melancholy & from our own hearts arises the response that it may be proper but certainly it is not always right or well to indulge in sad reflections. If we contrast two persons, one of a cheerful and gay disposition & another of retired & pensive manners, we shall see that the former will produce a better effect upon those around them than the latter, for when the cheerful one approaches smiles seem to reign, for all readily enter into their feelings & appreciate their desires: But if the sad one enters “with pale pensive brow,” the natural sympathy of our natures lead us to enquire into the cause of their dejection & though they may not be able to render any particular reason for it themselves & may beg us not to notice it as it is natural to them, still a similar feeling will insensibly steal over us & we feel a foreboding though we know not why.

If from our present constitution sadness has become part of our nature then why is it not right & proper that we should some times indulge it.

We know that when we feel sad and lonely ourselves we can & do more readily listen to & appreciate the woes and trials of others & we more readily realize the goodness of God when in such a form of mind than in any other because at such seasons we are subdued & feel our dependence to be on Him alone. Then let us believe that it is not wrong or improper to indulge in sadness in the proper time & way.

Wanted Immediately

A fresh supply of smiles and kind words. Those which we possess have become so insipid that they do not have the desired effect.

The answer to the conundrum in the last Echo is No. 30.

Winter –Selected

Oh, why are the leaves scattered and dead,
And why are the blossoms all blasted and fled,
Why? Why are the rivers once sportive and free
Now silent and sad, and in slavery?
Oh Winter! stern monarch – thy sway is begun –
And thou lovest to undo what the summer hath done.
The fairest, most cherished of blossoms and flowers
The green of the meadows – the princess of bowers –
The lily and rose – these waken thy spite –
And they fly from thy presence, in terror and blight.
The leaves of the forest turn pale in thy blast –
From thy hail and thy frost the birds shrink aghast.
And the bright robe of green that was woven by May
Is torn from the landscape, for months of gray
Oh winter! stern tyrant – if such be thy reign
O'er the mount ins and meadow – o'er hillock & plain.
If all that is lovely – 'tis thine to oer throw –
Let us keep from our hearts. Thy frost and thy snow.

Madame Rumor has been exceedingly busy this month trying to get up some parties for the holidays but we fear she has failed.

A ship called the Credulous lately went to sea but /on her voyage was evidently thrown on the rock of slander and of course sunk instantly.

Editorial

As the time allotted for study this month has been very short; and broken by a holiday, we were excused from examination but we cannot omit preparing our paper which gives us all so much pleasure and we hope profit. We have had an important and interesting accession to our family this month from the Indian country. It is that of a lady & her three daughters. This lady has been a missionary among the Osage and Shawnees for 26 years and is now on her way to visit her friends in the East. Some persons consider such a sacrifice of homes and friends a very foolish business, but such is not our opinion. We think that it is a noble undertaking to give up all one loves to labor in the cause of Christ, and lead a life of self – denial, and we wish her all the comforts and blessings of this life & may she live long to enjoy the society of her friends & receive her reward for the faithful performances of such a laborious & trying duty in another world.

This lady has taken charge of the town school and therefore “Jerry” is set at liberty and our teacher is changed also Miss Eliza has resumed her old post of duty, and Miss Rossitor is relieved from her irksome task & we are subjected to a change of teachers which is not as agreeable as a holiday would be at this season for it is not easy to yield a tried friend though when we are called to do it for their benefit we must do so in the spirit of the golden rule and strive to be happy in so doing. On the 6th & 7th of this month we had a great rain & on the 8th the hardest snow storm we have witnessed for some winters. It snowed very fast and there was a fall of at least a foot deep, but it is disappearing very fast and the grass is again to be seen. To some Southerners with us it was a novel sight and elicited from them many curious and interesting questions as its qualities and durability. This is the last month in the year and we are called to bid adieu to the old year & welcome in the Christmas week, but alas! rules are in the way again, and Aunt Mary thinks best not to consent our wishes. So we must strive to be happy in our usual course of duty.

Be Kind

Be kind to all of whatever color or station in life, & also to the dumb beast, and believe me you will never suffer for your kindness.

The way to gain friends is to be friendly to every one. If you are treated ill return kindness for it and it will teach the perverse one a good lesson that he will not soon forget. Be kind to your sisters and brothers it will teach them to return good for evil. Some people act as if they were incapable of kindness and treat everything in a rough manner. Such persons are not beloved by any one. No even the dumb brute can tell when such people are about and show it by being afraid to go near them.

God commands us to be kind to our neighbors and every living creature and are we obeying his commands when we treat them ill. Reason answers no. Treat the poor with kindness. If you see a family in poverty and suffering and do not turn from them with a cold look but exert yourself to help them out of their difficulties and you will not only have the approbation of your friends on earth and a good

conscience but that of your father in heaven. Be kind to your Schoolmates if they speak to you answer them with a smiling face and not answer as if you were ready to bite. It looks very badly to see a school girls disagree and it is very wrong when just one kind word would soothe and they could part as friendly as ever. There are a few lines that are very appropriate for this subject which I will quote to show what a kind word can do when kindly spoken.

A little word in kindness spoken

A motion or a tear

Has often healed the heart that broken

And made a friend sincere.

Then deem it not an idle thing

A pleasant word to speak,

The face you wear the thought you bring

A heart may heal or break.

Correspondence of the Echo

St. Louis, Dec. 15, 1846

Misses Editress

Dear Ladies,

Being called on to write a correspondence for your paper and not being able to refuse a lady's request I must obey, & have determined to present a hasty description of my late journey to the Rocky Mountains hoping that it will prove both interesting and instructive. After leaving the city of St. Louis I proceeded up the Missouri river until I reached the village of Independence where I left the river and proceeded on my way by land. Being by nature fond of solitude I determined to go alone with the exception of my guide in order that I might indulge in my fanciful meditations free from interruption. I traveled for many weeks over sunless prairies without seeing anything worthy of notice and I had almost concluded to give up my journey and return for I must confess I was somewhat discouraged with the general appearance and the sameness of the country. But fortunately for me when I was about to retrace my steps I discovered a spring and I can never find words to describe its beauty attending by its fine appearance I alighted from my horse and prepared to refresh myself with its cool waters when judge of my astonishment and pleasure when I perceived it to be a soda fountain the most agreeable that I ever tasted. Having found one object so interesting my dejected spirits rose and I proceeded on my way thinking that where one curiosity exists others might also. I had often heard awful tales about the savageness of certain tribes of Indians in that quarter and my fears were materially aroused but the

beauty of the country drew me onward about 40 miles from the spring I found a petrified forest all green and beautiful and the ground was covered with flowers and shrubs of the most exquisite kind and not the least astonishing things among the beauties was the beautiful singing birds the melody of the notes were quite cheerful to a lonely wanderer like myself, but it must be remembered that the birds were also in a state of petrification. I could have stayed here forever I thought at the time I was so charmed ____ I have not time to tell you more of my journey now and until favored with such privilege, Believe me sincerely yours,

H

To Let

A very good house on the corner of Ax and Grindstone Streets, suitable for a private family, containing five rooms. One side will soon fall down having neither plastering nor paint there are nine windows in all boasting three panes of glass. Locks are considered quite useless on the doors. Water is plenty and hand at a mill pond about a half a mile distant this house with a little repairing will be made both a comfortable and splendid dwelling and we hope to see it occupied by one of the seven new families who are to settle in Old St. Charles.

Friendship

Who is there among us who does not know the value of a true friend. I hope there is not one in our number but remembers with pleasure some early friend of their Childhood. The way to gain friends is to do what we think is our duty toward all around us we must love one another and if we do not gain friends in that way we will not gain them. If we all understood the value of a true friend we would be more friendly for we often feel badly ourselves and need a real friend to sympathize with is if we have anything which causes grief we are much easier relieved if we can communicate it to a best friend on the earth. When we look around us and see all the world looking cold and dreary where can we turn for real consolation but to a Mother. When we are sick to whom can we go for help with such confidence as to a Mother to her we can confide all our troubles without hesitation. We never ought to be afraid of our Mother. She is the one and the only one that will be true at all times and ever offer real sympathy. I look around for some kind friend. Oh tell me tell me where can a real friend be found for Mother I have not. But let me not forget there is a friend who is imatable. His name is Jesus Christ.

Summary of the Month

Our piano has at last received a tuning and sounds much better for the attention it has received.

We received another visit from our old Grandmother and was glad to see she has not forgotten us but condescends to call on us occasionally.

We hope that our change of teachers will not bring the dunce cap with it. We have with much grief being called to witness the death of our faithful old cat. She departed this life a few weeks ago and her poor old Grandmother was so overcome that for a while we feared it would induce instant dissolution.

An other important circumstance in this months events is that we have a new mail bag and what is still more so it has a good look and key to it and now we defy all the country to get the news before us if they can.

“My James is such a good boy said an old lady but he has his little failings and you know of us are perfect last week dont you think he put the cat in the fire flung his Granfathers wig down the shtern and put his daddys powder horn in the stove tied the coffee pot to Jons tail set off squibs in the barn and the rascal took my ----- bobbin for fishing lines and tried to stick a fork in his sisters eyes but these are only childish follies which you know he will out grown and really he is so funny in his tricks that I cannot get vexed for he is such a good boy.”

There is a great scarcity of ideas in this vicinity if any one has a superabundance we would be much obliged to them if they would deposit a few at the Linden wood Gate for Miss Elvia fears that we will not be able to fill our paper next month if this months effort is any proof.

The long wishes for Christmas is at hand and it is with inexpressible pleasure that we look forward to that merry day different but still joyful are the feelings that pervade each bosom in anticipation of that happy anniversary. We hope and trust that we have made many improvements since we last hailed the joyful day yet it is with feelings of sorrow and regret that we prepare to bid the old year adieu for we all feel and know that many opportunities of improvement have passed unnoticed by us and many things which have been done we would fain recall yet we trust that the coming year will be better improved and if we are permitted to see it depart it will be with a feeling that it has received its dues in a greater degree. We proffer our kindest thanks to those obliging and dear friends who have watched over us since last we greeted a fair Christmas morn and guided our erring footsteps with anxious solicitation ever sincere we were placed under their care we know that we have been the cause of much trouble and anxiety to them but we hope that they will kindly overlook our many past faults and transgressions and still love us as well as to make further efforts to improve us. And now a hearty and well meaning Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each all our friends.

G.

There will be a public examination at L.W.S on the last Friday of January, 1847. To which we most cordially invite all who are interested in our improvement & in the cause of education in general.