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[For the California Teacher.]

ON TEACHING MANNERS.

BY A. E. MCGLYNN.

THE first and best method of teaching good manners is by example. Children are naturally imitative; the habits and manners they see, they will adopt. Those who are brought up under proper home influences will be good-mannered with very little positive instruction; you can point them out in your class-room from their demeanor. It is known that some of the colored domestics at the South possess a most polished address; and, although entirely illiterate, use the English language with great purity and elegance, from the fact of being raised in cultivated families.

Since example, then, is so very powerful, and must always go before precept, it behooves the teacher to endeavor to be blameless in all that concerns good breeding, especially in the presence of his pupils; because, standing as he does in the relation of a superior, they will naturally feel at liberty to imitate what they see in him, and he cannot consistently preach to them doctrines which he denies by his own practice.

Among exterior excellencies, the first place is demanded by cleanliness. "Cleanliness is akin to godliness." The ancient philosophers ranked this as one of the half-virtues. If not a moral

**SAVAGE AFRICA:** Being a narrative of a Tour in Equatorial, Southwestern, and North-western Africa : With notes on the habits of the Gorilla ; on the existence of Unicorns and Tailed Men ; on the Slave Trade ; on the origin, character and capabilities of the Negro, and on the future civilization of Africa. By W. Winwood Reade. With Illustrations and a Map. New York : Harper & Brothers. San Francisco : H. H. Bancroft & Co. pp. 452.

This book, unlike Captain Speke's in every respect, is still more interesting. The author is a young man who tells the story of his adventures in an off-hand way, enjoys the good things of his life, laughs at the annoyances of travel, never gets sentimental without cause, and always uses the nearest word in describing his views. Philosophical the book is not : hardly poetical ; sometimes rather coarse ; but it is a narrative of travels in which the reader goes with the writer, and while often having cause to find fault with his companion, always lays down the book in good spirits. If the adage that "Laughter helpeth digestion and cleareth the cobwebs from the brain" be true, the editorial third who writes book notices must be more healthy and clearer in thought by his reading of "Savage Africa."

**JENNIE JUNEIANA:** Talks on Women's Topics. By Jennie June. Boston : Lee & Shepard. San Francisco : H. Roman & Co. pp. 240.

Notwithstanding the sentimental hint of the first title, this book is a right sensible "Talk ;" made up, we presume, of small articles first published in some newspaper. The table of contents would be invaluable in a boarding-school for young ladies, not only as furnishing a number of subjects suitable for composition, but as also suggesting topics that interest the reader. We commend the little volume to our lady subscribers.

**LIBBY LIFE:** Experiences of a Prisoner of War in Richmond, Va., 1863-64. By Lieut. Col. F. F. Cavada. Philadelphia : King & Baird. San Francisco : A. Roman & Co. pp. 221.

No attempt is made in this little volume to picture the horrors of prison life. It is, rather, a simple story, setting forth the methods by which the soldiers succeed in killing time while passively serving their country, without the excitements of such freedom as is permitted in camp life or on the battle field. Enough of the sadness of captivity is portrayed, however, to quicken every patriotic effort to bring about the close of the present struggle, by thoroughly subduing the power of a rebellion which subjects prisoners of war to such weary suffering. The book is full of vivid illustrations, and well repays the time spent in its perusal.

**THE POTOMAC AED THE RAPIDAN.** Army Notes from the Failure at Winchester to the Re-enforcement of Rosecrans, 1861-3. By Alonzo H. Quint, Chaplain of the Second Mass. Infantry. Boston : Crosby & Nichols. San Francisco : A. Roman & Co. pp. 407.

This is the most readable book on the war we have yet seen. Chaplain Quint keeps a sharp eye and a ready pen. He has thoughts of his own, and tells them frankly. While such materials for history are accumulating, one wonders at the ability some future Bancroft or Macaulay must display in selecting the best.