

Alabama Baptist.

THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

The Little Comforter.

It is of no use, Paolo; now at last I am assured that it is of no use. For six years I have done all in my power to find her in every place which I have visited. I made inquiries, but my search has been wholly fruitless. My child is lost to me—hopelessly lost. Indeed she may be dead long ere now; dead of some pestilence or of exposure, or, more terrible still, of ill-treatment. And the eyes of the speaker, a beautiful Italian lady, filled with tears, great tears that rolled down cheeks with grief and care. The person whom she addressed as Paolo was her brother, a handsome young artist, who had lately established himself in Rome, where he was busily following his art. His widowed sister, Luisa Bittini, had just arrived there on a visit to him, and it was on the evening of that day that the brother and sister were sitting together, alone, talking. "Dear Luisa," said the young man tenderly, "do not give up hope so entirely. True, some years have passed since the child was spirited away by my magic, and yet I cannot but think that she will one day be restored to you."

I was in a traveling circus, and they made me a title, and perform with the dogs, and with a hooded cross which bit me once. Oh, it was dreadful! dreadful! and a shudder shook the child from head to foot. "Poor little soul! And they were unkind to you?" said Luisa pitifully. "Ah, yes, signora; when I was sleepy through being up late at night, and so tired that I could hardly go through my night, they beat me, and would not give me any supper."

"And before you were employed in the circus were you?" "I do not remember," replied Ria; "but sometimes I seemed to feel as if I had not always been there."

The signora's breath began to come quickly, and the warm color flushed into her cheeks. Softly she took in her own one of the small brown hands that still held a ripe peach—softly she turned it to show the inside of the wrist. Ah, the mother's instinct was not wrong; there was the little scar, the mark that was left a lifetime. "Child, child! my little Vittoria! my long-lost darling! God be thanked! O God, be thanked!" and poor little Ria, after years of hardship and toil, was clasped in loving arms, and knew that she too had a mother.

"I said not that God was good!" exclaimed Paolo. "His ways may be mysterious, but they are wise and kind. For, Luisa, for this gift of thee that she might be taken from the robbers, and through this same gift she has been rescued, for only so fair and sweet a face should I have chosen for my picture. And now, beloved sister I present to you my painting for it were a sin to dispose of it otherwise, in remembrance of this day. You are not likely to forget it, I think, and may Vittoria long be to you what her likeness here is to this poor cripple—The Little Comforter."

DAVID KIMBLE PAINTS, Buffalo, N. Y.—I have had a large sale of my Paints, and I can send you plenty of good testimonials from here if you want them. My address is 100 West 12th Street, Buffalo, N. Y. or all druggists by mail, \$2.

From the Evangelist. The True Ring. "Wanted, a clerk at 650 Washington street."

This was an advertisement that appeared in one of the morning papers of a large city. "Any young fellow who had been seeking employment for weeks felt his hopes rise as he read it."

Fred Barker heard it at the breakfast table the day after it appeared; his sister Louise said, "O Fred! I forgot to tell you what I saw in yesterday's paper that Mitchell & Tyler want a clerk; that will be the place above all others for you. It is a splendid store. Of course you can get the place if you wish. You can take a letter from uncle Horace; his influence and your appearance will settle the matter. I heard Mr. Mitchell was really fussy about his clerks, but I'm sure he can find nothing to object to in my handsome, well-dressed brother, and the elder sister looked admiringly at Fred's face, smooth cheeks, and bright eyes."

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Advertisement for Simmons' Hair Regulator. It is a preparation for the hair, and is sold by all druggists.

Advertisement for Iron Tonic. It is a combination of Iron and Quinine, and is sold by all druggists.

Advertisement for Baked Snow. It is a preparation for the hair, and is sold by all druggists.

Advertisement for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It is a preparation for the hair, and is sold by all druggists.

Advertisement for Parker's Hair Balm. It is a preparation for the hair, and is sold by all druggists.

Advertisement for Parker's Ginger Tonic. It is a preparation for the hair, and is sold by all druggists.

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