

HEADACHES JES' FORE SCHOOL.

I guess my 'health is gettin' poor,
Er somep'n er the kin',
Fer every mornin' jist as sure
(Especially if it's fine)
I git such oful shoot n' pains
'At ma says: "It's jes' cru'l
Ter make 'at poor boy study, with
Sech headaches jes' fore school."

Ma thinks my mind is breakin' down
From learnin' of so much.
She puts wet towles on my head,
An' chopped up ice an' such,
An' tries ter git me off ter bed,
But pa says he's no fool;
He thinks birch oil's the only stuff
Fer headaches jes' fore school.

An' teacher, too, don't sympathize
'Ith boys wots feelin' bad,
Fer, soon's she sees me mopin' in,
She says: "Now, ain't 'at sad
Ter make them suffrin' children work!
Young man, set on 'at stool
An' do them sums." Huh! she makes fun
Of headaches jes' fore school.

'Tis kind'r funny, though, how soon
I'm over bein' sick,
An' me an' Jim (Jim he gits cramps),
We sneak off down t' the crick
An' go in swimmin'. Gee! We got
A bully divin' pool
An' spring board. Gosh! you bet they cure
Them headaches jes' fore school.

An' fishin', too. We got a raft
An' dandy hooks an' lines;
Ketch bullheads, lots—an' sunfish. Say!
Down underneath them pines
They bite like thunder! Settin' there,
Feet swashin', nice an' cool,
Pains, nothin'! Say, d'you ever git
Them headaches jes' fore school?

—M. C. John, in
Chicago Chronicle.

THE NIGHT BEFORE

[BY MARTHA PIERCE.]

It was Christmas Eve. Little sister could not go to sleep. The air was too electric. She tossed and turned. Big sister came in and lifted the lamp. "Don't take the light away. It is too dark. I can't go to sleep in the dark."

"But you can't go to sleep with the light burning. You never do Annie." "That white paper on the wall makes me nervous," insisted Annie.

Big sister sat down and read. "Don't turn the leaves so loud," said Annie.

The leaves turned softly. Annie counted the figures on the wall-paper, and sighed heavily, tossing her arms above her head.

"Let me read you a story," said big sister carelessly. The story was not a very exciting one but it was sufficiently diverting to subordinate the little one's too vivid conception of the immanency of Santa Claus' visit. After six pages the lids drooped slowly over the two bright eyes.

Big sister put down the book and softly carried the light away.

"I think I will sleep with Annie," she said. "She seems very nervous and timid."

In the middle of the night Big Sister awoke from a dream in which she was being slowly strangled, to find two little arms very tight about her neck.

"Sister," whispered Annie, "I think he's been here. I heard the sleigh bells just now."

Dashaway—Did you see that statement about me in the papers?

Cleverton—Yes. A lie, I presume.

Dashaway—No. The worst of it is that it happens to be true.

Cleverton—Well, you are all right, old man. No one will know it.—The Bazar.

FABLES FOR THE FAIR

The Woman Who Helped Her Husband.

There was once a Woman whose Husband Depended on the State of the Market for his Daily Toast. One Day he Appeared before Her with a Sad Countenance.

"All is Over, my Dear," said he. "Wheat is 'Way Down, and I doubt if after Tomorrow we shall have More than Ten Thousand a Year to Live On. I am Sorry that I Married you to Drag you Down to This, but I must Tell you Sooner or Later. I am a Ruined Man."

"Nay, do not Lose Heart," said his Wife. "Can you not Speculate Further?"

"I cannot," he replied "for I have Lost my Nerve. My Friends Urge me to Throw what I Have into Copper, but I Dare Not. Five Thousand a Year would Hardly buy Croquettes for Two. I would Better Keep what I have Saved from the Smash."

"At any rate," said she, "come Out and Have some Lunch. Let us Go to Sherry's and get a Nice Little Bird; then you will Feel Better."

"Bird!" exclaimed her Husband. "Unhappy Woman, if you see anything better than Broiled Chicken and Beef a la Mode for the Rest of Your Life, you will Do Well. In my present Frame of Mind I would Suggest a Night Lunch cart."

"Let us have One Good Meal, at least," urged his Wife, "before we Die to the World. I have Twenty Dollars in my Purse. I will Buy our Lunch with that. After that the Night-Lunch."

"Very Well, for the Last Time," replied her Husband.

Then they went to an Expensive Restaurant and Ate a more than Satisfactory Luncheon. At the end of it her Husband said:

"I think Better of that Copper than I Did."

Then he went Back to Wall Street and Made Sixty Thousand Dollars in Thirty-eight Minutes.

This teaches us that Digestion is the Better Part of Valor.—January Century.

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