

were sent to the United States consul at Managua, with directions to immediately inform the Managuan authorities of the attitude of this government, and the consul was also directed to report what basis there was for apprehension of trouble on the part of American residents in that part of the country and especially at Granada. A telegram was received at the state department from Rear Admiral Kimball in command of the United States war vessels now in Corinto harbor, stating that the commandant of the port of Corinto had made a call on board of his flagship, but that the commander was not saluted. Admiral Kimball also noted the arrival in that harbor of the "Mexican gunboat, General Guerrera."

Attorney General Wickersham has rendered an opinion for the war department to the effect that the Philippine government has the power to sell the "friar lands" in the Philippines in any number of acres desirable, notwithstanding the organic act of the Philippine government, which limited the sale of the unappropriated public lands, obtained by treaty with Spain, to forty acres. In developing the sugar industry of the islands individuals desired to purchase the 55,000 acres contained in the San Jose estate on the island of Mindoro, which was purchased from the Recoleta friars by the United States and which has never been occupied. It was argued that to attempt to sell this land in forty-acre tracts would defeat the proposed use of the land. This decision does not modify the law providing that every corporation authorized to engage in agriculture shall not hold more than 2,500 acres. It is said the sugar trust is the prospective purchaser of the land.

The world's production of gold and silver for the calendar year 1908 is estimated by the bureau of the mint, based upon official and unofficial information, to have been: Gold, 211,378,480 fine ounces of the value of \$441,932,200; silver, 203,186,370 fine ounces of the commercial value of \$108,684,400. Compared with 1907 there was an increase in the gold product of \$31,376,900, and in silver an increase of 18,992,300 fine ounces. The greatest increase in the product of gold in any country of the world was in Africa, which increased from \$151,699,600 in 1907 to \$166,520,500 in 1908. The increase in the United States was \$4,124,300; Mexico's increase was \$3,690,100. The largest increase in the production of silver was in Mexico, and amounted to 12,575,000 fine ounces. Canada followed with an increase of 9,326,400 fine ounces. There was a decrease in the silver production of the United States as compared with 1907 of 4,074,000 fine ounces.

CONTENTED

Small Charlotte, not yet four years old, was gifted with so vivid an imagination that her mother began to be troubled by her fairy tales and felt it time to talk seriously to her upon the beauty of truthfulness. Not sure of the impression she had made, she closed with the warning that God could not love a child who spoke untruthfully and would not want her in heaven.

Charlotte considered a moment and then said:

"Well, I've been to Chicago once and to the theater twice, and I don't s'pose I can expect to go everywhere."—Harper's Magazine.

AMENDED

The Court—You will swear that the prisoner stole your umbrella?

The Plaintiff—Your honor, I will swear that he stole the umbrella I was carrying.—Cleveland Leader.

Some Ancient School Books

(Joel Benton in New York World)

In the literature that abides with the individual memory and becomes a part of the soul's furniture, so to speak, I know of nothing that surpasses a disused and departed school book.

The Webster Spelling Book and the English Reader—the first one obsolescent and the last now nowhere used—have probably had the longest history of any, going through at least three full generations. Beginning with the symbolic picture of the Temple of Fame and Knowledge, to which a Minerva-like female figure points the young girl pupil whom she is leading, and continuing to the end, there is hardly a page in this spelling book which an old student who has used it ever forgets. Although it has gone through several editions, its type and essential style are preserved in every change of it.

How familiarly, after you pass the alphabet page, these lines appeal to us: "Am I to go in? I am to go in." "She fed the old hen." "The hen was fed by her." "Ann can hem my cap." "She has a new fan." "Fire will burn wood and coal." "Coal and wood will make a fire." "Will you help me pin my frock?" "The good girl may jump the rope." "Bakers bake bread and cakes." "I like to play in the shady grove." "Cider is made of apples." "A tiger will kill and eat a man." "Ann can spin flax." "A shad can swim." "Cotton velvet is very soft to the feel." "We can burn fish oil in lamps." "Never pester the little boys." "I had some green corn in July on a plate."

Things Ann Doesn't Do Now

The self-obviousness and simplicity of these sayings have now a distinct charm. But they were gauged, it must be remembered, for infantile minds not long graduated from the cradle. Some changes in society have taken place since they were written. Ann can not spin flax now, because that crop has lost its prevalence, and we no longer burn fish oil, but use, where gas and electricity are not in hand, John D. Rockefeller's product. A shad can still swim, but he now does his locomotion with rare and rarer frequency—and very soon will not do it at all unless we quit the filthy and criminal pollution of our streams and waterways.

At the middle and end of the book the words and lessons are arranged for the older and higher classes of pupils, and finish all the equipment that is required for a speller and reader. The pictures and their fables perhaps interest us most in the retrospect. The milkmaid in her careless dreamland, the boy driven from the apple tree by the irate farmer, and the bull that gored the ox are still unfaded treasures which carried in their day notable instruction. The wood-cuts that were used, that were of the Anderson and Bewick fashion, look quaint enough now.

Who, at any rate, that was nurtured on Webster's Speller can ever forget the Milkmaid's Reverie? She was carrying the full pail of milk on her head when she said: "The money for which I shall sell this milk will enable me to increase my stock of eggs to 300." After deducting for adding and vermin there would be at least 250 chickens got from them. These were to go to market at Christmas for good prices. Consequently by May Day, she says, "I can not fall of having money enough to purchase a new gown. Then!—let me consider—yes, green

becomes my complexion best, and green it shall be. In this dress I will go to the fair, where all the young fellows will strive to have me for a partner; but I shall, perhaps, refuse every one of them, and with an air of disdain toss from them." Being "transported by this thought," she gave a sudden toss of her head "and down came the pail of milk, and with it all her imaginary happiness."

It must be that from this fable came the proverb "Never count your chickens before they're hatched."

The Webster Speller is chiefly used in the south and west now. But it has absolute merit still, and, interpreted in Tagalog and the other

tongues of the Philippines, might prove an excellent purveyor of English to those who speak them.

Solemn Lindley Murray

Lindley Murray's English Reader was held to be excellent in its day. But it was overwhelmingly serious and solemn, and was so advanced that many of the younger pupils who used it had to wait for years to have all its meaning made clear to them. Murray was not only a stern Quaker, but he seems to have been a man who could not smile even. To him a laugh was a levity, and in one of the editions of his reader he apologized in a foot-note for a few sentences in which he thought there was something playfully said. No one else, however, discovered this. On one page, in speaking of Niagara Falls—an idea which he might have found in Goldsmith's "Animated Nature"—he announces its height and grandeur, but slips immediately into an

(Continued on Page 14)

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