

# The Kiddies' Korner

MADRE PENN

JAPANESE FOLK LORE

## The Laughing Dumpling

There was once an old woman who laughed at everything. She was a very old woman, but she seemed young. That was because she laughed so much, for the God of laughter made all the lines in her face pleasant lines.

She laughed at rain, she laughed at drought, she laughed at poverty. She had never had a chance to laugh at wealth for she was very, very poor. She made rice dumplings to sell, and so she was called by the people about her the "Laughing Dumpling." Her name was really Sanja.

Sanja had but one wish. She never prayed to Turojin (God of good fortune) for good fortune, or to any of the gods for wealth; but she wished above all things to make the finest rice dumplings in all the city. She tried and tried, and each time she made them better than the last; but she never made them quite perfect, and so she was never quite satisfied. She never had quite all the rice she wanted to work with; for she was so poor that each grain seemed to her as dear as a piece of money to a miser.

But still she tried and still she laughed. One day she sat in her kitchen making dumplings with her usual care. Her little house stood at the top of a hill quite outside of the city, and as she worked and patted with her paddle, one of the finest of her dumplings, it slipped and rolled right out of the door and down the hill.

"Dear, dear!" she cried, "that will never, never do! I can't afford to lose that dumpling. Perhaps I can catch it."

So she sprang up and ran after it as fast as her feet would carry her. But the dumpling had a good start, and she could not catch it. She saw it ahead of her and suddenly it bounced down a hole in the ground. She ran after it and before she knew it she slipped into the hole and dropped through. "A-a-a-a!" she cried, "where am I going?"

She did not stop falling until her breath was almost gone. Then suddenly she found herself in a place she had never seen before. The trees and flowers look strange, and she felt a little frightened and very much alone. But as she looked about her her heart grew lighter, for she saw a statue of Tizu and him she well knew. So she bowed to him and said, "good morning, my Lord Tizu. Have you seen a rice dumpling fall this way?"

"Good morning," answered Tizu, with his very sweet smile. "Yes, I saw a dumpling and it went past here, down the hill, skipping as if it had legs."

"Oh, thank you very much; then I must skip after," said Sanja.

"Not so," answered Tizu, "do not go down there. An oni (ogre) lives

down there, and he may do you harm." "But I must have my dumpling," laughed the old woman; and she ran on in the direction the dumpling had taken.

(To Be Continued.)

## CROW BLACKBIRD

(Quiscalus quiscula)



Length, twelve inches. Shorter by at least three inches than the other grackles with trough-shaped tails. Black, with purplish bluish, and bronze reflections.

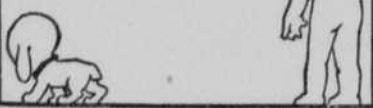
Range: Breeds throughout the United States west to Texas, Colorado, and Montana, and in southern Canada; winters in the southern half of the breeding range.

Habits and economic status: This blackbird is a beautiful species, and is well known from its habit of congregating in city parks and nesting there year after year. Like other species which habitually assemble in great flocks, it is capable of inflicting much damage on any crop it attacks, and where it is harmful a judicious reduction of numbers is probably sound policy.

It shares with the crow and blue jay the evil habit of pillaging the nests of small birds of eggs and young. Nevertheless it does much good by destroying insect pests, especially white grubs, weevils, grasshoppers, and caterpillars. Among the caterpillars are army worms and other cutworms. When blackbirds gather in large flocks, as in the Mississippi valley, they may greatly damage grain, either when first sown or when in the milk. In winter they subsist mostly on weed seed and waste grain.

## THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

A boy I know just calls me names, Such naughty words I wouldn't say I'm glad that I'm too proud to fight— Because I'm scared to, anyway.



Tune Hamiltonia.

# SHINE ON, ETERNAL LIGHT

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Words and Music by Arnold J. Ford



I  
Shine on, Eternal Light  
To greet our souls this day;  
Dispel the gloominess of night  
And drive our doubts away.

II.  
Our longing eyes prepare  
When war and strife shall cease.  
To view the morn soon to appear,  
The "New Era" of Peace.

III.  
Thy glorious church, O God,  
No kingdom can remove,  
Made without hands, this blest abode,  
The Harbinger of Love.

VII.  
Shine on, Eternal Light,  
Thy penetrating ray  
Shall turn the hour of darkest night  
Into Eternal Day.

IV.  
Of all the gifts that flow  
From Thy great throne above,  
We ask Thee on our hearts bestow  
The gift of "Perfect Love."

V.  
My soul the Light receives  
And dares the Truth to prove,  
Not in blind ignorance believes,  
But knows that God is Love.

VI.  
Come Love, and give new birth  
To man's destructive mind,  
Spread where confusion reigns on earth  
Good-will to all mankind.

## ORGANIZE NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuskegee, Ala., March 6.—During a recent meeting of the A. & M. College presidents at Tuskegee Institute there was organized the National Historical society. The purpose of this organization is to collect for perpetuation in the archives of all the states of the union historical facts relating and pertaining to Negro soldiers who participated in the late war, and such other facts as may illustrate the progress, loyalty and achievements of Negroes.

## FATHER OF FORTY LIVING CHILDREN

St. Louis.—B. B. Banks, a Negro, who lives in Benton, St. Louis county, says he is the father of 40 children. Banks asserts that all his "babies" are alive. He says he has six sons in France.

Banks was discovered in division No. 5 of the circuit court, where he was a plaintiff in an action against the Clover Leaf Casualty company, seeking judgment of \$500 for alleged personal injuries suffered while employed at a steel plant.

"I've been married three times," Banks said. "By my first wife I had 18 children. She's dead. My second wife had no children. I divorced her. I had 22 children by my third wife."

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