

Boys and Girls

Baby.

Wee tow-headed baby,
Take a butter ball,
Half inclined to laughter,
Half inclined to squall,
Dimples in your elbows,
Dimple in your chin;
Looks like God had made you
To put dimples in.
Looks like God had made you,
To put dimples in.
Roly poly boy,
With your mouth a-pucker
Brow a-dance with joy,
Just to carry dimples
What—have you a paint?
Dear, such twisty faces
Are a sign of rain.
Half a laugh, half crying,
Don't know what to do,
Gulping, sobbing, sighing,
Tell you, baby, you
Stick like that to mother
Always when in doubt—
All the years of all our life,
And you can't lose out.
—Houston Post.

Parlor Magic.

To fill with smoke two apparently empty bottles—Rinse out one bottle with hartshorn and another bottle with spirits of salts; next, bring the bottles together, mouth to mouth; both will at once be filled with white vapors. The vapors in question are composed of sal ammoniac—a solid body, generated by the union of two invisible gases.

To obtain fire from water—Throw a small quantity of potassium on the surface of a little water in a basin. Immediately a rose-colored flame will be produced. Any chemist will supply the quantity for several of these experiments for a very small sum.

To give a party a ghostly appearance—Take half a pint of spirits and, having warmed it, put a handful of salt with it into a basin; then set it on fire, and it will have the effect of making every person look hideous. This feat must be performed in a room.

To make a card jump out of the pack—Take a pack of cards and let any one draw any card that he may choose and afterward put it in the pack, but so that you may know where to find it, at pleasure; then take a piece of wax and put it under the thumb nail of your hand and fasten a hair to your thumb and the other end of the hair to the card; then spread the pack of cards upon the table and say "Come forth!" and the card will jump out of the pack.

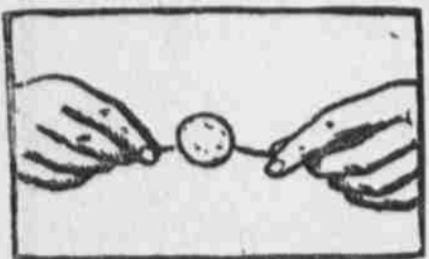
Magic breath—Half fill a glass tumbler with lime water; breathe into it frequently, at the same time stirring it with a piece of glass. The fluid, which before was perfectly transparent, will presently become quite white, and, if allowed to remain at rest, real chalk will be deposited.

To produce instantaneous light upon ice—Throw upon ice a small piece of potassium, and it will burst into a bright flame.

To light a lamp with a piece of ice—Attach a piece of potassium of the size of a small shot to the wick of a lamp; have also ready a piece of ice, with which, when you touch the potassium, the lamp will blaze immediately. To perform the experiment, place the lamp upon the table before the audience. Question the ladies as to what means they generally employ to light their lamps. If they answer in the usual way, you may respond that you know a much better plan. Raise the lamp, that they may perceive that it is not lighted; then take the ice and touch the potassium, which will blaze instantaneously. Advise the ladies to try the experiment at home when they wish to light their lamps.
Diamond.

A Pin and Coin Trick.

Here is a very simple little trick, which looks not at all easy and quite as if the performer must be very skillful indeed. Take a silver coin, a quarter or a half dollar, and pick it up by placing the points of two pins,



How to Hold the Coins.

one on either side of the coin's edge. You may hold the coin securely in this position if you press firmly with both pins.

Now, blow smartly against the upper edge of the coin, and it will fly around and around, revolving with great rapidity between the pins.

Pretty Parlor Game.

From red or pink tissue paper cut large, medium and small rose leaves until you have enough to make an immense, full-blown rose that will fit in a large salad bowl. Arrange these to make the flower as perfect as possible. To as many of the leaves as there are guests tie green baby ribbon, which must hang over the outside of the bowl. At the bottom of each leaf thus prepared fasten a slip of paper on which is written a prophecy of some kind. For instance, on one write "You will have a long, happy life;" on another, "You will soon go on a journey across water."

A pretty fancy is to have a ring fastened to one of them which will fall to the one who receives the slip of paper on which is written "All things that are good fall to you."
When these are all arranged each

guest takes one of the tiny ribbons hanging at the side of the bowl and they give a quick pull all together, which scatters the leaves in all directions, leaving them dangling in the hands of those who hold the ribbon at the other end.

The mottoes may be comic or sentimental. In either case they afford plenty of fun, as they must be read aloud.

Making a Cork Walk.

Lots and lots of boys and girls have seen a match box, a horse fly, a stone fence, and even a board walk, but we are pretty sure that very few of you have ever seen a cork walk. Still, under certain circumstances, a



Cork Walking Down the Board. cork can walk, and this is the way to bring about that unusual spectacle.

Get a large cork as you can find, and stick side by side in one end a pair of flat-headed nails. Then get two forks and insert them, one in each side, near the other end of the cork, as shown in the picture.

Now get a strip of wood four or five feet long and about two inches wide, and make an inclined plane of it by piling books or boxes under one end. Place the cork on this, standing on its nail legs, with one fork hanging down on either side of the strip of wood. Start the fork swinging from side to side, and you will see the cork walk jerkily down the board, taking ridiculous stiff-legged little steps on its nail legs.

Can You Spin the Egg Shell?

Here is a trick which will surprise the whole family.

The next time you eat a boiled egg moisten the rim—not merely the edge, but all the raised part—of your plate and place the empty egg shell on the wet surface.

The shell should be broken off evenly all the way around, so as to form a little cup.
Now, if you hold the plate up and tip it slightly, the egg will not merely slide, but spin, along the rim, and by continually altering the inclination angle of the plate you can make the shell spin all the way around it. I do not mean that it will spin rapidly, like a top, but that as it goes around the plate it also revolves slowly about its own axis in the same direction.

Now this, you know, is just what the earth does in traveling around the sun, so here you have an easy and pretty lesson in astronomy at the breakfast table.

It is not exactly nice to muss with one's food, but in this case it may be allowable to make a dab of egg yolk in the center of the plate, with rays streaming out all around, to represent the sun.

A Cat Angler.

Cats can be trained as easily as dogs, and form the same habit of following one about, says a writer. My big black Tom has gone everywhere with me since his kitten days, long tramps in the woods, coaching tours, picnics—no journey proves too hard for him. Once when we were starting on a fishing trip, I locked him up, quite securely as I thought, supposing, of course, that he would not enjoy the uncertain motion of the boat or the inevitable wetness of the surroundings. But at the last moment he came bounding down the wharf and serenely established himself on the cushions in the stern, evidently prepared to take fisherman's luck with the rest of us. He showed no sign of fear as long as we were around. He enjoyed the minnows that fell to his share, and since then the collection of rods and tackle is a sign for him to trot off happily to where the boats are moored.

He has now become quite an experienced sport, watching the water keenly for the ripples that tell of a "bite," and cocking his shiny black head excitedly on this side and that as the line grows taut and the rod curves in the struggle. His joy knows no bounds when the victim is landed at last, and he runs from one end to another, purring and rubbing his back against any projecting hand or foot, apparently in an ecstasy of congratulation. Some one frivolously suggested that in my black beauty revived the soul of a complete angler, and since then he has been "like" to his numerous friends and acquaintances.

A Bird Tragedy.

... was sitting on the back veranda, sewing, one bright morning last

week," said a lady living in a second-story flat, "when something flew swiftly past me, almost within reach. Startled, I glanced up just in time to see a beautiful robin alight under the eaves of the house opposite. A long straw in his mouth showed me he was busy at work building a nest.

"As I sat watching, his mate hopped in sight from under the hidden roof, and seemed most interested in the building process, to which in the mean time the builder had added bits of wool and straw. Much pleased with his progress, my little friend hopped upon a branch of a maple tree close by and poured forth a short strain.

"Suddenly a small boy strolled along and, espying the bird, stepped into the road and gathered a few pebbles. Advancing stealthily, he crept closer to the little songster, and in breathless anxiety I watched him fling the stone. O, happy chance! A breath of air at that moment lifted the branch, and the stone went wide of its mark. The little nest builder, startled by the missile, flew off into the distance; but, after sailing in mid-air for a moment or two, he returned and lit upon a neighboring roof.

"Again the boy took aim, and again I awaited in breathless suspense; but this time the aim proved too true! There was a fluttering of little wings and all was still.
"Alas! thought I, for the snug little half-built nest under the eaves which was never to be completed, and, alas! for the mother bird that would wait in vain for her mate's return."

An Autograph Calendar.

The home made calendar is just now one of the holiday gifts which is in course of manufacture, and certainly there is no gift which is so wanted to keep new all the year in the same way that the hand inscribed calendar is. To make this calendar it is first essential that 365—no, 366 (for 1904 is leap year)—slips of paper be cut of a uniform size—three inches wide by four inches long is a fair measurement—and then, after having an inked line drawn across one inch from the top edge, they are ready to inscribe. A line in red ink is suggested. The space above the line is reserved for the date, and may be added last, just before the slips are mounted into a block and cemented at both sides so that the owner may not anticipate the contents of the various leaves.

The leaves are now sent about to the various friends of the one for whom the calendar is intended, and each is invited to inscribe a leaf with an appropriate sentiment, either original or quoted, but in the person's own handwriting. As may be seen, there are daily surprises all during the year for the recipient.

One of these autograph calendars is now in process of construction for a young fellow at college, and it is being made by the young girls of his social set at home. On some of the slips he will find a tiny photograph of the sender. On another a sketch of some significant subject; on another an allusion to some event in the past, a reminder of an occasion to cause him amusement. There is fine opportunity here for the display of originality, and by the time each girl has done her best, the calendar is sure to be filled.

This same calendar idea works up beautifully for a birthday gift, when it may begin with the birthday, no matter when it comes, and extend through the following year to the next birthday. If it is preferred, the slips of paper, instead of being mounted on a block and cemented, may be perforated with two round holes at the top and then mounted on the wooden back with wire hooks, the same that fits favor on many desks, enabling the owner to examine all at any time.

A Tripod on a Tea Table.

Some time, when tea is late and the family is all about the table waiting



The Tripod Complete.

you may surprise all by a very clever and at the same time simple and easy trick.

Take a napkin ring and through it pass three forks with the points upward and rest their handles on the table. Spread the tops of the forks apart and inside them place a plate or any round dish which will fit within the space they afford. This will surely lock the whole thing, and a heavy dish may be placed upon the plate without fear of its being broken.

Champion Stalk of Rye.

There is on exhibition in Beverly, Mass., a stalk of rye measuring over seven feet from the roots to the tip. The rye was grown at Prides Crossing by Louis Larson.

RECLAMATION OF DESERT.

Good Work Goes on with Certainty of Ultimate Success.

The desert is commonly considered a forbidding place, and numerous difficulties are encountered in the endeavor to make it "blossom as the rose." A dweller on the Mojave says that "with plenty of land ready for the plow, it took three of us sixteen months to raise enough to feed two horses continuously." The alkali was death to almost everything, and even a liberal irrigation would not cause the bloom to come. Wherever a sprig of green appeared the rabbits would appear also and sweep the board.

While this was the industrial situation, the comforts of life were illustrated by the winds, which blew strenuously for days at a time, and, of course, the heat was intense. Under the influence of the searching atmosphere the melons of a sickly garden

WARS COST 14,000,000 LIVES.

Prof. Charles Richet Recounts Marital Tragedies of Nineteenth Century.

Prof. Charles Richet, the noted French apostle of peace, is quoted as saying that during the nineteenth century 14,000,000 human beings died in consequence of war.

"Napoleon," he said, "is usually credited with having caused the death of 2,000,000 men. As a matter of fact, 8,000,000 men died for his glory. The war of the Crimea cost 300,000 lives, the American civil war 500,000. Prussia doomed 800,000 men to death between 1860 and 1871, the Russo-Turkish war 400,000.

"The wars in the South American republics are generally laughed at," continued the professor, "but as a matter of fact they are far from ridiculous. In the nineteenth century they cost, all told, 500,000 lives, and the South American republics are not

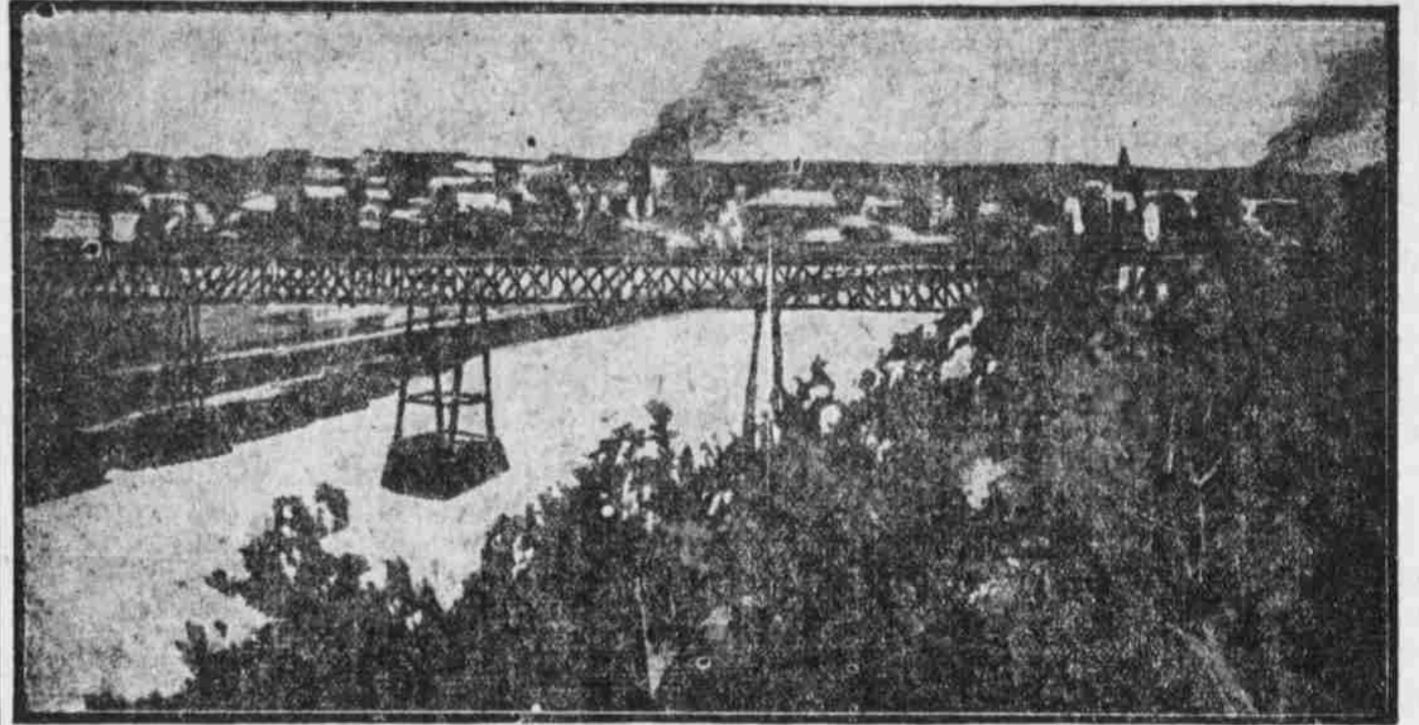
THE WORLD'S WHEAT CROP.

Estimates Show a Reduction in Almost All Countries.

Estimates of the wheat crop put the total yield of this country at 533,000,000 bushels. This would indicate a reduction from the yield of last year of about 100,000,000 bushels, while the figures are more than 200,000,000 below those of 1901 and more than 130,000,000 below those of 1902. It should be noted, however, that they come pretty close to those of 1900 and 1899, being slightly in excess of the one and slightly below the other, and that only twice before 1899 did the crop amount to as much as 600,000,000 bushels.

But again, while this is true, it is to be noted also that there is not a falling off merely, but a very serious loss owing to unfavorable weather conditions. Earlier expectations have been disappointed and, furthermore,

DESTRUCTIVE WORK OF THE STORM AT MINNEAPOLIS.



St. Paul City and High Bridge, which Was Wrecked.

"simply dried up, standing up stiff in all the pride of life," and the sweeping sand carried on an unceasing assault upon every visible object. With one side of the picture thus revealed, hopes of reclamation would die, and it would seem incredible that any one should attempt to maintain the discouraging fight against such odds.

It is a fact, however, to which this very witness testifies in the Los Angeles Times, that the battle continues, and that, too, with prospects of ultimate success. Human intelligence finds a way to combat all the enemies that are supplied in nature and to derive aid from nature's gift of a rich soil. There can be no doubt that many vast tracts which now seem condemned to eternal barrenness will yield heavy crops in time and support a large population. The inducements for extensive irrigation schemes are sufficient to justify the efforts that are being made by individuals and state to bring these waste areas under cultivation.

Nor are the comforts of the desert life all summed up in the driving winds and sandstorms. One comes to enjoy the dry heat. "When it reaches 105 degrees you will hardly know or care when it goes five or ten more, and even another five or ten will not bother you very much. This is largely offset by the ease of sleeping outdoors, by the absence of fog, almost total absence of rain and the great number of lovely days in fall and winter." It is a subject for congratulation also that there are no fleas, no mosquitoes, no bedbugs. If alfalfa has its trials, flies and gnats have theirs, too, and preferably seek other climates.

In fine, what appears uninhabitable to those who pass on in ignorant repulsion and amazement is attractive, even fascinating, to those who understand all the conditions and who are doing the pioneer work. And if some of the latter may be carried too far by their optimism the country will derive its profit from their struggles.

Life's Most Important Acts.

A magazine editor, seeking an increase of circulation, sent to each of his 3,500 subscribers this query: "What was the most important act of your life? Fifty dollars for the best true answer." He received more than 1,000 replies, all but one relating some particular deed of which the writer was proud. The exception—and prize winner—was brief and to the point—"Being born." Encouraged by the success of his scheme of advertising, the editor sent out a second query, offering another \$50 for the best answer. "Last month you stated what was the most important act of your life, now tell us what is the most important act of your life." The variety of replies would have made several pages of rare humor, but the winner solemnly wrote, "Breathing."

Authority on Penology.

Major R. W. McClaughey, warden of the United States penitentiary at Leavenworth, has just celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of his management of prisons. He was first appointed warden of a penitentiary in August, 1874. In the last thirty years he has been warden of three different penitentiaries and two reformatories. He was warden of the Joliet, Ill., penitentiary longer than any other. In the thirty years' service he has had about 24,000 prisoners under him. Major McClaughey has aided in the building of two prisons, and the work on the big new United States penitentiary at Leavenworth is being done under his supervision.

overburdened with citizens, are they? "I am sorry to say that the twentieth century bids fair to rival the nineteenth century in the killing line."

QUAY GAVE UP STAKES.

"Joe" Cannon's Singing Voice Too Much For Pennsylvania Senator.

The late Senator Quay circulated a story wherein Speaker Cannon is represented as a singer. The occasion was a political banquet where a discussion arose over the song, "The Old Oaken Bucket." Senator Quay remarked: "I never heard it sung through in my life." "I will bet you a dollar that I can sing it through," asserted Mr. Cannon. "Take you," said the senator. "And the toastmaster will hold the stakes and be referee." Mr. Cannon cleared his throat and attacked the famous old melody with grim earnestness. At the end of the first stanza Senator Quay got upon his feet and interrupted the song. "I wish to say, if I may be pardoned," he commenced, "that I dislike to lose a dollar, but I am willing to concede the stakes to my adversary and take his word for the accuracy of his knowledge if he will stop singing right where he is."

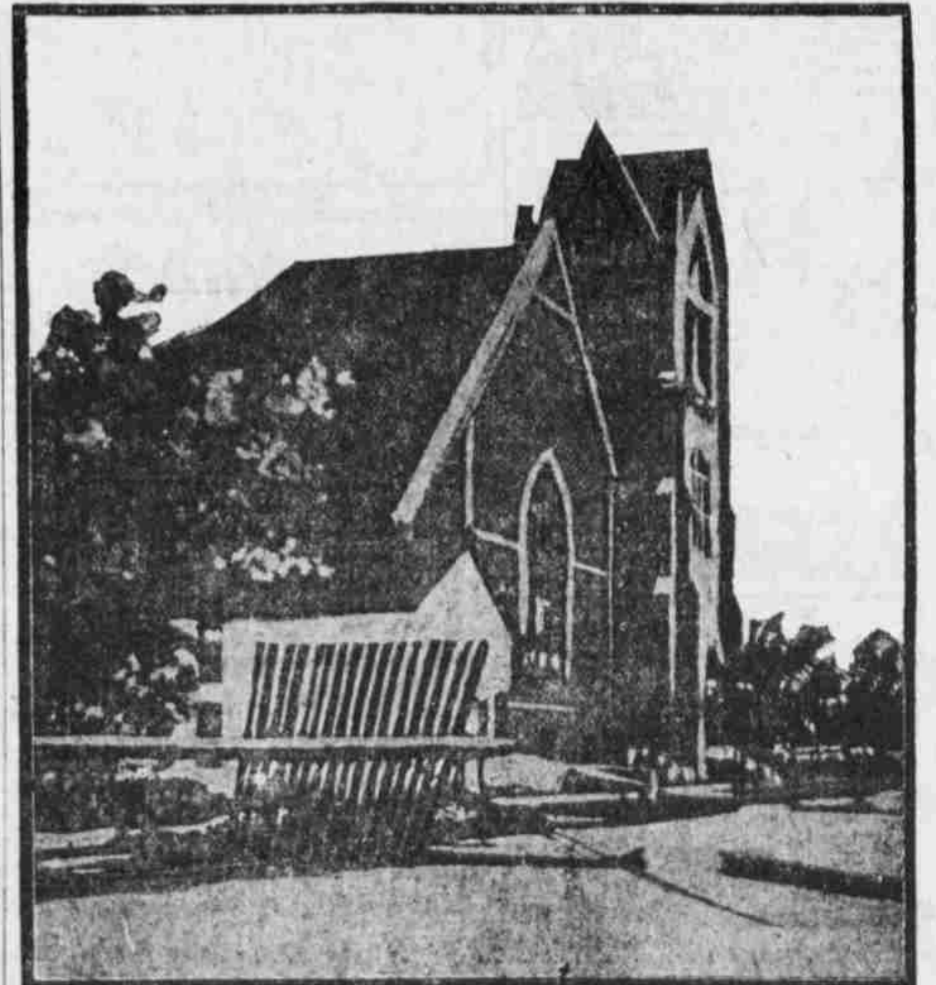
Arah Is 120 Years Old.

Perhaps the oldest man in the world is Sid Ahmed Salim, a wonderful relic of the eighteenth century, who has long been one of the sights

reports indicate that there is a short crop in many countries. Canada has been hit like the United States, the estimates in Manitoba being reduced by one-half. We learn also from a general review in the London Economist that the English crop will be much below the average, and that of the entire United Kingdom a meager one. In France there will be a reduction of about 33 per cent from the yield of last year. Austria-Hungary, Spain, Italy, Roumania and Russia are all sufferers. Damage by drought has seriously affected the prospects in the Argentine, and India seems to furnish the only marked exception to the generally discouraging returns. Her crop of last spring was 352,000,000 bushels, the largest in her history, and The Economist says: "If wanted in Europe, India, accordingly, has an enormous surplus, which would be attracted by a moderate advance in the price."

This surplus, however, is not large enough to make up the deficit in other countries, and it is certain that the world's crop will be the smallest produced in recent years. At the same time this country is fortunate in the prospect of a large yield of Indian corn. The estimate is 2,400,000,000 bushels, which would give a crop far above the average and second only to that of 1902.

Baron Rothschild Changes Politics.
Nathan Meyer Rothschild, first



Norwegian Lutheran Church Damaged to the Extent of \$5,000.

in Cairo, Egypt. He was born about 1784, his father having been a shiek of the Cairo tentmakers. Until a few years ago he could describe with every appearance of accuracy many of the stirring scenes he witnessed when Bonaparte was in Egypt with his army. Now, at the age of about 120, he is confined to his bed with extreme feebleness, having lost feeling in his extremities. Aged Arabs remember him as an old man when they were children. A great-granddaughter, herself getting along 14 years, looks after him.

Baron Rothschild in the peerage of Great Britain and head of the English branch of the celebrated family of bankers, has incurred the displeasure of the present ministry by transferring his political allegiance to the Liberal party. While the great financier has not much influence over votes by means of his territorial possessions, which are small when compared with a number of his fellow members of the house of lords, he commands a large amount of political influence not only in the city of London, but throughout the United Kingdom.