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#### YOUNG FOLKS' COLUMN.

STORY OF THE FARMER AND THE GEESE FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

Legends and Superstitions About the Man in the Moon-The Sad Tale of Being "Too Late"-Trained Cats and Their Wonderful Feats.

The natural acrobatic power of cats is practically unlimited, and the flexibility of their limbs astounding. The playful antics of kittens are a never failing source of delight to lovers and observers of animals, They have amused men like Frederick the Great, Voltaire and Franklin, and the most serious mind may find relaxation by watching a kitten at play.



PERFORMING CATS.

Our cut demonstrates the well-known fact that with skill and patience the docility as well as agility of cats can be developed to a remarkable degree. The tight rope performance shown in the illustration took place not long ago in a Paris cat show. The cats walked across the rope, carrying their natural prey of mice and birds on their heads and backs, as well as carefully stepping over these objects on their way, not once offering to hurt or even touch them. It ought to be explained that the white mice used on this occasion, as well as the little canaries, had been previously trained to sit quite still dur-

ing the performance.

The third cat in the illustration shows acquired courage in a usually timid animal. The trainer holds a wire hoop with burning tow wrapped around it. At a given signal the cat, true to her training, takes a short run and jumps boldly through the blazing

The domestic cat has always been credited with a large share of intelligence, but there is perhaps no animal which so soon loses its cultivation. Neglect of proper feeding or attention will often cause them to depend on their own resources, and the tasting of some wild and living food will tempt them to seek it again, to leave their civilized home and return apparently to a state completely wild.

A Story for Very Young Readers. The following amusing story for very little folks appeared not long ago in St. Nicholas: One day a foolish farmer started to take a bag of corn to the mill. As he had strong arms he held the bag so very tightly that he burst a big hole in one corner of the bag, and the corn began to spill out. It spilled out slowly all the way to the mill, but the man



"My bag grows very light," he said, "and why do so many geese follow me! They cackle for me to give them some of my corn, but I can't spare any. Geese are the foolishest things I ever did see. Heigh, ho! It's a long way to the mill."

The Man in the Moon.

Many superstitions have been connected one time and another with the man in the moon. A well known German story tells about the man who cut sticks on the Sabbath and was caught up in the moon, fagots and all, and there stands to this day. A Dutch household myth accused the man in the moon of stealing cabbages on Christmas eve. The neighbors caught him just as he was walking off with a good supply, and they "wished" him up in the moon. He stands there to this day, bearing his load of cabbages.

Northern mythology tells about a giant who inhabits the moon, and is supposed to cause the ebb and flow of the tide. When he stoops the water flows, and when he stands erect the water subsides again.

In Africa the man in the moon is supposed to have incurred the wrath of the sun, and is in punishment carved by the knife, that is, by the rays of the latter. This continues until the whole of the moon is cut away and only a little piece left. The moon implores the sun to have pity on him, and leave this morsel for his children. The sun grants his request, and the moon grows from the little piece until at last it is a full moon. Then the sun begins carving again.

Wild Ducks, Geese and Swans. Wild ducks, geese and swans are excellent flyers as well as swimmers, and they can be recognized at a distance by their wedge shaped flocks. In reality these birds fly in two lines, which come together in front and gradually separate toward the last of the flock, so that the general appearance of the company has the shape of a wedge. The leader flies at the point where the two lines meet, and when he becomes weary he leaves his post to his next neighbor, and falls back to the last of one of the two lines; but meanwhile, during this change of leaders, the flock keeps in perfect order. In these mi-grations the birds fly thousands of miles, and they build their nests in summer among the

lakes and marshes of cold northern countries, A Conundrum Answered. Why will the emblem of the United States outlive those of England, France, Scotland

and Ireland? Answer-Because the rose may fade, the lily droop, the thistle wither and the shamrock die, but the stars are eternal.

Time Enough. Two little squirrels out in the sun; One gathered nuts, the other had none; "Time enough yet," his constant refgain,

er is only just on the wane. Listen, my child, while I tell you his fate; He roused him at last, but he roused him too late Down fell the snow from the pitiless cloud And gave little squirrel a spotless white shroud.

Reindeer gloves are the latest novelty in their line. They look like thick wash leather, of an almond color, and are said to be very durable: BITS OF HUMAN NATURE.

How Oglesby Was Fooled on Grant's Appearance.

When Grant was appointed brigadier gen eral and ordered to Cairo to take command Col. Oglesby was acting in that capacity. The latter had received notice of the appointment from the war department, and was advised that the new general was on his way

A day or so after the colonel was seated at his desk busily writing. In the room were several officers chatting together in subdued tones. The chief of the staff entered and announced the arrival of Grant. The colonel nodded and went on writing; evidently he had not understood the officer.

Prescutly a man dressed in a plain soldier's blouse, slouch but and nondescript trousers sauntered in, remarkable for nothing unless it was for a generous quantity of dust on his clothes, a stubby, reddish beard, a keen gray eye, and a half consumed cigar elenched between his teeth.

Taking a survey of the apartment and its occupants he approached the colonel and said in a quiet voice:

"Will you let me have a sheet of paper?" "Help yourself, my man," responded the colonel in a surprised and somewhat indignant tone, as his pen scratched on uninter-ruptedly; "you'll find one over there on the far side of the table."

The stranger seated himself uninvited, and, drawing the paper toward him, wrote a few words, knocked the ash from his cigar and coolly passed the scrawl over to the

The surprise and indignation on Oglesby's face deepened, but finally gave way to astonshment when he had mastered the words. They proved to be an order relieving him from his present duty and ordering him to join his regiment over the river. It was dated, "Hendquarters, Cairo," and signed, U. S. Grant, brigadier general, command-

Col. Oglesby rose and walked around the insignificant figure across the table, never removing his eyes from it, and finally burst

"Well, are you Grant? Why, I thought you were some one's orderly and was near ordering you out a moment ago." Then, turning: "Gentlemen, our chief, Brig. Gen. turning: "Gentlemen, our chi Grant."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

A Story of Mrs. Secretary Fish.

Mrs. Fish, as wife of the secretary of state, was one of the leaders in society here. She was aristocratic by nature and education, but she made it a sacred duty to return every call that was paid her, every card in her basket, that had a name and number on it, was honored in its turn. One day her fine coachman had a great difficulty in discovering a certain address given to him by Mrs. Fish. They drove up one street and down another, then they wandered to the outskirts of the city and back again; finally, in a narrow side street, in front of a dingy little shop which had dwellings over it, the carriage stopped. Mrs. Fish bravely got out. It was the street and number of her card. Washington expects people to do their duty: the lady of the house was at her wash tub in a back room. But they say that Mrs. Fish made a friend of her. As she followed her visitor to the door the woman said: "I wanted to see you, Mrs. Fish, but I hadn't ought to have left that card."—Washington Letter.

An Aggravated Case.

Here is a good story about Mayor Bruck which may be true and may not. But it is good enough to repeat, and may be a warning to other unfortunates who try the same dodge. The charge upon which this particular unfortunate was arraigned before his honor one gloomy afternoon was "drunk and dis-

"One dollar and costs," said the mayor, after hearing both statements of the case. "But say, your honor," whispered the unfortunate, becoming confidential and raising himself upon tip toes to drop the words softly

spring. "You did?" "Indeed, I did sir," replied the man, hope-

in the mayor's ears, "say, I voted for you last

fully.
"That makes the case worse, Mr. Secretary, make that fine \$2 and costs."-Columbus Dispatch.

Where Cameron Begun. Ex-Senator Henry G. Davis, of West Virrinia, makes frequent trips to the capital, saw him the other may on the floor of the senate chamber. He was evidently in the best of spirits and was the center of an interested group of listeners. After he had gone I was told of a dinner party given in New York in 1882. Davis sat at one end of the table, Simon Cameron sat at the other, and between them was Gen. Shermant The

latter began a reminiscence of his early life "When I was a lieutenant"-"Come, now, Sherman," interrupted Davis, were you ever a lieutenant?"

"Yes, Davis," he replied, "I was a lieutenant about the time you were a brakeman on a freight train." "Weil, boys," observed Cameron, "I don't suppose either of you ever cut cordwood for a living, as I did."—New York Tribune.

Prayers First.

I noticed Speaker pro tem S. S. Cox rap the house to order the other day with more than ordinary vigor. And yet his face wore an abstracted look. Sure enough, as soon as he had laid down his gavet, he said: "The clerk will proceed to read the journal

Then suddenly checking himself: "Oh. I forgot; prayers are first in order."
-New York Tribune.

Changes in St. Louis. St. Louis Man-Yes, sir; we are making

reat changes in the St. Louis school system. Nearly 100 teachers of the German language have been dismissed, and-Omaha Man-I see, I see. Going to substitute English. Good idea. It will be a great thing for St. Louis when strangers are able

to transact business there without an inter-

preter-Omaha World.

Has Never Failed. Prince Ferdinand (gloomily)-By my hali-

dom, I'm losing my prestige. "I believe it, my liege. There is but one thing you can do to recover your lost ground. "What's that?"

"Strike up an acquaintance with an American prize fighter."-Nebraska State A Chinamao's View of Tobogganing.

"I saw you looking on at the toboggan slide in the baseball park on the west side yesterday," said Brown to the Chinaman who had just brought in his laundry "What do you think of tobogganing, John?"
"W-h-i-s-h! Walkee backee mileef" said the sensible Chinaman. - Chicago Mail.

A Seasonable Malady.

"Hello, Sanderson, what's the matter with our face; smallpox?" said Quarle, as be worked around to windward. No. buckwheat cakes."-New York EvenTHE CURIOSITY SHOP.

The "Blue Laws" of Connecticut-What the Yankees Should Not Do.

What are now known as the "Blue Laws" were a series of enactments made by the Puritan settlers of the "Dominion of New Haven," in Connecticut. They were known as the "Blue Laws" because they were printed on blue paper. Some of them were very foolish. A few of them are here given: "No man shall be a freeman or have a vote unless he is converted and a member of one of the churches allowed in the dominion." "No food or lodging shall be given to a heretic." "No one shall cross a river on the Sabbath except authorized clergymen." "No one shall travel, cook victuals, make beds, sweep houses, cut hair or shave on the Sabbath day." "No one shall kiss his or her children on the Sabbath or feasting days." "Whoever wears clothes trimmed with gold, silver or have face above one shilling per yard shall be presented by the grand jurors, and the selectman shall tax the estate £300." "No one shall eat mince pies, dance, play cards or play any instrument of music except the drum, trumpet or jewsharp." "No gospel minister shall join people in marriage. The magistrate may join them, as he may do it with less scandal to Christ's church." The authenticity of these laws is not established.

Primary and Secondary Colors. Sir Isaac Newton concluded from his experiments that the primary colors were seven. viz., red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet, and that all other shades of color arise from the admixture of these in different proportions. Professor Maxwell, on the other hand, concedes only three primary colors— red, green and blue—while Brewster claims the three to be red, yellow and blue; and more recent investigations make the simple or primary colors red, green and violet. When combined in twos these produce the colors termed secondary—thus blue and red make purple or violet; yellow and red, orange; blue and yellow, green. The grays and browns are compounds of all three of the primary colors,

A Singular French Almanac.

The Liegeois is one of the most famous ali manaes in the world. It is published at Liege, where the first edition was issued in 1636, and is distinctively the almanae of the peasants and others who cannot read. Its instructions are followed by means of certain symbols in connection with certain dates, Thus a pair of scissors indicates the proper time for cutting the hair. A vial denotes the right season for medicine in liquid form, a pill box the season thought best to take pills, The almanae is purchased by many as a book of advice, dates being regarded by them as of secondary importance.

Cost of War in America.

The revolutionary war cost the United States \$135,193,703. The colonies furnished, from 1775 to 1783, 395,064 troops, The war of 1812 cost the United States

\$107,159,003. The number of troops engaged is estimated at 471,622. The Mexican war cost the United States

\$100,000,000. The number of troops engaged was 101,282, The war between the states cost the United States \$6,189,729,900. The number of Federal troops was 2,859,132.

As to which is the greatest volcano we suppose that the honors would be between Vesuvius, Hecla and Ætna. This continent has, nowever, in Consequina a volcano not to be overlooked. We are told of it that in 1835 it had an eruption of three days, during which the light of the sun was obscured over half of Central America, and more than 40,000 square miles were covered with dust, ashes and lava. Altogether in the world there are something over 200 volcanos.

Christian Henry Heinecken is the name of a prodigy, who, it is alleged, when I year old, knew the chief events of the Pentateuch, at 13 months knew the history of the Old Testament, at 14 months that of the New Testament, at 2 years and 6 months could answer any ordinary question in geography or history, and at 3 years of ago was acquainted with French and Latin as well as his native German. This boy's life was writ-ten by Shoeneich. Heinecken died when 5 years of age,

Loadstone.

Loadstone is a mineral consisting of a mixture of peroxide of iron and protoxide of iron. It is found in nature, sometimes occurring in grains, as iron sand in trap rocks, sometimes in beds in primitive rocks, as in Scandinavia, where it is a valuable ore of iron. Its attractive power was known to the Greeks in Homer's time, B.C. 962, and probably to the Chinese fifty years earlier.

Platonic Friendship.

Platonic friendship is the innocent friendship of opposite sexes and wholly divested of passion, and based on moral or intellectual affinities. The expression originated in the view of Plato, who held that the common sexual affection of the race was only a subordinate form of that perfect and ideal love of truth which the soul should cultivate.

John Doe and Richard Roc.

Richard Roe is a fictional cognomen used in legal actions for ejectment or other cases where the true name of the party is unknown. It is usually coupled with the name of John Doe, another fictional cognomen allowed by the common law to stand for the true name of the party to be apprehended or upon whom process is to be served.

Paper Made Smooth

A sizing of a thin solution of gelatine, made from the shreds and parings of anima skins, is used on writing paper. It fills up the interstices between the fibers of the writing paper and prevents the spreading of the writing fluid. The strength of the paper is also increased by the process of "sizing.

A Brief Administration.

What is known in English history as the

"short lived" administration was the ministry which William Poultenay, Earl of Bath,

term of office closed in two days. Cyclone. The word cyclone was proposed by a Mr. Piddington, of England, to designate a wind which blows in a circuit, or a wind describ-

ing a spiral by its progression while turning. Cyclone has now become the accepted term

for a whiriwind.

When all the sugar contained in the wine is broken up into alcohol and carbonic acid gas a wine is spoken of as dry, that is not sweet. These are commercial terms.

Spinning Goddesses.

The origin of spinning, weaving and dyeing is ascribed by the Egyptians to Isia, by to the wife of Manco Copac.

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Choice Port, Golden Sherry, Muscatelle and Madeira

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We have taken SEVEN FIRST PRIZES, and have in our possession seven Gold Medals from State Fairs of California.

DR. THOS. PRICE,

The great assayer and chemist of San Francisco says: "I have submitted your Brandy to a most searching chemical analysis and find no adulteration, no fusel oil. It is a remarkably pure article."

DR. BEVERLY COLE,

of San Francisco, says: "I have analyzed the Jarvis Reisling Grape Brandy, and find it pure and a genuine good article."

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Gentlemen.-I have made complete analyses of your Wines and Brandies. These tests show me that they are not only strictly pure but that they contain all the essential qualities so much admired by leading wine chemists.

J. H. LONG. Analytical Chemist Chicago Med. Col.

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s a most delicious, healthy and nutritious, as well as the most popular, drink ever offered. Made from the Over-ripe Bartundertook to form Feb. 10, 1746, and whose lett Pear, boiled down and filtered through charcoal. It will not ferment or spoil.

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