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## CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

A Lilliputian Naval Battle. The amusing experiment of a lilliputian naval battle can be made with white chalk and the ordinary table vinegar. Model, say, a dozen chunks of chalk to the resemblance of ships, planing the bottoms evenly, and using matches for masts, smokestacks and turrets. The rival forces you can distinguish by coloring the ene-my's ships with black ink, leaving your

own white.

Having placed them in a pan or plate close to an imaginary dividing line, pour a good quantity of vinegar between the chalk sticks. Instantly you will hear an audible seething, like the hissing of shells in actual warfare, while ships, as if puffing up steam, will begin to move forward in slow revolutions, leaving behind them streaks of foam such as are observed in the wake of moving vessels. When meeting at the dividing line they will have attained quite a respectable speed, bumping and cuffing together in the endeavor to push one an



other farthest from the dividing line. The engagement often proves an exciting one. Of course the side has won which has the larger number of ships nearest the center after the affray.

The chemical solution of this seeming

mystery is quite simple. Chalk being largely carbon combines with the acid of the vinegar in carbonic acid—the same gases that cause the effervescence of most mineral waters. The gases rise to the surface of the vinegar in small bubbles of sufficient strength to cause the current which turns the chalk.

Since the patriotic youth will want to see the American boats win, it will be well for him to remember that the best quality of chalk contains the largest proportion of carbon. It will also prove of advantage to plane the chalk carefully, so as to permit it to glide easily.—Harper's Young People

#### A Word to Youthful Writers.

The young readers of a publication that regularly absorbs and delights them with its stories or articles little know the talent, labor, ingenuity and experience required for the production of each one of these

It is a very frequent experience for the editor to receive from some youth an ill spelled, ungrammatical and awkwardly expressed letter, offering stories unlimited for the periodical, which, he says, he de yours every week with the keepest interest. and which, he further asserts, is the best publication in the whole world. This literary aspirant evidently has not

the dimmest glimmering of an idea as to what are the ingredients, seasonings, the method of cooking and the form of serving the agreeable dishes that tickle his mental the case in comic journals, a short extract should be published merely to provoke

and observation and thought; then there are needed a thorough study and appreciation of the art of saying a certain thing in the most effective way, which is quite as intricate as the art of designing and building a boat.

Besides there is the talent! If talent be seeing one's name in print.-New York Argosy.

## The Light from the Firefly.

A young reader wants to know what causes the light emitted by the firefly. We believe it has never been definitely settled to what the light is due, but the general opinion is that it has a phosphorescent ori in. There are a great many animals and fishes that have the power of giving off light, and naturalists all agree, we believe. that nature has provided it as a means of securing food.

The little fireflies that we have here are almost insignificant compared with those that are found in Central and South Amer ica and the West Indies. The lightning spring beetle which inhabits those countries is more than an inch long, and its light is so bright that ladies use it as an ornament. The beetles are caught by holding up burning coals on the end of a stick. This attracts the insects.

The ladies that buy them put them in little wire or gauze cages and keep them until they desire to decorate their dresses with them. Water has to be poured on them quite often to keep them alive, and they are regularly fed on bits of sugar

The natives of those countries use the beetles, as we use candles and gas, to light their houses. Two or three of them together will emit enough light to read by very comfortably.-Philadelphia Times.

Johnny's Tricycle.



The Fourth of July from his aunts. To nurse's cisgust, for he ra, sed a gre And kept her at mending his pants. He upset the cradle and ran over mabel, Who lay with her doll on the mat; He scratched the new table and raised such

It frightened Miss Malty, the cat.

What Puzzled Mabel. "Well." said Mabel, looking up from her history lesson, "what I don't understand about discovering America is how Colum bus knew it was America when he never saw it before!"-Exchange.

POETICAL THOUGHT ABOUT WOMEN

Woman may err, woman may give her mind To evil thoughts and lose her pure estate; But for one woman who affronts her kind By wicked passions and remorseless hate A thousand make amends in age and youth By heavenly pity, by sweet sympathy, By patient kindness, by enduring truth, By love, supremest in adversity.

—Charles Mackay.

Notwithstanding many barbarous cus-toms the Kabyle woman, not being, like the Arab woman, shut up in her home, going about with uncovered face, enjoying besides a certain activity, comes to exercise a real influence. It is she who gives warriors to the tribe. Maternity surrounds her with a halo. A jewel on her forehead is a mark of the birth of each of her sons. Her dignity increases with their number. She is scated at table between them and her husband, takes part in the conversa-

The Kabyle Woman.

Associated with public life as well as with private life, in case of war she emerges from her retirement to appear at the front and arouse by her songs the courage of the warriors. When old she appears freely in the markets, buys and sells the products of the earth, and often presides at transactions. Her words are listened to, her advice is heeded. Even when a widow she can take part in the djemmah, the assembly in the tribe of all the men of full age. In this case the man-ners are superior to the law. It is not the kanoun which draws the

tion and is nearly always consulted in the administration of affairs.

Kabyle to us; it is the value of his individ-uality. More active than the Arab, more enterprising, more hardy, more capable of reflection, he is also more capable of in-itiating enterprises and of voluntary ef-forts.—Revue Bieue.

#### Mothers, Get More Sunshine.

"Basking in the sun" is in itself of real and considerable benefit, and it is no compliment to our human intelligence to find that cats and dogs understand that fact much better than we do. Even the "blue glass" craze had a truth underlying it, and owed such success as it achieved to the proportion of sunlight which penetrated its colored medium. The love of sunshine is naturally one of our strongest instincts, and we should be far healthier and happier if we followed and developed it instead of practically ignoring and repressing it. How a sparkling, sunny morning exhilarates us and makes us feel that "it's too fine a day to spend indoors," and yet how few holidays are taken for that reason.

The wealth of the sunbeams is poured out lavishly all around us, and we turn from it to struggle for a few pitiful handfuls of something else that is yellow and shining, but not half so likely to bring us happiness, and often has strange, red spots upon it. Give nature a chance, and we shall find that there is more than a mere fanciful connection between natural sunlight and that "sunny" disposition, which after all is the true "philosopher's stone." —North American Review.

#### A Long Haired Dwarfess. Rich Valley, Va., has a veritable dime

museum curiosity in the person of the twenty-year-old daughter of Nathan Harris. Although little Miss Harris is now palate. His manuscript if printed would old enough to seriously contemplate the appear in the columns of a publication as drawbacks of an old maid's existence, she illiterate nonsense, unless, as is sometimes is not as large as the average child of five the case in comic journals, a short extract years. On her nineteenth birthday she measured but 35 inches in height and weighed 39% pounds. She is a not a stunted To all such youthful literary aspirants thin is to be said: Education first is absolutely necessary to literary achievement—lutely necessary to literary achievement—miniature, pleasing and intelligent, and without any servant, and yet I suppose we not the education of grammar schools and with a beautiful head of hair sweeping text books only, but the education of time like a train across the carpet when st cares to let it down for the ud niration her many friends.

She is the oldest of four children, all the others being of regulation size. Her par ents as well as herself shrink from notori ety. She declares that she would not go before the public for all the world, and latent it will develop itself; if not, it is that she expects to live and die in the beaunot advisable to cherish any false hopes of tiful Virginian valley that has always been her home.—St. Louis Republic.

> Patti Has \$375,000 Worth of Diamonds. Adelina Patti's diamonds have been valued at \$375,000. The Empress Eugenio gave Patti as a wedding present when she married the Marquis de Caux a comb set with twenty-three diamonds. A gift from Queen Victoria was a superb diamond

Baroness Burdett-Couts once gave the songstress an enormous diamond set in a ring. The diva's wonderful set of sapphires was sold when she was obliged by French law to divide her fortune with her first husband.

The emperor of Russia was the giver to the prima donna of a pair of large diamonds mounted as earrings. Emperor William of Germany gave her a splendid diamond brooch, and the emperor of Austria a bracelet of diamonds. Patti possesse twenty-three diamond bracelets, and has a necklace of very large and fine emeralds. Her turquoise tewelery set with diamonds includes four plas, two bracelets, earrings and a homeome pendant.—Jewelers' and a Weekly.

A Story of Italy's Queen. The favorite governess of the queen of Italy when she was a child was Mile. Rosa Aberser, who was a girl of twenty-two when the ten-year-old princess of Savoy becare her pupil. The two became very much attached to each other, for the Viennese teacher's yoke was easy, and her instruction was pleasantly imparted. The princess at that time received a small

amount of pocket money every month. The governess at one time noticed her pupil had spent nothing of it for severamonths, and when asked what she in tended doing with it gave an evasive an swer. At the end of the fourth month however, Princess Margaret of Savoy pre sented her governess with her initials in diamonds.-Revue de Famille.

## One Way of Making Piecrust Flaky.

To make piecrust flaky spread the crust when rolled out for the top of the piwith a thin layer of butter. Dredge wit. flour and cover your pie with the crust as When ready for the oven to the pie slanting, holding it in the left hand and pour over the pie a glass of cold water to rinse off the flour. Enough of the latter will stick to the butter to fry into the crust while baking and make it flaky .-Exchange.

## Onion Notes.

Onions are improved by soaking in warm salt water an hour or so before cooking, as this removes some of the rank flavor They cook tender much quicker if shee. in rings instead of spiriting. Is they are peeled and sliced with locals under water some "kile tears" may be avoided.-Ex change.

Many persons buy material for their own trayeloths, have them stamped at some are establishment, then embroider them them selves.

#### NO TIME TO WRITE.

A Brief Note from the "Househeld Drudge."

Indeed the lot of woman is hard. Has it not been dinned into our ears since we were young?

She is the stave and serf of selfish man. Hers is the work that never ends. She is the one who, to give ease and comfort to her worse half, the brute! and let him dally in the lap of ease and luxury, must sacrifice her young life, her beautiful hands, her everything else and carry one on the altar of work.

At the very hottest curl of the hot wave I picked up a letter in the street which bore eloquent testimony to these pathetic facts. I hate to print it because it bears so heavily upon the laziness of pater-familias and the ease and luxury with which he surrounds himself at the expense of his family. I do not like to give my own sex away, as it were, but a stern sense of duty nerves me on. So here goes

BERKSHIREVILLE, Mass.

My Own Dearest, Darling Hubby—You
do not know how lonely we all are without
you. Why don't you just drop your hateful
business and come up here for a week or two?
I am sure the old store would keep right on

running if you were not in it.

Did you send the check for fifty dollars for
the board last week? It has not put in an ap-

the board last week? It has not put in an appearance.

It seems dreadfully stupid here. There are only three or four nice young men in the place. Of course I have no trouble in keeping them out of the hands of the young girls, for they know I have no designs upon them and feed correspondingly at ease in my society. Besides, I rather think they like me.

Those children will be the death of me yet. Here am I trying to economize and they all the time making trouble and expense. I have just paid a sewing woman two dollars for mending their stockings and putting new seats in their

paid a sewing woman two dollars for mending their stockings and putting new seats in their pants. Last night Raphael knocked over one of the Etruscap ewers in my bedchamber. The landlord says he regrets exceedingly the accident, as the set was a very rare one, and he shall be forced to put down ten dollars in my bill for the broken pitcher.

It has been awfully hot here and we have suffered dreadfully. If Mother Eve had been here last night i verily believe she would have slept without the fig leaf. I envy you the big. cool house in the city all to yourself.

slept without the fig leaf. I envy you the big. cool house in the city all to yourself.
Calipso broke my bottle of hair bleacher last night. Wish you would go to Mme. Rubens and get another bottle and send it up by express. While you are about it you might as well have her put up the usual set of toilet necessities, the \$15.50 set, as I am nearly out. She will understand

We had a delightful excursion yesterday to We had a delightful excursion yesterday to Hornswoggle - ountain, and picnicked in the glen. A mosquito bit me just between the shoulders, where I could not possibly reach it to scratch, and I suffered excruciating agonies all night. I was just able to reach it with my shoehorn and that was all. The man charged sixteen dollars for the wagon, and as I had so many children I had to pay half. Isn't the price rather high? By the way, I am all out of money, and if you want me to do what is right money, and if you want me to do what is right and proper by the collection plate you must

and proper by the collection plate you must send me some right away.

There is going to be a grand hop here next Saturday night and I have positively nothing fit to wear. I wish you would get the pearl colored slippers out of the second drawer in the back room bureau. Take them to Blank's and ask them to match the color with some of their grosgrain \$3.50 silk and send to me at once. There is a very nice and killingly cheap dressmaker here, and I guess with prompt work on your part that we will pull through.

I have signed a subscription paper for five dollars to put a new coat of paint on the Episcopal church here. Please send check for the amount. It looks more respectable to give in that shape, and there is no mistake about the donor. Make check payable to me so I can indorse it.

You poor, dear boy! I wish I had the time to write you a nice long letter, but I have been invited by Jack Assford to take a ride to Blumbe dreadfully foriorn keeping bachelor's hall without any servant, and yet I suppose we must economize until you get a rise of salary I almost died laughing at your description of how you sleep in an unmade bed and try cook over that horrid little gas stove. Elsie, my nursemaid, said this morning that

she wanted to go back to the city. She se quite set on going, and I had to bribe her with an offer of five dollars more a month in order to keep her. It would be impossible to get

Well, goodby. There are several little com-missions I wanted you to do for me, but Mr. Assford is calling now and I have not got the time to think of them. Your lonely little wife, EVANGELINE.

#### -New York Herald. Disqualified.

A strapping young fellow appeared be-fore the committee of inspection. "You claim exemption from military service?" inquired the presiding officer. "Yes, sir."

"On what grounds?" "I am subject to a most serious afflic-

"Step into the next room!" "But, sir"-

'Step into the next room!"

"Why, it isn't"-

"Step into the next room!" Our man entered the adjoining apartment, where he was made to undress from

head to foot, after which he presented himself again before the committee, this time sans coat, sans vest, sans everything." Officer-Will you now tell us what is

Recruit-I am shortsighted!-Figaro.

Well Meant, but Awkwardly Put.



"So glad you haven't forgotten me, dear Lord Varicose. I was afraid you would after so many years!" "Oh, no. Miss Evergreen. I never forget old faces!"-Du Maurier in Punch.

## Hard to Work.

"You have been promising me steady employment; I have been coming here five or six times a day and you haven't found me that employment yet. I want the two dollars back I gave you," said an angry man to the superintendent of a New York intelligence office.

"How far do you live from here?" "It's two miles if it's an inch.

"If you come that distance five or six times a day, don't you think you have got as much steady employment as you need, eh!"-Texas Siftings.

"Oh, misery!" cried the editor. "What's the matter now?"

"I just threw a poet out of the window, and his wife, who was waiting for him be low, has presented one of our insurance coupons at the cashier's desk. He had it on him! Another hundred pounds gone when five shillings would have bought not only his poets, but his everlasting gratitude.-Tit-Dits.

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