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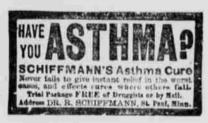
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A COSMOPOLITAN SCHOOL

A Queer Mixture of Children in One of New York's Big School Buildings.

Until about a year ago the principal of ward school No. 23, New York, did not realize what a queer lot of pupils he had, although he had sometimes laughed over the strange collection of names upon the rolls. A year ago he took a census and carefully traced out the exact part of the earth from which the parents of each of his pupils had come, He found that there were in his school no less than twenty-seven different nationalities, speaking about twenty-five languages other than English and its dialects. He found that of these sixteen were in the primary department alone,

So not long afterward he arranged a novel feature to one of the school entertainments. At a certain place in the programme each child arose, holding in his or her hands two flags. One was the American flag, the other the flag of the nation from which the father had come. The visitors to the school were astonished. They recognized half a dozen flags well known as the banners of European nations-Italian, German, Spanish, French, Swiss and the like. Then they saw nearly a dozen others, recognizable from their shapes and colors and designs as the banners of barbaric or semibarbaric countries, known to us in a vague way as heathen,

When these children, none being under five years of age, first come to this school they are foreigners to the very core. They speak the language of their fathers, and perhaps have never even heard the sound of an English word. They are of the country from which their parents came both in customs and ideas. Their clothing alone bears the stamp of America, and that so out of necord with their faces and expressions that they seem ill at ease, and even more poorly clad than they really are. They enter the primary department. And here it may be said that, although the youngest are five years old, the ages of many extend upward toward eighteen and twenty years.

It is the I iness of Miss Rose O'Neill and her seven assistants to teach these children the English language, and then to make American children out of them. Go into the school at the beginning of the school year, and you will think the task hopeless, impossible. Come back at the end of six months, and if you close your eyes and listen to the reading exercises you will not be able to distinguish Chinese child or Arab child or Tunisian child from the few pure blooded Americans who form the curiosities of the school. Then you will wonder how the miracle has been performed .-Harper's Weekly.

Educate Children to High Ideals.

We are too ready to impart instruction to children from low moods and on a low plane, because we do not ourselves habitually dwell in the latitude of the uplands. Motives of policy, of vanity, of seeming instead of being right, enter into our own lives and, alas! poison the lives of the little ones at the fountain. A grand life, a brave example, a splendid instance of fortitude, of self abnegation, of courage against odds is never in vain. It is an object lesson that flames out from the sky, as the planet amid the host of lesser stars. Whether it be an arctic or an African explorer, the leader of a forlorn hope, the missionary living among the island lepers, or the army nurse, leaving home and luxury to minister to the wounded and soothe the dying, the noble ideal is uplifted before the eyes of those who are yet in the initial stages, and whose characters are not yet in the mold of destiny.

This thought of the lofty ideal gives the chief value of our annual Decoration Day, giving us pause amid the pomp and ease of peace, that we may think not of the pageantry of war, but of its sufferings, its fever and thirst, its rigors of cold and furnace heats, its weary marches, fierce battles and the patriotism which alone condones its bitter woe and the mourning that follows in its track,-Harper's Bazar.

Powerful Indian Air Guns.

The Indians along the Mirida river hunt with blow guns made out of the young stalks of a certain kind of palm, from which the pith is removed. The arrows employed as projectiles are simply splinters of reed, sharpened at one end, the other end being wrapped with enough silk cotton obtained from another kind of palm to fill up the bore of the blow gun. The arrows are about ten inches long and very light. They are tipped with the famous and deadly 'woorari" poison,

Used by one of these naked savages the blow gun is a weapon of great accuracy and effectiveness, even a small bird on a treetop being brought down by the skilled shooter with reasonable certainty at the first try.-Interview in Washing-

A Curious Salvage Case.

Perhaps the most curious salvage case on record is that of the ship Two Friends, which stranded on the coast of Cuba and was abandoned by her crew. Another ship, the John Blake, met a similar fate, and her crew, in attempting to find a landing place, came across the Two Friends, which they managed to get off and to navigate to England without further mishap. The judge who tried the case decided that salvage services had been rendered, but of only ordinary difficulty and merit, inasmuch as the crew of the John Blake salved the Two Friends in order to save their own lives. The owners of the John Blake of course got nothing, but the salving crew received £350 out of the total value of £1,237.—New Orleans Picnyane.

The Art of Conversation,

"Conversation," says a brilliant American humorist, "is, in this generation, a lost art.

It was an art which our grandfathers studied perhaps more than any other. A gentleman, in the beginning of this century, was usually more ambitions to tell a story well or to state his argument clearly than to understand science or Rochester, N. Y I statecraft. - Youth's Companion.

Prayer Unanswered.

A missionary had taken his wife with brokenhearted widower received permission from the missionary board of his church to come home. Here he promptly consoled himself, and with his second spouse returned to the field of his former labor. But fate was still unkind and at the end of a year he was once more bereaved. Again he besought the permission of the board to return home, but this time they gently but firmly declined, saying that they did not feel instified in the expense of giving him two vacations within two years. They recent loss it was possible for him to deputize a friend to secure for him a new purtner of his joys and sorrows. This he accordingly did.

The day the steamer was signaled the bridegroom elect went down to meet it. accompanied by a married friend. When the latter returned he was pounced upon Smith seem much overcome when he saw Miss Brown?" was the first question. "Well-yes-a little." "Wasn't he overjoyed?" "Well-overjoyed is not just the word, perhaps." "Why, didn't he say he was delighted?" "Well—no not exactly." "But, at least, he seemed pleased?" "Well-I don't quite know."

"For mercy's sake, tell me just what "Well"-with evihe did say and do." dent reluctance. "When he saw her she was at the other end of the deck and she was pointed out to him by the friend she had traveled with. Smith looked at her for a minute, and then he passed his hand over his eyes and I heard him murmur, 'Red hair-for the third time -and after so much prayer!"-Pittsburg

Bls Rebuke.

Much of the music sung in city where except in the house of God. And there are some odd people who even in this age of progress consider that such music belongs rather to the concert room than to the church.

Parson Snow was one of these people. and when he "exchanged" one Sunday with an old college friend who was settled over a large city parish he was both amazed and shocked by the vocal display-the anthem-with which the members of the choir electrified the con-

gregation. "They had fine voices, my dear," he explained to his little wife when he was safely back in his own home, "and I presume they wanted to show them off, and so took advantage of a time when their pastor was away. I thought at first of rising and requesting them to desist. Then I felt that perhaps it would be my duty to report the matter to

Doctor Green. "But I finally concluded that, as it was undoubtedly a first offense and caused by an almost pardonable vanity, I would deal gently with them. So I waited until they had finished, and then I rose and said, 'We will now begin the religious services of the morning.'

"And I feel sure," concluded the simple minded pastor, "that they felt my had be touched the ground when Zeke rebuke and will not let such a thing occur again!"-Youth's Companion.

The "First Edition" Craze.

Is this hankering after first editions but a mere craze or fashion?-in which case I would venture to predict that when the book loving and book buying public once begins to consider seriously what it is that really constitutes the value of any first edition the ridiculous and artificially enhanced prices of such issues will fall.

Upon this public weakness, whether fostered by sentimental or any other feeling, the booksellers are now trading and are in the habit of calling attention in Roman capitals in their catalogues to first editions of almost every conceivable book-of course at the same time adding a correspondingly increased price to books which are hardly worth purchasing in any edition.

For the present great demand for first editions the keen competition among English speaking peoples from abroad for any book of special value now offered for sale may be in a great degree responsible, aided by a large class of unreasoning beings who buy books merely because they are first editions, and who by dint of their long purses are able to "rush in where angels fear to tread." These are they upon whom ordinary book lovers look with dread, and the booksellers not always with approval.—Notes and Queries.

A Bit of Correspondence.

A remarkable correspondence has been published, ending in a true Irish fashion. It begins: "Mr. Thompson presents his compliments to Mr. Simpson, and begs to request that he will keep his doggs like a woman."—St. Louis Globe-Demo-

"Mr. Simpson presents his compliments to Mr. Thompson, and begs to suggest that in future he should not spell 'dogs' with two gees."

"Mr. Thompson's respects to Mr. Simpson, and will feel obliged if he will add the letter 'e' to the last word in the note just received, so as to represent Mr. Simpson and lady.'

"Mr. Simpson raturns Mr. Thompson's note unopened, the impertinence it contains being only equaled by its vulgarity."-London Tit-Bits.

Ventilation by Windows.

It is always proper to resort to window ventilation if no other means of ventilation is attainable. Lower the windows from the top: if possible open one window from the bottom, but choose a window the opening of which will not create a draft. Heated air rises and will escape through the lowered windows, while the fresh air will enter through the raised windows .- New York Sun.

Professional Pride. "Why do you children wear such

dreadfully long hair?" "How are folks to know that our father

is an artist?"-Ulk.

A KENTUCKY MULE.

him to India. There she died, and the A Gray Raired Old Fellow Treed a Bear and Finally Killed It.

Sam Parson's gray mule Zeke is old and gray, but he possesses great strength. both of understanding and of body.

Saturday old Sam concluded that he wouldn't work, and accordingly he shouldered his muzzle loading rifle and went hunting. But before departing be turned Zeke out to graze. Finding the grass around the parson's

cabin rather scanty, Zeke wandered down the edge of the creek next to the mountain side. There within the shadsuggested, delicately, however, that if ow of the woods he struck a nice, tenhis desire was to recoup himself for his der clump of grass and immediately be gan to eat it with great delight. While engaged in this congenial task a large black bear came down the mountain side and approached Zeke. Zeke had probably never seen a bear before, as the ursing tribe has long been scarce in these mountains. Nor is it likely that the benz had ever on any previous occasion look by his own wife, who demanded all the ed upon a mule. But this bear was particulars of the meeting. "Did Dr. hungry and, while Zeke was bigger game than be had bargained for, he evidently thought it worth while to take a look at him, for he came a little nearer.

Zeke was not a bit afraid. He had never stood in awe of manhood, not even Old Sam, his master, and it was not likely that at this late period of his life he would be afraid of any four footed creature that walked the earth. Zeke calmly went on with his pleasant task of eating grass. The bear edged up another yard. Zeke switched his tail and cleverly knocked a fly off his back, and being relieved of the burden of the insect still munched the grass.

The bear began to grew inquisitive. He evidently did not understand what kind of an animal Zeke was, his studies in zoology being limited. He stood upon his haunches and growled, not as a threat, but as a kind of friendly salute, Zeke did not raise his head, and still churches would scarcely be characters munched the grass. The bear stopped ized as "sacred" if it were heard any- growling and walked in a respectful circle around Zeke, studying him from every corner. He might have been a hundred miles away for all the notice Zeke took. The bear was puzzled and uttered another growl of interrogation. Again finding himself unnoticed he began to grow angry.

The bear went around behind Zeke and came very close, evidently determined to try by touch to arouse the strange animal. Suddenly Zeke doubled himself up in a knot and leaped high in the air. Two legs flew out of the bunch like piston rods and caught the bear in the side, whirling him over in a complete somersault. When he struck the ground he righted himself and rushed away with a growl of pain. But Zeke was hot after him, and the bear, seeing that he would be overtaken, scrambled up a hickory tree, barely missing a terrible drive of Zeke's hind heels.

Noon came and still Zeke was under

the tree. The afternoon passed. It was almost sundown, but still Zeke was there. The bear could stand it no longer. Zeke was about twenty feet away from the tree, apparently taking no notice, and accordingly he crawled down the trunk as quietly as possible, intending to slip away in the forest. Barely turned with a snort and leaped upon him. So fast did his hind legs flash back and forth that they looked like the driving rods of an engine. In a minute the bear was dead, every bone in his body broken. Mrs. Parsons, who saw it all from the door of her cabin, says that the bear didn't even have time to growl. When asked why she hadn't taken a gun from the house and shoot the bear in the tree-for she is a girl woodsman and bold as a man-she replied:

"I knowed Zeke didn't need no help, and besides I didn't want to spile the fun."-Pond Creek (Ky.) Cor. New York

A Pitiful Sight.

"I was at Sioux City during the rise in the Big Muddy," said T. P. Sinclair, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of South Dakota, "and there witnessed a sight that haunts me. Pretty much everything that would float came swirling down the angry river-wrecks of buildings, household goods and godsand among the drift was, what do you think? a cradle! One of the old fashioned, wooden sort, and in it sat a white headed little tot, apparently about a year old.

"There was not a boat within hailing distance, the cradle was fully 300 yards from shore and the river was running like a mill race. I started on a dead run down along the bank, hoping to find a boat of some kind, but before I had gone twenty-five yards the cradle tipped over, spilling its little occupant into the muddy waters. I am pretty well seasoned, let me tell you. I walked over rows of dead men at Donaldson and Shiloh, have shot Indians and helped hang cow thieves, but that sight at Sioux City broke me. I just sat down and cried crat.

Entirely Satisfied.

A suit had gone against the defendant, who arose and gave his opinion of the judgment and was fined \$10 for contempt of court. A bill was handed to the clerk which proved to be \$20. "I have no change," said the clerk, tendering it to the offender. "Never mind about the other \$10," was the retort. "Keep it; I'll take it out in contempt."-Black and White.

At a Fashionable Dinner Party. Gent (on the right)-The weather, mademoiselle-

Lady-I have already discussed that subject with my neighbor on the left. Gent (aside)-The mean scoundrel! We had arranged between us that he should talk about the dinner and I myself about the weather. -Humoristische Blatter.

Forests of Greece.

In ancient times Greece possessed about 7,500,000 acres of dense forest, and she was comparatively rich in timber until about fifty years ago. Much of it has, however, now disappeared.-Philadelphia Ledger.

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