

ABOUT MOONSHINERS.

MANY SMALL STILLS - SOME MORE PRETENTIOUS.

Corn Whisky Made for Export - And Lots of Other Kinds Made for Home Consumption - Informers Are Always Detected.

(Special Letter.) THE moonshine business in the mountains of Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee has taken a fresh start and the local revenue agents, in view of lively times ahead, have called for reinforcements to help them in handling the situation. As a rule the majority of these illicit stills are of the most primitive character, and generally of small capacity. Nearly every farm among the mountains has a still secreted somewhere, and should the proprietor be called upon to surrender his booze and go to jail, the usual explanation is that the moonshine is "for family use only." There are, however, many large stills scattered all through that rough country, and once in awhile some of these big fellows get caught. The largest moonshine still on record was captured about a fortnight ago by Deputy Marshal Thaxton of Polk county, who, with a posse, was engaged in making a series of raids all through that suspected region. In this case the officials were well prepared for an emergency, but had no idea of the warm reception that awaited them. Guided by an informer, they trailed their way up the mountain side by the light of the moon, and a faint glimmer in a ravine far ahead indicated the location of the still. As they drew nearer the fire grew brighter, and a jolly crowd of men could be seen going about their work and talking among themselves. At a signal the posse, with drawn revolvers, made a dash for the spot, and the "jolly crowd" jumped for their arms. A pitched battle followed, in which more than one "shiner" was shot down; but after a stubborn resistance the whole outfit was captured, marched off to jail and their property confiscated. If there is one thing a moonshiner hates worse than a snake it is an informer. Nothing is more detestable to the clan than a spy, and no mercy is shown should one fall into their hands. This brotherhood of moonshiners is somewhat similar to the old kuklux arrangement, for they will stand by each other to the last. The moonshiners really have no grievance against the revenue officials, and will rarely shoot or even injure them, except in self-defense, but an informer is their common enemy, and woe to one of this class should he ever be found out or even suspected.

There are individuals in every district looking for this sort of job; and it is dangerous for a stranger to be seen wandering about the mountains alone, let his mission be ever so innocent. A pair of suspicious eyes are following every movement, perhaps a woman's or a child's eye, and should anything appear to these watchers to be of a questionable nature, a rough clap on the back and a gruff "What's yer doing in these parts?" may be very difficult to explain satisfactorily. Not long ago, near Waco, Ga., a young man of excellent character was ambushed by three desperate moonshiners, who spotted him as an informer, and it might have gone hard with him had it not been for his rare pluck and rapid work with his muscle. Young Roberson is a rustic athlete, who was written down in the catalogue of the moonshiners as a spy and a plot was laid to make away with him on the quiet. The opportunity came one midnight a few weeks ago, when Roberson was riding home from a visit to a neighbor. In a very dark part of the woods the "shiners" waited for their victim, and pretty soon he was seen coming up the road, mounted on a mule. As he arrived opposite the place of ambush, quick as a flash three men jumped before his steed, and ordered him to halt. The rider, good-naturedly, said he had no objection,

lower floor of the house because it is necessarily on public view most of the time. The family is, therefore, cramped for proper accommodations, and there are no rooms for the entertainment of guests. Moreover, the house is so badly arranged as to entrances, exits and hallways that a state reception there is always an uncomfortable and dangerous jam, while many an invited guest, and many officers who attend certain functions under orders, have been made seriously ill because they have been compelled to stand for hours in cold or stormy weather until they could gain admittance through the signal door that can be used for the purpose. The deficiencies of the white house are so thoroughly recognized in Washington that for many years efforts have been made to secure worthier accommodations for the president. Some of these efforts have been in the wrong direction, because they have contemplated other buildings foreign to the intent and character of the white house, within the same grounds. Other efforts still are attempts of speculators to move the site of the mansion to the hills north of the city. The white house, with all its charms and memories, should be preserved, and it should remain on its present beautiful and historic site, its fine grounds unencumbered by other structures. In furtherance of this idea a plan prepared by Mr. Arthur J. Dillon shows conclusively that the white house can be made not only abundantly spacious, but even improved, while its architectural features will be at the same time preserved.

A Rock-Boring Shellfish. One of the most curious of the many remarkable forms of marine life is a species of mollusk called a razor-shell which can excavate holes in solid rocks. This creature has no English name; its Latin name is pholas. It is found in widely separated regions of the earth, but is most plentiful on the coast of the Mediterranean, where limestone abounds. It is frequently met with on the coast of Italy, where whole limestone beaches are honey-combed with its holes. It is still a disputed point among naturalists as to how this boring is effected. Some think that the mollusk secretes some acid which softens the limestone, but others think that the holes are bored by the simple mechanical process of grinding. The preponderance of opinion appears to lie with the latter view at present, yet it is said that no one has yet been able to catch the holas at work. - St. Louis Republic.

A Use for Life Preservers. It is said that on account of their depth and coldness the waters of Lake Superior do not give up their dead. A recent traveler there asked the captain of a Lake Superior steamer why he carried life preservers, the water being so cold that one could not long survive immersion. "Oh," was the nonchalant reply, "we carry the corks so that it will be easier to recover the bottles." Learn to say No. No necessity of snapping it out dog fashion, but say it firmly and respectfully.

taken to their heels, and with the man's own pistol Roberson marched the fellow to town and turned him over to the authorities. The name "moonshiner" comes from the fact that the distillations are generally carried on at night, and often by the light of the moon. The spirits are sometimes called "blockade," for the reason that those who sell it have to run the blockade in order to get the stuff to a purchaser. No one would suspect the innocent looking load of cotton rolling along the road of containing moonshine hidden somewhere down among those flaky bales; but a load of potatoes may be equally as guilty, and wagons full of corn, cotton seed, hay, or any other kind of produce or grain, all lend a hand to aid the moonshiner in getting his goods to market. The finest article is manufactured from pure corn, and it is intended principally for smuggling; but only the larger stills engage in the export business. The smaller affairs are run in a different way. The very small ones are really "for family use only," the product being intended wholly for home consumption. Except the larger ones, most of the stills are run on the cooperative plan. That is: You bring so much grain to my mill and I will return you so much grist.

THE WHITE HOUSE. Should Be Made Spacious but Its Style Should Not Be Changed. The residence of the president of the United States ought to be worthy of the office, says Harper's Weekly. The present white house is equal to all the requirements of such a residence, so far as it goes. It is a simple and dignified building, whose beauty is a constant delight to appreciative persons. It was conceived and carried out by the architect who planned it in the proper spirit, but it is not large enough for the uses to which it is necessarily put. The country and the city of Washington have grown and the president's house has not grown with him. A large part of it is given up to the business offices of the president, his private secretary and his clerks and the president's family is deprived of the use of another large part of the



TYPICAL MOONSHINE STILL.

to announce to him with unconsciousness and enthusiasm "that he had seen the substance of that shadow shown him a few days ago!" so accustomed was he to talk in the language that he read. An attractive child he was in countless ways, with his beaming, intelligent face, his quick action and his leadership among his companions. Strangely averse to going to bed, he was never really ready to go to any hour, his earnest wish being that life were all day, so deeply was he interested in the affairs of the world. Children of this class, whether boys or girls, are by nature endowed with a mentality above the ordinary. Fortunately they are often the possessors of high animal spirits, the result of good physical condition, expressed in a happy disposition or fine vivacity. Such minds are of splendid fibre, seize readily upon knowledge and facts which they easily retain and assimilate. Among all the traits which children display none are so satisfactory to encounter as stability and faithfulness; for with even moderate talents these qualifications will ensure success in some line in the years of later life. But how varied are the child-natures and faces; like the leaves of the forest no two are just alike. A type that everybody loves has the bright open countenance, the frank, true eyes. These are the little sunbeams in the world, dancing along beside the weary and oppressed, throwing their happy smiles upon the sorrowing, and upon saint and sinner alike. Sweet as the flowers of springtime, they gladden all about them. Bare indeed would life be

THE CHILDREN



Like the rays of the natural sun, glad childhood sheds its brightness upon the world; to which the innocence, the merriment, the credulity, the inquisitiveness, the naturalness, the mischievousness of that happy period before the shadows begin to fall, are a perpetual source of refreshment and delight. When all these childish qualities are combined and a little touch of perversity is added, many a moment of perplexity as well as of amusement is caused.

To justly judge the child's act we must take its point of view. Only by means of an accurate memory of our own experiences and by a fine sympathy with those of others are we able to appreciate the mental attitude of the budding life and to realize how momentous are some of its occasions. Countless are the bright pictures childhood throws upon our memories, for our lifelong enjoyment thereafter. Some of the most vivid from the many are here set forth. An ever delightful child type is that in which the mentality is keen and early matured. These are they who read much and think much and to their daily vocabulary add the words encountered in books. In play and in popularity they are foremost, unfailing in power and attraction are such genial, bright natures. An interesting boy of twelve years was shown the photograph of a lady who was to be married to the young man exhibiting the picture. He listened with interest to his friend's account of his lady love whom the boy had never seen. Not long after the little man saw the young woman in question for the first time. When he next encountered his friend, the lover, it was

without the blossoms and without these cherub-like children. Diversity of talents is never more plainly seen than in the development of the little ones. It is marvelous how the son of the mechanic loves machinery so early. Even more wonderful is it when another son, inheriting his gifts perhaps from his grandfather, in live stock and in sowing and gathering of crops. How unlike are the various personalities of children. How

the ones do not pass into the eternal silence, they merge as surely into manhood and womanhood. It is as if in the life of one individual there were countless lives ending one by one as others begin; so wholly apart from the after life are the days of infancy. One beautiful boy made light and gladness in a home. Year by year a picture of the child was made. Each twelvemonth seemed to perfect the life and face, until it took on a far away beauty not of this world. So the last



THE QUESTIONING EYES OF CHILDHOOD.

self-will shows itself in earliest days in some. How mischief reaches an abnormal growth in others. What individuality and originality are frequently displayed by the little folks. Many are the homes they cheer; portrait showed him; then a shadow fell upon the house that for a few brief years had been illumined by a lovely presence. The flowers bloom and fade. The birds' songs fill the world and then are silent. But the sweetness of the blossoms and of the warbling lingers when neither may longer be enjoyed. A dear little California girl by her doings and sayings has made herself a joy to many. A chubby little figure, a sunny face, great blue eyes, a halo of fair curls—a sweeter cheru never lived. She is not yet three years old; and when she is gathered up for the night in her long white night gown, and lifted to papa's shoulder to say, instead of the conventional "Good night," her "God bless you," to each one about her, God seems not far away and the blessing appears to descend. If ever there is virtue in a blessing it is when spoken by such lips as hers.

Looking out of the back window one day, her mother heard shrill screams and saw her baby girl carrying her cloak which a great rooster had caught in his beak and would not let go. The mother understood the little one's prolonged cries of fright and vexation, and going outside freed the tiny girl from her tormentor. Shortly after, when the child was again in the house, she passed her mother in the music room. Her little legs bore her in longer strides than usual; there was determination in her face and vengeance in her baby heart. In one hand she carried a silver table knife, close to her side, that it might not be seen and taken from her. She spoke vehemently as she hastened on: "I'll kill 'at wooster! I'll cut it on the feathers!" Upon another day this little tot's father decided to rearrange a favorite vine upon the front porch of their picturesque cottage home. To do so it was necessary to be upon the front porch roof, and to reach that point without injury to the vines a ladder was placed against the rear of the house. By the ladder he mounted to the shed roof of the kitchen and easily gaining in this way the four sided roof of the cottage he descended thence to

deeply in their value realized when the sweet baby voice is no longer heard, when the laughing little face is no longer seen. A few years glide by, and then every baby face disappears, all childish speech ceases, for if these lit-

Most Wonderful Law Presented Before the New Zealand House. The New Zealand house of representatives has been doing some wonderful things and its latest achievement is a bill for a statutory half-holiday for domestic servants, which has already received its second reading, says the Westminster Gazette. According to the proposal every mistress is bound to turn her servants out of her house from 3 p. m. until 10 p. m. one day in every week. If the servant is found employed at her ordinary work during the statutory half-holiday the mistress will be liable to a penalty of \$25. If the servants return to their homes for food during the time mentioned the mistress must wait on them or be mulcted to the same tune but we take it for granted that the mistress has a legal right to refuse admittance. The result will be that a large number of the servants in the town, being country girls without friends, will be driven to parade the streets for these six hours of compulsory holiday. The humorous completeness of this proposal will, we are afraid, be fatal to its chances of becoming law. A prominent lady politician has already avowed her preference for a statutory half-holiday for overworked mothers of large families who have no servants. The husband will then be compelled to remain at home and mind his house in the absence of his wife.

A Strange Coincidence. A certain peasant and his wife, in Germany, were married on the same day as the emperor and the empress the peasant's Christian name being William. Their first child, a boy, was born on the same day as the Crown Prince, after which they had five other sons, each of whom was born at the same time as the five younger boys of the emperor. The royal couple were informed of this, and were exceedingly interested in the very strange coincidence, but this interest was intensified when, on the last occasion of a royal birth, namely, the little daughter of the kaiser, it was learned that the peasant's wife in question had also given birth to a daughter on the same day. So astonished were the emperor and empress that they stood as godfather and godmother to this little girl, and have well provided for her future.

The World's Wealthiest Philatelist. The Duc de Galliera is probably the most notable as well as the wealthiest philatelist in the world. He began to collect stamps in 1870, and every year spent some \$8,000 in adding stamps to his collection. In 1880 his collection was valued at \$20,000, and today it is said to be worth close to \$250,000.

THE GIRL'S HALF-HOLIDAY. Most Wonderful Law Presented Before the New Zealand House. The New Zealand house of representatives has been doing some wonderful things and its latest achievement is a bill for a statutory half-holiday for domestic servants, which has already received its second reading, says the Westminster Gazette. According to the proposal every mistress is bound to turn her servants out of her house from 3 p. m. until 10 p. m. one day in every week. If the servant is found employed at her ordinary work during the statutory half-holiday the mistress will be liable to a penalty of \$25. If the servants return to their homes for food during the time mentioned the mistress must wait on them or be mulcted to the same tune but we take it for granted that the mistress has a legal right to refuse admittance. The result will be that a large number of the servants in the town, being country girls without friends, will be driven to parade the streets for these six hours of compulsory holiday. The humorous completeness of this proposal will, we are afraid, be fatal to its chances of becoming law. A prominent lady politician has already avowed her preference for a statutory half-holiday for overworked mothers of large families who have no servants. The husband will then be compelled to remain at home and mind his house in the absence of his wife.

A Strange Coincidence. A certain peasant and his wife, in Germany, were married on the same day as the emperor and the empress the peasant's Christian name being William. Their first child, a boy, was born on the same day as the Crown Prince, after which they had five other sons, each of whom was born at the same time as the five younger boys of the emperor. The royal couple were informed of this, and were exceedingly interested in the very strange coincidence, but this interest was intensified when, on the last occasion of a royal birth, namely, the little daughter of the kaiser, it was learned that the peasant's wife in question had also given birth to a daughter on the same day. So astonished were the emperor and empress that they stood as godfather and godmother to this little girl, and have well provided for her future.

The World's Wealthiest Philatelist. The Duc de Galliera is probably the most notable as well as the wealthiest philatelist in the world. He began to collect stamps in 1870, and every year spent some \$8,000 in adding stamps to his collection. In 1880 his collection was valued at \$20,000, and today it is said to be worth close to \$250,000.



TIED.