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OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

A POEM TO LEARN AND AMUSING STORIES TO READ.

The Song of the Locusts—The Battle of the Frogs and How It Was Fought—"French as She Is Spoke" by Beginners.

The Song of the Locusts. Children listen to the song, Seemingly faint yet clear and strong— Hear the song the locusts sing: Hear the story that they bring: From the far Egyptian Nile Close your eyes and hear the while: "Pha-a-ro, Pha-a-ro, Pha-ra-oh. Let the Hebrew children go!"

Now it seems the burdened cry, Prayer and moan and anguished sigh, Of the Israelitish band, To him: in that heathen land Now it seems the pleading's vain For their sons—doomed to be slain: "Pha-a-ro, Pha-a-ro, Pha-ra-oh. Let the Hebrew children go!"

Now we hear the tramp and shout As Mo-cs leads his people out: Hear the sea, divided, roar Till all God's hosts are safe on shore: Hear the song of prayer and praise Which Israel's grateful leaders raise.

Listen: "Pha-a-ro, Pha-ra-oh, Had to let the Hebrews go!" —Linda W. Loy.

Interesting Frogs. Boys are personally interested in frogs—boys and snakes and naturalists.

Boys usually make their observations by means of a triple hook and a piece of red flannel, but a boy in Connecticut, known to the writer, took twenty-eight one day with his bare hands.

Connecticut is a fine state for frogs. There at old Windham was fought the famous "Battle of the Frogs."

It was during the French and Indian war in 1758. Windham was then the most important frontier town of Eastern Connecticut. Colonel Dyer, a prominent citizen, was raising an army to oppose the Indians at Crown Point. The town was alive with excitement. One very dark night the people were awakened by strange sounds, and at once thought the Indians were upon them. Seizing guns, swords and axes, the men rushed out to meet the enemy. But no enemy was to be seen. Still they felt a force of French and Indians must be at hand, for hoarse voices could be heard calling for Windham's prominent military leaders.

"Colonel Dyer and Elderkin, too!" "Colonel Dyer and Elderkin, too!" The town was up all night. When day broke the mystery was accidentally solved. A mile away from the village lay a big marshy pond inhabited by myriads of frogs. A drought had nearly dried up the water, reducing it to a tiny streamlet, and for this scanty supply the poor thirsty creatures had fought each other, until thousands lay dead on either side of the rill.

This battle made Windham famous. For years the inhabitants felt badly teased and insulted by its mention. Now, however, the story is no longer a joke but a prized tradition.

Snakes are as fond of frogs as the traditional Frenchman who esteemed them a delicacy. A frog has often been found swallowed whole and alive in a slaughtered snake. One snake known to a friend of the chronicler fared badly enough by his greed for his favorite dainty. He had swallowed one frog and then had started to crawl through a crevice in a stone wall. Before he had dragged through his entire length he espied another plump little fellow and took him in, whereupon he found himself securely fastened down under the stones, unable to move either way, and was dispatched by the spectator.

Naturalists consider the frog a very interesting fellow and other observant people have learned curious facts concerning these amphibious creatures.

A gentleman living in the southern part of France had a very large frog pond on his grounds and was fond of studying the habits of its inhabitants. One day he saw a great change in the appearance of a certain frog of which he had made a pet. It looked as if it had in some way acquired a pair of the puffed breeches which gentlemen used to wear in the courts of James the First of England and Louis the Thirteenth of France. This change made him curious to know what it meant and all the more so when he found that almost every day more and more of the frogs were wearing the same queer looking things.

By watching carefully the gentleman soon found the cause of the strange, new article of frog dress.

The mother frog, it seems, considers that her duty is discharged when she has laid her eggs. These all adhere together, forming a long chain of many links. As soon as she has deposited these on the bank of the pond she hops away, seeming to forget all about them, and they would never hatch out if the father frog did not come to the rescue. With no little difficulty he winds these chains of neglected eggs around his own thighs—thus producing the appearance of the puffed breeches.

He then proceeds to hide himself among the marshy grasses around the pond until the eggs are ready to hatch out. Then he goes into the water. In a little while the shells burst, letting out the young tadpoles, which immediately swim away without so much as a "thank you."

Another very motherly father of the frog family is found in South America, in Chili. He is provided with a large sac, or pouch, which extends over the whole surface of his belly, from the mouth downwards. There is no external opening into this sac, and when Mr. Darwin first saw a male frog apparently swallowing the eggs he thought he was the worst kind of a fellow to be eating his own children!

But this thought was a great in-

justice. On opening the frog's mouth Mr Darwin discovered that on each side of the tongue was an aperture down which the eggs rolled into the sac, which soon became distended with them.

As the eggs hatch out in this sac, the young frogs find their way up into their careful father's mouth, and thence out and away into the pond which is to them the wide world.—Denver Republican.

Getting Ready to Fly. When a cocoon makes its way out of its house, where it snugly lived all winter, it is no longer a cocoon, but a butterfly; yet its wings are crumpled and limp as the petals of a rosebud, and for all the good it gets from them it might as well still be a worm.

The first thing the new-born creature does is to get those wings into flying shape.

The process begins by a little heaving motion of the muscles at the joints of the wings, just as though it were shrugging its shoulders at the world into which it has stepped. This shrug is repeated again and again, sometimes the exercise seems to quite exhaust it, and then it rests quietly, hanging motionless to the twig, or whatever it has fastened its tiny claws upon, for several minutes, when the shrugging process is renewed.

Little by little the wings lose their crumpled appearance, strength is infused into the veins which mark them as do the veins in a leaf, gradually the gauzy things unfold and expand until they lift, light and airy and strong. Sometimes a whole day is spent thus before the first attempt is made at flying. What a lesson is there for us, creatures of haste and impatience.—Inter-Ocean.

"French as She Is Spoke." In one of his entertainments Mr. George Grossmith extracts considerable fun from "French as she is spoke" by the schoolboy. In a clever skit on the French play that forms part of the inevitable prize day program; all the dialogue is of the conventional "First French Course" order, viz., "Have you seen the garden of my wife's uncle?" "No; but I have found the pencil of my father's sister."

I was reminded of this the other day when calling on a friend whose three small nieces had just arrived from South America. The children's native tongue was Spanish, but evidently a "First English Course" had been used to prepare them for their visit to this country, and their quaint high-flown phrases were a constant source of mirth to the household. They invariably prefaced each sentence with "It is that."

"Juanita, why haven't you brushed your hair?" said my friend to the dark-eyed eldest girl, of about six.

"It is that I failed to discover my brush," was the stately reply. At that moment the baby upstairs set up a piercing yell, whereupon the second child, with hand upraised, remarked, with infinite solemnity, "Hark! the infant wails."

Easier Than Arithmetic. It is easier to remember things usually if you know what they mean. A little boy could never remember even about how long a cubit is until his father told him the word was cubitus in Latin which means an elbow, and that the measure called cubit was the distance from a man's elbow to the end of his middle finger.

"And how much is a fathom," asked the little boy.

"Oh, fathom comes from the two words, 'fat' which means in the Aryan language to extend, and 'thom' a man. A fathom is the length of a man extended; that is, when the arms are stretched out on each side from the shoulders, from tip to tip of his fingers."

"The foot is an English word and means just the length of the foot of a full grown man."

He Was Very Cautious. The teacher had notified Hiram Plunkett he would be expected to remain after school was dismissed as a punishment for misconduct. Hiram was one of the big boys, and there was a perceptible tremor in his voice as he came awkwardly up to her desk and said in a low tone:

"Miss Jones, I wish you'd keep Mamie McGinnis in, too. She done just as much whisperin' as I did. I saw her do it."

"Why do you wish to have Mamie McGinnis kept in?" asked the teacher.

"I don't want her to get jealous agin," said Hiram, scratching the floor with the toe of his shoe. "The other time you kept me in after school she wouldn't speak to me for a week."

Cherries in England. English boys should be as grateful to Sir Walter Raleigh as are Englishmen. The first cherry tree grown in England was planted by Sir Walter Raleigh, at his residence, Affane, nearly opposite Tourin castle, once the property of the Roches, on the river Blackwater. So while the Englishman who owes his pipe and his cigars to him who introduced tobacco into England, the boys, to whom cherries are a never-ending source of delight, should see to it that the knight of old has a warm place in their memories.—Harper's Young People.

Not Exactly! "Let me tell you, Mrs. Thomas," said a happy Long Island parent to a rustic neighbor, "my son Ernest has got a first prize." "Oh! I quite understand your feeling, marm," said Mrs. Thomas. "I felt just the same when our young pig carried off a medal at the agricultural show."

Didn't Know. "Now, Johnny," said the teacher, "you may tell us this: Suppose your mother had told you to come home at 5 o'clock, and you did not go; what would you be doing?" "I don't know whether it would be swimmin' or playin' baseball."

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