

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

FIRESIDE READING FOR OUR LITTLE READERS.

Expert Car-Jumpers—A Midnight Journey—God Will Not Have a Rival—Jack the Giant Killer—How to Know the Truck.

LITTLE brown seed,
O little brown brother,
Are you awake in the dark?
Here we lie cozily,
Close to each other,
Hark to the song of the lark!
"Waken!" the lark says, "waken and dress you.
Put on your green coats and gay
Blue sky will smile on you—sunshine
caress you—
Waken! 'tis morning, 'tis May!"

LITTLE brown seed, O little brown brother,
What kind of flower will you be?
I'll be a poppy, all white like my mother;
Do be a poppy like me!
What? You're a sunflower—how I shall miss you
When you're grown golden and high—
But I shall send all the bees up to kiss you,
Little brown brother—good-by!

Expert Car-Jumpers.
From the Indianapolis News: "I haven't much hair on my head," said Superintendent Mansfield, of the Indianapolis and Vincennes, "but what little I have was up in the air like porcupine quills this afternoon. Several of us were coming down the Union tracks as No. 20, the fast train on the Indianapolis division, was pulling out. At Delaware street three tramps were standing. By the time the train reached that point it was going at a lively rate. Each of the tramps selected a coach, and as the train whirled by caught the iron rod that extends under the side of the car and swung beneath the train in front of the trucks. Like acrobats they turned over the rod and rested their feet on the brakebeam, and as the train rolled away settled down for a ride. A single mistake, a slip of the hand or the failure to place their feet on the brakebeam meant for them a horrible death. I was so frightened at their recklessness that I fairly lost my breath. Experienced railroad men that I am, I would not have attempted such a feat for \$1,000,000."
"That was a common trick," said Frank Lewis, formerly with the Union Pacific Railroad Company. "I have had a good deal of experience with tramps, and there are few of them but risk their lives daily on the cars. The old-time tramps used to walk over the country. Up-to-date tramps ride. I have taken them out from beneath the pilot of the engine. I have pulled them from the brakebeam of passenger cars, and a favorite hiding place for them is at the top of the vestibule. On top of the cars is a pleasant place during the summer, but in the winter they try to make themselves as comfortable as possible. It is seldom that you hear of a tramp being killed by the cars unless in a wreck. To become an expert car-jumper is one of the first requisites of a tramp of the first class."

A Midnight Journey.
I never saw the domesticity and maternal love of the feline species better proved than in the case of an old tortoise shell cat, owned by my Aunt Sallie. This old cat and her three kittens were given to a grandson. He took them home one night in a big basket—a distance of three miles by road, or a mile and a quarter through the "West Woods."
Early next morning my aunt stood in the door looking curiously across the road towards the woods.
"Well, I never!" she suddenly exclaimed; "there's Pinkie coming home."
Through the woods covered with dense underbrush, over ploughed fields and marsh land, and at night, poor old Pinkie had traveled home, bringing her little family. We watched her toiling wearily along the last few yards of her journey. Each time she would pick up the last kitten of the line, carry it ahead of the first one a few feet, and lay it carefully down in a safe spot; then go back for the last one again. Now and then she would stop and wash the kittens' faces with motherly solicitude. It is needless to say that Pinkie and her babies were warmly received at the old homestead, and were never sent off again.
One of those same kittens that made the midnight journey at the tender age of three weeks sits on my desk beside me, trying to manipulate my pen now and then, perhaps to urge it to greater praise of her worthy mother.—Our Animal Friends.

God Will Not Have a Rival.
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart. (Luke 10:27.)
There is no harder place than that occupied by the man who is trying to be a Christian in his own way. Trying to serve God without giving up his sins. Joining the church, and holding on to worldliness and impiety. Shaking hands with the preacher without saying goodbye to sin and Satan. Intending to keep such of the commandments as he can without trouble or sacrifice, but with no intention of keeping those that interfere with his pleasure or profit. God cannot put up with a divided heart. He gives all, and he must have all. His kingdom could not be an eternal kingdom on any other basis. He has declared himself a jealous God, and will not dwell in any heart

that opens to receive a rival. No honorable man would be willing to marry a wife whose heart he knew was not all his own, and surely what a sinful man could not permit God will not endure. He will never find fault with our conduct, so long as it is the best we can do, but in our love he will have no rival. There is no such thing as being a true follower of Christ without unconditional loyalty to him. There must be a glad willingness to take a stand against all that is known to be questionable or sinful, not only for a day, but forever.

The Small Boy's Trouble.
He comes from play with brown and grimy hands;
A wistful whistle loiters on his lips;
Dark semi-circles shade his finger tips;
From his small tongue dart divers quick commands.

The fond maternal slave, in deep distress,
Conducts the youngling savage to the bath,
Where he expends his vain, impotent wrath,
His fierce contempt for lather to express.

Her cloth and brush and file the mother plies,
With firm intent resisting all his pleas,
Until the rebel boy with sob agrees
To cease his sharp and melancholy cries.

The boy who knew was most like other boys,
Who lose one-half youth's freely-given dower
Day dreaming of that distant, happy hour
When they may share in life's maturer joys.

Ambition stirred his fancy, and the sea
With many pleasing voices called his name,
Where plundered ships went down
'Mid foam and flame,
He saw himself a pirate bold and free.

But naught made him for age more keenly hope—
Or so it doth appear back through the years—
Than those dark hours his eyes would fill with tears,
While his mother filled his sun-burned ears with soap.

—Frank Putnam in Chicago Times-Herald.

How to Know the Truth.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105.)
The man who can get nothing out of the Bible has never honestly tried to. The probabilities are that he never made a careful study of a single chapter of it. He has picked it up now and then perhaps, and read a few verses at random, but he has never earnestly tried to find out what is in it. The truth is that he doesn't want to understand it, or he would find a key to unlock it. Men do not understand books on mathematics, or music, or medicine, or astronomy, or anything else that deals with truth, until they get in earnest about it, and set about it in the right way. No man will have any trouble about understanding as much of the Bible as he needs to know, when he becomes willing to live as it tells him to. It will become a lamp to guide the feet of every man who will walk in its light, but to those who are determined to follow their own course it will be darkness. This fact was symbolized in the pillar of cloud which led the Israelites. It gave them light, but to their enemies it was darkness. When you find a man who is keeping out of the church on the plea that he can't understand the Bible, you may know that it is because he is holding on to things that the scriptures condemn. Whoever will bring his life into line with the Bible will soon find that it is God's book. "Every one that doeth evil hateth the light."

"Jack the Giant Killer."
Some time ago I read a little anecdote of Longfellow which illustrated his love for children. It seems that one little fellow in particular was fond of spending his time in the great poet's library. One day, after a long and patient perusal of the titles (to him great combersome works) that lined the shelves, the little chap walked up to Longfellow, and asked in a grievous sort of way:
"Haven't you got a Jack the Giant Killer?"
Longfellow regretted to say that in all his immense library he did not have a copy.
The little chap looked at him in a pitying way, and silently left the room.
The next morning he walked in with a couple of pennies tightly clasped in his chubby fist, and laying them down told the poet that he could now buy a Jack the Giant Killer of his own.—Harper's Round Table.

Her Name.
Such a wee mischievous lassie!—
It tries one's patience quite.
To watch the child. She cannot do
A single thing just right.
"Tis 'Kitty, don't say that, dear!"
"Oh, Kitty, don't do so!"
These are the words that greet her,
Wherever she may go.
When, just at dusk, one evening,
She climbed upon my knee,
In playful mood I asked her name,
"Why, Kitty, 'course," said she,
"Yes, Kitty—but the rest, dear?"
She hung her curly head—
The rogue!—for just a moment;
Then—"Kitty Don't!" she said.
—November St. Nicholas.

During the past five years England has sent 672 women missionaries to China.

NAMED THEIR MEN.

Senate Republicans Announce the Committee Assignments.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The Republican caucus committee of the Senate completed its work of assigning the majority membership of the Senate committees yesterday. The assignment of chairmanships is as follows:
Agriculture, Proctor; appropriations, Allison; audit contingent expenses, Jones of Nevada; census, Chandler; civil service, Pritchard; claims, Teller; coast defense, Squire; commerce, Frye; District of Columbia, McMillan; education and labor, Shoup; enrolled bills, Sewell; examination of branches of the civil service, Peffer; finance, Morrill; fisheries, Perkins; foreign relations, Sherman; immigration, Lodge; improvement Mississippi river, Nelson; Indian affairs, Pettigrew; Indian depredations, Wilson; inter-State commerce, Cullom; irrigation, Warren; judiciary, Hoar; library, Hansbrough; manufactures, Wheeler; military affairs, Hawley; mines and mining, Stewart; naval affairs, Cameron; organization executive department, Butler; Pacific railroads, Gear; patents, Platt; pensions, Gallinger; postoffices, Wolcott; printing, Hale; privileges and elections, Mitchell of Oregon; public buildings, Quay; public lands, Dubois; railroads, Clarke; relations with Canada, Carter; revision of the laws, Burrows; rules, Aldrich; Territories, Davis; transportation routes to seaboard, McBridge; University of the United States, Kyle; international exhibitions, Thurston; to investigate the geological survey, Elkins; national banks, Mantle; forest reservations, Allen; trespassers upon Indian lands, Baker; Ford theater disastar, to be filled when the Utah Senators come in.

This disposes of the chairmanships of all but eleven committees. The committees undesignated are known as the minority committees. The Republicans now control them, and they will fall to the Democrats under the new organization. The caucus committee has made provision for the Populist senators as the Democrats did in the last congress, and have given each of them a chairmanship, giving each the same position held under the Democrats, except Senator Kyle, who is promoted from the chairmanship of the committee on education and labor to that of the University of the United States. The committee will recommend the enlargement of all the larger committees.

SALISBURY'S REPLY.
The Monroe Doctrine's Applicability Denied—What Great Britain Has Done.
Lord Salisbury, the British premier, answers Secretary Olney in two notes, both dated July 26.
The first is devoted entirely to a reply to that portion of the note relating to the Monroe doctrine, which he says has never before been made the subject of a written communication by the United States to another government, although it has largely influenced American foreign relations. Lord Salisbury expressly declines to be understood as accepting the Monroe doctrine.
Lord Salisbury's second note, dated also July 26, deals entirely with the boundary dispute on its merits. He enters into an elaborate history of the British claim, founded on the Dutch cession, tells how the celebrated Schomburgk line was run, dwells on many concessions offered by Great Britain to Venezuela to reach an arrangement and suggests that the Venezuelan insistence upon the arbitration of the whole territory would be paralleled by a refusal of Great Britain to arbitrate the Alaskan boundary line, unless half of Alaska were thrown into arbitration.

APPLAUSE IN THE SENATE.
The President's Message Receives an Unusual Demonstration of Approval.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—When the President's message reached the Senate, Mr. Morgan, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, examined it and then moved to go into executive session.
At 1 o'clock the Senate resumed its legislative session and the message of the President was laid before the body. The executive session, it was explained officially, had been devoted to the consideration of nominations.
As the reading of the message closed there was a hearty hand-clapping from all quarters of the chamber. Mr. Chandler of New Hampshire, leading in the demonstration on the Republican side. It was an innovation to the usual decorum of the senate, where the senators seldom, if ever, give vent to their feelings by applause. Veterans of the senate say that it was the most spontaneous demonstration in their recollection.
The message and accompanying documents were referred to the committee on foreign relations, and then at 1:15 o'clock the senate adjourned.

Tracey Introduces Bills.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Among the bills introduced in the house yesterday was one by Mr. Tracey of Missouri to grant a pension to all persons who served ninety days or more in the United States naval or military service during the war of the rebellion, or who were enrolled in any state military organization and served ninety days or more; also assistant surgeons and scouts who served ninety days; also one directing the accounting officers of the treasury to examine certain papers in regard to moneys expended by the state of Missouri to ascertain what sum is due officers and enlisted men of the militia of that state on account of military service in the suppression of the rebellion.

New Quarantine Established.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Secretary Morton has directed a rigid quarantine for all cattle, sheep and other ruminants, and swine, entering this country from any part of South America. The action is the result of the existence of foot and mouth disease, contagious pleuro-pneumonia and other contagious diseases in South America. All meat cattle imported from there hereafter will be quarantined for ninety days. All sheep and other ruminants and swine will be quarantined for fifteen days. Persons contemplating importation of animals will be required to secure a permit from the secretary of agriculture.

A WESTERN INTEREST

IRRIGATORS GATHER IN STATE CONVENTION.

Third Annual Session of the Association at Sidney—Report of the Secretary—Results of Efforts That Have Been Put Forth—Number of Claims Filed for Public Waters—An Educational Society

Irrigation in Nebraska.
The third annual Nebraska state irrigation convention opened at Sidney, Neb., under magnificent auspices, with nearly 1,000 delegates and visitors. The convention was called to order by Joseph Oberfelder, president of the local executive committee, who in a brief address, stated the object of the gathering and the hope that the question which would be presented would meet with a hearty co-operation, not only locally, but of the entire country.
The address of welcome by Mayor Pease was a masterpiece of humor and characteristic of a true western welcome.
After the report of the committee on credentials the chairman, on motion, appointed a delegate from each county to the committee on resolutions.
The report of the secretary was presented, from which the following is taken:
One year ago, by the gracious courtesy of the representatives of this association, the writer became invested with the powers and duties of secretary. The only records accessible were the books, papers and documents containing the report of the second annual convention, and these have been carefully preserved. The history of the first year of our organization, though familiar to all interested in our members, has not been committed to my official care.
"No regular printed report of the last convention has ever been made, for the reason that no funds whatever were at hand to defray the expenses. Many calls have been made for copies of the official report, but aside from condensed newspaper sketches of the convention, the demand has remained unsupplied. Such literature as has been furnished has been distributed at my own expense. The great inquiry has been answered during the year, and no week has passed without correspondence. All expenses for postage, telegrams, stationery, etc., have been paid by the secretary personally, except only such stationery and postage as has been furnished by the convention committee in connection with preparations for this meeting.
"The treasurer, Hon. James Whitehead, writes me that he has not received a cent of funds during his entire term of office, and it goes without saying that the president and secretary, as all officers of our association, serve without salary. If the work that has been performed during the past year and during the past two years by your president should seem to you to merit public approval and support, it may not be out of place here to suggest that the actual necessary printing and postage bills at least should be assured and paid by this organization.
"It would not be strange, under existing circumstances, if little had been accomplished during the year's administration. But fidelity to history requires that a few things be set down to show the effort that has been put forth. The president, Hon. I. A. Fort, has carried on an agitational and educational campaign, extending over every congressional district in this state, and has gone forth as a missionary for the cause of irrigation to Illinois, Indiana and other states. He has kept the public press alive with irrigation information and interviews on the progress of the movement at home and abroad. Every member of our state executive committee favored and worked for the passage of the present Nebraska irrigation law, introduced and championed in the legislature by Senator William R. Akers, now a member of the state board of irrigation. The resolutions that were adopted by the Kearney convention relating to the passage of the district and general irrigation law have been answered by legislation in accordance therewith. Under the new code of irrigation law, pronounced by eminent statesmen to be one of the most carefully framed and practically adapted statutes of recent years in irrigation development, the face of our state has been changed in many places as if by the hand of a master magician. Before one year has passed since the law went into effect forty-five counties have irrigation works of some kind under operation, and before the spring seed time has come again the record will most certainly show the scientific application of water to the soil in more than sixty of our eighty counties of the state.
"Somewhere between 800 and 900 persons have filed their claims to the public waters of the state with the State Board of Irrigation and the coming year will show a large increase over this number. Over 900,000 acres of Nebraska productive soil have been placed under ditch, reservoir or windmill irrigation. The cost of the works already constructed amounts to nearly \$1,500,000, and the total cost when completed will be not less than \$3,500,000. The result has naturally been a large increase in the value of the land brought under the beneficial operations of the new system. Careful estimators now place the increase in land values already apparent from \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000. If one year of active work can produce such prodigious results, only the realm of the reckless dreamer can undertake the unfoldment of the coming decade in the advancement of scientific agriculture in the new empire of the west.
"A delegation of eleven, five of whom were appointed by the governor, represented Nebraska in the fourth National Irrigation convention at Albuquerque, N. M., last September. The resolutions adopted by the second annual convention of our state association relating to future legislation by congress relative to the supervision and control of interstate waters was urged by our delegation and adopted by congress. The congress also adopted a resolution asking an appropriation of \$200,000 for the purpose of paying the cost of a thorough and systematic irrigation survey of the arid and semi-arid areas of the United States, and calling for legislation providing for said survey under the direction of governmental efforts.
"Nebraska was honored by the presi-

DURANT A PLAGIARIST.

Theodore Durant, "the criminal of the century," is a plagiarist as well as a murderer. In literature plagiarism is a capital crime. Soon after Durant had been sentenced he said he had written a poem. The Examiner secured and published it as a literary freak. It now turns out that the "poem" was stolen almost bodily from "Ad Leones," previously published in a religious magazine. The "dearly parallel" clearly shows the fraud of the prisoner. He merely adapted the original poem to his uses by changing a word here and there.—San Francisco Examiner.

Fire! Fire! That Dreadful Cry
Is fraught with import doubly dire to the unhappy man who beholds his dwelling or his warehouse feeding the devouring element uninsured. Happily, most people who can insure—everywhere—insure. Nineteen-tenths of us neglect the preservation of this when it is in palpable jeopardy. Incontinent indigestion, liver complaint, jaundice, inflammation of the kidneys and bladder and malaria are all counteracted by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters.

Three clever shop lifters have been arrested at Scranton, Pa., upon their own confessions.
SINGERS AND ARTISTS GENERALLY are users of "Brown's Bronchial Troches for Hoarseness and Throat Troubles. They afford instant relief.
Every mother should always have at hand a bottle of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. No child of so goodly for pain, weakness, colds, and sleeplessness.

THE MESSAGE APPROVED.
It Created a Great Sensation in Washington.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The message of President Cleveland to Congress transmitting the correspondence between Secretary Olney and Lord Salisbury relative to the Venezuelan boundary dispute created a real sensation in Washington. Nowhere was there a voice lifted in dissent from the doctrine so firmly laid down by the President, but on the contrary there was an outburst of patriotic feeling that must have been highly gratifying to the chief executive.
On the streets, the message was discussed and old veterans of the late war talked exultingly of what they were prepared again to undertake at the call of their country.
In the great hall of the pension building, the employes gathered and with great gusto discussed the "Spangled Banner," and "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."
At the White House messages poured in from every quarter of the country, congratulating the President upon his message. They came from men of all parties and stations.
The matter, of course, was of the greatest interest in diplomatic circles, and the general impression, on a sober second consideration of the notes, was that the matter has not reached a stage where war is imminent, and that the hint of Great Britain's purpose to reopen negotiations with Venezuela, looking to settlement of the dispute between themselves, perhaps may be regarded as the indication of how the whole matter will end.
Minister Andrade of Venezuela secured a copy of the message early in the day, and cabled it, by way of Cuba and Hayti, to his government. The time of transmission is eight hours, and it is felt that its reception at Caracas will be the signal for an enthusiastic demonstration. Mr. Andrade's satisfaction was almost beyond the power of expression. "The message is superb," he said with much enthusiasm. "It is even a surprise to me in its vigor, in the nobility of the sentiments expressed, and in the masterly exposition of the Monroe doctrine. There can be no doubt of misconstruction of its meaning. In my country it can not but arouse the keenest appreciation on the part of the government and the people for this powerful expression of friendship from a strong country in behalf of a comparatively weak one."
Mr. Andrade was asked what the next step of Venezuela would be.
"There is nothing further for us to do. We have announced our policy, and in that we have the co-operation and support of the United States. We are a little more than spectators now."
"Is the plan of a commission to investigate the question and fix the line feasible?" the minister was asked.
"Perfectly so," he replied. "The evidence can readily be furnished, so far as Venezuela is concerned. It will be a laborious work, as the documents and maps are very voluminous, and from many sources, including those of Holland, Spain and other countries, as well as those of Venezuela."

POLICE GUARD CARS.
Philadelphia Street Railway Service in Bad Shape.
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.—Last night not a street car of the Union Traction company was running, though that company controls every line in the city with the exception of two comparatively short cross-town lines. The police were absolutely unable to control the mob violence during the day and the company concluded to shut down at nightfall. Five hundred extra policemen were sworn in by Mayor Warwick last night, and added to the regular force of 2,100.
This morning all of the branches were in effect tied up, although cars with formidable escorts of police made their circuits nearly everywhere of them without molestation. While that the lines were "up" it did not help the situation much as far as the convenience of the riding public was concerned.
The officials of the company declare that they have plenty of men to run the cars if they can get protection for them. On the other hand, the strikers declare that enough skilled men to take their places cannot be obtained.
The strike has proved a windfall of considerable magnitude to the single independent line in the city, which resisted the pressure when the big consolidation of all the other lines was recently affected. The company runs its cars to West Philadelphia on Arch and Vine streets, and in its endeavor to accommodate all the people who wish to patronize it, pressed into service every summer car and even resurrected some which had been permanently sent to the hospital. Every car run is packed to the roof.
The men have almost universal sympathy—not only from conservative citizens who, while deprecating violence, declare that the strikers have right on their side—but from labor unions throughout the country.

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