

# TOLD of the VETERANS

## "O Beautiful, My Country,"

Oh, beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

Oh, beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self control,  
Thy liberty in law!

Oh, beautiful for glory tale  
Of liberating strife,  
When valiantly for man's avail,  
Men lavished precious life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness,  
And every grain divine!

Oh, beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!  
—Katharine Lee Bates in Congregation-  
alist.

## A Closing Scene of the War.

Telling of his capture by the Con-  
federates during the closing days of  
the war, Lieut.-Col. J. A. Watrous  
says:

"That was nearly forty years ago.  
As I recall men and scenes inside the  
Confederate lines—my first experi-  
ence in that direction—I am glad that  
the capture occurred. But for the  
short imprisonment I would not have  
seen a number of men it is a real  
pleasure to think of as they were then  
—men in their prime, some young,  
vigorous, and all great as soldiers and  
grand as men.

"I had two opportunities to see Gen.  
Robert E. Lee, the first time the day  
of the battle and the next day, when  
himself and staff were hurrying with  
anxious faces, to Five Forks, where  
Sheridan's cavalry and the Fifth  
corps were a menace to the heroic  
Confederate army. Less than forty-  
eight hours before I had stood at at-  
tention and saluted our old command-  
er, who fought his last battle on  
Mount McGregor. And now suddenly,  
upon emerging from a forest, our  
party of prisoners was face to face  
with another great general, one  
of the greatest the world has  
ever known. Instinctively a num-  
ber of us came to 'attention' and  
lifted our hats. Gen. Lee, iron gray,  
erect, handsome, gave us a quick  
glance and saluted in return. That  
painting of Gen. Lee is burned on  
memory's plates and no other paint-  
ing of the South's great leader can  
take its place.

"I saw Gen. Longstreet at the head  
of his corps hurrying to the aid of  
Lee. Though I have met him several  
times, I like best to think of him as  
he appeared that day, with a long  
brown beard, a kindly eye and pale  
face, the successor of Stonewall Jack-  
son, if Jackson had a successor. Then  
there was that fiery, fearless bundle  
of nerves and scars, Gen. John B.  
Gordon, who was on the way to take  
command of a wing of that magnifi-  
cent fighting machine, Lee's army of  
Northern Virginia. He was young  
then, under 35, tall, straight, nervous,  
making his eyes do double duty. I  
am glad to have seen Gen. Gordon  
then, at a time when he was spilling  
for a fight; I am glad to have known  
him since. There is a real ache in my  
heart as I think of two new made  
graves in Georgia, in which sleep two  
great soldiers and good men—Long-  
street and Gordon."

## The Silk Dress Balloon.

Even as early as 1862 the Union  
army had been using balloons to ex-  
amine the positions of the Confed-  
erates and even that early the scanty  
resources of the Confederates made

the use of balloons a luxury that  
could not be afforded. While gazing  
enviously upon the handsome balloons  
of the Federals floating serenely at a  
distance that their guns could not  
reach, a Confederate genius suggested  
that all the silk dresses in the Con-  
federacy be got together and made  
into balloons. This was done, and  
soon a great patchwork ship of many  
and varied hues was ready for use.  
There was no gas except in Richmond  
and so the silk dress balloon had to  
be inflated there, tied to an engine  
and carried to where it was to be sent  
up. One day it was on a steamer  
down the James river when the tide  
went out and left the vessel and bal-  
loon on a sandbar. The Federals  
gathered it in and with it the last silk  
dress in the Confederacy. Gen. Long-  
street used to say laughingly that this  
was the meanest trick of the war.—  
Lee and Longstreet, by Helen D.  
Longstreet.

## Nation's Badge of Honor.

One of the most striking G. A. R.  
badges is that of the department of  
Rhode Island. It is made of rolled  
gold plate and blue enamel, and con-  
sists of the state shield suspended by  
two gold chains from a broad pin bar  
bearing the inscription "G. A. R., De-  
partment R. I." Pendent from the



center of the bar is a miniature shield  
bearing the number of the post to  
which the wearer belongs.

## Changes in Ritual.

The commander-in-chief of the  
Grand Army of the Republic an-  
nounces that at the Thirty-eighth Na-  
tional Encampment the Committee on  
Rules and Regulations and Ritual re-  
ported the following changes, which  
were adopted:

On resolution from the Department  
of Minnesota—on page 42 of the Ser-  
vice Book, following the recital by the  
Third Comrade, add:

"The post commander shall then  
step forward and deposit a small  
American flag upon the coffin, saying:  
'In behalf of the Grand Army of the  
unity our late comrade (naming him)  
offered his services during the War  
of the Rebellion, I deposit this flag.'

On resolution from the Department  
of California and Nevada—Comrades  
may bequeath their Grand Army of  
the Republic button to their legal  
heirs, but said heirs are not entitled  
to wear either the button or badge.

On resolution from the Department  
of Illinois—That disbanding posts  
shall turn over to the Department  
headquarters the rituals only, all  
other effects to be deposited with  
such institution as may be selected  
by the post and approved by the de-  
partment commander.

On resolution from the Department  
of Massachusetts—the National En-  
campment, through the Council of Ad-  
ministration, shall have prepared and  
presented to each member of the  
Army Nurses' Association a special  
badge, as a mark of our love and ad-  
miration for their services in the past.

Lucky is the man who receives a  
kick from the left hind foot of a rab-  
bit instead of from either hind foot  
of a mule.—Chicago News.

# BOYS AND GIRLS

## Urchin and Mother.

Whilst walking down a crowded city  
street the other day  
I heard a little urchin to a comrade turn  
and say:  
"Say, Chimmy, lemme tell youse I'd be  
happy as a clam  
if I only wuz de feller dat me mudder  
tinks I am."

"She tinks I am a wonder an' she knows  
her little lad  
Could never mix wit' nuttin' dat wuz  
ugly, mean or bad.  
Oh, lots o' times I sit an' t'ink how nice  
'twould be, gee whiz!  
If a feller wuz de feller dat his mudder  
tinks he is."

My friend, be yours a life of toil or un-  
diluted joy,  
You still can learn a lesson from this  
small, unlettered boy.  
Don't aim to be an earthly saint, with  
eyes fixed on a star,  
Just try to be the fellow that your moth-  
er thinks you are.  
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## Buzz and Buzz-Fizz.

In the game of Buzz, have every one  
sit around in a circle. Have the play-  
ers begin to count "one," "two,"  
"three," and so on up to a hundred or  
so, but always substituting "buzz" for  
the number 7 or any of its multiples—  
14, 21, etc. The instant any one  
makes a mistake he must drop out of  
the game, and the player next to him  
must begin at "one" again. If any  
one forgets his number or gives the  
wrong number after "buzz" he must  
pay a forfeit. This is a tiptop game,  
and will keep everybody entertained.

Buzz-Fizz is like the game of "Buzz"  
—only more difficult. In addition to  
having to say "buzz" in place of the  
number 7 or any of its multiples, the  
players must also say "quack" in place  
of the number 3 or any number in  
which it occurs—for instance, 30 is  
quack-one, 31 is quack-two, etc.

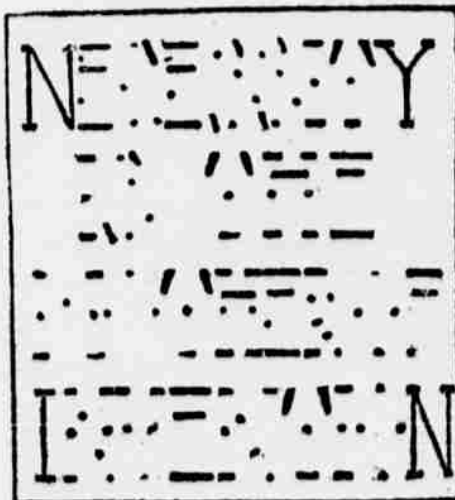
"Fizz" must be used in place of the  
number 5 or any of its multiples. All  
the fifties must begin with "fizz."

And "cockadoodledoo" must be used  
in place of the number 11 or any of its  
multiples.

Counting from 1 up to 15, for exam-  
ple, you see, you must say: One, two,  
quack, four, fizz, quack, buzz, eight,  
quack, fizz cockadoodledoo, quack,  
quack, buzz, quack fizz (for 15 equals  
three times 5).

Observe the same rule for mistakes  
as in the game of "Buzz" and give a  
prize to the best player.

## Unfinished Letters.



Supply the missing parts of letters  
as shown in the four completed let-  
ters. When finished you will have  
made a well-known quotation of six  
words.

## The Magical Cups of Tin.

This little trick, performed in a par-  
lor, will make you appear quite a  
magician. Get beforehand two per-  
fectly plain tin cups, without handles  
and with the bottom sunk about a  
quarter of an inch, and straight sides.  
On the sunk bottom of each put some  
glue, and over it drop some bird-seed,  
so that it looks as if the cup were full,  
whereas it is really standing upside  
down and the layer of seed is glued  
to the outside bottom.

When you are ready to perform the  
trick, have a bag of the same kind of

seed, and, standing off from your aud-  
ience, hold the cups so that they can  
see they are empty, but don't allow  
anyone to approach you.

Now take one cup and dip it into  
the bag of seed, but instead of filling  
it, turn it upside down, so that when  
you take it out the seed glued to the  
bottom will show, and everyone will  
think it is full.

Place the apparently full cup of  
seed under a hat, but in doing so dex-  
terously turn it so that the empty  
cup is upright and the glued seed at  
the bottom. Don't let your audience  
see this turn.

Now take the other cup, which is  
empty, and let them see you put it  
under another hat, but also turn this  
one so that they do not see you do it.  
This brings the seed to the top and



## Tin Cup Trick.

looks as if the cup were full, and  
when you remove the hat, after pro-  
nouncing some magic words, it will  
look as if the cups had changed  
places.

Remove the cups before anyone has  
a chance to examine them.

## A Laughing Game.

In comment on the physical benefit  
that doctors say comes from a good,  
heartily laugh, is this account of a  
game that is warranted to set a whole  
room in an uproar of merriment.

This is one of the jolliest impromptu  
games that we know of. We mean  
by impromptu that it requires no  
preparation whatever, but may be  
played by a roomful of boys and girls  
the moment it is suggested. And it  
is brimful of fun from start to finish.

Any number of players may take  
part in it. They first select a leader,  
who should be a bright, alert, quick-  
witted boy, who is capable of preserv-  
ing his self-possession while fun and  
laughter is going on around him.

The players seat themselves in a  
circle and the leader takes his place  
in the center. He holds in his hand  
a white handkerchief, which he has  
knotted so as to make it partly solid.

When everything is ready the lead-  
er tosses the handkerchief up in the  
air, and then every player must begin  
laughing. But they must all stop  
laughing by the time the handkerchief  
reaches the floor, and if anyone does  
not stop and the leader catches him  
either laughing or smiling he imposes  
a forfeit or a fine.

Or instead of making the detected  
laughing pay a forfeit he may be re-  
quired to drop out of the circle. If  
played in this way the players drop  
out one after another until only one  
is left, and that one wins the prize.

## The American Eagle.

Our bald eagle, so called because  
the feathers on the top of his head are  
white, was called the Washington  
eagle by Audubon, the great natural-  
ist. Like Washington, he is brave  
and fearless, and as his name and  
greatness are known the world over,  
so can the eagle soar to heights be-  
yond others.

The eagle was adopted as the em-  
blem of the United States in 1785,  
since when it has been used on the  
tips of flagpoles, coins, United States  
seals and on the shield of liberty.