

WHEN PA TAKES CARE OF ME.

When Pa takes care of me,
He says to Ma, "By Jing!
It seems that everything
Comes on me when I've got the most to do,
But I suppose I've got to get it through
With; so you needn't fuss one bit about
Him; I'll take charge of him while you
are out."
But Ma makes him repeat all she has said
About what he's to do; guess she's afraid
To let him try his way
Of watching me, the day
When Pa takes care of me.

When Pa takes care of me,
He puts me on a rug,
He gives me a kiss and hug,
Then brings in every pillow he can find,
And piles them up in front, at sides, behind
Me, "So that you can't hurt yourself,"
he says,
And then he gets me picture books, and lays
Them down beside me, and my blocks
and toys,
And says: "Now go ahead and
make all the noise
You want to: I don't care."
And I sit there and stare,
When Pa takes care of me.

When Pa takes care of me,
No book or toy or game
Seems, somehow, just the same.
And by and by I'm through with every one,
And when I cry Pa says, "Have you begun
Already? What's the matter, anyway?
There's everything you own!
Why don't you play?
Stop crying now! You won't?
Well, what is wrong!
Come, now, I'll sing." And then he starts
some song
About "Bye Baby Bye!"
And I lie flat and cry,
When Pa takes care of me.

When Pa takes care of me,
He grabs me up at last,
And starts to walk, real fast,
And talks to me, and pats my back,
and tries
To act as if he liked it; but he sighs,
And sighs, and keeps a-lookin' at the clock,
And out the window, up and down
the block,
For sight of Ma; and when she does
come in,
She grabs me quick, and says, "It is a sin!"
And Pa looks mad, and—I—
I'm glad the time's gone by
When Pa takes care of me.

—Francis Churchill Williams,
in August "New Lippencott."

Instinct in a Bird.

A traveler relates that while passing through a small forest in Brazil he was attracted by the rapidly-uttered cries of alarm of a bird, and, wishing to learn the cause, he made his way to the tree whence he thought the sounds proceeded, and, looking up, saw that a serpent was slowly winding itself up toward a nest of unfledged little ones. While watching its movements the male parent bird arrived, who, circling twice or thrice over the top of the tree, swiftly darted further away into the forest, and in a few seconds returned with a large leaf in its little mouth, which it instantly placed over the nest, and then flew up higher. Meantime the serpent wound itself slowly up the tree and reached the nest, but, on putting its head over the side, quickly started back, descended the tree, and was lost in the under-wood. The traveler, being deeply interested in the singular incident, afterwards learned from some of the natives that the leaf of a certain tree is a deadly poison to the serpent. How had the bird acquired a knowledge of this? What mortal can say? What philosopher can explain?

THE HORRORS OF ST. DOMINGO.
It Was Just a Hundred Years Ago That They Occurred.

An hundred years ago the island of St. Domingo was the fairest and richest in the western hemisphere, says the Hartford Courant. For fifty years it had been growing in production and wealth more rapidly than any other European colony in America. It was the emporium of the western world. It filled the coffers of Europe from the exuberant fertility of its soil and well earned its title of "La Reine des Antilles."

The French portion—one third only—was the most productive, and the value of its products was estimated at 175,000,000 francs—an increase of 100,000,000 francs in a quarter of a century—a sum which represented the measure of toil exacted by human slavery. The population of the colony was 570,000. Of this number 40,000 were whites of all classes, 30,000 were mulattoes or free people of color, 500,000 were negro slaves. Among the white was a class of vagabonds scattered throughout the colony, a worthless set on which the mulattoes bestowed the epithet of "les petits blancs." The African slave trade was at its height at this period. More than 300 vessels left the coast of Africa laden with their human freight in chains; 15,000 annually perished on the passage; 20,000 yearly found their way into the slave marts of Saint Domingo.

The revolution in France created political disturbances and differences among the whites in the colony. The people of color claimed equal rights with the whites; their claims were rejected, their leaders were arrested, tried, and put to death. They turned to the negroes for aid. These had been quiet witnesses of this war of caste. They were now awakened by a sense of their own condition. They joined with the people of color, and insurrection began on the night of Aug. 21, 1791. Incendiary fires broke out in several plantations in the plains of the north. The negroes, under the lead of one of their number, a fearless giant named Boukman, now commenced to plunder and burn indiscriminately. By the 26th one-third of the plantations in the great plain were in ashes. In a week the whole plain was swept by fire. The desolation and ruin was almost complete from the sea to the mountains. The soil ran with the blood of the unhappy planters and their families. Thus began that series of events and disasters known in history as the "Horrors of Saint Domingo," events and disasters which resulted in the loss to France of her richest colony and the establishment in 1804 of the free black government of Hayti.

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