

Young America.

LEAD PENCIL.

The first thing I remember, I was in a deep, dark place. Never in that long, long time saw I the sun's bright face. But finally I was displaced from out my rocky bed. And if I say it—truly, since, an awful life I've led. I was rolled and hammered and heated, then put in a wooden case. And started off on a journey to find my resting place. What is that, now, my friend? What did I hear you say? You never saw me? Pshaw, you use me every day.

NELLIE KELSEY.

LIGHTNING BUG.

When darkening clouds are overhead, My first lights up the skies. My second may do harm or good,— Is called a pest, but it soon dies. My whole is seen on summer nights, And to the darkness lends its lights.

NELLIE KELSEY.

FROM OUR YOUNG AMERICANS.

Bubble Over—I am deeply interested in the collection of minerals, relics and natural specimens of all kinds. I think it is a source of much interest and pleasure and offers a good chance for the study of geology and natural science. It is my desire and ambition to procure specimens from all parts of the Union, Canada and other countries, and from places of public or national interest. I think were the Young Americans to engage in something like the above and write more about their homes and surroundings, giving nice, breezy sketches of interesting places or pleasant outings or excursions they have visited or participated in, the Y. A. page would soon fairly bubble over with enthusiasm and good things.—[W. Arthur Good.

Always Busy—I live in Washington's words. You may think it is very lonesome, but it is not. I like the big trees, and most of all the flowers. I have a brother to play with, my lessons to study and the dishes to wipe, so you see I am always busy. My papa is a subscriber to F & H and I enjoy reading the letters very much.—[Myrtle Florness (Ten), Washington.

Wheel and Organ—I am in the fifth grade and like to go to school very much. I have read this paper quite a while and would not like to be without it. I have a wheel and I like to ride. I have an organ also. I spent a week of July in Detroit and had a very pleasant time.—[Nina Walker (Eleven), Michigan.

"Awfully Well"—I live in the extreme southern part of Colorado, adjoining Utah, one of the most interesting parts of the world. My three favorite books are Janice Meredith, Richard Carvel and David Harum. My favorite poet is Longfellow. I am not much of a hand for music. I am not very tall and weigh 132 lbs. I study White's Complete arithmetic. My brother has a little pony that I like to ride. I have three sisters and one brother. I like to recite awfully well, and intend to be a speaker on woman's rights. I raise Belgian hares. I think it is a fine way of making money. Mamma, I am but one year older than you, but I think it is all right to go out in company with other boys and girls. I go with my brother and my parents and with a crowd. Sarah Adams, I wish you were my sister. I agree with you in everything you mentioned.—[Cowgirl, m Colorado.

Author—I live in town in winter because there is no school I can go to in the country. We are having a new schoolhouse built now. I am in the tenth grade. I would like to be an artist or an actress. Mamma thinks I will be an author.—[Trixie (Fourteen), Nebraska.

Summer—I live in a little village two miles from the Pacific ocean and I go in bathing lots of times. I like to listen to the breakers at night. My favorite authors are Louisa Alcott, Martha Finley and Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. I don't approve of kissing, but I think it's lots of fun to write notes

in school. The teacher doesn't seem to think so, though. I have got four subscribers for the F & H already, and I expect to get more. We have an organ and I can play a little bit, but not very much. Pennsylvania Farmer Boy, how would you like to live where I do? It is summer about all the year around, and no snow at all. I will sign my name as—[Jean, California.

Help—Githel, I like you, like to read good books. Last year I read 32 books. I would rather live in the country than in the city. Miss Avis E. Wellman, I am not afraid to help on the farm. We have two cows and I sell the milk. I can also harness the horse and hitch it into the buggy and drive the horse. We have an organ and I have been taking lessons on it, but I do not care to learn music at all. I have three brothers and three sisters.—[Milkmaid.

Wonderland—I always like when reading from the pen of anyone, to know their name and where from. Doubtless others do the same. I live in southern Ohio, eight miles from the famous Serpent mound in Adams county, and two miles from Fort Hill, in Ohio's wonderful Highland county. [Ethel M. Smith.

Spiteful—Looking over the columns of the F & H, my eye caught the words "Fretful Midget," and as that is my name, I at once read what was said of me. No, I did not go to the city last summer, but am there now, attending school, and like it real well. I have almost given up the idea of being a clerk. For if the readers asked our advice whether they should go to school and obtain an education, or stay on a farm and work. My advice to all is, go to school, by all means. Cause one who has not an education in this day and age of the world is classed with the ignorant set of people. Putato Pete, why are you so spiteful? Are you not aware that it is wrong to be so revengeful? Take my advice, readers, and do not center all of your hope, joy and love on anyone, for if you do you will suffer more than words can tell. If they should happen to prove untrue, which is often the case. My girl ideal is one who is cold and haughty at, who does not fall in and out of love every new moon. How many of the Councilors are interested in elocution?—[Fretful Midget.

Ira's Poem—I live on a farm of 160 acres. My teacher's name is George M. Tedrick. I will close in a rhyme.

Once there was a little boy
Who said he had a little horse.
But his mamma said it was a toy,
And he believed it, of course.
[Ira Holdeman (Nine).

Measles—I have a sister 16 years old and we live in the city. I have had the measles and I don't think they are very nice. We had four cute little kitties and gave them all away.—[Hazel Carpenter (Ten), New York.

"Auntie"—I am 5 ft 3 in tall and have brown hair and gray eyes. I am 15 years old. Little Auntie, I am left-handed, too, and have been auntie just as many times as you have and like to read as well as you do. I had a gold pen given to me the last day of school for good behavior during the term. How many of you have read St Elmo and At the Mercy of Tiberius? I have and think they are the best books I ever read.—[Maggie Spark, North Dakota.

Not Ashamed—Little Griffin, I too am a farmer's daughter and am not ashamed of it, either. I have boarded in the city nearly eight months. I liked it very much, but prefer the country.—[Sylvia Rymer (Seventeen), New York.

Canadians—Are Canadians included with the Young Americans? If so I think I will write a little. I live about two miles west of Niagara Falls. I go there quite often. I am 14 years old and have a piano and a bicycle. [Pearl Gray.

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