

## YOUNG FOLKS.

## AN OLD NEGRO'S PHILOSOPHY.

De man what tells de truf wid er effort is nine times outen ten er easy liar.

De eye often misleads people. De hawk's got a better eye den de game rooster.

Yer ken impose on er enemy an' he doan't think much about it, but when yer imposes on er dear frien' he is dun wid yer fur life.

Er man may larn ter lub er 'oman but e' chile kain't larn ter lub his fodder an' mudder. Ef de lub an't born dar it ain't gwine ter come.

De wildes' man sometimes becomes de quietest citizen. Dar ain't nothin' more skittish den a young deer, but once ketch him an' he is de easies' thing in de worl' ter tame.

It 'peers dat all through life de hardest thing ter do is de bes' arter it am done. It takes de hardes' sorter work ter split er knotty piece o' wood, but arter it is split it makes de bes' fire.

Some chillun kain't be teached how ter berhabe darselves. Yer may take de wile turkey's aigs an' hatch 'em out un'er de tamest turkey in de lan', but jes' ez soon ez de young ones gits big eruff da will rise an' fly erway.—*Arkansas Traveller.*

## THE SOUP.

A coachman suddenly raised to the post of waiter at a dinner party, when a sudden resignation had left the place vacant within an hour of the assembling of the guests, was delighted. The host was delighted to find that an old dress coat and vest would fit the coachman, and ten minutes were spent in acquainting the servant with the usages of polite society at a dinner. Among other things, the host told the coachman that he was on no account to ask any of the guests to be helped a second time to soup. The guests took their place at table, and the soup was quite creditably served. The coachman observed that one gentleman pushed his plate of soup away from him. The servant leaned over and drew the plate back again in front of the gentleman, who in turn pushed it from him again. This displeased the coachman. He thought he saw a breach of decorum in the action. "Ate your soup, sorr?" said he, in trumpet tones, "yez'll get no more."

## CHINESE GIRLS AND MATRIMONY.

Our American girls occasionally commit suicide through disappointment at not getting married, but it will surprise them to learn that the Chinese young ladies have such a dread of the matrimonial chain that they frequently prefer death to marriage. "Of all people," said Confucius, "women are the most difficult to manage. If you are familiar with them they become forward, and if you keep them at a distance they become discontented." So many are the disabilities of married women that many girls prefer going into Buddhist or Taoist nunneries, or even committing suicide, to trusting their future to men of whom they can know nothing but from the interested reports of the go-between.

Archdeacon Gray, in his work on China, states that in 1878 eight young girls, residing near Canton, "who had been affianced drowned themselves in order to avoid marriage. They clothed themselves in their best attire, and at 11 o'clock, in the darkness of the night, having bound themselves together, they threw themselves into a tributary stream of the Canton river."

## A MINING CAMP IN '49.

The mines put all men for once on a level. Clothes, money, manners, family connections, letters of introduction, never before counted for so little. The whole community was given substantially an even start in the race. Gold was so abundant, and its sources seemed for a time so inexhaustible that the aggrandizing power of wealth was momentarily annihilated. Social and financial inequalities between man and man were together swept out of sight. Each stranger was welcomed and told to take a pan and pick, and go to work for himself. The richest miner in camp was seldom able to hire a servant; those who had been glad to serve others were digging in their own claims. The veriest greenhorn was as likely to uncover the richest mine in the gulf as was the wisest of ex-professors of geology; and, on the other hand, the best claim on the river might suddenly give out and never again yield a dollar.

The poorest man in the camp could have a handful of gold dust for the asking from a more successful neighbor to give him an other start and help "hunt for better luck." No one was ever allowed to suffer; the treasure vaults of the Sierra were too near and seemingly too exhaustless. "To a little camp of 1848"—so an old miner writes me—"a lad of 16 came one day, footsore, weary, hungry and penniless. There were thirty robust and cheerful miners at work in the ravine, and the lad sat on the bank watching them a while in silence, his face telling the sad story of his fortunes. At last one stalwart miner spoke to his fellows, saying: "Boys, I'll work an hour if you will." At the end of the hour \$100 worth of gold dust was laid in the youth's handkerchief. The miners made out a list of tools and necessaries. "You go," they said, "and buy these and come back. We'll have a good claim staked out for you. Then you've got to paddle for yourself." Thus genuine and unconventional was the hospitality of the miners' camp.—*The Mining Camp.*

## THE LIFE OF AN OYSTER.

The oyster, when first born, is only a minute dot, scarcely visible to the naked eye, says the *New York Cook*. As quickly as possible when he realizes that he is afloat, he makes himself fast to something; anything will do for an anchorage, a lump of coal or stone, an old shell, or a stick, or a big house of some old oyster. Once fixed, the young oyster busies himself in summer with growing, but that only. What he does to occupy his mind in winter nobody has yet discovered, but it is affirmed that he does not grow then. When the warm, calm days of June come, the oyster opens his shell, and by means of his beard begins building an additional story to his house. This he does by depositing very fine particles of carbonate of lime, till at last they form a substance as thin as silver paper and exceedingly fragile. Gradually it gets thicker, and the distinct lines on the shell mark the years the bivalve has lived, just as the ring in the section of a trunk of a tree denote the years of its growth. His "beard" is both a feeling and a breathing apparatus. While he is so young that his shells are invisible, one can see, under a powerful microscope, the action of the heart which beats as regularly as that of a grown person and quite rapidly. Later in life to the casual observer he seems more stomach than anything else. It is not as generally known as it should be that he has valuable medicinal qualities. Oysters are not only nutritious, but wholesome, especially in cases of indigestion. It is said, "there is no

elementary substance, not even excepting bread, that does not produce indigestion under certain circumstances—but oysters never." Oyster juice promotes digestion. By taking oysters daily, indigestion, supposed to be almost incurable, has been cured; in fact they are to be regarded as one of the most healthful articles of food known to man. Invalids who have found all other kinds of food disagree with them, frequently discover in the oyster the required aliment. Raw oysters are highly recommended for hoarseness. Many of the leading vocalists use them regularly before concerts and operas.

## CLAMS, HOGS AND CROWS.

Clams are very abundant at the mouth of Frazer river, Washington territory. When the tide is out, the hogs that are pastured in the adjoining woods rush down the bank and begin rooting in the sand for the luscious bivalves. No sooner are the hogs down the bank than crows light upon their shoulders, and no sooner are the clams uncovered than the birds snatch them and fly away. They get over a rock, and dropping the clams, immediately dart down after them. If the shells are not broken the first time, they ascend higher and let them fall again. This account is from a San Francisco paper.

## BARNUM'S IDEA.

I will undertake and give bonds for the fulfillment of the contract that if the city of Philadelphia will stop selling liquor, and give me as much as was expended here for liquor last year to run the city next year, I will pay all the city expenses; no person in her borders shall pay taxes, there shall be no insurance on property, a good dress suit shall be given to every poor boy, girl, man or woman; all the educational expenses shall be paid; a barrel of flour shall be given to every needy and worthy person, and I will clear a half-million or a million dollars by the operation.—*P. T. Barnum, San Luis Obispo (California), Standard.*

## ORIGIN OF THE POSTAGE STAMP.

Few people perhaps realize of how recent origin is the postage stamp. It was first issued by Great Britain in 1840. Brazil was the first nation to follow the example, which they did in 1844, and in 1847 the United States began the use of postage stamps. It is estimated now that every year some 50,000,000,000 letters are posted in the world. America leads with about 2,500,000,000, and England follows with 700,000,000. Japan now mails annually 95,000,000 letters. Last year there were 26,000 letters posted in England without any address upon them. In 1,600 of these gold coins and money were enclosed.

## CURIOSITIES.

"Did you divide that chocolate with your little brother?" asked Mrs. Fizzletop of her greedy little Johnny. "Yes, ma." "Did you divide it fairly?" "Yes, ma, I ate the chocolate and gave him the paper with the pretty pictures. He likes to look at the pictures."

To take ink stains out of table cloths, napkins, etc., put the article to soak immediately in thick sour milk, changing the milk as often as necessary.

A little girl attending church last Sunday with her mother was given the change to put in the collection box. After it had been passed around, the little girl looked up and said, "Ma, I paid for four, was that right?"

## GEORGIA'S COMMON SCHOOLS.

In the rural districts in the State of Georgia, three months constitute the school year, and it requires the most rigid economy to keep them going three months with the present appropriation. All the cities and the enterprising towns supplement their pittance from the state school funds by local taxation and maintain excellent schools for about nine months in the year.

## QUERIES.

MR. EDITOR.—As you have invited letters from subscribers on any subject I have taken the liberty to ask a few questions.

1st. What is "Corpus Christi," when is it, and how should the word be pronounced? 2nd. How are Calidarium, Lodogran, Torquemada, Canchard, pronounced; and what is the meaning of Calidarium? 3rd. What does "Tegner's Drapa," mean and how should it be pronounced?

## KING MAY.

[As we intimated some weeks ago we will insert questions sent us by subscribers, and invite answers.]

ANSWER TO PUZZLE.—Put 54 in Roman letters and you have LIV. The addition of an E makes LIVE.

ANSWERS TO GEOGRAPHICAL PUZZLES in last week's paper:—

Brest, Hull, Toulouse, Toulon, Cork, Dublin, (Doubling) Cleveland, Stirling, Sedan, Brighton (Brighten), Rome. Because it is Belfast.

## OUR TERMS.

The annual subscription price of the *Weekly Messenger* is fifty cents, except in Montreal city, where twenty-five cents extra is necessarily charged for delivery.

## THE OFFER OF THE SEASON!

The Montreal *Witness* is now completing the Fortieth Year of its publication, and the publishers are making the occasion memorable by issuing "ANNIVERSARY PICTURES" to its subscribers. Sample copies of the papers, with full particulars of the various *Witness* competitions and prizes, will be sent to any address on application.

Any one of the three subjects which may be preferred will be sent to every new subscriber and to every old subscriber who renews before his subscription runs out. All THREE pictures will be sent to everyone sending four or more new subscriptions along with his own. And if the subscriber only sends one, two, or three new subscriptions with his own, he may choose any TWO of the pictures,—each of the new subscribers also having his choice of one of the pictures.

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