

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Sparrow's Song.

How bright is the sun today.
My life is so happy.
I am a bird, I am free,
He gives me a world of joys,
With a song, like a lark,
I fly where I please.
I have a home in the winter,
With a nest in the tree,
Were it not for the people
I could sing all day.
At the first sign of spring,
I fly to the south land,
With the sun and the birds,
In the gay, gay time.
I have a home in the winter,
With a nest in the tree,
But the people are here,
And I must fly away.
It is so cold and dreary,
I have many a hard foot-pace,
And this is more than frost.
These are the reasons why
Mother Nature sends us to you,
But a little while ago
Winter had fallen to the ground.
Book of Transcripts

How Mother Nature's Children Helped the Spring.

'Cher, cher, sing the little brown bird in the old oak tree. 'Spring is coming surely.'

'I do believe you've told me that fifty times to-day,' remarked the oak tree, rather crossly. 'I can hardly keep my baby-buds from throwing off their gum coats; for they have heard so many stories that spring is coming they are beginning to think that it must be half over. It must be too early for them to take off winter coats. Look at the snow on the ground! Wasn't Jack Frost out last night? Didn't you see Johnnie playing with his sled yesterday? Tell me, are these signs of spring?'

'Cher, cher, sing the little brown bird in the old oak tree.'

The sun is bright and warm today.
The snow on the ground is melted away.
Frogs wade deep from their tight brown houses.
The trees are bursting all through the woods.
I am so happy. I am so glad.
Sweet, sweet is the sunshine.
Sweet, sweet is the spring.

'Well,' said Mother Oak, after pondering this, 'perhaps I might let my babies at least throw aside their warm coats; but I will not consent to taking them quite off till I see the last of that snowbank down under the fence.'

Every day the sun shone warmer. Little by little the snow melted, till at last there remained only a tiny patch under a dark corner of the fence.

'Really, I see no excuse for your staying so late this year,' said the oak tree, severely. 'Your work is over. Come out a little way, where the sunshine can turn you into snow-water, and use you to some purpose.'

'Never,' answered the little snowdrift, 'will I consent to be anything but what I have been all my life. I hold a very high position on this bank, and I wish you to know that the snowflakes of which I am composed are all six-pointed stars. I believe it to be my duty to maintain the dignified position I have always held.'

'Everything must change,' said the oak tree. 'It is leaves one time and bare boughs the next. Snow one season, then flowers again. Little white friend, you must change, too, else you will hinder the work of the spring, and be unsightly, out of place. What is the joy of living but to be of use?'

The little snowdrift did not answer; and Mother Oak, shaking her boughs disapprovingly, gave up the attempt to convince her.

'Cher, cher, sing the merry brown bird, lighting on the fence.'

How bright is the sun today.
My life is so happy.
I cannot but sing.

'Is the spring here?' called tiny voices from the ground. 'Ah! if we only had some moisture for our hard brown coats I think we could peep out and see!'

'I dreamed,' whispered one soft voice, 'that over our bed was still a white snow blanket.'

'It cannot be,' sang a chorus, like tiny silver bells. 'We feel the sun's warm rays even through the ground. It must be the spring is here. Oh! Mother Nature, help us to arise!'

The lonely snowdrift drew as far as possible from the sunbeams' warmth, but she was nevertheless softened, and began to wonder if, after all, there might not be something rather pleasant in these new ways.

'Everything does seem so happy,' she murmured. 'Oh, well! I have got.'

lived my usefulness. I am too old to learn new ways.'

'Are the raindrops near?' sighed the same little voice. 'O raindrops, come with our brown coats, we pray. Mother Nature is calling us, but we cannot push through the ground.'

'Here is some work you can do,' whispered a soft, warm breeze, stealing into the dark corner, 'help these little flowers, and so help the spring.'

'I believe I will,' said the snowdrift, creeping a little further from the fence.

I should like to be of use once more. Oh, I wish I had come before! How warm! How delightful! And now the snowdrift, transformed into a tiny stream of water, was hurrying out to join the rivulet at the foot of the bank.

Some days later the oak tree leaned over to see if the last trace of winter had disappeared.

Where the snow had lain so long was now the blue of violets, while from the rivulet near came the murmur of a song in which Mother Oak thought she could discern the voice of the little snowdrift:

The dear Lord gave me my work to do.
In spring to awaken the violet tree.
In winter a blanket of snow I spread.
Now onward I go, waded and free.
Finding new work still awaiting me.

Mary H. Wilson, in Christian Intelligencer.

Look Up.

Somewhere I have seen a very beautiful picture of an Angel and a miner. The miner was bent down searching in the mire and the gravel for little shining particles of gold. For a long time he had been searching for his hair was gray, deep furrows of care were on his face, and his hands were knotted with the toil. He looked so old and tired, I wondered if this day's disappointment would not be the last. Just above him stood an Angel. It wore a sad, sweet look of pity, for through all these years it had stood there holding out to the poor miner a crown of shining gold. There forever it reached, free for the taking, was that crown of gold, but the miner never looked up.

As my heart ached at thinking what that poor fellow missed by not looking up, I thought how often are we all like him. Always bent down searching the mirey clay and scutts for shining bits of wealth, or pleasure, or honor, while just above us Opportunity, one of God's angels, holds the golden crown in his hand.

The best opportunities are always above. Our feet, perchance, must be in the clay but our hearts and heads should be lifted above.

We must look up from our drudgery to see the beauty of the hills and of his heaven.

We must lift up our souls before we can catch the music of the spheres, the songs of angels.

The soul's freedom lies above the sand and the clay.

Best of all the beautiful city and the crown that is waiting for us is up above this earth and its strivings, but, it is in reach of the hand of faith.

Look up brother, and take what the Angel is offering to you.—*Mr. Wm. H. Hamby.*

Habit.

A habit is formed in the same way that paths or roads are. You often see people "cutting across lots." Where they do this, a narrow strip of grass about a foot or fourteen inches wide, will be trodden hard; and is a path. It is made by being walked over again and again.

You can soon get into the habit of doing a thing if you do it over-and-over many times. The more you do it the easier it will become. Just as a path grows wider and plainer the more it is traveled. It is hard to keep people from going across lots after a path is once made; and so it is hard to stop doing what we have fallen into the habit of doing. It will not be easy for you to do well after you have once learned to do wrong.

Bad habits are like the ruts made by carriage-wheels in country roads—they hold people fast. I once read of an old man who had crooked fingers. When a boy, his hand was as limber as yours. He could open it easily, but for fifty years he drove a stage, and his fingers got so in the habit of shutting down on the lines that they finally stayed shut.

The old man's hand can never open—

Doing Little Things Just Right.

"I had two other boys," said a business man, "whose main duty was to bring me notes or cards that were sent to me, or to fetch things that I wanted to use. One of these boys, when sent for a book or anything heavy, would walk rapidly by my desk and toss it to me, and land on the desk, he seemed to think it was all right. If it fell on the floor, he always managed to fall over it in his eagerness to pick it up. If he had a letter or card to deliver, he would come up to the desk, and stand there, scanning it with minute care. This being concluded, he would slip it away in my direction and depart.

"The other boy always came and went so that I could hardly hear him. If he brought a book, ink-stand, or box of letters, he would set it down quietly at one side of the desk. Letters and cards were always laid, not tossed, right where my eye would fall on them directly. If there were any doubt in my mind whether he ought to lay a letter on my desk or deliver it to some other person in the office, he always did his thinking before he came near me, and did not stand annoyingly at my elbow studying the letter. That boy understood the science of little things. When New Year's Day came, he got ten dollars. The other boy was discharged."

Cool.

How the coolness of one man sometimes acts on his companions, seemingly depriving them of fear, is shown in a story that belongs to the war in Syria, and the British attack on Sidon.

During that attack, says the Argonaut, the British troops had to advance across a long unprotected bridge, in the face of a battery of six guns, which completely commanded the approach. The men were unwilling to expose themselves to certain death till one soldier, Cummings, by name, a man in faultless uniform, stepped forward to the middle of the bridge.

The bridge was immediately swept by the fire of the battery. When the smoke cleared away, Cummings was seen standing uninjured, carefully brushing the dust from his boots, after which he adjusted a single garter to his eye, and looked back at the men. This was too much. They took the bridge and the battery with a whoop.

Grand Trunk Railway.

TRAINS LEAVE BELLEVILLE STATION

WEST 4:15 a.m., 4:20 p.m., 6:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m.,

2:20 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

EAST 1:30 a.m., 4:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m.

MARIE AND PETERSON'S BRANCH—3:30 a.m.,

11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

TO PATENT GOOD IDEAS

may be secured by our aid. Address,

THE PATENT RECORD,

Baltimore, Md.

DEAF AGENTS

GOOD MONEY

Selling the handsome

illustrated 32 page

booklet, "The Deaf

Prayer in the Sign

Language." They

are sold at 15 cents each,

and interest bearing

orders/people old or

young. Our agents

say, "They sell like hot

cakes." Write free for

catalogue and terms to agents and trade.

For agents and trade.

AGENTS WANTED. Conn. Magazine Co., Hartford, Conn.

MONEY TO PATENT GOOD IDEAS

may be secured by our aid. Address,

THE PATENT RECORD,

Baltimore, Md.

Uneducated Deaf Children.

I WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE EVERY PERSON who receives this paper send me the names and post-office addresses of the parents of deaf children not attending school, who are known to them, so that I may forward their particular cases to this institution and inform them what aid by what means their children can be instructed and furnished with a education.

R. MATHISON,

Superintendent

TORONTO DEAF-MUTE ASSOCIATION.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES are held as follows:

every Sunday:

West End Y. M. C. A., Corner Queen Street and

Waterloo Road, at 11 a.m.

And Y. M. C. A. Hall, cor. Yonge and McGill

Streets, at 10 a.m.

General Central, opposite St. George's Church, at 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. John's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

St. James' 10 a.m.

St. Peter's, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

</div