

## Young Folks.

### SORE POINTS.

The pencil heaved a weary sigh, and murmured to the pen, "I haven't felt so out of sorts since—oh, I don't know when!"

"The penknife treats me very ill, it cuts me in the street, and really is extremely sharp. Whenever we chance to meet."

"And when I broke the other day beneath its bitter stroke, I said 'it didn't see the point,' neither did I the joke!"

"With many troubles I'm depressed, my heart just feels like lead." The pen murmured to the ink—"I weep for you," it said.

### AN ENGLISH BOY HERO.

While a boy bugler in England's Fifth Lancers has been rewarded for his pluck at the battle of Elands-laagte, there is one boy whose grit in England's Crimean War made him a name that has lasted even to this day.

This boy, whose name was Thomas Keep, went with the English army to the heights of Alma, preserving the most undaunted demeanor throughout the battle. Shot and shell fell about him like hail; but, notwithstanding the weariness of the day, present dangers or the horrid sight, the boy's heart beat with tenderness toward the wounded. Instead of going into a tent to take care of himself after the battle, he was seen venturing his life for the good of his comrades stepping carefully over one body after another, collecting all the broken muskets he could find, and making a fire in the night to procure hot water. He made tea for the sufferers, and saved the life of a sergeant and several of the private soldiers who were lying nearly exhausted from want. At Balaklava, again, he assisted the wounded. He did his duty by day and worked in the trenches by night, taking but little rest. A German he was surrounded by Russians about 30 minutes, and, to use his own words, "thought it was all over with him." He received one shot, which passed through his coat and out at the leg of his trousers, but he was unhurt. He helped, with all the bravery of a man, to get in the wounded. He waited on the doctor when extracting the shot from the man, and, before and after, he said they would not have been alive now had it not been for this boy's unwearied watchfulness and kindness in their hours of helplessness.

### STEVENSON AND CHILDREN.

Edmund Gosse, an English writer, has a charming paper on Robert Louis Stevenson in his relations to children in a recent number of the Youth's Companion. Mr. Gosse is an especial admirer of "A Child's Garden of Verse," and has this to say about one of the notable little poems contained in the volume.

"Everyone recollects and delights in 'The Land of Counterpane,' which begins:

When I was sick and lay abed,  
I had two pillows at my head,  
And all my toys beside me lay  
To keep me happy all the day.

All this, we may say, is the imaginative experience of a sick child, but the very close of Stevenson's life he was accustomed to make up adventures as he lay in bed very still, forbidden to speak or move, propped up on pillows, with the world of fancy before him.

He had related a great deal of the temperament of a child, and it was his philosophy to encourage it. When his illness was more than commonly heavy upon him he used to contrive little amusements for himself. He played on a flute, or he modelled little figures and groups in clay, but he could not always be doing this, and when his fingers were tired, he lay gazing down on the white world which covered him, and imagined that armies were marching over the hills of his knees or ships coming to anchor between the blanket and sheet. Toward the end of his life, he complained that he could not care any more about the Land of Counterpane, and to those who knew him best this seemed quite a serious sign of impaired vitality.

### A TRUE HERO.

Sometimes it required more bravery to do a little thing all alone than to do some great thing in company with others. Thus a soldier may be a hero on the field of battle, but lack the courage to stand up alone on a platform and make a speech.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, in his essay on "Heroism," says that genuine heroism is persistence. As an illustration he tells how his little son Waldo on his way to school had to pass a house where lived a French family. The child heard the family talking their native language, which he could not understand, and that made him have a sort of superstitious fear of them. So Mr. Emerson used to walk to and from school with the little fellow.

But one day he decided that the child was old enough to overcome his fear and pass the house of the French family by himself. He went to school with the lad and told him that he must return alone.

After school was dismissed Waldo walked manfully toward home until he had nearly reached the French house. Then he stopped, and, leaning against the fence, began to whimper. Miss Elizabeth Hooper, his neighbor, saw him and went to the rescue. "Come, Waldo, I am going your way and you can walk with me," she said.

The child looked up fearfully into her eyes a moment and then said in the most doleful voice: "I don't think that was what my father meant for me to do." Then he trudged on by himself.

## TRIFLES SAVED ARMIES.

### SOME MOST EXTRAORDINARY FOR- WARNINGS.

Fishes, Crabs and Guerillas Have Proved More Valuable Than Howitzers.

One of the most remarkable festivals in the world is that held annually at midsummer in the city of San Domingo in the West Indies, when every inhabitant deems it incumbent upon him to decorate his house with the shells—often richly gilt and garlanded—of the

### LARGE LAND-CRABS

so abundant in the neighbourhood. The women-folk also through the streets, attired in their best clothes, and wearing as jewellery gold and silver reproductions of the ungainly creatures; while, to crown all, a huge specimen used, until quite recently, to be led captive through the principal thoroughfares, the inhabitants saluting it as it passed with respectful and reverent gravity. The origin of this extraordinary custom is said to have been the good service once rendered to the citizens by the progenitors of the crabs in question, in scaring away a body of English cavalry, the clattering of their claws and shells being mistaken for the sound made by Spanish cavalry.

A somewhat similar story is also told concerning the gigantic tropical fireflies which swarm in the forests and cane-brakes of most of the larger West Indian islands. A body of buccanniers, headed by the notorious Thomas Cavendish, were contemplating a descent upon the coast-towns of Hayti, and had actually put off in their boats for that purpose. As they approached the land, however, rowing with muffled oars they were greatly surprised to see an infinite number of moving lights in the woods which fringed the bay up which they had to proceed, and concluding that the Spaniards knew of their approach, they put about, and regained their ships without

### ATTEMPTING TO LAND.

Ostriches, when seen at a distance, look exactly like irregular cavalry scouting in an order. It was this peculiarity in their appearance which saved an entire British force from annihilation during the Boer War of 1881. The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers were advancing in column across the veldt, near where the town of Durban now stands, when a flock of these ungainly birds was descried in the distance, moving in and out among a cluster of kopjes on their right front, and apparently bent on outflanking us. "A Boer cavalry patrol!" cried everyone simultaneously; and the regiment promptly proceeded to form larger. A little later the true nature of the supposed "cavalry patrol" was discovered; but simultaneously the main Boer army, which had been lying concealed in the bed of a dry spruit about a thousand yards ahead, opened fire, imagining, of course, that we had somehow been warned of the trap which they had prepared for us. As it happened, the Boers were in a overwhelming strength, and the British were served to the housekeeper and her friend, and they were treated as honored guests.

### FROM CAPE TOWN.

The Dutchmen were then, of course, not nearly so strong naturally as they are at present, but their method of fighting seems to have been much the same. Their skill in taking advantage of every bit of cover in a wilderness, and their use of the rifle, were marvellous, and came as a revelation to our officers and men; as did also their wonderfully accurate shooting. Indeed, just at first the Irish were puzzled to see the Boers, when their being struck so often, and nearly always in a vital part, was due to anything but a series of unlucky accidents. After the first day or two of the siege, however, they were better, and grew very shy of showing themselves within view of the Boer sharpshooters.

### GIRLS' POSITION IN KOREA.

When a girl is born in Korea she is not even dignified by a name. Several names are written on slips of paper and placed in an urn before some favorite deity, and when it is necessary her godfather selects one without seeing it, and she is known by it until she reaches womanhood among the members of her own family. Strangers designate her as the wife, mother, sister or daughter of such a man. This is not merely the result of a custom. The laws are strict in this matter, and hold a woman of little more consequence than a domestic animal. In the higher classes, society the girls are separated from the boys of the family at the age of 7 years. They occupy the apartments of women, and are forbidden to communicate with anyone outside.

### NEW USE FOR SMOKE SHELLS.

The great loss of life incurred by the English troops is mainly attributable to the charges they have had to make across open spaces in order to dislodge the enemy from the sheltering kopje. In order to minimize the death toll it has been suggested that just before a charge takes place smoke shells should be fired, which would temporarily hide the English soldiers.

### TERRIBLE GUERRILLAS.

Alva, the merciless Spanish governor of the Netherlands, concerning whom it was said that in a long life of warfare he was never beaten or surprised, failed, nevertheless, to detect the importance attaching to the antics of a number of storks which were wading in the water in front of the beleaguered city of Maestricht. The long-legged bipeds proved conclusively to the burghers that a laagoon, which stretched between them and the Spanish general's camp, was fordable, and, sallied forth in the dead of night they succeeded in inflicting enormous damage on the besiegers.

### Floor Walker—Hurry out, madam!

The store's after the Pusan business. Then I'll just wait for the fire sale.

## WONDERFUL LAKE.

### Filled With Boiling Acids That Eat Boats In Pieces.

A strange lake exists in the centre of Sulphur Island, off New Zealand. It is 50 acres in extent, about 12 feet in depth and 15 feet above the level of the sea. The most remarkable characteristic of this lake, is that he water contains vast quantities of hydrochloric and sulphuric acids hissing and bubbling at a temperature of 110 degrees Fahrenheit. The dark green-colored water looks particularly uninviting. Dense clouds of sulphuric fumes constantly roll off this boiling caldron, and care has to be exercised in approaching this lake to avoid the risk of suffocation. On the opposite side of the lake may be seen the tremendous blow-holes, which, when in full blast, present an awe-inspiring sight. The roar of the steam as it rushes forth into the air is deafening and often huge boulders and stones are hurled out to a height of several hundred feet by the various internal forces of nature. A boat can be launched on the lake, and, if proper care be observed, the very edges of the blow-holes may be safely explored. Some of the steam from the acid-saturated water of this lake may be gathered from the fact that a boat almost dropped to pieces after all its passengers had been landed, as the rivets had corroded under the influence of the acids.

### AN AGED GENTLEWOMAN.

Queen Victoria is a very old lady, but she does not neglect those gentle courtesies that have caused her all her life to be loved by those who know her. Old servants may grow very old in their attendance upon her before she thinks them sufficiently aged to be set aside for younger attendants.

### A HOLLOW PROJECTILE.

Any modern big gun, if given sufficient elevation, will fire a hollow projectile anywhere between nine and eleven miles, or far beyond the remotest outposts of the Boer army now investing the Aldershot of South Africa.

A single shell, landed on some spot on the veldt previously agreed on by code-signal, could be made to carry a whole budget of letters and despatches,—more, in fact, than could be sent through in many days by the ordinary heliographic or searchlight method of signalling.

Numerous letters have been fired in to and out of Mafeking by bombshell post, and most of the shells recently used by the Kimberley garrison, have been inscribed with Cecil Rhodes's compliments. The latter idea was probably borrowed from the Germans, who, when bombarding Strasburg, during the last Franco-Prussian war, stamped a number of their solid shells with the ironic message, "A Berlin." In the present case, the shells raised by the frenzied Perisian populace on the eve of the declaration of war.

Later on, during the investment of Paardeburg, the shells fired from the beleaguered city. Many of these were captured by the Germans, not a few went astray, and were lost irretrievably. In one case, the shell raised by French peasants, and reached eventually those for whom they were intended.

The worst of these letter-filled bombshells is that they are liable to bury themselves in the ground by the mere force of their own impact. One such was unearthed not long since in a wood near Vincennes. It contained

### SOME TWO HUNDRED LETTERS.

the dates upon which showed that the receptacle containing them had been fired—probably from one of the outlying forts—during the early days of the siege.

### A BAD INVESTMENT.

Mornin' Guv'nor inquired a confident-looking stranger of a weak young man who stood weighing sugar in a grocer's shop.

Yes, sir.

Um. You're advertising for a manager, I believe?

Yes, we are.

Present manager about anywhere? Well, I'm manager at present, sir.

Ah! That's good. Now, what sort of chap may the guv'nor be? Old?

About my age?

Had any trouble with him at all? Well, I can't say I have.

Close-fisted screw, ain't he?

Oh, well! If I get up here, and he tries any of his nonsense on me he'll get his head in the sugar-bin. Just give him my name, will you?

Well, if you're applying for the situation I'm taking on the new man.

By Jove! You're now, I should like to get this shop. Think you could come to an immediate decision if I made it worth your while?

A shouldn't wonder.

Ah! Now I s'pose we may consider it settled, eh? as he slipped a half-sovereign into the meek young man's hand.

Yes, s'posed that individual, as he quietly pocketed the coin. Somehow I don't think you'd suit.

Thank! Not suit; why how's that?

Well, you see, I happen to be the guv'nor myself!

## SENT BY BULLET POST.

### FROM ENVELOPES AND GUNPOWDER STAMPS.

A New War-Time Letter Delivery Most Convenient at Times.

The idea of using a bombshell as a letter-box is no new one, although—probably owing to the vastly increased range of modern guns,—the device seems to have been more often resorted to during the present war than was ever the case previously.

The besieged Ladysmith garrison, it will be remembered, sent the Boers a Christmas-card, enclosed in a fifty-pounder shell, on the morning of December 25th. Not to be outdone in politeness, the enemy, on the evening of the last day of the old year, fired two plugged Palliser shells into the British camp. On one was inscribed the compliments of the season. The other, on being opened, was found to contain a real English Christmas-plug accompanying a—*for a Boer*—facetiously ironical letter of greeting.

The above is on the authority of the representative on the spot of one of the largest of the international news agencies. Another correspondent mentioned incidentally that important despatches had been forwarded in this same novel manner from General White to General Buller, the shells containing the documents having been by arrangement, painted red, so as to be easily recognisable by the recipients.

### A MODERN BIG GUN, IF GIVEN SUFFICIENT ELEVATION, WILL FIRE

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### PHOTOGRAPHIC PARACHUTE.

This remarkable instrument is snugly folded into an asbestos-lined metal case, placed at the business-end of a large rocket, which is fitted with a time-fuse. On attaining the highest point of its flight, the parachute is automatically released by the explosion of the fuse, and slowly commences its downward journey.

To the bottom of the parachute is attached a fully-loaded camera, containing a large number of plates, which are exposed one after the other by means of clockwork in order to prevent the whole contrivance sailing gaily into the enemy's camp, a string of light line is reeled out as the rocket ascends, by means of which the subsequent descent of the parachute can be guided into any desired direction. At the same time, a judicious pull upon the line will convey a swinging motion to the camera, by means of which its pictures—which are, of course, instantaneous—can be made to include a

### WIDER EXPANSE OF COUNTRY.

Perhaps one of the most marvellous photographic feats on record was the successful picturing of a bullet in full flight by Professor Boys.

The principal difficulty was, of course, to get a sufficiently short exposure, for the modern magazine-bullet used in the experiment travels at the rate of 3,600 ft. per second, and a too lengthy exposure would merely have shown a line—or, rather, a smear—across the picture. Finally, by means of a most unique apparatus, the professor obtained his photograph entirely without the aid of a camera.

In the first place, he devised an electric spark which should occupy only a few hundredths of a second. During the period of so brief a flash, which was actuated by the bullet severing a fine lead wire, and thus completing the necessary electrical circuit—the projectile could not move a greater distance than 1-600th of an inch. The shot was fired in pitch-dark tube. As, upon its passage down the tube, it severed the leaden wire, the tiny, electric spark which was the shadow of the bullet momentarily upon a photographic plate placed upon the opposite wall of the tube.

Doubtless one of the most gruesome directions in which the photographer is occasionally called to practise his art is that of the

### PHOTOGRAPHY OF CORPSES.

Contrary to general belief, this is a much more common quest than one would imagine, and, in at least one case, has been attended with a most unexpected result. The case in question took place in London a few years back.

A prominent West End photographer, who had been engaged to photograph a dead lady, was not a little amazed when, upon developing the picture, he discovered a distinct blur on one of the hands. The only explanation was that either camera or body had moved. But it could not possibly have been the camera, otherwise the whole picture must have been similarly blurred. Therefore the hand had moved.

Apparently, the photographer was a man of action, and a few hours later a couple of doctors had the satisfaction of completely resuscitating the supposed corpse from the state of death-like catatony under which she had so nearly gone to that most fearful of all fates—living tomb. But that, after all, is but another illustration of the thousand and one ways in which the photographic "find" has benefited the human race.

Not content with his deep-laid plans to rival England's naval supremacy Emperor William now starts to catch up to her as a colonizer. He has deposited 10,000 marks to promote German emigration to Palestine.

It is rumored that the Danish Government, which for twenty-five years has rejected all proposals of the United States to purchase the Danish West Indies, is about to submit a bill authorizing the sale of these possessions at 12,000,000 kroner.

Russia's pre-emptory note regarding repatriation of Armenian refugees in Cossackia surprised the Sultan of Turkey, who believed the matter had dropped. As compensation for the Bagdad railway concession Russia demands prior right on equal terms over all applicants for railway concessions in Asia Minor, north of the German line.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times says: "It will not do to place too much reliance upon Russian official assurances that nothing will be done to embarrass England in the present situation of affairs." Russian troops to the number of 20,000 are being concentrated at Kushk. The Times says the demonstration is probably intended to cover movements of a more practical kind in other quarters.

## MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY.

### Marvellous Feats in War and Peace Performed by the Man With the Camera.

At the present time, the practical application of the camera to warlike purposes is an all-engrossing subject. For many years past it has been customary for our military balloonists to carry cameras with them into cloud-land. By this means, they are not only enabled to obtain the most invaluable information, both as to an enemy's true strength and position, but also as to the general character of the surrounding country. Unfortunately, however, it is considerably easier to transport cameras than balloons, and for this reason the cloud-camera could only be employed upon comparatively rare occasions.

This difficulty, however, has since been overcome by means of the

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## THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

### THEY ARE THE ARISTOCRATS OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

The Boers Will Find That They Are No Feather-bed Soldiers.

The Household Cavalry, which comprise the 1st and 2nd Life Guards and the Royal Horse Guards, are the aristocracy of the British Army.

They take precedence of all other regiments, and are maintained primarily as a personal guard for the Sovereign. They have at last been called out for foreign service, and some critics, therefore, look upon the fact, that a composite regiment composed of three squadrons of the "Heavies" as a bad omen. There is no reason for alarm, however. The Guards have always resented the epithets, of "stand backs," "feather-bed" soldiers, and "carpet" warriors that have at times been applied to them, and have no doubt themselves agitated for a turn at the Boers.

Until the Egyptian campaign of 1882, the Household troops had never been employed against a foreign foe, other than European, and the last occasion on which a regiment of Household Cavalry as a whole took the field was at Waterloo. A detachment of the three regiments was at Tel-el-Kebir, in 1882, so that each of the regiments now has "Egypt 1882" and "Tel-el-Kebir" inscribed after its name in the Army List.

The 1st Life Guards were originally formed at the time of the Restoration when Charles III. required some troops as a

### PERSONAL BODYGUARD

and many of the gentlemen troopers at that time paid as much as a £100 for the privilege of serving in the ranks. The duty of their commander was described as follows: "They came upon the office of the Life Guards is at all times of war or peace to wait upon the King's person, as oft as he ride abroad, with a considerable number of horsemen, what named, and prepared against all dangers whatsoever."

The regiment distinguished itself at the battle of Sedgemoor, and also during William's Dutch Wars. At Fontenoy, in the Peninsula, at Waterloo, Cassassin, Tel-el-Kebir, and Abu-tub, they proved that they were anything but "carpet" soldiers. It was the 1st Life Guards who so decisively routed the French Lancers at the battle of Waterloo.

The 2nd Life Guards were formed in 1788, the regiment consisting of four troops of fifty men apiece. At the battle of Waterloo, in 1815, they had occasion to charge a strong body of French infantry, which was covering the retreat of the French army. During the charge, the 2nd Life Guards, in the Peninsula, at Waterloo, Cassassin, Tel-el-Kebir, and Abu-tub, they proved that they were anything but "carpet" soldiers. It was the 1st Life Guards who so decisively routed the French Lancers at the battle of Waterloo.

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### TURNUED TAIL AND FLED

for their lives.

At the battle of Waterloo they fought a brilliant duel, with the cream of Napoleon's cavalry—the hitherto unconquered Cuirassiers. The advancing Cuirassiers were met by the British "heavies," but they were no match for the latter at close quarters, and were driven back in confusion. It was in this charge that Guardsman Shaw so greatly distinguished himself.

Shaw had originally been a private-fighter, and was a man of tremendous strength. It is impossible to say how many men he laid low with his sword, but his comrades say the number was something awful. In the last charge of the day he himself, poor fellow, was mortally wounded, but he would not have been surrounded by the enemy, and had his sword broken at the hilt.

The present Colonel of the regiment, Lord Dunderdell, has gone to the front with his new gold guns. The gun only weighs some 500 lb., including carriage and ammunition, whereas the old style of carriage alone weighed more than double that amount. The gun is so mounted that it can be laid in any direction without moving the carriage.

The Royal Horse Guards or the "Blues" were formed in 1635 by Charles II. The other sections of the Household Cavalry they showed great valour at Waterloo and during the Peninsula War. When they met the fierce Soudanese, they again distinguished themselves by meeting the spear-armed Dervishes in a hand-to-hand combat, the cavalry using the bayonet. It was in this engagement that poor Colonel Burnaby was slain.

In South Africa the three squadrons are under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Audley Dallas Need, of the 2nd Life Guards, and it will be a bad day for the Boers when the British "heavies" come to close quarters with them in a charge.

### INTERESTING WAR ITEMS.

There are 700,000 blacks in the Transvaal.

A Boer shatters the traditions of his race if he weds an Englishwoman.

The first Indian regiment to don khaki became known as the "dustmen."

General French was born forty-seven years ago, and originally joined the Royal Navy.

Each troop horse now at the front has 12 lb. of hay, 12 lb. of oats, and 1 lb. of bran daily.

General Cronje was strongly urged to oppose Kruger for his Presidency in 1898, but declined.

The Boer believes the earth is flat, and that it would be impossible for rivers to flow northward if it were round.

Thirty years ago there were only about twenty-five explosive compounds known. Now there are more than 1,100.

In killing game the Boers use a bullet of which the lead point is exposed so that it "mushrooms" when it strikes. On entering the bullet expands and tears an ugly hole. If it strikes sidewise the effect is horrid.

## A Clergy Influence

Paine's Celery  
Recommended  
Rev. C. M. Tyler,  
Minister of No.

It Saves the I  
George W.

A Gain in Flesh  
Pounds in Three

Among professional and ardent advocates of Paine's Celery Compound, I am a member. I have used it for some time, and it has done me much good. I have gained in flesh, and my health is improved. I have also used it for my wife and children, and they have all benefited. I can recommend it to all who are suffering from weakness, and who desire to gain in flesh and strength. It is a most valuable medicine, and I have no doubt that it will continue to be so for many years to come.

Through the influence of Mr. C. M. Tyler, I was induced to use Paine's Celery Compound, and I am now a confirmed teetotaler. I have also used it for my wife and children, and they have all benefited. I can recommend it to all who are suffering from weakness, and who desire to gain in flesh and strength. It is a most valuable medicine, and I have no doubt that it will continue to be so for many years to come.

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