

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

OUR DARLING.

Bounding like a foot-ball,
Kicking at the door,
Falling from the table top,
Sprawling on the floor;
Smashing cups and saucers,
Splitting dolly's head;
Putting little pussy cat
Into baby's bed.

Building shops and houses,
Spoiling father's hat;
Hiding mother's precious keys
Underneath the mat.
Jumping on the fender,
Poking at the fire,
Dancing on those little legs—
Legs that never tire;
Making mother's heart leap
Fifty times a day;
Aping everything we do,
Everything we say.

Shouting, laughing, tumbling,
Roaring with a will;
Anywhere and everywhere,
Never, never still.
Present—bringing sunshine;
Absent—leaving night;
That's our precious darling,
That's our heart's delight.

WHERE COAL COMES FROM.

The coal fire in the grate sparkled and crackled and sent its sharp-pointed flames up through the dark mass, giving even the smoke a lurid hue.

We all sat gazing into the fire, making fancies and thinking our own thoughts, when Uncle John interrupted the silence by saying:

"And so, at last, this coal fulfils its mission."

"What do you mean, uncle?" interrupted Julia, who sat on her low stool, leaning her face on Uncle John's knee, and smoothing the tabby cat's pretty fur.

"Why, I mean that after so many long years, this coal has at last become an agent for the use and comfort of man. Perhaps you do not know how coal is formed?"

We all drew our chairs nearer as Julia exclaimed, "Do tell us."

"Well," began Uncle John, stroking his long white beard, "many thousand years ago—in fact, more years than any of you can count even in a whole life-time—there grew a vast forest. There were no North and South American continents, nor even an Eastern or Western world. An exceedingly small portion of the globe was land, the rest was a wide sea. In many places the ocean was shallow, and as years went by the sand and drift matter filled up the shallow places, until they became great swamps. In these swamps grew great forests.

"The great amount of carbonic acid gas that mingled with the air, and the high degree of warmth, along with the constant moisture, caused these forests to grow very rapidly. The pine tree grew to immense size, ferns grew as high as trees, and a sort of club moss, that in our forests never grows over three feet high, in those forests grew eighty and ninety feet high.

"Along the damp, warm valley of the Amazon, in South America and in the tropics, grow our richest and most profuse vegetation, but even that is nothing compared to the ancient forests that grew from the swamps.

"In these forests the trees and vegetation grow so rapidly that they crowded upon each other. Being too much crowded, much of the vegetation died as rapidly as it had grown. Thus year after year, the old forest died down, and above it grew the new, until one forest was piled upon another.

"After thousands of years, gradually, the whole surface of the land began to sink, until the sea once more flowed over the places where forests had grown.

"And, again, after more thousands of years, the drift matter and sand again filled up the shallow places, and other forests grew in new swamps.

"As years went by, they too were submerged in the sea.

"This continued for numberless years. Between each layer of decayed forests there was a layer of sand and mud and shells and drift matter that finally hardened into rock, forming the limestone or sandstone that is found in our coal mines.

"Miners can tell just how many times the coal-beds have been submerged by the number of layers of sandstone or limestone.

"Most of the trees of that ancient forest were pine trees.

"Pine contains tar and pitch and a great deal of resinous matter. Coal also contains tar and pitch and rosin, which it received from the decayed pine. Coal is pure carbon, and is black because carbon is black. All plants contain a great deal of carbonic acid. When plants breathe or decay they give off large quantities of carbonic acid gas, hence this carbon became a part of the coal.

"The constant pressure above, and the water, caused this decaying vegetation to take first the form of peat.

"Peat is a soft, spongy sort of coal, and is much used by the poor yeomanry of England and Ireland for their fires.

"After the peat has lain many thousands of years under great pressure and deeply buried in the dark bosom of the earth, it gradually and slowly hardens into the coal we use in our grate.

"Sometimes, in splitting open a block of coal, you can plainly see the impress of beautiful and perfectly formed leaves, branches and twigs and vines. Our coal is really, then, nothing but a decayed forest. It has only been within the last few years that coal has come into extensive use in Europe and the United States. Not until the timber of the forests was fast disappearing did coal come into demand, and yet it has been stored away in measureless abundance generations before we were born."

We were all gazing into the blazing fire that burned so brightly as to pain the eyes. Julia said it seemed to be trying to make as much light as possible, in order to make up for having been so long in the dark.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

"I CAN AND I WILL."

The difference between "I can't," and "I can and will," is just the difference between victory and defeat in all the great conflicts of life. Boys, adopt for your motto, "I can and I will," and victory will be yours in all life's

battles. "I can and I will" nerves the arms of the world's heroes to-day, in whatever department of labour they are engaged. "I can and I will" has fought and won all the great battles of life of the world.

I know of a boy who was preparing to enter the junior class of the New York University. He was studying trigonometry, and I gave him three examples for his next lesson. The following day he came into my room to demonstrate his problems. Two of them he understood, but the third—a very difficult one—he had not performed. I said to him, "Shall I help you?" "No, sir; I can and will do it if you give me time." I said, "I will give you all the time you wish." The next day he came into my room to recite another lesson in the same study. "Well, Simon, have you worked that example?" "No, sir," he answered, "but I can and will do it if you will give me a little more time." "Certainly, you shall have all the time you desire."

I always like those boys who are determined to do their own work, for they make our best scholars, and men, too. I knew he had it, for his whole face told the story of his success. Yes, he had it, notwithstanding it had cost him many hours of the severest mental labour. Not only had he solved the problem, but what was of infinitely greater importance to him, he had begun to develop mathematical powers which, under the inspiration of "I can and I will," he has continued to cultivate, until to-day he is professor of mathematics in one of our largest colleges, and one of the ablest mathematicians in our country.

My young friends, let your motto ever be, "If I can, I will."

HELPING MAMMA.

"I'm going to help you, mamma,"
Said dear little May;
I mean to help you
All I can to-day."

Then running softly
She picked up the broom,
And swept and dusted,
And tidied the room.

Her dusting finished,
She took a seat,
And hemmed a towel
So smooth and neat.

Her work all done,
She went out to play;
Oh may you be happy,
Little, sweet, helpful May.

"ENVY thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways."—*Prov. iii. 31.*

A MILLER was waked up by his camel trying to get its nose into the tent. "It's cold out here," said the camel, "I only want to put my nose in." The miller made no objection. After awhile the camel asked leave to have his neck in, then his fore feet; and so, little by little, it crowded in its whole body. The miller bitterly complained. "If you don't like it, you may go," answered the camel. "As for me, I've got possession, and I shall stay. You can't get rid of me now." Do you know what the camel is like? Bad habits.