

the crumbs. That afternoon an astonishing thing happened. The flock came flying swiftly toward the brig. Every bird seemed to be piping as if pursued by some little invisible enemy on wings, and they at once huddled down behind the deck-house. The superstitious sailors at once called the captain of the brig, who rubbed his eyes and looked at the barometer. A glance showed that something was wrong with the elements, and the brig was put in shape to outride a storm. The storm came about twenty minutes after the birds had reached the vessel. For a few minutes the sky was like the waterless bottom of a lake—a vast arch of yellowish mud—and torrents of rain fell. Why it did not blow very hard, no one knows; but on reaching port, two days later, the captain learned that a great tornado had swept across that part of the sea. The birds left the vessel on the morning after the storm and were not seen again.—Maryland 'Bulletin.'

Easily Given.

It was only a sunny smile,
And little it cost in the giving,
But it scattered the night
Like morning light
And made the day worth living.
Through life's dull warp a woof it wove
In shining colors of light and love,
And the angels smiled as they watched above,
Yet little it cost in giving.

It was only a kindly word,
And a word that was lightly spoken,
Yet not in vain,
For it stilled the pain
Of a heart that was nearly broken.
It strengthened a fate beset by fears
And groping blindly through mists of tea
For light to brighten the coming years,
Although it was lightly spoken.

It was only a helping hand,
And it seemed of little availing,
But its clasps were warm,
And it saved from harm
A brother whose strength was failing.
Its touch was tender as angel's wings,
But it rolled the stone from the hidden springs
And pointed the way to higher things,
Though it seemed of little availing.

A smile, a word, or a touch,
And each is easily given,
Yet one may win
A soul from sin
Or smooth the way to heaven.
A smile may lighten the falling heart,
A word may soften pain's keenest smart,
A touch may lead us from sin apart—
How easily each is given!
—Unidentified.

The Adventures of Tommy.

Tommy was a bluejay I took from the nest before he was able to fly. He was too young to eat by himself, so I had to feed him. Whenever I appeared at the box in which he was kept, out of the nest he would pop like a jack-in-the-box, with his bill open to its widest extent, expecting me to drop something into it.

I fed him on cracker and egg with a small stick. When he had enough he fell back into his nest and went to sleep. He was a great pet and when old enough was allowed to run in the garden.

If anything frightened him he would hop up on the veranda and hide. When bed-time came Tommy was always to be found in his cage; but one night I forgot him until after dark, and when I went to look for him no Tommy was to be seen. Immediately there was con-

sternation in the family. With lighted candles we searched in the 'by-ways and hedges' and in all his favorite hiding places, but he could not be found. On the porch was a trellis work for a climbing cactus, and as I passed it I heard a faint chirp and on looking to see where it came from discovered the lost one roosting on one of the crossbars. He had been sound asleep and the light had awakened him.

One day I heard a terrible commotion in the garden. Thinking a cat was killing Tommy I rushed out to find him fighting two blackbirds who had a nest in a tree overhead. As Tom's wing was clipped, the blackbirds had the advantage, but he fought valiantly. He would rush at them, and peck them, screaming with all his might. Other blackbirds hearing the noise flew to the assistance of their friends and Tommy had to retire under a bush. The other birds then flew up in the tree and waited. When Tommy thought the coast was clear he ventured out, only to be attacked once more. This lasted nearly all the afternoon until Tommy managed to escape to the shelter of the porch, from which place of safety he scolded the enemy.

Some wild jays enticed Tommy away from home; he was gone nearly two days. When he failed to return the second day I thought it was time to hunt him up, so, armed with a choice morsel of raw meat, of which Tom was very fond, I went in pursuit of the runaway. I passed several flocks of jays and called out, 'Tommy, Tommy,' but no Tommy answered, so with a sad heart I turned my steps homeward.

A short distance from home I saw a forlorn-looking jaybird, that seemed familiar, hunting for worms in the mud. I called to him and as soon as he heard his name he hopped up on the fence and looked all around. I shook the meat at him and said, 'Come, Tommy,' and the next minute he had flown into my hands. And wasn't he glad to get home! He was not used to hunting for his dinner, and was nearly starved.—'Pets and Animals.'

All Boys Should Learn—

To run; to swim, and to carve.
To be neat; to make a fire, and to be punctual.
To do any errand; to cut kindling, and to sing if they can.
To help their mothers; to hang up their hats, and to respect their teachers.
To hold their heads erect; to sew on their own buttons and to read aloud when requested.
To wipe their shoes on the mat; to cultivate a cheerful temper, and to speak pleasantly to an old person.
To attend strictly to their own business. A very important point. And finally to be as kind and as helpful to their sisters as to other boys' sisters.—Ex.

A Chinese Game.

'What,' we inquired of Chi, 'is that game the boys play with two marbles?'

Without directly answering my question Chi turned to the boys and said:

'Kick the marbles.'

The boys soon produced from somewhere—Chinese boys can always produce anything from anywhere—two marbles an inch and a half in diameter. Chi put one on the ground, and with the toe of his shoe upon it, gave it a shove. Then placing the other, he shoved it in the same way, the object being to hit the first.

There are two ways in which one may win. The first boy says to the second, kick this marble north (south, east or west) of the other at one kick. If he succeeds he wins, if he fails the other wins.

If he puts it north as ordered, he may kick again to hit the other ball, in which case he wins again. If he hits the ball and goes north, as ordered, at one kick, he wins double.

Each boy tries to leave the balls in as difficult a position as possible for his successor; and here comes in a peculiarity which leaves this game unique among the games of the world. If the position in which the balls are left is too difficult for the other to play he may refuse to kick and the first is compelled to play his own difficult game—or like Haman—to hang on his own gallows. It recognizes the Chinese golden rule of not doing to others what you would not have them do to you.—From Headland's 'The Chinese Boy and Girl.'

The Wonders of Creation.

(George Bancroft Griffith, in the Michigan 'Christian Advocate.')

In contemplating the grand panorama of God's universe, we are sensibly impressed with the profound and miraculous display of his omniscience, and the vastness of his creative power and wisdom. The broad surface of this material world is filled with animal and vegetable life, in myriads of varieties, forms and conditions; the production and development of the least of which is beyond the comprehension of man. For instance:

Even the cave animals of North America, according to Prof. A. S. Packard, of Brown University, comprise 172 species of blind animals, nearly all of which are mostly white in color.

Certain female insects live sixty-four times as long as the male. The female of bees and ants are longer lived than the males.

The sea has no herbivorous animal. It is a great slaughter house, where all the inhabitants prey on each other.

The surface of the mighty deep is alive with vast swarms of minute organisms, both plants and animals, and it has been shown conclusively that showers of these keep dropping day and night like a constant rain toward the ooze of the bottom. One of the wonders of the ocean is the sea urchin, which has five teeth in five jaws—one in each jaw—all the five immediately surrounding the stomach. The jaws have a peculiar centralized motion, all turning inward and downward, so that they act as feeders.

In the hippopotamus the eyes, ears and nostrils are all set on the same plane, which enables the animal to sink its body entirely below the surface of the water, and yet keep thoroughly informed as to its surroundings.

The largest mouth, proportioned to the size of the animal, is that of the frog. The mouth of the leech is a powerful sucker, which will sustain many times its weight. The tongue of the toad and frog is prehensile. By means of it these animals seize and hold their prey. The mouth of the lobster is small and he must tear his food to pieces with his claws before he can devour it. The mouth of the octopus is in the centre of his body, and is provided with a beak closely resembling that of a parrot. The teeth of fish, like the teeth of most animals, are not fastened to the bone, but are held in sockets.

It is a curious fact that any great fright will induce the lobster to drop his claws. They are greatly terrified by thunder, and when frightened by loud peals large numbers of them will drop their claws and swim away to deeper water, but new claws begin to grow at once, and are soon as large and hard as the old ones.

A travelling friend has described to the writer an enormous crab of the Malay islands, which lives upon the fruit of the cocoanut, and this singular creature secures it by climb-