

Annie's Curls

The man led her into a back room and himself cut the glossy locks, laying each curl carefully down. Then he called a man who wore a white apron and gave the little shorn head into his charge. "I believe that you are prettier than before," the kind man said, when the hair-dresser had finished. Then he laid a little roll of bills in the child's hand and bade her be careful not to lose it on her way home. Annie hurried home. When she arrived mother was reading to Teddy, and Annie crept in like a little mouse. She removed her hat carefully, so as not to spoil the hair-dresser's work, then dropped the bills in her mother's lap, with a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, mamma!" "Oh!" screamed Annie. "Oh!" screamed mother, as they both saw and knew all. "How came you to think of it, my poor baby?" asked the mother. "It's for wine - wine is better than curls any day," answered Annie, turning to Teddy, who hugged him in joy and said softly: "Get well, Teddy, and pay me back some day!" Then she told how it all happened, and how she was going in a couple of days to see her curls in their prettiest condition. After they had both kissed her and thanked her over and over again she crept away. "I'm glad I did it; but how lonely my pretty curls will be!" said the child. But the curls were not at all lonely. Some one was looking at them when one of the boys showed a gentleman in. The visitor was a big man and he had gentle eyes, though his face was somewhat rough to look at. "I'm quite out of heart, Alfred. I can get no sleep; but what's that you have there? Pretty, aren't they?" "Yes, beautiful!" "Then the kind man told all about the little girl who sold the curls to him, so she could have money to buy things for the sick brother. He said this hair is just the color of Ellie's; could it be? Could it be Ellie's child's hair?" "She's coming here day after tomorrow to see her curls in their satin-lined box; then if you will be here you can find out who she is," answered the jeweler. Annie came to see her curls as they looked ready for sale; she wanted to see the box. While she was admiring it and telling about Teddy, and how the wine was doing him good, the stranger with the gentle eyes arrived. He talked to the little girl for awhile, then surprised the jeweler and little Annie by bursting into tears. "They've told you about Uncle Luke, haven't they?" "Oh, yes, often," replied Annie. "He is in Australia, where the bark falls off the trees and the leaves stay on, and where there are no winter winds, and everything is so queer!" "But what if he came home?" "Oh, he won't," she said. "Mother has lost him completely. I am sure he never will come home." Then there was what Annie called "a time." That was how it happened that just as the doctor was praising Teddy's patience, and saying how the wine had helped him, there was a great flutter in the hall, and Annie bounded in, dragging a big man with kind eyes in a rough face by the hand. "My curls found him. It is Uncle Luke, mother, and he has money enough to buy my curls back two or three times. I know, because he said so." And then there was much more of "a time." And the doctor held Teddy's hand while Uncle Luke told about his long search for his sister, and mother explained about father's death and her removal to the city, and how she had not got a letter to reach him. Then they talked about Annie's curls, and the doctor blew his nose furiously and dug at his eyes, and Annie heard him say: "Old idiot that I am! I'll try to see about a way of getting him when I prescribe it again for a boy whose mother has that frightened look in her eyes." Annie tucked her little shorn head under the doctor's arm and whispered: "But you see how it was with me? My curls found so much. Just look at mother; don't she look happy? Isn't a good uncle the best New Year's present in all this world?" Wine is a good medicine when one needs it, and Teddy improved rapidly - so rapidly that he was able to go to school to try the new sled that Uncle Luke brought home to him on New Year's eve. As for Teddy's mother, the roses began to tint her cheeks again, and Annie was sure she was the prettiest and best mother in all the world.

PESTS OF THE ANTIPODES AUSTRALIANS WORRIED BY THE RABBIT AND FOX.

Another Beast that Makes Great Trouble is the Native Wolf. During the first year of the proclaimed Commonwealth of Australia it may be interesting to consider a few of the troubles, unknown to us, with which our distant colony has to deal. First and foremost is the rabbit. Many years ago, when Australia was very young, it occurred to some enterprising manufacturer not content with the harmless, skittish little bunny of his native land would find a welcome addition to the fauna of his adopted country, and he imported a few. The idea caught on. People liked to see the pretty little things gamboling about in their lawns, and a few more were imported. The landowners upon whose property they were domiciled carefully protected the furry colonists from wicked men with dogs and guns. Indeed, for years after permission had at length been given to kill among the hundreds of acres of open and pasture land, and no man can tell what the end will be. And this, too, notwithstanding that every known means of extermination has been employed against him. In the northern colony of Queensland, for instance, the most numerous pest have been put forward to keep out the pest. A rabbit-proof fence, 700 miles long, was thrown across the line of march from New South Wales and South Australia. Baillif of chicken cholera in pollard pellets were freely distributed among the private owners were state assisted with their fencing to the extent of 4,421 miles, and about 3,900 miles by lesses. In 1898 alone the state paid rewards for 1,522,835 scalps, and this was, of course, exclusive of the thousands of scalps which no enterprising individuals have frozen the pests and exported them to England. There are already signs that this trade may attain considerable dimensions. Once convince the man in the street that the extermination should degenerate into a simple proportion. THE UNNECESSARY FOX. After the rabbit, the fox. He was originally imported for the twofold purpose of killing off the rabbit and affording colonial sportsmen a taste of the joys of "flying in the bush." He has fulfilled the latter function in a manner worthy of Dewey himself. He has also slain a few rabbits. On an average he kills six domestic chickens and a dozen young lambs for each rabbit he consumes. The squatters have consequently had to hunt him down, and started off rabbit in a more than merely sporting reason. The Antipodes is noted for topsyturvy customs, and an Antipodean fox hunt is no exception. From first to last, Reynard has it all his own way. With hundreds of miles around his lair in every square mile around his habitation, the hounds have never a chance. Brer fox runs just far enough to stretch his legs, and then goes to earth. Meanwhile the farmer colonist, who is only just beginning to get rid of his plague of dingoes, contemplates a little fox hunt on his own account - with dynamite. THE SHEEP'S ENEMY. The dingo, or native Australian wolf, is a handsome black hound with a white chest and tail tip, and often scales as much as four or five stones. He is the only animal domesticated by the aborigines, and he is the enemy of the sheep and the young kangaroos and handicoots. But to his mind there is nothing to beat the taste of lamb, and lamb he will have at all hazards. It is intensely difficult to thwart him, even with the aid of the best dogs, owing to the thickness of his bush and the stupidity of the sheep. Two or three dingoes will suddenly rush out and cut off perhaps a dozen sheep from a flock of a thousand head. Their 900-cd companions will immediately follow through the bush, and will take their dinner of tracted shepherd perhaps an hour's hard toil before they can be re-matched. Meanwhile, the dingoes have eaten their fill, mangled the remainder, and slunk off. Were it not that the dingo seldom hunts in large numbers, there would be no possibility in the Australian continent. THE CHERISHED SPARROW. The sparrow is another Antipodean curse. He was imported to kill the Antipodean insects. After he had been protected by heavy penalties for several years, he was suddenly discovered that the wrong sparrow had been imported. The common sparrow was the insect-eater, the colonists were told. But it was too late. They had got the common sparrow, and they have him to this day. He levies a heavy toll on the farmer. Nothing escapes his attention, except, perhaps, his original objective - the insects. Corn, fruit, seed and vegetables alike fall a prey to his voracious appetite. Countless "sparrow clubs" exist for the sole purpose of his destruction, but countless millions are paid for his heads and eggs. Still he flourishes, and one of the most distracting problems of the Australian farmer.

THE ABORIGINES.

The black fellow is another thorn in the colonist's side. The original gaol scum, which the wisdom of past legislatures let loose in Botany Bay, found him an unsuspecting child. Their outrages upon even his primitive notions of honor and womanhood converted him into a blood-thirsty maniac. He became regarded as so much vermin to be shot on sight, or dosed with opium and fiery spirits, according as the fancy took his tormentors. The effect upon his kind has been most disastrous. In 1790 Capt. Phillip estimated the total number of aborigines at a million. By 1881 the number had shrunk to 200,000, while to-day it is probably not more than 170,000. Indeed, Tasmania is already blackless, the last native having died so long ago as 1876. If appearances are to be trusted, the natives will not survive the present century. And they will not be missed. A MYSTERY TO THE END. Only a couple of years ago a party of six black fellows and half-castes terrorized several hundreds of miles of up-country ranches by wounding and murdering all with whom they came in contact. It took several strong police parties, aided by the keen "trackers" in the government employ, many weary months on that crimson trail before the gang was finally "dispersed." Educationally and socially he will remain a mystery to the end. He has named every bird, beast and fish that he knows, yet he cannot generalize, and would regard you as stupid incredulity were you to speak of a sparrow and a crow as "birds." His numeration ends at "three." Four is merely "two two," and five is "two three," and so on. He ceases to count at three, and in the latter case he regards it as his duty to the dead. He has never built himself a hut, reared a crop, or dingoes excepted, domesticated an animal. He has, in fact, lived only for the effort and necessity of the moment in passing, he is fast getting pushed off the earth. THE AUSTRALIAN HOOLIGAN. The harrikin is the Australian hooligan. In a large degree the lineal descendant of the original Botany Bay transportations, he possesses most of their vices and none of their redeeming qualities. He is taken to meanings about his London prototype, and not infrequently starts well up in life. Then the spirit of "freedom" so common to new countries, gets him. As a rule it finds first bent upon the race course. Letting is Australia's greatest vice, and the harrikin is an annually changing hand in this way. Gambling means debt, and here it is that hereditarily swamps him. He descends to pilfering, and in a few months has forfeited his right to respectable employment. Then he takes to mooning about the Sydney streets in search for mischief. Here he is joined by stranded gold-diggers, neo-to-well sons of good old English families, out-and-out scally-wags, larrikinesses (of whom the least said is soonest mended), and the Polyannas of the ports, all of whom combine to make him a power to be dreaded. Starting his career in his early teens, the harrikin is at his height in the early twenties. By 25 he is either a confirmed criminal or has lapsed back into the paths of virtue. Such lapses are rare. His reputation for extermination are probably the toughest of the many problems which confront the new Australian Commonwealth. PALACES OF EDWARD VII. Facts About His Former and Present Homes in London. To the many changes lately made at Buckingham Palace, one other might well, one thinks, be added, says the London Standard. And that is a change of name. True the site was once occupied by the house of a Duke of Buckingham built there in 1703. But that occupation has been seen to misnomer, on a subject upon a residence bought by George III., rebuilt by George IV., and though disliked by William IV., at once adopted by Queen Victoria as her London residence, and now the fixed headquarters of the King and the prospective quarters of the young King. To be. No wonder that foreign visitors are puzzled at the unexplained retention of a former and long irrelevant appellation. They ask for the Palais Royal and are met with a blank stare, a shake of the head, or a simple explanation which a proportion of them under the supposition that his majesty is the guest of the Duke of Buckingham. Scarcely less appropriate would be a cancelling at last of the name of Marlborough house as applied to the new hereditary residence of the heirs apparent, Marlborough is a great name, it is true; but it is a name that the present owner has a very natural right to put up on the lintels of the new house he is building in Ozon street. No disrespect, then, is implied toward the great Duke of Marlborough who built it in the first decade of the eighteenth century, and gave "Sarah, duchess," the right to point over the way to Buckingham Palace and to speak of "Neighbor George." In 1817 it was bought from the Churchills for the Princess Charlotte and Leopold, afterward King of the Belgians. Later Queen Adelaide was its occupant. Her name or his would be at least a fitting name for the new house, but the name of the house each had inhabited. But the Princess of Wales to live under its roof - might well give the house a title which would also be a welcome private and public commemoration. FEMALE PRISONERS. Oakum picking by female prisoners in H. M. prisons has now practically ceased; instead they make their own garments and those of the male prisoners.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Doings of Prominent Actors on the World's Stage. The Pope is an enthusiastic philatelist, and possesses some of the finest stamps in the world. Their value will be considerably augmented next year, for the Roman Catholic priests of Cashmere will present to him, on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee, a unique collection of obsolete stamps of Jemmu and Cashmere. Probably the youngest private secretary in the world is Ye We-Chong, the only son of the Minister from Korea in Washington. He is only thirteen years old, and a year ago did not know a word of English, but so rapid has been his progress in this language that he can now both write and speak it. He dresses in American style, and has already adopted many Americanisms. Miss Elsie Campbell, in addition to being an expert angler, is one of the best lady bagpipe players in Scotland. Her father, Lord Archibald Campbell, who is most enthusiastic about Highland manners and customs, still keeps up a pipe band at Inverary. Prominent Scots are regarded as ostentatious. The Duke of Fife, the Duke of Sutherland, the Duke of Argyll, the Duke of Atholl, Lord Macdonald of the Isles, and Lord Lovat. Few people know that there is such an office as that of Inspector of Colors for the Army. Sir Albert W. Woods, Quarter King of Arms, is the holder of this office, and his expert knowledge of heraldry proves of valuable service when the authorities require information on technical points regarding the colors of any regiment needing alteration or renewal. Although colors are not carried into action nowadays, they are regarded as vitally important symbols of everything that is best in a regiment's life and history. As a crack whip, huntsman, yachtsman, boxer, and racing man, there are few better-known sporting peers than the Earl of Lonsdale, who recently entertained the German Emperor as a guest. It is perhaps not so generally known that he has also been a traveller in Arctic regions. About fourteen years ago Lord Lonsdale went on a long and arduous journey through the wild territory of Northwest Canada. His travels occupied close on twenty years, and during that time he secured many splendid trophies, which now adorn the various rooms in Louth Castle. When President Roosevelt was making a State visit the other day a little girl managed to elude the police and, running up to the President, said: "Mr. Roosevelt, you please wear my rose in your button-hole?" The President stopped and smilingly said: "Certainly, my dear; I will exchange with you." And taking from the lapel of his coat the carnation that he always wears to the rose in the little maid, he gave it to her. Then the procession of Cabinet Ministers, diplomats, governors, senators, generals, and other dignitaries, who were wondering at the cause of the interruption, was allowed to pass on. During the King's last review His Majesty noticed that the reporters had been placed a considerable distance from the royal dais, too far off, in fact, to hear the extempore address which he was about to deliver. He therefore sent an enquiry to request that they would come nearer. Two reporters were deputed to wait on His Majesty, and pencil and note-book in hand, stood by the King's side. At that moment Major-General Trotter, who was in command, "spotted" them, and riding up asked what they were doing there. Before they could explain, the King said: "Oh, it's all right. They are reporters. I asked them to come. I want them to hear my speech." RAG PICKER AND ARTISAN. One of Cork, the Other of Dublin, Each Heir to \$300,000. It is doubtful if a fortune ever tumbled into the lap of a person less likely to use it to advantage than the \$300,000 which the United States Supreme Court recently awarded to 65-year-old Hallan Callaghan, of Cork, Ireland, as her share of the estate of her cousin, John Sullivan, who died in Seattle, Wash. Winkled, haggard, with a narrow, pointed nose, thin lips, a bitter tongue and aggressive disposition, the woman who has just inherited \$300,000 earned her living until a few days ago as a ragpicker. For years she had made her home in a squalid little room in a narrow lane, in Cork's worst slum. She began her life as a crockery washer, and once earned as much as \$5 a week. Then she got to be a scrub-woman and made less, and of late years she has collected bones, sold fire, and generally lived from hand to mouth. She has been somewhat partial to gin. Edward Corcoran, a poor Dublin artisan, got the other half of the Sullivan estate. DEMOCRATIC EMPEROR. There is no barbaric splendor about the court of Japan, nor does the emperor insist on fantastic forms of homage. He is just a plain, unassuming man, and he enters freely into conversation with all. There is scarcely a subject that does not interest him, or one on which he is not well informed. A delightful host, it is his custom to surround himself with clever men - men who are shining lights of their professions. Engineers, artists, musicians, writers, soldiers, scientists - every class of persons who have won distinction is welcome at the royal table, for it is one of his characteristics of his majesty that in the distribution of his favors he is thoroughly impartial.

THE KAISER AND HIS WAYS GERMAN EMPEROR IS AGAIN IN THE LIMELIGHT.

Growth of His Influence Over Parliament and Among the People. What sort of a man is the Kaiser of Germany, in partnership with whom the British Government has gone into the debt-collecting business in Venezuela? He is known to be quite as strenuous in his personal habits as Theodore, the athletic President of the United States. He rides across country at the head of thousands of galloping cavalry, he sails his own yacht in the racing season, he is a mighty hunter, he shines at students' dinners, and he dashes off telegrams that might be included in the list of things one would rather have left unsaid. He is a nephew of King Edward. All this, however, does not disclose the man. What effect does he think his vigorous rule is having in Germany? Has he a model, has he ideals? Many believe that he wants to be known in history as a second Frederick the Great, a personal, paternal ruler. The German Emperor honors the memory of Frederick the Great in more ways than one. He loves Potsdam, and is constantly improving it on artistic lines. Friedrichsruh is his favorite residence, and, without exception of changes in decoration and improvements in furnishing and lighting, it is the palace which Frederick the Great completed at a cost of over \$2,500,000. Sans Souci, with its Laurets and Watteaus, the clock which stopped when the great Prussian died, and the culture in use in his time, is turned over to the battalions of victors tramping daily through the gilded French apartments and listening to the full recitative of the guide. POINTS OF SIMILARITY. The German Emperor, like his great predecessor on the Prussian throne, has artistic and literary tastes. He is a musician, a painter, a sculptor, and a rhetorician, and he has a natural bent for intellectual life. The founder of Friedrichsruh and Sans Souci was a flute player, organized the opera at Berlin, revolved in poetry, and antique stonemasonry, and enjoyed the company of philosophers and men of letters like Voltaire. To artistic sensibility was added inquisitiveness, which kept a restless mind in ceaseless activity. Both characteristics the German Emperor possesses. He has artistic feeling and intense earnest in the acquisition of a painter, a sculptor, and a rhetorician, and he has a natural bent for intellectual life. The founder of Friedrichsruh and Sans Souci was a flute player, organized the opera at Berlin, revolved in poetry, and antique stonemasonry, and enjoyed the company of philosophers and men of letters like Voltaire. To artistic sensibility was added inquisitiveness, which kept a restless mind in ceaseless activity. Both characteristics the German Emperor possesses. 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