

JOHNNY'S OPINION OF GRAND-MOTHERS.

BY ETHEL LYNN.

Grandmothers are very nice folks;
They beat all the aunts in creation;
They let a chap do just as he likes,
And don't worry about education.

I'm sure I can't see it at all,
What a poor fellow ever could do
For apples, and pennes, and cakes,
Without a grandmother or two.

Grandmothers speak softly to "ma's"
To let a boy have a good time,
Sometimes they will whisper, "tis true,
'Tother way, when a boy wants to climb.

Grandmothers have muffins for tea,
And pies, a whole row, in the cellar,
And they're apt (if they know it in time),
To make chicken pies for a "feller."

And if he is bad now and then,
And makes a great racketing noise,
They only look over their specs,
And say, "Ah, these boys will be boys.

Life is only so short at the best;
Let the children be happy to-day,
Then they look for a while at the sky,
And the hills that are far, far away.

Quite often, as twilight comes on,
Grandmothers sing hymns, very low,
To themselves as they rock by the fire,
About heaven, and when they shall go.

And then, a boy stopping to think,
Will find a hot tear in his eye,
To know what will come at the last;
For grandmothers all have to die.

I wish they could stay here and pray,
For a boy needs their prayers ev'ry night,
Some boys more than others, I s'pose,
Such as I need a wonderful sight.

SMILE WHENEVER YOU CAN.

When things don't go to suit you,
And the world seems upside down,
Don't waste your time in fretting,
But drive away that frown.

Since life is oft perplexing,
'Tis much the wisest plan
To bear all trials bravely,
And smile whenever you can.

Why should you dread to-morrow,
And thus despoil to-day?
For, when you borrow trouble,
You always have to pay.

It is a good old maxim,
Which often should be preached—
Don't cross the bridge before you
Until the bridge is reached.

You might be spared much sighing
If you would keep in mind
The thought that good and evil
Are always here combined.

There must be something wanting;
And, though you roll in wealth,
You may miss from your casket
That precious jewel, health.

And though you're strong and sturdy,
You may have an empty purse,
And earth has many trials
Which I consider worse.

But, whether joy or sorrow
Fill up your mortal span,
'Twill make your pathway brighter
To smile whenever you can.

UNDER PAID LABOR.

Under paid labor always revenges itself upon the employer in negligence and waste. The man cares little for the interest of the master who cheapens the sweat of his brow to the lowest possible farthing, and the work he does is never performed with either cheerfulness or alacrity. Getting the greatest amount for the least outlay, never yet paid in the long run. You may feed your horse upon thistles, and drive him at the top of his speed for a time—but for a time only. With enough of remuneration to make him defy the wolf at the door—to keep him in clothing and a chance to lay up "against a rainy day," one will sing cheerily, while he labors faithfully—take an interest in what he does and strive to gain a still higher recompense by making himself more useful. And there is another strong point in the case. Poor pay is a great temptation to theft. You have plenty and to spare—the one you employ plenty of nothing but poverty. It is hard for him to reason that such a state of affairs is right—that you should ride in a coach, while he cannot spare a sixpence to patronize a car after hours of hard work. These contrasts are ever before him. He sees them by day, dreams of them by night, and when the week or month is ended the little pittance he receives is instantly swallowed up in keeping body and soul together—in making and recruiting strength to do your work. Is it strange then that so many should fail to keep the straight-forward path? We opine not, and the sooner there is more liberality on the part of employers—the sooner something of a co-operative system is inaugurated, the sooner more better work will be done and honesty be the rule—not the exception.

A MECHANICAL TRIUMPH.

Thomas Morton, a member of the senior class of Racine College and a resident of Racine, has invented an improvement upon the crank, which is deemed by many practical engineers and scientific men likely to prove one of the most valuable and useful inventions of the age. Persons familiar with machinery are aware that there are two dead points in the crank

where all power is lost, a balance is necessary to carry the machinery beyond those points; the balance wheel is not able to generate any force, so that double the force is required—one half to turn the machinery while the crank is working, and the other half to give sufficient momentum to the balance wheel to carry the machinery beyond the points where the crank cannot act.

Mr. Morton's improvement does away with the dead points entirely, and keeps the power continually upon the long lever, or as engineers call it, the half-centre, thus nearly doubling the power, and so saving a great amount of fuel in engines. It can be applied to all kinds of crank machinery, engines, lathes, sewing machines, &c.

Mr. Morton went himself to Washington to procure a patent; he says that the men in the patent office pronounced his invention wholly new from anything they had ever seen, also the engineers at the capitol building gave as their opinion that it was a very excellent improvement and a perfect success.

No one has yet given a reason why it will not work, and the only argument raised against it is that it has been labored at ever since steam engines were first invented; many men having spent their fortunes and lives in searching after it, and people cannot believe that Mr. Morton, being young and not a practical mechanic, has really found the secret.

The simplicity of the arrangement is almost ridiculous, and makes one laugh and wonder why it was never thought of before. It consists of a ratchet wheel, which takes the place of the crank; over this ratchet wheel runs a frame, in the two sides of which are inmovable cogs or pawls. When the connecting rod drives the frame out, the cogs on one side act upon the teeth of the wheel and carry it half way round, while at the same time the cogs on the opposite side, working in a contrary direction, when touched by the teeth of the wheel are thrown out of the way, and the instant they scrape the teeth of the wheel they adjust themselves by their own weight, or by means of springs, and so are ready to carry the wheel the remaining half revolution when the connecting rod is drawn in. Thus a revolution is obtained with every stroke of the piston, and no time is lost.

Mr. Morton got up the invention and demonstrated it in two days, and declares that he never thought of it before in his life, in fact he never knew that there was anything wanting in the crank. His surprise can only be imagined when he found his simple little idea has opened a prospect of name and wealth.—*Racine, Wisconsin Argus.*

THE LOCK-OUT IN THE BUILDING TRADES.

Although we have learned by cable news that the recent lock-out in Great Britain has been settled, the following information, culled from late old country exchanges, may not prove uninteresting:—

"One of the resolutions adopted by the committee was that every master builder be called upon to pay the sum of 6d. per head for every man he had in his employ on the 7th of June, and this resolution was embodied in a circular and sent round the trade. The amount thus raised will go to form a guarantee fund out of which to compensate those masters who may suffer special pecuniary loss from locking out. Another printed document has been sent to those employers who have not locked out, for presentation to their men to sign, of which the following is a copy:—

"I hereby engage with Messrs. — not to contribute any money, directly or indirectly, to support those men who are now on strike, or who are locked out through the demands of the Trades' Union."

"This document has been presented for signature to the men working in several firms, and in nearly every instance the men have given a refusal. In some firms where it was presented the men had not hitherto taken any part in the nine hours movement, or subscribed a penny towards it, but as their reply to this document they at once sent to the Central Committee, at the Brown Bear for subscription-sheets and cards.

THE DEVIL FISH OUTDOGS.—The *Gibraltar Chronicle* of the 29th ult. says:—"A huge specimen of the sun-fish order was captured at Catalan Bay on Saturday last. It was taken in the nets, which were much damaged by it, and secured with great difficulty. It has been identified as the 'Orthogoriscus Oblongus' of Cuvier, a branch of the sun-fish family not usually met with in these waters, but noted as sometimes caught at the Cape of Good Hope. It was impossible to take an accurate measurement of the fish, which was floating close by the beach, but it was about 8 ft. long, 5 ft. broad, and 2 ft. in thickness, and probably would weigh 10 or 12 cwt., and was decidedly oblong in shape."

A Newport correspondent of the Press Association telegraphs: "The wife of a tradesman in Newport has given birth to a child with two heads—one at each extremity of the trunk, with the shoulders and arms in their natural relative position as regards the heads. From one side of the trunk project two legs, and on the opposite side a leg only. The whole body appeared well nourished, and the limbs fully developed. One portion of this strange body lived 30 hours after birth; but the other portion died within five hours, but became re-animated, and finally died in convulsions."

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