

Children's Corner

TRANSPLANTED PRAIRIE FLOWERS

Dear Cousin Dorothy:—I hope I am not writing too often; if I am, please tell me.

We have young chickens out, and are expecting some more soon. A gopher got in the barn and ate the food we put down for the hen. We have such a dear little colt; it is about two weeks' old. It will come to the door and neigh, when we go out it looks for sugar. My sister and I have two tame crows. They are only young ones, but they are as tame as can be. They will call to us every time we pass them. We have no cultivated flowers except some mignonette and nasturtiums, so we have to get wild flowers. We transplanted some big red Tiger Lilies from the prairie, also some pink and white daisies. I found a bird's nest not far from the house with five young ones in it. I went home and got bread crumbs which I crumbled up in front of the nest. The next time I went they had eaten it all, so I fed them every day till the young ones flew away.

Hoping you and all the cousins are well, I remain,

Your little reader,
Sask. (a) NORAH T. F. COCKRANE.

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OLD AUNT MARY'S.

Wasn't it pleasant, oh brother mine,
In those old days of the lost sunshine
Of youth—when the Saturday's
chores were through
And the Sunday wood in the kitchen
too.
And we went visiting, "me and
you,"
Out to Old Aunt Mary's?

It all comes back clear to-day!
Though I am bald as you are grey—
Out by the barn lot and down the
lane,
We patter along in the dust again,
As light as the tip of the drops of
rain,
Out to Old Aunt Mary's.

We cross the pasture, and through
the wood,
Where the old grey snag of the poplar
stood,
Where the hammering "red-heads"
hopped awry,
And the buzzard "raised" in the
clearing sky
And lolled and circled as he went by,
Out to Old Aunt Mary's.

And then in the dust of the road
again,
And the teams we met and the countrymen;
And the long highway, with sunshine
spread

As thick as butter on country bread,
Our cares behind, our hearts ahead,
Out to Old Aunt Mary's.
Why, I see her now in the open door,
Where the little gourds grow by the
sides and o'er
The clapboard roof! And her face—
ah me!

Wasn't it good for a boy to see—
And wasn't it good for a boy to be
Out to Old Aunt Mary's.

The jelly, the jam and the marmalade
And the cherry and quince preserves
she made!
With cinnamon 'em, and all things
rare—
And the more we ate was the more
to spare,
Out to Old Aunt Mary's.

And the old springhouse in the cool,
green gloom
Of the willow trees—and the cooler
room
Where the swinging shelves and the
crockets were kept—
Where the cream in a golden languor
slept.
Where the waters gurgled and laughed
and wept—
Out to Old Aunt Mary's.

And oh, my brother, so far away,
This is to tell you she waits to-day
To welcome us—Aunt Mary fell
Asleep this morning, whispering—
"Tell
The boys to come?" And all is well,
Out to Old Aunt Mary's.
—James Whitcomb Riley.

...
Speak gently to the octopus,
And beat him when he sneezes;
He only does it to annoy,
And 'cause he knows it teases.
—Lewis Carroll.

...

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DON'T SHOOT

Don't shoot! Consider this one fact,
The lack of manhood in the act;
How could a creature of your size
Take aim at any bird that flies?
We are so helpless, and so small!
The very tiniest boy is tall
Compared with us. Put down your gun
And seek some manlier kind of fun.

Don't shoot! Out there in tree and
glade,
In pretty nests that we have made,
Our hungry little birdlings wait.
Ah, think of their unhappy fate
If we came not at set of sun!
Put down your gun, put down your gun.

Don't shoot! But leave us free of wing
To build, and nest, and soar and sing.
We ask so little, just to live—
And for that privilege we give
Our souls in song, till life is done,
Put down your gun, put down your gun.

Don't shoot! Earth has enough of joy,
Of space, and food, for bird and boy;
Enough for both of light and sun,
Put down your gun, put down your gun.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

A BOY'S LAMENT.

I don't like grown folks very much;
'Pears like they don't like me;
In nearly ev'rything I do
Some fault they're sure to see.

If I'm playin' in my play-room,
As quiet as can be,
They think I'm up to mischief an'
Come runnin' up to see.

An' if I run an' laugh an' shout
They send me off to bed,
'Cause it almost drives 'em crazy,
An' nearly splits their head.

I get all tired out an' cross
Atryin' to be good,
An' hate to hear of children who
Do just the things they should.

I've got er dandy sled, er course,
An' heaps er other toys,
But don't have no fun using 'em
Like all the other boys.

'Cause ma's so feared that I'll get
cold,
I don't get out till spring,
An' then the snow's all mushy like—
An' marbles is the thing.

In summertime it's 'bout as bad;
The things I want to do
Are mostly al'ays just the ones
She doesn't want me to.

Yer see, my ma, she never was
A little boy like me,
An' so, er course, she doesn't know
What a boy 'ud like to be.

An' pa, he ain't no use at all—
He dassn't say a word—
'Whatever mother says must go'
Is all I've ever heard.

It's dretful queer how he's forgot
'Bout things boys like to do!
But p'rhaps when I'm so awful old,
I'll have forgotten, too.

An' so, I think, I'd rather die
A little boy like me,
Than live to be as horrid as
The grown folks have to be.

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