

The Childrer's Page

THE SWEET GIRL GRADUATE. There you stand, my bonnie maiden, In the sunlight's brilliant hue,

Now your life is in its springtime, Naught you know of dreary days, As you stand amongst the roses

As you say your words of farewell, Your young heart feels bold and brave, As you calmly speak of duty

So you gaze in child-like wonder, As you sit in queenly state, Whilst the world is paying homage

May the ever loving Father Blessings shower on you to-day, And may every wish and prayer

When your life has reached its winter, And you have been called away, May your heart be pure and sinless

FLYING KITES IN CHINA. Boys are always interested in kites. The following from a writer in the New York Sun will give some new

In vivid contrast to the crude and unadorned production of America, with its tail of rags, are the attractive, artistic and elaborately painted

The kites are wonderful things in their way, and exhibit a deal of ingenuity, and especially the love of art and decoration which runs through the whole life of the Chinese

In China kite-flying is a national pastime, and is one of the leading diversions of the sons of both mandarins and nobles, as well as the lower and middle classes.

On this occasion the hills and open country are covered with great processions of kite flyers, both old and young, who devote the whole day to the sport.

The great variety in form of the kites causes a marvelous spectacle in the air, giving the effect of a dance of the hobgoblins of the upper air.

The universal use of the kite is not a form of amusement alone, but has a sort of religious interest connected with it, as each particular kite has its meaning and conveys some emblematic idea.

One of the ingenious types is the musical kite. This has a bow of bamboo, with a silk string fastened to the top.

Kites are constructed to represent theatrical scenes and favorite heroes of ancient and modern dramas. In most cases, excepting in kites representing the women, the faces are covered with long bearded grotesque masks.

Among the most wonderful and ingenious achievements of the Chinese kite maker is a gigantic centipede. From head to tail it measures nearly forty feet, and is made to fold up accordion like.

Seen in the air, with its serpentine motion, its huge, glaring eyes swiftly twirling in their sockets, the effect is said to be astonishingly realistic, producing awe in the Chinese mind at least.

One of the peculiar types is the fighting kite. This is about five feet long and cross-shaped, the two ends terminating in sharp points.

The kites are sent up, and the moment the strings are crossed the battle begins. When half a dozen or more become entangled, the sport

sometimes lasts nearly a day. Money is frequently wagered on the result and special contests are arranged by experts in kite flying.

THE NAME CALIFORNIA.

The word California was first used in a work on Spanish chivalry published in 1510. This work was an alleged history of the adventures of "Amadis of Gaul and his son Esplandian." It was of great length and divided into a great number of short stories, one of which was the manner in which "Califa," the queen of the island of California, a country inhabited only by women, who lived as amazons and had gold without end,

NEGRO GIRL WINS.

The annual convention of the National Educational association was opened in Cleveland on Monday. The feature of the opening day was the national spelling contest, and the feature of the contest was Marie C. Bolden, a negro girl who made a perfect score and thus became the champion speller.

The victory was a personal triumph for the little dusky maiden, Marie C. Bolden, 13 years old, daughter of a negro mail carrier of Cleveland, who spelled every word correctly, both in oral and the written tests. The convention was swept with a storm of applause at her demonstration.

Earlier, just before the contest began, several of the New Orleans children had balked at the idea of spelling against a negro girl, but in a caucus the southern team decided to go into the contest, waiving race prejudice.

A MORNING CONCERT IN JULY.

A few minutes' walk brought them across the fields and to the entrance of the woods. Seated on a moss-covered log, Beth told the children that they must keep perfectly still for a while, so as not to miss the first notes.

"Now hark! Over there in the marshes, what do you hear?" "Frogs!" cried the children. "Oh, they sing too!"

"There, it's three o'clock," said Fred. "You said the concert would begin promptly. Where is it?"

"See, see, see; violets, violets, violets." At the first notes of the "violet bird," as they call it (because it always comes with the earliest violets), Beth put out a warning hand to keep the children still.

"That's the chief solo-singer of the concert, children," said Beth; "our yellow-headed sparrow."

"There's the robin waking up, too," whispered the voices, as the robin's "rain-song" filled the air. Then followed a quick, troubled note from another robin, as if waked too early from its slumber.

And now another sparrow from the grove calls out, "See, see—oh, see, see; violets, violets, violets."

"The crow does not seem to join in the chorus, does he?" said Lily. "He does not get up so early as the rest?"

By way of answer, Lily heard a sleepy, hoarse "What! what! what!" from the spruce trees, and then an indignant chorus of "Caw! caw! caw!"

"Oh, that woke the crow up!" In a short time the different songs were all mingled in a glad chorus. Each bird had its own peculiar melody; each sang as if unconscious of any other member of the chorus; yet the whole was in perfect harmony.

There was no discordant note. Even the hoarse caw, caw of the crow only added a rich bass to the soprano and tenor singers. Robin-redbreast's was the most prominent. Yet always strong and clear from the grove, a sparrow gave the watch-cry, "See, see, see," and from the hedge came "Violets, violets, violets," said Beth.

"Listen very carefully," said Beth, "and when robin pauses a minute to take breath, you will hear our sweet thrush."

"Oh, there it is! How far off it sounds!" said Flora. "And there are the swallows," she added, pointing to the familiar birds as they flew in low, waving circles, uttering their peculiar twitter.

"Oh, what birds are these?" cried Lily. "They flew right by my head, two of them! What are they?" "Those are bats," said Beth. "See, they are getting ready to go to sleep. They have had their day, and now are ready to say good-night."

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST Homestead Regulations

Any even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Application for entry must be made in person by the applicant at a Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-agency for the district in which the land is situated. Entry by proxy may, however, be made at any Agency, on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

The homesteader is required to perform the homestead duties under one of the following plans:

(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years.

(2) A homesteader may, if he so desires, perform the required residence duties by living on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of his homestead. Joint ownership in land will not meet this requirement.

(3) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of a homesteader has permanent residence on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of the homestead, or upon a homestead entered for by him in the vicinity, such homesteader may perform his own residence duties by living with the father (or mother).

(4) The term "vicinity" in the two preceding paragraphs is defined as meaning not more than nine miles in a direct line, exclusive of the width of road allowances crossed in the measurement.

(5) A homesteader intending to perform his residence duties in accordance with the above while living with parents or on farming land owned by himself must notify the Agent for the district of such intention.

Six months' notice in writing must be given to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, of intention to apply for patent.

W. W. CORY, Deputy of the Minister of the Interior. N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

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them, flew down on the grass and found a breakfast ready for the taking. The bright yellow-birds with their sombre mates were exulting over their treasure of dandelion seeds. With a quick flutter the little birds would fly upon the stems of the dandelion and bring the airy head of seeds within reach.

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DOG SAVED THE BRIDGE. A dog belonging to Robert Wallace of Marshall, Colo., has again saved the Colorado & Southern bridge near that place from destruction by fire.

In 1902 the same bridge was badly damaged by fire, just before a train was due, and the same dog called attention to the fire by howling and a serious accident to the train was averted. The railroad officials presented the animal with a fine collar at the time.

On this occasion the dog was heard wildly barking, and an investigation showed that the bridge was in flames. A freight train had passed over it a few minutes before, and hot coals from the fire-box set the timbers ablaze. Agent at Marshall was notified, while Mrs. Wallace and her little girl carried water from the creek and succeeded in extinguishing the flames.

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strong wind would have fanned the flames into a haze of serious proportions.—Boston Evening Globe. WHAT A BOY CAN DO. Be frank. Be polite. Be prompt. Be obliging. Obey his parents. Keep himself tidy. Keep out of bad company. Never laugh at a coarse joke. Never be disrespectful to old age. Be kind to his brothers and sisters. Take the part of those who are ill used. Never make fun of another because he is poor. Never tell or listen to a story

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which he would not repeat to his mother. MOTHER'S WORK. Baking, stewing and brewing. Roasting, frying and boiling. Sweeping, dusting and clearing. Washing, starching and ironing. Ripping, basting and stitching. Cutting, basting and stitching. Making the old like new; Shoestrings to lace, Faces to wash, Buttons to sew, And the like of such; Stockings to darn While the children play, Stories to tell, Tears wipe away, Making them happy The livelong day; It is ever thus from morn till night; Who says that mother's work is light? At evening, four Little forms in white; Prayers all said, And the last good night, Tucking them safe In each downy bed, Silently asking O'er each head, That the dear Father In heaven will keep Safe all my darlings, Awake or asleep. Then I think the old adage true ever will prove: "It is easy to labor for those that we love." Ah me! dear me! I often say, As I hang the tumbled clothes away; And th' tear drops start While my burdened heart Aches for the mother across the way. Where, oh, where, are Her nestings flown? All, all are gone, Save one alone! Folded their garments With tenderest care, Unpressed the pillow And vacant the chair. No ribbons to tie, No faces to wash, No hair all awry; No merry voices To hush into rest; God save them! He took them, And He knoweth best! But, ah! the heart anguish; the tears that fall! This mother's work is the hardest of all! —Selected.