



THE ADVENTURES OF STRONGARM.

Once upon a time there lived a very brave knight named Strongarm. He was the best wrestler in the whole country, for nobody could throw him.

"I am the strongest," he declared, and the people all said "Yes," but one old man shook his head. "Nay," he said, "there lives one who boasts a greater strength than yours, proud knight."

"Tell me his name," cried the knight in angry tones. "I will seek him this very day."

"He not in such haste," answered the old man. "He is mighty, indeed, many a strong man has yielded to his power."

"But I will find him," declared Strongarm. "Nor will I know peace until I have vanquished this proud boaster."

That very day he set out upon his travels. He journeyed toward the rising sun.

the winged and creeping things brought him news from the outside world. Perhaps he might know.

Then Strongarm thanked the charcoal burners, and continued his journey.

After a little while he came to a tiny hut, and tapped at the door. It was opened by an old man, whose hair and beard were as white as snow.

"Welcome, my son," he said. "Long have I dwelt under the shadow of these hills, but few are they who find their way to my lonely abode. What seek ye here?"

"I seek the mighty one," answered Strongarm. "He who boasts a greater strength than all others. I would know where he lives."

The hermit sighed.

"I know you," he said, "though you know me not. You are that Strongarm of whom all men speak. Yet you would seek that mightier one. Suppose your

a pretty little boat came gliding over the water.

There were men to sail it, and Strongarm had only to step in.

This he did, and liked it very much. Presently they came to an island covered with flowers, and much to his surprise, a laughing boy skipped down to the water's edge, and, holding out his hands, cried merrily: "Welcome, Sir Knight, I have been waiting for you."

"Nay, not for me," answered Strongarm. "I seek the mighty wrestler. Mayhap you know him."

The boy laughed gayly.

"I know him well, Sir Knight. I am he."

"This time Strongarm laughed.

"This passes jest," he said. "Why, I could toss you as I could a baby, had I but the time. Now I must pass on."

"Nay, not yet," begged the boy with his brightest smile. "Come, see what I can do."

Then Strongarm stepped on shore, and catching the little elf he held him high above his head for one full minute; then giving him a toss, he caught him like a rubber ball.

"Oh, what fun!" cried the boy when he stood on his feet again. "We will have such merry times together. Now shall you be refreshed?" He clapped his hands while he spoke, and soon a slave appeared, bearing two goblets of a liquid, clear, cool and sparkling.

"Choose, sir knight," said he, "and drink to our better acquaintance."

"Thou art merry," answered Strongarm. "I will drink your toast. Then I must leave you."

But after he had finished the magic draught he no longer wished to go away.

So he stayed many days upon the beautiful island.

At last he knew he must really depart, but he promised to come soon again.

And no matter where he went or what he did he was always wishing to be back with his little friend.

"I must go just once more," he said, at last, "but this time I will not stay, for I would soon lose my strength there."

He did stay, though, and each day the boy grew taller and stronger. They played at wrestling very often, but Strongarm did not always find it so easy to win.

"One day he was not careful and the boy threw him."

He was on his feet in a second. "Tis a small thing," he laughed, but when he sailed away he determined to come back and teach the saucy young fellow a lesson.

In a week he again set sail for the island.

The boy had grown immensely, and as soon as Strongarm felt the grasp of his hands and saw the firm set of his feet upon the ground he knew that this day's contest would be different from any they had yet had.

"The young cub wants to play the man!" he thought, "and, in truth, he is strong enough for it. By my faith there is danger in him."

"It was, indeed, a most terrible struggle."

The boy seemed to grow stronger each minute.

First one and then the other would slip and nearly fall, but neither yielded. At last, when Strongarm was well nigh spent, he heard these words:

"Save thyself, oh knight. One mighty effort and the victory is thine."

It was the old hermit who spoke. Strongarm saw him standing under a great tree and anxiously watching the fight.

The words seemed to give him fresh strength, for the next minute he gripped the young giant around the waist, lifted him in the air and flung him full length upon the ground.

The crowd, with victory, he fell exhausted and fainting beside his mighty foe.

He did not know anything more until he awakened a little while after to find himself in a boat and the hermit bending over him.

"I was well done, my son," said he in a kindly voice, "but never again seek the danger you so barely escaped. Had you yielded you would have been a slave all your life. For that boy is none other than Habit. He is small at first, but the better you like him and the oftener you do as he wishes the bigger and stronger he grows."

"I know him now," answered Strongarm, "and never again shall he control me even in the smallest things."

And, like a true knight, he kept his word.

BETROTHAL BANGLES.

The latest idea is to substitute an engagement bangle for the betrothal ring. These engagement bangles are deep yellow golden circles, perfectly plain, and varying in size from the mere narrow bangle to the heavy broad band of gold. The spring, once closed, can never be unstained unless tried open with a chisel, and the lover has the satisfaction of feeling he has riveted the shackles on his fair fiancée forever. In the case of one engaged couple the gentleman wore a gold bracelet as well as the lady, only in the lady's case the bracelet was fastened by a thin gold chain to a solid gold ring on the little finger, play being allowed the hands by means of a chain of gold links, which left the chain free to work up and down.—The Sheffield Telegraph.

The Kansas Agricultural College is sending out \$1,200 worth of prize dog poison a month, and is unable to supply the demand.

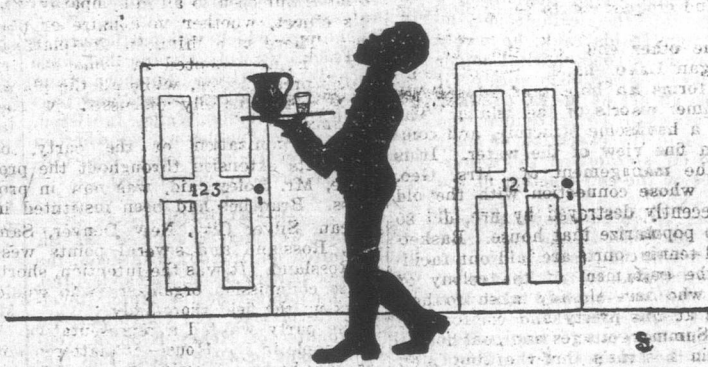
THE BUTTONS' COMPLAINT.

BY FLORENCE RANDOLPH SANDERS.

If they'd only left me wild, a happy Afric child, A-roaming through the jungles with my father and his band, He'd be chief of the Timbuctoo and own Ashantee, too! His enemies would tremble when he took his spear in hand! When with him I stalked abroad, all the people would be awed, The warriors would drop their heads, afraid to meet his eye, And the women all round would be kneeling on the ground, A-chanting lonesome melodies, soon to make one cry.



They'd have rings in all directions and shiny black complexions, Oh, I cannot be a-counting their numberless perfections! If they'd only left me wild, a happy Afric child, I'd follow with the warriors when they went out to fight. We would creep with stealthy tread through the many jungles, tread Just like a band of shadows through the stillness of the night. We would fath upon our foes, strike them down with savage blows, And loudly would they curse us when they saw their warriors slain. Then our tom-toms would beat with their shins, and our voices would ring, Awakened all the echoes till the jungles rang again. Then we'd homeward rush pell-mell—but I wish my frantic yell, For I'm nothing but a "Buttons" in a n-up-to-date hotel.



SYLLABLE SOUP—A RECESS GAME

This game, like some others that we have given you, is intended not only to amuse you at recess, but to help you in your study of the English language. Any game that will do that is well worth playing, for to speak and write good English is one of the most useful things that you can learn at school.

The game is based on the fact that there are very many syllables in our language that are used in different words. The first thing to be done is to cut a sheet of foolscap paper into strips the full length of the sheet, and about one inch in width. Now, on each strip write as many words of from two to four syllables as it will accommodate, leaving half an inch between the syllables.

Then, with a pair of scissors, cut the paper into parts, so that you have a



great many parts, each containing a syllable. Mix these parts all together and you are ready to begin the game. Let each player draw from the pile on the "soup plate" three of the papers, and when all have drawn they set to work trying to form words.

Each player is called on in turn, and if he has failed to form a word with either two or all three of his syllables he must return two of them to the pile, keeping one, and wait until his turn comes again, when he draws two more from the pile and tries again to form a word.

Of course, it is necessary to have a limit of time in the game, or it may be agreed that each player shall have a certain number of turns, and at the end of the game the player that has formed the most words is the winner.

The game is very helpful to boys and girls that are old enough to take a real interest in the study of words, and it is for them that it is intended.

OLD FRENCH FLORIDA

A HISTORY STORY.

John Ribaut set to sea in February, 1562. He sailed from Havre, in France, and he had under his command two of the round-popped tub-bottomed ships of those days. Upon their decks besides the stoutest sailors were men whose trade was soldiering—men whose trade was building and working in metals—and still other men trained to no good craft. Ribaut was to lead these men across the sea.

Within two months of their starting they sighted land, and shortly after came to "the mouth of a great river."

The river we call the St. John's. They took possession of the land in the name of their king and set up a stone engraved with the arms of France.

It was May Day, and in that southern land plenty and beauty were at every hand. Multitudes of fish glimmered in the river, fruits were ripening in the fields, and game filled the woods nearby.

"Here," said Ribaut, "I shall make a settlement." He called together his men and made them a speech. Twenty-eight men were chosen for the colony, and one was elected captain. After Ribaut had seen them well established in a little fort he sailed for France.

The new colonists were happy. The Indians had not only beckoned them ashore when they arrived; they now feasted them with fruit and game and every delicacy they possessed. Instead of planting and harvesting the colonists were idle. Somehow they seemed to think it would always be summer and plenty.

But rains fell and winter followed. The Indians still gave of their stores of smoked fish, venison and grain, but their supplies grew short. Hunger made the settlers mutinous. Finally they killed their captain.

Summer again brought better things, but the second summer was passing, and a second winter's starvation was threatening. In vain they looked for Ribaut. No aid from him was in sight. They resolved to build a vessel and return to France.

If they had worked as hard to establish their colony as they did to get away they would doubtless have succeeded. They cut trees for their craft; they calked the seams with long moss and pitch from the pines. Their ropes the friendly Indians made out of long creeping vines. For sails they took their sheets and shirts.

Homeward they sailed. But they could take but scantiest provisions, their boat was so small. After a voyage of terrible suffering, and even cannibalism, they sighted England, and an English ship picked them up and took them to London and to food and rest.

When the British Association meets at Belfast, Ireland, the delegates will be allowed to travel free of charge over the local street railway system.

HOW TO BUILD A RUSTIC STAIR.

The tree around which you intend to build your stair should be at least two feet in diameter. The larger the tree the easier it is to wrap the saplings into place.

These should be cut from the nearest forest and can be of beech or maple. Get them as long as possible and not more than two inches in diameter.

Nail the end of one of your saplings fast to the tree at its bottom, letting it slant in the direction you are to bend it for the stair. Bend slowly around, fastening with nails as you proceed, until you reach the first limb, where it can be either tied or nailed.

As you start to bend the sapling, pass it over the curved piece you have made (which resembles a pick-axe in shape, the end of the handle being placed against the tree). The object of this pick-axe shape is to distribute the strain over a greater surface on the sapling than would be the case if you simply used a stick without the curved piece on the end.

You will need several of these shapes, and after your sapling is bent you can fasten it to these pieces by nailing.

After your sapling is properly bent you must fasten the end securely to the first limb. Unless you want to go to the trouble of selecting pieces of sapling with a very decided bow-shape to act as supports to your stair, it will be much easier to use upright supports. The former support is much prettier, of course.

The supports for the steps can be made of two pieces of sapling fastened together (see drawing) and then nailed to the sapling you have just bent. The trends of steps can be made of any sound, weather-beaten boards, but chestnut stands the weather best. The hand-rail should be bent in the same way as the second sapling. The space between the rail and the steps can be filled with any shape of rustic work you choose, either grapevine or sapling.

When you have fastened this securely you must next bend the outer support for your steps. Before you start this, however, go to the woods and select several pieces of sapling 18 inches long and with a natural bend like a bow. Trim flat on the back and front of the bow with a sharp hatchet. Fasten this at right angles to another piece of sapling about 20 inches long.

THE SAPPLINGS BENT.

THE CORRECT JOINT.

Opposite the end of the sapling which you first bent to the tree and about two feet away from it drive a stout post. To this fasten the second sapling with a strong rope. You are now ready to bend it, and you had better get your chum to help you, as it requires considerable strength.

THE RUSTIC STAIR COMPLETE.

Properly built, this rustic stairway is very pretty and graceful, and if your summer house, which it is presumed, you will build in the tree, at the head of the stairs is as artistic as your friends will enjoy your handiwork more than you have any idea.

A SAUCER TRANSFORMATION.

A NATURE LESSON.

Place half a teaspoonful of water in a saucer and put the saucer in a sunny window or in a warm room with closed windows and doors. In an hour or two the water will disappear. Where has it gone? Is it destroyed or lost? Wipe the saucer dry and clean and fill it with a thin glass tumbler with ice and water and place it in the saucer. Watch it, and in about three minutes the glass grows misty. Then drops begin to form, and they presently run down into the saucer. It may be a part of the very water that was in the saucer before. It could not have come through the glass, and we conclude it must come out of the air. It was visible in the saucer. It disappeared and now it reappears.

Take the tumbler out of the saucer, pour out the water and fill the tumbler with broken ice. Then sprinkle a tablespoonful of salt on the ice. We have seen the cook do this in making ice-cream, and we know that salt causes ice to melt, and in melting it steals the heat out of the cream and it freezes. Now pour a teaspoonful of fresh water in the saucer and place the tumbler in it. Wait 15 minutes and then gently lift the tumbler. To our surprise we find the saucer also. Put it down and watch it for half an hour and we shall see beautiful crystals of ice, resembling a frosty window, on the tumbler, and find the tumbler is frozen to the saucer. We can pull them apart and with a thin knife lift the thin crystals from the saucer or from the bottom of the glass and taste them to prove that they are artificial ice. The tumbler and saucer make a tiny ice-making plant. Presently the thin films of ice melt and there is water again. There is even more than we first put in the saucer, because the cold tumbler stole some of the invisible water out of the air, and it ran down into the saucer.

In the kitchen we see the steam come out of the nose of the tea kettle. If we examine it carefully we see that just at the end of the nose, where the steam first comes out, it is invisible. Then it appears as a white cloud that soon again disappears. We can see the same thing at the exhaust pipe of a steam engine. These things are so very common we forget how wonderful they are. Water may be either an invisible vapor, a liquid or a solid, and in each form it is still water.

Look at a common Fahrenheit thermometer and the word "freezing" can be seen opposite the figure 32 of the scale. In fine thermometers we see opposite the figure 32 the words "water boils." These points, 32 and 212, are the points of transformation or change in water. The cause of the change is heat. When the heat of the air out of doors rises in winter above 32 the ice in the ponds begins to melt. In the same way when the temperature falls to 32 water changes to ice.

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