

tries, ask the boys to find out, before a certain day, something about Alaska. The girls can take, as their subject for investigation, Mexico. Not long ago I saw a third-book boy sit down at home and, in a few minutes, outline a map of Ontario, putting in every county correctly without the least trouble. He drew construction lines first, and within these the outline seemed to be almost automatically sketched. Of course, the placing of the counties required some thought, and, as I watched, I could not but think how infinitely more educational such a plan of teaching was than the old method, consisting of long lists of names that, thus acquired, seemed to be so easily forgotten.

## STORY FOR REPRODUCTION.

ONE TWENTY-FOURTH OF MAY.

RHODA LEE.

Tommy Bates had been saving up his cents and pennies for a long time, and intended to spend them all on fireworks for the Queen's Birthday. The only house very near his was Mrs. Burden's, and, although there were no little boys of his age in the family, there was a baby of about two years who was very fond of Tommy. Tommy was thinking all the time how that baby would crow and clap his hands when he heard his big crackers go off, and how his eyes would dance when the pin-wheels whizzed. The evening of the twenty-third came, and just before supper he went down to the store and spent all his money except two cents. "Those will buy the baby a couple of sugar-sticks for his holiday," he said, and he pushed them deep down in his pocket, and turned his back on a Roman candle he wanted rather badly. After showing his mother his treasures he put them away on a shelf until morning. Just then Tommy caught sight of the doctor's gig standing at Mrs. Burden's door.

"I wonder who is sick," he said to himself. "Perhaps the doctor has just gone in to see Mr. Burden about some painting."

Bright and early next morning Tommy was up and downstairs in the back yard, his fireworks arranged on a bench beside a box of matches. Bang! went a cracker, and Tommy was just rushing off to see if it had left a light when Mrs. Burden's side window went up. Poor tired Mrs. Burden was too weary to think of the little fellow's disappointment as she asked him, somewhat impatiently, not to set off any more of those things, as baby had just gone to sleep after being awake almost all night. Tommy felt pretty sore, but he gathered up his things and went in to tell his mother, who was getting breakfast. Presently she went over to see what was wrong with little Frank. "The baby's pretty bad, Tommy," she said when she returned. "The doctor has been to see him twice, and says he must have as much sleep as possible to-day." Tommy's eyes grew rather full just then, for he could not help thinking how angry he had felt at that baby for upsetting all his day's fun. "However," his mother added, "your fireworks will keep till Saturday,

Tommy, and we will have them over to tea and set them off in the evening.

The twenty-fourth of May was rather a long day for Tommy. He did not know what to do with himself. He bought the sugar-sticks for Baby Frank, and afterwards remembered that he could not eat them until he was better.

But there was not a happier boy in town than Tommy Bates when, in the evening, Mrs. Burden came over purposely to thank him for being so quiet all day. Baby had slept and was better, she said. The fireworks on Saturday were a grand success, and as the exhibition was not a late one Baby Frank stayed awake to see it.

## BUSY WORK.

RHODA LEE.

I. Write the names of articles made of the following:

1. Wood.
2. Iron.
3. Glass.
4. Gold.
5. Wool.
6. Cotton.
7. Paper.
8. Tin.
9. Leather.
10. Stone.

II. Tell all you know about the following:

1. Feathers.
2. Tea.
3. Paper.
4. Leather.
5. Boats.
6. Fireworks.

## Book Notices.

FIVE-MINUTE OBJECT SERMONS TO CHILDREN.  
By Sylvanus Stall, D.D. Cloth, 12mo., 256 pp.  
\$1. New York, London, and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

These forty-three brief sermons to children have more than usual merit. With some object of everyday life presented to the eye, the author, after the manner of the parables, presents the important truths of the Gospel to the easy comprehension of both old and young. The illustrations used are impressive, the truths taught are important, and the impressions made are likely to be lasting. The book is admirably suited to the use of such teachers as desire something short and impressive to read to their scholars in the devotional hour.

THE LIFE OF ST. COLUMBAN. 20 cents. Translations and reprints from the original sources of European history. Published by the Department of History of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

No. 7 of the second volume of Translations and Reprints of Historical Documents, published by the University of Pennsylvania, is entirely taken up with a translation from the Latin of the Life of St. Columban by the monk Jonas. The period during which Irish missionary zeal was so active—the sixth and seventh centuries—is, in the light of the later history of Ireland, peculiarly and particularly interesting. Superior to the inhabitants of the neighboring island, and, indeed, of continental Europe, in the purity, intensity, and enlightenment of their faith, the Irish, taking pity on the benighted English, Gauls, Germans—on the rest of mankind generally—set to work to Christianize and civilize these less favored races. Only a little while, however, and the barbarous sea-kings from the north brought ruin and desolation to the green

island of the west. Then followed that long night of national sorrow and humiliation which is only now giving place to a feebly-breaking, grayish, unpromising dawn.

Except St. Patrick, there is no more popular Irish saint than St. Columban. The life from which the present translation is taken was written by Jonas, a monk at Bobbio, in Northern Italy, three years after Columban's death. The biography is taken from the stories told by the saint's companions, and must naturally reflect faithfully the feelings and modes of thought of these zealots of early days. Naturally enough, the record of the saint's life is a record of miracles galore; and the recital becomes, necessarily, somewhat tiresome from the inevitable sameness. Prisons are burst open, boats are turned out of their courses, demons innumerable are cast out of suffering mankind, kings are dethroned and enthroned at the bidding of Columban. Perhaps the most remarkable of the miracles is the one of the raven, a miracle which Grote, the historian of Greece, has declared to be "exactly in the character of the Homeric and Hesiodic age." Columban, having come to dine at a certain monastery, lays his gloves (we are told the saint used to wear gloves when working!) on a stone before the door. A raven bears off one of the gloves. When the saint comes out and discovers his loss, he at once, with keen detective instinct, guesses the thief. "There is no one who would venture," he says, "to touch anything without permission, except the bird which was sent out by Noah and did not return to the ark." To induce the culprit to restore the stolen property, he decrees that she shall not be able to feed her young until she makes restoration. Soon the raven returns, humbly returns the glove, and—*mirabile dictu!*—does not attempt to fly away again, but more humbly awaits punishment.

"Oh, wonderful power," adds the biographer, with beautiful credulity, "of the eternal Judge, who grants such power to His servants that they are glorified both by honors from men and by the obedience of birds!"

SONGS AND SONG GAMES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.  
Arranged by M. E. Cotting. Boston: New England Publishing Company. Paper, 64 pp.  
Price, 25 cents.

Here are seventy-five songs and song-games, every one of which will be as welcome to the children as to the teacher. Children enjoy games in school and out; they enjoy singing whatever is adapted to them. The child needs play and music as much as he enjoys them. Little children cannot sit long in one position, and they ought not to study and recite long at one time. The interruptions should be such as will add to, rather than subtract from, the effect of school exercises proper. All this is provided for in these seventy-five songs and song-games of Miss Cotting.

The May number of *St. Nicholas* is full of the out-of-doors spirit appropriate to the season. Many of the artists and poets represented draw their inspiration from the month of flowers. There are four full-page pictures—"Spring," drawn by M. A. Cowles, "A May-Day Party in Central Park," by F. H. Lungren, and "The Great Bicycle Race at Grasshoppertown," by I. W. Taber. In the way of verse there is "A May-Day Shower," by M. A. Thomson; "Spring House Cleaning," by Margaret Johnson; "The Perverse Songster," by W. O. McClelland, and "The Red-Bird's Matins," by H. H. Bennett. The rest of the magazine has the usual wide diversity. John Bennett contributes a story of England in the Middle Ages, entitled "His Father's Pride," showing the pranks of a boy who had characteristic English pluck. John Burroughs, the poet and essayist, furnishes a study of "The Porcupine" based upon his own personal observation in the Catskills of the ways of this queer little animal. Lieutenant John M. Ellicott, U.S.N., takes the reader on "A Stroll in the Garden of England," past Dickens' home at Gad's Hill, and the tomb of the Indian princess Pocahontas. A story for girls is "The Green Satin Gown," by Laura E. Richards. Oliver C. Farrington describes "Shooting-Stars that Reach the Earth," and illustrations are given of some of the most remarkable meteors that have been discovered. There are several other interesting papers.