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"Young Folks Circle"

Where Uncle West Presides

My Dear Boys and Girls: We would like to open up another competition for the boys and girls, but would like to know exactly what would be the most interesting subject to write about, and therefore I will ask you to send in suggestions for the next competition. I am sure your fathers and mothers must all feel very proud of the letters written by their boys and girls, especially as each boy and each girl seemed to think their father and their mother a perfect marvel, and each was determined to follow in their footsteps. I feel assured that each father and mother will be determined to place only the very brightest and best before their boys and girls. Now hurry up and tell me what you boys and girls would like best. Would you like a correspondence column so that you could write to one another, or would you like a post card exchange for the exchange of post cards. A handicrafts corner where the boys could explain the work that they can do for the winter evenings. This page must be made a power of helpfulness, and if Uncle West can help his boys and girls in shaping their lives so that they can become more considerate and kindly he will not have lived in vain. I think it would be well to have a set of rules for our boys and girls. What do you say to this? I would like some drawings or kodak pictures which the boys or girls have made themselves.

FOLLOWING

"I see comin' papa" sounded o'er the field
A little voice shrill, clear and sweet.
My happy two-year-old, from me con-
cealed
Pursued my steps with quiet feet.

Across the hay-field, o'er the wall of stone,
His little eyes my way had seen
And while I thought I pensive walked alone
His limbs were struggling thro' the
green.

"I see comin' papa" o'er and o'er in glee
He called upon the summer air,
Heroic, strong, as if a man he'd be,
And follow papa everywhere.

Perhaps he tho't if sudden he should slip
That I would see him well restored;
Perhaps he craved a strong companionship
With one whom he, I trust, adored.

But still I think he felt 'twas good to go
Wherever papa went; and he
Was doing what was natural, I trow,
In struggling onward after me.

More careful I the way to choose had been,
To fix the loose stone in the wall,
Had I but realized he followed in
My way, or sooner heard his call.

In every path of life, or smooth or rough,
Or light or dark, or right or wrong
That little voice I hear full well enough,
Unuttered oft, yet clear and strong.

How oft unnoticed and unknown; alas!
Unheeded too oftimes when known,
The little feet come struggling thro' the
grass
And thorns, when we think we're alone.

That I may lead aright my little child
O Father, as Thy child guide me:
May my example keep him undefiled
And may I bring him up to Thee!
—C. W. Owen.

A SHADOW PANTOMIME

A most amusing entertainment for holiday parties is a shadow pantomime, and though it is easily managed, few things are more surprising or wonderful to those not in the secret. The most convenient place to arrange the pantomime is in two rooms which communicate by folding-doors; a sheet can then be hung

up in the space between the doors, and the audience seated on one side of the curtain while the actors perform on the other, their shadows falling on the intervening screen.

This screen being arranged, a strong light should be placed on the ground at some distance from it. If the limelight can be employed the shadows will be very intense.

To throw the shadow of a person on the screen, it is only necessary for the individual to stand in front of the light, and the size of the shadow will depend upon his distance from the light, the nearer the object is to the screen the smaller is the shadow, and vice versa. By taking advantage of this fact one boy may appear to walk between another's legs. This is managed by arranging the two individuals at different distances from the light, but in the same straight line; the spot where each person is to stand should be marked upon the floor before the commencement of the performance.

The remarkable and amusing effect of jumping to and from the ceiling is produced by the actor simply jumping over the light. If he jumps toward the audience from behind the light, his shadow appears to descend from the ceiling; if he jumps from before the lamp his shadow appears to spring up to the ceiling. Selected.

SINS OF OMISSION

It isn't the things you do, dear,
It's the thing you leave undone,
That gives you a bit of heartache
At the setting of the sun.
The tender word forgotten,
The letter you did not write,
The flower you did not send, dear,
Are your haunting ghosts at night.

The stone you might have lifted
Out of a brother's way;
The bit of heartsome counsel
You were hurried too much to say;
The loving touch of the hand, dear,
The gentle winning tone,
Which you had no time nor thought for,
With troubles enough of your own.

These little acts of kindness
So easily out of mind,
Those chances to be angels
Which we poor mortals find;
They come in night and silence,
Each sad, reproachful wraith,
When hope is faint and flagging,
And a chill has fallen on faith.

For life is all too short, dear,
And sorrow is all too great,
To suffer our slow compassion,
That tardies until too late;
And it isn't the thing you do, dear,
It's the thing you leave undone,
Which gives you a bit of heartache,
At the setting of the sun.

—M. E. Sangster.

WILL BE A FARMER

Uncle West—I am going to write you a letter on "When I grow up" and I am hoping to receive a prize. Now I will commence.

When I am a man I think I shall be a farmer. I shall be willing to work hard and treat my friends kindly. I shall get up at six o'clock in the morning, do chores and then go out in the field to plow and disc and do other little jobs. I do not know whether I shall get married or not, but I guess I will have to. I shall not go in for just grain, but have a lot of cattle, horses, pigs and poultry and a few more other things. I will build a nice house and barn, and try to live as nice and comfortable as I can. I shall raise a lot of potatoes and garden stuff so as to raise the money increase.

JACK COWARD.

Landrose, Sask.

WILL MAKE MONEY

Dear Uncle West—I am now eleven years old and quite tall. I don't know how far up I have to go yet. I have not decided what to do when I grow up, but at present I am going to school and I intend to get an education that will fit me for any business that I may choose.

There are so many callings that I think it necessary to learn all that I can at school and college and I would like to be able to take any good position that may be open for a start and perhaps later on I may be better able to make a choice and be able to do whatever I go at. I think I would like best whatever there is the most money in. Farming is alright if it is done right, and to do it well one has to learn a great many things about soil, weeds, grain and implements. To be a farmer I would go to agricultural college and learn how to do things right. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

GORDON DODDS.

Brookdale, Man.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Dear Uncle West—Before I decide what I wish to do when I grow up, I want to get a good, college education. One is better able to tell what they are qualified to do in life, if they have a good education. A person should be efficient, not only in book learning, but in the practical things of life as well.

Every girl should be able to keep house well, and be a good home-maker, no matter what she may be called upon to do in order to earn her living.

I have some musical and elocutionary ability, and am fond of little children, so I think I shall like to be a kindergarten teacher when I am grown. Little people are so original, so artless, and amusing, that I think it would be great fun to teach them, and watch their development.

Such work would be useful, too, as the kindergarten relieves the mothers of the care of the little ones during a part of each day, and prepares the children for entrance into the public school.

With a good education, common sense, and Christian earnestness, I hope to do something useful, and promote God's cause in the world.

LOUVA MAY TURRELL.
Canora, Sask. Aged 13 years.

MARY AND HER LITTLE LAMB

By an Anonymous Author
Oh, Mary had a little lamb, regarding
whose cuticular
The fluff exterior was white and kinked
in each particular.
On each occasion when the lass was seen
perambulating,
The little quadruped likewise was there
a gallavating.

One day it did accompany her to the
knowledge dispensary,
Which to every rule and precedent was
recklessly contrary.
Immediately whereupon the pedagog
superior,
Exasperated, did eject the lamb from the
interior.

Then Mary, on beholding such perfor-
mance arbitrary,
Suffused her eyes with saline drops from
glands called lachrymary,
And all the pupils grew thereat tumult-
uously hilarious,
And speculated on the case with wild
conjectures various.

"What made the lamb love Mary so?"
the scholars asked the teacher.
He paused a moment, then he tried to
diagnose the creature.
"Oh pecus amorum Mary habit omnia
temporum."
"Thanks, teacher dear," the scholars
cried, and awe crept darkly o'er 'em.

AN AMUSING GAME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

THE ART GALLERY

A very amusing entertainment may be provided by preparing beforehand an art gallery. Catalogues are also written out beforehand, and these the guests study before they go in to see the pictures. The titles are all such as are usually found in art catalogues, but the pictures cause surprise and fun, for they are parodies of the titles. Here are a few suggestions for titles, with the different objects that are put in place of the pictures:

The Water-carrier—a pail.
Handel—An old door-knob.
A Study of Bees—B B B written on a piece of paper.
Portrait of King George V.—a penny postage-stamp.
Off the Cliffs of Dover—a piece of chalk.
The Charge of the Light Brigade—a gas company's bill.
After Tea—the letter U written on paper.
A Stirring Subject—a teaspoon.

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The Father of Knox—a hammer.
The Fancy Ball—a colored woollen ball.
The Late King in Bronze—an Edward the Seventh penny.
The Red Sea—a letter C written with red ink on a piece of paper.
A Lonely Spot on the Tweed—a grease-spot on a tweed cap.
The Castle by the Sea—a chess castle placed near a letter C written on paper.
The Castaway—an old bootlace.
Maid of Greece—a candle.
Wreck of a Cutter—an old and broken table-knife.
A Group of Yews—U U U.
Blackpool—some ink in a saucer.
The Cup-bearer—a saucer.
A Well-matched Pair—a knife and fork.
"Have I Caused Thee Tears?"—an onion.
These are only a few of the titles and subjects that any clever boy or girl can think out, and such a picture gallery, with its amusing surprises, is always popular at a party and causes much laughter.

FORCE OF EXAMPLE

Among the youngsters who attended a school in the East End of London was one little girl who returned to her humble home with glowing accounts of a new teacher.

"She's a perfect lady," exclaimed the enthusiastic youngster, "that's what she is!"

The child's mother gave her a doubtful look. "How do you know?" she said.

"You've known her only two days." "It's easy enough tellin'," continued the child. "I know she's a perfect lady, because she makes you feel polite all the time."

What was the secret of her charm? It was not birth or station, but her kindness of heart, the atmosphere of purity and love.

I heard a lovely story the other day. An old woman who, week in week out, had to work all day with never a rest, hurt her hand. On her way to the hospital to have it bandaged, she was met by one of the district nurses, who with sweet sympathy asked about the injury. "But what are you going to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for?" said the nurse. "Why don't you go to the London Hospital, it is not a quarter so far?" "Well, you see, miss, it's like this," came the reply. "They are very good at the London Hospital, but at St. Bartholomew's there is one nurse who always says: 'Hello, mother, and how are you getting on now?' and she looks so kind that it's worth the extra journey to see her." And suffering though she was the poor woman walked on the longer journey, just to get that kindly smile and that cheery word.

Try to avoid getting in a place where you will have to urge your friends to believe in your innocence.

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