

Three Little Trees.

[Recitation for a tiny girl. Three other children stand near—as the trees—laughing, whispering, telling secrets, clapping hands, etc., in pretty pantomime].

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Way out in the orchard, in sunshine and breeze,
A-laughing and whispering, grew three little trees.
And one was a plum tree, and one was a pear,
And one was a rosy-cheeked apple tree rare.
A dear little secret, as sweet as could be,
The breeze told one day to the glad apple tree.
She rustled her little green leaves all about,
And smiled at the plum, and the secret was out.
The plum told, in whispers, the pear by the gate,
And she told it to me, so you see it came straight.
The breeze told the apple, the apple the plum,
The plum told the pear, "Robin Redbreast has come!"
And out in the orchard, they danced in the breeze,
And clapped their hands softly, these three little trees.

Current Events.

Forty years growth of the British Empire has shown an increase of area from eight and a half million to nearly twelve million square miles, and an increase of population from two hundred and fifty millions to four hundred millions.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have completed a five months tour of India, and are returning by way of Egypt.

The British troops that now occupy the fortress at Esquimaux, the last British garrison in Canada, will be withdrawn in May. A Canadian force will take possession when the British troops vacate.

In February, a company of native troops was massacred by native insurgents in Northern Nigeria. A British force, with the help of loyal chiefs, has crushed the revolt, the insurgent leader and some of his followers having been killed in battle.

In Russia there are extensive farms on which nothing else is grown but sunflowers. The seeds are used for food, and the oil obtained from the crushed seeds is used in cooking.

The bad feeling that arose between Austria and Servia over a proposed commercial union of the latter country with Bulgaria has been allayed, and friendly relations are restored.

Hon. Duncan Cameron Fraser, judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, has been appointed Governor of Nova Scotia, the office having become vacant by the sudden death of Governor Jones.

The foreign trade of Canada is now three times as great as that of the United States in proportion to population.

The new Russian parliament will consist of two chambers, the upper house, known as the Council of the Empire, to consist of an equal number of elected members and members nominated by the Emperor, and the lower house, or National Assembly, to be wholly elective. The two houses will have equal legislative powers, and only bills passed by both may be presented for the Emperor's

sanction. The representative members of the Council of the Empire are to be chosen by the local representative assemblies called zemstvos, by the nobility and clergy, and by the universities and chambers of commerce; and there will be also members elected by the landed proprietors of Poland. All members must be forty years of age, and must be graduates of some college. Its sessions and those of the National Assembly are to be public. There is to be a ministry responsible only to the Emperor, but the ministers are eligible as members of the lower house. Russian statesmen, in devising this scheme, have had the advantage of a knowledge of representative governments in all parts of the world; but Russian peasants and artisans have yet to prove that they are fit to govern themselves, and the members of the old governing classes are very naturally afraid to trust them.

It is expected that the railway across the Sahara, which is to unite Oran in Algeria with Timbucto, will be completed before the end of the year. A part of it is already in operation, and the Sahara Desert has now become a favorite winter resort, where good hotels can be found along the line of the railway.

Within a very short time steam is to be abolished as the motive power on all railroads in Switzerland. Waterfalls will supply the necessary power to run both freight and passenger cars by electricity.

It is proposed to build a new Canadian railway from the eastern shore of Lake Huron to Montreal, on which electric motor engines will be the motive power. The object of the line, which will be some six hundred and sixty miles in length, is to keep within Canadian territory as much as possible of the grain carrying trade which now goes to the United States because Canadian lines are unable to handle it.

A severe press censorship has prevented details of the insurrection in Uruguay from reaching the general public, but it is now reported that quiet has been restored.

The Queen of the Netherlands is paying for concerts given in the slums of the Hague, at which only the poorest people are allowed to be present.

A recent French traveller has found that the Sahara, viewed as a desert, is much less extensive than has been generally supposed. He found a great steppe region lying south of the desert, and finally merging into the Sudan, which, though now uninhabited, has at one time supported a very large population. Centuries must have passed since increasing drought drove its inhabitants southward to the Sudan region; but a rain belt is again creeping up from the south, extending farther and farther into the desert, and within this belt grasses have appeared and animal life is abundant. In Algeria and in Upper Egypt, increasing drought has followed the cutting away of forests within the last hundred years, while, it appears, increasing rainfall has been restoring to fertility this great Saharian table-land but a few hundred miles distant.

The famine in Japan continues, and must continue until this year's crop is harvested. The people of Japan who gave so willingly to the support of the war have little left to give to their starving compatriots, and there is need