

Young Folks.

THE PUSSY CAT

The Pussy Cat with eyes so green,
In nearly every house is seen,
Her fur is very soft and smooth,
But sharp is every claw and tooth.

Most all the day she's near the stove,
All nice warm places Pussies love,
But when the night comes, out she goes
And on the roof-top sings her woes.

Some people then get very cross,
All sorts of things at her they toss,
And try to hurt poor Pussy Cat;
But you and I would not do that.

But if you're kind and stroke her fur
The right way, she begins to purr;
Perhaps some wheels go round inside
To find that out I've often tried.

Our Pussy Cat is very clean,
No speck of dust is on her seen;
And mother says, we all should care
To take such pains with every hair.

A GIRL'S SCISSORS.

More than 200 years ago a little girl was born in Amsterdam, Holland, whose name was Joanne Koertren. She was a peculiar child in that she cared nothing whatever for play and sport, but found her greatest delight in making copies of things about her, imitating in wax every kind of fruit, and making on silk, with colored floss, exact copies of paintings which were thought wonderful.

But after she had become very accomplished in music, spinning and embroidery she abandoned all these for a still more extraordinary art—that of cutting. She executed landscapes, marine views, flowers, animals and portraits of people of such striking resemblance that she was for a time quite the wonder of Europe. She used white paper for her cuttings, placing them over a black surface so that many minute openings made by her scissors made the "light and shade."

The czar, Peter the Great, and others of high rank paid her honor. One man high in office vainly offered her a thousand florins for three small cuttings. The empress of Germany paid her 4,000 florins for a trophy she had cut, bearing the arms of Emperor Leopold, crowned with eagles, and surrounded with a garland of flowers. She also cut the Emperor's portrait, which can now be seen in the Royal Art Gallery in Vienna. A great many people went to see her, and she kept a book in which princes and princesses wrote their names.

After she died, which was when she had lived sixty-five years, her husband, Adrian Block, erected a monument to her memory, and had designed upon it her portraits of these titled visitors. Her cuttings were so correct in effect and so tasteful as to give both dignity and value to her work and constitute her an artist whose exquisite skill with the scissors has never before or since been equaled.

THOUGHTS ABOUT CATS.

There are a few things in this world that the average boy does not know. It may be only a few, and in all probability he himself does not know just what they are, but they are there for all that, and are to be found among the very things that he is most accustomed to in the daily routine of his life.

Now, for example, what does he really know about the cat, except that it is a cat, and that it occasionally affords him all kinds of roguish fun? After learning, however, what an old fellow the feline is, and how much revered by many people, this same boy will treat this pretty house pet with more tenderness.

Why, think of it, boys, over two thousand years ago the people that lived in the old countries carved out stories and histories of cats in stone and in a language known as Sanskrit. To those people and to the Egyptians the cat was a sacred animal, and was supposed to represent the god Isis, or the moon, and was, after death, embalmed after the same manner that human beings were. These mummies of cats are found to-day in the old Egyptian tombs.

Even in these early times the cat was a domestic animal, although there were wild cats, just as there are now. The wild species of the cat family is to be found all over the world, and is larger than the domestic animal. These wild cats are not so vicious as is generally supposed, for they will not attack any human being unless they are first molested, when they will spring at the offender with all their hair standing out straight in rage, just the same as tabby will do if snappy little Fido bothers her when she is lapping her milk.

A strange thing about the house cat is that if allowed to run wild in the country and get its food by killing rabbits, chickens and such live things, it will gradually but surely take the color and stripes of the regular wild cat and act and live like one. Cats do not have the affection for their masters that dogs have, but they love their homes far more.

It is well known that when a cat has become accustomed to a certain house or locality she is hard to get rid of, if that be desired. Cover up her eyes and carry her off in a basket to a great distance and she will always come back, no matter how far it may

be. This is probably the most peculiar of the traits of the cat, and is one which has puzzled all the great men who make the study of animals their profession.

The only explanation that those men of science make is that at such times the cat's acute sense of smell is the same to it as eyesight is to man, and it remembers a scent as well as a boy remembers his way to school, which, by the way, he sometimes very wrongly forgets.

Now, it may be well to remember in connection with this little study of pussy that there are several distinct kinds of cats which are all different in their size and color and markings. The best known of all are the tabby, the tortoise shell, so called because it looks like mamma's tortoise shell hair comb, the Chartreuse or gray colored cat and the beautiful Angora. There is also a less known type of Chinese cat and a few others hardly ever heard of.

One of pussy's most useful habits is to catch mice and rats, and it is upon this trait that a little problem, which is of the easiest kind, presents itself. The patient little animal will sit by the hole which leads into Mr. Rat's house and watch until he shall poke his nose out, and then, quick as a flash, the annoying little rat is a prisoner. Kitty is a good rat catcher, and if given enough rats will play havoc with the whole rat family.

Now supposing there are an unlimited number of rats and say that three cats can catch three rats in three minutes—which is not hard to suppose, for they can work quite as fast as that—how many cats would it require to catch one hundred rats in one hundred minutes? Think it out for yourself, and if you solve it have a little fun with your classmates at school. It is a nice little problem and may be worked out by arithmetic.

THREE GOOD HABITS.

Be orderly. A disorderly, careless woman will never have a comfortable home. It is just as easy to return to the shelf the book you have been reading as to lay it down in a chair.

Be punctual. Some girls, and some women, too, are never at the beginning of anything. A little late at breakfast, a little late at church, a little late everywhere. Do not spend your life in trying to catch up.

Be cheerful. A bright, smiling face makes every one happy, and a sullen, fretful expression is just as likely to make others cross. Even when it rains out of doors let there be sunshine within.

LILLI LEHMANN AND VIVISECTION.

Mme. Lilli Lehmann is not only a great singer—she is also one of the most tender hearted of women. Few people are more interested in the prevention of cruelty to birds and animals than she. For this reason, among others, she became a vegetarian, and she says it is pleasant to take a meal without being reminded that an animal has been killed in order to provide part of it.

Naturally, Mme. Lehmann feels strongly on the subject of vivisection. Just before she sailed for Europe recently she addressed a strong protest against this practice. "I, Lilli Lehmann," she writes, "herewith call upon all who are interested in the rights of animals and in their protection to fully inform themselves regarding the horrors of vivisection. Most people do not know what it is. Ignorance, however, is no excuse against the approach of cruelty. I urge them to obtain clear information on this horrible practice."

"Under the cloak of science the most excruciating experiments are made upon animals, which, like ourselves, are God's creatures. Most terrible reports in medical works teach us how large a number of beings fall a sacrifice to the cruel experiments of these fanatic scientists."

"Vivisection, with its incidentals, is a disgrace to our century, and must be suppressed. It leads to the greatest errors, as hundreds of physicians of the highest rank themselves acknowledge verbally and in writing. It hardens the heart, and leads to other cruelties, of which, only those can form an idea who have looked into this subject. Every one should regard it as a duty to help in the great work of suppressing this horrible practice."

"The day will come when this disgrace will no longer rest upon civilization. But all must help, even the physicians themselves, who already now are beginning to weaken in their belief of its possible benefit to science. They must, however, acquire more of its uselessness, and they must have the courage to pronounce against it. That would bring them more honor than the eternal holding back of their opinions, and their fear of their colleagues."

"Therefore, I call upon all people not to consider it too small a matter to strive to obtain for the animal the rights which God granted fluently, too poor in favor; every one has the right to stand up for the duties of humanity."

ENVELOPES PASSE.

Among the ultra fashionable, the maculated envelope has succumbed to sealing wax, wafers, and folded paper. This necessitates writing on a big sheet, and it also requires some dexterity in the folding of the paper. Of course, the manufacturers are always ahead of the styles, and for that reason the daintiest little wafers can be found to match the envelope—for that is the strictly correct point to be observed about the fad.

WILL BE BAD FOR BOERS

IF JOHN BULL AND OOM PAUL SHOULD GO TO WAR.

How Our Great Empire and the Little Republic Would Size Up in Strength—A Glance at History.

A clash between Great Britain and the Transvaal, or South African Republic, has been possible for some time. While it hardly seems likely that actual war is imminent, a glimpse at the relative fighting strength of the two nations makes an interesting comparison.

The enormous superiority of John Bull over Oom Paul clearly demonstrates that a battle between the two parties could have but one ending, and a very quick ending, at that. To be sure, in days of old, the young and slender David slew the giant Goliath with a single stone, but miracles of this kind don't seem to happen in our nineteenth century.

The latest returns of the fighting strength of Great Britain give the effective army at home and abroad as 231,000 officers and men. These constitute the regular army, but there are, besides, four classes of reserve, or auxiliary, forces—the militia, the yeomanry cavalry, the volunteer corps, and the army reserve force. The total home and colonial forces of these classes amount to 669,250. England, of course, would have no need to draw upon her fighting resources outside of her regular army.

In the British navy are 106,300 officers and men, and these man fifty-two battle ships, eighteen armored cruisers, ninety-five protected cruisers, sixteen unprotected cruisers, fifteen coast vessels thirty-five torpedo vessels and fifty torpedo destroyers. This makes a total of 281 war ships, while ninety additional ones are being constructed. In addition there are ninety-eight torpedo boats.

To oppose this stupendous force President Kruger has no standing army, with the exception of a small force of horse artillery of thirty-two officers, seventy-nine non-commissioned officers and 280 men. Then there are three foot and six mounted volunteer corps, numbering about two thousand men, which are subsidized by the government. All able bodied citizens, however, can be called out in case of war. But a late estimate of these places the number as not exceeding thirty thousand.

WAR MEANS DESTRUCTION.

War, therefore, between the Boers and the English would seem to be ridiculous and out of the question, but as the Boer is noted for pluck, obstinacy and dense ignorance, there is no telling what may happen. Upon two noted occasions the Boers have defeated bodies of Englishmen, and this has given to many of them an overweening confidence and a mistaken idea that they could lick all the forces that Great Britain could send against them. To understand the present difficulty between Great Britain and the South African Republic a few words must be said concerning the history of the latter.

The South African Republic, also known as the Transvaal, was originally founded by the Boers who left the Cape Colony in 1835 for Natal, but quitted that colony on its annexation to the British Crown. In 1852 the independence of the Transvaal was recognized by the British government, and the constitution of the State is based on the "Thirty-three Articles," passed in 1858, and the "Grundwet," or fundamental law, passed in February, 1858.

On April 12, 1877, the Transvaal was annexed by the British government, against which, in December, 1880, the Boers took up arms, and after defeating the English a treaty of peace was signed March 21, 1881. According to the convention ratified by the Volksraad, October 26, 1881, self-government was restored to the Transvaal as far as regards internal affairs, the control and management of external affairs reserved to the government of Great Britain as suzerain. Another convention with the government of Great Britain was signed and ratified in 1884, by which the States was to be known as the South African Republic and the British sovereignty restricted to the control of foreign relations.

The constitution was frequently amended down to January, 1897, and restrictions enforced against the Uitlanders, or foreign residents. They are mostly English, and a number of them have appealed to England for a redress of their wrongs. Their side of the case is that, although they own more than half the land and at least nine-tenths of the property of the State, yet in all matters affecting their lives, liberties and properties they have absolutely no voice. They desire an equitable franchise and fair representation for all residents in the Transvaal, together with other administrative reforms.

THE QUESTION AT ISSUE.

A radical difference of opinion exists between Her Majesty's Ministers and Oom Paul as to the meaning of the convention of 1884. The former maintain that the suzerainty provided in the convention of 1881 was not abolished or waived in the convention of 1884, and is in full force to-day. The Boer government, on the other hand, maintain that the 1884 convention drops the suzerainty entirely; that all

reference to it was deleted by Lord Derby, and that the South African Republic is to-day an independent State, subject in no sense and under no circumstances either in its domestic or foreign relations to the Crown of Great Britain.

Since the status of the British settlers in the Transvaal is intimately affected by the question of the suzerainty, the English refuse to yield the point, and if a definite understanding with President Kruger is not soon reached, England will probably announce her own definition of the suzerain power, and proceed to force the government of Pretoria to accept and act upon that definition.

The difficulties in the way of a peaceful settlement are very great. Racial feeling has been excited to such a pitch that it is almost compulsory for every man in South Africa to take sides. In all the colonial towns, wherever the rival races are represented, there is a state of agitation and ferment in connection with the recent incident at Johannesburg.

At the recent conference with Sir Alfred Milner, British High Commissioner in South Africa, President Kruger made these franchise proposals as concessions to Great Britain and the demands of the Uitlanders:—That aliens resident in the Transvaal before 1890 might naturalize and have the franchise in two years; second, that the bulk of the Uitlanders could be naturalized within two years and receive the franchise five years after. The Uitlanders would thus have to abandon their present nationality and would not have the rights of nationality in the Transvaal for several years. There would be no change whatever for two years. Great Britain rejected these proposals.

Oom Paul says he cannot grant more than these proposals, which have been ratified by the Raad, conditional to their acceptance by the people. He says he does not want war, but that to grant further concessions would be to sacrifice the independence of the Boers.

President Kruger is fully alive to the danger of the situation. The Uitlander population is unarmed for the most part, and he does not fear them, but though no successful rising within the country is now probable the President knows that a collision between Great Britain and the South African Republic could have but one ending.

The Boers have won in some skirmishes with the British in the Transvaal, but this is quite another matter from fighting the whole power of England. From the relative fighting strength of the two nations which has been adduced, the folly of such combat on the part of the Boers can be readily seen. The question is, Can Oom Paul avoid what seems now like an impending conflict? He has offered arbitration, but England refuses to arbitrate. However, Oom Paul is a clever diplomatist; perhaps he has a card up his sleeve that he has not played as yet. Meantime the eyes of the world are fixed upon him with interest.

WHAT MONARCHS GET.

Head of a Nation Generally Rather Lucrative Employment.

The Czar of Russia receives over \$5,000,000 every year from the none too fat purse of his vast empire. Next after him follows the Sultan of Turkey, with a grant of over \$3,500,000; then the Emperor of Germany, with \$2,500,000. Even poor Italy, which has not the inducements to disburse huge sums of money that Turkey has in its absolute monarchy, and Germany in its great wealth manages to allow its King \$3,000,000, and Spain bankrupt for years though it has been, has to grant for the household of King Alfonso more than \$1,000,000.

Emperor Franz Josef receives from his dual monarchy \$4,500,000 per annum, half of which is paid by Austria and half by Hungary. His income from private property is said to be very considerable, but there are so many versions as to its exact amount that we must be excused from attempting to decide which appears most feasible. The total income, however, cannot well be less than \$6,000,000.

Holland is a small country, with a population about the same as that of Greater London, and cannot, consequently, be expected to pay its monarch any fabulous sum. The young Queen receives the comparatively small sum of \$250,000. Happily, however, the Queen is possessed of very considerable private means, and she could probably get along without any difficulty were the grant entirely withdrawn.

ALL KEEP SENTINELS.

From Men to Insects No Animals Are Left Unguarded.

It is well known that many animals appoint one or more of their number to act as sentinels to guard against surprise while the rest are asleep or feeding or at play, but few people realize just how far in the animal kingdom this instinct extends. There is scarcely a class of living, breathing beings that does not in the same way provide for surprise.

Among the animals—using the word in its widest sense—that are thus prudent, may be named the following: Wasps, ants, chamois and other antelopes, prairie dogs, wild horses, rooks, swans, Australian cockatoos, zebras, quails, certain monkeys, flamingoes, New Zealand silver eyes, shags and other birds, marmots, moulton and other sheep, seals, African wild cattle, huacanos, elephants, etc. Of these, man is perhaps the only one in which negligence is not invariably punished with death.

INTRRESTING ITEMS.

A Few Paragraphs Which Will Be Found Well Worth Reading.

Ten per cent. of the natives of Hawaii are lepers.

The cost of running a first class hotel in New York city averages about \$18,000 a week.

Gray veils, it is said, keep the face from tanning more effectively than those of any other tint.

The ordinary beer glass is regulated by law in Bavaria, and must hold exactly half a litre, or nearly nine-tenths of a pint.

A California insurance company is managed by a lady, and she receives the largest salary paid to any woman in the United States—\$10,000 a year.

Chicken shooting is not allowed in the Philippines, and the American soldiers have a hard time in capturing the fowls there. The chickens fly until their wings are tired, and then they run until their wings are rested.

Barbers in Missouri, before receiving a license, must have served two years as apprentices, pass an examination before a board of barbers appointed by the Governor, and show that they possess a knowledge of skin diseases.

Editors in Serbia have reason to keep mum regarding governmental affairs. One paper there, during the past two years, has had sixteen editors, and fifteen of them are in jail for commenting too freely on legislative enactments.

At Japanese auctions each bidder writes his name and the amount of his bid upon a slip of paper. The various slips are deposited in a box. They are examined when the bidding for each article is over, and the name of the highest bidder is announced.

At a spirited football match near Glasgow the game became so exciting that several spectators leaped into the arena to take part. The police tried to restore peace, but were so determinedly opposed that nineteen policemen were severely maimed and had to be sent to the hospital.

Nearly 200 relatives attended the funeral of Mrs. Mary Brandt, who died in St. Thomas, Pa., at the age of eighty-eight. She left nine living children, sixty-seven grandchildren, one hundred and thirty great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Only eleven of them were absent from the funeral.

The smallest salary received by the head of a civilized government is that of the President of the Republic of Andorra, in the Pyrenees. His pay amounts to only \$15 a year. He is the chief magistrate of 12,000 people, and the territory he rules comprises an area of 150 square miles. The little State has been independent since the year 790.

Frank V. Balling, of Blue Island, Ill., was troubled with a suffering of the ankle joint and his physicians tried to ascertain the cause by subjecting the limb to the X-rays. The intense light caused the flesh to decompose, and three amputations of the leg were necessary. He sued his doctors, and the jury awarded him \$10,000.

A fondness for animals led Charles Wagner, of Frackville, Pa., to caress a pet goat and tickle the animal's nose with a ten-dollar bill. The goat snapped the bill from the man's hand and swallowed it. The money-eater was promptly cut open, and the pieces were found in his stomach. They will be sent to Washington for redemption.

A hunchback, Giovanni Catetta, stepped carefully down the gangplank of the French line steamship Bretagne on her arrival at the port of New York. A tender hearted custom house inspector thought he could straighten the poor cripple's back. He did so by cutting open the hunch, and in it found three hundred and eighty-three pieces of smuggled jewelry.

A Chicago millionaire, Parker R. Mason, just before his death, summoned the quartet that had been engaged to sing at his funeral, and made them practice the hymns they intended to give. Then the clergyman who was to officiate, the Rev. John Hoke, rehearsed the funeral sermon in his presence. All the melancholy arrangements having been satisfactorily made, Mr. Mason closed his eyes and died.

At a meeting of the Sorosis Society in Chicago, while Mrs. Ursula Harrison was addressing the ladies present a loud shriek from the rear of the room interrupted her remarks. It was a feminine shriek, and was followed by several more from other terrified females. They were caused by the sudden appearance of several large rats in the room. The rats were as much frightened as the ladies, who nimbly slipped from the floor to the chairs and tables.

In La Grand Chartreuse, the famous monastery of France, a liqueur noted all over the world has been made by the monks since the year 1804. An ingenious system of adulteration has been discovered. A hole is bored in the flat bottoms of the sealed bottles and some of the genuine Chartreuse is withdrawn. After an inferior stimulant has been substituted, the hole is filled by the introduction of a glass plug which is then melted by means of a blow pipe.

A Cincinnati gentleman advertised his desire to sell a valuable secret for fifty cents. He stated that he would tell how he was cured of drinking, smoking, swearing, staying out at night, going to the races, gambling and how he gained twenty pounds in weight in two years. Several persons sent him fifty cents each, and here is the secret they received: "Just cured of all the bad habits named by an enforced residence, for two years, in the Ohio State prison."

BRITISH POSTOFFICE SYSTEM.

Great Britain makes \$20,000,000 a year profit out of its postoffices.