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THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY

The Children's Corner

Conducted by Bobby Burke

The

to wile away his time, or rather his master's, in throwing stones into the moat, watching the wide-spread circles they made, listening to their plunge, and trying how far he could jerk them. "I wish he'd go away, Meg," whispered Alice May; "he splashed us all over; see how wet my frock is." "Suppose we tall him" replied Mer

"Suppose we tell him," replied Meg. "I daren't," said Alice; "he's such a great, fierce lad; perhaps he wouldn't like to be told to go."

Just then a great stone came plump down, only a yard or two from the bank where the two children knelt; and, falling in shallow water, threw up quite a fountain of splashes, which plentifully showered Meg and Alice.

"Take care what you are about, if you please," said little Margaret Gay; "if you don't mind, some of those stones will hit us; that one came very near; and see how it has sprinkled Alice all over."

"What do I care?" said the lout. "It will make her grow, and spare her standing out in the next rain-shower. She's little enough to want something 6 Good Lead Pencils 3 Patriotic Blotters that will make her taller."

The next stone fell just in the midst of the dirt-pies, and demolished a grand centre-dish of raised crust, ornamented with clay-paste devices, that had cost much care and time. "Oh dear!" exclaimed the two young

cooks, both at once.

"I wish you'd move further away, if you must throw stones," said Margaret.

"I shall throw them just where I please; I'm not going to be ordered off by two girls like you, don't think it," said Bull-cub; "I've as good a right to play here, I suppose, as you have. I might just as well find fault with that rubbish you're doing there. Here, what's all this? dirt-pies? clay-puddings? hey?" added he, coming towards the spot where they were, and kicking contemptuously with his hobnailed shoes among the pastry-marvels they had achieved

with so many pains. "Oh don't don't! you're breaking my goose pie; and that's Meg's herring-pie; and—oh dear! don't spoil that—that's our warden-pie." Alice started up, and threw herself against Bull-cub, in her eagerness to stay him from destroying their morning's work; but the great strong lad held her at arm's length, contriving to kick down the pies one after another, pushing their ruins into the moat, and laughing at the anger and entreaties of the two children, though little Meg dealt him as lusty cuffs as she could with her little arm. In the struggle to effect his wanton

exercise of power, the brutal hobbedehoy leaned so heavily over toward little Alice, that she lost her balance, slipped down the shelving ground, and fell into

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ONLY A

Water. Earth Bird Bath

Something to Look For

Something to Learn Nonsense Verse

There was a young lady of Parma,

There was a young person of Bantry

That judicious young person of Bantry.

Something to Make

An Easily Made Bird Bath Get an empty butter tub from your grocer, wash it out and saw it off about

seven inches from the bottom.

The first crocus. The first robin.

peased with rice,

The first pussy-willow

If there are no hoops near the top of this piece, take one from the discarded part. Brad all the hoops so they will not fall off when the tub dries out. Then get a post about three inches in diameter and about four and a half feet long (a round post looks best). Put the post into the ground about a foot, and nail the tub on top. Put three or four braces underneath from the tub to the post, and then paint it. When the paint is dry, fill the tub

with earth and set in it a round shallow pan or earthen dish about eight or ten inches in diameter and two inches deep. If your pan doesn't come to the edge of the tub you can plant trailing nasturtium or any vine around the edge. Put a few stones in the pan and always

keep it full of water. If the bird bath is where cats can get at it put a collar of tin around the post. The garden is the best place to set it up. The birds will pay you for their bath and drink by catching all the harmful insects.







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Something to Read **ALICE'S CHAMPION**

"Alice, dear, I've come to fetch you," said Margaret Gay, at the gate of farmer May's garden, one fine spring morn-"Mother has lent me two of the ing. new dozen-bunch of horn spoons that father brought her from the fair lately; so let us away to the moatside, and have a good game at making dirt-pies. I know such a fine place, where we shall be quite snug, and find plenty of marl, with water at hand from the castle-ditch."

It was, as Margaret had described it, an excellent spot for their purpose; lying a little out of the public path, and screened by a copse of hazc's, alders, and maple-trees. Here they played for some time, happily enough, making between them good store for pies; with raised crusts of kneaded clay, and filled with flints, and pebbles, and moss, and grass, and twigs, to represent fish, flesh, fowl, and fruit, with condiments and seasoning of salt, spices, peppers, and herbs, figured by strewn dust and sand. But by-and-by, they were disturbed by the advent of Hodge Bull-cub, the

butcher's boy. where loitering there,

the water, which, however, was luckily but shallow just there. Margaret screamed aloud, and ceased thumping Bull-cub who ran off. She was about to dart to Alice's assistance, when she saw two boys she knew well, neighbours' sons, coming towards the spot. She just shouted to them, "Hodge Bullcup has pushed Alice May into the castle-ditch," and then flew down to the bank to help her friend.

"I see him, the rascal, making off among the trees," said one of the boys; "but I'll soon be up with him, and give him as sound a threshing as ever he had in his life."

"Do, Frank, and I'll help the girls," said the other boy; "the water isn't deep her; I'll soon have her out."

But long before this speech was finished, Frank had sprung after the butcher's boy to execute his well-deserved sentence.

The other boy found the two little girls hand-in-hand; one close by the edge, trying to tug her out of the water, in which the latter stood, up to her waist; having fortunately fallen in such a position, she could readily scramble to her feet, though she could not draw them from the muddy bottom in which they stuck.

"Give me your other hand, Alice May," said the boy, seeing how matters stood; "now then, pull away, heartily, Mar-garet, and we'll soon have her out." But not so soon could they succeed



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