

Children's Department.

CURLY-CROP.

I know a little Curly-crop
That dances up and down
Behind a big bay window pane
As I go by to town.

I always turn the corner
With half-expectant smile.
And wave my hand in greeting
With pantomimic style.

Stray gleams of those bright ringlets
Will haunt me through the day,
Flitting about like sunbeams
In most fantastic way.

They dance above my ledger,
Illuminate its traits,
And make the musty office
Aglow with golden rays.

They curve and cling and caper,
Behind the misty glass,
I long to raise the casement
And kiss them as I pass.

I see as in a vision
The well-remembered dead,
And breathe a voiceless blessing
Upon that golden head.

Life else had held no sunshine
Till this sweet presence came,
For all that mine had left me,
A ringlet and a name.

—Annet Gumm.

OPEN TO THE SUN.

There is a derivation given to April that is both popular and beautiful. It is traced back to its start even as a stream to its source, and the fountain-head is found in a word meaning "to open." A place lying open, exposed to the sun, sunny, was said to be "apricus." Horace, using the word, speaks of tying the flowers growing in the sun, and there is another picturesque use in Virgil where the poet speaks of a spot dear to the water-fowl basking in the sun.

It is this word, meaning open, open to the sun's rays, whose root gives April its picturesque and significant origin.

Open to the sun! How much it means in nature and the daily life of people's homes! Let us imagine that a young man, Tom Ring, received from his father in late

winter the gift of a knoll, a bit sandy, rather small, too, but still what some people think more of than anything else under the sky—a piece of real estate. At the time of the gift, it looks like a big knob covered with an ice-cap. Some of young Tom's mates laugh at his "real estate." They tell him it is a sand-heap. But Tom has an old head on young shoulders. He keeps good-natured, and smiles when ridiculed. "I can wait," he says.

Soon comes April, when field and wood lie open to the sun, when bush and tree lift boughs basking in the sunshine. What a change! Green grass, swelling buds, scented flowers are the result everywhere.

And Tom's real estate changes. It soon is a green dome. Somebody sneered at the "piece of sand." Tom knows the soil is light, but he stirs it, opens it to the sun, thoroughly dresses it, plants it, keeps looking after it, and, where was an ice-cap in winter, autumn sees rows of corn like ranks of a regiment of the National Guard halting in the sun and waiting for orders.

Take the next farm. Ned Peters' father gave him a patch that in winter was ice-covered, and the envious boys said of the real estate beneath, "It is a bog!"

Ned was not always wise, and shot back when sarcasm was shot at him. When April came, he and April were busy. April opened Ned's real estate to the sun, and how the cold, damp earth did welcome the warm, beautiful light! Ned, too, went to work, and he planted potatoes, and how promptly they sprouted, and thriftily they grew, and plentifully they bore!

How instructive this all is!

Many boys and girls start out in life, and all that father and mother can do is to dower them with a sand heap or a bog. But in this blessed land of ours, there shines through our Public Schools and free institutions the Sun of Opportunity.

Now, young folks, improve the

April of your lives. Open your gifts to the shining of the sun. Make the most of opportunity today. Don't wait for gold nuggets

to jump out of the soil up into your pockets. Turn over your sand-heap. Dress it and plant it. Make the most of your bog. Drain

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