

FOR A LITTLE BIRD TELLS.

It's strange how little boys' mothers
Can find it all out, as they do,
If a fellow does anything naughty,
Or says anything that's not true!
They'll look at him just a moment,
Till your heart in your bosom swells,
And then they knew all about it—
For a little bird tells!

Now, where the little bird comes from,
Or where the little bird goes;
If he's covered with beautiful plumage,
Or black as the king of crows;
If his voice is as hoarse as a raven,
Or clear as the ringing bells—
I know not, but this I am sure of—
A little bird tells!

The moment you think a thing wicked,
The moment you do a thing bad;
Are angry, or sullen, or hateful,
Get spunky, or stupid, or mad;
Or tease a dear brother or sister—
That instant your sentences he knells,
And the whole to mamma in a minute
That little bird tells!

You may be in the depth of the closet,
Where nobody sees but a mouse;
You may be all alone in the cellar,
You may be on the top of the house;
You may be in the dark and the silence,
Or out in the woods and the dells—
No matter! Wherever it happens,
The little bird tells!

And the only contrivance to stop him
Is just to be sure what to say—
Sure of your facts and your fancies,
Sure of your work and your play;
Be honest, be brave, and be kindly;
Be gentle and loving as well,
And then you can laugh at the stories
The little bird tells!

—Selected.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF US?

Forty years ago enter any town of four or five thousand inhabitants, and you would find several shoe shops, employing from four or five to twenty or more men, all making or repairing foot gear of the population of the town and surrounding country. As they worked, hot discussions arose about trade and trade prospects. The penitentiary and the few factories of the cities furnished capital for much—even of angry debate. Often was the declaration made by the men that they would not be in the employ of a "boss" who would deal in factory or penitentiary made boots and shoes. Strikes were frequent. Meetings and "orders" were of little avail, except to steady the wage earners in their gradual withdrawal from the "jour" ranks to some more lucrative employment, if those who could adapt themselves to change, as factories, with their machinery and divisions of labor encroached upon their domain.

Strikes often forced dealers to buy their stock from the factories, instead of manufacturing for themselves, and thus, perhaps, virtually hastened the very end which they were endeavoring to prevent. Now only a few workmen are employed in the shops for repairing and special work. Soon few men can be found who can make a good shoe throughout, owing

to the division of labor employing each hand upon only some particular part. This division gives accuracy and rapidity to the execution of each part. But each person only understands, as a rule, the doing of his own particular part.

Forty years ago the harness maker made all his stock; bridles, halters, collars, blankets, fly nets and harness. He made the hair-covered, the canvas-covered, or the leather-covered trunk; the leather or the canvas satchel and valise. Much of the hardware he used gave employment to the neighboring blacksmith.

The harness and other trades are following the boot and shoe trade. The factories where small wares and harness parts are made in large quantities are fast taking the place of the work of the local harness shop. The inevitable cannot be more than hindered, and possibly the very means that may be adopted to hinder may only hasten. Unions, where wise counsels can be made to prevail, can be of much use to direct, in each turn in events, what course to pursue.

Owing to certain features of the harness trade it may not so soon or so completely come under the sway of the large factories. Gradually, however, local work will give place to the factory, and the harness maker will be more the dealer in than the manufacturer of his wares. Fewer apprentices will be engaged, and as the workmen withdraw from the field, there will not be the need of others to take their place, except in smaller numbers. Of course great numbers will always be required as factory operatives.

The main thing to be considered is how to meet whatever "turns up," and any hints that can be of use will be thankfully received and made of avail by giving them publicity in THE BANNER. We therefore invite articles brief and to the point.

Would we supply a farmer with a set of harness having an inferior article in its construction costing four or five cents less than another article, which should occupy the same place when that other article would be worth dollars to the farmer in convenience and durability? If so, we do not deserve customers.

It is stated that Professor Mahaffy has succeeded in deciphering a portion of the papers found with the mummies in the Fayum. In the third century wood was scarce in Egypt, and the coffins were constructed of masses of waste paper, which were glued together and afterward covered with a coating of clay. The papers were torn in pieces and mixed up. Despite this, however, Professor Mahaffy and his associates have succeeded in cleaning and combining enough of these remains to form a good idea of what he has recovered from the past. Among the discoveries is the concluding scene of a lost play of Euripides. There are also some thirty-five lines of the "Iliad," thus constituting the oldest fragment of that book that has yet been found. There is also a fragment of the "Phædo" of Plato, but the bulk of the documents relate to the social condition of the Fayum.—Guide.

ELECTRICITY IN THE CARS.

Electric heating is yet in its infancy, but it is safe to predict that it will thrive and grow with a rapidity which will surprise its most sanguine well-wishers. In heating a home can anything be more perfect than to have only to turn a switch and let the current do the rest. No fires to attend to, no chimneys to smoke, no dust blown about the room. The only visible sign being the heater, which if placed in the room would be neat and ornamental, or if placed beneath a register would be out of sight, the only exertion required being to turn a switch on or off as desired. While this alone is a feature which will commend the invisible current to the housewife, there is yet another which in her eyes is more important—its use in cooking. In order to secure the best results, we learn from the "Baltimore Record," each cooking utensil is constructed with the resistance or heating coil as a part of it; thus each is its own stove, so to speak, and may be placed at any convenient point where connection with the current can be had. All manner of cooking appliances, from the all-important coffee pot down through the list of pots, skillets and broilers to the oven, are thus arranged, and once the connection is made and the current turned on, the operation of cooking proceeds without interruption. In the evening food could be placed in the proper utensils, these connected with the house wires, and by a proper arrangement the latter could be led to the bedroom.

Then in the morning the mere turning of a switch would be sufficient to start the breakfast cooking. This sounds like a tale from the Arabian Nights rather than an existing fact, but it is a fact. As to the cost of heating or cooking by means of this agent, it is stated that the ordinary cooking utensil requires the same amount of current as a sixteen candle power lamp. The oven consumes three times this amount, and a fair-sized house heater about five times as much. Taking the cost of one lamp at 80 cents per month, which represents the average price, then each utensil, if used in cooking three meals a day, or 90 per month, would cost nine-tenths of a cent per meal.

Assuming four cooking utensils and the oven to be required for each meal, the cost per meal for heat would be 3 10 cents, or for 90 meals \$5.50 per month. For house heating the average cost per heater per day would be about 4 1/2 cents, or \$1.25 per month, or presuming that four heaters are in use, the total fuel bill, including that required for cooking purposes, would be about \$12 per month. As against this cost must be considered the average coal bill, the repairs and the inconveniences attending the use of coal. This cost is too much for the average family, but there are strong hopes that as inquiry proceeds a further reduction will take place. Electric investigation is yet in its infancy.

The Queen's preferences are now said to be toward De Vere, the Irish poet, for the vacant laureateship.