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four years. She lives in Union Port, Ind., and her initials are M. C. M. I wonder if she ever thinks of me now or our welcome friend, the F & H. I never kiss a girl without her consent, which is very proper. I can do all kinds of housework, and last winter I cooked in a logging camp. I have very good habits, and of the taste of tobacco and liquor I know not. Dancing is my favorite amusement. I can play the organ and expect to take lessons on the violin this winter. Lawrence Levere, I like your poem, for I, too, have listened in rapture to the clear notes of the dear old dinner bell. Boys, you should think kindly of the girls, yes, honor them, for if it were not for them we would not strive to reach the top of the ladder. I have three sisters and six brothers and I think home is the best place on earth.—[Young Farmer, Wisconsin.]

"Unladylike"—I enjoy reading some of the letters and some I do not—Water Lily's, for instance. I think her letter sounded very unladylike. Girls that get termed "fast" and "flirts" may seem favorites with the boys, but I don't believe they respect them. Do you, boys? This is my third year at high school. My favorite studies are ancient history and physics. I am a great lover of literature. One of my favorite authors is E. P. Roe. How many of the Y A's are C E members? I am, and will be sent as a delegate to our C E state convention.—[Reba, Louisiana.]

"Rather Fishy"—Well, I am going to try to write to the Young Americans again. I guess my other letter got as far as the waste basket. I think it is too bad Fred Swanson should catch it from all sides just because he wanted to kiss a girl. It would not have hurt her. I wish the Young Americans would not write so much about pets, and more about books, music and our homes. I do not agree with Lover of Roses. I think girls ought to do more or less outdoor work. I work out Coors lots, hoeing, planting corn and potatoes, etc., and am very healthy, weighing 117 lbs., and I am 13 years old. I never lived any place but on a farm and love it. I tell you, boys, you miss lots by not corresponding with girls. "Tis not many boys who have pluck enough to say that they should like to correspond with girls. Have girls really got more sense than boys? I believe they have. I should like some of the others' opinions on that. I have three sisters and one brother, and I like to sew and read. I am making a crazy quilt now. I read the Youth's Companion, F & H, newspapers and any number of good novels. Did any of you read Ramona? I have just finished The Lamplighter. I liked it so much! I liked the Swiss Family Robinson, only thought it rather "fishy."—[Kittie Dillon, Colorado.]

"A Good Chance"—I have heard of many accidents with gunpowder, but never thought I would be the victim of one. When I was nine years old I was experimenting with powder such as is used for blasting rock. I was putting it under tin cans, in gas pipes and other things. It was tried in guns, but failed to explode, so it was laid aside. A friend of mine was at our place that day and we thought as my folks were all away we would have a good chance. So we set to work and got a gas pipe about three feet long and four inches in diameter. This we intended to transform into a cannon. I set it upon end threw in a handful of powder and then threw in a lighted match, but it failed to ignite. I then threw in another match and was foolish enough to look over into it. I didn't think of what I was doing at the time, but I thought of it enough afterward. All the powder exploded right in my face. I had on a thick, heavy hat, which was blown some distance away from me, and my hair was melted into one solid mass. For three weeks I was laid up and my face was swollen so badly that I had neither eyes, nose nor mouth. They told me I looked more like a Chinaman than anyone else. I thought I would lose my eyesight, and my face felt like a lot of burned leather. I said I never would play with powder any more, and I never have. I do considerable hunting, but I never look into my gun barrel when I am pulling the trigger. I will do no more playing with

powder, and hope no one else will. Now as to the remedy I used (I think this will be of value to some other unfortunate person). Take molasses and flour and stir together so as to form a paste, spread over a cloth and then apply to the burn, change it twice a day and wash the burn twice each time, using cotton batting for a swab. [Edward Ardell, North Dakota.]

Held Her Breath—Water Lily, you ought to be ashamed of yourself, and I pity your poor mother. You surely cannot have any brothers or you would soon find out the opinion of your "beaux." Or are they like yourself, "young and green?" Hurrah, Ray! I'm sure we all congratulate you. How proud that girl of Frederick Swanson fame must be, if she reads the F & H! Maybe he is young, very likely he is, but when he gets older the girl he will respect is the one who does not kiss every boy she goes with. I should count it an insult, showing he had no respect for me, if a boy, no relation, tried to kiss me, and I think Water Lily as well as some others will be wiser as they grow older. Write something about literature? Well, I don't believe I can, but Dickens, Captain King and E. P. Roe are my favorites. A queer mixture? Well, maybe, but they are. How many have read Ben Hur? That is one of the best books I ever read. It made me hold my breath when I read the description of the race in chariots. Those Arabian horses, how I wish I had them to drive for awhile. I love to drive. Oh, yes, J. Fenimore Cooper is another of my favorites, though some people do say all the good Indians died just after his books were written. You may think I have a great many favorites, and I have. I like Dickens for his language and description, Cooper for his plots, etc. Dear me, I must stop, or this will find the waste basket. For fear some of you will think I'm getting old and gray-haired, I will remark I am—[Sour Seventeen.]

My Burnt Leg—It was bath night! My mother had carried the hot water upstairs and set the pail with it in the tub, and I was downstairs. It was about 8 o'clock at night and I ran upstairs, laughing, two steps at a time. Mother had just gone out of the room with the light. I was generally afraid in the dark but I didn't seem to be that night, and I ran straight into the tub and tripped my toe and fell knee first into the hot water. My right leg was scalded from hip to heel. I yelled out that I was scalded and my mother and sister hurried back with the light. My father came up and looked at it and then went for the doctor. When I took my clothing off the skin rolled down in layers from the leg. The drive to the doctor's was about six miles. Mother did all she could to stop the pain. When the doctor came the leg was covered with big blisters. He put something on it and went home and came back the next day, and 15 or 16 times after that, I was in bed for two months. It spoiled my Christmas, for it was scalded in November. I was so run down for a time that the doctor didn't know whether I would live or not. Some of my friends were very kind to me. I suffered agony when it was being dressed. I have scars on my leg yet. After it began to heal I had many pleasant hours reading. I hope I will never have another scalded leg. I composed this verse on my sickbed: Lying on a bed of pain, Day after day, again and again, The leg was dressed each day with care By my own mother, so sweet and fair. [Victor W Jones, Ontario.]

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