

Our Children's Corner.

Little Maggie's Grave.

BY M. E. M.

After going on a hillside...

A little grave is made...

Where, once in a dear November...

A precious form was laid...

Cold and stern is the earth...

That keeps in its grasp...

The sweet spring flower that faded...

And dropped from our clinging grasp...

The tones of old songs...

And their echoes ring no more...

Through the pictured hall of memory...

On the heart's morose floor...

But the songs that our darling warbled...

And the liping words she said...

Keep coming back from the dead...

Oh as her rippling laughter...

Rang sweet through hall and stair...

Oh as her voice at evening...

Spoke reverent words of prayer...

Oh as we marked the beauty...

That grew in her little face...

We thanked the God who gave her...

To brighten our dwelling place...

But we never thought of the angels...

With wings of silver spread...

Who shrouded such gleams of beauty...

Upon her little head...

Oh! Shepherd after thy pastures...

Are fiercer than thine ours...

But we shrink when Thou takest our lambkin...

To dwell amidst fallow fowers...

For it makes the fold so lonely...

And the heath so dark and dim...

And mourning 'o'er our darling...

We can raise no grateful hymn...

For the silence that growth daily...

And the mill in the heart unborn...

And the golden dreams that are broken...

And the wills of grief unmeasured...

But hie-and-ye, we can thank Thee...

That our little ones were taken...

Up to thy sheltering breast...

The rest shall cease our's March...

And fade beside the way...

And see the beauties of childhood...

Drift one by one away...

But she no years shall write their...

Deep wrinkles on her brow...

No rolling Time shall rob her...

Of spring's first bloom and glow...

We cannot dream of her changing...

In the Father's house above...

For to us she is never a maiden...

But the precious child of our love...

Always a child! And at even...

When the winter winds are wild...

When the candles are dim and the closer...

We seem to see our child...

Then scatter thy crimson leaflets...

Oh! Autumn, where she lies...

She lies in undying spring-time...

Our treasure, in the skies...

—Banner of the Covenant.

The Brown Stone House.

I like to stand here at my window...

And look across at it, with its great deep windows...

Its high stone steps, and the big lions on either side...

I like that little girl who lives over in the brown stone house...

I like her sweet face, with the golden curls dropping like a thick rain of sunbeams all about it...

What pretty soft dresses she wears, and such dainty little aprons, and her blue eyes look so softly out of the flowers and leaves of her bonnet...

Dear me! she's just about my age; and I have only an old brown hood and a calico dress, that's been washed so many times, I can just see where the sprigs used to be!

This morning—no more than an hour ago—I saw a pleasant-looking gentleman run up the steps, and pull the bell, and in a moment the little girl came to the door, in her blue merino, and she clasped her hands, and said with a laugh 'I've heard over since, 'Oh, Uncle George, Uncle George—mercy Christmas!'

'And the gentleman caught up the little girl in his arms 'Ab, Ella, my child!' he said, and kissed her, and then set her down, and took something out of his pocket, in a white paper, and gave it to her; and she gave a scream of delight, and then the door was shut.

Phoebe Downs and her Dog and Cat.

Little Phoebe Downs heard a poor dog howling piteously one day...

She went and found him, and found he was hurt. He snarled and snuffed when she came near...

'Poor dog,' said Phoebe, 'poor dog.'

The next day she took him a bone; and she brought him a pan of water. He drank greedily...

When Phoebe came again he wagged his tail; and the next day he leaped to meet her. She told her father about the hurt stray dog, and asked leave to bring him home...

Her father gave her leave. She went and fetched him, and though I suppose he did not quite understand her words, he understood what kindness was, and followed her, and became a faithful house-dog in his little mistress's family...

When Phoebe was coming from school one day, she saw some thoughtless boys stoning a kitten. 'Don't,' cried Phoebe, 'pray don't abuse the poor thing.'

'Oh, it belongs to nobody,' said the boys; 'we are only having a little fun.'

It belongs to somebody,' said Phoebe; 'it is God's kitten, and you have no business to treat God's creatures so.'

The boys did not think of that; they did not know it was God's kitten, they said, or they should not have treated it so, and they left off directly.

Phoebe took it home. Toward first was not pleased to see it in Phoebe's arms; but she told Phoebe the story, he understood enough to know he must treat it kindly and protect it from harm.

It would prevent a great deal of cruelty and neglect of the dumb creatures if we kept in mind they were God's. They are God's horses which wicket men beat and work so unmercifully. They are God's oxen and cows which greedy farmers sometimes starve in their winter fodder. It is God's lambs that you neglect to house in the storm, and God's dogs that you kick and abuse. They are the works of his hands and the creatures of his care, and they are as certainly and wonderfully formed with flesh and blood and brains and heart and lungs as we are; and though they are dumb and cannot plead for themselves, God will not forget our ill treatment in the great day of account.—Child's Paper.

Agriculture.

FARMER'S WINTER LEISURE.—Farmers and their sons and daughters have more leisure time during the winter than any class in the country. This time they can spend both pleasantly and profitably. If the mechanic has leisure, in consequence of lack of business, from derangement of trade, or from any other cause, his resources are cut off, causing anxiety and fear, and the time thus afforded is a source of pain instead of pleasure. Not so with the farmer; his season of leisure comes as naturally and as regularly as seed-time and harvest, and if well improved will produce a harvest of good fruits. The winter is the time for studying, for thought, for the promotion of future plans that will make successful the next year's business. It is the time, too, for relief from corroding cares, that so uselessly wrinkles in the face and make the young old before their time; for indulgence in the pleasures of social life that warm the heart, cause the blood to course with new vigor, and make the old feel young again. A well-spent winter will, under ordinary circumstances, stay the hand of time at least a year. It is true we must all grow old and pass away, but with the ordinary advantages of Providence we may enjoy a more solid and pleasant method and old age, and at last depart like a "sheaf of corn fully ripe," instead of being withered and blasted by our cares and follies.—Bural News Yorker.

How to Preserve Corn.—At a late meeting of the Academy of Sciences, held in Paris, a letter from M. de Senchot—a Russian landholder—was read, describing the manner in which corn pits are made in that country. The pits are dug in a dry soil, and instead of manure, the earthen sides are hardened by a long-continued exposure to a wood fire. Before the corn is introduced the air in the pits is purified by burning straw in it, after which the grain is thrown in, packed close, and the pit is tightly enclosed. Some of our western farmers, who raise large crops of wheat and corn, should try this method of preserving grain during years when there is a great harvest, in order to lay up a store for seasons of an inferior yield.—Scientific American.

How to Select Poultry.—A young turkey has a smooth, dark leg, feet supple and moist, and the end of the breastbone pliable like gelatin. If the head is in, the eyes will be bright and free from film.

Fowls, when young, have smooth combs and legs. In other respects, they are like young turkeys.

Young geese will have yellow bills and feet, and a pin-head may be easily forced through the skin of the breast. (It requires considerable pressure to thrust a pin through the breast of an old turkey.) The same rule applies to the selection of ducks.

As a general rule, all old birds have hard, bony claws, that are not easily yielding. Young birds have pliant and easily-yielding claws. The spurs of old male turkeys and roosters are hard, long, and sharp. Of young ones but the first development is seen.

Professor Owen, of London, has just received a specimen of that rare bird, the New-Zealand Alpine parrot. Its plumage is of a rich metallic green, the tips of the feathers being edged with a lighter shade of the same color. Under the wing the plumage is a vivid beautiful red. The beak of the bird is large and powerful, fitting it to feed upon the hardy Alpine plants found about the snow-line.

CURIOUS HAMS.—At a late fair of the Maryland State Agricultural Society the first premium was awarded for hams cured thus: To one hundred and fifty pounds of hams take one and a half bushels of salt, four quarts fine salt, with enough molasses to make paste; rub well on the flesh side; let it lie four weeks; then hang and smoke two days before removing from the smoke-house; paint with black pepper and strong vinegar; after which, bag them.

FROZEN EGGS.—Sophia J. Damon, of Plymouth county, Massachusetts, says from eggs should be kept in that state until wanted for use, then put in a dish of cold water, and set on the fire to thaw gradually. When the water will just bear the finger, they may be broken, and will be found as fresh as when first laid.

PREPARATION FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.—To one pound of tallow and a half a pound of rosin, melted, add about an ounce of lampblack. If the leather is new and dry, moisten it, and apply the mixture so hot as you can bear your finger in it. When the leather once becomes saturated, it will be impervious to water, and very durable.

ICE-HOUSES.—Every farmer should gather his supply of ice from the nearest stream to his farm. With regard to accumulating large stocks, it may be stated that ice-houses are not necessary. Hundreds of tons of ice may be kept in the open air, and no other protection is necessary than a good thick of hemlock or pine boughs over the pile. The waste will be far less than the expense of building the cheapest block ice-houses.

EXTRAORDINARY DUCTILITY OF THE BESSEMER STEEL.—At a recent meeting of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, Mr. Brockbank exhibited some samples of steel manufactured by Mr. Bessemer's process. These specimens have been bent and twisted cold, and showed a remarkable degree of ductility. He stated that the Bessemer steel was one of the most plastic and manageable of metals—more so even than copper. It could be bent, flanged or twisted, either hot or cold, without annealing and over a considerable range of temperature—which is not the case with ordinary steel or copper. A plate of 18 inches diameter had been formed through a series of dies until it formed a tube of 13 feet long and 1 inch diameter, without any crack or flaw. A ring of metal could at one heat be hammered into a die for a locomotive engine chimney top. In drilling a circular hole in a plate containing shavings are formed—whereas in copper or Low Moor plates, or any other metal, the shavings break into pieces one-sixteenth of an inch long. Thin sheets of the Bessemer soft steel can be bent backward and forward hundreds of times without a fracture, and are almost as malleable as soap.

MAKING STEEL FROM IRON WITH GAS.—About twenty-five years ago Mr. C. McIntosh, a manufacturing chemist in Glasgow, Scotland, made several tons of cemented steel, which he heated at a dull-red heat, to the action of light gas, operating with from 100 to 150 lbs. at a time, the iron bars being two inches broad and quite thin. The cementation took from eighteen to twenty hours; and when the operation exceeded that time supercarbonation took place. Thus by the sole action of lighting gas, without mixture of any foreign body, it is possible to obtain either steel or cast iron; it is only a question of time or temperature. To obtain steel there is no need to add ammonia previously in order to nitrogenize the iron. Steel and cast iron differ only in containing diverse proportions of the same elements, as pure white cast iron can be tempered and even forged like steel; witness the white cast iron of Liège used for making screw plates.

SCREENING OF NUTS.—We have sometimes known nuts on threshing machines, circular sieves, to be found so tight that no wrench would remove them. This was because they had been in the hand till they became warm, and being then applied to very cold screws in winter, they contracted by cooling on and thus held the screw with an immovable grip. Always avoid putting a warm nut on a cold screw; and to remove it, apply a hot heated iron in contact with the nut, so as to heat and expand it, and it will loosen at once—or a cloth-wet with boiling water will accomplish the same purpose.

TO PREVENT TOOLS FROM RUSTING.—Thousands of dollars are lost each year by the rusting of plows, hoes, shovels, etc. Some of this might be prevented by the application of lard and resin, mixed by using, in conjunction with the Pills, either JAYNE'S ALTERNATIVE, or Tonic Vermifuge, according to directions.

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