

CHILDREN'S CORNER:

Little Madie.

'Hand me some water, Buddy, wont you?'

'In a minute, Madie.'

And Madie's fevered cheeks were pressed again to the pillow; and little Harry's hands went on as busily as ever with the trap he was making, and at length he entirely forgot the request.

'Please get it now Buddy,' he at length heard, and, scattering knife, nails and string in his haste, he was soon holding a cup to her crimson lips. But she turned her head languidly from it. 'Not this please, but some fresh and cold, from the well,' she said.

'On, don't be so particular. Madie this is fresh, and I'm so busy I can't go now, won't this do?'

She no longer refused, but quietly took the cup which he offered: and it was the last, last time she ever called on her brother for an act of kindness; ere another day had passed she stood beside the river of life and drank of its cool water, never to thirst again.

And of all who wept over that little coffin there was none who shed more bitter tears than that little boy, who could not forget that he had refused the last request of his little sister.

Little children are you kind and pleasant to one another? or are you cross and selfish? Remember, then, that the me may come when they will be beyond your reach, and then, O how gladly would you give all you possess to have them back again.

Harry was a kind hearted little boy, and dearly loved his little sister, and she had only been sick a few days, he did not consider her dangerously ill but this was no comfort to him when she was gone.

'Oh, mother!', he would say, 'if I had only brought that water for her I could bear it, but now she is where I can never, never wait on her again.'

Think of this when you are tempted to quarrel or be unkind; for do you know if one of you should die the rest would remember every act of kindness every bitter word that had fallen from their lips? But then it would be too late to ask forgiveness.

THE PIG AS A DISTURBER.

The student of history is of course aware, like Macaulay's schoolboy, of most things, and among others he is sure to recall the fact that the pig has always been a disturbing element, and must be held responsible for a number of sensational and epoch-making events. The adoption of the Levitical law by the children of Israel has once brought the pig into prominence. The people that used him for food were therefore regarded with aversion by the followers of Moses and Joshua, and early pretexts were found for making war upon them. but the pig was always entailing destruction or damage upon somebody. In the Middle Ages the persecution Hebrews were tortured because they would not violate their ceremonial law and eat the prohibited flesh. The Gnostics were accused of killing children and dressing their bodies pig fashion to appear on the altars where it was alleged the votaries celebrated obscene rites. The same charges were, very inconsistently, perferred against the merieval Jews. According to the careful historian, Carolus Agnus, wholesale arson accompanied, in the Chinese Empire, the discovery of roast pig, and centuries elapsed before the Celestials became convinced that pork might be cooked without burning down a house every time such a meal was required.

So might be true all history and show the baleful influence of the hog in various direct and indirect manifestations. He is the only creature that does harm after he is dead, moreover. He is the malevolent generator of trichinosis, and through that abominable invention he not long since nearly embroiled the United States and the German Empire. The most mischievous deed of the animal appears to have been committed in India, where, by squealing in a mosque a Delhi, he has incited the exasperated Mahometans to attack the Hindus, and so brought on riot. It is true that according to the report a Hindoo secretary tied him in the mosque "in a painful position," thus compelling him to utter his characteristic complaint, but it is evident that it was after all his pigshlp which was at the bottom of the trouble. The Hindoo secretary might have tied a goat or a cow or a goose or a hen in the mosque without exciting any special indignation. It was the pigginess of the creature he employed which was so strenuously objected to. Thus the pig travels town the ages making mischief, and before his malignant mission is ac-

complished there is no telling what calamities he may cause. It is not for nothing that the followers of Mahomet call him accursed.

FANATICS FLOORED.

Mr. Punch congratulates Dean Bradley on his admirable answer to the three fanatical Protestant Defence Secretaries who would have forcibly ejected from Westminster Abbey some Catholics who were saying their private prayers around the "strong quadrilateral barrier of bronze," which, as stated by Canon Duckworth, protects the tomb of Edward the Confessor, from profane hands. Mr. Punch heartily wishes that the conduct of English Protestants visiting the Catholic churches abroad was anything like as inoffensive and as appropriate to the sacred precincts as was that of the poor benighted Romanists at Westminster Abbey, who, thinking that the best use to which a church could be put was to say prayers in it, knelt and prayed accordingly. If a number of Mohammedans with their turbans on and their sandals off, were to kneel down and pray in Cologne Cathedral, or if Mr. McCure, and the Protestant Defence Secretaries, and all their contributors, were to visit St. Peter at Rome on Guy Fawkes' Day, and there say their private prayers, would the beadles interfere with them, or would the Secretary of the Propaganda complain of the scandal, and beg that steps should be taken to prevent its repetition. After all, the attitude of prayer in a place of worship, be it what it may, is more fitting than talking and laughing loudly; walking about and using opera glasses—and all this even during the most solemn public functions—to the great annoyance of the congregation proper, and to the intense scandal of those travelling English who, no matter what their creed, do know how to behave themselves, and who blush for the insolent caddishness of their ill bred compatriots. No; if Dean Punch was a hundred' Arrays Romans, or Rum'uns of any sort praying in Westminster Abbey, would he interfere? No, bless 'em, certainly not. But if he saw one of them sneaking out a pencil to scribble his name on a monument, or attempting to nick a bit out of a shrine or off a tomb, he'd be down upon him then and there, and have him up before the nearest police magistrate charged with "maliciously damaging" and fined heavily for the offence, no matter what his excellent motive might have been for such wanton destruction. And this is what the Dean and Chapter would do, too; for whether it be a fanatic on one side or the other law and order must not be set aside in favor of such a rule "Omne ignotum pro Fanatico."—London Punch.

BEAUTIFUL SWISS CUSTOMS

The horn of the Alps is employed in the mountainous districts of Switzerland not solely to sound the cow call, but for another purpose, solemn and religious. As soon as the sun has disappeared in the valleys, and its last rays are just glimmering on the snowy summits of the mountains, the herdsman who dwells on the loftiest, shakes his horn and trumps forth—"Praise God, the Lord." All the herdsman in the neighborhood take their horns and repeat the words. This often continues a quarter of an hour; while on all other sides the mountains echo the same of God. A solemn stillness follows. Every individual offers his secret prayer on his knees and with uncovered head. By this time it is quite dark. "Good night!" trumpets forth the herdsman on the loftiest summit. "Good night." is repeated on all the mountains from the horns of the herdsman and the clefts of the rocks.—Catholic youth.

THE CRY OF A GENTLE VOICE

Mr. Fields in his Yesterday with Authers, says of Nathaniel Hawthorne: "He was never weary of standing on London Bridge, and watching the steamers plying up and down the Thames. I was much amused by his manner towards impudent and impudent beggars, scores of whom would attack us even in the shortest walk. He had a mild way of making a severe and cutting remark which used to remind me of a little incident which Charlotte Cushman related once to me. She said a man in the gallery of a theatre, I think she was on the stage at the time made such a disturbance that the play could not proceed. Cries of 'throw him over' arose from all parts of the house, and the noise became furious. All was tumultuous chaos until a sweet and gentle female voice was heard in the pit exclaiming. No, I pray you, don't throw him over. I beg you, don't throw him over; but—kill him where he is.'

HARD AND SOFT COALS

The mineral coals in general use are divided into two great classes: the hard or anthracite, and the soft, or bituminous coals, and of each of these there are several subdivisions. Anthracite (A Greek word for coal) coals are hard and stone-like, and burn without any flame except a small, pale blue one at first. The bituminous coals, on the other

hand, are much softer, and burn with an abundant, bright flame. When heated in a closed vessel these coals give off a gas that is used for illumination, coal oils, and a great many other products. Some geologists suppose that coals of this kind were converted into anthracite by heat, which drove off the volatile portions. But this is another matter that is not satisfactorily settled. It is sufficient for our purpose to know that coal of all kinds, so necessary to our comfort both as fuel and a source of light, and also, in all probability, petroleum and natural gas, had a similar origin—the plants that grew ages and ages ago. Just think what these plants were doing longer ago than what we can conceive. They, as the grew, worked into their growth the sun's rays, stored up their heat and light and kept them until you and I should need them this winter to keep us warm while another portion of this "light of other days," in the petroleum of kerosene, allows us to enjoy reading by this light, which shone upon earth long before man came; yes, and kept it hidden and stored away in the rocks until man should need it. Who says that this world was not admirably planned?

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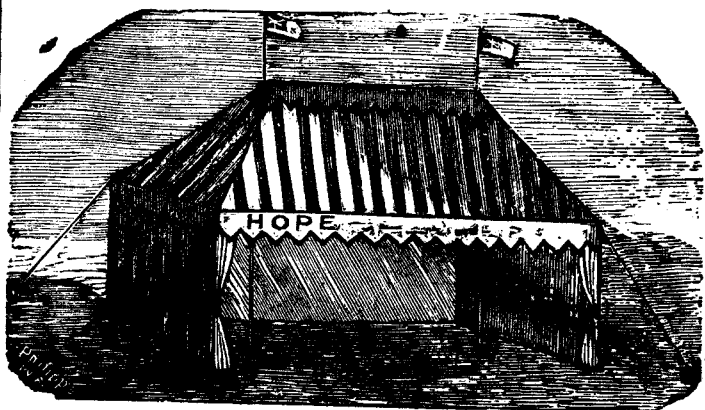
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