## Finding Fault.

The winds refused to blow. "No use, ' said they, ' to try From north or south or east or west These folks to satisfy
The North Wind 'is too cold '
The West Wind, 'bold and rough,'
The East is 'chilly,' they complain.
The South, 'not cool enough'!'

And so the windmills stopped. And ships lay idle by. The sun beat down from morn till night Because no clouds could fly The people sighed for wind Blow hot or cold," said they, From north or south or east or west. Twill be the wisest way

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A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK. Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 9, 1899.

## THE ST. NICHOLAS LEAGUE.

Announcement is made in the November St. Nicholas of the St. Nicholas League, an organization of the readers of that magazine. The League motto is, "Live to learn and learn to live." Every reader of St. Nicholas will be entitled to League membership, whether a subscriber or not, also to membership badge and to all privileges and benefits of the order.

The St. Nicholas League stands for intenectual advancement and higher ideals of life. To learn more and more of the best that has been thought and done in the world "-to get closer to the heart of nature and acquire a deeper sympathy with her various forms-these are its chief aims, and the League is in favour of any worth, pursuit or pastime that is a means to this end. Book-study alone is not followed by the best results. Direct friendship with the woods and fields and healthful play are necessary to the proper development of both mind and body.

# WILLIAM'S LUCK.

Here is a good story of a man called William who is engaged as a windowcleaner at a certain great hotel in Lon-don. One morning William instead of doing his work, was amusing himself by reading the paper, and, as bad luck

would have it, the manager looked in.
"What's this?" he said. William was
dumbfounded. Pack up your things

and go," said the manager

more William drew the money which was owing to him. and then went upstairs and put on his Sunday clothes. Coming down, he went to say "Good-bye" to some of the other servants, and there he happened to run across the manager, who did not re-

Do you want a job?" asked the

"Yes, sir," said William,
"Can you clean windows?"
"Yes, sir."

"You look a handy sort of chap. you 25s."

"Thank you, sir, said William, and in half an hour he was back in the same old room-cleaning the window this time. and not reading the paper.-Tit-Bits.

### CHAIN WILL NOT BREAK.

Miss Nathalie Schenck's endless chain is still as endless as ever. Every Mondrops from forty to fifty letters at the loor, and on other days in the week there are anyway from fifteen to twentythe Miss Schenck's endless chain was started las' summer when the sick and wounded began streaming home from the Santiago campaign. She thought it would be a worthy charity to supply ice to them, and at the time calculated that about \$4,600 would buy all the ice neces-ary. So in the enthusiasm of her idea ary. So in the enthusiasm of her idea Miss Schenck sat down and wrote four letters, each one to a friend. She asked them to send a dime to her and for each one to write the same number of letters to other friends Thy did so, and tho next day the dimes began coming.

Before the week had ended, the postmaster at Babylon, where Miss Schenck was staying with her grandfather, Matthew Morgan, began to grow uneasy. Miss Schenck's mail was overflowing the office. In a few days he was compelled to hire help, and instead of delivering the young woman's mail in the usual manner, it was packed in barrels and sent nome on a truck. At Miss Schenck's home there was even more of an uproar. Miss Schenck had to give up most of her time to opening mail. Then she had to seek assistance. Before long an appeal was sent out from the Morgan home asking that the chain be broken. Hundreds of thousands of letters were

burned back of the Morgan stable. one over pretended to read them. The endless letter chain had brought in \$25,-000, all of which has been turned over to the Red Cross.-Montreal Star.

### WHAT "SING A SONG OF SIX-PENCE" MEANS.

You all know this rhyme, but have you ever heard what it really means?



THE SEAT OF WAR.

#### THE TROUBLE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

It is about four centuries since the Cape of Good Hope became a supply port for Portuguese traders on their way to and from the East Indies. And it is about three centuries since the English and Dutch began to use the promontory in a similar manner.
In 1620, the English took possession

of the port, deposited a gang of convicts and sought to effect a settlement, but owing to the ferocity of the natives the scheme failed.

In 1652, the Dutch made their first settlement and established slavery. In 1684 they had conquered several tribes and began to annex surrounding lands.

In 1795, the English came back again, conquered the Dutch settlers and took



GAMES ON THE RIVER ST. LAWBENCE.

The four-and-twenty blackbirds represent the twenty-four hours. The bottom of the pie is the world, while the top crust is the sky that overarches it. The opening of the sie is the day dawn, when the birds begin to sing, and surely such a sight in fit for a king.

The king, who is represented sitting in his parlour counting out his money, is the sun, while the gold pieces that

slip through his fingers, as he counts them, are the golden sunbeams.

The queen, who sits in the dark kitchen, is the moon, and the honey with which she regales herself is the moonlight

So we have the whole day, if not in a nutshell, in a pie.

Rotuma is a lonely island some 300 miles from Fiji. It is one of the most beautiful islands of the Pacific, covered with large forests of palms. Here the foreign missionary has completed his work and transferred everything into the hands of the native minister of a selfsupporting church. This church has only gave the last man 22s, but I'll give, contributed to foreign missions during the past year over \$1,200, and the native pastor says the members are true and carnest in their devotion, generous in their contributions, and devout in their worship on the Lord's day.

entire region was known as a British possession, bearing its present name of Cape Colony.

In 1834, British law emancipated all slaves in the colony, and the Dutch, who are now called Buers (pronounced Boors), began to emigrate and establish new settlements northward. They were a primitive people, farming, hunting, reading the Bible, showing much independence of spirit, but were withal plous and energetic. The founded a colony at Natal, on the north-cast of Cape Colony, but in 1843 were overpowered by the British, and Natal became part of the British dominion. Again the Boers, un-willing to remain under British rule, The industrious maid, who is in the garden at work before her king—the sun—has risen, in the day dawn, and the clothes she hangs out are the clouds. The bird who so tragically ends the song the vicinity off her nose," is the sunset. ment was placed under British authority, while the leading Boers fled for their lives across the Vaal river and began to found the Transvaal Republic. six years, however, the British Govern-meat, which had now found the Boers practically unmanageable, decided to give them back the Orange territory, but reserved certain rights for British settlers. Meantime the Transvaal Boers were multiplying rapidly and developing a colony of their own. Internal troubles developed, however, and one faction of the discontents appealed to England for protection. In 1877 the English flag was hoisted in the Transvaal, and the little republic was declared to be a portion of the British crown. But the anti-British

Boers fought this annexation scheme, and in the battles of Maiwand and Majuba Hill, in 1880, won such decisive victories over the slender British forces as to secure peace on a Boer basis, allowing the Boers to re-establish the republic of the Transvaal with self-government but under British auspices.

As to the merits of the present dispute, opinions differ. As a matter of fact, the Boers as a nation are fierce and tyrannical, as all people are who have been addicted to slave-holding propensities. They live a nomadic life, and have no doubt often gone beyond the bounds of their ceded rights in their attempts to control internal affairs. The English authorities claim that they are perfectly content "to leave the Boers free to regulate their own affairs, control their own franchises, and manage their they are perfectly on their own tranchises, and manage their own tranchises are distinct that they own monopolies on condition that they manifest some regard for the interests of others, and so conduct themselves that their country shall not be a continuous festering spot, dangerous to the peace of the whole continent, and liable at any time to involve its neighbours in conflict with each other and even with foreign countries."

## SOME AMUSEMENT AFTER ALL.

An English nobleman, whose entertainments are noticeably dull, is nevertheless himself a man of much dry humour. One evening he was leaning against a wall for a few moments' re-freshment, and surveying the throng of guests gathered at his wife's bidding with a speculative gaze, when a voluble young

man stepped up to him.
"Pretty slow, isn't it?" volunteered
the lively young stranger. "I wonder if the parties Lo.d and Lady — give are never any livelier than this." "Never," returned the unrecognized

host, promptly.

"Then I shall make my bow and take myself off at once," said the young man.

"Lucky fellow," said Lord —, with a whimsical smile; "I'm obliged to stay." Something in his tone enlightened the young man, who turned crimson and began to stammer apologies. But his host waived all such attempts, and held out his hand to his unwise guest. "You can go with a clear conscience," said he, pleasantly, "for you've given me the only amusement I've had this evening"



PAUL ERUGER.