

## YOUNG CANADA.

## THE CHIPMUNK.

The chipmunk likes to dig his hole in the dry banks, and you may often hear a rustling in the thick beds of dry leaves loud enough to attract your attention from a distance of fifteen or twenty rods. A cautious approach to the spot will show you a couple of chipmunks chasing each other round and round through the leaves. They will cease from their sports as you come near, but, if you sit down quietly, they will soon conclude that you are not dangerous and commence again. They often include the trunk of a fallen tree in their circuit, running along its whole length; then, plunging like divers into the leaves, they rush headlong through them, seeming greatly to enjoy the noise and stir which they make. They play in this way for hours; if one stops, the other turns back to look for him, and away they go again. The chipmunk can climb as well as any squirrel, and frequently does so, when the coast is clear, but if danger threatens he makes haste to descend. He never can realize that a tree affords him the least security. If you get so near before he sees you that he dares not come down, he plainly considers the situation to be very serious. Sometimes he will make a desperate rush for the ground within reach of your hand, and as soon as you withdraw he comes down and scampers away, evidently feeling that he has got well out of a bad scrape. Let his larger cousin, red, black or gray, depend on trees for safety if they choose; his trust is stone walls and brush heaps, not to mention his burrow. Within reach of these, his easy impudence is in striking contrast with his panic-stricken condition when treed.

## ANIMAL FRIENDSHIP.

Cats and dogs, when on friendly terms, will occasionally combine against a common foe. The Rev. L. Jenyns was informed by a lady correspondent that a little Blenheim spaniel of hers once accompanied her to the house of a relation, and when being taken into the kitchen to be fed two large cats flew at it and scratched it severely. During the lady's stay at this house the spaniel gradually contrived to form a friendship with the gardener's cat, and one day persuaded it to follow him into the kitchen, where, finding one of his enemies alone, he set at it, and assisted by his feline ally, gave it a sound drubbing. The two victors then remained in possession of the field until the other foe appeared, when they both fell upon it, and drove it too from the kitchen. During the remainder of the visit the spaniel and the gardener's cat continued their friendship for each other, eating off the same plate in undisturbed amity.

## WHO WINS?

Boys, this is a question of great importance. Who will succeed in life? The boy or man who spends his evenings away from home—attending music-hall, theatre, or billiard-room; playing dice, billiards, or cards; smoking tobacco, or gambling? or the one who is entirely free from all that we have named—whose inclinations are in the direction

of home, industry, sobriety self-culture, of right, the truth, and of God? We have in mind a most worthy gentleman who stands high in business circles, because when but a boy on the streets he chose the right and maintained it. At eleven his father died, leaving a wife and four children. From that time for seven years that boy sold papers and blacked boots, all the while supporting the family out of his daily profits. At eighteen he commenced business for himself as a merchant, and to-day is highly respected by his many friends and acquaintances, and is doing a flourishing business.

Who wins? The boy or man of bad habits? No! The boy or man who can swear, cheat, lie, or steal, without being found out? No! But he wins who is not ashamed to pray to God in the hour of temptation for help—for strength more than human when adversity overwhelms. He who reads God's Word and trusts it; who is not governed by the motive, Is it expedient? but is it right?—he wins.

## BOYS' RIGHTS.

I wonder now if anyone  
In this broad land has heard,  
In favour of down-trodden boys,  
One solitary word?  
We hear enough of "woman's rights,"  
And "rights of working-men,"  
Of "equal rights" and "nation's rights,"  
But pray just tell us when  
Boys' rights were ever spoken of?  
Why, we've become so used  
To being snubbed by every one,  
And slighted and abused;  
That when one is polite to us,  
We open wide our eyes,  
And stretch them in astonishment  
To nearly twice their size!

Boys seldom dare to ask their friends  
To venture in the house;  
It don't come natural at all  
To creep round like a mouse.  
And if we should forget ourselves,  
And make a little noise,  
Then ma or auntie sure would say,  
"Oh, my! those dreadful boys!"  
The girls bang on the piano  
In peace, but if the boys  
Attempt a tune with fife or drum,  
It's "Stop that horrid noise!"  
"That horrid noise!" just think of it!  
When sister never fails,  
To make a noise three times as bad  
With everlasting "scales."

Insulted thus, we lose no time  
In beating a retreat;  
So off we go to romp and tear,  
And scamper in the street.  
No wonder that so many boys  
Such wicked men become;  
'Twere better far to let them have  
Their games and plays at home.  
Perhaps that text the teacher quotes  
Sometimes—"Train up a child"—  
Means only train the little girls,  
And let the boys run wild.  
But patience, and the time shall come  
When we will all be men;  
And when it does, I rather think,  
Wrongs will be righted then.

—Exchange.

## BAMBOOS.

There is no tree known on earth which subserves so many purposes as the bamboo. The Indian obtains from it a part of his food, many of his household utensils, and a wood at once lighter and capable of bearing greater strains than heavier timber of the same size. Besides, in expeditions in the tropics, under the rays of a vertical sun, bamboo trunks have more than once been used as barrels, in which a water, much purer than could be preserved in vessels of any other kind, is kept fresh for the crew. Upon the west coast of South America, and in the large islands of Asia, bamboos furnish all the materials for the construction of houses at once pleasant, substan-

tial, and preferable to those of stone, which the frequently recurring earthquakes bring down upon the heads of the lodgers.

The softest of the bamboos is the *Sammot*. In the tracts where it grows in the greatest perfection it sometimes rises to the height of one hundred feet, with a stem only eighteen inches in diameter at the base. The wood itself is not more than an inch in thickness. The fact that the bamboo is hollow has made it eminently useful for a variety of purposes; it serves as a measure for liquids, and if fitted with a lid and bottom, trunks and barrels are made of it. Small boats even are made of the largest trunks by strengthening them with strips of other wood where needed.

In one day they attain the height of several feet, and with the microscope their development can be easily watched. But the most remarkable feature about the bamboo is their blossoming. With all this marvellous rapidity of growth they bloom only twice in a century, the flower appearing at the end of fifty years. Like other grasses, they die after having borne seed.

## THE CHANGES IN THE FROG.

Nowhere in the animal kingdom is there so favourable an opportunity for peeping into Nature's workshop as in the metamorphoses of the frog. This animal is a worm when it comes from the egg, and remains so the first four days of its life, having neither eyes nor ears, nostrils nor respiratory organs. It crawls, and breathes through its skin. After a while a neck is grooved into the flesh, and its soft lips are hardened into a horny beak. The different organs, one after another, bud out; then a pair of branching gills; and last, a long and limber tail. The worm has become a fish. Three or four days more elapse, and the gills sink back into the body, while in their place others come much more complex, arranged in vascular tufts, 112 in each; yet they, too, have their day, and are absorbed, together with their framework of bone and cartilage, to be succeeded by an entirely different breathing apparatus, the initial of a second correlated group of radical changes. Lungs are developed, the mouth widened, the horny beak converted into rows of teeth, the stomach and the intestines prepared for the reception of animal food instead of vegetable. Four limbs, fully equipped with hip and shoulder bones, with nerves and blood-vessels, push out through the skin, while the tail, being now supplanted by them as a means of locomotion, is carried away piecemeal by the absorbents, and the animal passes the rest of its life as an air-breathing and a flesh-feeding batrachian.

HE who lives only to benefit himself, confers on the world a benefit when he dies.

HERE is a story of a little girl, three years old, who was charged with breaking a flower from its stem. She said: "No, I didn't break it." Still, the older person argued that she must have done it, for no one else had been in the room; but she said: "'Deed, 'deed I didn't." Thinking to make her confess, the older said: "Now, Ada, I see a story in your eye." Her reply was, "Well, that's one I told the other day, for I didn't break the flower." And it was found that she didn't.