

THE BOYS AND GIRLS

My Shadow

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me, from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.
The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;
For he sometimes shoots up taller, like an India-rubber ball,
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.
One morning very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepyhead,
Had stayed at home behind me, and was fast asleep in bed.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

A Curious Puzzle

Put down in figures the year in which you were born; to this add; then add your age at your next birthday; provided it comes before January 1st; otherwise your age at last birthday; multiply result by 1,000; from this deduct 678,423, then add 17,000; substitute for the figures corresponding letters of the alphabet, as A for 1, B for 2, C for 3, D for 4, etc. The result will give the name by which you are popularly known.

Read This Aloud

Betty Botter bought some butter;
"But," she said, "this butter's bitter.
If I put it in my batter,
It will make my batter bitter;
But a bit of better butter
Will but make my batter better."
So she bought a bit of butter,
Better than the bitter butter,
And made her bitter butter better.
So 'twas better Betty Botter
Bought a bit of better butter.

A Dog and Parrot Story

"That reminds me of a very clever compact which has been entered into between a dog and a parrot in my neighborhood," said a man who had listened to a story about a dog.
"They seem to have established a perfect understanding of each other. How they went about the matter I do not know. I only know that the results are achieved quite as satisfactorily as if the dog and parrot in question were human beings and capable of all the processes of reasoning."

"The parrot's cage is in the back-yard. It is close to the ground, where the dog can reach the sliding door by rearing up on his hind legs. Between the back yard and front yard there is a gate, with a latch on the side toward the front part of the house. As a rule, the dog and parrot are kept in the back yard, and the little gate which crosses the alleyway and opens into the front yard is generally kept latched. A little while ago the dog and the parrot were found out in the front yard together.

"The man of the house was not a little perplexed to know how they managed to get out into the front yard. He made up his mind to watch them, for the purpose of seeing how they overcame the difficulty. The first thing that attracted his attention was the calling of the parrot."

"Promptly the dog, who understood the language, responded. He walked over to the parrot's cage, used his nose to root the side door up, and let the bird out. The dog then let the door fall back to its place. The parrot flew over the side gate, and the dog trotted across the yard in the same direction."

"In a few seconds the parrot was busy with the latch, and the dog pushed the side gate open with his nose. Shortly they were both in the front yard."

"Now what do you think of that? If that isn't intelligence, what is it?"

The Little Bootblack

A hundred years ago there lived in Oxford a little boy, whose business it was to clean the boots of the students of the famous university there. He was poor, but bright and smart. Well, this lad, whose name was George, grew rapidly in favor with the students. His prompt and hearty way of doing things, and his industrious habits and faithful deeds, won their admiration. They saw in him the promise of a noble man, and they proposed to teach him a little every

pel to admiring thousands. The little bootblack became the renowned pulpit orator, George Whitefield.

The Shepherd Dogs

The shepherd dogs of South America have an extra duty to perform. The vultures are very cunning birds and the dread enemies of all sheep owners. The sheep are so heavy and fat that when they fall down and roll over on their backs they cannot get back on their feet. They lie down and kick, and the watchful dogs know this signal as one of distress. They run to their assistance and help them up. Otherwise the vultures would swoop down upon them when in their helpless condition and torment them until they died.

The Child in the Glass

The child who lives in the looking-glass

Is always waiting to see me pass;
She never seems to run and play,
But watches there for me all day;
For every time I go and see,
I find her peeping round at me.
One day when I was cross and cried,
She stretched her mouth so very wide
I had to laugh—then she did, too;
She likes to do just what I do.

Not That Far Yet

A certain little girl, who had just begun to attend school, brought home a pumpkin seed, and told her mother that the teacher said the pumpkin would be yellow although the seed was white.

"And what will the color of the vine be?" asked the mother.

The little girl answered that the teacher had not taught her that.

"But," said the mother, "you know, dear, for we have pumpkin vines in our garden."



Summer Fun out in the Pasture.

day. Eager to learn, George accepted their proposal and he soon surprised his teachers by his rapid progress. "A boy who can blacken boots well can study well," said one of the students. "Keen as a brier," said another, "and pluck enough to make a hero." But we cannot stop to tell of his patience and perseverance. He went on, step by step, just as the song goes, one step and then another, until he became a man, a learned and eloquent man, who preached the gos-

"Of course I do, mother, but we are not expected to know anything until we are taught."

There are two good rules which ought to be written on every heart: never to believe anything bad about anybody until you positively know it to be true; never to tell even that unless you feel that it is absolutely necessary and that God is listening while you tell it.