

leaped into a pit, on one side of which was a great den, in which forty others had taken refuge. When his hiding-place was discovered, Vespasian sent messengers to promise him safety if he would come up; but the Jews who were with him threatened to kill him if he yielded, and resolved, rather than give themselves up, to die by their own hands. To the remonstrances of Josephus they paid no heed, but agreed to slay each other by lot. Josephus was fortunately left to the last, and he gave himself up to the Romans.

The Roman soldiers now eagerly pressed round him, anxious to get a peep at the man who had so long and so cleverly withstood them; and Titus, Vespasian's son, who loved bravery, entreated that his life might be spared.

The request was granted, but Josephus was put in chains, and would have been sent to Rome, had he not told Vespasian that it had been revealed to him from heaven that he was about to be made emperor, and that he should be succeeded by the brave Titus.

When Vespasian was, soon afterwards, proclaimed emperor, he looked upon Josephus as the bearer of a divine message to him, and the prisoner's chains were therefore struck off and cut to pieces by the soldiers; and from that time Josephus held a most honorable position amongst the Romans. He remained with Titus till the close of the war, and was twice sent to try and persuade the Jews of Jerusalem to submit to the Romans, and so to save their lives and their city.

When you grow older I should like you to read the splendid speech that he made under the wall of Jerusalem. He showed the Jews, from the history of their nation, that it was God who was punishing them for their wickedness, and that they ought to submit, and wait till He delivered them, as He had delivered their forefathers. But he was upbraided as a traitor, and shot at from the walls.

When the city was destroyed Titus told Josephus to take what he pleased from amongst the ruins. But he was too grieved at the fall of Jerusalem and the glorious Temple to care for a share of the spoils, and he only asked for the "holy books," and the lives of his relations, and friends, and acquaintances.

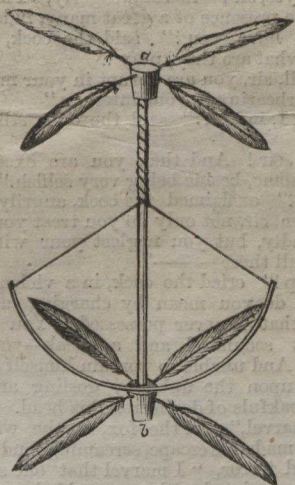
At the close of the war

Josephus went with Titus to Rome, where he spent the rest of his days in peace and prosperity. To the last he retained the favor of Vespasian and Titus, who had proved his bravery, his wisdom, and his sincerity. He lived in a house formerly occupied by Vespasian; he was made a citizen of Rome, which was no small honor; and he was pensioned for life. He was as much hated by the Jews as he had formerly been beloved and respected; but to all who falsely accused him, Vespasian turned a deaf ear; and for all these favors Josephus was so grateful that he took the family name of the emperor, and was called *Flavius Josephus*.

At the command of Vespasian he wrote his famous "History of the Jewish War, and the Destruction of Jerusalem," which proves the wisdom of the advice that he gave to the Jews. He wrote, also, in the Greek language, a work called "Jewish Antiquities," which you will find interesting as you grow older, though you might perhaps think it rather dry now.—*Little Folks*.

A FLYING TOY.

As it may be an amusement to some of my readers to see a machine rise in the air by mechanical means, I will de-



scribe an instrument of this kind, which any one can construct at the expense of ten minutes' labor:

a and *b* are two corks, into each of which are inserted four wing-feathers from any bird, so as to be slightly inclined, like the sails of a windmill, but in opposite directions in each set. A round shaft is fixed in the cork *a*, which ends in a sharp point. At the upper part of the cork *b* is fixed a whalebone bow, having a small pivot hole in its centre to receive the point of the shaft. The bow is then to be strung equally on each side

to the upper portion of the shaft, and the little machine is completed. Wind up the string by turning the bow, so that the spring of the bow may unwind the corks with their anterior edges ascending; then place the cork with the bow attached to it, upon a table, and with a finger pressed on the upper cork, press strongly enough to prevent the string from unwinding, and taking it away suddenly, the instrument will rise to the ceiling.—*Home Amusements*.

THE BOARD AND BALL.

Get the cover of a small cigar box, or any other thin board, about five inches long, and cut it out the shape as represented in Fig. 1, then arrange the strings and balls as shown in the same engraving.

The trick is, to get the large ball off the string without un-



FIG. 1.

tying it or removing any of the smaller balls. Push the ball close up to the wood, and pull the loop of the string down through as much as it will come; then pass the end of the loop through the hole in the wood, and over the pellet as here shown.

[Fig. 2.] The two loops will then separate, and the ball can easily be taken off.



FIG. 2.

The knots beneath the wood prevent the loops being pulled through by the pellets.

AN ENCOURAGING DREAM.

I have read of one, says Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, who dreamed a dream, when in great distress of mind, about religion. He thought he stood in the outer court of Heaven, and he saw a glorious host marching up, singing sweet hymns, and bearing the banners of victory; and they passed by him through the gate, and when they vanished he heard in the distance sweet strains of music.

"Who are they?" he asked. "They are the goodly fellowships of the prophets, who have gone to be with God."

And he heaved a deep sigh as he said: "Alas! I am not one of them, and never shall be, and I cannot enter there."

By and by there came another band equally lovely in appearance, and equally triumphant, and robe in white. They passed within the portals, and again were shouts of welcome heard within.

"Who are they?" he asked.

"They are the goodly fellowship of the apostles."

"Alas!" he said, "I belong not to that fellowship and cannot enter there."

He still waited and lingered in the hope that he might yet go in; but the next multitude did not encourage him, for they were the noble army of martyrs. He could not go with them, nor wave their palm branches. He waited still and saw that the next was a company of godly ministers and officers of Christian churches; but he could not go with them. At last as he walked, he saw a larger host than all the rest put together, marching and singing most melodiously; and in front walked the woman that was a sinner; and the thief that died upon the cross, hard by the Saviour; and he looked long, and saw there such as Manasseh and the like; and when they entered he could see who they were, and he thought:

"There will be no shouting about them."

But to his astonishment, it seemed as if all Heaven was rent with sevenfold shouts as they passed in. And the angel said to him:

"These are they that are mighty sinners, saved by mighty grace."

And then he said:

"Blessed be God! I can go in with them."

And so he awoke.

Blessed be God! you and I, too, can go in with that company. Such is my own sense of how I expect to enter heaven, and we will go together, brother sinner, or sister sinner, trusting in the precious blood, and washed in the blood of the Lamb. God grant it may be so!

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.