

A Child's Heroism.

The London *Spectator* says: There is something very pathetic about the heroism of childhood, where we mean by heroism something of really independent daring and presence of mind, something beyond mere steadfast trustfulness, which is in a sense natural to childhood. The inquest held yesterday week before Dr. Macdonald, M. P., Coroner for North East London, on Henry James Bristow, aged eight years, illustrates precisely what we mean. Mrs. Bristow, who lives at Walthamstow, had left this little boy alone in the room with a younger sister of only three years of age, in order to go on an errand, from which she returned before six o'clock to find that the little girl had climbed on a chair to reach a small paraffine-lamp, and had upset it over her clothes, which of course

CAUGHT FIRE AT ONCE.

The boy immediately tore them off her, and laid her upon the bed, but in lifting her on to the bed, his own clothes caught fire and it took the child a long time to tear them off which, however, at last he succeeded in doing, but not till he was so seriously hurt that, though taken at once to a hospital, he died within the week from the result of the injuries. His little sister's life he had succeeded in saving; at least, she was said to be doing well at the time of the inquest on her brother. The coroner very justly spoke of the boy as quite a little hero, and he was a hero in precisely the sense in which it seems to us that the word, as applied to a child of eight, carries a profound pathos with it, because it implies a presence of mind, a promptitude of purpose, a self-command and fortitude and steadfastness, which are usually quite beyond a child's imagination, much less

ITS PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENT

In the books of verse for children, which were in use a generation or more ago, there used to be some verses about a child who kept perfectly calm and self-possessed at sea during the raging of a tempest, because his father was "at the helm," which was the refrain with which the child replied to all the questions asked him as to the source of his self-possession. This is a kind of heroism—if heroism is the right name for it—which should be, we think, natural to children, at least to children who have felt the fullest trust and reverence of which children are capable. But the children of the poor are often early initiated into a kind of heroism more properly deserving of the epithet; for heroism, accurately construed, expresses we think, more or less of the power to stand alone and cope with the difficulties or terrors of life by the promptitude and

BOLDNESS OF INDIVIDUAL ENERGY.

There is certainly something in the spectacle, which is singularly impressive, and gives us a deeper sense of the spiritual force of our nature, than any other phenomenon of human life. In the nature, what looks like heroism is very often love of praise and little else. The sense of what the world expects from a man will often make a coward act as if he were constitutionally brave, and a selfish man act as if he were habitually disinterested. But when a child faces the most acute pain, and (as is proved in this case) death itself, to save another, and this too in the absence of all spectators, it is impossible to ascribe his conduct to any semi-melodramatic or even imitative motive. The little boy of eight, battling alone

WITH FEAR AND PAIN

to save his sister, can hardly have had anything in his mind except love for her, and responsibility to his mother in her absence, and assuredly cannot have been buoyed up by that eagerness to win the world's good opinion, or to become the subject of the world's curiosity, which taints so much, not only of our modern life, but even of our modern courage and daring. We should doubt if the little hero of whom we have been writing so much had formed the desire to be himself brave or faithful, or to be, for himself, anything at all. Probably his first desire was to save his sister, and his next to release himself from the agony of the flame; but the former was the overmastering motive which carried everything before it, and made him deliberately incur the severe pain from the consequences of which he died. It is hardly possible not to think better of the human spirit when one sees a child of eight so affectionate, so dauntless, and so resolved.

It is stated that the muskrat is enabled to travel under the ice of a frozen river or lake for a considerable distance by respiring against the ice roof, where the bubbles of gas collect, and getting a fresh supply of oxygen.



FIG. 36.—No. 4919.—LADIES' COSTUME.
PRICE 35 CENTS.

Quantity of Material (27 inches wide) for 30 inches, 7½ yards; 32 inches, 8 yards; 34 inches, 8½ yards; 36 inches, 9 yards; 38 inches, 9½ yards; 40, 42 inches, 10 yards.

Quantity of Material (42 inches wide) for 30, 32, 34 inches, 5½ yards; 36 inches, 5½ yards; 38 inches, 6½ yards; 40 inches, 6½ yards; 42 inches, 7½ yards.

For the medium size, 1½ yards extra of 42-inch material for ruffles, 1½ yards of wide ribbon velvet; 4½ yards of medium width, and 6½ yards of narrow ribbon velvet will be required.

FIG. 36.—The pretty and effective costume for a lady seen in the above figure is

Look Out For The Cellar.

We will first direct our steps to the lowest apartment of our residences—the cellar. Much has been said in reference to its cleanliness, and how much respect we owe to this necessary portion of our households. Many women are in the habit of placing all kinds of rubbish in this apartment, little thinking that most of the air which they breathe in their upper chambers has first passed through the cellar, and been vitiated by all foul and decaying substances. In order to convince those who are skeptical of the truthfulness of this assertion, we need only to advise them to close all upper room doors and to boil onions in their cellars. The odor of this vegetable will be perceptible from parlor to attic, and this proves beyond question that much sickness is propagated in this manner.

Dryness and ventilation are particularly necessary, as many cases of fever and diphtheria can be traced to this neglect. Fruits and vegetables, and indeed every article of corrosive properties, are more apt to decay

if left in a place where the surroundings are damp. The absolute necessity of a clean, dry cellar requires us to whitewash all walls and ceilings at least twice a year, and to place some lime and charcoal in different receptacles as often as the feeling of dampness can be experienced. These articles are recommended to purify the air as well as to absorb moisture.

The fastest mile run by a railroad train was made in 40½ seconds. The record for the fastest mile made on skates is 2 minutes 12 3-5 seconds. The fastest mile made in rowing in a single boat took 5 minutes 1 second. The fastest mile ever made by a running horse was run in one minute 35 seconds. The fastest mile by a man on a tricycle was made in 2 minutes 49 2-5 seconds. The fastest time on snow shoes for a mile is recorded as 5 minutes 39½ seconds. The best time for a mile by a man on a bicycle is recorded as 2 minutes 29 4-5 seconds.

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Maidens in Russia.

The daughter is a great pet in Russian families, perhaps because there are generally more sons than daughters. Take the younger members of the Imperial family as an example, and we find 22 grand dukes and only seven grand duchesses; and this may be stated to be about the average proportion in most families. The necessity for men in the rural districts as assistants in the agricultural labors of their fathers, has given rise to a saying, "One son is no son; two sons are half a son; but three are a whole son." Notwithstanding the pride and satisfaction with which the birth of a boy is hailed, the little girl is the darling, the object of the tenderest affection and care of parents and brothers, not to speak of other adoring relatives. Much is not expected of her in the way of assistance in the family, she is indulged as far as their means and circumstances permit, and she takes it quietly and as her due, but it is rarely that she does not voluntarily and tacitly contribute her share in helping her mother. Her occupations are much about the same as those of all European girls, but parish work in Russia existeth not for her. She cannot have classes at Sunday-school, as religion is taught by priests or deacons. It would be thought quite extraordinary and improper were a young unmarried girl to visit the sick and poor in towns, but in villages it is sometimes done under the direction of mamma or grand-mamma. She is undoubtedly fond of pleasures, likes to be well dressed, and generally adores dancing. Music is not the Russian girl's forte, nor is solo singing. Most of the Institutka, though they thoroughly know the theory of music, play like a child of twelve; of course, there are exceptions, but it is seldom you find a girl able to play a quadrille or polka off-hand.

Girls marry very young in Russia, and there are very few of those most estimable individuals called old maids. There are not colonies for the Russians to run away to; and the statistics show that the births of boys much exceed those of girls.

Long engagements are not approved of, they seldom last longer than a few months, during which time the fiancée is the mistress of the house. Her girl friends assemble to help to sew the dowry, the sewing afternoon generally ending in a dance after tea, when the bridegroom drops in with a few bachelor friends. Another wedding is thus often arranged; and so on, little by little, till, like the 15 cards in the game of "old maid," they pair off, and one, generally of the sterner sex, is left—forelorn.

Higher Education and Marriage.

That the proportion of girls who remain single is greater in these last days than a generation ago is a fact which, however much it may be deplored, cannot be gainsaid. An explanation of the fact is attempted by Mrs. Kate Garnett Wells, in the *North American* for the current month.

"There are three general causes," says Mrs. Wells, "which bring marriage into disfavor [with women]: philanthropy, higher education, and self analysis. The first has been a powerful factor in its subtle influence against marriage. The mental atmosphere is permeated with the idea of responsibility for another's happiness. Woman now feels herself accountable for the welfare of humanity, and through the exercise of that responsibility has found occupation for mind and heart; which has prevented absorption in her own affairs. Higher education has effected marriage, inasmuch as it has opened new avenues of employment for women, has fortified them for life as a whole, and has led them to regard marriage as an incident. It has given girls a communistic feeling which makes them prefer to teach where there are other teachers rather than to live on a bill-top and read aloud to their parents, or to retire to a farm or a tenement and bake and brew for their husbands. The higher education has separated marriage and motherhood. Almost all women love children and would gladly use their knowledge for the delight and profit of a family, but they do not want the intervening marriage. Analysis has advanced from being a method in textbooks to the study of one's self. The age is analytic. Once work was so constant that married women did not realize their loneliness or the want of appreciation which befell them. Now society and the middle class have leisure to examine their states of mental solitude, and to see just where husband bands are wanting.

If you have found some one who knows how to scratch your back just where it itches you have come pretty near finding affinity.