

# TALKS TO BOYS AND GIRLS.

It's the loneliest house you ever saw,  
This big gray house where I stay—  
I don't call it living at all, at all—  
Since my mother went away.

Four long weeks ago, and it seems a year,  
"Gone home," so the preacher said;  
An' I ache in my breast with wanting her,  
An' my eyes are always red.

I stay out of doors till I'm almost froze,  
'Cause every corner and room  
Seems empty enough to frighten a boy,  
And filled to the doors with gloom.

I hate them to call me in to my meals;  
Sometimes I think I can't bear  
To swallow a mouthful of anything,  
An' her not sitting up there

A-pourin' the tea, an' pussin' the things,  
An' laughin' to see me take  
Two big lumps of sugar instead of one,  
An' more than my share of cake.

I'm too big to be kissed, I used to say,  
But somehow I don't feel right  
Crawling into bed as still as a mouse  
Nobody saying good-night.

An' tucking the clothes up under my chin  
An' pushing my hair back, so;  
Things a boy makes fun of before his chums  
But things that he likes, you know.

There's no one to go to when things go wrong—  
She was always so safe and sure,  
Why, not a trouble could tackle a boy  
That she couldn't up and cure.

There are lots of women, it seems to me,  
That wouldn't be missed so much—  
Women whose boys are about all grown up,  
An' old maid aunties, an' such.

I can't make it out for the life of me  
Why she should have to go,  
An' her boys left here in this old gray house,  
A-needin' an' wanting her so.

I tell you the very loneliest thing  
In this great big world to-day,  
Is a big boy of ten whose heart is broke  
'Cause his mother is gone away.

## Self Advancement Among Girls.

In order to advance one's self no unusual amount of intelligence is needed; but rather a disposition to make the most of one's opportunities. There is always room at the top; and a fair average of good sense with a proper amount of application will accomplish everything and enable one to reach the top.

A young woman recently found employment in a dressmaking store. She immediately began a course of study in her leisure moments, upon glassware and china. Then she read some recent works upon the appointment of the table, and in a short time, by applying herself to her business, became the most valuable employe in a large store.

In the millinery establishment the young woman who found time for reading a book or two on colors and their harmonious combination, found her own taste greatly improved, and her ability to please patrons much greater. She was soon a favorite with the employers and customers.

The young woman, who, to earn an honorable living, went into a lady's kitchen and instead of gossiping every evening, found time to read a few books and household papers, was soon too valuable a housekeeper to be kept in a subordinate position in the kitchen. She knew how a table should look for a formal dinner; she knew what dishes were in season; she knew how to serve a meal in its proper courses, and more than that, she knew something about the food value of different dishes.

Therefore girls should be continually desirous of improving themselves especially after they have left school. Thus, accustomed from childhood to profit by their opportunities, they will certainly better their condition in life.

## Mother and Boy.

The mother has an extraordinary influence over her boy, and he has a peculiar love for her. It is a fact which must interest every woman, to know that there has scarcely ever been a great man who had not a wise and good mother. Over and over again, in the zenith of her fame, have such men said:

"My mother made me all that I have become; she taught me my duty, she encouraged me in every worthy effort. She believed in my success from the very first."

A mother is always proud to say

"my son," as she looks into the cradle. Of course, boys are troublesome. Even in their cradle they tear their frills, and scream and kick the clothes about as girls never do.

They come in from play with dirty hands and faces and torn clothes, when your sisters have learned to walk along at your side, with due respect to their best flounces and sash ribbons. At night you empty their pockets of a terrible mixture of gingerbread, marbles, fish hooks, earth worms, apple cores, etc.

They tear their buttons off when their sisters have learned to sew them on. They wade in the gutters, and ride behind ice carts, dissect kittens, climb trees, and fight with other boys; but remember they are mere children. You cannot expect your future explorer, who will one day make his way to the North Pole or the Interior of Africa, to abstain from excursions into the city or the woods, even if he loses himself. It is not presumable that the soldier in embryo will refrain from fighting the butcher's boy, at the risk of black eyes and bleeding forehead; or that the sailor of twenty years to come will not paddle in your wash tub; that the naturalist born will not take an interest in snails, crickets, mice, etc.; or the surgeon of the future feel it his duty to investigate the interior arrangement of the family kitten. Bear with them, good mothers, and look forward, for in the future lies the great happiness for the mother of boys.

## Breaking Off a Bad Habit.

There are a number of our boys and girls as well as many grown-up people who never cease, swear nor use bad language— they could even resent such an imputation as an insult—and yet those very ones are continually breaking the second commandment of God, by the commonplace and thoughtless use of such exclamations as "O Lord," "My God" and similar interjections. Let us trust that the moral attached to the following little incident recorded in the Young Catholic Messenger, and which illustrates the absurdity of such a habit, will be of profit to some of our readers.

Conrad Weiss was an honest peasant lad, the son of a good father and mother, who had impressed him with a horror of taking the Lord's Name in vain. When his parents died he went to live with a widow who owned a comfortable farm at some distance from her own village.

The faithful lad performed his work so well, and so edified her by his daily conduct that when she began to perceive a growing affection between him and her only daughter, instead of frowning upon it as many would have done, she openly encouraged it, to the wonder and disgust of some of her more worldly neighbors, who thought the pretty Katrina might have made a much better match. From which it will be seen that Frau Widenin was a wise woman. The pair were married and all went well in the pleasant farm-house where all three dwelt together in peace and unity.

There was only one cloud in the sky of Conrad's happiness; one which to the majority of persons would have seemed the merest trifle, but which to the pious young man was a constant source of sorrow and regret.

His mother-in-law was in the habit of using the Lord's name in that too familiar manner, which, although often thoughtlessly acquired, savors an irreverence not always meant by those who employ it.

Katrina accustomed to it all her life, it did not have the same effect, although after she had heard Conrad express his disapproval of it several times when they were by themselves, she also began to feel as her husband did in the matter. However, she was far too timid and amiable ever to signify to her mother that the habit was one which ought to be broken, and at first Conrad, on his part, was too deeply attached to the good woman who had indeed taken him for her son, and in all respects treated him as such to venture on a disapproving word. But after a while it seemed to him that the habit was growing upon her; there was scarcely a sentence in which she did not interject "O Lord!" or "My God!"

At last he could bear it no longer, and began gently to remonstrate with her. She took his interference in very good part, endeavoring to get it away, and saying it was only a habit by which she meant nothing wrong. A few days later his little son, aged about fifteen months, and just beginning to speak plainly, sat on the floor playing with some wooden soldiers. One of them rolled off beyond his reach; the child leaning over to capture it exclaimed, "O Lord!" At that moment Conrad took a resolution, which he proceeded to carry into effect as soon as possible.

Behind the house was a garden in

which grew a mulberry tree. This was the old woman's favorite spot. There she took her newspaper and her knitting, often sitting under the spreading branches all day long. Conrad had some very choice cabbages growing near, which were being infested with caterpillars. One afternoon when she came to her favorite seat under the tree she found her son-in-law busily engaged in looking for the noxious worms which were destroying his cabbages. She took out her knitting and smiled pleasantly.

At that moment Conrad exclaimed "O dear mother, I have a caterpillar!" Somewhat surprised at this affectionate mode of address the old lady replied:

"Kill it then."

A moment later Conrad cried out, "O dear mother, I have found another caterpillar!"

"Well, kill it," the old lady said once more, at the same time regarding him with curiosity.

Conrad continued, "O, dear mother here is another!"

"Kill them, kill them, she answered impatiently. "Don't bother me with your caterpillars."

Conrad did not look up from his occupation but said in reply, "O, dear mother, I mean no harm, it is only a habit."

Dropping her knitting the good woman looked at him in amazement, beginning to think that her son-in-law was losing his senses. A short pause and again he broke forth. "O dear mother, here are two caterpillars!"

"Conrad, what do you mean?" anxiously inquired the old lady. "Are you crazy?"

"O, dear mother," said the young man "I mean no harm, it is only a habit. You know I am not crazy."

"Well, then, if such be not the case, it is something worse," said his mother-in-law rising from her seat beneath the mulberry tree. "I would almost rather that you should have gone crazy than to have lived to see the day when you, whom I have loved as my own son could turn me into ridicule."

"With these words she turned towards the house, her son-in-law following her as fast as he could, uncertain whether his experiment had been a success or a failure.

As they reached the threshold of the little kitchen, the baby looked up from its play on the floor. "O, dear Lord," it exclaimed. "Grandmamma is crying." At that moment the old woman and the son-in-law exchanged glances and she understood.

"Ah! I see what you have been doing, Conrad," she cried out between smiles and tears.

"You have been trying to break me of a bad habit. But good as your intentions were, I do not think you would have been half so successful as has been this innocent baby here, by whose mouth I stand convicted and ashamed."

Seizing the child in her arms she clasped him to her bosom exclaiming "So help me God, my darling, your grandmother shall never again be guilty of giving you bad example. And Conrad, I wish to make a bargain with you. Bad habits are not broken in a day, and if ever you hear me forget myself, only cry out, "O, dear mother, I have found a caterpillar, and I shall remember."

Conrad promised; the cure was soon effected and peace and happiness once more reigned in this good little family. — T. W.

## CHEERFULNESS AND LONGEVITY.

Goldsmith says that one of the happiest persons he ever saw was a slave in the fortifications at Flanders—a man with but one leg, deformed and chained. He was condemned to slavery for life, and had to work from dawn to dark, yet he seemed to see only the bright side of everything. He laughed and sang, and appeared the happiest man in the garrison.

"It is from these enthusiastic fellows," says an admirer, "that you hear—what they fully believe, bless them—that all countries are beautiful, all dinners grand, all pictures superb, all mountains high, all women beautiful. When such a one has come back from his country trip, after a hard year's work, he has always found the cosiest of nooks, the cheapest houses, the best of landlords, the finest views, and the best dinners. But with the other case is indeed altered. He has always been robbed, he has positively seen nothing, his landlady was a harpy, his bedroom was unhealthy, and the nuttin was so tough he could not get his teeth through it.

A gentleman in Minneapolis owned a business block that was completely gutted by fire. The misfortune produced a melancholy that bodied ill for his mind. In vain his friends tried to cheer him. Nothin could dispel the impenetrable gloom. He was away from home when the disaster occurred, and received the fol-

lowing letter from his little seven-year old daughter.

Dear Papa,—I went down to see your store that was burned, and it looks very pretty all covered with ice. Love and kisses from LILLIAN.

The father smiled as he read; and the man who had contemplated jumping from the train laughed aloud. The spell that overshadowed him was at last broken by this ray of sunshine.

A cheerful man is pre-eminently a useful man. He does not cramp his mind, nor take half the views of men and things. He knows that there is much misery, but that misery need not be the rule of life. He sees that in every state people may be cheerful, the lambs skip, birds sing and fly joyously, puppies play, kittens are full of joyance, the whole air full of careering and rejoicing insects; that everywhere the good outbalances the bad, and that every evil has its compensating balm.

You must take joy with you, or you will not find it, even in heaven. He who hoards his joys to make them more is like the man who said: "I will keep my grain from mice and birds, and neither the ground nor the mill shall have it. What fools are they who throw away upon the earth whole handfulls."—Pushing to the front.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN COUNTY COUNCILS.

Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., in his weekly contribution to the Dublin Nation, under the caption of "Occasional Notes," has this to say in regard to the proposal to open the doors of the County Councils to women:

In this time of extended franchises and of enlarged ideas regarding popular representation, one cannot be surprised to find that the "Women's Rights" associations are coming to the front, and demanding that women shall be, by law, rendered eligible for election to all representative bodies constituted under local government acts. There has existed for some time an organization having its headquarters in London entitled "The Women's Local Government Society," established for promoting eligibility of women to elect and to serve on all governing bodies. The society is established "on a party basis," its president is the Countess of Aberdeen, and it has for vice-presidents the Lady Frederiek Cavendish, the Right Hon. Leonard Courtney, M. P.; the Lady Frances Balfour, and the Right Hon the Earl of Meath—a strong heading surely. The Society proposes to have an enabling Bill, in the following terms, introduced in the next session of parliament:

## A BILL

To Enable Women to be Elected and to Serve on the County Councils.

Enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

I. It shall be lawful for women to be elected to and to act upon County Councils as Councillors and Aldermen, in the same manner and on the same conditions as men.

II. This Act may be cited as the County Councils (Qualification of Women) Act, 1899.

Amongst the reasons set forth by the ladies in support of the proposed measure are the following:

That the business of County Councils is administrative, and that women as Poor Law Guardians and members of School Boards have proved their capacity to do valuable administrative work, and that is recognized in the Local Government Act of 1894.

That the co-operation of women as County Councillors is especially to be desired in connection with Lunatic Asylums having female inmates, with Industrial Schools, with Baby Farms (in the County of London), with the Housing of the Working Classes, and with Common Lodging Houses.

There is much force in these arguments; I do not see how they can be controverted. The claim that women may be made aldermen sounds a little odd; why should they not, in like manner, be made Lord Mayors? But "what's in a name?" Why not call them alderwomen and Lady Mayors? That matter could be easily settled. I will vote for such a Bill if it be brought into the House of Commons.

"In order to settle a dispute in regard to eating apples," writes "A Subscriber" from Calgary, "whether it is better the first thing in the morning for the last thing before retiring? Kindly answer through the Globe." The decision should rest with the Department of the Interior.

—Toronto Globe.

A French physician recently reported to the Academie des Sciences the result of his experiments on blind children. Among 204 he found 5 boys and 4 girls who were able to recognize the Rontgen rays. Some saw the X, cathodic, and fluorescent rays, others only the Cathodic and X-rays, and described them as being of reddish color.

## PATENT REPORT.

### No Chinese Patent Office.

There is no Patent office in China, and no treaty with Canada regarding copyrights, trade-marks and patents; therefore there is nothing to prevent Canadian books being reprinted, Canadian trade-marks copied, and Canadian patent goods reproduced by the Chinese themselves, though if the infringer were a Canadian the case would be tried and decided by the Canada Consul, according to the laws of Canada.

Below will be found a list of patents recently granted by the Canadian Government, through Messrs. Marion & Marion, Solicitors of Patents & Experts, New York Life Building, Montreal.

- 62205 Amedee Tetrault, Montreal, P. Q., sewing machine.
- 62208 Robert Anderson Evans, Winnipeg, Man., vehicle wheels.
- 62216 Hargrave & Wyld, Montreal, P. Q., ironing boards.
- 62221 Edmond Parent, Terrebonne, P. Q., sample carriers for commercial travellers.
- 62223 Donnat Quintal, Isle du Pas, P. Q., improvements in carriage wheels.
- 62226 A. W. Ellis, London, England, stopping devices for bottles.
- 62331 Pierre Larange, St. Hyacinthe, P. Q., trimming attachments for pegging machines.
- 62360 Charles A. Prescott, Victoria, B. C., ink wells.

## FANCIES OF GREAT MEN.

Hope once saw an arm apparently thrust through a solid wall. When he called out, "Who is that?" he found that he was the victim of an optical illusion.

Dr. Johnson, once declared that he heard his mother calling him, although at the time she was several hundred miles away.

Napoleon pointed to a star that he fancied he saw shining in his room and said:

"It has never deserted me. I see it on every great occurrence urging me onward; it is an unfailling omen of success."

Goethe once saw his own exact likeness advancing to meet himself.

Sir Joshua Reynolds, when taking a walk one night, thought the lamps were trees and the men and women he met bushes agitated by a breeze.

Bostok, the jolly physiologist, was in fancy always surrounded by faces and figures, and there was one face that sometimes followed him for a day at a time.

Oliver Cromwell, tossing sleeplessly upon his bed one night, suddenly saw the curtains part and a gigantic woman appear before him. This apparition informed him that he would one day be the greatest man in England and then disappeared.—New York World.

## MR. CARNEGIE'S DONATION.

The donation of \$250,000 by Mr. Andrew Carnegie for a public library building in this city is the cause of much rejoicing among the friends of the free library. The munificent donation was tendered in an informal manner, the donor writing with a pencil on an envelope:

"If Congress will provide a site I will give \$250,000 for a new library building. Andrew Carnegie."

Mr. Carnegie has given much money for libraries, and it was but natural that he should remember the capital city of the Republic, with which his name will ever be closely connected. His influence will probably inspire others, so we may yet have for the use of the masses a library that will compare favorably with the best in the country.—The Church News, Washington.

## CARTAGE BUSINESS OF WNE YORK.

In our last issue we reproduced an article from a leading New York daily, dealing with some of the great changes which the proposed New York Auto-Truck Company may bring about in connection with the immense cartage business carried on in our city. Mr. Richard Croker in a recent interview, it is said, expressed the opinion that the city would be benefitted by the new concern, which will, it is thought, give congested thoroughfares a relief from their present crowded condition. Mr. Croker said:—

"As population becomes more dense while the business portions of our communities cannot for obvious reasons, readily be expanded, the public welfare requires a relief from the congestion of the streets, and that every measure possible be taken to aid in

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the sanitation of cities. The substitution of auto-trucks and vehicles for the work-horse, I believe, has been found a great aid in the solution of these vital problems.

"Self-propelling vehicles will allow New York to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, as the pavement can be asphalt; and the removal of the horse also will obviate wear on the pavement.

"It will greatly facilitate the handling of freight, and relieve the congestion of the streets; it will also create a field for organized labor.

"It will remove the dilapidated buildings now used as stables and ramshackle storage buildings, which will be supplanted by new fire-proof structures.

"We shall give the present truckmen an opportunity to join our new enterprise, and make this a company owned by the people of our city.

"The carting of coal in Greater New York, while representing an annual expenditure of \$7,500,000, is only a small part of the enormous amount expended for the handling of freight and goods."

## PULPWOOD INDUSTRY.

Premier Marchand, in the Quebec Legislature said on the pulp question:—

"It is actually painful for me to see how our pulpwood is going out of the country to the advantage of the United States mill owners, and I am ready to take any proper steps to preserve this wealth for our own people, but I think it would be a mistake to come to any hasty decision. We know that the question is before the International Commission. The question is being discussed of removing the duty on pulp going into the United States, and if the duty is removed no measure on our part will be necessary. If the duty is retained, the position of the pulpwood millers will be such that it will be necessary to consider whether it will be necessary to adopt new means of compensating our manufacturers for the advantages which their United States competitors will enjoy over them."

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