

THE HOME CIRCLE.

The Lost Babies.

Come, my wife, put down the Bible, Lay your glasses on the book...

Jack, the first of all the party, Came to us one winter's night...

Then a girl with curly tresses Used to climb upon my knee...

Then the last, a blue-eyed youngster— I can hear him prattling now...

Ah! my wife, we've lost the babies, Ours so long and ours alone...

Early Rising.

Mothers, teach your children to rise early and engage in some household duties before breakfast...

This mode of treatment with children, besides injuring their bodily health, retards their mental progress...

WELCOME CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—The usual practice in choosing Christmas gifts is to start out with a full portmanteau...

WILD ANIMALS IN FRANCE.—It is estimated that there are 2,000 wolves in France...

That's So.—We have felt bad ever since perusing the annexed lines relating to a certain popular culinary operation...

No TIME FOR LONG STORIES.—Few people nowadays have the leisure or inclination to read long windy editorials...

VERY SCIENTIFIC.—A popular science monthly informs the world that, if a man fall asleep in the sitting posture...

Two nests of "bumble bees" have recently been sent from England to Canterbury, New Zealand...

"PULL on this rope," wrote Mr. Winegardner, of Williamsport...

A JAPANESE LEGEND.—A certain white fox of high degree, and without a black hair upon him, sought and obtained the hand of a young female fox...

PREPARING FOR THE THROG.—Philadelphia is preparing on a large scale for feeding and lodging sight-seers next year...

DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS AT THE SHRINE OF FASHION.—It is said that owing to the present style of decoration for ladies' hats...

PERSEVERANCE.—Did you ever know anybody stick to any kind of business, no matter how unpromising, ten years at most...

SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR CHILDREN.—If you do not show that you sympathize with your children, they will look elsewhere for that great necessity of their natures...

NEVER SURRENDER.—Accept failure as it comes; make the most of it; master it, never let it master you...

GRACE BEFORE MEAT.—Becher being asked, "Is grace before meat an ordinance and its regular observance a duty?"...

CHILDREN.—Children are children as kittens are kittens. A sober, sensible old cat, that sits purring before the fire...

A MAN deposits in the bank a thousand dollars, and draws on it, and keeps depositing, and keeps drawing...

PREFECT CONTENT was never one of earth's institutions; that belongs to the sphere ethereal...

"You lie like a gas-meter," is a favorite remark in Albany at present.

AN SIN AS A DOMESTIC.—Is the Chinaman to be the domestic servant of the future? Will another census show him stealthily supplanting the European in our households...

WE BELIEVE IN FORTUNE TELLING.—"Do you believe in fortune telling?" asks a young correspondent. Yes, certainly we do...

A WORLD OF SUICIDES.—Professor Faraday has given it as his opinion that all who die before they are a hundred years old may be justly charged with self-murder...

QUARRELING.—If there is anything in the world that will make a man feel badly, except pinching his fingers in the crack of a door...

NEVER SURRENDER.—Accept failure as it comes; make the most of it; master it, never let it master you...

GRACE BEFORE MEAT.—Becher being asked, "Is grace before meat an ordinance and its regular observance a duty?"...

CHILDREN.—Children are children as kittens are kittens. A sober, sensible old cat, that sits purring before the fire...

A MAN deposits in the bank a thousand dollars, and draws on it, and keeps depositing, and keeps drawing...

PREFECT CONTENT was never one of earth's institutions; that belongs to the sphere ethereal...

"You lie like a gas-meter," is a favorite remark in Albany at present.

YOUNG FOLKS' COLUMN.

The Dog That Liked Cats.

Tasso is a beautiful dog. He is very lively and good-natured, and never barks and bites.

Tasso is very fond of cats. He will run up to Prince, our great Maltese pussy, and jump round him, and poke his nose into Prince's fur...

Winkle and Tasso were almost always together, and seemed to enjoy their play very much; but at night Winkle slept in her basket in the kitchen, and Tasso slept on his little master's bed.

One morning when Tasso went down stairs, he missed Winkle; so he went to her basket and looked in; and there lay Winkle, sound asleep, with three cunning little kittens cuddled up in her soft, warm fur.

Tasso looked at the kittens for a little while; and then he put his paw into the basket, and gave Winkle a little poke on the head to make her wake up.

When the kittens were large enough to run about, Tasso would take them in his mouth, and carry them into a corner and lie down with them, all the time holding them with his paw to make them lie still.

The Worthless Ladder.

Two boys were once at work in a carpenter shop, one the son of the carpenter, the other a boy in his employ.

"We must begin to-day those ladders father said he wished made. I will take one and you the other, so that next spring each will use his own ladder in our work on the house."

"Very well," replied John, "I will make mine at once; the old thing shall be done in a hurry, I tell you."

"O well," replied John, "speak for your own ladder, I'll attend to mine."

Day after day passed. I often went to the shop to see how the ladders were being built. I noticed that Robert was careful in choosing the wood for his ladder; he put some parts of it aside for weeks that it might be well seasoned.

A Child's Sympathy.

A poor widow, the mother of two little girls, used to call on them at the close of each day, for the report of the good they had done.

The mother, touched with the tone of the answer, resolved to unravel the mystery; and the sensitive thing went on to say:

"On going to school this morning, I found little Annie G., who had been absent some days, crying very hard. I asked her, mother, why she cried so, and that made her cry more, so that I could not help leaning my head on her neck and crying too."

"The mother, touched with the tone of the answer, resolved to unravel the mystery; and the sensitive thing went on to say: 'On going to school this morning, I found little Annie G., who had been absent some days, crying very hard. I asked her, mother, why she cried so, and that made her cry more, so that I could not help leaning my head on her neck and crying too. Then her sobs grew less and less till she told me of her dear little baby brother, whom she had nursed so long and loved so much; how he had sickened, grown pale and thin, whining with pain until he died, and they put him away from her forever. Mother, she told me this, and then hid her face in her book, and cried as if her heart would break. Mother, I could not help putting my face on the other page of the book and crying too, just as hard as she did. After we had cried together a long time, she wiped her eyes, and then she hugged and kissed me, telling me I had done her good. Mother, I don't know how I done her good, for I only cried with her; indeed, I did nothing but cry with her. That is all I can tell, mother, for I can't tell how I did her good.'"

BIG HEAD.—Many suggestions have been offered as to the cure of this malady. It has been attributed to eating corn. Prof. Varnell, who has given the best description of the disease to be found in the English language, enters into a lucid examination of its causes, and leaves one with the impression that it is due to food or water deficient in the salts of lime.

THE work of fitting out cruisers and generally strengthening the navy is reported actively but quietly progressing at the Brooklyn navy yards.

A TELEGRAPH cable is proposed from Vancouver island across the Gulf of Georgia to the mainland, by way of Bernard inlet and Nanaimo.

Curiosities of Our Forests.

The following item is "going the rounds" of Eastern papers, credited to the Nevada Transcript:

A CURIOSITY TAKE.—The most singular freak of nature can be seen in a tree up near Eureka. It is a half pine and half fir. It is a good-sized tree, perhaps seventy-five feet high. The body from the ground to a distance of thirty feet is pine. Then for a distance of twenty feet it is fir. The remaining twenty-five feet, like the lower portion, is pine. The fir portion of the tree is in a very flourishing condition. The foliage on that part is so dense that the trunk or limbs can hardly be seen through it. On the pine portion the leaves are rather scarce. The tree is near the road and has been noticed by all who ever passed that way. It is a rare curiosity and well worth seeing.

We failed to see the above in its original quarters, the Transcript, but it reminds us so forcibly of a tree that we have seen a few miles distant from Nevada City, the home of the Transcript, that it will, perhaps, be thought not out of place to describe it here. It stood within a romantic little canon near the Greenhorn mine, about four miles from Nevada City. The trees in that neighborhood were not remarkably large, seven or eight feet in diameter being thought pretty good sized trees, and one owner of a timber ranch who cut forty cords of wood out of an eight-foot sugar pine thought it quite an achievement.

The curious tree to which we allude was pointed out to us by a miner. It was a thrifty spruce, and an adept in arranging natural curiosities could not have chosen a situation for this where it could have appeared to better advantage. It was in a shallow canon and the water from an abandoned tunnel ran continuously within a few yards of its base, keeping this tree and its surroundings fresh and green. For company in this romantic place it had a few members of its own family, a pine or two, some fine live oaks and some remarkably thrifty manzanita bushes.

In size it was what choppers would call "about three feet through." Its trunk was tall and straight, with slight taper. For about thirty feet it was as clean as a telegraph pole, but at this height there was a belt of myrtle. This belt was formed of dwarfish trunks of myrtle—four to six inches in length—thickly set in the body of spruce and filled with miniature branches which were heavily laden with the rich foliage of myrtle. This foliage had the appearance of having been trimmed or cropped, and was very compact. Viewed from the base of the tree the belt appeared about three feet in width, and had undoubtedly been of uniform size and shape; but it had the appearance of having been marred by the trunk of another tree falling against that of the spruce and scraping downwards, carrying with it a portion of its myrtle belt, though if such an accident had occurred it must have happened many years ago; for though the belt had not wholly recovered its uniform look, there were no indications of mangling about it, and no traces whatever were visible of the fallen tree.

How was this myrtle belt produced on that spruce trunk? It is not unusual to find in the decaying tops of certain kinds of trees a fresh growth of other varieties, and it requires no stretch of the imagination to suppose that seed, borne by the wind or by birds, found congenial spots in the decaying tops, and thus furnished us with examples of the amalgamation of races being carried into the vegetable kingdom. But if there had ever been any decay in the spruce, all traces of it had disappeared. For a distance of twelve feet about the belt the trunk was as clean as from the roots upward. Isn't it likely that these, instead of being "natural curiosities," are the work of aboriginal or missionary horticulturalists? However this may have been produced it is a great curiosity, and though it might not produce startling effects were it on exhibition at such a museum as Woodward's gardens, it would become classic in its attractions.—Rural Press.

Economy.

There is probably not another word in language that wears such a disagreeable look to the average young man, as the one that serves as our heading. The traditions of young men are against it. Nearly every young fellow of spirit, for a time, has a hearty dislike of all that savors of saving. It is mainly to be generous and careless of money. As economy is to him the synonym of meanness, so he equally mistakes the meaning of generosity, and allies it with wastefulness. This misconception has, we think, a great deal to do with the improvident habits of young men. It is a good thing to hate meanness, but it is a bad thing to think that economy comes under that head. The mistake has been the ruin of multitudes, for by the time a man sees his blunder he frequently has contracted habits that make reform very hard indeed—and in many cases impossible. The prodigal can seldom become a steady citizen without hard wrenches. If a young man could only see what his experience well teach him by and by, that moderate prudence in money matters will save him a great deal of care and ill-luck in after life, there would be an alarming decrease in the quantity of liquor and cigars sold. It is really want of thought more than anything else that keeps a man poor. The ambition—vague generally—of the ordinary young man, is sometime to have a home of his own, with a wife and children. Most of them manage to get the two last, while but a few get the first. Yet it might easily be otherwise. Just a little self-control, steadily exercised for a few years, would put money enough in the hands of most young men to get the land and house, and after that step he is usually safe for a good degree of comfort and peace of mind in the world, so far as material things go. The sooner a young man rids himself of the absurd idea that prudence is meanness, and self-indulgence generosity, the sooner will he be in a fair way of escaping hard to mouth existence in after years.

The "St. Louis land swindle" assumes large proportions. The estimates are that deeds to over 12,000,000 acres of land have been forged and disposed of, at a total valuation of from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000. Mississippi and Arkansas seem to be the principal States that have suffered.

Mr. BURN, who lately crossed the Cascade mountains from Yakima to Seattle, states that a coal mine has been discovered at or near the summit, close to the lake, which is of easy access to Kittitas, and the coal is of a superior quality, and is distant about two hundred yards from the railroad survey.

A CARGO of ship spars are being delivered at Olympia for shipment direct to Newburyport, Massachusetts.

WORK upon the Denver and Rio Grande railroad is progressing rapidly.

THEY want the President of the United States to hold office for six years instead of four.