

## A NATIONAL CAT SHOW.

We learn from a letter in an Eastern exchange that they have just had a national pussy fair at Boston, and our young folks would, no doubt, like to read the following account of it. It was held in Music Hall where 300 cats of all colors and sizes were exhibited in large cages on tables that reached from end to end of this great room, while on the platform under the organ were some of the handsomest cats in the prettiest cat houses you ever saw.

"Peerless" and "Daivy" two lovely Angora cats with silken hair 5 or 6 inches long, occupied a cage covered with roses, heliotrope, carnations, smilax, etc., with lace curtains looped back with flowers. These cats had been brought up in a greenhouse; so their mistress thought it would feel more like home if they could see and smell the sweet flowers they loved so well. In a cage near by, lying in her blue-lined basket on a blue cushion, was "Topsy," a splendid Maltese, 20 lbs. in weight; and by the side of her in a satin-lined case, was the prize she had won—a handsome silver fish-slice! Wasn't that a suitable present for a pussy?

But I must tell you about silver-tabby "Gonie," and what she got for a prize. She was so beautifully marked! Jet black bars and dashes on a silvery tabby color, and her fur was soft as velvet. Over her cage was her photograph, she was lying in a large fluted shell; and then another picture in a muslin ruffled cap—looking sweet and motherly! Hanging up in her cage was an elegant silver cream pitcher—that was "Gonie's" prize, and I think it was a very nice present for a cat too, for I'll warrant "Gonie" loves cream.

There were a great many handsome silver prizes given, but I couldn't begin to tell you all about them, or the 300 cats I saw—some so big that they weighed 25 lbs., and some so long that they measured 42 and 44 inches! Then there were all kinds of cats you ever heard of. The "Manx" cats that haven't got a bit of a tail; and the beautiful "Persian" and "Angora" that have long large tails almost like an ostrich plume; and "Tortoise-shell" cats and "Tiger" and "Tabby" cats; and white cats with blue eyes; and white cats with brown eyes; and cats with double paws like mittens, and cats with ever so many toes on their feet; and cats that could jump 15 ft.; and cats without a bit of hair, and never had any; and some with silky, golden hair six inches long! Then there was such a cunning, sociable little fellow—a "Monkey" cat from Madagascar; his tail and little hands and fingers were like a monkey's, but he had a sharp, intelligent fat face, which he would hide between his fore paws when he wanted to take a nap bringing his tail all up over it—as much as to say—"Now please don't disturb me." I came to a large cage where tumbling over each other and having royal fun were "ten assorted kittens," and beauties they were! In the next aisle was a snow-white beautiful family—"Tinker," the mother decorated with red ribbons; her two eldest sons (twins) the "Corsican brothers," in blue ornaments; and the babes, the "Pinafore twins," three weeks old, dressed in pink. "What cunning little darlings!" the children would exclaim. "Oh, mamma! lift me up please. I must see pussy's babies!"

**HEALTH IN GREENHOUSES.**—Dr. J. M. Anderson in a paper in the *Medical Times* on the hygienic and therapeutic relations of house plants, asserts that plants are not injurious, but quite the contrary, and that persons accustomed to the moist air of greenhouses, are not, as a general rule, short-lived or consumptive.

**THE GREATEST MAN** is he who troubles himself the least about the verdict that may be passed upon him by his posterity, but who finds doing good honest work to the best of his ability, under existing conditions, "its own exceeding great reward."

## THE LITTLE AFRICAN WHO WANTED AN EDUCATION.

The little black boy stands holding out two little leopards. What does he want? Let Edward S. Morris, of Philadelphia, the friend of the benighted dwellers in the "dark continent," tell the story: It was at sunset one beautiful Sabbath day, as I stood for the last time on the beach at Monrovia, waiting for my boat to take me out to the anchored vessel at sea. A little native boy, from the jungles of Africa in the immediate rear of the negro republic of Liberia, came to me, bowing low, but with his eyes firmly fixed upon me. I told him to stand up and never bow to man. Understanding my actions more than words, he stood up. I then said, "What do you want?" In broken, disjointed English—the best the little

and then I resolved myself into a life-long committee of one, with power to act, promising to leave nothing undone to practically answer the cry of that little boy. One-half the sum of money required to build a school-house for 50 boys in Liberia, and properly conduct it for five continuous years, it is fully believed will be contributed by Christian men and women in England. The other half I hope to receive in my own land, from the good and benevolent of America. Only \$2,100 are now wanted to inaugurate the school-house in Christian Liberia—the open door to heathen Africa.

**CAPITAL AND COMMERCE.**—What are the forces that keep thousands from starving in England to-day? Are they not the forces of capital and commerce? Who are the men that thus feed the hungry? Are they only the philanthropists, the reformers, the advocates of this or



THE NEGRO BOY OFFERING LEOPARDS FOR LEARNING.

fellow could utter—and pointing out to the ship, said: "You God-man take me big America, big ship." "What for?" I asked. He answered, "Me learn big English you." I was forced to say "No" to the little fellow. I said not harshly, but in mild and gentle accents; whereupon he immediately drew forth from the folds of a cloth around him, two little leopards, alive with unopened eyes, and presenting them said: "Me give him; you take me big America, big ship, learn big English." Think of it, the mother leopard must, to his knowledge, have been near when he captured her kittens; still, that hungry, thirsting child risked his life to earn a passage to America solely to gain an education.

This little boy could have obtained as his passage-money—without any such risk of life—a parrot or a beautiful gazelle, the tusk of an elephant, or large ear-rings of pure African gold; but no, he wanted to convince me at the beginning, not only of his bravery, but of his burning desire for education—for "big English," as he called it. I have no words to tell you of my feelings so suddenly and unexpectedly brought into action. I only know that there

that panacea for the ills that afflict humanity! Far from it. They are the Garretts, the Scotts and the Vanderbilts, the Cunards, the Allans and the Leylands, and all the less-known members of the unlearned profession, who, perhaps aware of, or more or less ignorant of, their true function, are yet the agents by whose work nations are sustained. No benevolence, no almsgiving, could possibly reach the need; and if it could, it would pauperize those who received, and ruin those who gave—it would work both moral, mental and material degradation. It is by the use of capital that the vast crops of the great West are produced; it is by the use of capital that they are moved; and it is the work of commerce, conducted by business men seeking wealth for themselves only, that distributes the vast stores over wider and wider areas, and thus renders the struggle for existence less arduous for each succeeding generation of men. We are more nearly a nation of shop-keepers than any other, and we may well be thankful for the distinction.—*Atlantic Monthly for June.*

**WHEN ships are on speaking terms, they lie to.**