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Bookshelf of Boyhood.
Some eve I'd like to plant myself
By boyhood's long-neglected shelf,
Once more to open those volumes worn
Which modern pages make forlorn.

Once more to let the moments speed
With Optic, Castlemon, Mayne Reid!
And "Boat Club" set, "The White Chief"
here—
Ah, these were books, I do declare!

"Jack Hazard!" Joy! Again we meet
By grace of Trowbridge lines replete!
And, "hon my word, here's "Cudjo's
Cave!"
(Was Cudjo not a "dandy" slave?)

The "Scottish Chiefs" is this, I guess,
With "Thaddeus of Warsaw"—yes!
And this (I loaned it o'er and o'er)
Is Stephens' "Left on Labrador!"

Pass by that dog-eared treasure? No!
'Tis Scott's entrancing "Ivanhoe!"
(How often of its glamour taught,
Have Tom and I in tourney fought!)

And here, imploring boyhood's eyes,
The "Last of the Mohicans" lies!
Hail! Hawkeye, Uncas, Chingachgook!
("Deerslayer" is that next old book.)

Come, "Crusoe," pretty ragged, you—
A hundred times read through and
through!
Your woodcuts blurred. While this one
—see
The far-marooned "Swiss Family!"

And look! Their lonesomeness confessed,
"Aladdin," "Sinbad" and the rest
Peer forth from covers stained and dim,
Awaiting—cheek by jowl with Grimm!

Upon this faded back discern
The tempting wizard name of Verne!
The title? Must be "Field of Ice"—
Or, no; some "trip" of strange device.

Munchausen, here; that, Gulliver;
This, Coffin—truthful chronicler.
(The other three, of course, are bricks,
But can't beat "Boys of '76!")

And you, O gift of gentler pen,
Louisa Alcott's "Little Men!"
And you, whom kindred soul creates,
"Hans Brinker; or, The Silver Skates!"

But duty warns—like mother's dread:
"Stop, my son; time to go to bed."
In vain I'd beg: "One chapter more!"
Farewell, dear shelf of boyhood's lore.
—St. Nicholas.

A Surprise.

It was pouring rain, but the twins
did not mind it one bit, because they
always liked ever so many rainy days
when they were making a visit at
grandma's.

Grandma had a big attic, filled full
of the most wonderful things that you
ever saw.

There were large trunks full of queer
ruffled coats and velvet knee-breeches.
And there were bouncing handboxes
that held funny green calashes and the
biggest poke bonnets imaginable. And
then there was the Noah's ark!

It was not like your pretty painted
one, which is full to the very top with
a wonderful menagerie.

It was only a little old black box
without any cover. And the animals!
Uncle Jacob cut them all out of some
pieces of wood with his jack-knife,
ever so many years ago, when he was
not much older than the twins.

And these animals were just as
funny-looking as all the rest of the
things up in that queer old garret.
There were blue cows and pink lions
and red-and-black leopards, and when
Uncle Jacob had finished them he dis-
covered that all the animals looked
very much alike, so he wrote the name
on the back of each one in great black
painted letters.

Polly and Patty lied this Noah's ark
better than anything else in that whole
attic, and they thought it was every
bit as wonderful as Uncle Jacob did
when he had finished it so many years
ago.

So this rainy morning, after they
had finished their breakfast, these two
little girls hurried up to the attic and
ran straight to the corner under the
eaves to get their precious treasure.

Patty got here first, but when she
looked into the box she said, "Oh! oh!
oh!" very loud indeed.

"Why, what's the matter?" exclaimed
Polly, breathlessly.

"There's a live animal in it!" whis-
pered Patty. "There's a heap of baby
mice! A whole nest of them! And they're
pink, 'stead of gray and furry. Peep in
and see them, quick, Polly!"

Polly shivered. "I don't dare to,"
she said. And then something happen-
ed that made both children scamper
down those stairs in a terrible ruse.
The mother mouse came home!

"I guess we can't go up in the attic
ever again," said Patty, woefully,
" 'cause I'm not specially fond of mice,
'less they're in traps."

But when Uncle Jacob went up into
the attic with her after dinner, there
stood the Noah's ark just where Polly
had left it. The mice were gone. Ev-
ery one of them! And the twins are
still wondering if the big yellow puss-
ycat could tell them a secret, for she
was washing her face, and she looked
so knowing and wise.—Youth's Com-
panion.

The Mether Bird.

It has been said by observers of birds
that some of them will feed their young
if they are caged, and if they fail, after
a time, to release them, they will bring
them a poison weed to eat so that death
may end their captivity. This is hard
to believe, but an apparently well au-

thenticated incident is cited to prove it.
Three young orioles were captured and
were immediately caged and the cage
was hung in a tree. The mother soon
came, calling to the little ones, and in
a little while she brought them some
worms. She continued for several days
to feed them, without paying much at-
tention to the persons who were about,
but one day she brought them a sprig
of green in the morning, and disap-
peared. In less than an hour the young
birds were dead. An examination of the
sprig showed that it was the deadly
larkspur, which, it is said, will kill
full-grown cattle. There is, of course,
a possibility that the mother brought
them the sprig by mistake, but to be-
lieve that would be to doubt the pro-
tective instinct that naturalists attri-
bute to birds and animals.



Eddie drew a hen sitting in a box.
When he came to look at it he ac-
cidentally turned the slate on its end,
and lo! the hen disappeared and a calf
was in her place.

How to Walk Upstairs.

Perhaps it has never occurred to the
boys and girls that there is a good way
and a bad way to walk upstairs. Hear
what a well-known physician says
about it. "There are few persons who
know how to walk upstairs properly.
Usually a person will tread on the ball
of his foot in taking each step, spring-
ing himself up to the next step. This
is not only tiresome, but is wearing on
the muscles, as it throws the entire
suspended weight of the body on the
legs and the feet. In walking upstairs
the feet should be placed squarely down
on the step, heel and all, and then the
ascent should be made without hurry.
In this way there will be no strain
on any particular muscle, but each will
do its work in a natural manner.

GERMAN HEART TOO LARGE.

Doctor of That Country Tells of Ob-
servations at Olympian Games.

A German medical man publishes
some interesting comparisons made at
the Olympian games respecting the
size and stamina of the heart of the
English, American and German com-
petitors respectively. Dr. Smith says
that as soon as he examined before the
games the hearts of German sportsmen
he could prophesy that they would
prove no formidable rivals. The size
of the heart was so abnormally great
that in contests requiring strength, en-
ergy and endurance it was physically
impossible that they should succeed.
Results proved the truth of this, fore-
cast, and it is notable that the few
German athletes who did win places
were in possession of the minimum
sized hearts.

In the American sportsmen the heart
conditions were in striking contrast to
those of the Germans. Many of the
American athletes were found to pos-
sess hearts smaller in dimensions than
the smallest heart ever measured in
a German hospital. An invincible
sprinter possessed the smallest heart
among the American competitors. A
German-American athlete, rather sig-
nificantly, was found to have the
largest.

Among the Englishmen examined the
heart was found to be slightly larger
than that of the Americans, though
smaller than that shown by any other
nation. A parallel case which occurred
at the games strikingly illustrated the
difference in form between the English
and the German athletes. In spite of
an indisposition a German athlete took
part in a certain contest. Subsequent
examination proved that his heart had
increased at the end of the struggle
to double its previous size. An En-
glishman, suffering from the same in-
disposition, returned from the contest
as winner and his heart had become
smaller. The writer points out that
by a wrong system of training and in-
judicious living German athletes are
doing much to cultivate heart and
nerve complaints on a serious scale.

Joke on the Professor.

The scholarly William E. Byerly,
professor of mathematics at Harvard,
was once asked by a student how to de-
velop a retentive memory. The pro-
fessor answered that ordinary mental
exercise was sufficient to secure a
good memory, whereas the student asked
if he might test the mental capacity
of his instructor. Professor Byerly
agreed and the student asked him to
listen to and remember several varied
items for a test. He began:

"One quart of whisky."
"Um!" said the professor.

"Six pounds of sugar, a pint of sour
milk, three onions, half a gallon of molasses
and two raw eggs."
"Um!" said the professor.

"Two green apples, twenty-six pen-
nents, one and a half cucumbers and
four mince pies."
"Um!" said the professor.

"A package of starch, sixty-seven
cakes of yeast and the skins of seven
bananas. Got that down?"
"Yes," answered Dr. Byerly.

"How does it taste?" asked the stu-
dent.

And when you hear a man boast of
his ancestors it's a safe bet that his de-
scendants will have no occasion to
boast of theirs.

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