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A Celebrated Hymn.

Few people know that the hymn "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," one of the best known in the English language, was written in a few minutes. Dr. Shipley, Dean of St. Asaph and Vicar of Wrexham, on Whitsunday of the year 1819, preached a sermon on the propagation of the Gospel. On the Saturday preceding the delivery of the sermon, the doctor asked Heber, who was his son-in-law, and then on a visit to him, to write something "for them to sing in the morning." Heber sat down, and, without leaving the room, wrote the hymn that is now famous all over the world. He was then in his thirty-sixth year, and was rector of Hodnet.

Goldbeater's Skin.

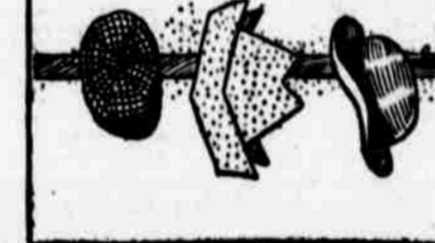
The skin used by goldbeaters is made from the large intestine of the ox. It undergoes a number of processes to free the outer membrane from grease and other impurities, and is then cut into pieces about four inches square. So great is its tenacity and power of resistance, that it will stand the continuous blows of a twelve-pound hammer for many months.

Old-Time Railroad.

Railroading to-day is lot what it used to be, says an old engineer, who ran over the Indianapolis, Madison and La Fayette Road, in Indiana, the first line built in that State. The rails of that day were of wood, with an iron sheet spiked over the surface. The jar of a train would loosen these coverings

BALLAD OF LITTLE HATS.

Six little head-covers, all in a row, Some for use here, some for show. A cap for school, and a cap for play, And a hat to wear on the Sabbath day.



But bedtime came very soon, and the mending was not done. The afternoon of the fair came, and Molly flitted about like a happy sparrow. Her father gave her a bright fifty-cent piece. The admission was only ten cents, and she would have money for ice cream.

Her friend Ethel called early, and they joined other girls near the hall, and as they went up to buy the tickets Molly reached in her pocket. She felt about nervously. "Why, I surely took my money, didn't I?" she cried; but Ethel could give her little hope when, turning up her friend's dress, she saw one pink finger sticking through the hole in the pocket.

"Oh, I forgot to mend my pocket!" she cried, in dismay. "And now there isn't time to go back—and I'd be ashamed to ask papa again. What shall I do?"

What she did do was to sit down on a bench and hide her face in her little red jacket, for she was not a very big girl, and the tears would come. Just then her teacher came along, and seeing the trouble, said, "Never mind, Molly, I will take you along, and you can tell papa all about it when you get home."

Molly did not like this way very much, but there seemed to be no other way; but the afternoon had grown suddenly out of tune. She was still disappointed, although Ethel generously shared her ice cream money.

The day which had begun so well seemed to go upside down, and Molly was glad when the time came to go home. She had thought of a great many things—of how her mother mended and worked for herself and the boys, and how seldom she had been asked to help in any way. She determined to do the right thing always after this.

When she came home her father and mother were eager to hear about the fair, but Molly passed them with her head hung down, and went directly to her room, and found needle and thread and sewed the rip in her pocket. Then she came down to show her mother.

Her father laughed, but mother put her arms round Molly. "It was too bad, little girl; it spoiled your day, and I hope you will learn by this lesson. But you did not lose the money out of the hole; you left it at home on the mantle. Nevertheless I still think 'A stitch in time saves nine,' don't you?" —Youth's Companion.

Perhaps the editor may give the boys and girls a better understanding of the nature of adverbs than they now have by saying that they are always convenient forms of abbreviation, enabling us to use a word where otherwise a phrase would be necessary. Thus we

say "here" instead of "in this place"; "then" for "at that time"; "thus" for "in that manner." A great many adverbs are formed by adding to adjectives the termination "ly," which means "like," but the principle of abbreviation still holds good; as in the case of "foolishly," for "in a foolish manner"; "hastily," for "in a hasty manner"; and "wisely" for "like a wise man."

A cap for winter, a cap for ball, All hanging on pegs in the upstairs hall. But the cap I love—I'm a sleepy head— Is the little white night-cap over the bed.

and they would bend upward. They were called "snake heads," and when one was approached the train would be stopped, and it was the duty of the baggage-master to nail the track down again. The speed never exceeded twelve miles an hour, which was considered very fast running. The engineer was the aristocrat of the system and never condescended to perform so menial a task as to nail down a "snake head."

When a stop was made he employed all his time in wiping the mud off his engine, which, with such a track, was always kept covered with dirt in bad weather, and in oiling parts.

"In that day," says Mr. Hughes, "the engineer who would have thought of running his engine backward would have been discharged at once. It was believed that the way to ruin an engine was to run backward. People thought they were making a fine speed at twelve miles an hour, and everything exceeding that would have been perilous in the extreme. One can appreciate the changes time has wrought when he fancies a vestibule express stopping to allow a baggage-master to go ahead and spike down the track."

A Smart Dog. There is an old lady in Rochester, N. Y., says the Herald of that city, who lives with a family which keeps a big dog of which she is at the same time very fond and somewhat afraid. The house contains an armchair, which both lady and dog particularly like to occupy.

When the dog gets to it first, the old lady, fearing to order him out lest he bite her, tries subterfuge. She opens the window, puts her head out, and exclaims "Cats!" in a loud voice. The dog at once leaps to the window to see, and the old lady gets the chair.

One evening, however, the dog came in and found the old lady in the chair ahead of him. He wandered round uneasily for a time, eying her and the window. At last he seemed to come to a determination, for he suddenly rushed to the window, his hair all bristling up on his back, and began to bark and growl frightfully.

If ever a dog cried "Burglars!" he did so then. The old lady, much surprised, rushed to see what was worrying him. She saw nothing—until she turned round. Then she saw the smart dog peacefully enthroned in the contested chair.

The old lady is not sure, but she is almost convinced that he closed one eye solemnly at her in a veritable wink. Two had played at the same game.

The trouble with having a fair opinion of yourself is that you are liable to make yourself despaired by being self-satisfied.

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