

# Monument to the Father of "Mother Goose"

## PARIS HAS HONORED THE MEMORY OF CHARLES PERRAULT, MIGHTIEST OF ALL WRITERS FOR CHILDREN.

PARIS has just erected a monument to "The Father of Mother Goose." Nobody will deny that he deserves it for stories that have been the joy of children for more than two centuries certainly entitle their creator to some nod of consideration from the world today.

It wasn't an Englishman who invented these tales that are so dear to the world not only of little ones, but of grown-ups as well.

A Frenchman, Charles Perrault, was the originator of the whole line of beautiful little nursery tales, and the monument in his honor in the Garden of the Tuilleries, which identified through its history with the deeds of the great men of France, never yet has been the site of a memorial more thoroughly deserved.

"Mother Goose." What a train of memories it evokes. The children of the whole world, more than two centuries of them, have listened at the knees of their mothers to revel spellbound to the experiences of the many characters that Perrault gave to juvenile fiction.

Who has not trembled at the terrific story of "Little Red Riding Hood" and her adventures with the hungry wolf that first ate up the other unfortunate, and had its designs on Little Red Riding Hood had she not by craft known how to foil the cruel monster?

And the pretty story of the "Sleeping Beauty," how many little pillows has not this soothed, and how many thousands of parents have not been brought to tell its details to "beginning little ones"?

The terrible "Blue Beard," whose long marital experiences were one record of murdered wives till the brothers of one of them finally wrought the summary vengeance that the monster so richly merited, the beautiful story of "Cinderella" with its "Prince Charming," and the tiny little slipper that no one could wear but the slightest little daughter of the family, who was ever pushed aside to take care of her two older and selfish sisters, first came to the world through the pen of the gifted Perrault, and in the years that have elapsed it has been made the subject of paintings, of plays, of pantomimes, and of at least one grand opera.

Moreover, its details have been told again in a score of beautiful books, rich in the colored pictures that mean so much to the childish heart, and which are not without a certain amount of pleasure for even the grown-up children.

A monument for Perrault! Certainly he deserves it! If he had never done anything more than write "Tom Thumb" he would have earned his place in the Walkway of the heroes of the childhood stage.

But Perrault did more than furnish to the mothers of a score of nations those stories by which they should bring joy to the hearts of their children. These perhaps were his greatest works, though undoubtedly it would surprise him now if he could know that the world best esteemed him for what he wrote to delight the youngsters of the people of all countries.

For Perrault was more than a writer of juvenile fiction. He was a proud student, who did not fear to enter into a controversy with one of the most profound students of his day, the great Boileau.

Boileau was a believer in the classical. He took the position that none of the contemporary writers of that period had a right to be classed with the masters of all time.

Perrault, who was intensely modern, took issue with Boileau, and the result was a controversy that was the delight of the nation.

In the United States, in fact, in England or Germany, it is not possible to arouse the national interest in a controversy where the subject is anything that has little direct bearing on the lives of the people as a question of literature.

But France loves these quarrels. It has followed them closely, and Perrault's powerful denial of the position of Boileau, and his appeal for the contemporary writers, made a profound impression.

Perhaps the most notable thing he did in the controversy was to write a poem, "The Century of Louis the Great," in which he detailed the notable literary achievements of the men of the period, and aroused France to the greatness of its men of letters.

So deeply interested did Perrault become in the controversy that he proceeded to make a specialty of contemporary writers, and the result of his study was the production of his masterpiece, "Illustrated Men of the Century of Louis Fourteenth."

This was a most prodigious work. It contained more than 200 biographies of the foremost men of the time, and for much that is known today of these men of genius the world is indebted to the painstaking work of Perrault, who searched out his facts with greatest attention to detail, and then gave them to posterity through the medium of a style that is beautiful in its clarity.

Perrault had advanced well in years before he began the writing of his famous "Contes Des Fees," or "Tales of the Fairies."

Born in 1628, in Paris, he was rich in honors, and had passed his 60th year before he began thinking of putting into book form a series of stories that he had invented for the pleasure of children of whom he was very fond.

It is related of the inventor of all these classics in childhood tales that he would recite them by the hour to children who would listen, and had his greatest pleasure and reward in seeing their delight.

The fame of the tales went abroad. The foremost families of the brilliant court of that day vied with each other in getting Perrault to tell his tales to their children or even to the grownups at the salons of the period.

But Perrault was 69 years old before the world got his book.

It became at once the literary sensation of the day, and the more profound productions of his art were dumfounded at the lightness and juvenility, so to speak, of these products of his closing years. Into books and plays they were instantly rushed, and Perrault, in the



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK



MONUMENT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN ERECTED IN PARIS TO CHARLES PERRAULT, FATHER OF MOTHER GOOSE



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST AT BREAKFAST



LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD



CINDERELLA AND HER FAIRY GODMOTHER

Some of his life, found himself worshipped as he had never been before. He lived for six years to revel in the fame gained him by the fairy stories, and even in that day, before the methods of printing in force had been invented, he lived to see his stories cross the Channel and go to England and make their way in Germany.

Many of the stories were not original with Perrault. He was a close student of the legends, and he picked his tales in all countries. Many of them are German in origin.

school in Paris that has kept alive his memory. He is much better known to the native country than outside of it, and the monument placed in the Tuilleries is intended to have the dual purpose of showing the gratitude of France to the great writer, and also of testifying to the rest of the world the affection it owes to the inventor of the immortals of the nursery.

### What the Exposition Did for Portland

By Henry K. Reed, Secretary of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, Indianapolis Star.

Portland's principal benefit from the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition was confidence in itself. Prior to the financing of the exposition the city, while wealthy, enterprising and capable of big things, had a reputation of being "ultra-conservative"—in common parlance it was called a "slow town."

The panic of 1893 had tested the courage of the people to the limit, and from its effects the emergence was gradual, though sure. When the sun of prosperity began shining again in 1898, it revealed a new trans-continental railroad terminating on Puget Sound, and the cities of that region reaping the harvest of the Klondike rush. On the South, San Francisco had the call on the immense volume of business which the Spanish War had developed in the Philippines.

The struggle for control of the Northern Pacific in the Spring of 1901

was declared to be a struggle for North Pacific Coast terminals on Puget Sound, in which Portland was not considered. The commercial prestige which Portland for over 50 years had maintained on the Northwest coast seemed to be endangered by the progress of events, the railroad battle for terminals, the development of other trade centers and a perceptible narrowing of the Portland trade field. It is not a wonder that Portland, with a commercial position unsurpassed by any city in the world, looked about and inquired in what situation it found itself. It was not dead or dying, nor even stationary, but it was not going ahead as rapidly as it should. Manifestly it needed a stimulus to arouse it to a recognition of its geographical position and its potential resources. The exposition furnished the stimulus.

Away back in 1895, when the general run of people in the Pacific Northwest were as poor as poverty could make them, a Portland merchant suggested

the holding of an international exposition at Portland. He sowed the seed and the plant was of slow but sure growth. The more the people thought of the idea the more they liked it. Finally matters came to such a pass that it devolved upon the heavy business interests of the city, which alone could furnish the necessary money, to say go ahead or not. Buffalo was nearing the end of its exposition, with disaster facing it, and enough had leaked through from Charleston to indicate that its exposition would have serious difficulties. There was no precedent for planning an international exposition in a city of 35,000, situated at the extreme western end of the continent and in a sparsely settled region whose aggregate population within a radius of 300 miles of Portland did not exceed 1,200,000. Then there was a feeling that the people of the United States were surfeited with expositions. Again, while only \$300,000 was wanted to finance the exposition corporation, the question was asked: "How is Port-

land to take \$300,000 out of the regular channels of business and put it into an exposition?"

At this point Portland's stimulus needed a stimulant. It came forward in the person of H. W. Corbett, one of the most eminent financiers the Pacific Coast has ever produced. He said the exposition could be made successful if Portland would keep within its means. As evidence of his confidence he offered to make a subscription of 10 per cent of the authorized capital. The decision of the people of Portland was then and there for an exposition to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the exploration of the Oregon country by Lewis and Clark. All past differences of opinion vanished in the general aim to crown with success the exposition to be. The \$200,000 capital and \$117,000 additional was subscribed promptly and cheerfully, and more was promised if needed. The stockholders, one and all, said they did not care to be repaid one cent of their subscriptions. Their slogan was: "Let the money be used for the good of Portland and the country; the advertising that we shall get will put us on the map." The unfavorable results at Buffalo and Charleston were discounted. When they were mentioned at all, the Portland answer was: "But Portland will be opened."

to see the Northwest and the exposition. Portland and the West loyally supported the exposition from the start, and it was a success. Paid admissions were 1,600,000, equal to nearly 2 per cent of the estimated population of the United States in 1905. At the close of the exposition the stockholders were paid, in the form of distribution of assets, 21 per cent of their subscriptions. Only two expositions that have been held in the United States have paid back more to their stockholders—Omaha with 95 per cent and Philadelphia with 50 per cent.

### Sicals Opal With Bad Record.

New York World.

A burglar entered the apartments of Mrs. Elias Smith, Paterson, N. J., and forced, took, with other jewelry, a ring which those who know its history will bring the thief bad luck. Mrs. Smith attributes to the baleful influence of the ring the death of her son, as well as the misfortune which attended him previous to his death.

The ring is an opal. It has been in Paterson 15 years and each of its owners has had bad luck while the ring remained in his possession. Men who owned it failed in business, were wrongfully accused of misdoings, were discharged or lost their positions, were beaten by thugs, fought with their friends or were hit by a trolley car.

The one woman who dared fate and wore the ring in open defiance of the hoodoo which was attached to it had domestic trouble and tried suicide.

### Native Indians of Peru

IN THE mountains and other out-of-the-way places of the Peruvian region of South America, an estimated number of about 100,000 wild Indians, in color and many other respects not very unlike the original inhabitants of our North American continent, scour the woods in scanty clothing, occasionally wage tribal wars upon one another, build huts now and then, use stone axes, or bows and arrows and lances, eat queer foods—in one locality, it is said, still practicing cannibalism—and exist according to their standards of living, in great part undisturbed by the civilization that has grown up on many sides of them.

An authoritative account of these Indians, transmitted by Charles C. Fierstein, formerly American Consul at Iquitos, has just been published by the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, in one of its series of official publications for "the diffusion of knowledge among men."

The survivors of aboriginal stock are roughly included in some 50 tribes, but subdivisions of these tribes and remnants of families now nearly extinct could easily swell the number more than tenfold. While some general characteristics run through the whole race, each retains certain peculiar customs of its own, followed, as ever, with religious diligence.

The tribe known as the Orejones, for instance, gets its name from the curious habit its members cling to, of enlarging the lower part of the ear by a process begun when they are children, until sometimes the ear hangs down almost to the shoulder. Such was the manner, it seems, in which were tagged the original descendants of the Incas of Peru.

The Natunas, now almost extinct, tradition has it, were responsible, on account of their short shirt-like "cushmas," and their long, loose flowing hair, for the naming of the great Amazonas. It was they who in this garb of women warriors attacked a river party on the exploring expedition of the Spaniard Pizarro, and were immediately dubbed "Amazonas." The great river naturally took its name from them.

Rather gruesome to civilized eyes must be the preparation of human heads practiced by the Aguarunas, of the Marañon River district. This tribe, sometimes called "head-hunters," has the repulsive custom of treating the heads of their enemies, after death, in such a manner that, though reduced to about one-fifth their natural size, they retain the same shape throughout, that they possessed during life, and in a seemingly numbing, diminutive head thus prepared, can easily be recognized the features of the individual when alive.

The American Consul says: "Specimens of these heads became so much in demand a few years ago for museums, etc., that a cruel trade was to be thus placed on the heads of persons venturing in the vicinity of this tribe, and many murders resulted. The Peruvian government has now forbidden the practice, and the specimens, becoming more scarce, are commanding higher prices. I have known one selling for \$100 to \$200 in gold, and rather a poor specimen was recently sold in Iquitos for \$30. In the Rio Negro and Orinoco regions there is said to exist a tribe which prepares entire bodies rather than heads, and in the Putumayo district they are said to retain in natural size, by a system of smoking, the heads of enemies slain in battle. These are not only skin bones and other parts of skeletons thus treated."

All the tribes of Peruvian Indians probably possess individual customs of greater or less variety, but, so far as is known, no one has as yet made them the subject of a systematic study. They have, it is said, however, many practices strange to Americans of the 19th century.

Through intermarriage with the whites, disease and wars, the Indians of Peru are rapidly disappearing, and, it is said, statistics compiled for a given period during recent years show that their numbers are diminishing at the rate of 5 per cent per annum. In 25 years the wild Indians of the Upper Amazon will have disappeared almost entirely, and it seems only a question of time when the dying tribes of South America must meet the fate of the American Indians of North America, and the two in common, once the rollers of two continents, become only scattered remnants of their former greatness, if not entirely engulfed by the wave which seems sweeping over them.