



A Picture Book Page for the Little Ones.



Some Cuckoo Stories

THE Germans tell this story of why the cuckoo always sings its own name:

The cuckoo was very anxious to know what the people thought of her and this is what she found out: She asked a starling what men said about the blackbird and the starling said that some liked his voice. She then asked about the lark and the nightingale and was told they were both admired greatly. Then she asked about herself and found out that nobody even knew her name. So she decided to sing her own praises and has sung "cuckoo! cuckoo!" since then in many different keys.

Once a cuckoo put one of its eggs in a wagtail's nest. When it hatched out it was fed by the wagtails until it grew so big it fell out of the nest. The gardener found it on the ground and put it in an iron cage. There it was fed, not by the wagtails, but by a friendly sparrow, who appeared with food many times. The sparrow fed it until the cuckoo was big enough to be set free and then the lazy bird had to wait on itself.

A young cuckoo was put in the cage of a thrush. The thrush waited on it and fed it, always giving it the choicest bits of food. One day a fine fat worm was put in the cage and the thrush, instead of giving it to the cuckoo, ate it. The cuckoo was so angry about not getting the worm that he pecked at the thrush and put one of its eyes out. Even after this the thrush was a slave to the cuckoo, until the cuckoo was grown to be a large bird and then it was let out of the cage to look after itself.

HUNTING BEARS IN LAPLAND.
When a Laplander starts on a bear hunt it is a very important occasion, and he is as solemn as if he were going to a funeral. When the bear is discovered and the hunters are attacking it they beg the bear not to be offended and also not to hurt them. If they kill the bear they are afraid to be glad and do not even mention him by name, but call him the "old man in the fur coat."

A story is told by Sir John Richardson of an Indian and his wife who were sitting on the bank of a little river. Suddenly they looked up and saw a large bear directly facing them on the other side of the river. The Indian had no weapons, so he made this appeal to the bear: "O bear, I never did you any harm and have always had great respect for you and your relations. Please go away and don't hurt us." And as the bear went away, the Indian believed he had listened to the eloquent appeal.

OUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.
"Pound" comes from the Latin word "pondus."
"Ounce" is from "uncia" or "twelfth," being one-twelfth of a pound, Troy.
"Inch" is from the same word, being one-twelfth of a foot.

"Yard" from the Saxon "gyrd" or "girth." At first a yard was the circumference around the body, but Henry I changed this and said that it should be the length of a grown person's arm.

LEGEND OF THE RAINY SEASON.
It is said that early in October a very long time ago St. Francis went out to punish bad people and he beat all such with the cord of his sash. There was so much crying that tears flooded the streets and this was the beginning of the rainy season. Every year since then this season is supposed to commence in October.



The Bird: A Story With a Warning

Once on a time there lived a boy Upon a Chinese plate;
He gobbled everything he saw,
And ate, and ate, and ate.

Beneath the plate, all in the dark,
There lived a dragon bold,
He was a Chinese dragon,
And very, very old.

One day the children took the plate,
Oh, dear, what do you think?
They fed that greedy little boy,
Upon the blackest ink.

No little boys are ever black,
(At least, so I have heard.)
The dragon felt so very sad,
He changed him to a bird.

—Philadelphia Record.

How a Horse Captured a City

ALTHOUGH 100,000 Greeks spent ten years in the siege of Troy, they could not take the city, but in one night a wooden horse captured the stronghold of the Trojans. And the way it happened was that the Greeks finally resorted to strategy. They built a very large wooden horse and inside of it hid some of their very bravest warriors. Then they pretended that they had given up the siege and that this was a peace offering to Minerva on the eve of their departure. Leaving it in full view of the city, they set sail in their ships.

The Trojans were delighted and after much discussion and argument finally dragged the wooden horse into the city; but, alas! for these brave defenders. That night the Greek fleet returned and the warriors inside the wooden horse crept out and opened the city's gates, and Troy was taken and destroyed.

In a wonderful poem called the "Iliad," by Homer, the story of Troy is told. Priam, who was the ruler, had many sons. One of them, named Paris, was the cause of all the trouble. He carried off the wife of a Greek named Menelaus. Her name was Helen, and she was considered the most beautiful woman at that time. To avenge this

cruel deed the Greeks collected a great army and set sail in over 1100 ships for Troy. It took them ten years to prepare for the war, and the ten years they spent before Troy vainly trying to capture it made 20 years all told—and the wooden horse took only one night to enter the city that had withstood the siege so long.

SOME FAMOUS STRONG MEN.

Among strong men of olden times was Alexander II, who was called the "Russian Samson." He was so strong that he could break bars of iron across his knees, snap coins in two without much effort and by a push of his strong shoulders burst open even a strongly barred door.

George Castnot, Prince of Albania, could cut off a bull's head with one stroke of his sword. He could also easily lift a bench which was holding several people.

Augustus the Strong, of Saxony, was especially noted for his strength. He could twist iron bars and fix crooked horseshoes with just one turn of his wrist. When he was in good humor he would sometimes lift a person by each hand and hold them for some little time at arm's length. When

horses balked he could push them by his shoulder.

But one day he met his match. He entered a blacksmith's shop to have his horses shod and broke several horseshoes with his hand. He told the blacksmith he did not want poor shoes like that on his horses. When he paid the bill the blacksmith took the money and snapped it in two, asking for good money in return for the work he had done. The Emperor gave him five or six more pieces, but each he broke in half. Finally Augustus gave him a gold piece, telling him this was surely good money and this the smithy did not break.

Peter the Great worked as a blacksmith and developed his muscles wonderfully. He heard of a man who claimed to be the only man in Russia who could lift an anvil from the ground. So Peter challenged him to a competition of strength. The blacksmith managed to raise the anvil a foot or so off the ground, but Peter picked it up and placed it on his shoulder, walking away with it. The blacksmith, who did not know who Peter was, thought he was an evil spirit who had come to steal his anvil.

THREE YEARS WITHOUT WATER

It has been proved by actual experiment that small rodents of arid regions are able to live for two or three years on hard seeds and without any water. In "New Trails in Mexico" Karl Lumboltz says that the animals of the desert have succeeded in making themselves almost independent of the water supply.

Holes or burrows in the ground that indicate the presence of rodents or of badgers are often found in great numbers where there is no water nearer than a lonely mesa in a distant mountain range, of which they could hardly have had any knowledge. The roving mountain sheep require more water, although Mexicans and Indians insist that they drink only when rain falls.

Moreover, I have it on the authority of an intelligent and observant American in Sonora that while the white-tailed deer in Eastern Sonora drink regularly, those in its western part never drink unless it rains, which happens rarely. He has never seen their tracks at the water holes there, although he has observed them elsewhere not very far from water. Another American of many years' residence, who has shot deer southeast of Liberland, confirms this.

It is certain, also, that domesticated animals in the arid regions are much less dependent on water than those of moister regions. Cattle will live well for months without any other water than the juice of the cactus, which plant is also their principal means of subsistence. Even horses do not come in to drink of their own free will every day during the winter. In my travels it was the usual thing for our animals to go without water every second day; such is the custom of that Western desert country, and the animals keep in surprisingly good condition.

On one occasion in March our horses and mules traveled all day and had no water for 76 hours. It was only the horses that suffered, and this was more from the quality of the water they had had than from the lack of it. Man's closest companion, the dog, however, cannot adapt itself to desert conditions. Besides suffering from thirst, the hot soil makes its feet sore and it does not know on which leg to stand. Even the dogs of the Indians, when they travel, stay panting in what little shade they can find under the bushes during the hot part of the day, and only follow their masters in the cool of the evening.—Kansas City Star.

ALERTLY SUSPICIOUS.

(Washington Star.)
"Has that young man any bad habits?" asked the cautious father.
"No," replied Missy Jane; "he never goes into a saloon."
"I know. But he looks as if he spent a terrible amount of time hanging around saloons' furnishing stores."

Grandmother Goose's Bed-Time Rhymes



(Children, get your Mother Goose, And if you'll take the time, You'll find a poem within your book That's something like this rhyme.)

THE JOLLY MILLER.

There was a jolly miller once
Went skating on the Dee,
The ice was thin and he fell in—
No fish so wet as he.

"Oh, dear!" he cried, "I did not know
The ice was quite so slim;
A bathing suit instead of skates
Were better for a swim!"

BABY BUNTING.

Bye-O, Baby Bunting,
Father's gone a-hunting,
Gone to get a Teddy Bear
For his Baby Bunting fair.

OLD KING COAL.

Old King Coal
Is a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul is he;
He burns in the grate
From early till late,
And crackles so merrily.

He weighs quite a ton;
You can poke him in fun,
And he'll laugh and burn brightly in glee,
But, my! how he'd pout
If you let him go out—
What a chilly old Cinder he'd be!

And, then, let's make a SCRAP BOOK;
Get scissors and some paste,
Cut out the verses carefully,
(Remember, "haste makes waste!")
And paste them in so neatly
That any one can look,
And by and by you'll find you have
A GRANDMA GOOSEY BOOK!

the field of life, checked with good and evil, on which man is to play his game and be rewarded according to his deserts.

The pawns may be regarded as representing those feelings which are first excited by circumstances and from barriers to these stronger passions which would be represented by the superior pieces. The castle, moving on the board in direct line, represents that innate sense of justice pervading every human breast, which, however attacked, when properly maintained cannot be conquered.

The knight, eccentric in his movements, but regulated by fixed principles of action, portrays that feeling of honor which, deviating from the beaten course, seeks for adventures. By the walk of the bishop may be considered the religious feeling which is continually crossed by the movements of ordinary life; as they never leave the color of the square they start from, they are typical of a firm faith.

The queen typifies ambition, and the king, moving only one square at a time, while every direction is open to his choice, is highly characteristic of prudence. He seldom moves unless forced, shelters himself behind, and claims the succor of justice, honor, religion and ambition.

OUR AMERICAN DIPLOMATS

England and Germany to a notable degree and France, Russia and some others of the great powers to a sufficient degree to be noticeable as training men for all diplomatic positions and promotions are made even to the highest places almost entirely upon the merits and suitability of the candidates. The young man who enters the Foreign Office service of England or Germany in a subordinate position has within his power, if he develops accordingly, to become in time an ambassador to some important country. He is thoroughly tried out, step by step, as consul and minister, before the highest rank is given to him. He is moved about in a subordinate position to another until he becomes in truth a cosmopolitan not only in thought and habit, but in language and knowledge. The most serious part of the education of these men is, first, the economics of their own country, and, secondly, the economics of the world to which they are to be accredited. This education is practical and not theoretical.

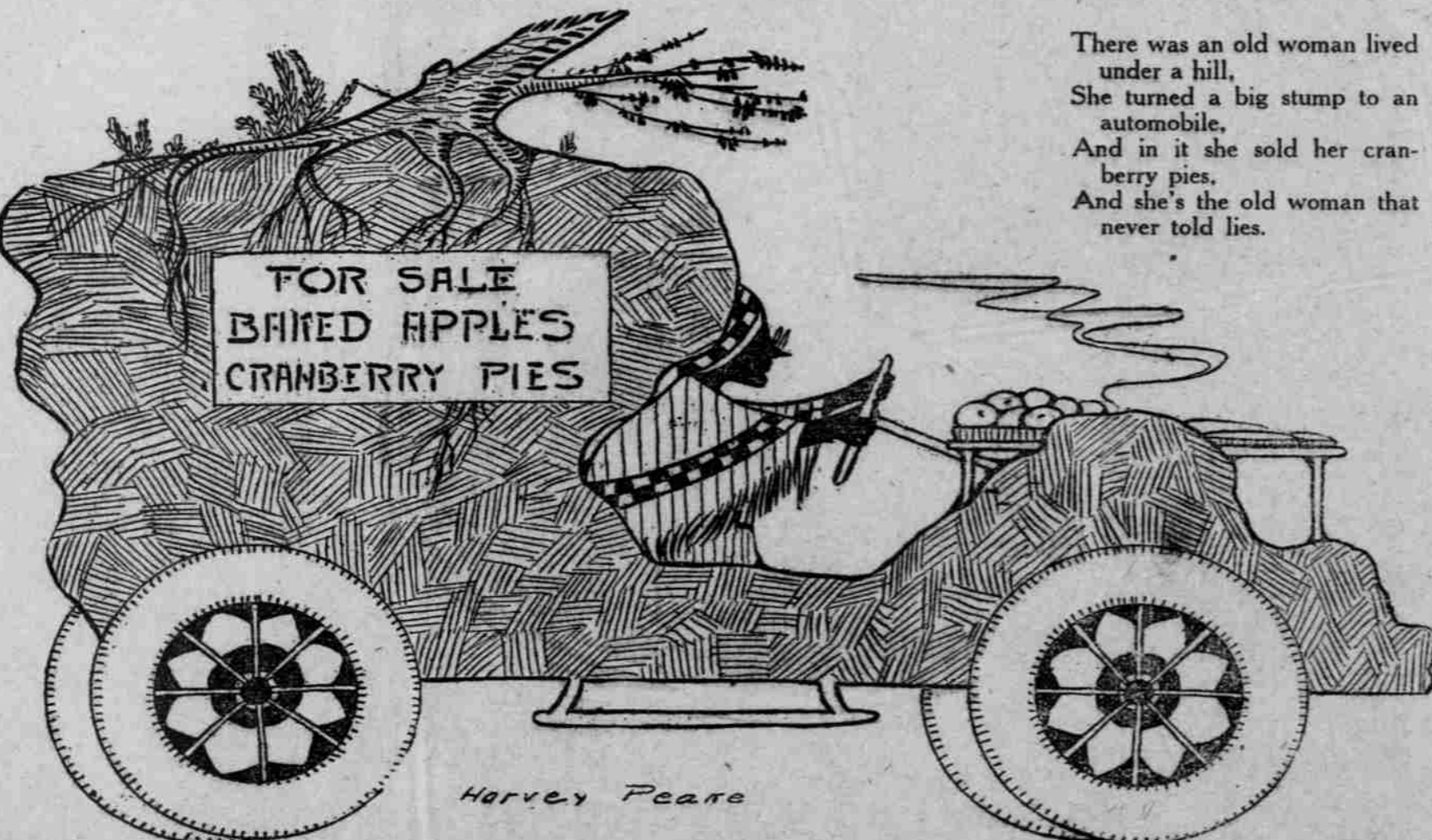
This is true to so great an extent that, when a technical matter of trade enters into a controversy between the two state departments, the minister or ambassador is often found fully equipped to fight the battle himself in aid of the material interests of the country he represents. There are no more practical men anywhere than a majority of these who now represent the progressive industrial countries of Europe as foreign ministers or ambassadors.

This particular feature of their equipment for the office is not unnecessarily paraded, however, for their social and political qualifications are more in the public eye. It is in the private talks at the State Department at Washington, in London, Berlin, Paris, St. Petersburg, or elsewhere, that their real fighting strength is disclosed. It is not a question of private fortune with them, for their government removes any anxiety on that score by an adequate and even abundant allowance of funds not only for salaries, but for housing and maintenance. The British Ambassador to Washington receives more in salary and expense allowance than does the President of the United States in proportion to the necessary expenditures of his office.—Century.

SOME FACTS OF INTEREST.

Peaches first came from Persia.
Ice eight inches thick will bear teams with heavy loads.
New York produces more milk than any other state in the Union. Every year it has 800,000,000 gallons.
The largest plant in the world is a kind of seaweed which sometimes grows 300 feet long.
Pears were brought from the East by the Romans.
One cubic foot of water weighs 62.5 pounds.
The lowest point of dry land in the United States is Death Valley, Cal. It is 1274 feet below the sea level.
Onions first came from India.

Motor Goose Rhymes



Harvey Pearce

There was an old woman lived under a hill,
She turned a big stump to an automobile,
And in it she sold her cranberry pies,
And she's the old woman that never told lies.

In this new age the motor rage is spreading near and far. So Mother Goose said, "What's the use? I've got to have a car!" If here you seek each coming week, you'll learn a thing or two, and read a verse, however terse, on what Motor Goose can do.

Ancient Origin of Chess Playing

THE origin of the game of chess is lost in the mists of antiquity. Representatives of it are to be seen on ancient Egyptian vases, references to it are made in the old Chinese books of wisdom. All manner of birthplaces have been assigned to it; its creator is held to have been at times a man, at times a god. Nothing positive is known as to its origin, yet the greatest probability is that it was derived from the East. It is interesting to note just a few of the hypotheses surrounding its obscure birth.

John de Vigny referred its invention to a Babylonian philosopher, Xerxes. Leneur attributes its origin to Chilo, the Spartan, one of the seven sages of Greece. Sir William Jones ascribes the invention of chess to the ancient Hindus. Gibbon says: "To admonish kings that they are strong only in the strength of their subjects, the same Indians invented the game of chess, which was likewise introduced into Persia during the reign of Nushirvan." An Indian philosopher describes chess in these terms: "It is a representative contest, a bloodless combat, an image not only of actual military operation, but of that greater warfare which every son of the earth, from the cradle to the grave, is continually waging—the battle of life."

One sees clearly that, even going back to its birth, the relation between chess and men exists, for does any one know just when, where and how the first man appeared on earth? Also, asks an authority on the game, who is a philosopher as well, is it not a fact that man's attributes and nature have remained unchanged throughout centuries, and that chess was played much in the same way, each chessman moving in the allotted manner, even 5000 years ago? It has been pointed out that chessmen, if taken to represent real characters, can teach us many things, for the pawns, the most insignificant of all the pieces, are standing in the fore-

most rank, and at the end of the game a pawn may become a queen. Nothing is impossible to the small while the game is being played and greatness is there to be achieved.

According to Carrera the principles of chess could be applied to the game of life. The board may be considered



A Dizzy Walk

"And have you had a pleasant walk?"
Said Aunt to little Teal:
"Oh, no, I've seen the cat-tail flags
And rather dizzy feel."
"And how is that, my little man?"
"Why their tails stuck up," he said.
"And our old pussy staggers round
When I stand her on her head."
—Charles N. Smett.