

THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND.

TEA TABLE TALK.

NYE AT CONEY ISLAND.

WHAT THEY WERE.

The Two Talmages.

LIGHT AND AIRY.



A BUNDLE OF TOYS HE HAD FLUNG ON HIS BACK, AND HE LOOKED LIKE A PEDDLER JUST OPENING HIS SACK.

THE ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS.

The 25th of December was originally the Roman Saturnalia. The celebration of Christmas as the birthday of Jesus is universal among Christians of every sect, and as such it is regarded throughout Christendom as the sweetest, holiest of all holidays.

Plain silk, black silks especially, are in high favor. Woolen crochet trimmings, resembling rich appliques, are used upon cloth gowns. Electric blue and moss green are ingeniously blended in some of the new trimmings.

Bathing costumes—Nye's Figure Excites Remarks. Bathing costumes seem to be similar this year to what they have always been. In due time you occasionally see a pair in odd shades like baby elephants' breath or smooth-crested shrimp pink, with embroidered soft-shell crabs on them, but they are mostly black.

John Malone was a lawyer. Stuart Robson was a printer. Frank McNish was a plumber. Joseph Wheelock was a sailor.

Talmage is dead. Not the preacher, but the manager of the Wabash railroad. Once when the Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage was on a lecturing tour he missed his train at Toledo.

Why Did He Stand? Why stood he on the burning deck? Why did he act like that? Was it a bluff aimed the wreck, or did the boy stand fast?

Some of the newest tea gowns have immense angel sleeves, which are put on with pautettes at the shoulders, and fall like huge wisps to the floor. Gimp, the veritable article of a dozen years ago, has returned to us.

Colored lace balayouses upon evening dresses are new. They keep clean longer than white, but are not so fresh and dainty when new. A novelty in bracelets is composed of narrow ribbons of gold, which are tied in a double bow knot for a clasp, which is set with pearls.

Robert C. Hilliard was in a broker's office. Denman Thompson was a farmer and a soldier. George L. Fox, the clown, was in the army.

Edith—Here comes little Elsie. Shall we speak to her? Mabel—No; don't you see she's got her doll in last year's carriage—Tid Bits.

Good Wages Assured. Connecticut Man—You give your son a classical education, that's my advice. Omaha Man—But the boy wants to be a carpenter.

Not So Very Bad. Featherly (to Dumley, who has been to the races)—You look as though you had had bad luck, Dumley.

Highly polished brass may be kept absolutely bright and free from tarnish by thinly coating the articles with a varnish of bleached shellac and alcohol. Manufacturers complain that the African rubbers now received do not yield, when strained and cleaned, more than thirty to fifty-five per cent. pure rubber gum, owing to the natives adulterating with sawdust, bark dust, etc., to overcome the inconvenient stickiness of the juice.

Walking gloves of Swedish kid or finely dressed dogskin are worn with promenade costumes. These come in most of the cloth shades to match the toilet. Bretelles are a feature of many of the new costumes, and very elaborate epaulettes are sometimes attached to trimmings for the front of a bodice, to be put on as braces.

John McCullough was a foundryman in Pittsburg. Mark Price was a factory hand in Lawrence, Mass. Bartley Campbell's first employment was in a brick yard.

Woman's Ways. When lovely woman's feet are seven, And such a size her soul abhors, What does she then? Why, gracious heavens! She squeezes them in number fours.

Only a Little Word. It was only a word That the silence stirred, But an import said had it— A kiss of despair To a loving pair— 'Twas her father's one word, "Gitt!"

Angels Without Wings Preferred. They were doing a little love making between acts. Just as the curtain went up he called her his angel.

With the aid of science even the desert of the Sahara is becoming inhabitable, and colonization is encouraged. The Lower Sahara is an immense basin of artesian waters, and the French are forming fresh oases with skill and success, so that the number of cultivated tracts is increasing rapidly.

Presently I came upon a young woman who was sitting by herself, gazing out to sea and weeping. At first I thought she was crying because some one had stolen her clothes while she was in the surf, but I soon saw that I was wrong. She had her bathing suit on, and was sobbing and stabbing large holes in the sand with her toes.

John A. Mackay was cash boy in a store; then call boy in a theater. Tony Pastor, Ben Maginley and George R. Edison were circus clowns. Lotta used to dance and sing for the "boys" in the Sierra mining camps.

Woman's Ways. And when old age draws nigh and sigher, What then does lovely woman do? She makes herself a right down 1-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Looking for an Internal Improvement. He sat on a log on the banks of an Arkansas creek, when a traveler came along and saluted: "Good day, mister. Waiting for a rise?" "That's just what I am waiting for," was the reply.

Mustn't Fool with Dynamite. Some dynamite lay In a keg one day, Which a man kicked accidentally; Now he whangs the tyre Of a celestial choir In the realms of the sweet subsequently.

The following quaint ditty, apropos of the Yule, is supposed to have been written during the reign of Henry VI: Welcome be thou, heavenly King; Welcome, born on this morning; Welcome, for whom we shall sing; Welcome Yule.

What kind of work had you been accustomed to? "Well, I had not done anything, but had a good general education and could take notes in shorthand if a man would not talk too fast. I could also soon learn to operate a typewriter, I think."

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Curious Things in Life. A Philadelphia horse is using a glass eye. A young society man of Keokuk, Iowa, on a wager made in jest by eating thirty-five bananas at a sitting. A piano that had been served for over 100 years, and had music in it still, fetched but 1 cent as an auction the other day in Reading, Pa.

Prevention Better than Cure. "I hope, my dear," said a newly made Benedict, "if I should happen to be out tonight occasionally you won't be lonely." "Oh, no, dear," she replied sweetly. "If you should find it necessary to be out I'll send for me to keep me company."

Too Much of a Good Thing, Etc. They're tired of turkey, goose and pie; They're sick of celery greens, And once again they sadly sigh For hash and pork and beans.

Rich in Years. In a chatty, intelligent and cheerful manner Mrs. Frances Edgar, of Philadelphia, relates the incidents attending Lafayette's visit and tells of her first glimpse of Washington. She has just passed her 100th birthday.

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Popular Among the People. He (after church)—What a very eloquent man the Rev. Dr. Whitechoker is, Miss Breezy. I was delighted with him. She (of Chicago)—Yes, there are no flies on Dr. Whitechoker.—New York Sun.

A Curious Oversight. Husband (full of fine humor)—There is something very curious about Henry George. Wife—What's curious about him? Husband—Why, he hasn't any last name.—New York Sun.

A Doubtful Compliment. He scraped away the mossy spray And scratched amid the lichen green, Until he read: "Kate Kelly, died, Aged twenty-seven. Kerosene."—Texas Sittings.

Her Greatest Domestic Act. Timid Young Sultor (who has won consent of papa)—And now may I ask you, sir, whether—ah—whether your daughter has any domestic accomplishments? Papa (sarcastically)—Yes, sir; she sometimes knits her brows.—Detroit Free Press.

Among the English the mistletoe bough is always hung over the center of the house on Christmas Eve, and any damsel who, either by chance or on purpose, places herself beneath it has to pay the penalty of being kissed by all the men who are present. Of course none of the fair sex ever places herself under the mistletoe with any other object.

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