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WILLIAM WADE, Local Manager

Madras - - - Oregon

FOR THE CHILDREN

My Day.

I wonder where the days all go
And what makes other days
Some hurry by, and some are slow,
But not one ever stays.

I wish I knew a way to keep
A long and happy day,
But when I sleep they always creep
So silently away.

I'd like to keep a day with me—
To make my dearest day,
It would be just let me see
What happens to the rest.

If I could only hide behind
The day I loved and peak
It wouldn't mind if I should find
How days can make a week.

And I would take him by the hand,
And he and I would go
To Sunrise Land, where days all stand
Just waiting in a row.

And I would see the hours grow
To make my dearest day,
And then I'd know why some are slow
While others rush away.

—Youth's Companion.

In the Heart of a Tree.
Two men with axes chopped at the trunk of a great basswood tree, and then they went at the notch with a long saw, one man at each end. The tree stood in the forest along the Montreal river in Wisconsin. The men sawed away, and all of a sudden the saw rasped on something hard—the tough heartwood doubtless. The sawyers worked the harder, but it was to no effect. The teeth of the saw were blunted, and the men took to the axes again.

Can you imagine what they found when the tree had fallen with a roar that shook the surrounding woods? Their axes had uncovered the edge of another ax blade, hidden in the living tree, covered so deeply that no mark had remained on the bark to tell of what was within. The blade must have been in its place for a century or more, while the wood was growing about it and beyond. Its owner must have been one of the early settlers or perhaps a French hunter. The ax, still in its bed of basswood, will be kept on exhibition in the Smithsonian institution at Washington.

Washington's Birthday Party.

For a Washington's birthday party, given for children between the ages of eight and fourteen, the following will be sure to prove amusing:
Pictures of George Washington and a number of his generals, a drum, a boat, a flag, a tent, a picture of Mount Vernon and a cannon have been cut out of white cardboard. Red, white and blue crayons are to be given to the children, with the request to decorate their designs. The latter are chosen by blinding the eyes with a handkerchief and then leading the child to the table. This method of obtaining the picture precludes any preference. Allow half an hour for the completing of the pictures. Each guest is to keep the figure that he or she colors. Cut the sandwiches with a hatchet shaped cutter, and the ice cream should be molded in cherry forms.

The Game of Pairs.

Great fun may be got out of the game of "pairs." Each boy chooses a partner for himself. The host, who pretends he is a lawyer, walks up and down the room in front of the pairs, asking questions of any one he pleases. The answers to his questions must be made not by the one addressed, but by his partner. If the girl be addressed the boy promptly answers. For instance, the lawyer says, "What is your favorite occupation?" to the boy. His partner answers, "Dressing dolls" or "Making beds." He may ask a girl, "What do you like best to do?" and the boy by her side answers, "Playing leapfrog," or some other masculine sport. If any one answers out of turn he or she must pay a forfeit. The saucier the answers the greater the fun.

A Real Handy Tree.

Did you ever hear of a thread and needle tree? It is rather a handy tree to have growing in the back yard, don't you think, especially when there are boys in the house with buttons coming off about every other minute?
This strange tree grows in nearly all tropical countries and in some places nearer home where the climate is warm. It gets its name by which we know it from the curious formation of its leaves. At the tip of the leaf there is a sharp thorn, which is the needle. If you grasp it firmly and pull it out there you are with a needle already threaded for your sewing. This fiber thread is very strong, and the Mexicans use it for weaving a coarse kind of cloth as well as for sewing.

Conundrums.

Why is a car strap like conscience? Because it is an inner check to the outer man.
Why is it dangerous to sleep in a steam car? Because the train runs over sleepers.
What should you do if you split your sides with laughter? Run until you get a stitch in them.
Which of the birds would be supposed to lift the heaviest weight? The crane.
Why is a dirty child like fannel? Because it shrinks from washing.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Happenings in Nursery Town.

Jack Frost, the famous artist, has painted some beautiful pictures on the nursery window panes.
We are so sorry for our friend and neighbor, the snow man. His nose melted away yesterday at noon when the sun was high.

MADE A GREAT HIT.

The Amateur Pianist Who Thought He Rivalled Rubinstein.

An orchestra leader who conducted for Rubinstein when the great musician was on tour, tells of a joke played in one city on an amateur pianist.
"The amateur's father was the owner of a large hall, and he offered the use of it to Rubinstein for his benefit. There was to be a piece for four pianos, and the amateur was to play one of the instruments. I was the leader. I thought Rubinstein would have a fit when I told him that the amateur couldn't play three straight notes. 'He is sure to throw us all out,' said I, 'and ruin the performance.'
"Rubinstein swore like a major, but 'twas no good. The bills were out and he must keep faith.
"At last I hit on an idea. The amateur came down to rehearsal and we praised him up until he thought he was to be the star of the night. As soon as he left we took the hammers out of his piano and made it dumb as an oyster. I guessed he would never know the difference with three pianos going at once.
"And, just as I thought, that amateur and his friends never discovered the trick. No, sir; he just sailed in and pounded on that piano as if it was the worst enemy he ever had. He was bound to show off among so many good pianists, and he hammered on his keyboard until the perspiration nearly blinded him. Now and then I looked at him approvingly to give him fresh courage, and every time that I did he gave the piano a lick that nearly made matchwood of it.
"His friends all around threw bouquets at him till he looked like a wedding arch, and when it was all over his fond parent fell on his neck in the greenroom and slipped a fat check into his hand.
" 'Didn't he do splendidly?' said he to me.
" 'I never heard an amateur do so well in public,' said I, and, what's more, I meant it."
His Only Fear.
As is well known, the late Justice Peckham was a Democrat, while Justice Harlan was a Republican. They were the best of friends. One day they were discussing the fear of death. Justice Peckham said to Justice Harlan:
"You are not afraid to die, are you?"
To this, after a moment's reflection, Justice Harlan replied: "No, not exactly. My only fear is that I might bring up at Democratic headquarters."
—New York Sun.

A Noble Footman.

Billy Hitt, a well known society man in Washington, was late one evening for dinner at the home of Larz Anderson. Springing from his automobile,



"NEVER MIND THE CHECK."
he rushed into the house, struggling out of his big fur overcoat as he went. Just inside the door he saw a footman at whom he hurled the coat, exclaiming: "That's all right. Never mind the check."
But as he was disappearing into the dining room he was stopped by a storm of outlandish language coming from the prostrate form that had been knocked down by the impact of the overcoat. He looked round and saw emerging from the covering of fur the face of Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador.—Washington Star.

Whistler Tamed a Russian.

When James MacNeill Whistler went to Venice to make those fourteen famous etchings of his he became so intoxicated with its beauty that he made seventy pastels first, leaving his etchings till the last few days. These pastels made a tremendous sensation. All the art world of Venice was carried away with enthusiasm excepting a Russian painter, who declared them tricks, betting a basketful of champagne he could paint six not to be distinguished from them. Mr. Whistler amiably gave some of his paper and six pastels, which were finally mixed up with those by the Russian and submitted to a jury which had seen none of them. Mr. Whistler's pastels were unmistakable, and the Russian lost. A few days later the two met on the Rialto, and Mr. Whistler laughed at the little about the bet. The Russian was furious. "You forget, sir," he said, "that I'm a Russian, and if you scratch one you find a Tartar underneath." "Oh, no; you have it wrong," said Mr. Whistler; "you have it wrong! I scratched an artist and found an amateur."

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PL AND TRAPS TO KILL MICE

O. A. Tessor Discusses Best No Eradicate Crop Destroyers

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Mar. 30—In response to a number of queries as to method of ridding farms of field mice, A. B. Cordley of the Oregon Agricultural College has given the following advice.
"Trapping is a simple way to destroy mice, seldom resorted to because of the patience and persistence required to look after the necessarily large number of traps. When the mice are abundant it is essential to use many traps for a number of weeks. This method has special advantages in small areas, as lawns, gardens, vegetable or nursery pits, or packing houses.
"Thorough cultivation of fields tends to keep down the number of mice as it destroys weeds and growths which give shelter to the mice. The mere plowing a field badly infested with mice is sufficient to drive out most of them.
"Strychnine is the most satisfactory poison for field mice. Although deadly, it is less dangerous to handle than either phosphorus or potassium cyanide. Wheat, oatmeal, or corn should be soaked in a strychnine syrup made as follows:

solve an ounce of strychnia sulphate in a pint of boiling water, add a pint of thick syrup, and stir thoroughly. The prepared syrup may be scented with a few drops of oil of anise.

"This quantity is enough to poison half a bushel of wheat or corn, but smaller quantities of grain or syrup may be prepared as needed. After the solution has been thoroughly mixed, if it is too wet, a little dry cornmeal may be used to take up the excessive moisture. If it is not wet enough to moisten the grain thoroughly, a little water may be added.

"Because of the danger of destroying native birds, the poisoned bait should not be placed in exposed places, but under shelter which will admit mice but exclude birds. Wide boards lying upon thin cross pieces of wood are good."

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