

### Child Marian in Mischief.

What golden days they were—those sunny summer days in the Anstran Capital, and what nights they were, and what adventures we had, and how lovely Marian grew in the bracing air, and how we loved her more and more as the weeks went on! Well, no,—we didn't mind her mischief very much, because, you see, she never meant to be mischievous, and that makes all the difference in the world. She generally thought she was doing right—and her little pranks were most always more errors of judgment than anything else.

She would never have cut off Harry's long hair, but that she thought it would be more becoming and comfortable. She never would have pinned red strips to the sides of my dress, and wasn't aware they were there until a fellow-countryman asked me if they were a pair of young shoulder-straps. And I'm sure she didn't mean any harm when she put a box of toilet soap on top of the hat of a distinguished States officer who came to call on us, and he, poor man, who was nothing if not dignified, and not much if he was, felt very angry when his red face, and bald head, and black coat, received a white shower. We were very much mortified at this, and Aunt Elinor looked very severe and said:

"Marian—Marian, why did you do it? It was very naughty and thoughtless! and the little hat you put on top of his only hidden it there for a moment from Henry, and forgotten to take it off; and she continued:

"I don't hurt him a bit, and it wasn't half as bad as Harry thought. He stood up on my nuchage-top with the old gentleman's umbrella-handle, and didn't wipe it off again. Harry was just going to wipe it off, when he came out of the parlor so much perturbed, and seized his umbrella right out of Harry's hands before we could tell him;—and—O my! didn't it stick to his gloves!"

Aunt Elinor groaned, and no wonder, as she looked very stern, and said: "Children, I'm surprised, when you know I charged you to be especially good while that gentleman was here."

"Well," said Marian, beginning to look a little less perturbed, "I was so angry when he was so good, and went down into the court-yard, and I looked so well we'd all for to see."

Aunt Elinor groaned again. "And we made a cat on the back seat, and then Harry made a fence all round her to keep her in—a lovely fence! We tried to mend the fence, but she would not let us, and she was so angry, and I stuck the pins point upwards—and I do hope he noticed it before he set down."

"I didn't wait for more, but I seized my hat and hurried off to the gentleman's house, and found him looking very flushed and angry, as if he might be just on the point of being angry at names of his visiting list. I did the best I could with an apology, but the old gentleman worked himself into a towering passion, and said:

"It's outrageous, sir, outrageous. I shall not be able to sit down with comfort for a week."

I told Marian and Henry what he said, and both children looked very sorry, but surely did the best they could to mend the fence, for when, a few days after, I went to see my court-plaster case, Marian looked guilty, and said very beseechingly:

### Countdown Making on the Amazon.

Narrow paths lead from the hut through the thick underbrush to the solitary trunk of the India rubber tree, and as soon as the dry season allows the woodman goes into the seraglio with a hatchet in order to cut small pieces in the bark, or rather in the wood of a caoutchouc tree, from which a milky latex is made to flow through an earthenware spout fastened to the trunk. Below is a piece of bamboo which is cut into the shape of a bucket. In this way he goes from tree to tree until, upon his return, in order to carry the material more conveniently, he begins to empty the bamboo buckets into a large calabash. The contents of these are poured into one of those great turtle shells which on the Amazon are used for every kind of purpose. Heat is applied to work on the smoking process, since, if left to stand long, the gummy particles separate, and the quality of the India rubber is hurt. This consists in subjecting the sap, when spread out thin, to the smoke of the Uruguay or Uaupia palm, which, strange to say, is the only thing that will turn it solid at once. An earthenware bowl with bottom, whose neck has been drawn together like that of a bottle, forms a kind of chimney when placed over a heap of dry red-hot nuts so that the white smoke escapes from the top in thick clouds. The workman pours a small quantity of purified milk, like the hot oil of a kind of light wooden shovel which he turns with quickness, in order to separate the sap as much as possible. Then he passes it quickly through the dense smoke above the little chimney, and repeats several times and at once perceives the milk take on a grayish yellow color and turn solid. In this way he lays on skin after skin until the India rubber on each side is two or three centimeters thick and he considers the *plancha* done. He then cuts up one side, peeled off the sheet and hung up to dry, since much water has got in between the layers, which should dry out if possible. The color of the *plancha*, which is at first bright silver gray, becomes more and more yellow and at last turns into the brown of caoutchouc as it is known in commerce. A good workman can finish in this way five or six *planchas* an hour. The thicker, the more even, and the freer from bubbles the whole mass is, so much the better is its quality and higher the price.—*Scribner for December.*

### Discovery of a Statue by Praxiteles.

In the second week of May, 1877, there was discovered at the Olympian temple of Zeus, not far from the portrait statue of a Roman lady, a colossal marble statue of a nude youth. The lower portion of the legs and the right forearm were wanting. The right elbow supported on his arm a little boy. Of the latter figure, unfortunately only the lower part remains and the tiny hand that he held laid confidently on the shoulder of his beloved, over the tree stem or which the arm that supports the boy is rested falls the drapery in rich, deeply cut, and wonderfully worked folds, affording to the arm a soft resting place, and gracefully hiding the support of the new stem, which in this position was technically necessary.

The body of the youth rests with an easy negligence on the left leg, so that the soft flesh of the right hip shows in manifold displacements, the play of the muscles of the blooming youthful form. The head is marked by the finest, most spiritualized youthful beauty, and somewhat resembles the heads we see on the Vatican Meleagros or the Hermes of the Belvedere. The body, however, resembles those figures, only it is slenderer, softer, more vivacious. At the first glance we are struck by the careless execution of the hair, which, in the parts that were usually unsculptured, is rich and curly. The body is entirely different from that of the statues of Praxiteles. The artist is a work that is equal to the greatest treasure we possess of ancient art, and which must ever remain a coronation of the health and ruddy glow of the most robust.

### Which Are The Best Oysters?

As for comparative merit, that is a matter which rivals the oyster itself in delicacy. In Washington or Baltimore, the oyster dealer will generally admit that it is quite possible to find good oysters outside of Chesapeake Bay; but a "perfect" oyster, he will tell you, is not to be found in any other locality. The Philadelphian is equally sure that the oyster of the Delaware is the perfect oyster's only home,—a local prejudice which the oyster-eater of New York attributes to a deplorable ignorance of the oyster's true home. Doctors differ; and the unprejudiced can only rejoice that anywhere between the parallels of 36° and 40° north, one may find oysters worthy of any human palate. Here in New York the oyster is first and foremost the Saddle Rock,—a variety which Jersey men insist has been exterminated these many years. They still remain, however, not only as direct descendants from the colony of the original Saddle Rock, but in many other localities in Long Island Sound; for it was not a distinct variety that gave the name its fame, but only an exceptionally thrifty chance-sown bud of the common natives.

### The Remains of a Crusader's Church Discovered in Palestine.

On the road from the Mount of Olives to Bethany, a remains of a Crusader's church has recently been discovered. In his official report, which appears in the *Albion*, Lieutenant Kitchener states that tradition has long pointed out this spot as the place where the Saviour ascended to heaven, or his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In the chapel, which dates from the twentieth or thirtieth century, there is an almost square block of masonry covered with paintings, which are all well preserved, and which are said to represent the rising of Lazarus; on the north side the disciples fetching the ass; on the west there is a niche covered by an arch which was probably supported by two columns, and the niches in a portion of an inscription still remaining. This square block is supposed to be either an altar, ashrahe, or a portion of the roof cut out and ornamented. The walls of the small chamber to the right of the chapel, and with a design of squares containing circles, and the walls of the church are painted in a common pattern. The shield of Hamsel has been taken down from the most prominent place, and is now in the Serail. It appears to have been the cover of a baptismal font, or of some vessel, and is made of bronze, containing a great deal of silver. The work appears to be of the thirteenth century, and is very beautiful.

### Louis Napoleon's Ambition.

When the late Louis Napoleon was a candidate for the Presidency of the French republic, in 1848, he called upon Victor Hugo and gave expression to the following sentiments: "I have come to let me talk with you and set matters straight. People calumniate me. Look at me. Do I strike you as being insane? People suppose I mean to re-conquer Napoleon's career over again. I am a man of great ambition, might take as models—Napoleon and Washington. One is a man of genius, the other a man of virtue. It would be absurd for a man to say I will be a genius, and I will be a man of virtue. What if this man has cheated you, or that man played you false? What if your friend has forsaken you in time of need, or that one, having won your utmost confidence, your warmest love, has concluded that he prefers to consider and treat you as a stranger? Let it all pass. What difference will it make to you in a few years, when you go to the undiscovered country? A few more smiles, a few more pleasures, much pain, a little longer hurrying and worrying through the world, some hasty greetings, abrupt partings, and your play will be 'played out,' the injury will be laid out, and, ere long, forgotten. It is worthy to hate each other?"

### A Wretched Existence.

Other conditions being equal, there is no reason why a healthy man should not enjoy life; and it may well be doubted whether adverse fortune has the power entirely to destroy the happiness of one who is normally and whose disposition is good. But for the nervous, feeble, dyspeptic invalid there is no comfort in life. His existence is a wretched and hopeless one, and he despairs of relief. That benignant restorative, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, has imparted to him an unequalled builder up of broken down physique, and is besides a sovereign remedy for febrile, nervous, irritable habit of body, biliousness and kidney and bladder difficulties. It eliminates from the blood the acid element which gives rise to rheumatic ailments, cures and relieves the aged and infirm, and may be used with great advantage and safety in all cases of indigestion, and it commends it to the use of invalids.

### Iron and the Human Blood.

Iron, the oldest of all metals, is also the most widely dispersed throughout nature. There is not a plant, nor an animal, nor an iota of the mineral kingdom, but what contains in its composition some iron. The blood is impregnated with iron, and is in fact composed of iron for one of its largest component parts.

The most powerful agent for this purpose is iron. The medical profession have no doubt of this. Iron determines the principal action of life and gives the blood that necessary quantity of color and vitality. It is the vitality of the individual. It is common to see persons, hitherto perfect images of death, much like the feeble, nervous, irritable, and impoverished of the blood, general debility, premature exhaustion from whatever cause, the choice of the ferruginous preparation to be used must be made with great care; some preparations being insoluble, produce indigestion, and others, by their irritating and astringent properties, or the opposite, slacken the appetite, blacken the teeth, possess a disagreeable odor and many other inconveniences.

### Rheumatism Quickly Cured.

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