

Little Things.

Though little I bring, Said the tiny spring, As it burst from the mighty hill, 'Tis pleasant to know, Wherever I flow, The pastures grow greener still.

A Child Queen.

I wonder how many of the little girl readers of St. Nicholas are fond of history? If they answer candidly, I do not doubt that a very large proportion will declare that they prefer the charming stories they find in St. Nicholas to the dull pages of history, with its countless battles and murdered sovereigns.

This child-sovereign was born many hundred years ago—in 1387—at the palace of the Louvre in Paris, of whose noble picture-gallery I am sure you all have heard—if, indeed, many of you have not seen it yourselves.

King Richard II. of England, who was a widower about thirty years old, was urged to marry again; and, instead of selecting a wife near his own age, his choice fell upon little Princess Isabella.

When the embassy reached Paris, and the offer of marriage had been formally accepted, the archbishop and the earls asked to see the little princess who was soon to become their queen.

Queen Isabeau stood at a little distance, curious and anxious, no doubt, to know how her little daughter would answer this formal address.

Then, giving the marshal her tiny hand to kiss, she bade him rise from his knees, and leading him to her mother, she presented him to her with the grace and ease of a mature woman.

According to the fashion of the time, Princess Isabella was immediately married by proxy, and received the title of Queen of England.

In a few days, King Richard arrived from England with a gay and numerous retinue of titled ladies to attend his little bride.

"CIVILIZATION," said a father to his inquiring son, the other day, "differs from barbarism in this: the one kills its enemies off at six thousand paces with a cannon-ball; the other cuts off their heads with a sabre at close quarter."

Progress in Turkey.

It is thought by many that there has been no progress in Turkey. Without expressing any opinion, we can state a few facts which, being facts, can not be contradicted. At the time of Suleiman the Magnificent, Turkey was, on the whole, very little, if at all, behind Europe.

Numerous works have been printed, and scholars like Achmet Vefik Pasha would be creditable to any people. Military and medical colleges, and numerous universities and educational institutions, supported by the government or by private enterprise, have been founded.

A Strange Woman.

It would seem, judging from the heroine of the following sketch, that cleanliness is not necessary to perfect health. A wealthy English widow, of the first George's time, never allowed her room to be cleansed, and the windows were so incrustated with dirt as to permit scarcely any light.

GOT ENOUGH TOBACCO AT LAST.—On the 20th of August a curious case of poisoning by nicotine occurred in Turin.

CONSTANTINOPLE has a circumference of about thirteen miles. Its harbor, the "Golden Horn," is a long, capacious inlet of the Bosphorus, running along the northeast side of the city.

THE Greenbackers of New York want "a law to sustain labor." What we need just now is a little more labor to sustain law.—Portland (Me) Transcript.

Skobeloff Storming a Redoubt.

He had four regiments of the line, and four battalions of sharpshooters. Still keeping up his murderous fire, he formed under its cover two regiments, the Vladimirski and the Zozoski, in the little hollow at the foot of the low hill on which was built the redoubt.

Skobeloff had now only two battalions of sharpshooters left, the best in his detachment. Putting himself at the head of these, he dashed forward on horseback. He picked up the stragglers; he reached the wavering, fluctuating mass, and gave it the inspiration of his courage and instruction.

Having seen as much as I have seen of the Turkish infantry fire from behind trenches and walls, I thought it was beyond flesh and blood to break it, a belief which had been strengthened by Kirloff's repulse, which I had just witnessed.

A POWERFUL STRATAGEM OF RHETORIC.—Monsieur Chaix d'Est Ange recently died in Paris. He was one of the greatest lawyers of France, and his greatest triumph at the bar, and one of the greatest triumphs ever obtained at the bar, was achieved in the case of a man called Benoit whom he was prosecuting for perjury.

What the repeated interrogatives of the examining magistrates had failed to elicit from the murderer was forced from him by the eloquence of the barrister.

AMERICANS make the best Frenchmen of all the foreigners who flock here. The Russians, a large colony always, are always Kusse, extravagant, barbaric in splendor, and gross to excess in carriages, women, wine and diamonds.

A LONELY Keokuk bachelor wants to adopt a girl baby, not less than eighteen years old.

By the Late Dr. W. W. Hall.

POISONS.

Poisons either burn or give other discomfort in passing down the throat; these are organic poisons, and are metallic, destroying the delicate lining of the parts along which they pass and causing inflammation more or less painful and dangerous.

As the time for saving life in case of poisoning sometimes passes within five minutes or less, every head of a family and every intelligent person should have some general principles of action, with coolness of manner, so as to give the power to act advantageously in any emergency.

If an alkaloid—as opium, or morphia, or other anodyne—has been taken, all of which produce dullness of every grade to stupor and insensibility, the first point is to get it out of the stomach as instantaneously as possible; put a heaping teaspoonful of salt and as much ground mustard in half a glass of water, stir it and drink instantly.

For many poisons there are more specific antidotes than the above; but most of them are seldom at hand. The points instantly to be arrived at are, in painless poisons, to get them out of the stomach instantly.

Americans in Paris.

Americans make the best Frenchmen of all the foreigners who flock here. The Russians, a large colony always, are always Kusse, extravagant, barbaric in splendor, and gross to excess in carriages, women, wine and diamonds.

PLEASANT FOR HIM.—An honest English farmer, while harvesting, kept his gun near him to shoot pigeons. Seeing one, he reached out and took the gun by the muzzle, but, in drawing it toward him, by some means the gun went off, and the contents passed near his head without injuring him.

THE discovery of the satellite of Mars is owing to the fact that this planet is many millions of miles nearer the earth at present than for nearly eighty years.

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Mars.

When Galileo turned towards Mars the telescope with which he had discovered the moons of Jupiter, the crescent form of Venus and many other wonders in the heavens he was altogether disappointed.

It was not, then, till very powerful telescopes had been constructed that astronomers learned what we now know about Mars.

It is found that his surface is divided into land and water, like the surface of our own earth. But his seas and oceans are not nearly so large compared with his continents and lands.

The planet Mars, like our earth, turns on its axis, so that it has day and night as we have. The length of its day is not very different from that of our own day. Our earth turns once on its axis in 24 hours; but before reading on, try to complete this sentence for yourself.

Mars has a long year, taking no less than 687 of our days to complete his circuit round the sun, so that his year lasts only about one month and a half less than two of ours.

Like the earth, Mars has seasons for his polar axis, like that of the earth, is slant, and at one part of his year brings his northern regions more fully into sunlight, at which time summer prevails there and winter in his southern regions.

Around his poles, as around the earth's, there are great masses of ice, inasmuch that it is very doubtful whether any inhabitants of Mars have been able to penetrate to the poles, any more than Kane or Hayes, or Nares or Parry, despite their courage and endurance, have been able to reach our northern pole, or Cook or Wilkes or James Ross our Antarctic pole.

IN the summer of either hemisphere of Mars, the north Polar snows become greatly reduced in extent, as is natural, while in winter they reach to low latitudes, showing that in parts of the planet corresponding to the United States, or mid-Europe, as to latitude, bitter cold must prevail for several weeks in succession.—Prof. R. A. Proctor, in St. Nicholas.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF A BABE.—A three-year old little girl at Rochester was taught to close her evening prayer, during the temporary absence of her father, with:

"And please watch over my papa." It sounded very sweet, but the mother's amazement may be imagined when the child added:

"And you'd better keep an eye on mamma, too."

WHERE screws are driven into soft wood and subjected to considerable strain, they are likely to work loose. In such cases the use of glue is recommended.

AN Ithaca man has invented an 18-day watch.