

### LOGOMACHY.

AN IMPRESSIVE AMUSEMENT— PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN.

A PEEP INTO THE BRIGHT FANCIES OF THE NURSERY.

Katharine Cooper in May California. Between the dark and the daylight, When the night is beginning to lower, Comes a pause in the days' occupation This is known as the children's hour.

#### A New Play.

Have any of the readers of The Californian ever been importuned, day after day, by certain small but urgently solicitous members of the family, for stories? And have these grown-up people ever been at a loss to satisfy their little petitioners? The gray-haired poet of Cambridge knew how to gratify his blue-eyed handi; and everybody remembers

#### The Beautiful Eulogy

One great story-teller of England paid to another when he said, "lucky is he who has such a charming gift of nature as this, which brings all the children in the world trooping to him, and being fond of him." Unfortunately, but few of us possess, even in a very small degree, the marvelous gift of Mr. Dickens; and yet I doubt if the person lives who cannot secure the ready attention and devotion of children. I am not speaking now of prodigies or precocious geniuses, but ordinary boys and girls just waking up to think about this wonderful world they have come into, and about which their chief sentiment is

#### An Insatiable Curiosity.

In many homes, when evening comes, and dinner has been served, and the little children gather around the fire-place for their hour before bed-time, how often the question arises, what shall we do to amuse them? Into a ready limbo have gone the school-books till to-morrow, toys delight not, the noisy games of out-door life are tabooed in the drawing-room and library, and if papa sits down to enjoy his fragrant cigar and the evening paper, and mamma occupies herself with the latest magazine or a bit of Kensington embroidery, what is to become of the restless little boys and girls to whom this pleasant post-prandial hour

#### By Right Belongs?

No one can spend an hour in the society of a moderately intelligent child without remarking how extraordinary a peculiarity of his mind for craving after information. I have two small nephews who have just completed their first decade, and have arrived at that interesting age of inquiry when it seems as if their ravenous youthful maws would never be supplied with ailment in the shape of tales and stories which delight the heart of boyhood. This love of the marvelous and exciting is like a child's craving for sweetmeats, and it is a taste which cannot be ignored. I have been experimenting latterly in the

#### Art of Entertaining Children.

And my simple efforts have been crowned with so much success as to make it seem almost selfish to keep to myself such an easy, efficacious remedy for the ennui of children. I cannot claim for this amusement any novelty of design. The game, if one may call it such, in different ways is already played on many a winters evening. There are few limitations to its scope or opportunities. Our modus operandi is this: The children and I, and any of the others who may be enticed into our group, gather around the library table, our only implement of warfare being a box of alphabet letters, with which is commonly played the game called Logomachy. Each player draws at random a letter, and, thinking of a character conspicuous either in history, art or literature, whose name begins with that letter, selects from another box enough letters to

#### Spell the Name

Thus chosen, and having arranged the word upon the table, his right-hand neighbor is called upon to describe briefly the character selected. For example: Last even-

ing we agreed to limit ourselves to the names of poets and authors, and the first letter drawn was H. Homer was the result of a few moments thought upon the part of one of the small boys, and it fell to my lot, sitting next to him, to tell, in the old once-upon-a-time fashion, about

#### The Greek Poet's Life.

And incidentally to introduce some of the pretty stories about Hector and his dazzling helmet, the frightened Andromache and the fair Helen, until the time was up and it was my turn to draw a letter. By chance, I selected the first letter of the alphabet, and I gave my right-hand neighbor an easy subject to talk about, by placing Andersen upon the board. What boy or girl does not know all about dear old Hans Christian, and the stories of the Vikings, the Beetle, the Goblin, and the Hucklester. The dictionary of authors had to supply the dates, but we had a dainty bit of biography from a boys standpoint which was not to the disadvantage of the Danish lover of children. The letter I was chosen next, and soon

#### Testing Graced the Table.

While picturesque views of Sunnyside and the Hudson, and the charming story of Rip Van Winkle delighted the children. Before the hour had passed we had a goodly number of names before us of the great writers of different countries and ages. It seemed almost anachronistic to see Homer and Browning jostling each other and to let the funny music of the Pied Piper of Hamelin follow so closely upon the wail of Helen of Troy. It was quite a leap in time from Una and the Red Cross Knight to Little Nell and Oliver Twist, but it was not difficult to make

#### The Children Discriminate

Between the early and the later English authors. Thus we supplemented the outlines of our authors lives with bits of their permanent works, names of their fictitious characters, and bright little fragments from their poems or stories as they came to our memories. One evening we confined ourselves to Shakespearean characters, and every name on the table represented some one of the great dramatic characters. Imagine what a charming evening we had with the love-making of Bassanio and Portia in the picturesque villa at Belmont, with

#### Avaricious Old Shylock.

All ready, with his glittering scales and sharpened knife, to weigh the pound of flesh. How pleasantly we escaped from the tears and entreaties of poor little Prince Arthur, to laughter over the irresistible fat and funny old Falstaff, the mock play, and the seven men in buckram. Gouty old Capulet and witty Mercutio, the brave and gallant Hotspur, and the melancholy Prince of Denmark were not more interesting to the children than

#### Poor Old King Lear.

Bareheaded in the howling storm, or the remorseful Lady of Inverness with her little blood-stained hand. So we have taken up historical characters, and names of cities, mythological personages, and names of artists and inventors, until we may hope these children are now fairly afloat upon

#### That Enchanted Ocean

Of literature which henceforth to them may never have a boundary. In this and similar pleasant ways the bright fancies of the nursery may be turned into a love for all that is best and purest in art and literature, and these childish impressions of scenes and characters gained in hours of amusement may outlast many pursued in the study and strife of later life.

—If you want a good hot cup of tea, coffee, or chocolate after your night's fishing call at the Fair Wind chop house where you will get it, and don't you forget it.

—Dixfield, Maine, October 20th, 1880. Dr. B. J. Kendall & Co., Gents:—Please find inclosed 25 cents for revised edition of your horse book. I have tried your Kendall's Spavin Cure and it has done all you claim for it. By using one-half a bottle it entirely cured the lameness and removed the bunch. Yours truly, FRANK STANLEY.

### Nihilism.

Of all the monstrous vagaries of the human mind, in its transformation from barbarism to enlightenment, that of nihilism is the cap-sheaf. The meaning of the word is simply nothing. It is the outgrowth of despotism, and aims at the destruction of everything except unlimited license. It seeks to cure an evil by the administration of a remedy a hundred fold worse than the evil itself. Its principal method is murder; its end nothing. It is wholly destructive in means and end, proposing nothing in place of that which it seeks to destroy. Of the tenets held by the doctrinaires of nihilism but little is known, but the founder of the system, Michael Bakunin, in a speech at Geneva in 1868, gave the following as the cardinal doctrines held by them. He said:

The beginning of all these lies which have ground down this poor world in slavery is God. Tear out of your hearts the belief in the existence of God; for as long as an atom of that silly superstition remains in your minds you will never know what freedom is. The first lie is God. The second lie is Right. And when you have freed your minds from the fear of a God, and from that childish respect for the fiction of Right, then all the remaining chains which bind you, and which are called science, civilization, property, marriage, morality and justice, will snap asunder like threads. Our first work must be destruction and annihilation of everything as it now exists. You must accustom yourself to destroy everything, the good with the bad; for if but an atom of this old world remains, the new will never be created. When you once begin your work of destruction, and when the floods of enslaved masses of the people rise and engulf temples and palaces, then take heed that no ark be allowed to rescue any atom of this old world which we consecrate to destruction.

With such a doctrine it would seem impossible that Nihilism could gain much favor with the masses of Europe. The peasantry are too largely devoted to their religion, and the majority of the educated classes are surely too wise and humane to adopt any such barbarous and destructive system of belief. That there are in this country considerable numbers of sympathizers with nihilism, is evident from the numerous expressions heard and seen of justification of the assassination of the late Czar. Such persons are wholly unfit for freedom, and never should be permitted to exist except with their necks beneath the heel of power. It is the fact of the existence of such barbarous and lawless element, secretly and persistently working to the same destructive ends, that should arouse the keenest vigilance of every lover of liberty and humanity. Wherever and in whatever shape it lifts its hydra head, there should it meet the crushing blow.

There has been for some time past a dispute as to the superiority of soft or hard steel rails. A large railroad company in England has lately given the preference to the moderately soft bar. In this country we notice that the Pennsylvania railroad has been making a long and elaborate inquiry into the duration of steel rails, and it is found that soft steel rails wear away less than hard steel rails. This is because the little particles which rise on the surface of a steel rail break off under the wheels when the rail is hard, and hammer down if it is soft. On the other hand, many railroad managers cannot get steel rails hard enough to use, with the idea that they wear better than soft. Such opinions as the above would indicate that they are mistaken.

—By a recent postal decision men can actually make money by getting their bills and statements of accounts printed. Statements of accounts and bills of sale when made out on paper having printed headings, can be sent by mail for one cent, if the envelope is left unsealed; whereas, if it is made out on unprinted paper, it will cost three cents. Thus by patronizing THE ASTORIAN two cents can be saved on every bill or statement that is sent out through the mail.

—Lawyers briefs printed in fine style, at THE ASTORIAN office.

### Horse Education.

In something written we have an indistinct recollection of having made reference to a general disposition among boys in their teens, as well as boys of maturer years, to enlighten and bless the world with their profound knowledge of the horse and his history. Our books and newspapers are full of this kind of literature, and it varies in style from the production of the child at school, commencing with: The horse has four legs and a tail; up to the eloquent tribute of the scholar when he quotes from Job: That his neck is clothed with thunder and the glory of his nostrils is terrible. He smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains and the shouting. Between these two extremes of the child at his first school composition, and the professional literature, we have every grade of pretention, and each professing to have mastered the whole subject. As we approach the close of this nineteenth century, we begin to look for something better in this department of knowledge from those who assume to instruct. And it is to be found in Kendall's Treatise on the horse, sent by mail to any person for twenty-five cents, postage paid. Apply to THE ASTORIAN office, or address D. C. Ireland, Astoria, Oregon.

### Peruvian Bitters.

The Count Cinchona was the Spanish Viceroy in Peru in 1630. The Countess, his wife, was prostrated by an intermittent fever, from which she was freed by the use of the native remedy, the Peruvian bark, or, as it was called in the language of the country, "Quinquina." A trial will satisfy you that this is the best bitter in the world. The powder is in the eating, and we willingly abide this test. For sale by all druggists, grocers and liquor dealers. Order it.

### Mothers! Mothers!! Mothers!!!

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately—depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the mother, and relief and health to the child, operating like magic. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and has cured many children who have been prostrated by the disease. It is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Sold everywhere. 25 cents a bottle.

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