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FOR THE CHILDREN

Lincoln's Tribute to Washington. Lincoln said of Washington: "Washington is the mightiest name on earth—long since mightiest in the cause of civil liberty, still mightiest in moral reformation. On that name a eulogy is expected. It cannot be. To add brightness to the sun or glory to the name of Washington is alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in naked, deathless splendor leave it shining on."

Lincoln's First Political Speech. "Gentlemen, Fellow Citizens—I presume you all know who I am. I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by my friends to become a candidate for the legislature. My politics are short and sweet, like an old woman's dance. I am in favor of a national bank. I am in favor of the international improvement system and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected I will be thankful, if defeated it will be all the same."

Homemade Valentine. The 14th of February has come around again, and, of course, everybody is beginning to think of valentines. Perhaps you may be glad to have a few ideas for "homemade" valentines, which are always prettier and more interesting than those you buy. Take an envelope of any shape desired and open it out flat by slipping a knife underneath the flap and so loosening the mucilage. On the inside print the following verse:

To you I send, dear Valentine, This faithful little heart of mine. Its every beat is full of love For you, my own dear turtledove. The word heart may be pictured instead of printed or cut out and pasted to the envelope. The same way with the turtledove, the turtle being green and the dove a soft gray. Fasten the envelope again and on the outside write:

If you but break, dear Valentine, This binding seal of wax and twine And look beneath you'll surely see The greatness of my love for thee. Tie it with a piece of red twine or ribbon, then seal it with red wax or any other color you happen to have, and the valentine is complete.

The Lion's Mistake. A British officer was shooting in Somaliland. One night as he lay on his bed within his tent a lion made a sudden spring over the rough fence which had been put up around the encampment. The lion took no notice of the animals, but went straight to the sportsman's tent and seized the sleeper—fortunately by the hand only. It must have been a terrible awakening for the officer. But somehow as the lion changed its grip for the man's shoulder it got hold of the pillow instead and then decamped with its prize. Next morning the pillow was found in the jungle at a distance of several hundred yards from the encampment. What a disappointment it must have been to the hungry lion when he discovered his mistake!

Old Rhymes. The common little rhyme beginning "Thirty days has September," if not as old as the hills at least is as old as 1596, for in that year it was printed in London in an old arithmetic. This is how it reads in its original form: "Thirtie daies hath September, April, June and November; Februarie eight an twenty alone; all the rest thirtie and one."

The rhyme beginning "Multiplication is vexation" is likewise not an outburst of modern scholars, for it is found in a manuscript of even older date, 1570: "Multiplication is mie vexation, And Division quite as bad, The Golden rule is mie stunnishing stule, And Practice makes mie mad."

Omitted Words. Can you supply the seven words omitted? They must all be formed of the same six letters: A — sat in his — gray, Watching the indomitable — play, On a keg that in the bushes lay, And the leaves with their — took up the — song. Thou — the brave, Thou — the strong, To thee doth — of great battles belong, John Barleycorn, my king. Answer: Suttler, ulster, luster, rustle, forest, rulest, result.

A Cat's Presence of Mind. The presence of mind of the cat is marvelous. A cat was chased by two dogs into a corner of the yard with high walls, but the cat escaped unharmed by a gymnastic feat which involved running for several feet up a vertical wall, turning in the air, alighting on the back of one of the dogs and springing thence to the top of a gate.

Puzzle and Answer. Bought a lot of eggs for 12 cents. Had there been two more they would have cost 1 cent less per dozen. How many in the lot? Answer: Sixteen eggs for 12 cents equals 9 cents per dozen, eighteen equals 8 cents.

Penny Fred. With a penny Fred he bought A valentine for Nell, And, of course, his being cheap Was not very well. Now, Miss Nell was very vain, And she liked things nice, So a gift was sought to her 'Less it cost a price. When she got the valentine She sneered, her lip did curl, "I'll let Fred know," she said, with scorn, "That I'm no penny girl!"

ORIGIN OF AN EXPRESSION.

"If This Court Knows Herself, and She Thinks She Do." We frequently hear the expression, "If the court knows itself, and it thinks it does," but few persons are aware of the origin thereof.

The individual who gave birth to it was a Pike county Missourian named Blackburn, who flourished in the west many years ago. Blackburn ran away from home when he was a mere boy and sought his fortune in the west, where he grew to manhood as an Indian fighter, hunter, trapper and mountain guide. Although not an educated man, he was possessed of great wit, to which was united a keen will. When gold was discovered in California, Blackburn was one of the first to proceed thither. The miners as a sort of joke elected him alcalde, an office that combined the duties of mayor and justice of the peace. The first case coming before the new alcalde was that of a gambler who while drunk had ridden his horse over a young Mexican woman. She was seriously injured.

The trial took place in the largest cabin in the neighborhood. The gambler, who was rich, had retained able counsel to defend him. Alcaldé Blackburn called the young woman to the witness stand. She told a straightforward, honest story. When she had finished the alcalde peremptorily ended the trial. The attorney for the defendant protested vigorously, but the alcalde disposed of his protest thus: "If this court knows herself, and she thinks she do, I fine you \$500 damages and assess upon you the cost of putting this young woman in good condition."

When asked what he meant by "good condition" the alcalde replied that the gambler must pay the doctor's bills and all other costs of the young woman's sickness.—Exchange.

MOZART'S UNTIMELY END.

Sad Finish of the Career of the Great Musical Genius. Late hours, unwearying vigils, everlasting labor, the effects of chills, damp and exposure, in the hard life he led—a life alternating between brilliant passages and the most bothersome drudgery, between rosy anticipations of fortune and inevitable and eternal disappointments—had their effects on the vigorous constitution of Mozart. His lamp of life burnt out untimely. While still a young man—only thirty-five years old—he fell into ill health, the symptoms of which were a fitful, restless nervousness, a craving for inordinate excitement and a rapid decay of the physical stamina of his constitution.

Unfortunately for him, in the absence of any strong influence at home which might keep him in the path of duty, he was tempted to seek recreation abroad and fell into the company of a dissipated set of men, haunters of the theaters and taverns of Vienna, the chief spirit of whom was one Schikaneder, a low, coarse man of neither refinement nor talent. In company with this crew the glorious genius, whose critical state of health demanded the utmost care and attention from loving hands, flitted night after night from tavern to tavern in Vienna, deluding himself with vice under the idea that he was gathering the secret spirit of brotherhood for use in his opera, "The Magic Flute," on which he at that time was engaged.—Rowbotham's "Private Life of Great Composers."

Teeth in Their Stomachs. Whatever it may be that the lobster and the crab, rapacious, never dainty, are eating they always see something else that they want and can't wait until they have masticated the first before attacking the second. But they don't give up the first, not by any manner of means. Nature, humoring this rapacious bent, has fitted the lobster and the crab with teeth in their stomachs, and they swallow their half masticated food and finish the chewing process with their stomachs while they seize and chew the other thing that has attracted them. Lobsters and crabs have no teeth in their mouths. They chew with their claws what they have time to and hand the unfinished job down to their stomachs to do the rest of the chewing.

Dollar Bills From All Over. "That dollar silver certificate you have there has been gathered together from all over the world," said the bank cashier. "Part of the paper fiber is linen rag from the orient. The silk comes from Italy or China. The blue ink is made from German or Canadian cobalt. The black ink is made from Niagara Falls acetylene gas smoke, and most of the green ink is green color mixed in white zinc sulphide made in Germany. "When the treasury seal is printed in red the color comes from Central America."—New York Sun.

No Apology Necessary. "I congratulate you most heartily," said the nervous guest at the wedding, "on this happy—oh, I beg your pardon! I thought I was speaking to the bridegroom." "That's all right," the other man replied. "I accept your congratulations, I am the father of the bride."—Chicago Tribune.

Very Lucky. "I don't get what I deserve for my jokes," wailed the humorist. "You're lucky," sympathized his friend.—Toledo Blade. When a man falls back on oaths he declares himself out of arguments.

CURING BAD HABITS.

Try a Little Self Hypnotism on Your Pet Weaknesses.

In a large eastern city is a professional hypnotist who has a wide reputation for curing the habit of intemperance. His method is dirt simple. "There is no real hypnotism about it—unless it is a matter of self hypnotism," this professor once said. "I simply observe the mind process of the man that drinks and advise him how to reverse it. The subconscious suggestion in the mind of the man that drinks runs something like this: 'When did I have my last bail? Whew! Long as that! I don't see how I stood it so long. Wouldn't have thought it possible.' And so on the victim repeats to himself on the principle that he needs this periodical stimulant just as it is necessary to heap coal on to fire to keep it from burning out. In a word, that man self hypnotizes himself into the belief that he needs a drink."

"My advice to cure this craving is not to fight the appetite, but to fight down the cause that leads to the appetite. Let a man repeat to himself over and over again: 'I really don't need this drink. If I take it, it's simply a matter of pouring so much down my throat superfluously, for I could get along without.' Before long he will be surprised how instead of hypnotizing himself into drink he will hypnotize himself out of it." Simple, isn't it? But if this self hypnotism or whatever you choose to call it is a cure for intemperance why is it not equally a recipe for curing other bad habits?—Chicago Tribune.

NEW HIS BUSINESS.

This Parisian Beggar Realized the Value of New Shoes.

Begging has long been a great art in Europe. By using subtle touches of misery and calculated effects of disease and dismemberment the beggar became a master of pathetic appeal. A delightful story of Dupre, the sculptor, is quoted by Hamilton W. Mabie in the Outlook. Looking out of his window in a hotel one bleak wintry morning in the good old times, Dupre saw an old beggar sitting barefooted on the stone steps below. His heart was moved with compassion, and he began to search for a pair of shoes. He found two pairs, one of them new. "Do not give the new pair away; you will need them yourself," urged his prudent wife.

"No," said the sculptor, "I shall find the old pair more comfortable. Moreover, if I am to give anything away I am going to give the best I have." So he hurried downstairs and put the new shoes in the hands of the barefooted old man. The next morning the beggar sat on the steps as usual, and, as usual, his feet were bare. Dupre hurried down to him. "Where are the shoes I gave you? You are not wearing them," he said. "No," replied the old man, "I could not wear them, excellency. If I did nobody would give me anything. I have pawned them."

Lakes of Blood.

The name Lake of Blood or its equivalent has been given to places as far apart as England and South America. "Sanguine"—i. e., the Lake of Blood—was the name given by the victorious Normans to the battlefield at Hastings, where the Saxons were overthrown and slain with terrible carnage. For a similar reason Lake Trasimene has borne the name "Sanguinetto" because its waters were reddened during the second Punic war by the blood of some 15,000 Romans who fell before the troops of Hannibal.

Yet another Lake of Blood, called also "Yaguar Cocha," is situated in the state of Ecuador. It is one of a series of lakes formed by the extinct craters of volcanoes on the towering heights of the Andes range of mountains.

Among the most extraordinary pieces of symbolism known to have been used by the early Asiatics was a figure of a donkey's head used as a representative of the deity. There is no doubt whatever that the same emblem was once used among the Hittites, the Egyptians and one or two other nations as a symbol of their red god, Sut. The superstition of the yellow donkey of India, the story of the swift ass of eastern Asia and the ass of Dionysius and many other marvelous ass stories are all survivals of that curious form of religious worship the adoration of the ass's head.

They Both Knew. The fool said one day in the king's presence, "I am the king!" And the king laughed, for he knew that his fool was wrong. A week later the king was angry because of an error he had committed and exclaimed, "I am a fool!" And the fool laughed, for he knew that his king was right.

Not Much. Howell—Reading maketh a full man. Powell—But if you get arrested for drunkenness the judge isn't inclined to accept as an excuse your statement that you have been reading.—New York Press.

The Only Time. Thomas—Dad, when is the freedom of the city given to a man? Dad—When his wife goes to the country for the summer.—Harper's Bazar.

Every age has its problem, by solving which humanity is helped forward.—Henrich Heine.

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