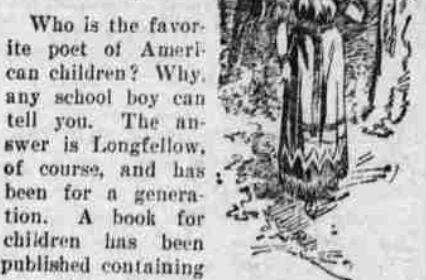


# THE FAVORITE POET OF AMERICAN CHILDREN



Who is the favorite poet of American children? Why, any school boy can tell you. The answer is Longfellow, of course, and has been for a generation. A book for children has been published containing more than eighty of Longfellow's best poems, beginning with the time-worn but precious "Psalm of Life" and ending with the graphic sketch of "Charlemagne."

It would be interesting if there were some way of estimating the fruits of Longfellow's ennobling and refining poems as they have reappeared in the lives of men and women. He has himself put the idea into one of his poems:

I breathed a song into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For who has slight so keen and strong,  
That it can follow the flight of song?  
"A Psalm of Life" has been worn  
trite by much use because its lines voice  
the inmost philosophy of American optimism:

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.

Longfellow has sounded the whole gamut of youth in its nobler ambitions, feminine and masculine alike. What boy does not thrill to the idea of "Excelsior," and what girl—

Standing with reluctant feet,  
Where the brook and river meet,  
Womanhood and childhood meet—

does not feel the impulse to live a noble life when she reads the exquisite poem on "Maidenhood"? Then there are the narrative poems, "A Skeleton in Armor," "The Wreck of the Hesperus" and "The Village Blacksmith," that have the universal charm of a good story as well. As for "Hiawatha," that is the children's own imperishable possession.

At the stern sat Hiawatha,  
With his fishing line of cedar;  
In his plumes the breeze of morning  
Played as in the hemlock branches;  
On the bows, with tall erected,  
Sat the squirrel, Adjidaumo;  
In his fur the breeze of morning  
Played as in the prairie grasses.

The artist has made of this scene one of his most graceful and delicately colored pictures.

"Paul Revere's Ride" stirs the martial soul of youth and arouses an imperishable interest in Boston's historic old North Church and the monumental spots at Lexington and Concord.

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,  
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,  
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing,  
A spark  
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet;

That was all! And yet, through the gloom  
and the light,  
The fate of a nation was riding that night,  
And the spark struck out by that steed, in  
his flight,

Kindled the land into flame with its heat.  
Other old favorites include "The Building of the Ship," "The Bridge," "The Old Clock on the Stairs," "Castles in Spain," "My Lost Youth," "Sandalphon," "The Leap of Roushan Beg," "The Builders," "The Children's Hour," "The Castle Builder" and those three lovely poems inculcating kindness to animals—"The Bell of Atri," "Walter von der Vogelweid" and "The Emperor's Bird's Nest."

Whether it be true or not, it is the fashion nowadays to say that nobody reads poetry. In so far as it is true it is not a fact to be proud of. It suggests the gentle Amier's bitter remark that the modern world knows only "a poetry skinned and dissected by science." The popular craze for light fiction, in so far as it crowds out the literature of beauty and noble inspiration, is a national misfortune. But if the hurry and materialism of the age have perverted our own tastes, at least let us give the unspoiled children a chance to enjoy the finer joys of good poetry while their hearts are still open to its benign influences. For this purpose there is nothing better than "The Children's Longfellow"—Edwin L. Shuman in the Chicago Record-Herald.

**The Miser's Carpet.**  
"Dr. Quain, the eminent physician, full of Hibernian wit, would sometimes tell unauthorized anecdotes of his professional experiences," says Sir Algeron West in "One City and Many Men." "Once he was attending a well-known man of miserly habits in Mayfair, who when very ill asked him to honestly tell him if he would ever again rise from his bed of sickness. The doctor thought he never would. 'Please ring the bell,' said the patient, and when he had secured the attendance of the housekeeper he said: 'Have the strip of carpet by my bedside, which is a good one, wrapped up and put away. I shall not want it again, and if it is left here those undertaker's men will be sure to spoil it with their dirty boots!'"

**Cleaning Up After Sewing.**  
For those who must sew but who have no sewing room there is a plan by which the sewer can save the time and labor that she formerly spent in tidying up the room after she has finished each night. Buy five yards of denim and cut it into two pieces. Join these together so as to form a square and hem the raw edges. Lay this square on the floor and set the machine on it. All threads, scraps and ravelings can be dropped on this, and when the sewer has finished for the day the machine can be covered and rolled off the denim and the denim can be gathered up and shaken.

**His Popular Habit.**  
Bjones—How did Jackson acquire his reputation for unusual insight and sagacity?  
Psmith—He has a habit of saying "By George, that's so! I never thought of that before!"—Cleveland Leader.  
A woman who has a nose for news usually has a chin for telling it.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

The government of Austria makes special inducements to farmers who will reclaim waste lands and make use of them.

Gin is still used as a medium of exchange in some parts of the Niger country in Africa, but the government discourages it. Owing to the extreme conservatism in these districts the task is difficult.

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce in Japan is being prevailed upon to grant a sparrow destroying subsidy, as in some parts of this district the English sparrow is becoming a pest, having devoured the rice crop.

A variety of verses of improved quality reached the Municipal Suffrage League of Chicago, in the \$100 prize contest offered for the best "battle hymn," to be used in the woman's cause. A feature of the offering is a preponderance of women writers.

Fire in a Chicago barn has ruined a collection of 15,000 negatives of newsboys with whom the owner and won several gold medals. The owner had spent many years gathering the newsboy negatives, the types being those of newsboys of almost every country in the world.

Prominent actors and musicians in Berlin have been engaged for the "shadow theater" which will soon be opened in that city. It will be conducted, according to the prospectus that has been printed, as the Schattenspieltheater in Munich, and a similar place of amusement in Paris.

At a meeting of the Mendelsham Sparrow Club it was stated that during this year 4,918 old birds, 2,807 young birds and 3,914 eggs had been destroyed, a total of 11,639. The local farmers pay a voluntary rate, based on acreage, from which payments are made for birds and eggs destroyed.—London Standard.

Long before women's newspapers were started, and fashion plates in their modern form were thought of, women derived their knowledge of the fashions from dolls dressed in modern costumes, which were sent from one country to another, more especially from Paris, then, as now, the leading center of the mode.

In a paper read before the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Henry Penton states that the oldest iron ship in the world is the United States warship Michigan, the material for whose construction was "dragged across the mountains from Pittsburgh to Lake Erie," where the ship was built, as long as sixty-six years ago.

Whether warts spread by contact has been much discussed. A Glasgow physician mentions that a maid with many warts on hands and arms was employed in a certain family, and warts soon appeared on the hands of the three children. The youngest, a boy of five, with a habit of biting the fingers, developed two warts on the lip and one in the mouth.

The announcement that the Japanese are about to open the railway which they have built in Formosa is the latest evidence of the good work which they are doing in the island, which was acquired in 1895, at the close of the war with China. At the time of the transfer, sixty-two miles of the road line was completed. It now covers a total of 334 miles, and Japan has built the additional 272 miles at nearly \$400,000 less than the estimates.

Dante is held responsible for the expression, "paling the town red." In his "Divine Comedy" Dante, led by Virgil, comes to the cavernous depths of the place, swept by a mighty wind, where those are confined who have been the prey of their passions. Two faces arise from the mist—the faces of Francesca and Paolo. "Who are ye?" cries Dante in alarm, and Francesca replies sadly, "We are those who have paled the world red with our sins."

Massachusetts State Board of Health has issued a bulletin on cold-storage poultry in which this advice is given to housekeepers: "In order to avoid obtaining water logged and frozen fowls the consumer should demand the frozen bird and thaw it himself. If thawed quickly by immersion in a bucket of hot water, it may be eaten with impunity and with relish the same day it is purchased; or, if hung overnight at room temperature, it may be ready for use the day following."

Farrant's liquor, for the preservation of vegetable organisms, consists of thirty-five parts of distilled water, in which, while boiling, 0.1 part of white arsenic is dissolved. The cooled fluid is mixed with an equal part, by weight, of glycerine, and in this is dissolved the same quantity, by weight of gum arabic. In this fluid the most delicate plant organisms are preserved admirably, and in addition, it is not liable to evaporation, which, in hot countries, is of great value. It is poisonous, of course.

In the singular experience reported to a Paris medical society by Drs. Chauffard and Vidal, a man and his wife were taken with pneumonia within a few hours of each other, and the disease ran an almost identical course in each case. Their illness began on a day in June, following one in which they drank much cold water from a well. One could not have taken the disease from the other, as is usual in family epidemics, and common unfavorable surroundings could hardly have had a simultaneous effect. That pneumonia germs from the well water inoculated the patients seemed to be the only conclusion possible.

# FARMS AND FARMERS

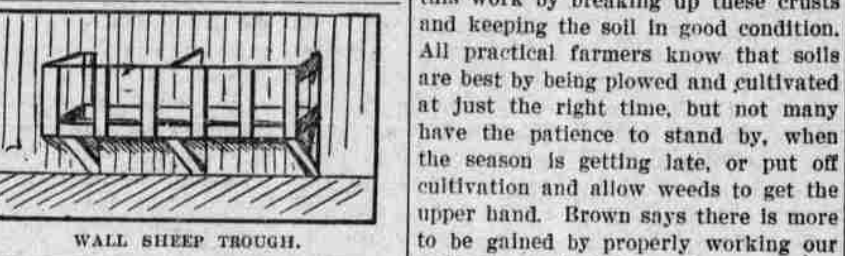


**Keeping Soil in Good Shape.**  
When there is plenty of moisture in spring, followed by dry and hot weather during June and July, the condition is just right for spoiling the soil, especially if untimely plowing has left the fields in a badly baked condition. If the result of such conditions lasted but one season the matter would not be so serious, but it has frequently been observed that land badly puddled and subsequently hard baked can not be retrieved in many years. It is harder to reduce such soil than the toughest hard-pan. In fact, it will require several seasons of careful work to bring these soils into good condition again.

It is a bad practice to stir ground when it is wet, yet it is done every spring. Crops are puddled in every year, and it is a wonder that we get any crops at all from these fields. Such fields are the first to dry up when summer droughts strike us, for capillarity has been so completely destroyed that the crops can not draw upon the water reserves, and the elements needed for growth of the crops are so securely locked up in the clods that they are not available.

It is the natural tendency of all soil to become firmer. It is tamped down by even the gentlest rains, and beating rains will render it almost impervious to water. Good farming must undo this work by breaking up these crusts and keeping the soil in good condition. All practical farmers know that soils are best by being plowed and cultivated at just the right time, but not many have the patience to stand by, when the season is getting late, or put off cultivation and allow weeds to get the upper hand. Brown says there is more to be gained by properly working our soils than in fertilizing them.

**Care of the Flock.**  
Sheep need little shelter except to keep off rain and snow. I have always allowed them to stay out in the coldest weather, if it was not stormy. However, I never, under any circumstances, allow them to take rains and snows in winter, writes a correspondent of Farm and Home.  
At this season I give good clover hay, and in addition a little slage or corn fodder about three times a week. I feed twice a day in the yard on the ground if it is frozen, but when the ground is not frozen I feed in racks in the sheep barn. I feed a little entire grain, mostly oats to the breeding ewes.  
My troughs are made of three boards, 8 feet long, the bottom one 10 inches wide and the sides 6 inches, as shown in sketch. I scatter the oats thin in these troughs and the sheep cannot get a large mouthful. Thus better mastication of the grain is secured than in narrow troughs. I have fed threshed oats to my sheep for a good many years and have not as yet experienced any bad results from their use. I feed oats until after lambing time, then I



WALL SHEEP TROUGH.

add about one ear of shelled corn to one pint of oats per day.  
I know from my own experience that it pays to keep sheep, provided they are kept well, and those who do not do this are very likely to condemn the breed of sheep which they may happen to have or the breeding stock which they have purchased for the improvement of their flock when the fault is really their own.

**Quick Poultry Fattening.**  
The theory on which crate fattening is encouraged is that a hen will digest more food than she will eat. Shredded wheat will put the fat on at as low a cost as 4 1/2 cents per pound. The sections of our crates are two feet wide, two feet high, twenty-seven inches long, three sections to a crate; five birds to a section, says a bulletin of The Connecticut Experiment Station. These have to be very carefully fed so that the appetite will not be hurt.  
Careful attention has to be given not only to what they are fed, but when and how often the feed is offered to them. Equal quantities of cornmeal, ground oats and shredded wheat mixed with skim milk consistency of good porridge in front of them for a few minutes, every twelve hours for two days. Next evening let them eat their fill. Next day feed in the morning not enough to satisfy them. At night, all they will eat. At the end of the second week give a noon feed of just a little. The third week give all they want at noon. Next week add a little tallow, perhaps half a pint of tallow to fifteen birds. Give a little grit from time to time.

If growing broilers give them a large percentage of bran six weeks, then make the bulk of the feed cornmeal for four weeks. Milk and buckwheat, or milk and oats tend to whiten skin. If anything is not contented, it won't put on flesh.  
**Feeding Horses.**  
It is generally believed that horses must not be fed clover hay for fear of the heaves. This is a mistake. If the horse is given the proper quantity of clover and not overfed there is no danger of the heaves. A horse should never be fed more than he will eat up clean, either grain or hay. Without a doubt oats is the best general food for a horse, and goes well with thimothy hay. A good change is to once or twice a week give a feed of corn and clover with bran mash. When a horse does not clean up his feed it is best to try a change. Feeding and watering should be done at regular intervals, the watering always before the eating. Above all things, do not give a horse water immediately after eating. It should never be given before at least an hour after he has finished his meal.  
**Fertilizing in Winter.**  
It might be said that it is always reasonable to fertilize the orchard or garden. Manure placed on this soil this winter will partially decay, and its richness soak into the soil for the use of the plants next year. It not only serves as a fertilizer in the orchard, but in winter it acts as a soil protection and regulates sudden freezing and thawing. On hilly land it checks soil erosion.  
**Grass in Orchard.**  
Sod culture is recommended by some successful peach growers. The soil is worked during the time the trees are growing, and a clover crop is sowed for fall and winter which is plowed under early in the spring. Clover crops should not be left until they suck up too much moisture from the soil at a time when it is needed by the trees.

**Watering System for Stable.**  
In the accompanying plan two galvanized iron tanks, 2 ft. x 5 ft. are connected by a pipe (c) so that tank (b) is supplied with water from tank (a), which in turn is supplied from the hydrant as shown. Tank (b) is connected with a sewer by a waste pipe (d). The plug (e) consists of a piece of gas pipe threaded into the end of the waste pipe and therefore answers the purposes of plug and overflow.  
**Salt for Sheep.**  
Experiments recently made for the purpose of ascertaining the nutritive value of salt for sheep show that those which have been fed salt gained in weight four and one-half pounds more than those which received no salt. Moreover, the sheep which received salt produced one and one-third pounds more wool and of a better quality than those which received no salt.

**Harvesting Beets with Steam Plow.**  
To plow out a crop of sugar beets by running a heavy traction engine over the field would be destructive, so the method described in Popular Mechanics has proved very satisfactory. The powerful traction engines are placed at each side of a field, and the plow, which is of a special design, is dragged back and forth by cables.  
**Packing Eggs.**  
Farmers and others who knowingly pack bad eggs with good ones are going to be prosecuted by the Nebraska and Michigan Pure Food commissions. Dealers claim that their losses amounted to several million dollars last year.

**A Domestic Dilemma.**  
A Philadelphia woman, whose given name is Mary, is also the name of her daughter, had recently engaged a domestic, when, to her embarrassment, she discovered that the servant's name, too, was Mary.

# YEAR OF 1909 RICH IN CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAYS

**T**HE year 1909 is distinguished beyond any previous year within the memory of man for the number and importance of centennial anniversaries of the birthdays of famous persons, and also marks the tercentenary celebrations of some historic events. The year 1809 brought into the world a remarkable array of men whose achievements will be glorified as long as civilization lasts. In that year Abraham Lincoln first saw the light of day in Hardin County, Kentucky, and on the same day, Feb. 12, though under a far different environment, Charles Darwin was born at Shrewsbury, England. Three days later, at Walnut Grove, Va., came into the world Cyrus Hall McCormick, who is described "as having done more for the cause of agriculture than any other living man."

The field of literature and poetry was vastly enriched that same remarkable year by the birth of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edgar Allan Poe, Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Alfred Tennyson. The year 1809 also gave to the world of music one of its finest exponents, Felix Mendelssohn. In 1809 Robert Fulton, whose efforts to establish steam navigation on the Hudson river had been fully demonstrated to be successful, took out his first patents. Two hundred years earlier Henry Hudson sailed on the same river in search of a passage to India, while Samuel de Champlain was exploring from the north and discovered the great lake which bears his name and which is intimately connected with the colonial and revolutionary wars. All of these historic birthdays and events will be magnificently celebrated during the coming year of 1909.

Naturally the greatest and most far-reaching centennial celebration will be that of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. In every part of the United States, in England, France and other foreign lands, the birth of the great emancipator will be observed.

Cyrus Hall McCormick died in Chicago in 1884. Mendelssohn's brilliant career was cut short at the very zenith of his fame. He was born in Hamburg Feb. 5, 1800, and died Nov. 4, 1847. Darwin died in 1882, having devoted the fifty years of his life after graduation from Christ College, Cambridge, to the study of and research into the secrets of nature.

Oliver Wendell Holmes and Edgar Allan Poe were both born in Massachusetts, the latter in January and the former in August. In England Alfred Tennyson was born Aug. 6, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning March 6. The Hudson-Fulton memorial celebration will be held in New York next fall on a magnificent scale and will continue for a week. One of the features will be a pageant which, it is claimed, will eclipse anything of the kind in the world's history.

## POPULAR SCIENCE

One of the largest sawmills in the world has been erected on the island of Hawaii by a company which has a contract to furnish a million ties a year to an American railroad.

A Belgian inventor has secured a patent on a flying machine modelled on the insects of the locust species. With a 100-horsepower motor the machine weighs a trifle less than 870 pounds.

By burning resinous materials to the windward of their vineyards at night, the French wine growers produce dense clouds of smoke which protect their vines from frosts in spring and fall.

Many old workings in the Pennsylvania anthracite field, abandoned years ago for lack of knowledge to work the deeper veins, are being reopened and made productive by modern machinery.

A vacuum cylinder, for the preservation of food, from which the air may be exhausted by apparatus so simple that any person can operate it, is a recent invention of a German machinist.

An alloy of nine parts of lead, two of antimony and one of bismuth expands in cooling, therefore makes a good combination for plugging holes in metal, as the plug fits tightly when cold.

The increased demand for tungsten ores and products in the United States in 1907 led to the production of 1640 short tons of concentrates, valued at \$800,048, nearly three times the output of 1906.

By the invention of machines to bleach and spin it, the wild silk of Manchuria, great quantities of which are exported each year, threatens to seriously compete with that grown in more civilized lands.

Strangers are sometimes surprised by the fear of vipers which exists in some parts of France. These little venomous snakes are dangerous both to man and beast. Recently a movement has been made to protect the vipers, on the ground that they render valuable services in destroying rodents, mollusks, and other small noxious animals, but a writer in the Journal of Practical Agriculture strenuously opposes this, declaring that the services performed by the vipers are of small account in comparison with the accidents, frequently mortal, which they cause. He instances a little neighborhood in the Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, where the vipers became a veritable plague, and where, inspired by the offer of a reward, two hunters destroyed 12,000 of them.

The increasing employment of reducing agents of many kinds in the manufacture of steel is primarily due to the necessity of getting rid of blow-holes and gas bubbles. The reducers effect this by absorbing and removing the gases dissolved in the molten metal. But they render another important service also by adding, by their presence in small quantities, to the tensile strength of the steel. Ferrosilicium, for instance, when employed as a reductor, increases the strength of the steel about 15 per cent. Calcium also has an excellent effect, and with vanadium the strength of the steel is sometimes doubled. Vanadium also greatly increases the resistance of steel to the effects of vibration, and consequently vanadium-steel is largely employed for the manufacture of automobile machinery.

Man usually indulges in a lot of self-praise when he has greatness thrust upon him.  
Hicks—You were dreadfully indiscreet to mention that important deal of ours to your wife.  
Wicks—Oh, it's all right. I didn't tell her it was a secret.—Boston Transcript.

## ROBIN HOOD NOT A MYTH.

Hero of Sherwood Forest Had a Court Place Under King Edward II.

Many famous men have their names linked with Sherwood, King John, the three Edwards, Richard III, Cardinal Wolsey and Charles I, but the hero of the place, the "genius loci," is Robin Hood, the London Globe says.

Some think that the famous outlaw of the ballads was a myth, a mere poetic conception and a creature of the popular mind, but Mr. Hunter in his research into the person and period of Robin Hood holds that he was born between 1285 and 1295, living through the reign of the second Edward and into the early years of the third. He was of a family of some station seated near Wakefield, and supported the Earl of Lancaster in his rebellion against the government. When the earl fell and his followers were proscribed Robin Hood took to the woods and supported himself by slaying the wild animals found in the forest and by levying a species of blackmail on passengers along the great road which united London and Berwick. This continued for about twenty months, from April, 1322, to December, 1323, when he fell into the King's power, who for some unknown reason not only pardoned him but gave him a place at court. Anyhow, a man of the name of Robin Hode was a "vassal" of the king in 1324.

Dr. Spencer T. Hall says that Robin was created Earl of Huntington by a London ballad writer hard up for a word to rhyme to Little John. Be this as it may, Robin Hood will always be the hero of romance and those who love romance will refuse to believe that he never existed.

## AMONG THOSE PRESENT WAS MR. WILLIAM GOAT.



A big goat butted in on a dance given in the school house at Annapolis, California, the other night and for the time being held the fort successfully. The dancers scattered when Billy dashed in through the open door. The goat cut a wide swath. The musicians forgot themselves and the music ceased very suddenly. Then it was a case of grab without a waltz. The ladies and children took refuge on the benches and tables, spread for the refreshments. Even men's courage quailed before the intrusion of the butter. The goat seemed to pay particular attention to the leader of the orchestra. The animal charged, horns down, at him. The music stand vanished; so did the musicians. And the butting the piano got put it all out of tune. Finally the goat was ejected and the dance resumed.

Still Safe.  
Hicks—You were dreadfully indiscreet to mention that important deal of ours to your wife.  
Wicks—Oh, it's all right. I didn't tell her it was a secret.—Boston Transcript.