

THREE YEARS OLD.

What is it like, I wonder, to roam
Down through the tall grass hidden quite?
To feel very far away from home
When the dear home is out of sight?

To want to play with the broken moon
In the star garden of the skies?
To sleep through twilight eyes of June
Beneath the sound of lullabys?

To hold up harts for all to see?
Sob at imaginary harms?
To sleep in welcome a father's knee
And fit so well to a mother's arms?

To have him bonded by one dull road,
A wood and a pond, and to feel no lack?
To gaze with pleasure upon a road
And carouse a trout turtle's horny back?

To follow the robin's cheerful hop,
With all the soft small hands can hold,
And coaxingly entreat it to stop
What is it like to be three years old?

Ah! once I knew, but 'twas long ago—
I try to recall it in vain, in vain!
And now I know I shall never know
What it is to be a child again.
—Elizabeth Wetherald in Youth's Companion.

MARKED IN BLOOD.

On Sept. 17 the inspector of police at the Kennington Road police station was preparing to go home, it being 8 a. m. and his night duty over, when he was stopped by an elderly woman, who rushed into the room and cried:

"Oh, do send some one, sir, to 118 Wernham road. My poor old master's been cruelly murdered. He's lying in his room in a pool of blood like a river. It must have been done in the night. Do come at once, sir."

On the way to Wernham road the inspector questioned the housekeeper.

"Who sleeps in the house besides yourself and the old gentleman?" he asked.

"Not a blessed soul, sir," cried Mrs. Masters. "Only me and my poor old master. Such a nice, regular man as he was, comin' once every night to 'is tea and always in bed by 10 o'clock. Oh, it's a cruel thing!"

"Did any one visit him last night that you know of?" asked the inspector.

"Not that I know of, sir, but to tell you the truth I was in bed myself early last night, 'avin a bad attack of 'eadache. The old gentleman always let 'imself in with 'is latchkey, as he naturally would. He come to bed after I was asleep, for I never 'eard 'im come in."

"His supper was always laid out ready for 'im in the dining room, and he wouldn't wait no waitin' on, so there was nothin' wrong in my bein' off to bed as I did, 'avin, as I said, a bad 'eadache, which, as you may know, sir, are very unpleasant, to say the least of them, and"—

"Was the supper eaten?" said the inspector, interrupting the woman's eloquence.

"Well, sir, to say the truth, I've not thought of lookin'. Directly I see 'im a-lyin' there I off to the station as 'ard as I can go. I can't sleep in the place tonight. That I can't."

By this time they had reached the house and went upstairs. The inspector and his man went in and locked the door behind them. A knock was heard at the door.

"Can I come in?" said Mrs. Masters.

"Certainly," replied the inspector.

"Open the door, Jenkins. We shall wait here no doubt."

"Poor, dear man!" cried the lady again when she saw the body of the old man. "The monsters!" She burst into tears.

"You had better go for a surgeon," said Mr. Bevis to the constable. "He ought to see the body as soon as possible, as we shall wait his report on it."

While the man was gone the inspector, accompanied by Mrs. Masters, visited every room in the house. Everything was orderly and unaltered.

The assassin must have left the place by the ordinary means of egress, for all the windows were locked. The front door, Mrs. Masters told the inspector, would no doubt have been unbolting in any case, for Mr. Mayne (her master, the man who lay dead) never bolted it if he let himself in, leaving her to do so.

They reached the dining room and found that the supper had been eaten. The bottle of ale was finished, there remaining only a small portion in the tumbler. The old man had evidently made a hearty meal and gone to his room.

The constable returned in half an hour with a divisional surgeon, Mr. Brooks. That gentleman made a minute examination of the corpse and said that the cause of death was a knife wound in one of the veins of the thigh.

The old man must have bled to death, and the process of dying must have been prolonged. He should have had an opportunity of calling for help. Mrs. Masters was certain, however, that he had not done so.

"I'm a light sleeper, gentlemen," she said, addressing the three men, "and the slightest thing wakes me. If he'd called out at the door, I must have heard 'im. It's a certainty."

"Quite so," said the surgeon. "I have no doubt, my good woman, that you are not at all to blame, but we shall, of course, go further into the thing at the inquest. At present there seems nothing to show by whose hand the old man died."

"What's that book doing there?" said the inspector abruptly, pointing to a dictionary which lay close to the old man. It was not beside him, but on a chair just above his head.

"A dictionary, apparently," said the surgeon, glancing at it. "By Jove!" he cried suddenly as he turned over the leaves. "What's this? Every now and then I come to a word against which there is a mark in blood. This is strange."

"Is it blood or red ink, sir?" asked Mrs. Masters. "I know my poor old master used to study a good deal, and it's just possible he had been marking words down in that book which he might want to look up again."

"There's no mistaking—it's blood."

FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

A WONDERFUL MEMORY.

A Little Girl Who Never Forgets Anything She Sees or Hears.

One little girl in San Francisco has no trouble to remember her lessons, and she has tremendously long lessons and hard lessons, too, for a little girl—huge numbers way up in the millions and queer names with lots of syllables and just awful to pronounce. Yet she does not have to study at all, and in the daytime she goes to the park or to Oakland or plays with dolls or with other children.

This little girl, who remembers what is told her only once, is helping to support her father and mother, who are very poor, and yet she is only 4 years and 3 months old. These poor parents are farming people, living in the little town of Mount Vernon, Ill. Of course when little Gertrude Cochran was born her mother and father were sure that she would be the brightest and proudest baby that had ever come to the home of fond parents, but when the little one began at 7 months old to lip words and sentences they were enthusiastic, for who ever before heard of a baby beginning to speak when only 7 months old? When the child was a year old, her mother noticed that she repeated words and sentences that were said in her hearing and could remember for days and weeks and months the things that she had heard.

As little Gertrude Cochran grew older her speech became plainer; her memory also gained. She could repeat long sentences and big numbers. Her mother found that the child could store away anything she heard and repeat it when asked, though the words she repeated could not possibly convey any impression to her intellect.

The mother saw in this unusual gift a way to add to the scanty income of the family, and last year she took her to the county fair in the neighborhood of her residence and also to the town in the vicinity and had her stand among a crowd of people and answer questions. Then the mother would take up a collection from the people who listened to the big answers piped so readily from the little lips.

One day a man who had been in the theatrical business for years happened to stand on a street corner in one of the little towns near Mount Vernon and to hear the child answering the questions.

"Here's a find," said the theatrical man, whose name is Cook in the language that theatrical men use, and he made a contract by which little Gertrude was to travel with him all over the country and show to big audiences her remarkable memory. Ever since last Christmas the child has been on the stage, answering all kind of questions that mean nothing to her, except that she has been told some words to say when certain words are said to her. The everyday events of life remain as steadfast in her memory as the statistics and the names she repeats when before an audience. She has been on the stage for seven months and can tell every theater in which she appeared and the name of every man and woman she met at each one of the theaters.—San Francisco Chronicle.



A Boy General.

Among the numerous titles borne by the 8-year-old monarch of Spain, which comprise, by the by, the shadowy dignity of king of Jerusalem, is that of major general, and his most Catholic majesty has a military uniform adorned with the gold lace and insignia of that rank, which he is very fond of wearing. His youth and diminutive stature are, however, calculated to deter him for some time to come from following the example of his brother sovereign, Emperor William, who spends the major part of his existence in drilling and reviewing the various regiments of his army. Nevertheless to foster and develop that taste for soldiering which is no inborn in every child, no matter whether of royal, noble or plebeian birth, the Spaniards have now provided their young ruler with a costly toy in the shape of a complete regiment of infantry—and infantry in more senses than one, for there is not a soldier to be taken out an officer whose age exceeds 8, while most of them are between 6 and 7 years old. They are 600 in number and are recruited from every class of society at San Sebastian, from the home of General Polavieja, the governor of the province, down to the children of day laborers and of the stereotyped of the port.



Rev. C. W. Clapham.

A highly esteemed clergyman of the M. E. church, pastor of the Church Creek circuit in Dorchester Co., Maryland, writes: "C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.:" "I feel it a duty to the public to send this certificate. I saw in a Philadelphia paper a letter from a man who had suffered from Muscular Rheumatism and had been restored by the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla. I had the grip in the winter of '91 and '92 so severely that it deprived me of the use of my arms so that my wife had to dress and undress me, and when away from home I had to sleep in my clothes. I tried five doctors and not one accomplished anything. Then I saw the letter alluded to and determined to try Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Hood's. Before I had taken one bottle I had the use of my arms, thank God. These are facts and can be verified by many persons here. J. M. Colston, Church Creek, supplied me with Hood's. I am pastor of the M. E. church here." C. W. CLAPHAM, Church Creek, Maryland.

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