

Little Men & Little Women



Our Letter Box.

FLUFFY'S DILEMMA.

Dear Little Men and Little Women: We have a Maltese kitten named Fluffy, which is always up to tricks. Fluffy is fond of playing on a back porch. A large drain pipe connected with the sewer carries from this porch. In some way the kitten must have jumped down this pipe. For hours we heard her pitiful mew, but could find no trace of her. Every time we called she would answer. Finally, at midnight, she was located in the cellar, having forced herself down that far toward the sewer. Praying that it would not rain that night, we went to bed, and early in the morning sent for a plumber, who succeeded in extricating her. She did not seem much hurt, but was very subdued for the rest of the day, begging every one she saw to take her up and pet her.

Her father, a gray and white cat, called Sherry, has the reputation of being one of the worst fighters in the city of Yonkers. It is to be hoped that this kitten will not take after him.

ESTELLE M. WOLFF (aged 13).
No. 19 Lamartine Terrace, Yonkers.

PLAYING HOSPITAL.

Dear Little Men and Little Women: I want to tell you about a funny accident that happened to my friend Joan and me last summer. One hot day we decided to play "hospital." So Joan lay in the hammock while I bandaged her legs with some nice leaves which I found near by. Then when her broken leg had mended I developed a broken arm which needed instant attention, so Joan bound it up with more of the same kind of leaves. We played all the afternoon and had great fun. But the next day we didn't have fun, for our arms and legs were covered with poison ivy, and a friend told us that the lovely leaves we had used to play with were those of the poison ivy vine.

It took us fully a week to recover, and I can assure you that we didn't play "hospital" again for many a long day.

BETTY WHITE (aged 19).
No. 25 West 112th street, New York City.

A WISE BIRD.

Dear Little Men and Little Women: Perhaps you would like to hear about my parrot, Laura. She is a beautiful gray and red one, with very light gray feathers under her wings. I am afraid if I told you her age you would doubt it, but perhaps you would not, so I shall tell it. She is thirty-five years old. Laura came from Germany many years ago, but she can still speak German very well. She is fond of fruit and even eats candy, though her favorite foods, outside of her seed and coffee, are eggs and buttered bread. Laura whistles and sings to perfection, and many times we race up and down the scales, she generally coming out ahead. Often she whistles or calls to the boys and girls I play with, and they, thinking it is I, look up and down the street for me. I must also say that Laura loves to roam around the house, climbing up the stairs and walking along the banister.

ALLIENE H. DORETHY (aged 13).
No. 82 Arlington avenue, Jersey City.

AN AFFECTIONATE PONY.

Dear Little Men and Little Women: When I was quite a little girl we lived near Cape Town, South Africa. While we were there my brother was given a little brown and white Shetland pony which was never shod, and a pony cart. We petted the pony a great deal. One day when Frisk, as the pony was called, was standing outside the station a lady who didn't know him went up and patted and stroked him and gave him some grass. All of a sudden Frisk reared up and, placing his fore feet on her shoulders, rubbed her face gently with his little nose, as if he were kissing her. She was a good deal frightened at first, but he soon got down without hurting her.

PAUL E. QUIRIN (aged 13).
Nassau, Rensselaer County, N. Y.

One day Frisk was standing outside the door while the cart was being loaded with trunks. He was left alone for a few minutes, and when we returned he was racing down the road. Frisk, cart and all, jumped a sunken fence and went careening off. Fortunately, before he had gone far he was caught and brought back.

AMY JENNINGS (aged 12).
Park Cottage, Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.

MISCHIEVOUS KITTY.

Dear Little Men and Little Women: I must tell you about our mischievous cat. One day while trying to squeeze through the bars of the bed she stuck fast and could neither turn back nor go on. There she was, and it looked as if she would stay there for a while. However, we set to work, and with two helping very soon had her free. She scampered downstairs and didn't show herself all day. She was lucky to escape without being hurt and receiving only a fright.

You would think this would cure her, but no. She needed another lesson. A week after this adventure she sprang upon the table and, seeing some milk in the pitcher, thrust her head in, and in her eagerness pushed it in too far. Poor kitty, in her frantic struggles to free herself, broke the pitcher in two. The bottom part fell over and spilled the milk. The mouth of the pitcher stuck on her head in spite of all her efforts to pull it off with her paw. We again had to rescue kitty from her predicament. One of us took a hammer and cracked the pitcher, while the other held her head to prevent her struggles.

This lesson has proved to have lasting effect, for she has not committed any of her mischievous pranks for a long time. Yours sincerely,

EDNA THORNTON (aged 12).
No. 58 23d street, Flushing, N. Y.

MAKING MAPLE SUGAR.

Dear Little Men and Little Women: I thought you might be interested in hearing how people make maple sugar in Vermont. The first thing they do is to gather up a lot of buckets and small wooden spouts. They go around to all the maple trees and bore a small hole in each, about three feet from the ground. Then they insert a spout and hang a bucket under it on a nail. If the night is cold and frosty and the next day is warm and sunny sap will run well. When the buckets are full of sap the men take a sled, with a large barrel on it, and go around and empty the sap from the buckets. Then they drive back to the sugar house and empty the barrel into another one, from which the sap runs into an evaporator. The evaporator is a long, shallow tin vessel. They build a huge fire under this with brushwood, which keeps the sap boiling merrily until it turns into syrup. The quicker the sap boils the whiter the sugar will be. The syrup is then taken to the farmhouse and boiled down until it begins to "grain." Then it is poured into tin moulds. When it is cold the maple sugar is then packed into boxes and sold to city folks. Yours truly,

RHETTE RAMSDELL (aged 12).
Guilford Centre, Vt.

A BANTAM DOES STUNTS.

Dear Little Men and Little Women: I live in the country, near Albany, and have a few bantams. Last year I raised twelve little chickens; two of them, for some reason, did not grow large like the rest, and when the mother hen covered her chicks up at night these little ones would get pushed out from under her, and I had to put them back again. I have one of them yet, and call her Emma. When I go out to feed my chickens Emma flies up in the corn and eats from it. If I sit down on our back steps and call her, she comes and eats from my hand. I can hold her, lying on her side, or any way, in my hand, and she will not move. She lies so still sometimes I think she is dead. She is a Buff Cockin bantam and lays a small egg every other day.

PAUL E. QUIRIN (aged 13).
Nassau, Rensselaer County, N. Y.



LITTLE MISS LIBERTY.

How to Win a Prize.

Contest No. 1 (Hidden Proverb).—Choice of a boy's Tribune watch, a sterling silver Tribune badge, an embroidery set, an interesting book, a box of water color paints, an imitation ivory paper cutter or a leather cardcase for the neatest and best three answers.

Contest No. 2 (Things to Think About).—Choice of an interesting book, an embroidery set, a boy's Tribune watch, a leather pencil pocket, a box of dainty notepaper, a sterling silver Tribune badge or a box of water color paints for the neatest and best two solutions.

Contest No. 3 (Drawing entitled "See-saw").—Choice of a box of dainty notepaper, an interesting book, a sterling silver Tribune badge, a leather cardcase, an imitation ivory paper cutter, or a leather pencil pocket for the neatest and best two original drawings. These drawings must be in black ink on white paper.

Contest No. 4 (Our Letter Box).—A prize of \$1 will be given for every letter printed under this heading. The letter may contain incidents in your life, anecdotes of pets, novel school experiences or things seen in travel. These stories must be original and must be written on one side of the paper only.

Be sure to state your age.
Be sure to give your choice of prizes.
Be sure to give your name and address.
Contest closes on July 2. Age is considered in awarding prizes. Address your answers and letters to Little Men and Little Women, The New-York Tribune, New York.

Things to Think About.

MISSING RHYMES.
While the sun shines make your —
So the proverb old do —
Something you should say —
Lest there come a rainy —
Listen, all ye young and —
To my moralizing —

ADDITION OF FRACTIONS.
1. Add five-ninths of a melodrama and one-fourth of a play and get a musical air.
2. Add three-sevenths of a failure and two-fifths of a story and get an imaginary diminutive being in human form.
3. Add two-thirds of a sum, one-fourth of nine, one-half of beauty and one-fifth of music and get something that often comes in at your window in the morning and wakens you.
4. Add one-third of a myriad, one-half of a star, one-half of a fern, and one-third of joy and get something that is above human intelligence.
5. Add three-fifths of folly, one-sixth of wisdom and three-fourths of a sage and get leaves.
6. Add one-half of a dime, three-fourths of more, and one-fourth of many and get the power of recollecting past events or ideas.
7. Add one-half of a ship, one-half of a scow and one-fourth of a schooner and get a fall of rain of short duration.
8. Add three-fourths of a twig, one-fourth of a leaf and four-fifths of eight and get the time between daylight and dark.
9. Add three-sevenths of a marshal and four-fifths of a miner and get a sailor.
10. Add one-third of a jar, two-thirds of a tub, three-fourths of a tile and one-third of a bee and get a season of public festivity and joy.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.
Thrush, rush, hush, tush, push, gush, mush.
L I M P
I D E A
M E S S
P A S S I N G
I D E A
N E A T
G A T E

LAST WEEK'S PRIZE WINNERS.
Vacation Puzzle.—After taking out all duplicates and words not connected with the picture, we find the longest and neatest list of leather articles was sent by Emma Bennett, aged eleven years, No. 28 Allen street, Buffalo. This list, which is printed below, originally contained eighteen words, but was cut down to nine words. For her work Miss Emma will receive a pearl bead necklace. The other two prize winners and their prizes are Elizabeth Kellogg, aged nine years, No. 14 Buckingham street, Waterbury, Conn. (eight words), an embroidery set, and Raymond Ford, aged nine years, No. 92 Kaplan avenue, Jamaica, N. Y. (eight words), a boy's Tribune watch. These lists originally contained nine and eight words, respectively. Suitcase, glove, strap, dog collar, belt, shoe, slipper, necktie, dog skin (hide).
Things to Think About.—The two prize winners and their prizes in this contest are: Eleanor Beach, aged ten years, Milford, Conn., a box of water-color paints; Richard S. Barthelmeis, aged twelve years, No. 329 West 57th street, New York City, a boy's Tribune watch.
Drawings entitled "Trouble in Frogland."—For prize winners see drawings reproduced on this page.
Our Letter Box.—See letters by prize winners.

ABOUT TOADS.

By the Rev. Theodore Wood.

Toads are so plentiful in all parts of the country that everybody knows them very well by sight. During the daytime you may find them hiding under logs of wood or big stones, or in some dampy corner of the garden. And you can hardly take an evening stroll without seeing several of them crawling about in the roads. But it is not everybody who knows what curious creatures they are.

For one thing, they have such very odd tongues. Our tongues have the root down the throat and the tip just behind the lips. But a toad's tongue is turned the other way round; and has the root just inside the lips and the tip down the throat. Besides this, it is very long and very elastic, so that it can be darted out of the mouth to a really wonderful distance, while it is quite as sticky as if it had been dipped in gum. The toad uses this tongue in a very odd way, for by means of it he catches flies. If you keep a toad as a pet and put a fly into his cage he will not seem to take any notice of the insect at all. You would think that inside the lips and the tip down the throat. Besides this, it is very long and very elastic, so that it can be darted out of the mouth to a really wonderful distance, while it is quite as sticky as if it had been dipped in gum. The toad uses this tongue in a very odd way, for by means of it he catches flies. 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