

Deeper meaning of myths and should enjoy translations of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

Dickens should also be read now, if the child chooses him as a favorite author. Dickens is not an acquired taste, and the impression made by the reading of his Christmas tales earlier will shadow the later choice.

Charles Lamb's "Essay on Roast Pig" should also be read. Jules Verne is an interesting writer and the books by J. T. Trowbridge are also suggested.

**Poetry.**

- "Rhymes of Childhood," James Whitcomb Riley.
- "Vision of Sir Launfal," Lowell.
- The poems of Longfellow and Whittier.
- "Lays of Ancient Rome," T. B. Macaulay.
- "Lays of the Last Minstrel," "Marmion" and "Lady of the Lake," Sir Walter Scott.
- "The Blue Poetry Book," Andrew Lang.
- "Selected Poems of Browning," edited by William J. Rolfe.

**Books for Older Readers.**

- "Lorna Doone," R. D. Blackmore.
- "Ramona," Helen Hunt Jackson.
- "Last Days of Pompeii" and "Rienzi," Bulwer-Lytton.
- "Romola," "Silas Marner" and "The Mill on the Floss," George Eliot.
- "Uarda," Georg Ebers.
- "Faust," Goethe.
- "Hypatia," Charles Kingsley.
- "Picciola," Xavier B. Saintine.
- "Zenobia" and "Aurelian," Ware.
- "The Marble Faun" and "The House of Seven Gables," Nathaniel Hawthorne.
- "Hugh Wynne," S. Weir Mitchell.
- "Two College Girls," H. D. Brown.
- "Myths and Myth Makers," John Fiske.
- "Curious Myths of the Middle Ages," S. Baring-Gould.
- "Little Journeys," Elbert Hubbard.
- "Sir Roger de Coverly," Thomas Addison.
- "For Love of Country" and "For the Freedom of the Sea," Cyrus Townsend Brady.

**COAL AND GOLD DEPOSITS.**

News has reached Antwerp of the success of a Norwegian commercial expedition to Spitzbergen. At this northerly point very rich gold mines have been discovered and the explorers have brought back fossils of ferns, tropical plants and fruits. It is reported that the coal deposit is very rich.

**CHIEF OF PENOBSCOT TRIBE.**

The remnant of the once great Penobscot tribe of Indians now living on an island near Oldtown, Me., have their own form of government. At their recent election they chose a prohibitionist named Mitchell Attean, by a vote of 25 to 23.

**NEW USE FOR SUNFLOWERS.**

Houses which are damp because of proximity to undrained land may be rendered more habitable by planting the laurel and the sunflower near them.

**King Gum Picker of Maine.**

EZRA BOBAR, the king gum picker of Maine, has camped all winter on Porgie brook, and when he comes to town this spring he will have bags and bags of amber lumps to swap for the dollars of the druggists, who always pay the highest prices for the best gum. The life of a gum picker, without doubt, is the most lonely that a man can lead. The men go into the woods in October, and they make a study of spruce growth. They have an odd outfit, consisting generally of several poles and knives, a pair or two of snowshoes, a small dog, a couple of blankets and a pair of "climbers," like those used by telegraph linemen. The gum pickers travel alone, and have secrets like gold hunters. They follow the wake of the old cyclones and whirlwinds that have left long furrows in the wilderness, and as long as they can track the course by the gum that forms on trees wounded the previous season they follow it along. Sometimes a gum hunter finds that his pathway has been intercepted by another hunter, who had discovered the lead, and a new plan of campaign must be resorted to. The veteran gum hunter has made his occupation a life study, and has reduced the work to a science. He can go up a tree like a cat, and skin it bare of gum, from stump to top, while the logger would be getting ready to climb. A professional gum hunter can make from \$5 to \$8 a day when he strikes a really good gum country. When he gets into a good place he keeps very quiet about it until he has gathered the last lump in sight. He makes from \$400 to \$800 in a season, and he earns every cent of it by hard, lonely work.

**New York State a Hundred Years Ago.**

FIRST state constitution adopted 1777. Albany made state capital, 1797. By 1797 Indians had sold or given away all the land. To-day about 5,000 Indians live in southwestern New York. Most of the settlers came from New England. The English land office sold 6,000,000 acres for 18 cents an acre. In 1800 New York had fewer people than Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania or North Carolina. Buffalo was a village; Syracuse was a farming hamlet, and Rochester was an uninhabited forest. Central and western New York were wildernesses. Only three newspapers in the state. Albany, the state capital, was settled by the Dutch in 1688. Feudal privileges granted to Killian Van Rensselaer by Dutch West India company in 1629 not abolished until 1787. Incorporated as a village on April 9, 1804. Utica incorporated as a village April 8, 1798, as a city Feb. 13, 1832. In 1787 there were three log huts there. Poughkeepsie incorporated as a village March 27, 1799, as a city March 23, 1854. Baltus Van Kleeck built first house there in 1702.

**Results from the Study of Earthquakes.**

PROFESSOR JOHN MILNE says that upon knowledge derived from the scientific study of earthquakes new rules and formulae for engineers and builders have been established, and these principles have been widely applied in Japan and other countries, thereby minimizing the loss of life and property. Such studies have also been of practical use in the working of rail-

ways, especially in Japan, by localizing faults in the rocks and suggesting alterations in the balancing of locomotives. Another advantage gained relates to ocean cables, as it has become possible to indicate parts of the sea bottom that should be avoided in laying such cables.

**The Stars Are in the Sky All Day.**

THE stars are in the sky all day; Each linked coil of Milky Way, And every planet that we know, Behind the sun is circling slow. They sweep, they climb with stately tread,— Venus the fair and Mars the red, Saturn engirdled with clear light, And Jupiter with moons of white.

There are they all day long; but we, Sunblinded, have no eyes to see. The stars are in the sky all day; But when the sun has gone away, And hovering shadows cool the west, And call the sleepy birds to rest, And heaven grows softly dim and dun, Into the darkness one by one Steal forth those starry shapes all fair— We say steal forth, but they were there, There all day long, unseen, unguessed, Climbing the sky from east to west.

I wonder if the earth is full Of other secrets beautiful, As little guessed, as hard to see, As the sweet starry mystery? Do angels veil themselves in space, And make the sun their hiding place? Do white wings flash as spirits go On heavenly errands to and fro, While we, down-looking, never guess, How near our lives they crowd and press? If so, at life's sunset we may see Into the dusk steal noiselessly Sweet faces that we used to know, Dear eyes like stars that softly glow, Dear hands stretched out to point the way, And dream the night more fair than day.

—Susan Coolidge.

**THE HAWKEYE STATE.**

Iowa gets its name of the "hawkeye state" from the celebrated Indian warrior Hawkeye, who, in early times, gave the people along the western border no small amount of trouble.

**A NOVEL SIGN USED IN MEXICO.**

A newspaper or sheet of paper tied on a window or balcony of a dwelling house in Mexico indicates that there are rooms to let in the house.



THE latter part of last week Mrs. McKinley was so ill that death was expected at any moment, but she rallied in a surprising manner, and is so far on the road to her usual state of health that it is expected the presidential train will start for Washington the first of the coming week at the very latest. A great many of the events planned in honor of the president on the coast were given up during the first few days of Mrs. McKinley's illness, but several of the later ones were carried out.

The launching of the new battleship Ohio, which was the one event which took the president to California, occurred Saturday, May 18. The president was in constant telegraphic communication with the Scott residence, where Mrs. McKinley was stopping, so that at the slightest change in her condition he could be at once notified. Mrs. McKinley was to have touched the electric button which started the ship down the ways, but this duty was relegated to her favorite niece, Miss Barber, instead. Miss Helen Deshler of Ohio, a relative of Governor Nash of Ohio, christened the ship.

Mrs. Lyman J. Gage, wife of the secretary of the treasury, died in Washington May 17, after an illness of nine weeks. To add to the family afflictions in the cabinet, Miss Helen Long, daughter of the secretary of the navy, is critically ill at Denver and her father expected to be called from the president's party at any time before the festivities on the coast were carried out. He left early in the week, immediately following the launching of the Ohio.

The street car strike at Albany was brought to a close Saturday, May 18. While the strikers accepted the terms, they were not exactly what they had hoped for. The stern and business-like attitude of the militia and the several fatalities resulting from collisions with them, had much to do with the speedy ending of what threatened to be a very serious matter. The strike was an expensive affair, Albany county having to pay \$45,000 for the presence of the guardsmen, and the loss in business to the railroad company amounting to at least \$48,000 more. In addition, there are other incidental expenses which will bring the total up to more than \$110,000.

West Point has been in the throes of a small mutiny on the part of several classes of cadets. The charge was that Colonel Mills, the commandant, was unduly harsh. The war department stood by Colonel Mills, however, and decisive punishment was meted out to the ringleaders. Five cadets were dismissed from the academy, six more suspended for one year and about one hundred others, known to be in sympathy, have been deprived of certain privileges for a long time. It is claimed by those high in authority that this action will mean no more hazing at the academy.

Shamrock II., the cup challenger, was so badly disabled in a trial race on May 22 that Sir Thomas Lipton was forced to ask the New York Yacht Club to postpone the races this fall for several weeks, in order that he might get his boat into racing shape. King Edward was aboard the Shamrock II. when the sudden squall struck the ship and broke her masts, and very narrowly escaped injury, as he was only half way down the stairs leading from the deck. Sir Thomas Lipton was momentarily stunned by a falling wire and several of the sailors were carried into the water with the rigging, but there were no fatalities and no serious injuries.

The Pan-American exposition at Buffalo was formally opened on May 18. The gates have been open since the first of the

month, but owing to the late snows of April the work was so delayed that the formal opening did not occur until nearly three weeks later than was intended.

The powers all seem so unanimous in the decision that the integrity of China must not be impaired that the government at Washington has proposed that after the withdrawal of the powers from China they enter into a special agreement not to seize any territory in case the regular Chinese government finds itself unable to meet the demands of the indemnity. To carry out this provision, it is suggested that an international board of financiers be appointed, which shall periodically collect the amount of money which the foreign ministers at Peking say that China is able to pay. Should the Chinese government fail to pay the amount due, then each power shall lose in proportion to the amount of bonds it has received.

The committee having charge of the quadrennial Olympian games met at Paris recently and selected Chicago as the place for holding the contests in 1904. Greeks are dissatisfied with this decision, because ever since Corebus won his great footrace at the athletic contests in 776 B. C., the Olympian games have been held only in Greece, until last year, when they were transferred to Paris because of the world's fair. It is now said that Greece will hold Olympian games at Athens in 1904 also, and will endeavor to draw contestants and spectators away from Chicago.

The new directory of Chicago places the population for 1901 at approximately 2,074,000. This is 64,000 more than in 1900, and about 400,000 greater than the census returns. The directory estimate, however, is considered to be nearer correct.

The long threatened strike of machinists went into effect Monday morning, May 20, and fully 40,000 are now out. The strike was ordered because employers refused to reduce the length of the working day to nine hours and increase wages 12 1/2 per cent. The strike order affects machinists all over the country.

The long-talked-of transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States is said to be at last almost accomplished. The treaty has not yet been signed by the representatives of the two governments, but the negotiations have proceeded to such a point that there is little doubt of their success. The treaty will not, however, be signed until fall, and it will then be submitted to the senate immediately after congress assemblies, for ratification.

Reports of the season's gold output in the Klondike estimate a grand total of \$40,000,000. Five Creeks, Eldorado, Bonanza, Dominion, Sulphur and Last Chance will alone produce \$25,000,000. Pneumonia is said to be very prevalent at Dawson, the deaths averaging at least five a week.

The new storage battery which Thomas A. Edison invented and which he has been thoroughly testing for the past two years, is said to be a complete success. The claims which Mr. Edison makes for it as a result of these tests are that there is absence of deterioration by work, large storage capacity, capability of being rapidly charged and discharged, inexpensiveness and capability of withstanding careless treatment.

The young king of Spain recently took part for the first time in the grand maneuvers of the Madrid garrison. He appeared on horseback and was escorted by General Weyler of Cuban fame, who is now the Spanish minister of war, and General Molto, cap-

tain general of Madrid. It was a very great occasion, and all Madrid attended the camp to witness the military display.

The total eclipse of the sun which was observable only in certain parts of the East Indies was quite successfully observed by the astronomers who journeyed to the far east to see it. Several pictures were taken of the corona, but the photographs with the prismatic camera and measurements for the polarization of light and the heat radiation of the corona were not successful.

The Sac and Fox tribe of Indians living in Iowa has finally come to a satisfactory understanding with the United States government. For the past year they have been in a decidedly rebellious attitude. These Indians are situated a little differently from the average tribe, because they seceded from the original band, gave up their annuities from the government and bought about 3,000 acres of land near their old home. There are claims against the government by some of the Indians which date back many years, and the trouble reached such an acute stage that a delegation of the chiefs visited Washington last winter. These claims for annuities long due have been paid, but some of the old chiefs still refuse to accept the settlement or to give up living in teepees, wearing the blanket or to send their children to the schools provided by the government.

Ohio was visited by quite a severe earthquake on May 17. The first disturbance was sufficient to awaken people and it was followed by two hard, convulsive tremors of the earth that displaced furniture in many houses.

Fire broke out in the apartments of the crown princess of Denmark in the historic Amalienborg palace at Copenhagen on May 16. The crown prince acted as chief of the improvised fire department and succeeded in confining the fire to these departments. His hand was slightly burned in tearing down some blizing curtains, but there were no other injuries to him nor to his attendants.

Governor General Allen of Porto Rico has made his first annual report to the president. He favors a scheme of colonial government for the islands similar to that found in the Danish, French and English West Indies, and believes that under such a system Porto Rico would develop much more rapidly. Governor Allen says very truly, however, that where a man can lie in a hammock and pick a banana with one hand and dig a potato with his foot there is little incentive to work for his daily bread.

Venezuela is having trouble with France now over the proposed renewal of diplomatic relations. France proposed that the French claims amounting to four billion dollars be arbitrated. Venezuela offers to pay \$900,000 cash without arbitration as a final settlement, and there the matter stands.

The sultan finds that he was a little too rash in his recent action suppressing the foreign postoffices, and his minister for foreign affairs has intimated to the representatives of the powers that Turkey would like to re-establish the former relations regarding these offices. The ambassadors have met to consider their action in case of the complete submission of the sultan.

The customs authorities of Turkey have taken a decided stand against the importation of typewriters. They say that there is such a uniformity in typewritten letters that there is no way of tracing authors of any seditious matter which may be gotten out on a typewriter. Hektographic paste and fluid are prohibited for similar reasons.