

in a cake instead of cream of tartar, scrubbing the floor with powdered sugar instead of washing soda and making several such blunders I decided it was more fun gathering stones, even if it was a bother to keep them dusted. So I set to work to gather more and now I have enough to make up for the ones I threw away.

Eighth Grade,  
Fort Benton School.

—Eva Russell,  
Fort Benton, Mont.

**GOING A-MILKING, SIR.**

One day while at my grand-parents', I made up my mind I would learn to milk. That evening about six o'clock I went down cellar, took a milk pail, then I went out to the barn, found an old pair of overalls and slipped them on. From there I proceeded to the cowbarn. In a little while I had the cows in the barn and tied them up, then seized a stool and the pail and began to milk. The first cow I sat down to chanced to be a noted kicker and I had no more than drawn one stream of milk when I was sent sprawling on the floor. I made up my mind I would not try to milk her any more so I seated myself near another. The only fault I had to find with her was she kept switching my face with her tail. I had read in a paper about tying a cow's tail to her leg, so I thought I would try it. I had begun to milk her again when she found out that she could not whisk her tail and kicked me over, spilling about a quart of milk. Just at this moment grandpa appeared with a switch in hand: I was then taken by the coat collar and marched into the house and you may guess what followed.

Sixth Grade.

—William Markham,  
Stewartville, Minn.

**AN IMPRESSIVE SCENE.**

"Now what shall I do?" I thought, as mama drove away to spend the afternoon in the country and much to my delight I was left alone. "I'll do it!" I exclaimed suddenly after a moment of deep thought. Reluctantly I arose and immediately set to work. First the dining-room and kitchen had to be swept and then with scrubbing brush, soap and water I began that dreadful trial—scrubbing. Pretty soon I glanced at the clock. Dear me! It was just an hour and not even half the floor scrubbed and mama was coming home for supper at six o'clock. I bravely attacked it again and had scrubbed one corner more of the floor when I heard the silvery bells of the clock chime five. "I guess I'll just wash up the rest," I thought, and I was just going to push the brush away when my foot slipped, knocking the pail of dirty water over my partly scrubbed floor, just as the door opened and mama appeared. Such a scene I could never forget. A dirty, soaking wet little girl, the woodwork dripping with water, a ruined rug and a half dirty and half clean floor flooded with water, but worst of all, mama standing in the doorway, frowning.

B Ninth Grade,  
South Side School.

—Alice Bergmann,  
St. James, Minn.

**THE CHICKENS ENJOYED THEM.**

It was wash day and mama was helping the clerk keep store while papa was away, the woman was out in the washroom and I was in the kitchen making doughnuts—my first attempt.

"What is the matter with these doughnuts?" the washwoman asked as I gave her one. "I guess you did not put any soda in them, did you?" No, I had not. So I sprinkled soda over the remaining doughnuts. I worked away and soon had a heap of nicely browned the rather flat-looking doughnuts with which to surprise mama when she returned. And she was surprised in more ways than one, but as she knew my intentions were good she quietly took the cakes and fed them to the chickens.

Tenth Grade.

—Matfie Crabtree,  
Norcross, Minn.

**QUEEN OF THE SUDS.**

One day when I was about six years old my mother, who was washing, went out to hang up the white clothes leaving some in the tub. Wishing to help her, I proceeded to put in more clothes, including a piece of red goods of my own, which I immediately started to rub. On coming into the room mother was shocked at seeing her clean white clothes soaking in red water. Uttering a cry she ran toward the tub, which frightened me so much that in some inexplicable way I upset the tub and all; thus receiving a severe reward for my good intentions.

Sixth Grade.

—Grace Coffey,  
Edinburg, N. D.

**A Singular Plural.**

In "Better Say," J. C. Fernard recalls the dispute of two friends as to whether "news" was singular or plural. They telegraphed to Horace Greeley the question: "Are there any news?"

Mr. Greeley promptly returned the answer: "Not a new."

**A FEW FALSE NOTIONS**

**Scientists Have Proven Some Popular Beliefs Concerning Animals Untrue.**

The mole is said to be deprived of eyes, which is untrue.

They are very small, which prevents them from being injured by the earth thru which it burrows. When not in use the eyes can be brought forward from the mass of fur which conceals and protects them.

Beavers do not use their tails for trowels, nor carry the mud and stones upon their tails, but between the chin and forepaws.

The tadpole's tail does not drop off, but develops into a part of the body.

The pelican does not feed her young from her own blood as is popularly supposed, but brings the food, which is always a fish, out of a pouch. To place it in the mouth of her young she presses the scarlet bill to her

tion that bats cannot rise easily from a level surface but must find some eminence from which to throw themselves. Any one will be convinced of the fallacy of this who puts a bat upon the floor.

It is generally believed that the bite of the cobra is fatal to all animals except the ichneumon or mongoose, but results have shown in a conclusive manner that it dies almost immediately after being bitten.

The legs are not shorter on one side of the body of a badger than on the other.

It is not the urine of the skunk that gives the offensive odor but a fetid fluid that is discharged from the base of the tail as occasion demands.

The llama has a curious habit of spitting at any one who annoys them, but the story that the saliva is poisonous is absurd.

The female bears, only, become forpid in winter.

The fabled mermaid is probably a walrus with its head out of water; in this position it resembles a human being and has a most unearthly and demonical appearance as it rears its head above the waves.

There is no truth in the statement that the Arab when in want of water kills his camel for the supply contained in its stomach. The accounts of camels going many days without water are greatly exaggerated. They may go three days, but not without suffering.

The jackal does not guide the lion to his prey, the swan's death song is not the sweetest; the cat does not have nine lives; the bee does not die if deprived of its stinger; the spider is not an insect; the caterpillar is not a worm; the earthworm does not rain down, and a horse-hair will not turn into a snake, that which resembles it is a hair worm.

The hoop snake, which is said to take the end of its tail in its mouth and roll over and over like a hoop, killing everything it touches with its venomous horns, is fiction.

That the breath of the blow snake is deadly, and that the English viper swallows its young, is also fiction.

The name guinea pig is a sad misnomer, as the animal is in no way related to a pig, or to Guinea; neither did the Norway rat come from Norway.

The word buffalo should not be applied to the animal that formerly roamed over our western plains. They were not buffalos, but bison. The true buffalo does not have the bushy head, but is surrounded by immense horns.

The "white ant" that builds such enormous nests is not an ant at all, but a termite.

Alligator and crocodile are not the same.

"Cowhide" whips are made of hippopotamus hide.

Goblets made of rhinoceros horn were once in high esteem as a preservative against poison. The Indian kings imagined that if any poison existed in their wine the liquid would boil over and betray its presence.

That which we call a grasshopper is a Rocky Mountain locust. The true grasshopper is very pale green, has thin wings and resembles the katydid.

Much has been said about the mouse being able to sing, but it is supposed that the "song" is caused by throat disease.

Large numbers of ladybirds are looked upon with superstitious dread, and the owl and raven are birds of evil omen without good reason.

It was formerly believed that an elephant's forelegs had no joints, and therefore he could not lie down, but inflexible as they are, he can lie down and occasionally does, also he sleeps standing, or leaning against some object. He does not draw his hind feet under him when he lies down. White elephants are made so by disease; it is not their natural color.

The whale is popularly spoken of as a fish, but it does not even resemble a fish, except in form. It is free from scales; its tail lies flat upon the water; its blood is warm; it breathes by means of lungs; it brings forth its young alive and suckles them.—Commercial Advertiser.

**Good Time Keepers, Too.**

The trolley cars were so new to Ferntown that they were still a delight to every citizen. One day a stranger whose watch had stopped accosted an old man lounging in a doorway on the principal street.

"Can you tell me what time it is?" she asked, politely.

"You see that corner up there?" asked the lounger, pointing up the road.

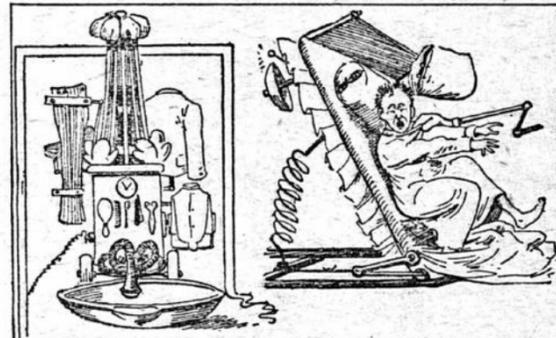
"Yes," said the lady wondering, "but perhaps I can find out without going so far.

"I didn't say anything about your going there," interrupted the old man, impatiently. "I asked you if you saw it. Well, if you stand right here you can't miss seeing the car when she comes round the corner, and then it'll be jest precisely to a dot seven minutes after six, ma'am."

Circus Manager—What's all that row in the dressing-room?

Attendant—Oh, the man who walks barefoot on swords has run a splinter in his foot.

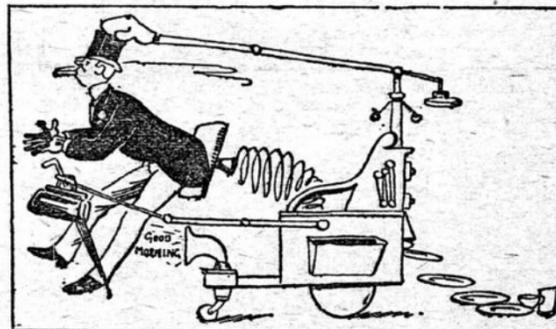
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breast, and against the white feathers it looks like a blood spot.

It is said that the lion is provided with a sharp spur on the end of its tail with which it lashes itself into a fury. It is an appendage of the skin only, and would fall off if used so harshly.

It is supposed that the snake, burrowing owl and prairie dog, being so frequently found in the same burrow, live together by mutual agreement. The snake and owl are intruders, and cannot be routed.

The story is erroneous that the bat of hot climates fans a sleeping person into a deeper sleep and applies its needle-pointed teeth into the toe, sucking the blood and disgorging the amount taken, filling and refilling itself until the patient expires. Neither is it true that bats are covered with bedbugs, nor that they will dive into the hair of bushy-topped individuals. There is a common no-

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