

the river, I took all my heavy clothes with me, but it did not snow a flake.
—Tom McSloy,
Seventh Grade.

THE EARLY CROPS.

Spring often plays "April fool" and a few years ago it fooled nearly all the people in our neighborhood. It was late in the spring and all the snow had been gone for a long time. The green grass was beginning to cover the ground and everybody thought that summer had commenced. Indeed, it had commenced, but was quickly interrupted by several snowstorms which made the ground look whiter than ever before. The farmers had already sown a large part of their grain and some of it was now above the ground. They expected to have to sow this over again as soon as the snow melted. It was not very long before all the snow was gone and the farmers were very much surprised to find that the grain which had been sown before the snow began to grow even better than that which was sown later. Then everybody declared that they had been caught by "Spring's April fool."
—Barney Peterson,
Tenth Grade.

A LATE SNOWFALL.

It was about the first of April, when warm weather commenced. The large snowdrifts melted and the water trickled off down the hillside. All the brooks, creeks and rills were flowing rapidly in their respective courses. But one morning, a few days later, produced a different sight. The creeks and brooks were no longer singing their merry songs; the rills on the hillside were no longer visible, and the air was dense with snowflakes. Driven as these flakes were, by a strong north wind, nightfall found huge heaps of snow everywhere. On account of this sudden change in the weather, it appeared like Spring's April fool.
—Sidney A. Perkins,
Ninth Grade.

THE EARLY SOWER.

Mr. Spring thought it time to sow his flowers and grass in the valleys and on the hillsides. He picked out one of the pretty fleecy clouds sailing in the sky and started on his journey northward. He had not gone far when he noticed that the snow was gone. He then made more haste than usual. When he had sown his grass and it was coming up, he thought that it was time to sow his mayflowers. He was very proud of his flowers. One day he dreamed that they were blooming. When he awoke he went to see, and found them frozen. When he looked around, he saw Mr. Winter laughing at him. Spring asked him why he had done it, but old Winter only laughed louder. Then Mr. Spring remembered that it was the first of April, and decided not to come so early the next year.
—Lillie Redin,
Seventh Grade.

WICKED OLD WINTER.

"Oh, dear!" said little Miss Spring, "I wonder when that old Mr. Winter will put away his store. I want to bring out my store and play." Mr. Winter heard this and said, "I'll just fool her, as it will soon be April Fool's Day," and he put away his store so she would come out. But Mr. Winter did not intend really to close his store yet, for little Miss Spring, who was always in such a hurry to come out and play. First Miss Spring brought out her new green carpet and spread it nicely. Then she brought out all the pretty birds and flowers, and how glad the children were! But old Mr. Winter was listening and watching all the time. When little Miss Spring had fixed her carpet the way she wanted it and put her flowers and birds in their places, Mr. Winter thought to himself, "Now is my chance!" So he took his shaker and shook out a thick layer of snow and said, "Ah, little Miss Spring, today is April Fool's Day, so here's a joke on you."
—Clara Rasmussen,
A Seventh Grade.

THE JESTING WIND.

The first day of April dawned warm and clear and a party of children prepared for a picnic. Clara put up the lunch, Minnie and Florence folded the napkins and arranged the knives and forks, for they insisted on taking them, and the four boys hitched up the horses. They soon reached their destination, which was a grove of trees. After the horses were unhitched and the baskets concealed, the children hunted for mayflowers. The one who found the first flower was to receive a prize of 25 cents. All the children hunted in vain for a mayflower. Suddenly Clara exclaimed, "How cold it is growing!" The others stopped their search and were also obliged to say it was becoming cold. Clara said they would better hasten back to the baskets, hitch up the team and go home, for by this time it was blowing a strong gale. In a few minutes everybody was ready to start home, but it was snowing. The children all cuddled under the robes but Henry, who was driving. The soft spring wind had changed to a wintry blast, and seemed to say as it howled thru the trees, "Spring's April fool."
—Maggie Russell,
A Sixth Grade.

QUITE A USUAL THING.

It was a beautiful day in early spring. The birds were singing gayly, the leaves were coming out on the trees and the grass was shooting up thru the earth. All this tempted me to take a walk. I had not put anything over my shoulders, thinking it too warm. I took a short cut thru a small wood. About a third of a mile from home I noticed a number of large black clouds. I became frightened and shivered in the cold, damp air. Turning my steps homeward I began to run, but the snow and the storm overtook me. When I reached home the earth was covered with snow. I wrapped myself in a shawl and was sitting near the fire to get warm when the room was flooded with light. I glanced out of the window and saw to my surprise that the sun shone and not a trace of the previous storm was to be seen. Mama came into the room just then and exclaimed, "What is the trouble?" "Oh, I was only April-fooled again," I replied with a look of dismay on my face as I thought of how many times I had been "April-fooled" that spring.
—Angeline Schumm,
Eighth Grade.

A COOLING WALK.

One day in early spring a party of girls went into the woods for a walk. As the weather had been fine, they did not take any heavy wraps. They had planned to go from the woods to see one of their friends who had been sick for some time and was unable to go with them. They talked as they walked along, never noticing that a storm was coming up. They went from the woods to their friend's house, thinking of no danger. After spending a

happy hour with her they started home, but had gone only a short distance when it began to snow and the wind blew almost a gale. Some of the girls wanted to go back but the others thought their parents would be uneasy about them. When they reached home they were nearly frozen and almost unable to speak. When they were once more warm, one of the girls looked up with a laugh and said, "We are all Spring's April fools or we would have known enough to have taken wraps with us."
—Minnie Sexton,
Ninth Grade.

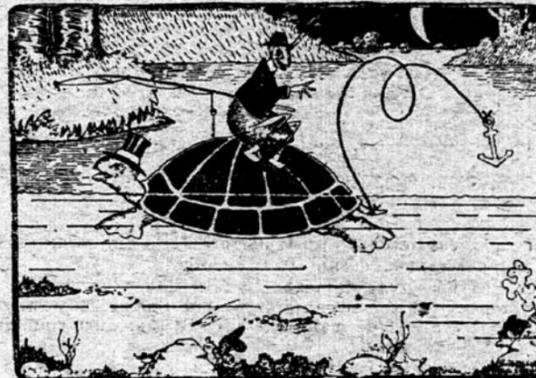
AN APRIL CHANGE.

It was the last day of March and as bright and warm as a day in June. The trees were beginning to bud and the frost flowers were to be seen all over the hills. The people all thought they were going to have an unusually nice spring, but spring was going to play an "April fool" on them, as the next day was the first day of April. Instead of being warm and nice the next day was bitterly cold and as the people huddled around the fire they all knew that spring had caught them with an "April fool."
—Chester Tondy,
A Sixth Grade,
Central School.

MR. BUGG GOES A-FISHING.



Mr. Bugg—"Guess I'll go fishing."



Mr. Bugg—"I'll anchor here and try my luck."



Mr. Turtle—"Well, that looks like a choice morsel. I'll try it."



—Judge. Copyright, 1906.

NO CROCUS BUDS.

Mama looked at the calendar to see what kind of weather we were to have. How glad we were to hear say that we were to have nice weather for the rest of the spring. Our vacation was near at hand and we wished to have the nice weather that the calendar promised for that week. The first day of our vacation was a lovely April day. My cousin came down in the afternoon and told me to get some of my friends together and the next day uncle would be down after us. My uncle lived three or four miles out in the country. The next day was a bright and cloudless one. We were so happy to know that we were going to uncle's that we did not think Spring might April fool us. We were outdoors waiting for the arrival of my uncle, when my sister exclaimed, "Oh, dear! I'm so hot. Can't I put my summer clothes on?" "No," said mama, for it was only the first part of April.

After much teasing, however, mama let her change, saying, "You can do it, but will have to stand the consequences." Soon we were at my uncle's place. My cousin thought there were crocus buds in the pasture, so my sister (who ought to have staid at home) and three of the other girls went to hunt for them. My cousin, two friends and I stayed at home. My uncle called them back, but all they heard him say was, "It's going—." They did not find any buds and came back tired from their long walk. It rained a few drops, but cleared up and was soon as warm as ever. It was so warm in the house that we arranged our lunch outdoors. We had just settled down when the rain began in torrents. When it cleared up we started for home. My uncle made the horses go, for he saw that there would be a bad snowstorm. Before we were half-way home it was snowing and my poor sister in her white dress! The rest of the week it rained or snowed almost every day. That was Spring's April fool on us girls.
—Sigrid Sindquist,
Fifth Grade.

NOT PICNIC TIME.

One nice day in April several of us boys planned a picnic. The night before the picnic we could hardly sleep. About midnight I heard it thunder. I went to the window and saw that it was raining and I felt sorry. Next morning when I awoke, the birds were singing and the sun was shining. It was a little cool but just right for a picnic and nobody ever thought of rain then. The bus came around to our houses and took us to the depot. We rode on the train about five miles, and when we alighted the west seemed a little black, but the boys said, "It will not rain now." We walked about a mile. When we reached our destination we set away our lunch baskets and put up swings and hammocks. The small children played while we arranged the tablecloth in a shady place. Soon it began to rain again and simply poured. Then hail fell and the little boys began to cry, but we comforted them. When it stopped raining we went to the depot and waited till the first train came. When we reached home we said we would not have our next picnic in April.
—Daniel Samsa,
Sixth Grade.

OH! FOR AN OVERCOAT.

The sun rose over the hill very brightly and the warm rays shone into my room where I was busily dressing in my best. I was to go out of the city for that day. Finally I was ready, all dressed in my summer clothes and feeling very proud. After I bade everyone good-by and was just out of the door, mama said I would better take my overcoat, for it might turn cold. I only laughed at her and said that I should not need it, as it was so warm. I had a pleasant ride on the train and enjoyed myself all day. Toward evening the sky grew dark, the air colder and I found myself without anything to keep me warm and no friends near. There were many other persons who had come out on the morning train, but I was the only one who had come unprepared for a change of weather. At last the wind blew, snow fell and during the half hour before the train was due, how I wished I had taken mother's advice. I thought spring had come, but winter was back again. When I reached home mama said to me, "Next time you will watch out for Spring's 'April fool.'"
—Bert E. Stanway,
A Seventh Grade,
District 89.

NOT A CAREFUL GUARD.

"This year I will surely have plenty of flowers," I said to myself, when I had transplanted the last one of my plants from a box to the well-prepared bed. Spring had come early that year and I wanted flowers at the earliest possible time, so I planted various kinds of seeds and put out my plants in good season. I was told I would better wait awhile longer, as there was danger of frost, but I thought if there should come a cold night I could cover the flower beds with some old blankets that would protect the tender leaves very well. Some days went by, and the plants having come up into the fresh air and sunlight, began to grow noticeably. One evening I found the barometer foretelling a change in the weather, so the blankets were brought out and spread over the plants. Morning came and the sun shone as warm and bright as before, but in a few hours it began to rain. It continued until sundown, when the sky cleared, the wind ceased and the air became very mild, almost warm. I thought my flowerbeds would do without being covered that night. The next day had a sad disappointment in store for me, for I went out to look at my flowers as usual and found them frozen to the ground. I resolved then never to trust Spring again, for he seemed to delight in fooling people.
—Hannah Tornquist,
Ninth Grade.

THE GREATEST JOKE.

The weather was beautiful. The snow had departed and left the grass to sprout up all around us. This was the first week in March and we thought surely that spring had come, but we were mistaken, very much, indeed. Papa was going to Sunrise to vote, for it was "town meeting day," and we were going with him. The sun came out brightly in the morning, but about noon it clouded over and began to grow cold. We did not mind that, and started. About 4 a few flakes of snow appeared, and mama said she wished papa would come, as the cattle were out-of-doors and had no shed to run under and we ought to go home. Papa did not come until 5, and then we started home. Just as we were getting in the wagon, Mr. T— came up and we asked him to ride, as we went past his place. The snow was still falling and when we reached Mr. T—'s there was almost eight inches on the ground and we still had two miles to go. It snowed all night and the next day it drifted. Then the sun came out to stay and melted all the snow off and we had no more snow until the next fall. But, oh-h, I can feel that wind yet and it happened seven years ago. I believe that was the greatest "April fool" spring has given us since I can remember.
—Ruth E. Warner,
Sixth Grade,
Pleasant Valley School.

AN ECONOMICAL FAMILY.

James had been imparting to the minister the important and cheerful information that his father had got a new set of false teeth.
"Indeed, James," replied the minister, indulgently, "and what will he do with the old set?"
"Oh, I suppose," replied James, with a look of resignation on his face, "they'll cut 'em down and make me wear 'em."