

The Avant Courier.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1890.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

Irish tourist giving first lesson in punctuation. "Boy, how do you interrogate?" Smart Boy: "Open the gate and walk right in."

A boy will fight like fury for his place at the first table, but when it comes to turning the griddlestone after dinner he's leader to find that five cents in a pack of cards.

One of a party of six Boston boys who are spending their vacation at Kennecott sent the following expressive letter: "We dug a woodchuck out of his hole; it was a skunk; we slept in the barn that night."

"John, did you take the note to Mr. Jones?" "Yes, but I don't think he can read it." "Why so, John?" "Because he is blind, sir. While I was in the room he asked me twice where my hat was, and it was on my head all the while."

Shocked and astonished old Deacon: "You had and wicked boy, why don't you take off your hat in the House of the Lord?" "Had and wicked boy (overcome with guilt)—If you please, sir, I'm a little girl."

"Mamma, said a wicked youngster, 'am I a canoe?' "No, child, why do you ask?" "Oh, because you always say you like to see people paddle their own canoe, and I didn't know but maybe I was yours?"

First Boy—Where yer been, Billy? Second Boy—"Bin fishing." First Boy—"Ketch anything?" With an anxious expression on his face, Far-Seeing Second Boy—"No, but I expect to when I get in the house."

He was a disgusted boy. He had exercised great care, and had finally succeeded in crawling, unobserved, into the tent. And he found it was not a circus, but a revival meeting in progress.

A young lady was endeavoring to impress upon the minds of her Sunday school scholars the sin and terrible punishment of Nubuchadnezzar; and when she said that for seven years he ate grass like a cow, she was astonished by a little girl, who innocently asked, "Did he give milk?"

New York Commercial: A little boy, the son of an orthodox Presbyterian in this city, recently listened attentively to some conversation in regard to Jesus having been a Jew. At last he could stand it no longer and broke out with: "Well, I don't see how that could be, when God, his father, was a Presbyterian."

A teacher asked one of her class what was the first line of the piece of poetry which described Daniel's feelings on being cast into the lion's den. The youngster was puzzled. The teacher said, "Come, come," sharply. "Oh, dear, dear," he exclaimed, hurriedly: "I know; it was 'good-bye, sweetheart, good-bye?'"

The little son of an Omaha pastor, says the Herald, had been left alone in the house for several evenings, while his parents went out, his mother telling him that he must not be afraid, for the Lord would be with him. On the last occasion, when the parents returned they found the little fellow sitting up in bed. He said he "didn't want to be left to stay just with the Lord any more; it was so lonesome."

Boston Transcript: Little Annie plays so hard in these vacation days that she does not become so round and rosy as her mother would like. Not long since, when she was having Saturday night tea with her mother said: "Oh, Annie, dear, what shall I do with you? I believe you grow thinner and thinner every day." Annie thoughtfully regarded her mother for a moment, and then asked very seriously, "Am I thin enough yet, do you think, to be mother of a pig's doll?"

Small girl, very harshly, to her doll in a toy carriage, rightly having tumbled from the seat—"Sit right up, you horrid old thing! Don't you dare to do that again, or I'll whip you." Seeing a passer, who had approached unobserved, she modified her voice, and continued in dulcet tones: "Now, sit straight, darling, and be careful not to fall and hurt yourself."

There's a heap of philosophy in the question which a Washington young lady of the mature age of six propounded to her aunt the other day. It was after the story of the Creation and the Fall had been related, and the young lady had been meditating for some time on the moral of it, when she suddenly broke out with: "Oh, Amity, after Adam and Eve disobeyed God, why didn't he kill 'em and begin over again?" It is not impossible that the question has occurred to older people.

A boy, apparently very much agitated, rushed into a house and said to the lady: "I don't want to alarm you, but I've got big news. The man sent me up from the livery stable to tell you: 'Good-bye, my dear, what's the matter?' "Why, you know your little boy Aleck, what the man can't keep out of the livery stable 'round the corner?" "Yes, well?" "I told Aleck just now not to go into the stable among the horses, but he wouldn't mind me." "Oh, dear, what has happened?" "Well, sir, he wanted to see what a mule would do when you tickled his neck with a straw." "Oh, heavens," gasped the lady, and clung to the mantel for support. "Well, sir, your boy Aleck got a straw, snuck up behind a horse, mule, tickled him on the neck, and—"

The lady started to tell you, "An' the blamed critter never lifted a hoof," called the boy. "Never so much as switched its tail. It's a mighty good thing for Aleck that he didn't, too; an' I ought 'a' come up an' tell yer." And he dodged out at the side entrance.

Lead Decision—Polygamous Wives Ruled Out. An interesting decision has just been made by Acting Secretary Bell of the Interior Department, in the case of Hugh Lyons against Rachel Stevens, of Salt Lake City, involving the question of the right of these parties to a section of Land in Salt Lake City land district. The claim of Lyons is rejected on the ground that the tract was not subject to pre-emption or settlement by him. Back of the claim appears as one of the several wives of John G. Holman, whom she recognizes as her husband, and he to all intents and purposes governs and controls her acts. The decision holds that in view of the polygamous condition, that if the first polygamous wife, while retaining retaining that illegal relation to a man, may in her own name obtain a title to 100 acres of public land, the second or twentieth wife may do the same, and the so-called husband would thus obtain in fact for his own use and benefit the control of that number of tracts of public land. This will not be permitted under the homestead or pre-emption laws. "If a so-called wife," the decision continues, "should repudiate the illegal relation and cease to violate the positive laws of her country and of the civilized world, the fact that she had at one time been called the wife of a man, and had maintained that relation to him, would not operate as a bar to her right. No woman, however, who voluntarily maintains and

acknowledges her position to be that of a plural or polygamous wife should be permitted to take a homestead or pre-emption entry on public land, as the very fact that she maintains such a relation is conclusive evidence that the entry is not made in good faith for her exclusive use or benefit."

Why She Married Again. A happy-looking married couple were pointed out, and I was told that the lady had been married once before. When her husband died he left a will giving his widow \$30,000 a year as long as she remained a widow, and all of his fortune if she married again, for he maliciously added: "I want another man to know how sweet she made me, and he may find some consolation in my money." The widow was not long in finding another husband, and out of spite to her former spouse makes the present husband supremely happy, and the wealth of the deceased is an immense factor to the end. When a contrary creature, and men don't understand them.

No News from the Bested. RAWLINS, Oct. 2.—No news received from Payne's command to-day. The mail carrier from the U. S. Agency, due here to-night, has not arrived yet. All sorts of rumors are afloat, but the only reliable information received is the statement of a former member of the command who arrived here to-day from his ranch on Snake river. On the morning of the 20th, the day after the fight he heard heavy firing in the direction of the battle ground. General Merritt, with 350 cavalry, left here at 10:30 this morning. He will be followed by the infantry and artillery. Merritt was accompanied by the scout Rankin. Great excitement prevails here. Sentries from the vicinity of the U. S. Agency are arriving hourly. Many white men, freighters and hunters, were known to have been in the neighborhood of the U. S. Agency and tents are entertained for their safety.

A Boy's Version of It. Boys' compositions are often fearfully and wonderfully good. Here is one about George Washington, that puts the "Father of his Country" on a stronger moral basis than any that has yet appeared. It serves the still further purpose of showing that where there is a real irrepressible genius, great ideas somehow preclude the work of spelling, and George Washington was a little boy that one lived in Virginia what had a wax give him by his old man. When George he got the wax, he cut it a tree what had cherries up on it and cut the cherries he and a nuther boy. When George's old man found out what George and the other boy had done, he called George to him and he says, George Washington, you cut the bark off the cherry tree? George says I did it and I cannot tell a lie. Why can't you tell a lie says the old man. Cos says George if I tell a lie here after'll blow on me and then I'll be spen't twice. That's the end, the old man whenever you go into trouble the easiest way out is the best."

Newspaper Decisions. 1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment. 2. If a person orders his paper discontinued he must pay all arrears, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not. 3. The courts have decided that refusing to take the newspapers or periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncollected for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud. Papers ordered to any address can be changed to another address at the option of the subscriber. Remittances may be made by check, draft, money order, or registered letter. All Post. orders are required to register letters on a receipt.

Views of a Sensible Man. "I believe that alcohol, to a certain degree, demoralizes those who make it and those who drink it. I believe that from the time it issues from the coiled and poisoned worm of the distillery, until it empties into the hell of crime, dishonor, and death, it demoralizes all that touches it from its source to its end. I do not believe that anybody can contemplate the subject without becoming prejudiced against the liquor crime. All we have to do is to think of the wretch upon either bank of a river of death—the suicide—the insanity—the poverty—the ignorance—the destitution—the children tugging at the faded dresses—of weeping and despairing woman crying for bread—the men of genius it has wrecked—the millions struggling with imaginary serpents produced by this devilish thing; and when you think of the jail, of the almshouse, of the asylums, of the prisons, and of the scaffolds upon either bank, I do not wonder that every thoughtful man is prejudiced against that damned stuff called alcohol."—Ingersoll.

Street Vegetarianism. A man wandered down Call a street last night, and approaching Scree's grocery store asked for the proprietor: "You got some greens, don't you?" "Green?" "You got rootin' bakes?" "Rutabagas? Yes, sir; how many will you have?" "Got some little plates, mit green tops?" "Red?" "You'll find them at the China store, 'n' town."

PHILIP KEWAN, Proprietor. It is the largest Hotel in Bozeman, and all who apply can be accommodated with board and lodging. A share of the public patronage is respectfully solicited.

How He Was Taken In. A man from Beloit, Me., went down to Boston the other day. There he met an innocent appearing young man, who called him by name, began glibly inquiring for well-known residents of that place, and put on such an appearance of innocence as to convince the Maine man, the innocent young man proposed to be the lucky drawer of a lottery prize, and invited his acquaintance to go with him while he got the money. The young man led the way to a room in the alley-way leading from Court street to Cornhill. Having secured the prize, the young man commenced to gamble with his money, and soon induced the Beloit man to loan him considerable money on bank-checks which he drew. The game was worked so smoothly and plausibly that several hundred dollars of the Maine man's cash was transferred to the lottery-dealer's till, the till being at first closed and the money declared forfeited. The Beloit man, being a man of nerve proceeded to knock down the lottery-dealer, wrench open the drawer and transfer the contents to his pocket. A confederate, who came to the rescue, was also knocked down, the prize, the money, was then fled, the door fastened, and the man kicked in the open and gained the street. During the day he and the innocent-looking young man, who he returned the amount that he staked and lost, retaining seventy dollars in excess of his disbursements, found among the funds he had clutch. This he took home with him to Maine, and safely invested it.

ODDS AND ENDS. Beecher says he would have been a better man had he been in Conkling's place. There is a weekly newspaper in England which has reached the enormous circulation of over 600,000. Eggs have gone up. It's the hens, and not the wicked Democrats that are about trying to starve this Government to death. A fit citizen of Cleveland loans around the streets with carpet slippers on his feet and a cigar in his mouth. His case will be given to the next annual conference. "I'll subscribe for the paper," said Vanderbilt, laying down an agricultural journal in New Orleans. At 10 o'clock it had been reading: "His editor is a man of high attainments." His eye had caught an article headed, "Water Your Stock Regularly."

A man, wearing wet clothes and carrying a fishing rod and a basket, stopped on a train on the Erie Railroad by giving a danger signal. "What's the matter?" the conductor asked. The man coolly replied that he had caught an enormous trout, and thought the passengers might like to take a look at it.

How long a man can live is a question that has been widely discussed. Americans are generally reckoned to be short-lived, compared with European nations, and they have been in the past; but they are steadily gaining in respect of age, as their material conditions improve and the laws of health are better understood and observed. Every time a man is seen coming out of a saloon, he gets the credit of having taken a glass of rum, though he drank nothing but lemonade. Better far to go to church, as every time a man is seen coming out of a sacred edifice he gets the credit of being religious, although he may have been plotting any number of financial eccentricities all through the sermon.

A lovers' alarm clock has been introduced in New Orleans. At 10 o'clock it strikes loudly, two little doors open, and a man with a dressing-gown and cap on glides out, holding in his hand a card inscribed "Good night." As he bows and smilingly retires back into the clock, the young man takes the hint, says "Good night" to the fair daughter, and departs.

A member of the Wisconsin Legislature was called on last winter by a newspaper to furnish facts about his life for publication, and among other things replied: "You may say that I am a man of unusual ability and culture, correct in my judgments, kind to the poor, and that my election is an honor to the people of my district. Enclosed find \$10, and you may send me some copies of the paper containing the notice."

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