

HER LITTLE FELLOW YET.

What funny creatures mothers are!
I sometimes laugh to see—
For all my blazes and my age—
How she looks after me.
She wants to warm me when I'm cold,
To dry me when I'm wet,
To do as she thinks me just
A little fellow yet!

I'm not a schoolboy any more,
With satchel at my back;
I won't be many years before
I do the harness.
I'm going to join the volunteers—
My father was a "vet."
And surely then I will not be
A little fellow yet!

Oh, well! the mother's good as gold,
And kind as kind can be;
There's no one else in all the world
That's half as kind to me.
So let her think it if she will,
When I, too, am a "vet."
It may be I will wish I were
Her little fellow yet!
—Christian Work.

A Blue Umbrella.

COLONEL, why did you never marry?" If a cyclone had struck the sharp featured man who sat with feet spread upon the iron railing of the veranda, it could not have caused him to start up more quickly. He snatched the ashes from his cigar, paced to the farther end of the veranda, and returning to the questioner's side, he said:

"Why, what made you ask me that question?"

"The young man, upon whose shoulder the other's hand rested lightly, lifted his eyes. Evidently the Colonel was deeply moved.

"Why, all men marry; that is, men means or—anyhow, they should marry."

"But you have not married."

"And for a good reason; I am not able."

"But you could support a very comfortable household if you were not well, what you are," said the Colonel, as he moved away.

"Ah! Hold on, Colonel; do not leave me in that—"

The other, paying no attention to his words, went down the broad steps and walked slowly away in the moonlight.

"I know what he means; he meant just what he told me in so many words—pendent! Hang it, all I know very well that I am careless about finances and all that sort of thing. If I had been forced to work early I'd know the value of dollars and be a very different sort of chap now."

"Ah, well! Life is too short to fret over mistakes gone done for. Edith is a—she is a—she is a—"

Was it the tap-tap of tiny feet or the frp-froy of snowy skirts that drew Harry Lancaster's heart thro' tumultuously? It was both—and the fact that the woman he loved more than all others was wearing him. Rising, he tossed his cigar away, lit his hat, and offered the charming creature in white a chair.

"Do not disturb yourself, Mr. Lancaster; I merely came for a brief walk up and down the veranda. Isn't it a lovely evening?"

"There was a flickery in the tones of the low, sweet voice. Harry's heart went away more vigorously than ever. If the veranda roof hadn't been eave-fringed with ivy the moonlight would have disclosed the hot flush that mantled the young man's face.

"It is indeed a lovely evening. If you will not rest here for a few moments will you permit me to offer you my arm for the stroll?"

She laid her dainty hand upon his arm and the pair strolled slowly to the farther end of the veranda; they turned to retrace their steps when Edith said:

"Was not that a freddy? Over there among the bushes to the left? See, there it is again, and such a glowing one, too! There, it has disappeared."

"It may be a freddy, but it is my opinion that Colonel Drake of the regulars is smoking a cigar out there among the shadows," said Harry.

"Is that charming old bear here?" she suddenly asked, allowing her hand to slip from the other's arm.

"He came this afternoon."

"And as I was not down to tea I did not meet him."

"You seem to be acquainted with the Colonel, Miss Lisle."

"Fairly, but really I ought not to have spoken so shockingly about a fine gentleman. He is quite engaging, but I detect that absurd idea about his strange umbrella."

"Umbrella? What umbrella, may I ask?" inquired Harry, puzzled at her remark.

"Why, have you never heard about the Colonel's umbrella?"

"Miss Lisle, by heavens! Pshaw! I'm a fool to think there is anything strange about this. What do you care about that blue umbrella, and its potent love charm? But I wish it had not been Edith," mused Harry; and toasting away his cigar he went out upon the veranda just in time to raise his hat and say "Good morning," to Edith, who tripped by him.

The Colonel closed that quaint umbrella with a click as of satisfaction as he passed Harry with a polite bow and a "Good morning."

Two hours afterward Edith Lisle blushed as Harry Lancaster asked her a question. She recovered quickly and said:

"Mr. Lancaster, the potency of the blue umbrella is not a fiction. He is a charming gentleman, and I always did like soldiers. I—I—thank you, and well—I simply said you under the blue umbrella; and I hope we shall remain friends."—Waverly Magazine.

MAMMOTH PIGEON RANCH.

Sixteen Frame Sheds Used to House Five Thousand of Them.

Situated at the sharp angle, where the Arroyo Seco, or dry ditch (a ravine that extends from Los Angeles to the Sierra Madre mountains, some fourteen miles away), and the Los Angeles river (at this point eighteen miles from the sea meet, is one of the most fertile spots in pigeon life ever presented to the eye.

Here ten thousand pigeons, mostly light in color, are found perched upon the roofs of eight frame sheds. The walls of these sheds are composed of hundreds of empty gasoline cans with one of the ends taken out and wooden boards with apertures large enough for pigeons substituted, and thousands of wooden fruit boxes furnished with square openings. The ground is generally covered with pigeons until a stranger arrives, when there is a great whirring noise, the air is full of wings and thousands of pigeons return to their breeding holes in the sheds.

This institution belongs to one of Los Angeles' enterprising citizens, and forms a great attraction to visitors from all the country round, as well as to numerous colored thieves, who make a continual practice of robbing this aggregation of pigeons. Two large dogs properly qualified to hunt and bite are located at each end of the grounds, about 200 feet from each other. These are secured safely by long chains to spikes in the ground.

But these, fierce as they are, do not represent the entire force for the defense from thieves of the birds. Pigeons, two young dogs, trained to hunt and not to bite, are on duty also all the time; these are more sleepless and it is the uproar they make upon which the owner so much depends for the discovery of the colored thieves. Discourage and raise the price of a good many of this multitudinous bird population; daily some young pigeons will be found on the ground dead, having gone too far from the family nest.—Pearson's Magazine.

CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES.

Hiram Proved He Had a Sure Source of Wealth.

"You talk very well, and you're not bad looking," said the banker, cutting in. "I know you are about to say that Mabel loves you and that you can make a nice home for her and all that; but I think you're mistaken. Any passing fancy she may have for you will be gone soon. All girls have to go through three or four stages of that sort before their affections are fixed on the man they ought to marry."

"And yet, sir—"

"Don't trouble to say anything, Mr. Glover. I would spare you all unnecessary pain. But the fact is, my daughter would not marry you. I have said it in matter, Mr. Glover, and I mean it. I know you are about to say that Mabel loves you and that you can make a nice home for her and all that; but I think you're mistaken. Any passing fancy she may have for you will be gone soon. All girls have to go through three or four stages of that sort before their affections are fixed on the man they ought to marry."

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AGRICULTURAL

use and the least expensive. Of course other fertilizers should also be used. A good plan is to use the stable product, supplementing it with muriate of potash, and also to use heavy applications of lime which releases the plant food in the soil.

Principles of Pruning.
While the proper pruning of trees will not, by any means, insure their growth, it will make them more do with it. It is a lamentable fact that not one man in ten knows how to properly prune a fruiting tree; it is also to be regretted that more fruit growers do not better understand that proper pruning largely means yearly pruning and not a general slaughter of the limbs and twigs every three or four years. This general practice simply means urging the tree to make a heavy growth of wood which is not needed. In pruning, the experienced orchardist cuts but slightly the strong limbs, and trims the weak and on twigs growing on the inside and on the underside of the tree. This is the general rule and most growers of experience practice it with all fruit trees, although in recent years expert fruit growers seem inclined to take, although this plan is not altogether a tree headed loss; still the peach often requires different treatment from other orchard trees which may best be determined by experiments with different plans, for while general principles may be laid down it is not possible to cover in such directions local conditions.

Crows and Corn.
My experience is that one cannot keep crows from cornfields any easier or more surely than by stringing up twine about the fields, occasionally adding a crossline. From my earliest recollection this was our practice, and it has served us well. It is not, however, while our neighbors, who depend on scarecrows, guns, tinware or corn soaked in tar, came out much worse. We always saved the twine from year to year, as it has to come down with the first cultivation, and it is still strong. As to watching a field with a shotgun, it is not well advised, and would go through a South African war, especially if a colony of crows get it "in" for a field. A neighbor two years ago opened such a campaign, and had to shoot eighteen crows, fairly finishing the entire flock, before what was left of the field was safe to sow. It is safe to say that the crop was a good one, and that the crows were a good deal of trouble down by what was taken, even then. I believe in crows, as they live on insects and mice from preference; but they must live or die, and if preferred food is not plentiful, they will do crops harm. Better, then, adopt a harmless way of driving them from cornfields.—Correspondence Country Gentleman.

A Sheep Record.
A Missouri sheep record has made a record which he thinks stands near the top, if it is not ahead of all others. Last spring his forty-three Shropshire ewes produced 1,200 lambs, among which were seven sets of triplets, twenty-eight sets of twins and eight single lambs. He lost six by death, and killed two for his personal use. The remaining seventy-seven lambs were let to run on wheat and other pasture last fall, and later were sold at about twenty cents a pound. The flock was a profitable one. When sold they averaged 103 pounds each, and were reported "fat as butter," selling at \$2.25, the highest price in a year or more at Kansas City. An income of about \$500 before taxes, it is a record for a flock of 43 ewes. It makes it look as if a well-bred Shropshire were a good kind of sheep to invest in.—American Cultivator.

Advantages of Lime.
Lime is not a fertilizer in the sense that the term is generally understood. Its best use is to sweeten the soil although it possesses great value because of its action on the plant foods in the soil, loosening them and making them available. The action that gives some people the impression that lime in itself is a fertilizer, realizing the action of lime on the plant foods in the soil it should rarely or never be applied to sandy soil, for in such soil the plant food is easily released by nature. On clay soils an application of say ten bushels of air-slaked lime per acre would doubtless be very beneficial and one application in this quantity should be enough for four or five years, longer on soils that were well cultivated and fertilized.

Use Fresh Eggs for Hatching.
Many of the poor hatches of chicks are due to the eggs being kept too long before they are given to the hen or placed in the incubator. Poultrymen consider four weeks about the limit of keeping eggs for hatching, and when kept for that period it must be in a place where the temperature is between 45 and 50 degrees and the eggs turned over twice a week. It kept in a place where the temperature is over 50 degrees and during that period several weeks, the eggs if fertile will be all right, but if the eggs can be set within a week after they are laid, the results will be better. Only the eggs of normal size and shape should be used for hatching, never the very large or very small eggs, nor those that are misshapen.

Keep Pigs in Barn.
At the Kansas station, pigs kept in a warm barn during cold weather are more shelled corn and gained more than those kept in the open yard. Pigs kept in the barn ate 2,201 pounds of shelled corn and gained 418 pounds; pigs kept in the barn ate 2,487 pounds of shelled corn and gained 483 pounds. This is in line with a number of experiments.

Better Crops, More Profit.
The Indiana state fair farmers will do more reading and thinking this year than ever before. The results will be that they will raise better crops and make more profit. The tendency also will be to have better sustained prices, the result of the agitation and education that are going on from several directions.

Salt the Cows Regularly.
Sometimes for different reasons but after it comes will not get their reading. Neglecting to salt the cows regularly will sometimes produce this effect. Keeping the milk or cream until it is too old is a very common cause. Sometimes too much wheat or barley chop as a feed will be the cause.

LIVING IN THE COUNTRY.

One Gains Advantages and Escapes a Multitude of Obligations.
If you get ever so rich, what do you do? Buy a farm somewhere. If you have the root of a good matter in you, you will want to poltice a worn spirit from time to time with healing airs and the restful scenes of the country.

If you get ever so poor, what do you do? Work hard, probably, if you are fit to do anything and can find any thing to do. But if you have a spirit of the requisite fiber, and have come to just the requisite degree of impeccability, and circumstances and your experience of life favor it, you go and live in the country. You can live very cheaply in the country if you choose, and possess your soul in complete independence, and wear your old clothes with a cheerful spirit.

You will be quit of a host of obligations to fashion, to society, may vex and oppress you in town, for the price of superfluities is by far the biggest item in the cost of ordinary living. You will miss opportunities, too, but not all opportunity. You will live face to face with nature. You will be able to say your prayers in peace, and develop the spiritual side of you, if you have any, with only the smallest concern about landlords, grocers, or railroad rates. There are no taxes of any consequence in the country; think of that! The greatest luxury you get there is time, and the next greatest are sights and sounds and smells. If you have thoughts to think the country gives you a great chance to think them. If you have books to read, you can read a lot of them in the country, even with kerosene at 11 cents a gallon.

On the other hand, if you have money to spend, what a chance to spend it the country offers you! Gardens, cows, horses, houses, stables, milk, at a dollar a gallon if you like, and dogs, and cats, and most of all, children. It is no trouble at all to spend \$50,000 a year on roads alone, if only you start with a fairly sharp land-hunger and push out your borders with due energy. You can get more for your money in roads than in diamonds or pictures, and roads are a permanent investment. They don't burn down; you don't have to keep them insured; you don't have to keep them clean, for if you build them well, let the weeds grow never so thick on them, the roads will be there still. And once you put your money into them, it stays. You can never get it out, nor can any one else. You can not even be taxed adequately on them, for no assessor presumes to see much value in a road. Indeed, a very large sum of money can be hid in a country place where the assessors won't find it—in water pipes, drains, and such things.—Harper's Magazine.

Tree Stole Sheep's Horns.
Firmly imbedded in a tree, a section of which has been sent to the Smithsonian Institution, are both horns of a mouflon or rocky mountain sheep. The horns must have gotten there so long ago that the tree has grown around them. The section was taken at some distance from the ground, and the conjecture that someone placed the horns in the crotch of the tree does not seem probable. It seems more probable that the animal was caught by the horns in this position in one of its prodigious leaps from the cliff above.

Messages to a Druggist.
A Philadelphia druggist has made the following list of amusing mislives that have been sent to him from time to time:

"I have a cute pain in my baby's stomach. Please give bearer something to cure it."

"My little girl has cut up a lot of buttons. Please send a nemetic by the enclosed box."

"Dear doctor a dog bit my child on the leg please send some cork plaster and cutter eyes."

"Please send by bearer my postal order for \$1.00. I have a fever send some quick I got it."

"Let my Johnny have a glass of soft water. I wul come myself but I am washing. P. S. the five cents for the sody water."

"If you can fill the enclosed prescription for twenty-five cents, do so. If not, return by bearer."

New Way to Make Writers.
"Dis boy," explained the old-colored farmer, "wants to be a writer—lak dem white boys de 'Politic's Progress' an de 'Robinson's Crows'."

"The black pickaninny stood in the corner, fumbling with his frayed hat-bag."

"Well, what evidence has he given of it? Has he ever written anything?"

"No, sub; he can't write he name. Dat's what I fotch 'im up hear fer. He want me a writer or 'im. He 'low mebbe you could sorter beat it inter 'im—des frall 'im out, lak 'twel he inter ter it machul. He already been hit side de head wid a dictionary, an de biggest sort or words is been runnin' in his head since de 'Politic's Progress' an de 'Robinson's Crows'."

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POLITICS OF THE DAY

How to Check the Beef Trust.
Hill the beef trust through the tariff. Representative McDermott has made it beginning by introducing a resolution instructing the Ways and Means Committee of the House to report a bill to remove the duty on beef. The resolution does not go far enough. The duty should be taken off mutton and pork and everything eatable in which the beef trust deals.

Inquiries instituted by Attorney General Knox to ascertain whether or not the beef trust has gone outside the law in its operations will amount to nothing. The people can be robbed under the forms of law quite as effectively as when those forms are defied. Suppose it should be found that the beef trust has been proceeding illegally in some particulars, what will it do? Just follow the example of the Standard Oil and other trusts that have been reorganized in conformity with the state laws.

It is hard that monopolists should be able by any means to raise the prices of food at will, as the beef trust does. But it is intolerable that the government should help these exploiters of the people by protecting them against the competition of the honest trader.

By levying duties on foreign beef, mutton and pork the government employs the power of federal law in the interest of the beef trust. That is, the government becomes a partner of the beef trust—not a partner in its profits, but a partner who stands around with a tariff gun to defend anybody who wants to undersell the trust.

Will the people of the United States, all of whom must eat, and all of whom, therefore, are being robbed by the beef trust, continue to endure this partnership between the government and their oppressors?

Off with the duties! The remedy for the thieving prices to which the necessities of life have been forced up by the tariff-shielded monopolists lies with Congress.

The Republican party is in full command of the House and Senate and has the Presidency. Therefore the Republican party has plenary and immediate power over the tariff, to alter it as it chooses.

Monopoly which corners the necessities of life deserves no favor at the hands of the government. Tariff favors to the beef trust are favors to the robber and systematic oppressors and plunderers of the poor. Let the people demand of Congress that it strip the beef trust of tariff protection, and do it at once.—Chicago American.

Secretary Root Should Resign.
The damaging evidence of atrocities in the Philippines has been in Secretary Root's hands—in the report of Major Gardner, civil Governor of the Philippine Islands since early in February. This report was not only held from publication by the Secretary, but was concealed from the committee of the Senate investigating the very matter concerned. Had not General Miles forced out of the Secretary the very existence of this testimony would not have been suspected. Secretary Root's usefulness to the country has ended. He has forfeited the confidence of the public. Will he retire gracefully or will he repeat the painful experience of his predecessor, Alger?—Boston Post.

Trouble in Roosevelt's School.
The President has ordered General Fred Funston to hold his tongue. What is the matter with the administration school? The boys are all out of order. The head master finds it necessary to box somebody's ears every day or two, but discipline doesn't seem to improve. The boys simply would not keep still. Unless the head master succeeds better in keeping order a change will become necessary. No school can run without some kind of discipline. The author of the Santiago round robin will have to suppress the spirit of mutiny and restore the old-fashioned respect for authority.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Wrong Once, Wrong at All Times.
It is announced that at a conference of the Republican leaders of both houses at Washington it was decided to shelve the ship subsidy bill passed by the Senate. It is not doubted that the bill could be put through if made a party measure, but it is said to be the majority opinion that it would be better to allow it to go over until after the Congressional elections. This is probably a prudent decision, but it raises the question: If the subsidy bill is right and just why not pass it now? If it is wrong and unjust why plan to pass it after getting a new lease of power?—New York World.

New Official Is Handicapped.
The auspices under which the young Kansas poet enters upon the duties of pension commissioner are all unfavorable. He is selected to fill the place of a capable and honest official, who is removed because he was honest and capable enough to make his honesty of some value in the service of the people. He is backed by an element whose very antagonism has been a decoration of honor to the objects of their animosity, and he comes from a State in which that element has obtained an ascendancy in the affairs of his party.—Rochester Herald.

Where the Poor Man Can Protest.
Every time there is an advance in the price of foodstuffs a nail is added to the coffin prepared for future Republican political hopes. It is not necessary to argue whether or not as to the justice of this course. The Republicans have been in power for years; the trust have grown up under their rule; they make the tariff laws that have fostered the trusts; the polls are the only remedy for a poor man who can no longer afford meat and the party in power must take the responsibility.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Issues for 1904.
Unless we read the signs of the times altogether incorrectly all efforts to make imperialism the paramount issue will fail, although it will be an important issue. On the tariff reform proposition all Democrats can get together, no matter how widely they split in 1896. And when they get together on a sane platform they will be re-enforced by thousands of Republicans who now see the error of their protection ways.—Toledo Bee.

Would Improve the Senate.
Dewey follows the lead of Senator Hoar in the earnestness with which he would improve the Senate.

SMALL BUT GOOD TEACHER.

Young Illinois School-ma'am Only a Little Over Four Feet Tall.

Teaching in one of the largest country schools in Illinois is Miss Lena Arnold, a petite and pretty young woman whose stature is just above four feet. She enjoys the distinction of being the smallest school-ma'am in the country and has the reputation also of being one of the best. She presides over the scholars at the Rhodes school, five miles east of Alta Vista, in Union county.

Many of her pupils are much larger than she, yet she rules with a firm hand and directs the young mind in the way it should grow with a skill fully satisfying the school directors, and there is no recollection of a time when she did not.

The fact of the matter is that the country school of this day is not the truculent gladiators of the countryside who waged war on the teacher as an Igor-



MISS LENA ARNOLD.

rote wages war on people who wear clothes has been long away.

In the seat of the crumpled teacher trounced sits now a youth that even this little lady from Illilitup may rule. He will build the fire for her. He will sweep the schoolroom for her. He will wind the clock and operate the windows, and there is no big or little thing to serve her that he will not count on his good pleasure to do.

Miss Arnold boards at a farmhouse near the school. There is a creek between and recently this creek was swollen after a rain. The little school-ma'am could not cross at the usual ford, so she called upon her boys. A couple of them lifted her up and carried her and splashed across with her, setting her down high and dry, and Sir Walter Raleigh did not spread his cloak for the queen's sake with a better grace than these young gentlemen did when they carried her across the creek.

When the sergeant-at-arms of the Senate or House of Representatives learns of the death of a member of either body, he is notified by the sergeant-at-arms of the Senate or House of Representatives that the flags over the Senate chamber and Hall of Representatives be half-masted. This is often done before the houses of Congress themselves are officially notified of the death. A good deal of discretion is exercised in the manner of placing the flags on a death of this kind officially before the Senate or the House. Upon such an announcement it is customary for the houses to adjourn in respect to the deceased Senator or Representative, and in order that current business may not be stopped early in the day, a proclamation is generally made just before the houses are ready to conclude their day's work.

Officers of the Senate and House, when they fly the flags at half-mast in response to a proclamation by the President, regard it as a matter of course, as they do not recognize the power of the President to order Congress to do anything except to assemble in extraordinary session. They have always responded to the requests of such proclamations. It would be a nice question if one could imagine that it could ever be raised to know to what extent the President's authority would allow him to order flags at half-mast on the Capitol. While his authority would not extend over the employees of the Senate and House, yet the Capitol for many years was in fact controlled exclusively by him so far as the care of the building is concerned, and the superintendent of the building is to-day appointed by him without confirmatory action on the part of the Senate.

As a matter of fact, the Capitol has for years been under the direct control of the committees on appropriations of the two houses of Congress, but that control has been accorded them by the failure of the President to give any orders to the architect or more lately to the superintendent of the Capitol. If he should order that official to fly flags over the Capitol at half-mast and the order should be disobeyed he would have power to discipline him and appoint some one else in his place without the concurrence of either branch of Congress, except so far as the appropriation for the official's salary would be involved.

These are practically moot questions, says the Washington Star, but they occasionally form interesting subjects for bedside talks when flags are half-masted in response to presidential proclamations.

A Reform Idea.
"My aunt is awfully fussy since she joined the Woman's Reform Club."