YOUNG FOLKS' COLUMN.

ENTERTAINMENT OF VARIOUS KINDS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

A Four Footed Clock, or How the Children of the Celestial Empire Tell the Time of Day by Examining the Pupil of a Cat's Eye.

Everybody knows that cats can see in the dark, and the reason they can do so is because of the peculiar construction of their eyes. You may have noticed in a moderate light the pupil or black part of pussy's eye is small and of an oval shape, while in a full glare of light it becomes so narrow as to look like a mere slit.

A FOUR FOOTED CLOCK.

Now in the dark it expands to a circle and nearly fills the surface of the eyeball, so that it collects and transmits to the retina the faint rays of light that are in what appears to our more limited power of vision to be absolute darkness.

This peculiarity of the cat's eyes is turned to account in a curious manner by the Chinese. The Abbe Hue relates that when he was traveling in China he asked his attendant what time it was. The man went to a cat that was quietly basking in the sun and examining its eyes told the abbe that it was about two hours after noon. On being questioned how he knew that he explained that the pupils of a cat's eyes were largest in the morning, and that they gradually grew smaller as the light increased until they reached their minimum at noon, that then they began to widen again, until at night they once more became large.

The good abbe was filled with admiration for the ingenuity of a people who could use cats as clocks. But it must be admitted that this way of telling the time of day is rather a loose one, and could only be trusted in very serene, clear weather, for temporary gloom or the darkness of a storm would sadly derange the four footed clock and put it all wrong.

The Weaving of Life's Web.

Jem Phillips, as represented in our cut, is at what he calls "a loose end," which means, I suppose, that he has nothing to do; and from his appearance one would imagine that his want of occupation is not troubling him very much. Just now he is watching a troop of Irish harvest men on their way to Farmer Gray's, and presently he will stroll down the village to see if any other idle person is lounging about there who can join him in planning a "lark" for the afternoon or evening. So the day will pass, and it will be strange if Jem gets to the end of it without doing something wrong.

AT A LOOSE END.

We hear the expression "at a loose end" from the lips of both young and old far too often. If our web of life is being woven carefully and neatly there should be no such thing as a loose end about it. Each shred of time and energy has its place, and if it is wasted it will be missed by and by when there is no chance of recovering it. The loose end, once dropped, can never be woven in again. Remember, then, that the odd minutes, the leisure hours, the days set apart for rest or recreation, have their value, and must be accounted for as exactly as the periods of time which are devoted to regular work. The weaving of our life web is continuous; its growth keeps pace with our own, and though we may spoil it, we can never for a moment cease from working at it. The threads are countless, the pattern constantly changing, but we have not a single thread placed in our hands which is not needed. If you have an odd minute depend upon it there is an odd duty to be done in it; and if you waste the minute, the duty will perhaps be left undone altogether, or, at any rate, it will be done at the wrong time or by the wrong person, and so the pattern of your own life or of somebody else's life will not be just what God intended it to be. We make a sad mess of our weaving, even when we are doing our very best; but we may always be sure that we are spoiling it if we come to "a loose end."

Pearl Diamond's Mental Arithmetic.

My name is Mental Arithmetic. I am a book, and I belong to a little girl of the name of Pearl Diamond. I am the book she does not like. If she does not know her lesson she will make a terrible face at me and shake me. Sometimes I think my back will come off, as if it was my fault that she does not know her lesson. But it is not; I am there printed right before her. I have some very hard examples in my life. I was very pretty when she first bought me, but I am an old, torn, dirty book now.

When the teacher says, "Girls, in order for mental," some pupils pout. Then I am thrown in the desk, and then when she takes out another book I am sure to fall and get hurt, and she is so mad because I fell that she kicks me very hard. Then she throws me in the desk as hard as she can, as if it was my fault that I fell out. Now the strangest thing of all is this little girl's mamma always calls her "Pearl, dear." I do not understand that, when she is so mean and spiteful to me, a poor book, who is not to blame, for having been made. Do you?

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

The Term Creole Applied to Persons Born Near the Tropics.

Creole is a corruption of the Spanish word criollo, which signifies one born in America or the West Indies of European ancestors. In this sense all the native white people of the United States might be called creoles. But the word in its English form has undergone both a limitation and an extension. It is limited to persons born within or near the tropics, and is made to include persons of all colors. Thus the term creole negro is employed in the English West Indies to distinguish the negroes born there from the Africans imported during the time of the slave trade. This application of the term to the colored people has led to an idea common in some parts of the United States, though wholly unfounded, that it implies an admixture, greater or less, of African blood.

Castle Garden.

Castle Garden, New York, was originally laid out as a rough fortification, at the most southern part of Manhattan Island, in 1616. It was subsequently known as Fort Nassau; then, under the Dutch, as Fort William. It was surrendered by the Dutch to the English, and then christened Fort James. It took the name of Castle Garden soon after the breaking out of the Revolution. It was built for and used as a fortification. In 1847 it was opened as a place of amusement, and for a number of years was occupied as such. Jenny Lind made her first appearance in America there, under the management of P. T. Barnum, Sept. 11, 1850. The celebrated Julien concerts were also given there. During the summers of 1851, 1852 and 1853 several noted operatic artists appeared there under the management of Max Maretzek. It has been occupied as an emigrant landing depot since August, 1855.

Senators President.

The question has been asked: Was there ever a president elected that had been United States senator?

Answer—John Quincy Adams was elected United States senator and served from Oct. 17, 1803, for a full term; James Monroe was United States senator, from 1790 to 1794; Andrew Jackson from Nov. 22, 1797, to April, 1798; Martin Van Buren from Dec. 5, 1821, to Dec. 20, 1828; Franklin Pierce from Sept. 4, 1837, to 1842, and James Buchanan, Dec. 15, 1834, to March, 1845. Andrew Johnson, who was elected vice president and became president of the United States, was a United States senator from Tennessee, serving from Dec. 7, 1857, until he was appointed by President Lincoln to be military governor of Tennessee, March 4, 1862.

The Benefits of Salt.

Dr. Jacobi maintains that salt is necessary in milk as well as vegetables, for sick or well, and especially for children. Its action in the circulation is well understood; it enhances the vital processes, mainly by accelerating tissue changes through the elimination of more urea and carbonic acid; it prevents the solid coagulation of milk by either rennet or gastric juice. The cow's milk ought never to be given without table salt, and the latter ought to be added to a woman's milk when it behaves like cow's milk in regard to solid curdling and consequent indigestibility.

Coca.

Coca is the dried leaf of a South American shrub, valued for its stimulating narcotic properties, which it is said to possess in a greater degree than opium, tobacco or any other vegetable production. The leaves are gathered and dried in the sun, and mixed with quicklime, and are chewed by the Peruvian Indians, the effect being to support the strength for a considerable time in the absence of food. Its use is attended with pernicious consequences, as the appetite for it increases, and the power of resistance diminishes, until at last death comes as a relief.

Red Tape Bureau.

"Red Tape Bureau" means any department where business is transacted through a regular routine. The term refers to official formality, and it is so called from the red tape used in public offices for tying up official documents. The "Red Tape Bureau" is synonymous with the "Circumlocution Office" in Dickens' "Little Dorrit," which he describes as the chief of "public departments in the art of perceiving how not to do it."

The Oldest European Tongue.

The oldest European language is that spoken in the Basque provinces in Spain, and also in Navarre. It is called the Basque language, and is spoken by about 600,000 French and Spanish people. It cannot be classed with any Indo-European or Semitic tongue, and appears to be of earlier origin, presenting some grammatical analogies with Mongol, North American and certain East African languages.

Franklin's Epitaph.

Many persons have written their own epitaphs. Franklin wrote his, which was as follows: "The body of Benjamin Franklin, printer (like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and stript of its lettering and gildings), lies here, food for worms; yet the work itself shall not be lost, for it will appear once more in a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by the author."

Origin of a Term.

The term "sinews of war," as applied to money raised for war purposes, was first used by Jacob Cats, a Dutch poet and statesman of the Seventeenth century. In one of his works he says: "The prowess of the soldier or the power of the statesman amounts to nothing unless the money men supply the sinews of war."

The Irish Language.

According to census returns, the Irish language is spoken exclusively by about 320,000 persons, principally in the provinces of Munster and Connaught, and both English and Irish by about 1,200,000, thus showing that with nearly one-fourth of the population of Ireland it is still a living tongue.

Equinoctial.

Without taking into account the small variations due to refraction, etc., the days and nights are always of equal length at all points on the equator, without regard to the position of the ecliptic.

A Duty of Electors.

If the nominee for president should die the night before election the election would be held and his electors would choose a new man. Greeley died before the college met.

The Courtly Plural.

The use of "we" instead of "I" by sovereigns began in England with King John, 1199. The German emperors and French kings used the plural about 1300.

The Wool Crop.

The United States raised in 1879 155,681,751 pounds of wool, and imported in 1879, 39,005,155 pounds of wool; in 1880, 128,131,747, and in 1887, 114,404,173.

ALL AROUND THE HOUSE.

A Few Novel and Effective Adjuncts Introduced at Modern Dinners.

There are so many novel adjuncts to the modern dinner, one grows a little confused when attempting to choose the most effective. Doilies are becoming the embodiment of refined taste and labor, and whether embroidered by the patient toil of the Orient or by the deft fingers of some American maiden, are almost too dainty to be breathed upon. A style just now in fashion, by the by, is to work table napkins with one large embroidered letter. The hostess may, if she prefer, write her own initials in letters half an inch or more high across the corner of the napkin and embroider these in over and over stitch, adding, if desired, a sprig of jasmine or forget-me-not underneath the three initials.

Flowers play an important part at dinners and luncheons. At a recent luncheon given to some young girls twelve bunches of daffodils were procured; attached to each was a yard of daffy ribbon. These flowers were massed in one bouquet in the center of the table, from whence a ribbon streamer radiated to the plate of each guest, the places being indicated by the names painted across the end of the streamer.

Candles with colored shades are well nigh indispensable, or else a low hanging central lamp, with a lace valance. All lamp shades now wear petticoats, and the softened light is becoming and at the same time grateful to the eye.

Fancy dishes of salted almonds and silver trays of bonbons, provided with the dainty tongs now in vogue, prove themselves smiling oases in the desert of linen, and at a time when radishes are in season a dish of these crisp ruby vegetables, with their coats peeled back, like the petals of a flower, prove a most attractive arrangement in green and red.

A great point gained is to have the table present an attractive appearance without being fussy. It is bad taste to let the novelties in viands crowd each other in the courses; a little perspective adds to their effect. Ices may be served in the fruit and flower forms now so much affected, and a leaf of rose geranium in the finger bowl is not amiss, says Decorator and Furnisher, from which the above items were gleaned.

Chair Back with Embroidered Border.

The novelty of the chair back represented in the cut consists in its embroidered border, the details of which are shown in Fig. 2.

FIG. 2.—CHAIR BACK.

The chair back may be made in silk or plush, but the latter is recommended as richest in appearance. A central square of reddish brown plush may be embroidered with the rose spray and bird, or may be decorated with the applique designs that can be purchased for this purpose. For the border are utilized remnants of plush of many different colors and irregular shapes.

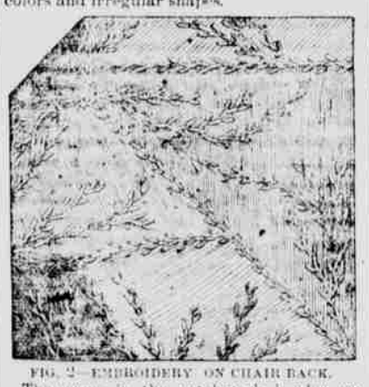

FIG. 2—EMBROIDERY ON CHAIR BACK.

The seams in the patchwork border are covered with fishbone stitch in yellow and drab silk.

How Boston Cooks Broil Steak.

At the Boston cooking school, pupils are advised to first wipe and trim a steak; next grease the gridiron and broil over a clear fire, turning often. The pupils are taught to count ten and then turn the steak, keeping this up till both sides are seared enough to retain the juice, then cook more slowly. Cook a thick slice of steak about six minutes.

The steak is served with Maitre d'Hotel butter, which is made as follows:

Cream one-quarter cup butter, add one-half teaspoon salt, one-half saltspoon pepper, one tablespoon chopped parsley and one tablespoon lemon juice. This excellent sauce for hot meats keeps very well; quite a quantity of it may be made at a time and put away, if one wishes to do so. Add to the meat at the very moment of serving, as it melts quickly on the hot meat.

This sauce is also very nice on broiled fish of any sort.

To Circumvent the Fly.

A sponge saturated with strong carbolic acid and suspended in the room is one of various popular expedients for inducing the omnipresent fly to take its departure.

To kill the flies in a room, close windows and doors and with the little bellows that come for the purpose, blow insect powder plentifully about the windows, against the walls and up to the ceiling, till the air is full of the fine dust. In an hour or two sweep up the dead flies.

Still another good expedient to get rid of flies is to make a strong decoction of quassia chips by boiling in water, and sweeten well with molasses. Flies will eat it eagerly and die.

How to Launder Lawn Dresses.

To wash lawn and sateen dresses so they will not fade, use no soap, but boil two quarts of bran in about six quarts of water for half an hour. Strain through a coarse towel and mix in the water in which they are to be washed. Rinse lightly in clean water without starching. This preparation both cleanses and stiffens the lawn. If it is convenient, it is better to take out gathers and drapings, as the dress will look much fresher when newly gathered and draped.

Canning Fruit Juices.

Fruit juices may be kept by canning, the same as fruit itself, and often prove very refreshing and grateful to the sensitive stomach of convalescing and delicate people, as well as useful for flavoring beverages, etc. One housewife always puts up a few pint bottles as follows: She heats the berries and strains out the juice, the same as in making jelly; then she adds half a pint of sugar to three pints of juice, brings it to a boil and seals up in glass jars.

Legal Notices.

NOTICE.

Auction Sale of Real Estate.

By virtue of an execution to me directed, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the 8th day of September, 1888, at 10 o'clock a. m., the equity of redemption in the "Strong farm" so called, situated on the easterly side of the old stage road in South Burlington, Vt., said farm is the same conveyed by William L. Strong to Walter E. Lawton by deed dated April 29th, 1886, and recorded in volume 3 on page 90 of the Land Records of said South Burlington, and is now carried on by L. S. Drew. Said farm is to be sold subject to a mortgage from said Lawton to said Strong for $500 payable April 29th, 1888, with annual interest at 5 per cent per annum from April 29, 1887, on which proceedings for foreclosure are pending. Said farm is bounded north by land belonging to one Bliss and the estate of Frederick Hadley, deceased, east by lands of said Hadley's estate and Henry C. Harrington, south by Swift street, so called, and westerly by said stage road, and is supposed to contain about 125 acres more or less. Said sale will take place on said farm at the northwest corner thereof.

N. D. WHEELER, Deputy Sheriff.

July 4, 1888. 2,wtSep7

Erasmus H. Tyler's Estate.

We, the subscribers, having been appointed by the Honorable the Probate Court for the district of Chittenden, commissioners to receive, examine and adjust the claims and demands of all persons against the estate of Erasmus H. Tyler, late of Essex, in said district, deceased, and also all claims and demands exhibited in offset thereto; and six months from the day of the date hereof, being allowed by said court for that purpose, we do therefore hereby give notice that we will attend to the business of our appointment at the residence of Mrs. Jennie Tyler, in Essex, in said district, on the fourth Thursdays of August and January next, at 10 o'clock a. m., on each of said days.

Dated this 21st day of July, 1888.

D. H. MACOMBER, A. A. SLATER, } Commissioners.

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John L. Hewitt's Estate.

STATE OF VERMONT, DISTRICT OF CHITTENDEN, ss. } The Honorable the Probate Court for the district of Chittenden.

To all persons interested in the estate of John L. Hewitt late of Williston in said district, deceased. GREETING.

Whereas, said court has assigned the 18th day of August, 1888 next, for the settlement of the Administrator's account, and for a decree of the residue of said estate to the heirs of said deceased, and ordered that public notice thereof be given to all persons interested in said estate by publishing this order three weeks successively previous to the day assigned, in the Burlington Free Press printed in Burlington in said district.

Therefore, you are hereby notified to appear at the Probate Court rooms in Burlington, on the day assigned, then and there to contest the allowance of said account if you see cause, and to establish your right as heirs, legatees and lawful claimants of said residue.

Given under my hand, this 31st day of July, A. D. 1888.

JENNIE STACY, Regist r.

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Paschal Rousseau's Estate.

We, the subscribers, having been appointed by the Honorable the Probate Court for the District of Chittenden, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust the claims and demands of all persons against the estate of Paschal Rousseau, late of Westford, in said district deceased, and also all claims and demands exhibited in offset thereto; and six months from the day of the date hereof, being allowed by said Court for that purpose, we do therefore hereby give notice that we will attend to the business of our appointment at the store of Luther M. Bates, in said district, on the third Tuesdays of August and February next, at 10 o'clock a. m., on each of said days.

Dated this 20th day of July, 1888.

LUTHER M. BATES, CHARLES KIMBALL, } Commissioners.

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