

**THE SUNSHINE OF PAST AGES.**  
How It Was Buried in the Earth for Future Resurrection.

The teacher made me write an essay upon "Coal." I studied the encyclopedia until my head was in a whirl with big words like "amorphous substance," "luminous coal," "ignite and cannel coal," and they all contained "carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen," and then I did not know one single thing about coal, and so I asked mamma:

"What is coal, any way?"

"It is the sunshine of past ages," said she, and then she told me so pretty a story that I thought I would write it for "Our Boys and Girls" to read.

Ages and ages ago, when the earth was young, and man had not yet begun to live on it, because as yet the conditions were not favorable to the life that mankind needs, monster fishes swam in the slimy seas and giant animals stalked over and through the marshy lands. Monster trees grew from the slopy, moist ground, while grasses taller than we ever saw, and plants with huge stems and gigantic leaves, grew beneath their branches.

Then, as now, rain fell, clouds floated by and the bright sunshine was over all. The brighter the sunshine, the ranker and taller grew the trees, the grasses, the ferns and the weeds. Year after year they grew and blossomed and died, over and over again, just as plants and trees do now. Again and again, in those ages, great earthquakes occurred, and the waters would roll in places where they were not before, and where they were once would be bare ground. The giant trees and the plants beneath them would be packed and buried in the mud and would see the sunshine no more. Over and over again, trees and grasses, plants and ferns, grew in the sunshine; over and over again they were buried and packed down in the darkness, ever undergoing chemical changes. Ages came and went, and finally man, the crowning work of the Creator, appeared upon the scene. Centuries came and went before he discovered the buried sunshine. Many are the legends as to how and when he first learned of the warmth imprisoned in the black mineral, now and then, found above the ground. As every good deed sooner or later leaves its good record on the annals of time, so the short lives of the tiniest ferns, of ages ago are now making light and happiness in many a home that would be dark, cold and gloomy had not the Creator in his wisdom, ages and ages ago, buried the sunshine in earth's dark bosom, to lie until such time as He was ready to bring it again to the light of day.—Acelia C. Fenton in Philadelphia Times.

**Big Records of Ancient Athletes.**  
In the preceding events the specialists came off victorious, the general athlete found his opportunity in the pentathlon. This consisted of jumping, discus and spear throwing, running and wrestling. It required agility, accuracy, speed and strength in harmonious development, and produced, according to Aristotle, the "most beautiful athletes." Jumping, of which various kinds were practiced by the Greeks, appeared in the great games as the long jump. Figured representations show sometimes a standing long jump, but more frequently a running long jump. In both cases the athlete carries in his hands the halteres (stones shaped somewhat like the modern dumb-bell), with which assistance the length of the jump was materially increased. The distance was marked by a pickax and measured by a tape-line. The attainments of the Greek athletes in this event—fifty-five feet jumped by Phayllus of Creton, and fifty-two feet by Chionis, recorded without dispute by several ancient authors—render it probable that more than a single jump was involved. As the world's record for the running long jump in modern times is only twenty-three feet seven inches, it has been suggested that the "hop, step and jump" still practiced by the Greek youth may have been the kind of jump which occurred in the Olympic games. If this were the case, the record of Phayllus would not be incredible.

**Washington's Old Desk.**  
George Washington's desk, together with some other pieces of his furniture, is in the governor's room at the city hall in New York city, and a very well-kept, convenient looking desk it is, made of well-polished mahogany, and with lots of room for the writer's arm. Visitors to this room are inclined to doubt the age of the desk. Enterprising furniture makers got its dimensions a year ago and promptly flooded the country with George Washington desks. They are close reproductions, and several of them have been held in the country towns as the original desk. A dealer in antiquities received a letter from a New England town last week asking what he would pay for George Washington's desk. The writer said that it was in perfect condition, and he could establish its identity by comparing it with the old pictures of George Washington's furniture.

**Sudden Death.**  
Sudden death, except from accident, is far less common than most people imagine, and death with no preceding sign of illness is very rare indeed. Practically there are but three conditions by which men going about in apparently active health are at one blow brought to the grave—heart disease, aneurism and apoplexy.

**Moral Genius.**  
The most invincible thing in the world is moral genius. The timid lose their faith on the slightest provocation. To feel and see all the world's evils and to hold on to one's faith in goodness and justice is moral genius. This is the faith against which the gates of hell shall not prevail.—M. M. Mangarjan.

**DEACON WILLIAMS DID IT.**

Gave the Storekeeper an Idea and He Came Near Going into Bankruptcy.

Opposite the railroad depot was a grocery, kept by a colored man, and as we had some time to wait for the train three or four of us crossed over to look at his stock.

Business was very brisk with the merchant, though all his customers were colored. We noticed that sugar, tea and codfish seemed to sell above all else and during a temporary lull approached the battered old scales on which everything was weighed and picked up some of the weights.

The hollow in each one had been filled with lead and when quite sure that the pound weight would balance at least twenty ounces of codfish I said to the old man:

"I see you have filled your weights with lead."

"Yes, sah—yes, sah," he replied, as he rubbed his hands together.

"What was the idea?"

"To keep the dirt out of de holes, sah. Can't no dirt git in dar now."

"Was it your idea?"

"No, sah. I never should her got dat idea if it hadn't bin for Deakun Williams. Deakun said it was de way diey did down in Greenville an' he fixed 'em up for me widout cost."

"The deacon buys all his groceries here, doesn't he?"

"He do, sah. Yes, sah, he buys 'm all yere, he tells me only dis mawnin' dat he neber did see de beat how dem groceries held out."

He was advised to take his weights over to the cotton warehouse and have them weighed and he picked them up and started off at a slow walk and very much puzzled. When he returned it was on the run and his eyes hanging out and as he reached the store he exclaimed:

"No wonder I has gone into bankruptcy fo'teen times and had to sell my mewil and hogs am' make the ole woman go b'arf! Dat ar' pound weight weighs twenty-two ounces, an' sherry time Deakun Williams has bought two pounds of sugar or codfish he has taken away three pounds and a half! Shoo! I're gwing to close de doah an' put up a sign of 'busted agin'!"—Deakun Fenton in Philadelphia Times.

**Loie Fuller's "Reform" Dressing.**

As a rule, all of Loie Fuller's gowns, both for the stage and home, are cut in the Empire style. Besides her shoes and stockings, Miss Fuller handles but three garments in making her toilet. She dons a Union or combination suit of wool or silk, and knickerbockers of flannel or silk, according to the season and temperature; then over her head is thrown her Empire gown, all in one piece, a few hooks are fastened in the back, and presto! my lady is gowned and ready for the day's events. Think what a labor, strength, and time saver such a unique system of dressing is! On a transcontinental journey it would rob a Pullman dressing-room of all its horrors.

**Everyone who will take the trouble to cut out this notice and forward it, with ten cents, to the address below, will receive a sample copy of Demorest Magazine, containing a Pattern Order which entitles the holder to any pattern illustrated in any number of the Magazine published during the last twelve months, at the uniform price of four cents each; and frequently over thirty patterns are illustrated in one number, thus affording an almost unlimited variety to select from. Demorest's is published for \$2 a year, by the Demorest Publishing Company, 110 Fifth Avenue, New York.**

**Nine Times Out of Ten.**

The Commercial Traveler would find the Buckeye mileage ticket better adapted to his wants than any other ticket. It is the best in the market. It covers more than 100 transportation lines traversing the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania. This ticket is sold at rate of \$20, is good one year from date of sale and on many railroads is accepted as payment for excess baggage charges, wet fare in parlor cars and meals in dining cars of some roads, which makes it very handy article to be carried by all travelers. For leaflet giving list of roads, map showing territory covered and full information, write agents C. H. V. & T. Ry., or W. H. Fisher, G. P. & T. A., Columbus, O.

**For the General Conference Methodists dist. Episcopal Church at Cleveland, Ohio.**

Agents of Ohio Central Lines will sell tickets at one fare for round trip; selling April 29 and 30 and May 1 and 2. Limit for return, five days from date of sale. May 12

**For the State Encampment G. A. R. at Columbus.**

Agents of Ohio Central Lines will sell tickets at one fare for round trip; selling May 12 and 13. Limit for return May 16. See hand bills. May 12

**Theatrical Excursions to Toledo, April 23, 27, May 3 and 12.**

The Clover Leaf Route will issue special low rate excursion ticket, from Delphos and stations east, on above dates. See nearest agent for particulars. The above theatrical excursion will probably be the last of the season. C. C. Jenkins, Gen'l Pass. Agent, Toledo, O.

**Incidents Arrived Safe.**  
The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Sulfur Rheum, Liver Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by A. R. Champney.

Mr. D. P. Davis, a prominent livery man and merchant of Goshen, Va., has this to say on the subject of rheumatism: "I take pleasure in recommending Chamberlain's Pain Balm for rheumatism, as I know from personal experience that it will do all that is claimed for it. A year ago this spring my brother was laid up in bed with inflammatory rheumatism and suffered intensely. The first application of Chamberlain's Pain Balm eased the pain and the use of one bottle completely cured him. For sale by A. R. Champney.

**New Edisons Learned to Tell Stories.**

"It seemed like a waste of time," said a gentleman who passed an evening with Mr. Edison in Norwalk, O., recently, "to hear Mr. Edison rolling off story after story, and demanding of all his acquaintances to tell him more, when we knew how much information we might have received from him. I finally asked him how he got to be such a story-teller. 'Well,' he replied, 'when I was quite a young man I was a telegraph operator during the war. I was stationed at St. Louis, which was a sort of distributing point for a large district, and when we would get our batch of stuff off, and we still had several hours to put in, I used to get pretty tired. Then we would begin to call up the operator at the other end of the line and gossip with him. I always liked stories, and if Chicago had a good one he would wire it to me. Then I would send that off to Louisville and New York and Cincinnati, and hear them laugh over it by wiring back, 'Ha, ha,' over the wire. In this way we would get all the best stories there were going, and we would always write them out for the day men. It got to be a sort of passion after a while and has stuck to me ever since.'—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**The Montana Onion Club.**

The nutritious and wholesome onion occasionally finds its vindicators. At the thriving Montana city of Anaconda there is a dining club called the Anaconda Onion society. Its first feast was recently given with distinguished success. Down in the center of the hall was set a long table with covers for all the guests. At each plate was a large and juicy onion; in the middle of the table were an array of meats, bread, fruit, crackers, cheese and other things. At one end of the hall floated the standard of the club in a proud conspicuousness. It consisted of a pole surmounted by a string of the vegetables from which the society takes its name. On the wall hung the motto, "Loud Napoleon's Prediction.

A correspondent of the New York Sun calls attention to the fact that in his "Recollections of a Minister to France" Mr. Washburne says: "I was somewhat surprised to hear him (Napoleon III) remark that he thought Spain could not hold Cuba, and that the result would be that she would sacrifice all her soldiers and spend all her money and then lose the island in the end."

**A Man of His Word.**

**Mrs. Farmer**—You said that if I gave you a breakfast you'd put in an hour's work on that wood-pile, and you've done nothing.

**Hungry Hoke** (deeply injured)—Notin', mum? I've bin a calkeratin' how many horse power it'd require to saw dat hull pile, countin' two hundred teet' ter de saw an' each toot' wid a muscular resistance uv one chawgramme. Mebbe yer don't know it, but brain work's de hardes' kind uv work, lady.—Judge.

**Could Hear.**

Hans had climbed up into the cherry tree to gather cherries. Meantime a storm came on and the father called out to the lad:

"Come down, Hans, it is beginning to thunder."

"There's no need, father," shouted the boy. "I can hear it where I am."—Illustrate Chronik.

**Quite Natural.**

**Hoax**—There was a fellow in court to-day charged with stealing a horse and leaving his bicycle in place of it.

**Hoax**—What did they do? Convict him?

**Hoax**—No; the jurymen were all citizens and they recommended that the prisoner be sent to an Insane asylum.—Philadelphia Record.

**E. Franklin of Topeka** is the general agent for the Electric Washing Machine in Wood and adjoining counties. The machines are on sale in Perryburg by Wm. Schick. 49th

**Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.**

**In Writing.**  
A written guarantee of excellence goes with everyone of the



and it's a guarantee you can hold us to.

**Quick Bakers,**  
**Superior Cookers,**  
**Powerful Heaters.**

Ask for the Peninsular brand and be determined to get it.

**J. J. AMON.**

**LAND WITHOUT ODORS.**

Some of the peculiarities of the "Great American Desert."

"In that country once known as the 'Great American Desert,' embracing a portion of Texas and Arizona, there are no odors," said a citizen of Dallas to a reporter. "There luscious grapes and many other fruits grow, especially near the cross-timber country, but there is no perfume; wild flowers have no smell and carcasses of dead animals, which in dry seasons are very plentiful, emit no odor.

"It was always supposed to be a treeless plain, upon which no plant could grow or breathing thing could live, but a large part of it is now successfully cultivated, and but for the rarity of the atmosphere, causing the peculiarity I have named, and the mirages, which are even more perfect than in the desert of Sahara, no one would look upon it as a barren country now."

"Another singular feature common to the desert land is that objects at a great distance appear greatly magnified. A few scrubby mesquite bushes will look like a noble forest. Stake driven into the ground will seem like telegraph poles."

**Two Telegrams.**

Here is a true story of coincidence which may be regarded as remarkable. Mr. W. of one of Boston's suburbs, who with his partner, Mr. S., had intended to take a business trip to New York was unable, on account of a slight accident, to keep his engagement. A telegram was therefore sent to Mr. S.

"Slipped on ice; strained back. Meet you in New York Wednesday.—W."

What was the amazement of Mr. W. to receive, while his messenger was on the way to the office, a dispatch from his partner, as follows:

"Lame back; slipped on ice. Meet you in New York Wednesday.—S."

**Louis Napoleon's Prediction.**

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**Anxious.**

Old Bachelor—Now that your sister has married, it is your turn.

Young Lady—is that meant as an offer?—Lustige Blätter.

**R. R. COLLISION.**

Many are familiar with the tramps vision—"If I was Vanderbilt the first thing I'd do would be to build a big grandstand alongside the middle of a mile track railroad. Then I'd invite all my friends to come and see the fun at my expense, and I'd get two locomotives at opposite ends o' that mile of track, facing each other. I'd get up steam, throw the throttles wide open and let 'em zip."

Realizing that a very small percentage of the people at large have ever witnessed a Railway collision and believing that such an exhibition would prove most interesting and attractive to the masses, the Management of the C. H. V. & T. Ry. Company have completed arrangements with Mr. A. L. Streeter, for such a demonstration as the opening attraction of their famous pleasure resort, Buckeye Park, Saturday, May 30th, 1896. A track one mile in length will be laid for the purpose immediately fronting the Park, the elevation of the latter being such as to enable from twenty to forty thousand people to obtain a perfect view of the run from start to finish and at the same time be amply protected from any possibility of danger. The engines which have been selected for the attraction have reached the stage where it would cost more to keep them in first class running order than to build new ones, neither are they heavy enough to haul the trains of increased tonnage which the traffic of today demands. They have been placed in good repair, gaily decorated christened W. H. Fisher and A. L. Streeter, and on their trial trips over the Line have developed a speed of sixty miles an hour. On May 30th at 3 p.m., they will each have attached three coal cars and a caboose and at a given signal start on their journey to destruction under a pressure of one hundred and twenty pounds of steam. The throttles will be pulled wide open and the engine men step off. As each engine will have from one half to three quarter mile run, it is estimated that they will attain a speed of at least forty to fifty miles per hour at the moment of collision. Without doubt this will be by far the most realistic and expensive attraction ever presented for the edification of the American people and will be well worth a trip of a thousand miles to witness.

Excursion trains will run from all points on the C. H. V. & T. Ry., which extends from Toledo to Pomeroy, Jackson, Athens and various points in the Hocking Valley coal fields and realizing that the traffic on this occasion will be enormous, especially from Columbus, trains will run on an hourly schedule between that point and the Park throughout the day. Connecting lines have been invited and many of them consented to run excursions from greater distances in connection with the C. H. V. & T., so that the indications point at least to twenty thousand people witnessing this most interesting and novel exhibition. There will positively be no postponement on account of the weather so that those who contemplate the journey to see the collision will run no risk of disappointment.

Buckeye Park is the ideal pleasure resort of Central Ohio and furnishes the only facilities for bathing in a lake of pure spring water with toboggan slide and all other accessories available to the people of that territory. It is most delightful spot for a day outing and those who attend should bring their baskets and prepare for a day of genuine pleasure in the woods. All moderate prices will be furnished in maintaining the reputation of the place no intoxicating liquors will be sold or allowed on the premises. W. H. Fisher, G. P. & T. A., Columbus, Ohio.

# What is CASTORIA?

Castoria is Dr. Samuel Pitcher's prescription for Infants and Children. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It is a harmless substitute for Paregoric, Drops, Scouring Syrup, and Castor Oil. It is Pleasant. Its guarantee is thirty years' use by millions of Mothers. Castoria destroys Worms and allays feverishness. Castoria prevents vomiting Sour Curd, cures Diarrhea and Wind Colic. Castoria relieves teething troubles, cures constipation and flatulence. Castoria assimilates the food, regulates the stomach and bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. Castoria is the Children's Panacea—the Mother's Friend.

**Castoria.**