

**Mother Goose.**

Mother Goose's maiden name was Elizabeth Foster. She was born in Charlestown, Mass., in 1635, and married Isaac Goose, of Boston, in 1653. She was his second mate, and began her maternal life a stepmother to ten children. She died six more to that number. Think of it! Sixteen goslings to a single goose! Is it any wonder that she poured out her feelings in the celebrated lines: "There was an old woman, who lived in a village, She had so many children she didn't know what to do?"

Yet her family cares sat lightly upon her and she survived Father Goose many years. Still, she stayed by her nest and fed her flock until they were able to swim by themselves. One of her daughters married Thomas Fleet, a printer by trade, with whom she went to live and insisted on being a nurse to his children, and there she lived and sang from morning until night:

"Up stairs and down stairs,  
And in my lady's chamber."

Thomas Fleet sold songs and ballads at his printing office, and one day a happy thought struck him. So, while she sat in her arm chair or shuffled about the house lost in sweet dreams, he carefully wrote down what he could of her rhymes which fell from her lips. Soon he had enough to make a volume. These he now printed and sold under the title of "Mother Goose Melodies for Children. T. Fleet, Printer, Pudding Lane, 1719. Price, two coppers." The Rev. J. M. Manning, D.D., formerly pastor of the Old South Church, Boston, at a festival not many years since spoke very truly, to my mind, when he said: "Not Homer or Shakespeare is so sure of immortal fame as Mother Goose. Considering the love in which her melodies are everywhere held, their freedom from anything which might corrupt or mislead the infantile mind, their practical wisdom, their shrewd mystery and motives of human conduct, one is in all soberness forced to admit that her name is among the brightest of the jewels which adorn the brow of the Old South. Let us hope that the day is not far distant when a memorial statue will be erected to this venerable old lady in one of the parks or squares of Boston."—*Leavis on (Mc.) Journal.*

**A Gum Chewing Contest.**

The most grotesque feature of the evening at the exposition was: the chewing gum tournament. Old people were dragged up to the Richardson Drug Company's stand by roguish youngsters, who forced them to join in, and the facial contortions of some who have long since bid a regretful farewell to their organs of mastication were immensely absurd. Twenty thousand cakes were provided, but these failed to hold out, owing to the general attack on the distributors. Several young ladies were heard to repeat that not even the prospect of winning a pint bottle of perfume could induce them to do anything so vulgar as to chew, but soon afterward the makers of the most vigorous protests were running a hot race with the others. A young lady from Eureka Springs succeeded in disposing of twelve cakes in an hour, and had a genuine walk-over for the first prize, as the second best had not got rid of her sixth cake when "time" was called. Only young ladies were regarded as competing for the perfume bottles, but several grave and reverend seigniors were impressed into the tournament, including at least one occupant of a seat on the judicial bench and two or three doctors. Cakes were offered to the jubilee singers with a politely conveyed suggestion that they should take a rest from their singing, but these five Ethiopians proved almost the only individuals who declined to participate.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

**Badinage of the Ministers.**

There was a meeting of the preachers of Lynchburg, Va., and when it was breaking up Dr. John Hannon could not find his hat. Turning to the Rev. R. Acree, he said: "One of you Baptists has my hat." "Then," said Brother Acree, "your hat has more brains in it than ever before." A few days after that Dr. Hannon was passing by Brother Acree's yard gate, and when urged to come in he said: "I am on my way to preach." "You can't preach," replied Brother Acree. "So I felt for a long time," replied Dr. Hannon; "but since hearing you, the other day, I have changed my mind."—*Richmond Religious Herald.*

**THE YOUNG MIDSHIPMAN.**

And the Manner in which He Lost His Cool By Kiss.

In the days of long ago a young midshipman in a western town received orders to join his ship, which was to sail to the capture of Vera Cruz. He was going off full of ardor and enthusiasm, just spoiling to emulate himself on the altar of his country, but the night before he started he went to say good-bye to a beautiful little maiden with whom he was in love. He made the customary vows of a young officer going off to his first battle, but stayed so late that when he finally kissed his love farewell and ran to catch the stage the stage was gone and he was obliged to deter his departure until the next night. The next night he went to say good-bye again, and again he lost the stage. The third night he came for a positively last farewell, but as he was going to give his sweetheart a final kiss her mother interfered and said: "No, Jim, you can't kiss Mollie good-bye to-night. I don't believe you are going to Mexico at all. It is just a scheme of yours to come around here and kiss her good-bye."

He caught the stage that night and fought bravely in Mexico. Years rolled by and in his broader field of life he forgot his boyish love. The Civil War came and at its close he was covered with glory. He is now an Admiral, and yesterday I was with him at the Murray Hill Hotel. We were walking the corridor when a beautiful woman, on the shady side of fifty I should say, with snow-white hair, passed us, and stopping a little way off stood and looked at the admiral. He is a fine looking old man, and is a great favorite with the ladies. He saw at once the impression he had made on the lady with the white hair and said: "I am an old fool, I know, but I think I've made a 'dash.' Let us stroll by again." As we passed the lady the admiral beamed upon her graciously, but to his amazement she walked straight up to him with a silvery laugh and shaking her forefinger at him said: "No, Jim, you're up to your old tricks again."

If the roof had fallen the admiral would have not been so much astonished. But quickly recovering his self-possession he grasped the lady's hand and said: "Why, bless you, I knew you from the first, and wanted to see if you remembered me."

"Jim, Jim," she rejoined, "you are just as bad as ever. Why don't you grow better as you grow old? Now who am I?"

The admiral was nonplussed again but with a grace, courtesy and sweetness that I have never seen equaled he bowed and said: "My heart remembers you, for my heart is young—but my head is old and my head forgets."

"Well," replied the lady, smiling up at him, "I am Mollie B—"

The admiral uttered an exclamation of surprise and stood for a minute looking at the lady. That name had swept away forty years with all their changes, their wars, their sufferings and their honors, and the admiral was a boy again. I wish you could have seen his face. "And I have not seen you since I went to the Mexican War," he said, "and your mother would not let me kiss you good-bye on the third night. By Jove, I believe I'll take that kiss now."

"No, no! that is outlawed. Come, let me introduce you to my husband."

By this time the Admiral had thought him to introduce me to the lady, and we were both presented to her husband. We had a pleasant party at dinner and the Admiral told the story of his departure for Mexico just as I have told it to you.

Mrs. Custer, the widow of General Custer, is broken in health and is seeking restoration in Herkimer County, New York.

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