

THE PRIZE ESSAYS

San Joseans Judged Now for the City.

TWO GARDEN CITY WINNERS.

Unexpected Talent is Being Elicited Among Young Students by "The Call's" Contests.

The essay contest now proceeding under the auspices of THE CALL has already had some good results.

It was anticipated that the idea would be helpful in extricating merit from mediocrity, but it was not expected that the rich mine of untried youthful ability would be developed.

The judges who have been putting in the better part of the past week in reading and weighing the results of the prize essays from San Jose on the subject of "The Discovery of America by Columbus" have finished their tasks.

When the essay project was exploited San Jose was placed first on the list of towns in which the series of contests were to be held, and the students responded willingly to the call for the compositions on the great subject chosen.

The San Jose contest closed on the 15th inst., since which date eleven days have elapsed.

But though San Jose has proffered so many essays, the criticism of their merits has not on that account been delayed longer than the necessity for unanimity of choice required.

All the essays have been segregated and distinguished by number. They then passed through the hands of the judges, who have chosen by THE CALL for that specific purpose. Each critic rendered an opinion regarding each entry, and these opinions were subsequently compared, and in cases where they were conflicting were submitted to a referee for a final decision.

The result of the essay competition in San Jose is now announced as follows: First essay, written by J. PORTERFIELD YAGLE. Second best essay, written by ALICE OSGOOD.

Miss Osgood is only 14 years of age, but her essay shows evidence of remarkable maturity of thought. She has not only found a slight objection in its diction, but this was more than overbalanced by other excellences.

J. Porterfield Yagle, who attends the San Jose High School, is between 17 and 18. Considering the length of his essay, it is awarded by the conditions of the contest his essay deserves praise. In knowledge, treatment and general composition it is a little to be desired.

THE CALL presents today the winning essays. The prizes will be forwarded in due course to the two bright young students.

After San Jose comes San Francisco. The San Francisco essay contest is now open and many entries have been received by the critics of THE CALL.

The subject is, "The Discovery of America by Columbus." The conditions of the contest are very simple.

Contestants must be students and not over 18 years of age. The essays should not be longer than 1200 words, nor shorter than 500.

Mark your name and address plainly on your composition and put "Essay Contest" on the corner of your essay returned inclose stamps.

The San Francisco contest will only be open until April 1. The prizes are: \$20 for the best and \$10 for the second best.

The prize essays will be printed in THE CALL with the names of their writers.

THE SAN JOSE ESSAYS. Literary Efforts of Mr. Yagle and Miss Osgood. Following are the two prize essays from San Jose.

SHIPS IN BOTTLES.

Clever Tricks of Sailor Whittlers.

HOW THE THING IS DONE.

The Masts are Hauled Up by Threads Running Through the Bottle's Neck.

Looking idly into the show-window of one of those very-thin-stock-if-you-don't-see-what-you-want-ask-for-it establishments, you will observe a bottle of wine.

The bottle is of a fine, clear, straw-colored wine. It is of a long, slender shape, and is fitted with a cork stopper. The neck of the bottle is of a diameter such that it will just slip into the neck of another bottle.

The glass of the bottle was apparently intact, and there was no way of getting the masts in except through the opening at the neck. The neck was about half an inch across.

Now, considering that wood is not particularly strong, and that glass is a brittle, the operation must evidently have taken place in a most ingenious manner.

It is a fact, in fact, that the feat might even be accomplished with a bottle of wine, if the neck were of a diameter such that it would just slip into the neck of another bottle.

The thought of such a feat was not, however, a new one. It has been known for many years, and is a well-known trick of the sailors.

The trick is simple. It is done by passing a thread through the neck of the bottle, and then pulling the thread up to the top of the bottle.

The thread is then pulled up to the top of the bottle, and the masts are hauled up by the threads.

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DRY GOODS.

A MOTHER'S VIGIL.

Watching for Her Son Who Was on a Big Steamer.

A little bit of the story yesterday afternoon were a few people on the Oregon dock at the foot of Main street.

They were in pairs and in groups of three and four, waiting for the steamer Oregon from Portland, which was then moving in the direction of Mission Rock, preparatory to swinging around so as to come head on to her berth.

The waters were watched by the anxious mother, who was standing on the deck of the big vessel slowly moving toward the wharf.

Among these was a little old woman, attending to her duties as a cook. She was a young girl, who occasionally called her mother, and another, a young girl who was standing on the deck.

The waters were watched by the anxious mother, who was standing on the deck of the big vessel slowly moving toward the wharf.

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