

# CAMPFIRE TALES.

## The Old Timer.

The old times were the best times; they say the new are bright. But the old have more of loveliness—the old have more of light. The hills of God seemed closer, and the sun there, in the skies, seemed to shed a greater glory on the old-time, dreaming eyes!

Do you think that we are truer than our fathers were of old? That the rainbows in the tempest have more of grace and gold? Oh, the old friends—they were wiser though the new friends would condemn. For angels, on the heights of God—they lit the way for them!

The old times were the best times; the old songs are the best—The dear—the tender melodies that rocked the world to rest! Let the critics, cold and cruel, strike the stars from heaven again—To the sweet voice of old mothers all the world will say "Amen!"  
—Atlanta Constitution.

## A Lucky Stoop.

"Speaking of the missiles of war," said an old soldier who had heard the whistles of thousands of them, "a six-pound solid shot striking a man fairly in the breast might also wound or kill the next man behind him, but this was seldom the case in the civil war. At the worst, only two men would become victims. The firing of round shot was generally a subject of jokes and jibes, and it was only when one struck a tree and hurled splinters for a hundred feet around that anybody looked serious.

"At Stone River I saw a soldier hit by a cannon ball for the first time. It struck him fair on the knapsack strapped to his back, and he was flung a distance of fifty feet. He was not mangled, but simply reduced to pulp from his chin to his hips. Again I saw an ambulance horse struck. The shot first struck the earth, glanced and hit a stone, and then jumped a fence and hit the horse in the head. His neck was broken, and all the bones back to his middle seemed to have been pulverized.

"With the advent of the breech-loading cannon, together with new inventions in shot and shell, the old-fashioned cannon ball has become a thing of the past. The same weight of metal, cast as a pointed shot, may not kill any more men in the field, but it does far greater execution when used as a battering power.

"The closest call I ever had from a solid shot was at Fredericksburg. We were standing in line, when I stooped to tie my shoe. At that instant a ten-pound ball passed over my head, the wind of it knocking me down, and it smashed the rear rank man to a pulp. He had a brother in another company, and a week after the battle the brother came to me with his fists doubled up.

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"I'm going to lam you!" was the reply.

"What for?"

"For stooping down the other day and letting poor Jim get killed by a cannon ball meant for you!"

## Escaped with the Mule.

The latest claimant to the honor of being the youngest G. A. R. man at the recent Boston encampment is George W. McDonald of Chicago, a member of U. S. Grant post 28.

Mr. McDonald was born in Chicago Aug. 17, 1851, and enlisted as a drummer boy April 15, 1862, in the 65th Illinois volunteers. He was 10 years and 8 months old when he entered the army.

Before enlisting young McDonald was a newsboy. He used to sell papers to Col. Ellsworth, who organized the famous Zouaves, and the war spirit came upon him. He thought it a better business to play the drum than tramp the streets as a newsboy. He learned to drum from William Evans of the Ellsworth Zouaves, one of the claimants of the title of champion drummer of the United States.

McDonald was in many battles. He was at Harper's Ferry, Black Vale, and at Winchester was captured. He was in prison two days, when, by the aid of a black auntie he and two others escaped. They secured a mule and were almost out of the rebel lines when a confederate scout discovered them. The two men were recaptured, but McDonald got away on the mule.

McDonald went straight to the union lines and was able to give valuable information of the situation within the rebel lines.

Mr. McDonald is in good health and resides at 2107 Maple ave., Evanston, Ill.

## Seeks Old Comrades.

When the 1st Connecticut heavy artillery was mustered out at Battery Rodgers, Va., I was a member of Co. I, and in the hospital there, writes Larkin A. Cooper of 99 Hudson street, Boston. My corporal's warrant and other papers were left at the head of my bunk in the barracks. If any comrade can help me find them, I should feel very grateful.

I was ill and I think out of my head the night before leaving, but was quite myself in the morning, when my boyhood friend, Varnum Simons, who belonged in the regiment, informed me we were going home. The doctor in charge was loth to give me a certificate, but with the assurance that my friend would take good care of me on the way, finally did so. If comrade Simons, who emigrated to Florida soon afterward, is alive and sees this, I should be most thankful to hear from him or from any one who will give me information about him.

Now, at nearly 71, I am admonished that the end cannot be far away, and it would afford me much pleasure to receive and respond to a line from any of my former special friends in the old regiment.

## Had Forty-eight Wounds.

Among the many interesting veterans who attended the Grand Army of the Republic encampment in Boston was Capt. John F. Chase, who bears the scars of forty-eight wounds received in the battle of Gettysburg. He was a cannoneer in a Maine battery, and in the engagement named a shrapnel shot exploded in front of him and four dozen pieces of it entered his body. He remained on the field for two days, and when picked up was thought to be dead. His right arm was subsequently amputated and it was found that he had lost an eye by the explosion. Previous to Gettysburg he had been in numerous great battles, but escaped injury.

## Change Caused Ill Feeling.

Some feeling has developed in consequence of a change in the management of the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors' Orphans' home at Xenia. At the meeting of the board of trustees, Comrade James L. Smith of Cleveland was elected superintendent to succeed Gen. Charles L. Young, who has held the position for a great many years. Gen. J. Warren Kiefer and Dr. H. C. Houston were opposed to the change, and upon its being made resigned from the board of trustees.

## Deaths of Pensioners During 1904.

The report of the Pension department shows that 43,289 pensioners died during the year ending June 30, 1904. The number of invalid pensioners of the war of the rebellion who have died during the past fiscal year is found to be almost exactly 70 per cent of the total deaths, or 30,302, with June estimated. The total number of invalid pensioners on the rolls May 31, 1904, was 690,528.

## Had Veteran's Corps Badge.

Clerk Edward Field of the municipal court of Providence, is anxious to restore to Loomis Palmer, a civil war veteran, the corps badge lost by Palmer shortly after the war ended. The badge is of the 6th army corps, is made of silver and bears the name of Mr. Palmer, who served in the 67th New York volunteer infantry until the end of the war, when he was discharged.

# BOYS AND GIRLS

## By the Playground.

Which of the summer sounds  
Is sweetest to tired hearts?—  
The low, unwearied hum  
Of the bee in the clover bed?  
The hymn of the thrush at dusk?  
Robins that call in the rain?  
Cool waves slipping away  
From the boat as she sails through the sea?

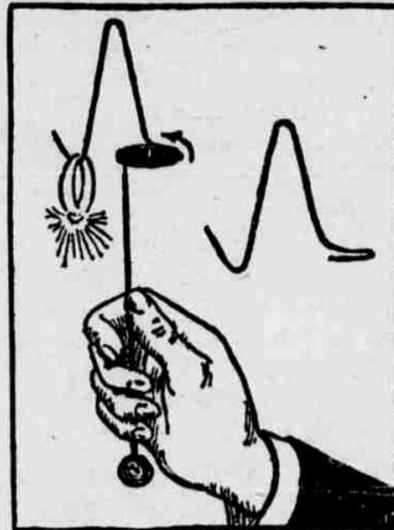
Whisper of wind in the wheat?  
Or, from the fresh-smelling field  
When the heaven is thick with her stars,  
The cricket's comforting chirp  
Telling of welcome and home?

Hot winds bearing the noise  
Of a city's traffic and cries,  
And from the little square  
The voices of children in song.  
Hundreds of children at play,  
Circling and singing their glee;  
Glad in the gift of to-day,  
The sunshine and warmth of the earth,  
The joy of youth but begun!  
Chorus of mirth and good will,  
Childhood's treble of hope—  
This is the summer sound  
The sweetest the tired heart knows.  
—Mary White Ovington in the Outlook.

## A Neat Parlor Trick.

This is a neat and effective trick to perform before a company of men, women and children, from whom you can borrow the few materials you need. These are a silver half dollar, a large wire hairpin, a heavy ring, and a long hatpin or "stickpin."

Bend the hairpin into the shape shown in the picture. Force the half dollar into the narrow hook on one end of the hairpin, which hook you have pinched well together so that it will grip the coin tightly, and hang the ring on the other, more open hook. Now balance the coin at a point near its edge and in line with the two



## The Needle, Coin and Ring.

hooks, on the point of the hatpin, which you hold vertically in your left hand.

You can nearly always make it balance on some point, but to make the trick effective the pin should be very near the edge of the coin, so if the ring is not very heavy you may have to borrow another one and slip it in the hook beside the first. Or you can use a light ring and substitute a quarter for the half dollar.

Now, if you blow against the ring the whole affair will turn on its pivot, and by giving a good puff every time the ring comes round you can make it spin very fast and keep on spinning a long time. If the hatpin is very sharp and of very hard steel it will gradually bore a hole in the coin. Indeed, it is possible to bare clear through a soft coin in this way.

Of course you should practice this trick before you try it in public. Then, if the ring is a brass one and the coin your own, you can give your merry-go-round to the youngsters, who will have lots of fun with it.

## Wardrobe of Mr. Dog.

In Paris they have come to look upon the dog as a member of the family and to study his dress almost as carefully as if he were one of the children. There are dressmakers who design garments for dogs only, and every season brings its new canine fashions.

The dog's wardrobe includes such elegant creations as a white hairy cloth overcoat bordered with white mohair galons, with a red velvet collar and a pocket for the handkerchief. He also has colored cambric nightshirts, rubber shoes, thick, fluffy dressing gowns to wear after a bath, straw and felt hats, special wicker sofas, cushioned and bedecked with garlands and ribbons; nail files, ear picks, powder boxes and vaporizers.

## Barrel Swing.

This picture will show you how to make a barrel swing. They are novel and comfortable, and look very quaint



## The Barrel Swing Complete.

hanging from the porch of a country house.

All you have to do is to saw away a part of the barrel, as the picture shows, and screw four stout screwcyes into the four sides of the barrel. To these are fastened ropes, which meet above on an iron ring which comes just above the head of the person sitting in the swing.

The barrel head is fitted into the bottom half as a seat, and may be covered with cushions or left bare.

## Blind Boys' Football.

Football and many other outdoor games are played by the blind, certain changes being made so that in each game the sense of hearing takes the place of sight, says the Baltimore Herald.

In football, for instance, a tiny bell is fastened to the ball, and by the bell's tinkle the ball's location is determined.

The blind delight in races of all sorts. They do not run toward a tape, as the seeing do, but toward a belt that jangles briskly.

It is odd to see the blind at their games. They play gravely, and they maintain a profound silence, for if they made a noise the voices of their guiding bells could not be heard.

## Fishing Trick.

There are plenty of patented hooks and devices for catching fish, but when they are not available all sorts of ingenious devices are rigged up by those who tire of sitting in the sun for hours wondering why the fish don't hook themselves. Here is one of them. It is not recommended when there is a scarcity of bait, but otherwise it can be used with success.

It must be kept in mind, even with this device, that all fish do not bite on a hook and pull anxiously in the hope of being caught. The slightest pull of



## How the Hooks Are Placed.

a line should be responded to by the fisherman, who must pull hard enough to jerk the barb of the hook through the very tough fiber of the mouth. With this in mind a fisherman has better chances with this device than one with the plain hook.

Each hook should carry a very small piece of bait, nicely covering the point and barb. The bottom hook can carry the attractive bait, but the others are used to catch the fish.