

Youths' Department

COLUMNS CONDUCTED BY ONE OF OUR BRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Youths' Department will be a regular feature of this paper. It is the intention to make it instructive and entertaining to our boys and girl readers, and also suitable for reading at the family fireside, and for supplementary reading in our public and private schools.

PROTECT THE BIRDS.

Next to the beautiful flowers and the vegetation covering the earth, the wild birds are the choicest gift of nature. We cannot imagine how dreary this world would be without these winged creatures, with their sweet songs and bright plumage. At this time of the year, when they are nesting and rearing their young, we should give them special protection. Do not let dogs and cats worry or kill them. Even the owls, hawks and crows do more good than harm by killing mice, snakes and injurious insects. The birds are man's best friends. They protect his crops and if there were no birds it would be impossible to raise any kind of fruit. Most states have laws to protect birds.

ABOUT OUR COUNTRY.

We are going to elect a new president of the United States in November.

A president is elected every four years.

A vice-president is elected at the same time.

If the president resigns, dies, is killed or impeached, the vice-president takes his place.

Some have died or been killed, but none have ever resigned or been impeached.

If the boys and girls could vote, none but good men would ever be elected to office.

Next to who shall be president, young people are interested in our coast defenses.

England has 316 warships, France has 177, Russia 118, Holland 99, Italy 86, Germany 82, United States 81. Our country has only nine torpedo boats; fifteen countries having more torpedo boats than we have, France leading with 272, to 251 for England. In the United States are 75 cities on the Atlantic ocean, eight cities on the Gulf of Mexico, 11 cities on the Pacific coast, and 37 cities on the Great Lakes that would be exposed to the danger of shot and shell, fire and destruction from foreign war vessels. These 131 cities need forts to defend them against attack in case of a foreign war. They have over 10,000,000 people and almost countless wealth. There are many good people who believe our country should first give every child a good education, a chance to learn a trade and earn a living when big enough to go to work, before spending more money on forts and warships.

The new battleship Oregon is one of the most powerful warships afloat. There is nothing foreign about the Oregon. The new battleship was signed by two young American officers, and in design and build—from rivet to hull, from machine-gun to main battery—she is American and American only.

Boys often ask whether any nation in the world could whip the United States. This was well answered in congress the other day when Mr. Otey of Virginia said: "I do not believe that the people of the United States can whip the whole world; but I do not believe the whole world can whip the United States." (Great applause and laughter.)

HOW TO KEEP WELL AND STRONG.

If children and young people are to keep well and strong they cannot have too much freedom and exercise. If you would sleep well and have good circulation of the blood the feet should be bathed once a day.

Make it a point to take a walk every day of at least a quarter of a mile. Have some definite object in view if possible.

Get your father and mother to go out for a ramble of an hour or two on Sunday. Every boy and girl who wants to be real well and strong should take a run at least once a day of a quarter of a mile. This will expand your lungs and make you tough as whipcord.

Boys or girls who will send us items suitable for this department will be mentioned as contributors. It will also help to brighten up their idea-catcher.

I wish girls had to play all games that boys do, because then all boys would have to use gentlemanly language. Now, if a boy don't use slang and swear words, other boys call him a "sissy" which isn't fair.

Purgatory, Ringstake, Boston and "Keeps" are some of the names given to the marble games played by boys. Girls would be a great deal stronger and smarter if they played games like the boys.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"I can't see why it is," said Bobby, "that when little boys are cross folks say they are naughty, and when papas and mammas are cross folks say they are nervous."

The best five books I have read the past year are: "Captain Horn" by Scribner's; "Bullet and Shell" by Fords Howard & Hulbert; "Adventures of Dick and Jack on Sable Island" by Laird & Lee; "Mr. Rabbit at Home" by Houghton, Mifflin & Co; "Beautiful Joe," by the American Baptist Publication Society.

Man's best friend among animals is the dog. A dog never betrays, or forgets his master. He never does him a dirty trick. No matter how low a man may sink, his dog never becomes ashamed of him. Even a Bill Sykes in Dickens could not forget the friendship of his faithful dog. All good men love dogs, and only a very mean man will abuse a dog. What kind of a man must that be then who will toss a piece of poisoned meat over a neighbor's fence to kill his dog or who will strew the highways with poison in order to kill anybody's and everybody's dog?

The Central Park menagerie, which some people consider the most popular place in New York, has on exhibition a lot of funny babies that are well worth seeing. Here are some of the queerest infants under the sun—some weighing a pound, some weighing a ton. There is every size of animal baby, from a little duckling to the baby rhinoceros. There are three cute little tigers. There are five little baby lions, a little Indian antelope, an infant hyena and a baby lamb. The favorite baby animal at the menagerie seems to be the tiger. It is very amusing to watch the baby lions which look quite like large kittens.

One of the greatest events of 1896 will be the celebration at Buda-Pesth, a splendid city on both sides the Danube river in Austria-Hungary, of its one-thousandth anniversary. All young readers have heard of the Philadelphia centennial, celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of our country. This ancient city will now observe its millennium. A wonderful suspension bridge connects this city of half a million people lying on both sides of the river. It was founded by the Romans and named Scaembria on account of its hot sulphur springs. The public school teachers from all over the world are to meet there this summer.

A BLUE-BIRD STORY.

Mabel Frink of Afton, Iowa, writes the Chicago Child-Garden for April:

I love to read stories written by little girls or boys, and I think maybe they would like to read my story. Mine is a true story, about a pair of little bluebirds. One warm Spring day mamma and I were looking out of the window, and we saw a pair of blue birds flying from limb to limb of a locust tree which stood in the yard, just a little way from our dining-room window. Mamma said: "I believe those birds would like a nest in that tree." So we went into the yard with some small boards and a hammer and nails, and made a little box and put it between two limbs of the tree. Then we went into the house to watch the birds. In a few moments they flew into the box and around it. They seemed to be pleased with their house, for they began right away to carry little sticks into it. They filled it full only leaving a place large enough for their nest. For a number of days Mamma Bird sat in the nest and Papa Bird would sit on limb near by and sing for her. We could tell which was Papa Bird, for he wore the darkest blue suit, with the darkest red vest. Mamma Bird wore the same kind of suit, only a lighter shade of blue and red. After a few days we noticed Mamma Bird carrying worms to the nest; then we knew there were baby birds there. When the little ones were two days old we saw Papa Bird flying about and chirping. He seemed to have some trouble. We did not see anything more of his mate. How sorry we were for the poor little birdies! Mamma said we must help Papa Bird to raise his family. Mamma stood upon a box so she could see into the nest. All the little birds held up their heads with their mouths wide open, and mamma gave each one some cooked egg from the end of a broom straw. They ate a few times this way, but one day Papa Bird happened to be there when mamma was going to feed them, and he said just one word to them. The little birds put their heads down and tried to hide. They kept very quiet all the while mamma was near the nest, and after that time they never would eat for us, but would keep quiet, even when Papa Bird was not there. I do not know how they could remember what they were told, and only once, too. We

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

thought we would try some other way to help raise the family. We went into the garden and found a few worms. We put them in a pan and set it on the box, and Papa Bird picked them all out and fed the little birds; then we knew this way pleased him. The next time we took the pan to the garden for worms, Papa Bird went along and sat on the fence and watched us dig. When the bird's were nearly old enough to fly, Papa Bird brought another mate home, but she did not seem to like the home, for she flew in and out of the box many times and finally flew away. We helped to raise the birdies, and were anxious to see them learn to fly. We watched them very closely, but one day while we were away Papa Bird taught them to fly, and to find food for themselves. We were very lonesome after our birdies had gone. I hope the children will like my story. I am ten years old.

A Just Judge.

Last week, when the disgraceful and disgusting political wrangle for boodle was at its height in this city, the Oregonian said it should be submitted to Judge Williams, a man removed from all temptation, a man whose age, experience, abilities, and character, are a guarantee that he would decide right. Then the Oregonian thought he would decide in favor of its gang of corrupt plunderers. He was not then permitted to decide; but Wednesday, in convention, clothed with not a particle of authority, and not pretending to have any, Judge Williams stated the facts that everybody knew, and which the Oregonian has heretofore suppressed. It must have been gall and wormwood to publish, under the compulsion of the gaze of a state, these facts:

"In the first place, Mr. Simon was wrong in naming all the judges in his own interest. * * * One (polling place) he selected at a sailor boarding house; * * * fixed the hours between 1 and 6; * * * it was impossible for me and my neighbors to vote."

Judge Williams, ex-United States senator, ex-attorney general of the United States, could not vote at a primary election! Why? The Oregonian has said it was because of the "Frank-Hume-Minto" crowd. Let it go out to the world that this most eminent and disinterested Republican of Oregon says that Mr. Simon is responsible for this infamous interference with the rights of American citizens.

Judge Williams further manifested his righteous indignation against the Simon gang by voting for Mr. Carey for chairman of the county congressional committee.

The Oregonian has appealed to Judge Williams; Judge Williams has decided; he says both sides were wrong, and their conduct scandalous. The Oregonian will scarcely dare to vilify Judge Williams, but it would do so persistently and persecutingly "from this out" if it dared.—Portland Welcome.

The Mine Workers.

COLUMBUS, O., April 14.—The national convention of United Mine workers of America convenes here today. The delegates have been urged by President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, to adopt resolutions in favor of free coinage of silver.

Secretary McBryde, of the United Mine Workers of America, has stated that he will not be a candidate for any position in the meeting of the national organization.

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