



OUR YOUNG FOLKS

IN SCHOOL DAYS. In the following poem, written by one of the best American poets, John Greenleaf Whittier, there is much that is tender and simple and beautiful. It appeared in a Northern child's magazine called Young Folks:

Still sits the school house by the road, A ragged beggar hunched; Around it still the sumachs grow, And blackberry vines are running.

Within the master's desk is seen, Deep-scarred by raps official; The warping floor, the battered seats, The jack-knife's carved initial.

The charcoal frescoes on the wall; Its door's worn sill, betraying The feet that, creeping slow to school, Went storming out to play!

Long years ago a setting sun Shone over it at setting; Lit up its western window-panes, And low eaves' icy fretting.

It touched the tangled golden curls, And brown eyes full of grieving, Of one who still her steps delayed When all the schools were leaving.

For near her stood the little boy Her childish favor singled; His cap pulled low upon a face Where pride and shame were mingled.

Pushing with restless feet the snow To right and left he lingered; As restlessly her tiny hands The blue checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes; he felt The soft hand's light caressing, And heard the tremble of her voice, As if a fault trembling.

"I'm sorry that I spelt the word: I hate to go above you, Because,"—the brown eyes lower fell—"Because, you see, I love you!"

Still memory to a gray-haired man That sweet child's face is showing, Dear girl! the grasses on her grave Have forty years been growing!

He lives to learn, in life's hard school, How few who pass above him, Lament their triumph and his loss, Like her,—because they love him.

THE STRENGTH OF A KIND WORD.

Some people are very apt to use harsh, angry words, perhaps because they think they will be obeyed more promptly. They talk loudly and vehemently, though after all they are often only laughed at; their orders are forgotten, and their ill-temper only is remembered.

How strange is a kind word! It will do what the harsh word, or even a blow, cannot do; it will subdue the stubborn will relax the frown, and work wonders.

Even the dog, the cat, or the horse, though they do not know what you say, can tell when you speak a kind word to them.

A man was one day driving a cart along the street. The horse was drawing a heavy load, and did not turn as the man wished him. The man was in an ill-temper, and beat the horse; the horse reared and plunged, but he either did not or would not go the right way. Another man, who was with the cart, went up to the horse and patted him on the neck, and called him kindly by his name. The horse turned his head, and fixed his large eyes on the man, as though he would say, "I will do any thing for you, because you are kind to me;" and bending his broad chest against the load, turned the cart down the narrow lane, and trotted on briskly, as though the load were a plaything. Oh, how strong is a kind word!—Diplomat Magazine.

THE EXACT TRUTH.

Two young masons were building a brick wall—the front wall of a high house. One of them, in placing a brick, discovered that it was a little thicker on one side than on the other.

His companion advised him to throw it out. "It will make your wall untrue, Ben," said he.

"Pooh!" answered Ben; "what difference will such a trifle as that make? My mother," replied he, "taught me that 'truth is truth,' and ever so little an untruth is a lie, and a lie is no trifle."

"O," said Ben, "that's all very well; but I am not lying, and have no intention of lying."

"Very true, but you make your wall tell a lie, and I have read that a lie in one's work is like a lie in his character; it will show itself sooner or later, and bring harm, if not ruin."

"I'll risk it in this case," answered Ben; and he worked away, laying more bricks, and carrying the wall up higher, till the close of the day, when they quitted work and went home.

The next morning they went to resume their work, when, behold the lie had wrought out the result of all lies! The wall, getting a little slant from the untrue brick, had got more and more untrue as it got higher, and at last in the night had toppled over, obliging the masons to do all their work over again.

Just so with ever so little an untruth in your character; it grows more and more untrue if you permit it to remain, till it brings sorrow and ruin. Tell, act, and live the exact truth always.

HOW TO GAIN FRIENDS.

"Well," said a straight-backed, straight-legged chair to a cosy little rocking chair by whose side it had chanced to be placed, "before I would be such a drudge as you are I would be a stool, or, if possible, something still more insignificant. People are not content with making you nurse every person, big or little, but you must also continually be rocking them to and fro."

"To be sure," answered the little rocking chair pleasantly, "I am always on the go for the gratification of others, but thereby have I won for myself many friends, and appear to be a great favorite with all. This well repays me for my trouble."

And so it is with little girls, and little boys, and other people. Those who cheerfully and willingly do for others are the ones who gain for themselves many and lasting friends.

INTOXICATING SHRUBS.

Baron Von Mueller has been examining a bush from which the natives of Australia derive an intoxicant. It is said that it is capable of exciting the warrior to a frenzy of courage rather terrible in the savage, but which, in what is sometimes called civilized warfare, would probably tend very materially to reduce the casualties of war to a minimum. The shrub referred to is the duboisia hopwoodii, and is to be found in the region extending from the Darling river and Barcoo to West Australia, though nowhere growing very plentifully. A second species of duboisia, and one which in all probability possesses the same intoxicating power, is to be found in forest land from near Sydney to near Cape York, and is known to extend over New Caledonia as

well as New Guinea, while over the greater part of the Australian continents are to be found many species of an allied genus of shrub which Mueller thinks will be found to possess the same qualities. The schenkeas of South America, he thinks, will also prove similarly qualified to act as stimulants. Central Australia, he says, use the duboisia hopwoodii, just as it was asserted, during a famous pedestrian contest a short time ago, that the Chilians and Peruvians employ the leaves of the cocoa to sustain their strength during forced journeys through the desert. "Those living near the Barcoo," he adds, "travel many days' journey to obtain this, to them, precious foliage, which is carried always about by them broken into small fragments and tied up in little bags." "It is not improbable," concludes the writer, "that a new and perhaps important medicinal plant is thus gained." The world has already got intoxicated enough, but there are many of the ills to which flesh is heir, for which as yet no remedy has been found, and the herb or shrub which has proved itself capable of inspiring martial ardor may in skillful hands prove of inestimable value in the great struggle between life and disease. We probably know but little as yet of what the botanical world is capable of yielding to our medical resources, and every added fact is fraught with interest.—N. Y. Observer.

POLITENESS.

Many a man, raised from poverty and obscurity to wealth and honor, can trace his rise to civility; it is sure to reproduce itself in others, and he who is always polite will be sure to get, at least, as much as he gives. We believe it was Macaulay who defined politeness to be benevolence in small things. The French, who are nothing unless satirical, declare politeness to be the zero of friendship's thermometer.

GIGANTIC ROSE.

In the mild climate of California and its rich soils roses grow to a large size. The San Francisco Evening Post gives the following account of one: "Its measurement was six inches in diameter, making it of course eighteen inches in circumference. We believe it to be the old cabbage species, and such it was considered by some of our professional florists. They also stated that it was the largest rose they had ever met with. We are informed by the owner that the bush is now full of similar specimens. Its color was about a medium shade of pink, with purplish pink edges on some of the outer petals."

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A BOY.

My residence is in..... County, and my occupation is..... My family consists of..... I wish to employ a boy..... years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired.) He will be required to..... and allowed to..... I will furnish..... and pay him..... a month. Recommended by..... A. B.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF HALF ORPHANS.

..... N. C., } 1877. } This is to certify that..... is a half orphan, sound in body and mind, and without any estate. H.... father died in 18.... I being h.... mother, hereby make application for h.... admission to the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof the entire management and control of said orphan till the.... day of..... (that being the day on which.... will be fourteen years of age,) in order that.... may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. I also promise not to annoy the Orphan Asylum, and not to encourage the said orphan to leave without the approval of the Superintendent. Approved by..... W. M. of.....

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF ORPHANS.

..... N. C., } 1877. } This is to certify that..... is an orphan, sound in body and mind, and without estate. H.... father died 18...., h.... mother died in 18.... I, being h...., hereby make application for h.... admission into the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof, the entire management and control of said orphan till the.... day of..... (that being the day on which.... will be fourteen years of age,) in order that.... may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Approved by..... Lodge. W. M. of.....

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A GIRL.

Our residence is in..... County, and our occupation..... Our family consists of..... We wish to employ a girl..... years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired). She will be required to..... and allowed to..... She will spend her evenings in..... and will sleep in..... We will furnish..... and will pay..... a month. Recommended by..... A. B., Mrs. A. B.

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