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Wings.

Well may he sing—the careless bird—
Whose care over the field I heard.
The day is still and bright to see;
The little rain falls drearily,
The bright beneath him rocks and swings,
Yet still he bravely, blithely sings;
For he has wings.

O swallows heart! thou canst not,
The joy is dying, sorrow-free.

What need to wick the gathering night?
Trust then to me, "pinion light,"
And when the summer storms are high,
Leave me but a summer sky;

For wings have I.

—Gen. M. Wheeler, in *Independent*.

HUMOROUS.

A bird fancier.—The cat.
A stroll dog.—A wag with a funny tail.

The elements are angry when the waters pour.

Guest.—Waiter, the sugar. Waiter—
Sugar, the waiter.

The Duke is a great stickler for the correct thing in every.

Some men are never satisfied with their lot unless it's a corner lot.

Candidates for nomination who are on the wrong side of the fence are hereby informed that they can get in through the delegates.

A man is rarely found who kicks when his name is misspelled in the police court record of a newspaper. This is a notable exception to the rule.

No such sin kisses her.

What would for honey kisses batter?

Not when one comes to say "good-by."

Then kisses are the cream of "ta-ta."

You have heard a cat purr, I suppose?" asked the judge. "Yes," replied the major. "But, outside of poetry, you never heard a Cowper."

Comical Traveler (who has just been refused by a Boston girl)—Well, good-bye. I'm going to Egypt. Boston girl (winks)—Indeed? Why? C. T.—Because I think I can make more of an impression on a mummy's heart than on yours.

Egypt—Then I can count on you for a testimonial to my liver-regulator!

Richly—"I can speak of it, doctor, in the highest terms." Egypt—What will it cure you of, sir?" Richly—"Poverty, doctor, poverty! It laid me low, I am told, until I was as stiff as a poker, and I wish to be."

Facts About Tobacco.

It is asserted that tobacco was in use in China from the earliest times, but we have no certain knowledge that this was the case. If it was so, the knowledge of the plant and its uses must have been carefully guarded by the Chinese, for it was not introduced into any other Oriental nation until after its discovery in America. When Columbus first landed on the island of San Domingo, in the West Indies, he found tobacco in use among the natives there, who smoked it when made into small cylindrical rolls and wrapped in mint leaf. The Indians on the continent enclosed it in a pipe, and among the tribes, from Peru to Upper Canada, the first discoverers found the plant to be in use, and to have been known to them from so early a period that the time of its first discovery was unknown.

The smoking of tobacco with the Indians took largely of the nature of a religious rite. The seeds of the tobacco plant were first brought to Europe by Gonzalo Hernan de Oviedo, who introduced it into Spain, where it was first cultivated as an ornamental plant; till a traveler who has noted it here among the American Indians, called attention to its narcotic properties.

The name is said to have been taken from Tabaco, a province of Yucatan, though others derive it from Tabago, an island in the Caribbean Sea, and yet others from Toloxco, in the Gulf of Mexico.

The practice of smoking the dried leaf of the plant became general in Spain, and its manufacture into small cylindrical rolls after its introduction into Italy in 1560, and about the same time into France.

The first to bring the seeds of the plant into England was John Nico, the French Ambassador to Portugal, in whose honor tobacco received its botanical name nicotine, whence the name nicotine, applied to a poisonous extract from the plant. Tobacco is said to have been first introduced into England by Sir Walter Raleigh. From these beginnings the use of the weed spread over the entire eastern continent. It did not become known in Asia until the 17th century, but was taken up by the Oriental nations with great eagerness, and they are now the greatest smokers in the world.

Glass Cloth.

Mr. Dolan Brown of Little France, has invented a process of spinning and weaving glass into cloth. The warp is composed of silk, forming the body and groundwork, on which the pattern is glass and asbestos, as well as by itself.

The government and the state of Virginia finally became interested in the work, and the waters of Lake Drummond were brought into requisition for feeding the canal. This lake is situated in the center of the swamp, and the depression in which the plant grows is about twenty miles away, had expertised the same difficulties of finding lumber in the soggy and treacherous swamp, and had sent their slaves into the wilds to dig a ditch to all them in their transportation of shingles and lumber.

For years these two forces worked independently of each other, and each, strange to say, was driving maws towards the other. The two sections of the canal were joined, and the point of connection is marked by an angle.

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The work was done altogether by slaves, with shovels and pickaxes. The use of steam-shovels was then unknown, and until eight of the towering cypress trees were also felled and split into shingles by slaves, who were given tasks each day by their overseers, and for all shingles they made over the expected, in fact they were paid extra.

One Sunday afternoon they were visited by their overseer, who was much surprised to hear a vocal species singing away off in the swamp. Their voices sounded like faint echoes. He asked the slaves who lived constantly in the swamp if they knew the man who were singing, and was told that they were North Carolina slaves. An investigation of their unexpected and rather interesting presence was made, and the fact was discovered that the North Carolina bondsmen, like those of Virginia, about twenty miles away, had expertised the same difficulties of finding lumber in the soggy and treacherous swamp, and had sent their slaves into the wilds to dig a ditch to all them in their transportation of shingles and lumber.

They had gone but a little way, when over popped a big black dog from behind the high wall by the roadside.

Dear! dear! Didn't Jerry jump! Out he dodged into the ditch, tipping Jerry off the cart, and pulling the lines through his hands. Then Jerry ran for home as fast as he could, with the cart bobbing from side to side, and the big dog running beside him, barking and twirling his bushy tail as though it was great fun.

Off bounded Kinky with a snarl, and waddled over the sand, biting and scratching at her tattered gown, with her tail all "bould' up!" Off went Betsy Jane! Off hopped M. Anna, as the cart when over a stone—and the others followed one after another, and the pretty leaves left a golden path all along the road, Jerry ran after the girls, shouting to the dog and calling to Jingo, while Patty gathered up the scattered party.

On arriving home there was found to be no harm done, except that Kinky had lost her bonnet, and the old crack in Betsy Jane's head yawned wider than ever.

One morning, not long after, Jerry and Patty hurried for him nearly all day, but he was not to be found, and they were afraid he had got into a big drove of cattle that had passed early that morning on their way to Brighton, and they would never see him again.

Doofally at night they took the basket, and went out to the stable to gather the day's eggs, and what should they find in the stable but Jerry, lying on the hay and chewing his end in great content. He had eaten up the stalks to the last for his breakfast, and come up there he had not to come down.—[Youth's Comp. 10c.]

Perfect Combustion.

Firing is only done properly when the fuel is consumed in the best possible way—that is, when no more is burned than necessary to produce the amount of steam required, and to keep the pressure uniform. To obtain this end, complete combustion must be obtained in the furnace, and this is going on when the fuel is burning with a bright flame evenly all over the grate. But if the dark spots and smoke are evidence of incomplete combustion, due to lack of air.

SAVED BY A CAT.

"Pretty clear case, seems to me," said Mr. Bennett, doggedly. "There wouldn't another one o' them men's done it; I know 'em all. I won't ever be pleased with him just minute I see him."

Myra put the goblets into the dish-pans silently.

"I can generally tell when a man ain't honest," Mr. Bennett proceeded, with growing confidence, "and that's what I feel isn't. He set them glasses and he took 'em; he didn't spos' he'd be suspicious.

"He's calculating to sell 'em soon as he gets back to the city. Clear case, I consider. Hell git come up with, though. He won't git out o' town with them glasses."

"He couldn't have taken them, Mr. Bennett," said Myra. "He didn't go near the window-sill."

"How do you know he didn't?" Mr. Bennett demanded, tartly. "Wal, you come recollect—hangin' round you after supper, wasn't he?"

Myra's cheeks flamed, and her lips trembled. Mr. Bennett's tone was gruff.

"Wal, I think he's good," said Mr. Bennett—about-mindful. Mr. Goodwin—I picked it off the floor just after dinner; I recollect it now. And not knowing whose 'twas, nor where it belonged, I just put it up there under that hat; thought twon't be safe till I found out who it belonged to; and it went clean out o' my head, just as things do."

"Don't say another word, sir," said the young man, eagerly, with sympathetic eyes; and Myra—don't be made to. You're just like the hull-train set o' 'em!"

"But it was for Myra's sake," said Mr. Bennett, an hour and a half later, when Mr. Goodwin had gone down the path with bright-hearted brightness, and Myra was finishing the dishes, her eyes shining, and her cheeks flushed. "I'm an old fool, and I've been a trial to you, and you've stood it like a man, and so did he, and I shant forget it. When you go to keep house for him, still of me."

"Wal, I think he's good," said Myra, shyly.

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DISMAL SWAMP.

A STRANGELY CONTRIVED CANAL THAT PENETRATES ITS DEPTHS.

A LAKE THAT WAS DUG BY A FLASH OF LIGHTNING.

Half a century ago, says the Baltimore Sun, the Dismal Swamp Canal in Virginia was one of the most important artificial waterways in the United States. In these days of rapid railroad transportation, however, and owing to the competition of the Albemarle and Chesapeake canal, which parallels it, it has dropped somewhat out of sight, though it is still considerably patronized.

On the morning that his regiment was first ordered into action the soldier bade his little cat farewell, and left her in charge of his company.

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