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In the interests of the Colored People of the Country.  
Able and well-known writers will contribute to its columns from different parts of the country, and it will contain the latest General News of the day.

The Messenger is a first-class newspaper and will not allow personal abuse in its columns. It is not sectarian or partisan, but independent—dealing fairly by all. It reserves the right to criticize the shortcomings of all public officials—commending the worthy, and recommending for election such men as in its opinion are best suited to serve the interests of the people.

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W. C. SMITH, Charlotte, N. C.

A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune calls attention to spontaneous combustion in the origin of fires, which he thinks is usually underestimated as a cause of conflagrations. He says: "A little experience of my own may be suggestive. Having occasion to stain some wood-work in my store after business hours, I mixed the stain in boiled linseed oil and turpentine, and called up in a large tub, and the next morning I discovered that the wood-work had become so hot that it had set on fire."

The learned judges were unable to agree. One man formed another's shilling, as he supposed, but the coin actually was a sovereign. The mistake was soon discovered, but the borrower declined to recognize any obligation on his part to return more than a shilling. He was arrested for larceny, had tried on that charge. Fourteen judges in all have wrestled with the question whether the defendant was guilty of larceny or not, and they are equally divided. Lord Justice Stephens leads the array who contend that the offense was not larceny, contending that defendant's responsibility was not established to his satisfaction, and that he was therefore not guilty of larceny. Lord Chief Justice Coleridge and his associates maintained that although the original value of the coin was a shilling, the defendant did not take it until he knew it was a sovereign, and made up his mind to keep it, and that he was therefore guilty of larceny. The question hinges upon whether the "taking" of the sovereign actually occurred.

Garfield's monument at Cleveland will be completed, it is expected, during the coming summer. It looks as much like a lighthouse as anything else. The credit for its appearance belongs to the Monument Association, of which General H. R. Hayes is President. The association chose the design from a number of plans that were privately submitted. The whole matter was arranged before the public was taken into the confidence of the association. The committee of the Cleveland Civil Engineers' Club decided that if the monument were constructed according to the plans of the architect, Mr. Kellor, of Hartford, Conn., it would be unsafe, as it was built upon a clay knoll, which, the club said, was unable to bear the weight. The association decided to shorten the monument by seventy-five feet. This decision was reached long after the monument was under way. Naturally, after losing so much of its height, the monument will not look as the architect designed. President Garfield's body will be placed in it during the coming fall. The body is now in the public vault, which is always guarded. It was removed from the Schofield vault last June, when the soldiers were relieved from the duty of guarding it. The embalming of the body is said to have been done in a very unsatisfactory manner.

## OUTWARD OR HOMEWARD.

Still are the ships that in heaven ride,  
Waiting fair winds or a turn of the tide;  
Nothing they fret, though they do not get  
Out on the ocean wide.  
O! wild hearts, that years to be free,  
Look and learn from the ships of the sea!  
Dreadfully the ships in the tempest tossed  
Bluff the waves till the sea be crossed;  
Not in despair of the haven fair,  
Though the winds blow backward and  
leagues be lost;  
O, weary hearts that yearn for sleep,  
Look and learn from the ships of the deep!  
—E. W. Bourdillon

## BUSTER BILL.

"Ho! by Jupiter!" said Buster Bill. It might have sounded harsh from any other inhabitant of Gold Run, but coming from the lips of Buster Bill it was different; for Buster Bill had deep blue eyes, and his yellow hair curled into a topknot on his small, round head; and Buster Bill had not yet attained to the age of reason, being but eight years old. Also, Buster Bill, with his yellow topknot protruding through the hole in Keno Dick's cast-off sombrero, and his sturdy little knees smiling through the holes in Paddy Noonan's discarded overalls, was as irreconcilable with the idea of harshness as oil with water.

"By George! I'll bet you my biggest chips you can't do it!" went on Bill, decisively.

The two persons so unconscious of his own would have made—well, without any exaggeration, seven of him. And they might have been trusted to make seven out of him had they heard his crushing verdict. But Bill, when he woke up in the old, sunny gold pocket by the hillside, and heard the two tough nuts of the camp planning for the robbery of Keno Dick's cabin, had sense enough to lie still and save his remarks till he and the yellow poppies could no longer be seen.

In the course of his six years' residence among the pine trees and bowlders of old Run there had been nobody to whom Buster Bill looked up as he did to Keno Dick. Although he was on intimate terms with the whole camp, thereby procuring for his mother a monopoly of the washing on that portion of the High Sierra, it was to Dick alone that he turned in his extremities. When he had forgotten to bring his mother the box of starch for which she was waiting, or when the new bar of soap had accidentally slipped from his pocket down to the sump of the shaft he had been superintending, it was Dick who had stood at the door of his cabin while Bill dashed under his arm—a wall firm and secure against the Female Avenger. It was Dick who remarked that the next fellow who fell down the sump would come up cleaner than he had been since he left the States; and it was Dick who fished out from the storehouse under his bed the twin to Bill's bar of soap, and sent the Avenger home rejoicing.

And Dick had been out on a prospecting tour for two days, and was not expected back until to-morrow night. Bill had intended to accompany him, but Bill's mother was of the opinion that he might be wanting for something else, and at what time had the ferret be running around? So Bill had stayed at home, and this afternoon he had been cautioned not to set foot off the hill, for indeed he was not built wide the voice of a stamewhistle.

Therefore he had crawled into the deserted pocket, and until half an hour ago had slept the sleep of only the boy who knows his mother wants him. Then he had started wide awake to listen to the robbers' plot, and the plot was against Keno Dick.

Bill stared after the retreating figures, dimly seen at the bottom of the hill, and then sat down to embrace his tan-colored knees and arrange for the night's work. Most people would have announced the news in open meeting at the Gold Run hotel that night, but not so Buster Bill. What for such tame affairs he had thus been characterized by the wisest in camp? Was it for that he had learned of Wild Bill had yearned for him, and dreamed of him? No! It should never be said of him that he profited not by his teaching. The yellow topknot was a most convenient handle, and he reached the top of the hill with almost painful celerity, for, alas! carried away by his apostrophes, Buster Bill had forgotten to retire to his hole in the ground, and the avenger was abroad.

The night was gloomy and the wind sighed through the pines and whistled in the chaparral. The tallest branches whipped across the trail, and seemed to brave Buster Bill to be trying to scoop him up in their dark arms, as he struggled with the old shotgun he had purloined from under the Avenger's very nose, as she sat nodding after supper. The gun had belonged to his father, and he wondered, as it caught in the trees and bushes, and the holes in Paddy Noonan's overalls, how he had ever carried it when he was weak and sick. And he panted and considered why he had brought it with him to-night. He had not the slightest intention of using it, but Wild Bill always carried a gun. Then the branches made another scoop at it, and the trail kept getting mixed up with the rocks, and Buster Bill was fain to throw up his glory and sit down to weep. He had always regretted the distance between his own residence and Dick's, but he was sure the trail was bewitched to-night, and Dick's bag of dust, which he had hidden so securely in the sack of gold, while Bill threaded a needle to mend up the opening, and made it like a new sack, would be stolen. He had heard them say that they would rip everything open, and they would be blast if Keno Dick could hide his dust from them. They had mentioned inci-

dentally that they were going to rob another cabin, but that did not concern Bill. Oh, they were going to rob Dick. Nobody but reckless Keno Dick would have left such a haul in the lonely little cabin, and Bill had shaken his head doubtfully when Dick laughed and said that it was all right now. He shook it again as he struggled on, and suddenly discovered that he had reached the cabin by nearly dropping the shotgun into the gulch hard by his door. Buster Bill had left his breath far back on the trail, but there was no time for it, and he dug under the rear of the cabin with a velocity only acquired by constant practice in climbing the Avenger.

A providence unusual in the case of small boys enabled him to drag the gun, barrel foremost, successfully after him. He felt of the four-bag. The dust was there on the side next the wall, where a slight cut would get it out. The sound of feet outside and a few low-spoken words, and the door gave way!

Every eye, on entering a dark room, knows the momentary feeling of irresolution; and it was while the men were fumbling for their matches and whispering in an awe-struck way that they heard the low whimpering of a grizzly cub. Yes, it was unmistakable; and as their knees began to knock together, the grizzly mother answered as a loving mother should. But her slumber-song awakened no responsive chord in Dick's lone cabin, and when the mother rubbed against a leg, and a hand reached out and felt the hairy body, there was a yell that jarred the floor in the sack, and the trail smoked with the flying footsteps of the departing braves.

And Buster Bill sat in the middle of the cabin, engulfed in Dick's old bear-skin, and while his yellow topknot stood upright from fear, he laughed, and growled, and whispered, and hugged his gun.

"By George, I hain't sneaked round the old bear's den on Bald Peak for nuthin'!" said Buster Bill.

The next morning, when Keno Dick rode over the summit, twelve hours earlier than he was expected, he looked down on the camp and beheld a scene of surprising activity. It was one hour after sunrise when he arrived in front of the Gold Run Hotel, and listened without a word to the stupendous news. A couple of Mexicans had robbed, Mike Dorsey's cabin and vanquished. Dick's own cabin had been broken open, but everything was in order, except that the bear-skin lay in a heap on the floor, Buster Bill was missing, and his mother was in hysterics; if he listened, he could hear her crying on the hill.

Keno Dick listened with the immovable face that had characterized him at the table, and then turned the mustang's head toward his cabin. He was accompanied by a sympathizing delegation, who, knowing his love for the Buster, suggested that he drop in and console the mother. He refused curtly as her "och noes" floated down to the trail, and the procession took up its march, presumably to show him the tousel bear-skin.

But Dick made no comments, for a dul suspicion forced itself upon him that he would not be forced aside. Of course nothing had been touched; he could see that for himself. (Of course not, but he would look anyway, and make sure that the dust was safe. And as he turned the sack over, the flour sifted through the slit out in the side next the wall.)

Then the dark suspicion that he had put down as shameful danced around him, and cried out: "I knew it! I told you so! Nobody but Buster Bill knew where you kept your dust, and Buster Bill is missing!"

The boys gazed at Keno Dick with his surly response to their sympathy; but at last they went away, and he walked the space in front of the cabin like a tiger. Keno Dick had prospected in a strange place this time, for he had spent the last two days in Georgetown, where Miss Bessie Worth lived; and all the way up he had calculated how much home he had calculated how much it would take to build an addition to the cabin and to furnish it in the style befitting another and an angelic occupant.

But the bag was gone now, and Buster Bill was gone with it. His hands clenched in his pockets and one of them touched something hard. He drew it out. It was the chips he had got for Bill over in Georgetown. He had been intending to tell him he found it on the summit, for Bill was sharp and it was not best for him to know about the Georgetown claim yet. He tosed it into the gulch with an oath. But, after all, it was a chip, and the foundation of a new bag must be laid soon. He climbed down after it with feverish haste. A jagged quartz rock cut his hand; he was glad, and he struck it against the rock. He wouldn't have minded the loss of the dust so much, but—Bessie, and Bill! Yes, it was sorrow that tilted his eyes and made him stumble. Oh, little Bill, how could you do it! Another stumble! Take care, Dick; you had better wipe your eyes, if you want to find that chips.

"What! Hill! Little Bill, lying here! Look up! Look up! Oh, little Buster Bill, forgive me!"

The Buster opened his eyes and smiled. "Hill, I see it all now. They scared you into telling them where it was, and then chucked you into the gulch!"

## How Pretzels are Made.

The lovelier, or bakery proper, where the pretzels are kneaded and cooked, is a pretty hot place, the temperature standing at ninety to ninety-five degrees. This heat is necessary to "raise" the pretzels. The most striking feature of the scene is a vertical boiler, a steam machine like a big clothes wringer, a few men with long-handled shovels working at blazing ovens, a dozen boys rolling little bits of dough into special shapes, a vat of boiling lye, and a great rack of boards covered with pretzels. First the dough is kneaded in a great kneading-trough—the only ingredients being flour, yeast, salt, and warm water. The dough is much stiffer than that used for ordinary bread. When well kneaded it is listed in great lumps and run for about fifteen minutes through the steam rollers, a machine that works exactly like a steam clothes wringer. This makes the dough more consistent and putty-like and leaves it in great sheets about an inch thick. Then it is cut in strips and these strips rolled on the large-baking-boards, and an inch in diameter. These stiff, round strips are then run through a cutter which cuts them into sections about an inch long. The boys work consists in making these sections into pretzels. Each section is rolled by hand on the board until it is the shape of a thick lead-pencil, and then by a rapid twist it is made into the pretzel form already described. The pretzels are then laid on boards and the boards piled on top of each other as high as the ceiling. They are left thus about half an hour, by which time the heat of the atmosphere has made them pretty stiff and dry, while the yeast has begun its work and swollen them out to some extent. Then they are thrown into the vat of boiling lye, and in about a minute and a half they float to the surface. They are skinned off with wire ladles as fast as they rise, and are then spread on the blades of long shovels and sprinkled with salt. In this way they are thrust into the oven and baked for about twenty minutes. The oven is kept at a heat that would burn leaves to a cinder, a very strong heat being necessary for pretzels. They are then put in wire boxes and left for half a day or so on the second floor directly on top of the oven, which dries them thoroughly and leaves them ready for use. Then they are packed in boxes which hold about seven and a half pounds, or over 300 pretzels.—Chicago Tribune.

## The Color of Birds' Eggs.

Many birds make their nests in lofty trees or on the edges of precipitous cliffs. Of these, the eagles, vultures, and crows are conspicuous examples. They are, for the most part, too powerful to be afraid of the marauding magpie, and only fear the attacks of beasts of prey, among whom they doubtless classify the human race. They rely for the safety of their eggs on the inaccessible positions of the nest. Many of them also belong to a still larger group of birds who rely for the safety of their eggs upon their own ability, either singly, in pairs, or in colonies, to defend them against all aggressors. Few colonies of birds are more interesting than those of herons, cormorants, and their respective allies. These birds lay white or nearly white eggs. Nature, with her customary thrift, has lavished no color upon them because, apparently, it would have been wasted effort to do so; but the eggs of the guillemot are a remarkable exception to this rule. Few eggs are more gorgeously colored, and no eggs exhibit such a variety of color. It is impossible to suppose that protective selection can have produced colors so conspicuous on the white edges of the chalk cliffs, and sexual selection must have been equally powerless. It would be too ludicrous a suggestion to suppose that a cock guillemot fell in love with a plain-colored hen because he remembered that last season she laid a gay-colored egg. It is not an accident that causes the guillemot's eggs to be so handsome and so varied. In the case of birds breeding in holes secure from the prying eyes of the marauding magpie, no color is wasted where it is not wanted.

## Drawing the Line.

"Everybody draws the line somewhere, and I draw mine at Sunday night concerts," said a man, who, nevertheless, spent his day of rest in horse-racing and various similar amusements. He had thus gone through the farce of compromise with his conscience by yielding to her in one point, but that one involving only an indulgence which offered him no very strong temptation.

"I wonder how you can bring yourself to wear false hair," said a lady who was watching a friend, as she deftly rolled the detached puffs which formed her head-gear. "It seems so insincere!"

"I never thought of that," returned the other. "Perhaps you feel about it as I do about artificial teeth. Nothing would ever induce me to wear them."

"Teeth! Why, my own are false! I'm sure no one could be expected to go about toothless!"

So, time after time, does the world decide for itself, condemning that of which it has no personal need.—Youth's Companion.

## A WONDERFUL FORMATION.

PECULIAR BACTERIAN GROWTH IN A YOUNG GIRL.

A Frog growing on the side of the Little Maid's Head—The Mother's Story.

A recent number of the St. Louis Republican says: Dr. E. Kounkin, the well-known practitioner and editor of the American Medical Journal, returned yesterday from a professional trip to Illinois, wherein he was confronted with one of the most remarkable cases in the history of medical practice. To a Republican reporter the doctor last night gave the following account of the case: "A few days ago I was called into Illinois, eighty miles south of St. Louis, and on learning that there was a peculiar case of 'moth-eaten' mark in the vicinity, I determined to go and see it. When I reached the country home, I was shown a pretty, vivacious maiden of ten summers, with a mischievous sparkle in her young eyes, and something of a frog on her head bearing a strong resemblance to a frog or toad. The little girl was perfectly formed and had never been seriously ill and was perfectly healthy. I determined to go and see it. 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