

RECENTLY A THRIFTY SOUL

Talker Over Telephone When Called Upon to Pop a Nickel in the Slot.

pendent of the Cleveland after tells this story: called to the telephone, and operator asked, 'Is this 0664?' and since that is number, I said yes. So she the party on the other end 'Drop a nickel, please.' came a male voice.

'Five cents, please,' said the translating. And still the can't get it through his head must part with a jitney be can talk. Then I took a hand voice—in the conversation. 'Drop five cents in the slot, you will be allowed to talk number.'

was a long pause, and then 'Well, neffer mind. I gets number!'

'concludes our inform- kept calling till he got a one.'

THE FIRST SIGNS

Hair Get Cuticura. It Works Wonders. Trial Free.

spots of dandruff and itching Cuticura Ointment, and follow with a hot shampoo of Soap. This at once arrests and promotes hair growth. rely on these supercreamy for all skin troubles.

each free by mail with Book, postcard, Cuticura, Dept. XY, Sold everywhere.—Adv.

The Better Way.

M. Schwab, congratulated on a large war contract he had just received from one warring nations, said: 'Some people call it luck, but they mistaken. Whatever success I due to hard work and not to remember a New York business who crossed the ocean with me when the whole country suffering from hard times.

'Let us ask him to tell us again the Christmas story,' said another of the older pines, 'the one he told us last year.'

Important to Mothers

Carefully every bottle of **Chas. H. Fletcher's** is a safe and sure remedy for children, and see that it is the **Chas. H. Fletcher's** For Over 30 Years.

Chas. H. Fletcher's Castoria

Eclipsed.

you believe in the Darwinian 'Yes,' replied Miss Cayenne; there are so many more interesting eccentric theories being advanced just now I had almost forgot-

Drive Out Malaria

And Build Up The System

Old Standard GROVE'S CHILL TONIC You know are, taking, as the formula is on every label, showing it is and Iron in a tasteless form. The drives out malaria, the Iron up the system. 50 cents.

No Cause for Mirth.

—So this is one of your jokes, Ha! ha! ha!

—(testily)—Well, what are laughing at, anyhow? Isn't it a Passing Show.

The Best Liniment.

Falls on icy walks, sprains and rub on and rub in Hanford's of Myrrh. Apply this liniment and relief should quickly Adv.

Very Unkind.

'Sometimes I think,' he began. 'not often, I suppose,' inter-

Not Gray Hairs but Tired Eyes

look older than we are. Keep young and you will look young. Murine Eye Remedy, Co., Murine Eye Remedy, Co., Sends Eye Book on request.

Married is usually more enthusiastic

being married than she is the man she has wed.

The year by getting Hanford's

You will find frequent use Adv.

When the average man gets justice

the courts he is usually too old to Adv.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days

refuse to pay money if PAZO OINTMENT cure itching, bleeding or protruding. First application gives relief. 50c.

It takes a wise man to pick a fool

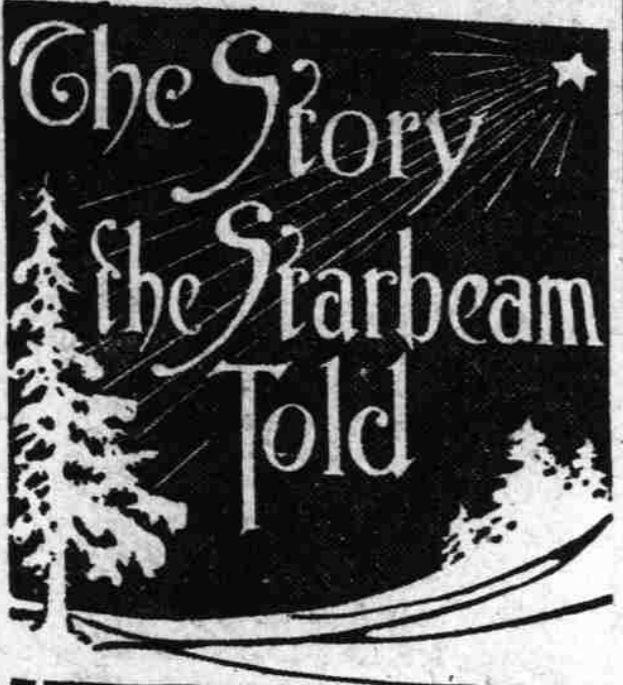
money he can spend.

Keep clean and healthy take Dr.

Pleasant Pellets. They regulate bowels and stomach.—Adv.

Widowers are women's rights; wid

women's rights.



THE STORY OF THE STARBEAM TOLD

ONE COLD winter night the snow was gently falling on the pine trees of the forest. These tall, stately trees stood very straight and still on this cold night. By and by the tallest and the oldest of them said:

"How happy I shall be when at last I am strong enough and tall enough to be cut down by the wood cutters. I hope when they do cut me down that I may be good enough that they will want me for some great ship, and then I shall have a chance to sail the seas."

"What do you know about ships and the seas?" asked a little pine tree who stood at the foot of the tall one.

The stately tree bent his branches a very little and looked down at the small tree, at his feet.

"I have heard many stories of the seas, and the ships that sail on them, for the birds sit in my branches and sing to me all the time of the beauties and wonders of the world. Then, too, the starbeams, who are much older than the birds, have some truly wonderful tales to tell of things that they have seen in their trips around the world. There is the Starbeam of the Brightest Star, just peeping over the hilltop. He can tell some truly wonderful tales."

The little pine tree trembled for very joy. This was his first winter in the forest, and these things were all new to him, just as was the snow that was covering his roots, and making them all warm with its white blanket.

"Won't you please ask the Starbeam to tell us a story?" asked the little pine.

"Let us ask him to tell us again the Christmas story," said another of the older pines, "the one he told us last year."

So, when the Starbeam came over and rested gently on the tallest pine, he asked it to tell again the Story of the First Christmas.

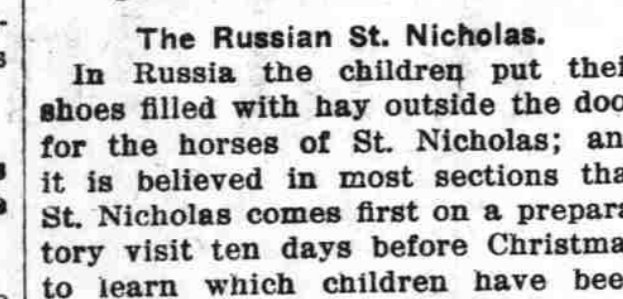
"I love to tell this story best of all stories that I know," said the little Starbeam.

"Once upon a time a long time ago, long before even the oldest pine trees here began to grow, a beautiful woman, named Mary, and her husband, Joseph, went on a journey to a little city called Bethlehem. All the people in that country went to this same city, to pay their taxes, and when Mary and Joseph got there, they found so many people, that there was no room left for them at the inn. The only place where they could find shelter was in a stable, and here they went. That night a little babe was born, and its mother, Mary, laid him in a manger on some nice clean straw.

"Away off in the East, the Brightest Star appeared. He had never been seen before, and some wise men who knew that this was the time for the babe to be born, saw the Brightest Star as they started out to find the babe. All their long journey the Brightest Star kept just in front of them to show them the way to go, and when they rested at night, the Brightest Star would rest too, and wait for them. At last they reached the city of Bethlehem, and found the little babe in the manger with his mother by his side.

"These wise men had brought some very costly gifts to this babe, and it is the birthday of this babe that is celebrated every Christmas, and it is in his memory that gifts are given to the poor.

"That is all of the story, and it is time for me to be going," and the Starbeam went gayly on, dancing over the tops of the trees.



The Russian St. Nicholas.

In Russia the children put their shoes filled with hay outside the door for the horses of St. Nicholas; and it is believed in most sections that St. Nicholas comes first on a preparatory visit ten days before Christmas to learn which children have been good. He leaves nuts and candy in the shoes of those who have been good, but nothing for those who have been bad, who thus know that they may expect no presents on the real Christmas day.



The Bran Pie.

This is an English custom. The gifts are hidden in a large pan of bran A string is tied to each package, and on the end of the string is the name of the one for whom the package is intended. When all have their strings they all pull. Then comes the fun of getting the bran off and opening the packages.

CHINESE SHOE WORKBOX

Perhaps This May Provide Work for Some Small Child's Nimble Fingers.

The small girl who would like to make mother or elder sister a gift, but whose pocket money is limited, should try her hand at the little Chinese shoe workbox shown here. She will surely succeed if she can sew at all, and if she will be very careful about the cutting and sewing. The beauty of it is the piece bag will probably supply the materials for making, while 25 cents will buy the furnishings.

One must cut two pieces of cardboard, each seven inches long, then shape it into a sole and take off one-quarter inch from the toe of one piece. The larger piece is covered on one side with white muslin and the small-



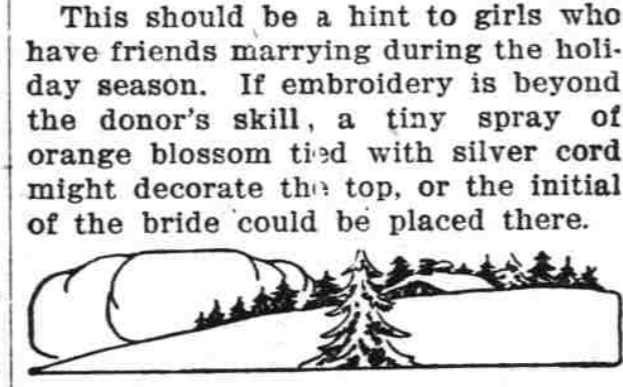
Nice Present Any Girl Can Make.

or with a bit of muslin is sewed all around the white covered sole and then to the smaller sole, silk upward. When this is sewed together you have a sole half an inch in thickness turning up at the toe as the Chinaman's shoe does. Fill this with cotton.

The one thing to remember is to take time in making this pretty box. It costs next to nothing, but it will not be a success if carelessly done.

The writer saw an exquisite model of this work case that is to be given to a bride. It is carried out in white satin embroidered in silk and silver thread in a wistaria design, the lining being of wistaria-colored silk to match.

This should be a hint to girls who have friends marrying during the holiday season. If embroidery is beyond the donor's skill, a tiny spray of orange blossom tied with silver cord might decorate the top, or the initial of the bride could be placed there.



THE GIFTS FOR MOTHER

The gladdest hour of Christmas day, The time the hearts are lightest An' every care is chased away An' all the smiles are brightest, Is when the family, young an' old, From dad to little brother, With all the love that hearts can hold Come bringing gifts to mother.

We keep her presents till the last An' then when she sits rocking, An' all the other gifts are passed, We go an' get her stocking, We gather round her easy chair, First one an' then the other Steps up an' says: "Well, I declare! Here's something else for mother!"

An' with each present goes a kiss, An' all is still an' quiet When mother murmurs: "What is this?" An' hastens to untie it. Then everybody wildly cheers, An' shouts for perfect gladness, An' mother's eyes are moist with tears, But not the tears of sadness.

Oh, here's a scene that gold can't buy Or stage in imitation, The smiling face, the glistening eye Of love's own celebration. And with each jolly Christmas day We pray to know another When we shall meet the self-same way And bring our gifts to mother. —Detroit Free Press.



THE WISDOM OF WAITING.



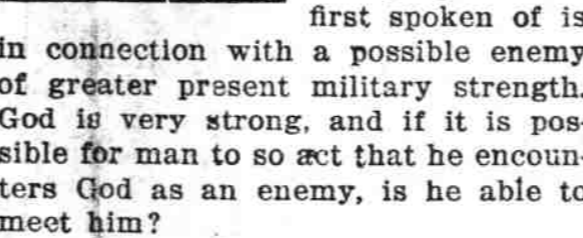
"Your wife tells you you have given up smoking." "That's only until Christmas; I don't like her brand."

Prepared-ness

By REV. J. H. RALSTON Secretary of Correspondence, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

TEXT—Prepare to meet thy God.—Amos 4:12.

Preparedness is the word of the hour. Its application is to preparation for national defense. Many newspapers and many patriotic citizens are now urging the United States government to prepare for war in the time of peace. This application of the idea to the nation has one strong competitor for consideration and that is preparation for man's eternal welfare. The preparedness first spoken of is in connection with a possible enemy of greater present military strength. God is very strong, and if it is possible for man to so act that he encounters God as an enemy, is he able to meet him?



Meeting God.

What is it to meet God? Man meets God in his everyday obligations. Some of these are communal, while others are individual. Men are as communities and as individuals meeting God and they are enjoying or suffering the consequences. There is a certain meeting of God in death, the soul standing naked before him, and it is a very common expression in connection with the death of anyone to say, "He has gone to meet his God." When a judge in court sentences a prisoner to death he adds, "And may God have mercy on your soul." But the chief thing in mind is the meeting of God in the final judgment. Neither taking a chance, reformation, nor becoming religious will make this preparation; only belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior will do it.

The Outcome of Preparation.

One outcome of such preparation will be an immediate blessing, the establishment of peace with God and the experience of the peace of God. There is the realization of man's true place in the universe. He was created in the image and likeness of God and he can never be "the whole of man," as indicated by the correct reading of Ecclesiastes 12:13, unless he believes in Jesus Christ. There is also deliverance from the power of death, which, while as a lion in the pathway it may terrify, is chained. This outcome means the ultimate, perfect individual and also the perfect social order. Man is not "whole" until he has a sound mind in a sound body, and both of these are the inheritance of the believer in Jesus Christ. A man who does not believe in Jesus Christ as his Savior, is not of a sound mind. The prodigal was not in his right mind when he demanded his father's goods and when he was spending them in riotous living, and it was only when he came to himself; that is, when he resumed rationality and determined to return to his father's house, that he became of sound mind. This sound mind will also be in a sound body. It is the glory of the Christian religion that it promises a body that is incorruptible, powerful, honorable, glorious and like Christ's body. The blind, the deaf, the dumb, the deformed and those lacking members of the normal body, can certainly believe that they will have perfect bodies some day if they meet the conditions that God places on them.

When Shall Man Prepare?

Many who acknowledge the necessity of preparation, put it off until after death, but while there is a most dangerous indifference to this fact on the part of those who theoretically profess it, it is true that preparation must be made before death. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." That preparation can be completely made now. But, says someone, "That is too rapid, that is practically miraculous, it is a creative act." Precisely so, and nothing less. There is no evolution in regeneration. Jesus, in his talk to Nicodemus, settled the matter of man's right relationship to God in speaking of it as a new birth. That preparation can be made this moment by believing in Jesus Christ.

Two soldiers in the trenches of Flanders, who were brothers and devout Christians, belonged to a regiment which had been ordered to make a charge upon the enemy. The commanding officers said that there would be a very serious business. The younger of the two brothers said to the other, as they went into the smoke and the smothering gases, "Brother, we may not see each other again, but it is all right." The older brother came back wounded, the name of the other was found in the list of those who had been killed, but he was prepared.

As a Little Child.

While you are in the world, imitate little children, who, as they with one hand hold fast by their father with the other gather berries along the edges; so you, gathering and handling the goods of this world with one hand, must with the other a ways hold fast the hand of your heavenly Father.—Francis de Sales



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HERE'S a fine opportunity to get a beautiful set of silverware for your table at no cost to you. Charming Bridal Wreath design. Guaranteed for ten years. Save the signatures from Skinner packages. Write us and we will give you full details. Also tell you about the

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Back home for a real Christmas Dinner

Absolutely necessary to make the Holiday Feast complete

In over a million homes throughout the country, Arbucks' Coffee will be absolutely necessary to make the Christmas feast complete. The women of these homes know the importance of having the right coffee—for three generations, they have known that in Arbucks' Coffee they get just the flavor everyone enjoys. If you have not tasted it lately, serve it now. At your Christmas dinner, get all the enjoyment good coffee gives.



Altogether Too Careless.

The editor in charge of the personal inquiry column opened his seventieth letter with a groan. "I have lost three husbands," a lady reader had written, confidently, "and now have the offer of a fourth. Shall I accept him?" The editor dipped his pen in the ink. This was the last straw. "If you've lost three husbands," he wrote, "I should say you are much too careless to be trusted with a fourth."

County Leads in Mining.

In metal Shasta county has long been in a class by itself, leading all other counties in California for the past eighteen years. The official statistics from 1897—the year when her great sulphide ore bodies were first exploited—to 1914 (last year estimated) credit the county with a total output of \$99,144,777, or an average of over \$5,508,000 per year.

The kitchen is about the last place on earth the modern girl enters to kill time.

SWAMP-ROOT

Is not recommended for everything; but if you have kidney, liver or bladder trouble it may be found just the remedy you need. At druggists in fifty cent and dollar sizes. You may receive a sample size bottle of this reliable medicine by Parcel Post, also pamphlet telling about it. Address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., and enclose ten cents, also mention this paper.

Bothered by Catarrh, Bronchitis, Asthma, Head or Chest Colds?

Try the "Vap-O-Rub" Treatment—Relieved by Inhalation and Absorption. No Stomach Dosing.

No need to disturb your stomach with internal medicines for these troubles. Vick's "Vap-O-Rub" Salve, combines by a special process—Menthol, Thymol, Eucalyptol, Camphor and Pine Tar, so that when applied to the heat of the body, these ingredients are released in the form of vapors. These soothing, medicated vapors are inhaled all night long through the air passages to the lungs, loosening the phlegm, soothing the inflamed membrane, and aiding the body cells to drive out the invading germs. In addition, Vick's is absorbed through the pores, reducing the inflammation and taking out that tightness and soreness. 25c, 50c, or \$1.00. At all druggists.

VICK'S "VAPORUB" SALVE