

THE ORPHANS' FRIEND.

Wednesday, February 2, 1876.

PICCOLA.

BY CELIA THAXTER.

Poor, sweet Piccola! Did you hear  
What happened to Piccola, children dear?  
Tis seldom Fortune such favor grants  
As fell to this little maid of France.

'Twas Christmas-time, and her parents poor  
Could hardly drive the wolf from the door,  
Striving with poverty's patient pain  
Only to live till summer again.

No gift for Piccola! Sad were they  
When dawned the morning of Christmas-day;  
Their little darling no joy might stir,  
St. Nicholas nothing would bring to her!

But Piccola never doubted at all  
That something beautiful must befall  
Every child upon Christmas-day,  
And so she slept till the dawn was gray.

And full of faith, when at last she woke,  
She stole to her shoe as the morning broke;  
Such sounds of gladness filled all the air,  
'Twas plain St. Nicholas had been there!

In rushed Piccola sweet, half wild—  
Never was seen such a joyful child,  
'See what the good saint brought!' she cried,  
And mother and father must peep inside.

Now such a story who ever heard?  
There was a little shivering bird!  
A sparrow, that in the window flew,  
Had crept into Piccola's tiny shoe!

'How good poor Piccola must have been!  
She cried as happy as any queen,  
While the starving sparrow she fed and warmed,  
And danced with rapture, she was so charmed.

Children this story I tell to you,  
Of Piccola sweet and her bird, is true.  
In the far-off land of France, they say,  
Still do they live to this very day.

—St. Nicholas.

HOME CONVERSATIONAL TRAINING.

The *Baltimore American* writes: There is no nation more fluent in conversation than the American. The French are more voluble, perhaps, their language permitting great rapidity of pronunciation than the English. Our best conversationalists are not rapid talkers. One trouble with us is, each one likes to do all the talking; therefore Americans are not good listeners. But mere talking is not conversation. In almost all home circles there is much talking done during the day, but we fear there are few who do not reserve their most brilliant conversational powers for other assemblages than the home group. Many a father comes home tired; he has worked hard and talked a great deal, told amusing anecdotes, and displayed much wit. He has come home to rest. He takes out his paper and is soon oblivious to everything around him: Wife would like to tell him many of the little harrassing afflictions of the day, and would like to hear some of his interesting experiences, but if he were a deaf mute he could not be more silent, only an occasional grunt answering her many attempts at conversation; and the children, expecting the good-night kiss, and often not even that, are not noticed. Such a home, whether the abode of wealth or otherwise, cannot be a healthy and happy one. As a parallax, draw around the evening lamp of another home circle. The father tells the anecdotes from the paper as he reads them; the mother laughs her sweet, low laugh, and the children burst into merry ha! ha's! To watch them as they ask questions and listen to the answers and patient explanations, the wonderment, interest and thought imprinted on their young faces is a picture for an artist. This home education is an heritage more valuable than

land or money; and one beautiful recompense in life is, that in making others happy we bring happiness to ourselves. Parents who practice self-denial and endeavor by cheerful conversation and playful wit to enliven home life, will reap a rich reward in the better thoughts and noble actions of their children, and will experience the truest and best contentment themselves.

THE NAMES OF THE MONTHS.

The names of the months were given by the Romans.

JANUARY, the first month, was so called from Janus, an ancient king of Italy, who was deified after his death, and derived from the Latin word *Januarius*.

FEBRUARY, the second month, derived from the Latin word *Februus*, is to purify; hence *Februarius*, for this month the ancient Romans offered up expiatory sacrifice for the purifying of the people.

MARCH, the third month, anciently the first month, is derived from the word *Mars*, the god of war.

APRIL, so called from the Latin *Aprilus*, i. e., opening; because in this month the vegetable world opens and buds forth.

MAY, the fifth month, is derived from the Latin word *Majores*, so called by *Romulus* in respect towards the Senators; hence *Maius* or *May*.

JUNE, the sixth month, from the Latin word *Junius*, or the youngest of the people.

JULY, the seventh month, is derived from the Latin word *Julius*, and so named in honor of *Julius Cæsar*.

AUGUST, the eighth month, was so called in honor of *Augustus*, by a decree of the Roman Senate, A. D., 8.

SEPTEMBER, the ninth month, from the Latin word *Septem*, or seven, being the seventh month from *March*.

OCTOBER, the tenth month, from the Latin word *Octo*, eight, hence *October*.

NOVEMBER, the eleventh month, from the Latin word *Novem*, nine; being the ninth month from *March*.

DECEMBER, the twelfth month, from the Latin word *Decem*, ten; so called because it was the tenth month from *March*, which was anciently the manner of beginning the year.

A tramp, while on his travels, noticed a placard in front of a bar-room. It bore the significant and pleasing legend, "Free Lunch;" and he went in, walked unostentatiously up to a plate, and commenced operations with a sandwich; then the barkeeper walked up to the cadaverous wretch, and said,—

"Men who eat here are expected to pay for a drink."

"I know it," said the tramp.

"Well, then, why don't you conform to the rule?"

"Cause I go in for health, and don't drink till I am through eating."

The bar-keeper turned his back for a moment, and the tramp calmly devoured four sandwiches. Then he walked up to the bar, and huskily whispered,—

"Gimme a glass of water, will ye?"

"What! water, after four sandwiches?" bellowed the bar-keeper, angrily.

"Yes'r; water," replied the tramp. "I've been a drinkin' it nigh onter forty year, and it's just the healthiest stuff a-goin'."

And he hobbled out.

A THOUSAND BOYS WANTED.

There are always boys enough in the market, but some of them are of little use. The kind that are always wanted are—

1. Honest.
2. Pure.
3. Intelligent.
4. Active.
5. Industrious.
6. Obedient.
7. Steady.
8. Obliging.
9. Polite.
10. Neat.

One thousand first-rate places are open for a thousand boys who come up to this standard.

Each boy can suit his taste as to what kind of business he would prefer. The places are ready in every kind of occupation.

Many of these places of trade and art are already filled by boys who lack some of the most important points, but they will soon be vacant.

One has an office where the lad who has the situation is losing his first point. He likes to attend the singing saloon and the theatre. This costs more money than he can afford, but somehow he manages to be there frequently.

His employers are quietly watching to learn how he gets so much spending money; they will soon discover a leak in the money drawer, detect the dishonest boy, and his place will be ready for some one who is now getting ready for it by observing point No. 1, and being truthful in all his ways.

Some situations will soon be vacant because the boys have been poisoned by reading bad books, such as they would not dare to show their fathers, and would be ashamed to have their mothers see.

The impure thoughts suggested by these books will lead to vicious acts; the boys will be ruined, and their places must be filled.

Who will be ready for one of these vacancies?

STATE LEGISLATURES.

The largest State Senates in the Union are those of North Carolina and Indiana—50 members each. New York has, 32, Pennsylvania 33, Massachusetts 40, California and Iowa 40, Georgia requires 44, Virginia 43. In sixteen States the Senate numbers between 30 and 40 members; in nine, between 20 and 30; in five (Delaware, New Hampshire, Nevada, Nebraska, Oregon) less than 20. The smallest Senate is that of Delaware—nine members, against Little Rhody's 36. In the popular branches, New Hampshire leads off with 341; Vermont and Connecticut comes next with 241 apiece; then follow Massachusetts with 240, and Missouri with 200. In nine States the membership of the House is more than 100 and less than 200; in six, it is the even and symmetrical 100; in seventeen, it is less than 100. The smallest House of all is Delaware's—21.—*Charlotte Democrat*.

STUCK TO IT.

Learn a trade, or get into business, and go at it with a determination that defies failure, and you will succeed. Don't leave it because hard blows are to be struck, or disagreeable work to be performed. Those who have worked their way up to wealth and usefulness do not belong to the shiftless and unstable class, and if you do not work while a young man, as an old man you will be nothing. Work with a will and conquer your prejudice against labor; manfully bear the heat and burden of the day. It may be hard the first week, but

after that I assure you it will become a pleasure, and you will feel enough better satisfied with yourself to pay for all the trial of a beginning. Let perseverance and industry be your motto, and with a steady application to business you need have no fears for the future. Don't be ashamed of plain clothes, provided you have earned them. They are far more beautiful in the estimation of all honest men and women than the costly gowgaws sported by some people at the expense of the confiding tailor. The people who respect you only when well clad, will be the first to run from you in the hour of adversity.

Readers Classified.

1. Sponges, who absorb all they read, and return it nearly in the same state, only a little dirtied.
2. Sand-glasses, who retain nothing, are content to get through a book for the sake of getting through the time.
3. Strain-bags, who retain merely the dregs of what they read.
4. Moral diamonds, equally rare and profitable, who profit by what they read, and enable others to profit by it also.

'Tis commonly said that the justest dividend nature has given us of her favors, is that of sense; for there is no one that is not contented with his share.—*Montaigne*.

FAREWELL, FAREWELL.

Several friends of the orphan work have allowed their subscriptions to expire and have failed to renew. Perhaps they forgot it. Perhaps they are merely neglecting it. But they surely can not expect an Orphan House to send them the paper free. We have done our best to send a paper that would do good to them and to their families. It now becomes our painful duty to bid them a tender and affectionate Farewell, Farewell. 4-3t.

HOW CHILDREN ARE ADMITTED.

Very often the Superintendent hunts up poor and promising orphans and informs them of the advantages offered at the Orphan Houses, and induces them to return with him. Generally it is best that he should see them before they start. When this is impracticable, a formal application should be made by some friend. Here is one in proper form:

Edenton, N. C.,  
June 2d, 1875.

This is to certify that Susan N. Bradshaw is an orphan, without estate, sound in body and mind, and ten years of age. Her father died in 1873; her mother in 1867. I being her Aunt, hereby make application for her admission into the Asylum for Orphans at Oxford. I also relinquish and convey to the officers of the Asylum the management and control of the said orphan for four years, in order that she may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Martha Scott.

Approved by  
John Thompson, W. M.  
of Unanimity Lodge, No. 7.

The application should be sent to the Superintendent and he will either go for the children, or provide for their transportation. In no case should a community take up a collection to send a man with the children, nor send the children before the Superintendent has been consulted. 4-12t.

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Orders solicited and promptly filled. March 3rd, 1875. 9-tf