

ODDS AND ENDS.

In some sections the tramps have already begun to palm themselves off as Afghan sufferers, driven away from their homes by the British army.

A South American has discovered a plant which gives milk, but we don't see where the fun is to come in, as it can't turn around and kick the pail over.

A little girl was asked by her mother, on her return from church, how she liked the preacher. "Didn't like him at all," was the reply. "Why?" asked her mother. "Cause he preached till he made me sleepy, and then hollered so loud he wouldn't let me go to sleep."

A Highland lawyer, recently leasing certain premises to a lady during the term of her natural life, made the provision that she should pay a certain rent yearly, and should quit and deliver up "the premises to the lessor or her attorney peaceably and quietly at the end of the term."

The women in Kansas vote at the school elections. At a recent election in Osage City one woman went up to vote, but before she got through telling the judges what a time her Willie had with the scarlet fever when he was only two years old it was time to close the polls and she had forgotten to deposit her ballot.

Pope Leo XIII does not countenance the theory that all dancing is of the Evil One. To some ladies who asked his permission to dance during the late carnival he said: "Go, my dears, and enjoy yourselves in an innocent dance, only don't keep up too late your papas and mammas when they want to get home again."

E. A. Cowper, an English mechanical engineer, has invented a machine by which a hand writing in one place can produce at the other end of the telegraphic line the precise characters which it originally traces, so that the letter when thus written will be as distinctly the hand writing of the telegrapher as one produced at the same time by his own pen.

A singular circumstance is told in connection with the death of Mrs. Elisha Hunt, which recently occurred at Rockland, Maine. For over twenty years she had been a cripple, in feeble health, and for the last ten years had been blind. About 20 minutes before her death it was noticed that she followed with her eyes the movements of persons about the rooms, and on being asked by her daughter if she could see, answered that she could. She had lived in the home of her son-in-law and daughter, and had a strong desire to look upon the faces of those who had provided for her with the kindest care, and in the last minutes of her life this privilege was granted her.

A fashionable French lady while visiting in London, noticed a monkey collecting money for his master, an organ-grinder in the prettiest way imaginable. She took such a fancy to the droll little fellow that she bought him, dressed him in most costly jackets and made him her especial pet. Subsequently the lady held a reception in Paris for the benefit of a charitable institution, and, of course, her monkey attracted a great deal of attention by his funny grimaces and amusing actions. In the course of the evening, a young lady seated herself at the piano, and playing her own accompaniment, sang a popular song. As soon as she had finished the monkey, who, notwithstanding his present position, had not forgotten his former duties, seized a hat and held it before each guest according to his custom, began a collection. The singer laughed, his mistress looked vexed; but, to the amusement of all, the animal went the rounds and collected a large sum. His task ended, he jumped upon the knee of the singer, amid shouts of laughter, and deposited the contents of his hat in her lap. The collection was, of course, devoted to the charitable fund.

AGRICULTURAL—DOMESTIC.

POTATO CULTURE.

A pound of potatoes will go a good ways in planting, if each eye is cut by itself, with as much of the potato as there can be. If the piece is not larger than a pea, the eye will sprout and form a hill. The butt or stem end may be cut into small pieces, and many of them will sprout even if no eyes are visible, just as buds will come out of limbs of trees where they are not discernible. With ordinary culture, when the seed is prepared in this way, several hundred-fold of potatoes may be grown. A large crop can be raised by planting the potatoes in a hot bed and allowing them to sprout, and then removing the sprout and planting it in ground carefully prepared, and letting the potatoes throw out another from the same eye, which, in its turn, is likewise transplanted, and so on, until the vitality of the eye is exhausted. A number of settings, or hills, may be obtained from all of the eyes in this way, and the yield from each eye very largely multiplied. This is the way the great yields are obtained. To be successful, the conditions of soil, temperature and moisture must be just right; that is, in a condition to promote rapid and vigorous growth. Any one familiar with the manipulation of hot-beds could, doubtless, succeed in the sprouting method; but if the grower is not thus familiar, it would be best to cut the potatoes in small pieces and plant each piece, with the eye, in a hill in the open ground. The richer the ground is made, the larger will be the growth; but such overgrown tubers are more apt to rot. We would not recommend making the ground too rich, as healthy potatoes are the best for the table or for seed.

WORMS.

We do not think angle-worms ever injure crops, as they extract their food from the ground. Wire-worms prey upon the roots of plants, and night injure the potatoes by eating off the roots to the vines, or by feeding upon the potatoes themselves. Grubs are the most damaging to potatoes, as they eat holes into them. It does not follow that either will damage a crop the second year because they did the year before, as the same conditions may not exist; and then again, the winter may be such as to make decided changes. From these facts there may be no risk in planting the same ground successively with the same crop, and we should prefer to plant potatoes on potato ground rather than on sod or stubble, where, if the season is favorable for the growth and development of worms and grubs, they would be sure to be found the most active. The grubs last year were not caused in such large numbers by the potatoes, or by any crop, but by the favorable conditions which must have existed for a space of time long enough to bring them into existence and, in the absence of grass or vegetables, they fed upon the potatoes. A mild winter is conducive to the development of all sorts of worms and grubs, and one of opposite character is destructive to them.

ROSE CAKE.—Two cups of sugar, three eggs, one cup of butter one cup of milk, three cups of flour, two teaspoonfuls cream of tartar, one teaspoonful soda.

CANNED APPLES.—I saw an estimable lady lately putting stewed green apples into cans. While the fruit retains its full flavor, she prepares the apples, stewing as for sauce, and putting into cans without sweetening. She tells me they are excellent in the spring for pies, tasting fresh and new, while the apples in the cellar are partly decayed, rendering them poor for cooking.

CHARLOTTE RUSSE.—One quarter of a paper of gelatine put in a cup of milk, and set where it is warm until it dissolves; one quart of cream sweetened to the taste; add milk and gelatine, and beat with an egg-beater until it is light; take "lady fingers," cut them straight, dip their edges in the white of an egg to make them adhere; put them in the mould and then pour in the beaten cream.

YOUNG FOLKS' DEPARTMENT.

A LITTLE BOYS SERMON.

"Eddie," said Harry, "I'll be a minister, and preach you a sermon." "Well," said Eddie, "and I'll be peoples."

Harry began: "My text is short and an easy one—'Be kind.' There are some texts in the Bible on purpose for little children, and this is one of them. These are the heads of my sermon:

"First: Be kind to papa, and don't make a noise when he has the headache. I don't believe you know what a headache is; but I do. I had one once, and I didn't want to hear any one speak a word."

"Second: Be kind to mamma, and don't make her tell you to do a thing more than once. It is very tiresome to say, 'It is time for you to go to bed,' half a dozen times over."

"Third: Be kind to baby"—

"You have left out, 'Be kind to Harry,'" interrupted Eddie.

"Yes," said Harry, "I didn't mean to mention my own name in the sermon. I was saying: Be kind to little Minnie, and let her have your 'red soldier' to play with when she wants it."

"Fourth: Be kind to Jane, and don't scream and kick when she washes and dresses you."

Here Eddie looked a little ashamed, and said, "But she pulled my hair with the comb."

"People mustn't talk in meeting," said Harry. "Fifth: Be kind to Kitty. Do what will make her purr and don't do what will make her cry."

"Isn't the sermon 'most done'?" asked Eddie; "I want to sing." And without waiting for Harry to finish his discourse or give out a hymn, he began to sing, so Harry had to stop.—Children's Record.

VULGARITY.

We would guard the young against the use of every word that is not strictly proper. Use no profane expression; allude to no sentence that will put to blush the most sensitive. You know not the tendency of habitually using indecent or profane language. It may never be obliterated from your heart. When you grow up, you may find at your tongue's end some expression which you would not use for any money. It was used when quite young. By using care you will save yourself a great deal of mortification and sorrow. Good men have been taken sick and become delirious. In these moments they use the most vile and indecent language imaginable. When informed of it after their restoration to health, they had no idea of the pain they had caused. They had learned and repeated the expressions of childhood; and, though years had passed since, they had been indelibly stamped upon the heart. Think of this, you who are tempted to use improper language, and never disgrace yourself or your friends.

TREASURES.—If a young person will begin and persevere in the practice of learning by heart, say four lines of good poetry every day, there will be laid up, in the treasure-house of memory, fourteen hundred and sixty lines in a year. So of facts, and various kinds of information. All great things are done little by little. Atoms make worlds. The greatest fortunes consist of cents. Life is made up of moments and a succession of well spent moments make a well spent life.

A little girl in the infant class of a Sunday School thoroughly appreciated the difference between being good from choice and from necessity. At the close of the school one day the teacher remarked, "Beckie, my dear, you have been a very good little girl to-day." Yes'm, I couldn't help being good—I got a 'tiff neck," the youthful Beckie replied with perfect seriousness.

Kind hearts are the gardens,  
Kind thoughts are the roots,  
Kind words are the blossoms,  
Kind deeds are the fruits,  
Love is the sweet sunshine  
That warms into life;  
For only in darkness  
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