

promising henceforth to be good children.

The mother was full of joy and heartily forgave her seven sons. Then they instantly became human—handsome youths, each as tall and fine-looking as the other; forever after living happily together.

And the moral is, today as it was then: there is no such happiness as comes to children who try to please their parents.

Japanese Children.

As soon as she can walk alone the little Japanese girl has her doll tied on her back in order that she may learn to carry it steadily and carefully; then when it becomes necessary for her to carry her baby brother or sister she may be trusted to do it without danger to the baby. The babies are always carried in this manner on their mothers' or their older sisters' backs, and one often sees a little girl of seven or eight playing at battledore or skipping rope with a baby on her back sleeping peacefully through all the noise. Some one has called Japan "The Paradise of Babies," and very appropriately, too, for they swarm everywhere, even in the most crowded thoroughfares. They never seem in the way and are never ill-treated or rebuked, and they have such grave, formal manners that they look like little old men as they toddle about in their flowing gowns and long sleeves. They look so cunning that one often longs to stop and caress them, but this would be disastrous as their fear of strangers is very great.

Japanese babies are called "Treasure-flowers," a very pretty and poetical idea for the land where the people hang poems in praise of the blossoms on the trees, and they love to dress their treasure-flowers in the gayest of colors, particularly red, so that a crowd of children in their holiday clothes is like a kaleidoscope of butterflies. Two days in the year are especially set apart for the children—March 3 for the girls and May 5 for the boys. The girls' feast is called the festival of dolls, when each family puts on its richest clothing and keeps open house for a week, and numbers of costly dolls that have been handed down from generation to generation, with their teapots and miniature tables and other household furniture are displayed, and food and gifts are placed before them.

On May 5, the gala time for the boys, there are many children's parties and picnics, and from every house in which there are young boys, or where a boy has been born during the year, a bamboo pole is suspended from which hangs a paper carp, the fish signifying success in surmounting life's difficulties.

The Japanese children play many of the games that are played by American children. Prisoner's base, and tag, and fox and geese are quite as popular there as they are with us, while the boys fly kites and the girls blow soap bubbles just as they do in this country. A favorite amusement of the little Japanese girls is hunting fireflies with circular fans, and they also hunt large grasshoppers which they catch with a rod and bird line. They carry home these grasshoppers in small bamboo cages and think it great fun to hang them up and listen to the grasshoppers chirping all day long.

How to Make a Peanut Frame.

Did you ever see a photograph frame made of peanuts? Well, try making one for yourselves. And if you do you will not stop with one—you will probably make three or four for your own room as well as some for your friends as little gifts, for you will find them most unique and artistic.

Have a carpenter make a thin pine-wood frame to fit a cabinet or panel photograph, building it with the proper groove in the back to admit of fitting in a glass and cardboard protection. Then get a bag of peanuts and a pot of good glue. With a small brush apply the glue to the frame and lay on the peanuts—in the shells, of course—taking pains to fit them snugly together. As you place them drop a little glue from the brush between the nuts to hold them securely together. After the frame is completely covered with the peanuts let it lie on the table till the glue is thoroughly hardened, then with a clean brush go over it very carefully with furniture varnish.

If the frame is hung against a panel of dark red or green burlap the effect is very pleasing.

The Best Horse.

Some horses run away with boys,
Some of them try to kick,
And some go bumpety, bump, bump,
And throw a boy off quick.
And even when they are real nice
And don't hurt boys at all,
It's awful hard to rub them down
Because they are not small.

And so I've thought and thought and thought
And now my only aim
Is just to have a see-saw horse,
Because it is so tame.
It does not bite, it does not prance,
It does not run away,
But like a kind, obedient beast
Goes up and down all day.

A Riddle

Ten men's length,
Ten men's strength,
Ten men can't tear it,
But a baby can carry it.
(A rope.)



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