

Boys as Inventors.

Some of the most important inventions have been the work of mere boys. The invention of the valve motion to the steam engine was made by a boy. Watt left the engine in a very incomplete condition, from the fact that he had no way to open or close the valves, except by means of levers operated by hand. He set up a large engine at one of the mines, and a boy was hired to work these valve levers. Although this was not hard work, yet it required his constant attention. As he was working these levers, he saw the parts of the engine moved in the right direction, and at the exact time he had to open or close the valves.

He produced a long, strong cord, and made one end fast to the proper part of the engine and the other end to the valve lever. Then he had the perfect satisfaction of seeing the engine move off with perfect regularity of motion. A short time after the foreman came around and saw the boy playing marbles at the door. Looking at the engine he saw the ingenuity of the boy, and also the advantage of so great an invention. Mr. Watt then carried out the boy's inventive genius in a practical form, and made the steam engine a perfect automatic working machine.

The power loom is the invention of a farmer boy, who had never seen or heard of such a thing. He cut out one with a knife, and after he had got it all done he with great enthusiasm showed it to his father, who at once kicked it to pieces, saying that he would have no boy about him who would spend his time on such foolish things. The boy was afterward apprenticed to a blacksmith, and he soon found that his new master was kind and took a lively interest in him. He made a loom of what was left of the one his father had broken up, which he showed to his master. The blacksmith saw that he had no common boy for an apprentice, and that the invention was a very valuable one.

He immediately had a loom constructed under the supervision of the boy. It worked to their perfect satisfaction, and so the blacksmith furnished the means to manufacture the looms, the boy to receive half the profits. In about a year the blacksmith wrote to the boy's father that he should visit him and bring with him a wealthy gentleman, who was the inventor of the celebrated power loom. You may be able to judge the astonishment of the old man when his son was presented as the inventor, who told him that the loom was the same as the model he (his father) had kicked to pieces a year before.—Exchange.

Geographies in Error.

There used to be a place called Patagonia. It appears on our Geographies now as "a drear and uninhabitable waste, upon which herds of wild horses and cattle graze, that are hunted for their flesh by a few bands of savage Indians of immense stature." I am quoting from a school book published in 1880, and in common use in this country. The same geography gives similar information about "the Argentine Confederation." It makes the Argentine's roar with rage to call their country "the Argentine Confederation." It would be just as polite and proper to call this the "Confederate States of America." A bitter, bloody war was fought to wipe that name off the map, but our publishers still insist upon keeping it there.—William Henry Curtis in Harper's Magazine.

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A Noble Retriever.

The Western Mail first published the following remarkable story of a brave dog: On December 29 last the steamship Muley Hassan was passing through the Straits of Gibraltar, when Captain Thomson went on deck with his retriever Nellie. The sagacious animal at once ran to the rail of the vessel, raised herself on her fore paws, and commenced to whine. The captain looked, but could see nothing. The dog, however, got more and more restless, finally jumped overboard, and swam astern. The engines were stopped, and a boat lowered, when the dog was discovered, firmly holding the collar of the coat of a drowning man, who was lying across two cars. It was afterward ascertained that he was the only survivor from a Spanish revenue felucca, which had been upset in a squall, and that he had been in the water four hours when rescued. It would have been impossible for him to have survived much longer. Both man and dog were in a very exhausted condition when taken on board Muley Hassan. The above incident has formed the subject of a presentation to Captain Thomson of a silver medal and diploma, for his gallantry and heroism in saving the life of the poor Spaniard. Without in the least wishing to depreciate Captain Thomson's effort or deserts, we must say that Nellie most certainly deserves to have some sort of honor conferred upon her, and that she certainly ought to be ranked among the historical dogs who have earned name and fame for heroic deeds.—Swiss Cross.

He Saw His Ruin But Went On.

Wm. Potts who was convicted of murder in Beaufort court last week, while on the witness stand in his own behalf, in answer to the question how he began to drink, said he "got license to practice law and went to Statesville. Father gave me plenty of money and I got to drinking. I went out with a hunting party, drank hard and got sick and returned. The doctor told me to stop drinking. He gave me a little whisky in a glass which was set near a window. I soon saw another glass at another window, it was full. I kept looking at it and soon saw a ripple on it. I did not know what it meant. I looked and saw a fly in it I looked again and saw a web extending down to the fly. I saw coming down the web a great big spider, when I would look it would stop, but when I would look off it would creep towards the fly. I then heard a voice saying, the fly had been caught in the whiskey, and the spider had got it, and it I did not stop drinking the devil would catch me like the spider caught the fly. I drank some whiskey. It quieted me. I sent for the doctor, he said it was the delirium tremens threatening me. I have had two spells, which were followed by delirium tremens."

At other witness said Potts had told of shooting one man in Charleston S. C. and another in Statesville N. C. where he was put in the chain gang. Other evidence says Mr. Potts' father has been a hard drinker. The sins of the father may be visited on the son in this case.

A Texas journal gracefully introduces the President by saying: "We surrender our usual editorial space to a gentleman named Cleveland, who has established quite a reputation as a strong, intelligent writer. He is only an occasional contributor, but writes well."

The South Needs Protection.

The South needs protection more than any other section. In the iron interest, for instance, millions of dollars are being invested in building new plants, and dull times and low prices would prove exceedingly injurious to many of these new enterprises. In the North the old established industries have in most cases laid by some surplus upon which they can draw in periods of depression, but not so with the newer industries of the South. These have not yet built up their trade and accumulated any surplus. Their capital is going into the payment of plants, and they must have some years of good times upon which to build solidly. Free trade or a tariff for revenue only would mean dull times, close competition and low prices. The industrial interests of the South would weather such a storm, but there would be a good many wrecks. A halt in the splendid development now in progress would be called. Is the South ready to favor a measure that would curtail its own prosperity? This is not a question of party, Democratic or Republican. It is simply a question of self preservation.—Manufacturer's Record.

A terrible collision and loss of life occurred near Greenwood, Tenn., Dec. 31. Both trains were completely wrecked, and three cars were burned with their contents, nails, baggage, &c. Six persons were instantly killed, some burned to death, and many others seriously injured, some of whom have since died. The accident was caused by a conductor misreading orders to pass at "Summit" instead of "Summerset," and he has gone raving mad.

Marching To Victory.

A good many Northern and Western papers are doing their best to prevent the flow of capital to the South. "It is all a wild speculative land craze which must certainly collapse," they claim, but despite their ravings the South moves steadily on. Day after day adds to the list of new enterprises, and while the South is building rapidly, it is building solidly and surely. Because in Birmingham, a prosperous city of 40,000 people, where six years ago there were 4,000; and in Anniston, "The Model City," where population has doubled in one year, and where enough new enterprises are under construction to employ 4,000 additional mechanics; in Decatur and in other growing towns, land is much higher than when these places were mere villages, some of our Northern friends profess to fear a great collapse. They are wrong. The South is marching on to victory in the industrial line, and Anniston Birmingham, Decatur and other towns will continue their wonderful growth for generations to come.—Manufacturer's Record.

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