

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Fly.

A fly
To my eye,
Is a wonderful thing.
He buzzes about all the day on his wing—
A gossamer, fibberty, gibberty thing.
You wouldn't surmise
A thing of his size
Had strength for all of the tasks
that he tries.
For instance, to-day
I was reading away
Of fairies and games and the pranks
that they play.
When a fly
Came by,
And then he began
On a horrible plan
Of worrying
Flurrying,
Scurrying in,
And flicking the ends of my nose and
my chin,
Until I'd
Like to died
With wrath and chagrin,
Now I'm a big thing—
The fly he was small.
He'd flop and he'd fling,
He'd buzz and he'd sing,
While I would do nothing at all
But whack at that fly
Each time he came by.
Deep wrath in my eye;
I never could hit him however I'd
try.
I whacked for two hours
With all of my powers;
And when it was done
I sat weary
And teary—
While he was as fresh as when he had
begun.
—John Hendrick Bangs, in Septem-
ber St. Nicholas.

Forfeits.

Young people are often at a loss for good forfeits in their games at parties. In the absence of advice upon the subject, the penalties they impose are sometimes vulgar, or highly absurd, creating confusion where innocent pleasure is designed. The following are suggested to help our young friends out of the difficulty:

1. Let the person who holds the forfeit give out a line, and then call upon the one who owns it to make another line to rhyme.
2. Laugh first, sing next, then cry, and lastly whistle.
3. Put one hand where the other cannot touch it. (The right hand to the left elbow.)
4. Stand with your heels and back close to the wall—then stand without moving your feet, and pick up the forfeit.
5. Compare your lady-love to a flower and explain the resemblance. Thus—
My love is like the blooming rose
Because her cheek its beauty shows.
Or (facetiously)—
My love is like a creeping tree—
She's always creeping after me.
6. Place your hands behind you, and guess who touches them. You are not to be released until you guess right.
7. Say "Quizzical Quiz, kiss me quick,"—nine times without a mistake.
8. Ask the person who owns the

forfeit what musical instrument he likes best; then require him to give an imitation of it.

9. Choose three flowers. Example: Pink, Fuchsia and Lily. Two of the party must then privately agree to the three persons of the forfeiter's acquaintance, to be severally represented by the flowers. Then proceed: What will you do with Pink? Dip it in water! What with the Fuchsia? Dry it, and keep it as a curiosity! With the Lily? Keep it until it is dead, then throw it away! The three names identified with the flowers are now to be told, and their fates will excite much merriment.

10. Put two chairs back to back, take off your shoes, and jump over them. (The fun consists in a mistaken idea that the chairs are to be jumped over, whereas it is only the shoes!)

11. It is said there's a person you've loved since a boy. Whose hand you must kiss, ere I give you this toy;
It is not your father, or mother, or sister,
Nor cousin, or friend—take care not to mis, sir, (Himself.)
—American Boy.

A Country Boy's Penny.

As a rule, boys who live on a farm or in a country town, says an exchange, are much more thrifty and economical than city-reared boys. Success considers this due to the fact that, in the city, there are hundreds of devices to catch the pennies of boys. There are nickle-in-the-slot machines, fruit and candy stands, and all sorts of contrivances to induce a boy to part with his small coins. These temptations do not exist to any great extent in the country. There is a great difference in the way the country boy and the city boy look at a nickel. The country boy sees very much more in the coin than the city boy; he sees greater possibilities—the nickel is possessed of a charm. He carries his change in his pocket, counts it over, and wonders what he will do with it when he gets his first dollar. His parents instill into him, from babyhood, the importance of saving his money and putting it in a bank. The city boy, as a rule, gets his money easier and parts with it as easily.

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