Little Jo and Mary Ann.

Little Jo was a little man And his little pal was Mary Ann; It tickled Mary Ann and Jo When they found a neighbor's wheelbarrow, Ha! ha! ha! laughed the little man, Ho! ho! ho! laughed Mary Ann.

"Will my lady ride ?" said courteous Jo, "Then hop right into the wheelbarrow, It's not a gilded palankeen, Bat its got a cheerful mise en scene. Will my lady ride ?" said the little man. "You bet your life!" shouted Mary Ann.

Assisted by her smiling Jo, Mary Ann climbed into the wheelbarrow, Chockful of joy it made her feel As the barrow waltzed round on its wheel. Right happy was the little man And ditto, likewise, Mary Ann.

But alas! alas! for little Jo And, alas ! for Mary Ann also. In the midst of all their merriment Over the barrow and contents went. Down on his nose went the little man Out on her head went Mary Ann.

His mamma came for little Jo, For Mary Ann came her dad, Pedro. Now far apart, their tearlets flow As they sit the stinging switch below.

### PRAOTICAL JOKES.

BY AUNT MARJORIE PRECEPT.

A practical joke is a sort of trick played by one person upon another, in the hope of making him uncomfortable and ridiculous. To put one's friend in an absurd situation, to interfere with his rights, to do something which will hurt him in body or mind, not very deeply perhaps, yet really, is the object of the practical joker. I have never in my life been able to see the least good, the least innocent fun, in practical jokes, but I have seen a great deal of evil and mischief resulting from them. I cannot think of a person ad dicted to practical joking as anything but mean and contemptible. For how can we honor the disposition which takes pleasure in cruelty?

Some years ago, just at dusk, a maid-servant in a certain beautiful home took it into her had that it would be rare fun to dress herself in a sheet and frighten another of the servants. So she slipped into the grounds, hid herself behind a tree, and waited her opportunity. Dancing merrily along, singing with a voice like a bird, came a sweet little daughter of the house, who had been sent on an errand to the lodge at the end of the green avenue. The merry child, sensitive to her finger-tips, caught a glimpse of the straight, stark figure skulking behind the oaks, and was so frightened that a few months afterward she died-of nervous shock, the physicians said, which then began its fatal work.

In one of our New England colleges a youth who had been studying hard that he might enter the Freshman Class was startled from his sleep at midnight by a party of fellows in masks, who proceeded to make sport or themselves by the stupid process called "haz ng" their companion. They had their 'si ly fun, but it is to be hoped that none of the number engaged in it can ever think of that night without a pang, for it made the youth insane.

I don't like to believe that any of my roaders engage in this wretched kind of jesting If they do, it is because they have never looked at it from the right point of whew. There isn't among my friends one, I am sure, who would be happy in making At y one else miserable.

I saw Fred the other day perched in a nook, 'way, 'way up in a tall tree, and I thought, "What a splendid climber you are, E red, and how nimbly you'd run to the mizzen-top if you were a sailor boy !" I knew that Fred was as sure-footed as a cat, and he eyes like a squirrel, and the grip of a morkey, so I was not alarmed on his account. Not so his mother. She came to the door, called "Fred! Fred!" and finally descried him in his airy nest, from which "his voice fell like a falling star." Then she was greatly distressed and frightened, and I was disappointed in Fred, because instead of relisving her fears at once, he said :

"Oa, pouf, mamma! there's no danger. Why are you so excited? I've been here dcz one of times."

He did descend at last, but a true gentleman-and Fred means to be a gentlemanwould not have allowed a woman to be frightened even for an instant, especially when the woman was his own mother.

The spirit which leads one not to care when a friend is suffering terrors on one's account is the same which makes the practical jest possible. Aunt Marjorie's children must banish this if they would make their little world happy .- [Harper's Young People.

# The Fool of the Family.

A rich Chinese lady had a foolish son, for whom she had taken a wife from a cultured fanily. When he was about to pay the first visit to his bride's parents, his mother instructed him how to behave and what to say, for she was very anxious that his mental deficiency should not be discovered. She tried to forecast the questions that would be put to him, and to provide him with answers that would satisfy the questioner, and at the same time forestall further questioning. As he carried a costly fan on which a landscape was painted, she thought that guests, disposed to be affable, would ask what scene was thereon represented, and so she taught him to respond to that question by saying, 'Oh, that is only a fancy sketch." Then, as he was to ride a fine mule she thought the gentlemen would be sure to comment upon its excellent condition, and to inquire its price; so she drilled her son in replying, with courteous hamility," The animal is nothing more than a good beast of burden, reared on our farm, and not worthy your attention."

When the young man arrived at the door of his host, the first to greet him was his prospective mother in-law, who politely inquired after the health of his mother. Ha promptly responded, saying, "The animal is nothing more than a good beast of burden, reared on our farm, and not worthy of your attention." The horrified mother-in-law drew back, half unconsciously exclaiming, "I was told that yours was a very wellordered family !" The fool, having bechought himself that he ought to have first used the answer which his mother first taught him, hastened to reply, "Oh, that is only a fancy sketch."

Mamma's Exact Words.

to kiss you, Gracie, but I 'spect it wouldn't do. You know your mamma said you

mustn't never kiss the boys. is, it's about what she said. I 'member add one more fatal accident to the many just as well: She says to me, she says: "Gracie, dou't you eve: let me see you kissin' the boys. " Mamma, she's gone over to Mrs. Bilby's.

#### Slow Progress of the Game.

A young man well known in society circles, who has a billiard-room in his house, was one evening teaching a young lady, in whom he was somewhat interested, to play. The small boy of the family went up to view the game, but was evidently not greatly pleased with its progress and soon came down. Some one of the family asked him how the game was going on, and he said: "The game is not going on at all. Uncle -is not playing at all; he is just standing there holding Miss-'s hand. That is all he's doing, and I don't think there's any fun in that sort of a game."

#### Stage Fright.

direful entertainments where young children | which hoped so much from the balloon, has "speak pieces," to the great delight of their | been compelled to confess itself disappointe d. respective families. A lad of four had been | Perhaps the man who came nearest to proput upon a box and had delivered some rhyme | ving the feasibility of aerial navigation was or other, and it was desired to find out John La Mountain, of Troy, N. Y., and, as whether the little fellow was frightened or is generally the case, he obtained the least not. To avoid putting the idea of fear into fame from his efforts. After repeated ashis head if it was not there already, the lady censions he claimed that there existed at a who was managing things asked him how he certain height from the earth a continuous felt when he got through. "I felt all sweaty," was the ingenuous reply.

#### Somewhat Softened.

a naughty fool !"

account and bided his time.

supper, the first of the season. The head of in Jefferson County, N. Y., after a journey the family served all around the board with of nineteen hours and fifty minutes, having them say that I was crazy. I have as happy generosity but his precious son.

"Ain't you going to give me some, papa ?" the little fellow asked, "No. A boy who calls his papa a naughty fool' doesn't deserve any strawberries."

"Oh, you ain't a naughty fool," the youngster cried in distress-"you're a good fool,

# Johnnie Suggests a Topic.

Little Johnnie approached his mother as she was laying away a pan of fresh laid doughnuts.

"Mother, I say, mother !" "What is it, my son?"

"Why don't you talk some, mother?" "What do you want me to say, Johnnie?" "Well, you might say, 'Johnnie, don't you want a doughnut?' "

#### Mine Family.

Dimpled scheeks mit eyes of plue, Mout like id vas moised mit dew. Und leedle teeth shust peekin' droo-Dot's der baby.

Curley head, und full cf glee, Drowsers all oudt at der knee-He vas peen blaying horse, you see-Dot's leedle Yawcob.

Von hunderd-seexty in der shade, Der oder day ven she vas veighed-She beats me soon, I vas avraid-Dot's mine Katrina.

Bare footed hed und pooty stoudt, Midt grooked legs dot vill bend oudt, Fond of his beer und sauer kraut-

Dot's me, himself. Von schmall young baby, full of fun, Von leedle prite-eyed, roguish son, Von frau to greet vhen vork is done-

Dot's mine family. CHARLES FALLEN ADAMS.

# The Death Punishment.

jected the guillotine because it is associated | yourself to do that, you will be drawn on mind was not affected, as she knew full well with the traditions of the French revolution farther than you wish. Whenever I go into that he would not have left her in the horriand causes effusion of blood; the garrote be- action I say to myself that this time there ble way he did it he had not been insane. cause only one civilised nation-Spain and will be an end of me." her Colonies-use it, "and that," as Mr. But though courageous under fire, the ity to resist the morbid desire to do some-Gerry said, "was much to damn it." Prus. Russian General was a coward at head-quar- thing horrible is only one case in thousands. sic acid was at one time looked upon with ters. Before his troops he always appeared If the struggles that are going on daily, made favor but doctors told them its use was in a full dress uniform, with his hair neatly sometimes by nearest and dearest friends, dangerous and some medical man would have trimmed and scented. But in the presence could be laid bare the expose would be a to manipulate the syringe or needle used in of his superiors he wore a worn out coat, a frightful one. In a certain building in this the hypodermic injection, and no physician cloak hanging all awry, and a cap crushed city which I frequently visit there is a large would care to become a public executioner. down on the back of his head. He seemed rotunda. Around this rotunda runs a spiral Mr. Gerry had individually considered that embarassed, as if afraid his elegance might staircase, the bannister of which is low and morphine would afford perhaps the best give offence. method, but many physicians opposed its This hero of many battles was superstil at the sixth floor and acts as a guard rail for views of physicians, Judges, Sheriffs, and candles were burning. others by sending out a circular letter. ing the retention of hanging, and 119 ad- walk slowly across a battle-field swept with whenever they approached this guard rail to vocating something else than hanging. Of bullets and shell, but not strong enough to these there were 75 urging the adoption of keep him in a room where three candles are

# The Shah's Early Hardships.

The Shah was held in great detestation by his father, who was anxious that the second fish beyond the ordinary duration of this son should come to the throne. Nasr ed mortal life will be interested in the habits Doen was, however, at fourteen made Gov. of the old Turk who has recently died at ernor of Azerbeidja, that north western Haddatha, aged one hundred and thirty province whose capital is Tabriz. But years. Old Hadji Soliman Saba had seven fortune does not seem to have smiled on him, wives, all of whom died before him : he was even in that position "There his father's the father of sixty sons and nine daughters, ill-will followed him, and many a time, who have also gone the way of all flesh, and because his salary was not sent regularly, the year before his death he was thinking the young Prince and his mother were of marrying again, but could not obtain the deprived of even the necessaries of life. necessary funds to buy a bride. Saba was a Oace, after waiting impatiently for the farmer unto his life's end; his diet consisted wherewithal to keep the pot boiling, a tax mainly of barley bread beans (vegetarians collector sent what purposed to be the take note!) and water and only twice a year, revenues of a certain district. They con on high festivals, did he eat meet. His sisted, however, only in kind, and one lot- clothes were even more simple then his diet, a number of fine rugs-had to be sold at consisting of shirt only, and when he travelgreat loss to an American dealer to furnish | led a pair of trousers. His bed was a mattress next day's dinner."

# The Wedding Prelude.

Little Boy-"Say, ma says you are going to take sister off."

Willie (regretfully)-I'd like just awfully | ing."-[New York Weekly.

#### Air Traveling.

If Aeronaut Hogan has lost his life in trying to navigate the air with the Camp-Gracie-Yes, that's what she said. That | bell airship, as now seems probable, it will which have happened in carrying on this fascinating business. The craft in which Hogan sailed away was the result of years of study and experiment. The balloon part was egg shaped, with the long axis lying horizontally. To this was attached a car or basket, shaped much like a rowing shell, with a rudder at one end, a propeller at the other and wings, or fins, on the sides, the purpose being to navigate the air on the principle that a fish swims in the water.

Since the Montgalfier brothers demonstrat, ed in 1783 that the air could be navigatedinnumerable efforts have been made to turn the fact to some practical use. Men with a genius for invention have been attracted irresistlbly to this fascinating field. The certainty that fame and fortune await the man who demonstrates that the air can be safely and definitely navigated has been an irresistible incentive to effort, and many more have ruined themselves in health and pocket by pursuing the fleeing phantom of atmospheric travel. The results, however, It was at the last rehearsal for one of those have not justified the labors. Even science,

and trustworthy current of air blowing Eastward, and that a balloon would be wafted steadily in that direction so long as it remained in that atmospheric strata. He believed that a balloon properly constructed A Maine youngster, becoming provoked could be carried by this current safely and with his father, angrily exclaimed, "You're surely across the Atlantic Ocean. To give a practical demonstration of his theory he have covered. He had repeatedly told me of The father charged it to the youngster's made an ascension from St. Louis in July, 1859, with the intention of landing some-That evening they had strawberries for where on the Atlantic coast. He did land

> traveled 826 miles. This voyage of La Mountain, which was the longest definite voyage ever made in the air, did probably more to advance the science | tunately for me I allowed myself to be talkof ærostatics than any other one event since the Montgalfiers sent up their hot air ballon, But little progress has been made since his myself a daily struggle with the hydra headdeath, and the problem whether airships ed monster self-destruction. I can not help can be regulated and propelled seems as far it. Every time I go near a railway track I from being solved as ever. Certainly inventors and aronauts will not be encouraged if the future justifies the fear that the latest experimenter has lost his life.

### Strong and Weak.

Russo-Turkish War, General Skobeleff ordered an officer to lead a battalion to a certain point. The men marched on as long as there were buildings to shelter them from the Turkish fire, but when they came to the open ground they halted, for an advance, apparently, meant the annihilation of the battalion.

leff riding calmly at a walk across the fatal whistled furiously.

the painter Verestchagin says that the rain an hour later I was told that he had "comof bullets was the most murderous he ever mitted suicid; thrown himself experienced, though he had been several times under heavy fire. In spite of the danger, he watched Skobeleff walk slowly had stealthily hid behind a water tank, and along, his hands buried in the pockets of as the train dashed by flung himselt in front his overcoat. The whistling bullets did not of the engine and been ground so fine that cause him to bend his head once; his face he had to be gathered together with a

was quiet, and his eyes restful. "Now we know what running the gauntlet means," said he to the artist, as a turn in | finally all, with the exception of myself, be-

the Turk. "Tell me, honestly," said the artist, "have cide while insane. you really so accustomed yourself to war that you no longer fear danger?"

being made the means of inflicting capital tious. He believed in lucky and unlucky the top floor. It is altogether too low and punishment, as that would arouse popular days, refused to sit down with thirteen at any six footer falling against it would probantagonism to it as a legitimate remedy in table, jumped from his seat at the spilling of ably fall over into the pit of the rotunda. practice. The Commission ascertained the a little salt, and left a room in which three have heard several of the men engaged on

Two hundred replies were received, 81 favor- A general with a will that enables him to the desire that took possession of them

# An Ancient Turk

Those who are anxious to remain in the and a straw mat, and it had never been a. "bed of sickness" till three days before his death.

# Killed by a Shark.

Engaged Youth (soon to be married) - JACKSONVILLE, Fla., July 28.-Ed. Roe, a "Yes, in a few weeks she's going to my young Englishman, while swimming in the home, and my ma and pa will be her ma and | Cumberland sound with fifteen other boys from Ferdinandi, was struck by a shark, "I see. Then she'll be your sister, same which bit off the calf of one leg. Roe was as she was mine. Say, don't you do anything taken into a boat at once, but bled to death she doesn't like, for it you do she'll bang you | before medical assistance could be obtained. around awful when your ma and pa ain't look- This is the first instance known of a shark attacking a man in these waters.

#### VICTIMS OF IMPULSE

Many Men with an Earnest Desire to Live Are Forced to Die by Self-Destruction.

There are suicides and suicides, and they have been written about and commented on so much by people who "never can account for men doing so unless they are insane" that possibly it is too much like thrashing old straw or letting the mill do that that some one has said can not be done-"grind again with the water that has passed"-to tell of some of the peculiar suicides or attempts, or desires to attempt that have come under the writer's personal observation.

In the first place the assertion can be truthfully made that one-half of the zo-called suicides are not suicides, but emotional involuntary accidents. Try among your friends to find one who has not at some time in his life had an insane desire to throw himself off of "an high eminence" or cast himself under a rapidly passing train or allow himself to become entangled in the large drive-wheel of some immense machine and you will find that they have to a man had some such experience. Many men who tell of struggles with irresistible desires to make away with themselves and think nothing of it, but if we happen to lose a friend by the suicide route we forget

#### ALL ABOUT HIS STRUGGLES

and endeavors to fight off the desire to do away with himself and like the average coroner's jury we say: "Killed himself while laboring under a fit of temperary insanity."

This verdict more than half of the time is wrong. It should be "accidental suicide brought on by the victim's inability to resist a morbid involuntary impulse."

A young man was recently killed in a suburban village whose case this verdict would the struggle he had with himself when ever he stood on the platform of a station while a train was passing. "John, "said he one day, "if anything ever happens to me don't let a home as the sun shines on and am blessed with as interesting a family of little ones as you would find in a month's journey. Unfored into buying a home in the suburbs and on that account find that I have imposed upon have an almost uncontrollable desire to throw myself under the wheels of the passing train They seem to say "Come to me, come to me," with a voice of command that I have, up to the present time, been able to resist, but I fear that my power of resistance is weakening and I shall soon give way. If I do, old At the storming of Loftsha, during the man, I want you to fight the insanity theory and explain my feelirgs to my friends. Of course I might move into the city and have had it on my tongue's end to suggest it to my wife, but this would necessitate explanations and only worry the little woman. I may succeed in fighting off this foolish desire, but if I do not and am ever picked up on a shovel I want you to let the world Just at that moment the men saw Skobel- know it was not a suicide, but an accident."

I promised that this should be done and space, while round him shot and shell tried to make light of what I called his foolish fears. He smiled a sickly, faint, no-In a fight, after the passage of the Balkans, laughter-in it smile and walked away. Half

# IN FRONT OF A PASSING TRAIN

shovel."

People could not understand it. And the road sheltered them from the bullets of lieved that the corner's jury made no mistake when they brought in a verdict of sui-

I told my story, but it did no good. His friends and relatives could not see how a "Nonsense," replied the Russian General, man could be other than insane who killed they think that I am brave and that I am himself when he had everything that the afraid of nothing; but I confess that I am a heart could wish for. His wife finally accoward. But I have made it a rule never to knowledged that she did not wish to hear The New York "Sun" says :- They re- bend down under fire. If you once permit any one say that her poor dear husband's

> The foregoing account of one man's inabilis made to continue on after leaving the stairs the sixth floor of this building tell in What a bundle of contradiction is man! matter of fact (but to me horrible) way of

# THROW THEMSELVES OVER,

and must confess that I have found myself edging away from it, with the indistinct, undefined, inexplainable fear that I might throw myself over if I got too close to it, and have told others, who spoke of having experienced the same feelings, to let the world know that it was not a premeditated suicide if I should ever be picked up at the bottom of that pit a shapeless, broken mass. There is a young man in the city of Chi-

cago who has a dread of the bridges and always takes to the wagon-way when he crosses the river. He has been fished out of the muddy, stickey water at Clark street bridge once, having thrown himself over the rail. When brought to terra firma he could not explain why he had jumped over. "The desire took possession of me and I did it; that's all," said he, when questioned about it. "I had jumped about a foot when I wished from the bottom of my heart that I hadn't," he continued, "and now, to avoid a repetition of that act, I always take to the middle of the road when crossing the bridges." Suicides (so called) are increasing at an

alarming rate, and opposite the name of many a man who is alive and well to day, with bright prospects, good health, happy home, and everything on earth to live for, the word "suicide" will be written as the cause of his death, when he was simply the victim of one of these irresistible impulses.

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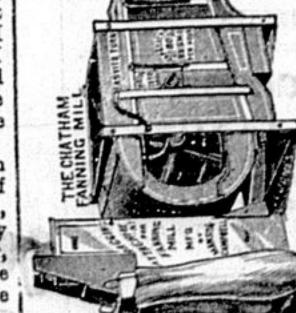
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