The Cheerful Birdies.

Seven wee birds on the limb of a tree Were singing and swinging as gay as could

Singing and swinging, flitting and flattering, Chatting and spatting, twittering, sputter-

All in the best of good-nature of course Till it seemed as though each little throat would get hoarse.

Now, when the gay frolic was about at its

Three straugers appeared and prepared to Three demure little strangers with sorrowful faces.

Who sighed as they sat in the pleasantest "I am grieved," said the eldest, with a sor

Of distress, and a sad little shake of his " I am grieved to hear singing, see gladness and mirth.

When there's sorrow and trouble all over the earth ; When through the wide world there is hardly

a nation Where some are not dying of thirst or starvation.'

These words on the seven produced quite a

"If the people are suffering and times are mencing,

and glad, Sing more and sing louder, it appears to me. So together ! chirrup, chirrup, chir-e-e-e !" All joined with a will, and their loud gladsome singing.

a ringing,

Till the sound reached a lonely ad woman in bed

"While the sun is so bright and the birds halls and apartments, and the wners are able

When the chorus began, the new-comers fine transparentsilk gaily painted in figures

And they seemed, as before, very sad and down-hearted But, strange to relatelas they flew out out of

#### Boyhood in China.

It one has to be born in China it is an exceedingly lucky thing to be born a boy, for girls are considered of very little account in that funny land of tea, rice, and chop-Noah went and settled there after the flood. to death as unconcernedly as he might a swim. batch of kittens.

pagoda-shaped house in Pekin when baby it be studied, one may see that it can be Ming Chin Foo first opened his three-cor- made to yield some very instructive facts. nered eyes on the world in general and the In the first place, our scorpion swims up Chinese ladies of rank.

But Ming Chin Foo was a different mat. Again, the creature does not melt. Cam all worship his ancestors. A red cord was | would have seen it dissolve entirely. tied to his wrist to ward off evil spirits, and when a month old a barber in a scarlet robe came to shave the dark fuzz from his little round poll. At four months old he had what I suppose corresponds to our christening, it being a ceremony to thank Shing. Moo, or the holy mother, the goddess of Chinese children, for sending the child, and ask her to make him prosperous and

happy. The next anniversary was his first birthday, or twelve moons, when again a thank offering was presented to Shing-Moo, and mysterious. when the child chose as it were, his progers first touched determined his future inclination.

much do the low one-storied houses, with then setting fire to it. red, green and blue sloping roofs resemble So, looking at the experiment on all sides. tents, while they are most fancifully deco. you see we have learned several interesting rated with lanterns and streamers. But to facts, and there is no reason why you should Ming Chin Foo, who has now increased in | not carry your studies still farther, and years and wisdom, and wears as long a tail learn about the manufacture of camphor. of hair as the best, they seem the most con- It is extracted from a kind of laurel which venient houses in the world, and he would grows in Japan, the laurus camphora. head, and all the buildings in Pekin came tumbling down.

Ming Chin Foo is as gay in his dress as his surroundings, and he wears queer loosesleeved tunics, and trousers of blue and red and purple, pink and green being only worn by girls and women, while yellow is a royal color which is reserved for the emperor. He carries a parasol and a fan on occasions, and has his head shaved every ten days, only leaving the precious queue, of which he is so proud. The hair then cut off is scattered on the ground, in the belief that it will fertilize the soil and make the rice grow.

When well he goes regularly to school, where the scholars look like a congregation of bald-headed old men, as they sit perched up at high desks, with their feet on footstools. Like the little Turks he studies his lesson aloud, and when he knows it by rote carries the book to the teacher, turns his back, and you told me to." repeats it, after which it is explained to him, He is taught, above all things, to honor Confucius - a very learned philosopher who lived many years before Christ—and great pains is she had never before seen. The uncle betaken with his handwriting, as that is con- ing found of children, it was not long before sidered of vast importance, as indeed is all he and his wee niece were fast friends. learning, in China. And let me tell you it | One day the uncle was reading his daily is no small matter to write in Chinese char- papers when Miss Nellie climbed up beacters, which they do from right to left, and side him and began combine his hair. He, in a perpendicular line, while it often requires like many other men of his weeks rejoiced six years to learn their names alone.

night, but between they munch sweet cakes and drink an unlimited supply of tea; and our little Celestial is very expert with his chopsticks that look like ivory knitting needles, and the long slim knife no wider

than a blade of grass. Ming Chin Foo and the other boys have very good times, too, in their own way. They have some uncouth jumping games, that are quite unintelligible to us; but besides these they roll hoops, play horse, and at battle-dore and shuttlecock, when they often use their feet or elbows in place of battledores. Above all, they enjoy flying kites, and in this their fathers and grandfathers often join. Their kites are much more elaborate than ours, seing in the form of birds, beasts, and dragons, and they fly very high. Chinese boys, too, have another curious and rather cruel amusement. It is the fighting grasshoppers. Each lad owns a high-tempered locust or grasshopper that he keeps in a small bamboo cage, and with which they have regular battlesroyal. Chin Foo bets on his "hopper," another boy on his, and they are taken from their cages and placed facing each other, when the belligerent insects fall upon one another and fight until one is vanquished, while their young owners look on, hopping and grunting with excitement.

The great holiday to which all look forward with delight is their New Year's, which comes in February, according to our reckoning. That is the time of which you When up spoke the tiniest bird in the flock : have perhaps sung in the old song com-

"Ching a ring ting, feast of lan-We should try to make every one cheerful terns, Such a lot of chop sticks, bombs, and gongs!" and wher the whole empire of China is one blaze of light. Every street and house is hung with transparencies in the shape of ani.nals, some of which have fire coming out of their mouths, rockets Set the woods and the hills and the valleys | blazing from their tails and crackers bursting from their eres, while the lanterns are truly marvellous. They are very showy with gilding, sculpture, painting, and "After all, life is still worth the living" japanning, and some extravagant ones are so large that they are fitted up inside with to eat, receive visite give balls, and act plays And their glad music cheered her for many in them. The majority, however, are about four feet high, six sided, and covered with and flowers.

Ming Chin Foo and his sisters all have new shoes for this festival, their hair is tied up with red silk, and they revel in dainties, such as Chinese pies filled with ginger, The three were a singing with all of their citron, and jelly, and strewn with white hemp seed; round hard nuts containing prune like meats; slices of candied citron; and moon cake, tempting in appearance.

#### A Campher Scorpion.

Fill a glass or basin with water, and on the surface scatter some pieces of camphor sticks, which is so old that many believe of different sizes, in any shape you pleaselet us say a scorpion, for example. After a Indeed, while babies, girls are only known little while the creature will begin to stir as Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and if there are too in the water, and you will see him move many in a poor family, the father puts them his paws and tail, as if he were trying to

Now this is a very simple experiment; There was, then, great rejoicing in one some may even call it insignificant; but if

Colestial City in particular, for he was the on the water, thus proving that the density only son, although there were two black. of the camphor is less than that of the wathaired yellow little sisters tumbling over the er; but as, in some cases, the pieces sink .go py de world trough mit out striking a earthen floor, and beginning to have their almost entirely, it is evident that the differ- pudding." tiny feet bandaged up so as to keep them as ence in density is not very great. The densmall as is considered proper for refined little sity of camphor is in fact, .995, that of the water being taken as a unit.

ter, for he would grow up, earn money, phor cannot, then, be dissolved in water, support his parents it necessary, and above whereas, if you had put it into alcohol, you

scorpion remain, as if fastened to each other in the place where we put them? Because they are held together by the formation of mensical liquids about each piece produced

by cohesion. I'he scorpion's movements, which are the object of our experiment, are caused by the vapor which camphor emits, even in an ordinary temperature, and these vapors in escaping find enough resistance in the air to cause the movements which seem so

Lastly, to make our scorpion struggle fession, for he was seated before a table on still more violently, we have only to hold a which were placed books, ink, gold, and lighted match near it; it takes fire immevarious tools, and whichever his paby fin. diately, and seems to writhe in the most fearful convulsions. Having proved in this employment, for which he was to be fitted, way that camphor is combustible, we can as this is thought to indicate the natural make use of the knowledge, so gained to mystify our friends in winter, by announc-If we should go to China and enter one of | ing that we are going to burn snow. This the thirteen gates of the walled city we we do by making a hole in a snowball, and might at first think we had stumbled into a filling it with powdered camphor, so carevery gay and festival-like camp meeting, so fully that it cannot easily be detected, and

dislike exceedingly to have an upstairs that Its extreme volatility, shown by our excould be haunted by evil spirits of the air, periment, proves that it should be kept in while he congratulates himself on the low a cool place, and in a tightly corked bottle. roofs whenever he thinks of the dreadful By its volatility it prevents the decomposiearthquake in the seventeenth century, tion of bodies, about which it produces an when, as he has been taught, the golden odorous atmosphere which destroys the frog on which the earth rests scratched his microbes in the air, and preserves woolens and furs from the attacks of the moths during the summer.

#### FUNNY LITTLE STORIES.

#### He Obeyed Orders.

A gentleman went into a fancy shop one day to buy something. It was early, and the shop-keeper and his little boy were alone in the house. The former had to go up stairs to get his cash box; but before doing so he went into the little room next to the shop and whispered to the boy, "Watch the gentleman that he doesn't steal anything," and bringing him out set him on the counter. As soon as the shopkeeper returned, the child sang out, "Pa he didn't steal anything. I, watched him as

#### His Barefooted Head.

Little Nellie was visiting an uncle whom in a smooth spot on top of his hand.

Two regular meals a day are considered soon discovered this and jumping down ran sufficient, one in the morning and one at | to the door and called in an excited voice, "Mamma, auntie, come here quick! Uncle is barefooted on top of his head."

### The Firing of Vulcan.

"Its on old story but very little known said Uncle Phineas as he drew his chair up to the fire among the young folks.

"What's that, uncle?" "About Vulcan's being thrown off Mt. Olympus. Most books have it all wrongall wrong."

"How was it, uncle?" "Why, Jupiter was standing on the edge of a cloud one day looking down over the earth, and he remarked :

"I see that Old Caius Lucius Hutchins has gotten up a corner in wheat. As it's a matter pertaining to grain, I think I'll send Ceres down to see about it.

"Yes," said Vulsan, "It's in every way a Ceres business. "He was fired before twenty-four hours

#### had elapsed.

An Unkind Simile. "Weally, Miss Belle, said Clawence Dasherly to a young lady, "my fwiend, Gus de Jay, is not so stupid. He has lots of clevah ideas-lots of them." "Indeed-semething like my father's

books of proverbs, I suppose." "In what way?" "Bound in calf."

#### The Twins She Had.

An old ragged, red-faced, forlorn-looking woman accosted a gentleman with :

Plaise, sur, for the luv of Heaven give me a fip to buy bread with. I am a poor one woman and have young twins to sup-

"Why, my good woman," he replied, "you seem to be too old to have twins of your "They are not mine, sir," she replied;

"I'm only raisin' 'em.' "How old are your twins?"

#### "One of 'em is seven weeks ould and the other is eight months."

## Sorter Dangerous.

A traveller in Missouri met a boy and asked him if there was a good place in the neighborhood in which to stay all night. "No, sah," the boy replied, "don't hard-

ly think thar is," "How far do you live from here?" "I live right up yan."

"Don't you suppose that by paying enough I could stay at your house?"

"Oh, yes, sir, you can stay at our house whether you pay anything or not.' "Then why is not that a good p'ace to

"Wall, it's orter dangerous."

" Why so ?" "Wall, Uncle Bob an pap air sorter at outs, an' they've been shootin' at each other all day. Pap he hit Uncle Bob jest now. They've broke out all the window lights, but I reckon ef you'll lay 'round till after dark and then slip in they can't hit you."

#### His Unlucky Birthday.

Moses Iklestein-"Repecca, I vonder vhy it vas dot some mans vas porn lucky vile udder poor tevils like meinselluf vas left to

Rebecca—"Ach, Moses, vat vas you komblaining aboudt now? You vas alvays kicking against your luck und already dis year you haf made quite a poodle."

Moses-"Yah, dat ish so, and I know dot it vas wrong for me to kick, but I leaf it mit you, Repecca, now, vouldn't it be a big Next, why do the different pieces of the | poodle in our pocket uf der people vould run me for Mayor! Tink uf der advertisement to our pisness. I vould run a cut of meinselluf in der baber und say: 'Moses Iklestein, de beoble's choice, sells all kinds uf new und second-hand clodin' at popular prices. Come and shake hands midder beoble's choice, vedder you vant some clodin' or not: it vill cost notings to look at him. Bud dere vas no such luck in store for me. I vas porn on Friday."—[Peck's Sun.

#### A Bald Headed Orowd.

Pedler-"I am introducing a new kind of hair brush which—" Business man, impatiently-" I've no use for a hair brush : can't you see I'm bald ?" Pedler-" Yes. sir. Your lady, perhaps-" Business man -"She's bald, too, except when she goes out." Pedler-"Yes, sir Child at home. probably-" Business man-" Only a month old. Bald, too." Pedler-"Yes, sir. You keep a pet dog, mebbe-" Business man-"We do, but it's a hairless dog." Pedler (desperately)-"Can't I sell you a fly-trap.

#### His Pride Was Humbled.

Mr. M'Dougal, of Paisley, used to tell o having been accosted by a man, on leaving some meeting, with "You're Mr. M'Dougal, I think?"-" Yes, I am. How do you happen to know me?"-" Oh! I'm whiles in your kirk."-" Do you live in Paisley?" -" No, I leeve in Glesca."-"Then, I suppose you sometimes stay with friends in Paisley ?"-" No ; I just walk out on the Sundays."-"That's a long walk, surely?" The minister was beginning to feel quite proud of his power of drawing a congregation. "Do you stay over the night, after going to church !"-" No, I just walk back again." "That is a very long walk."-" Oh ay, it's a bit gude walk; but ye see I think a deal o' your precentor."

#### A Model Woman.

Jones came home at an unseemly hour one night, and was surprised to see Mrs. Jones sitting up for him below stairs. "M.M. Maria," he said, huskily, "y-you shouldn't sit up s'late when I'm out on busi-

As Mrs. Jones did not answer him he continued in an alarmed voice, "Shorry, m' dear, but it's lash time-tell you I'm sorry. Won't speak to me !"

At this moment Mrs. Jones called from above stairs: "Mr. Jones, who are vou talking to at this hour of the night?" "Thas'h what I like to know myself." stammered Jones.

Mrs. Jones hastened down stairs, lamp in hand. When she saw the situation she laughed, in spite of being very angry. "It's the model," she said, " the model I

bought to-day to fit my dresses on." "Yes, that'h so," said Jones, tipelly, "model woman-didn't talk back-make some fellow good wife."

#### PASSING NOTES.

A letter appears in an issue of the Newcastle (Eng.) "Chronicle" from one George Jacques, an army pensioner, who, writing from Brandon, Manitoba, makes an appeal for funds to pay his passage back to the Mother Country. He gives anything but a rose-coloured account of the North-West and Manitoba. As a rule, however. army pensioners do not make good farmers.

Canadian consumers of gas who pay from \$1.25 upwards per 1,000 feet must be envious of the good fortune of the citizens of fifty dellars per session; session 1888-9 begins October London, England, who are to be supplied with the article after January 1st next at the rate of 61 cents per thousand feet The cost of production has of late years been so greatly reduced in Canada that there is really no good reason for maintaining the present high rates.

ing between the German Emperor and the Dowager Empress Victoria reveals no sign on application. S. CORRIGAN, Prop , 122 Younge st. of any estrangement between mother and Toronto. son. The fact that the German ambassador in England was requested by his imperial master to wait upon and pay due respect to the Dowager Empress in England is a mark of respect which disturbs some of the stories that have been set afloat.

There is a loud outcry amongst our neighbors for a longer term of the Presidency. It proceeds mainly from business men, who complain of the serious interruption to their affairs so frequently, but many leading politicians back up the demand for a reform by lengthening the term to six or eight years. plain type and just such a back that takes the eye at A frank correspondent of the New York a glance; terms to agents extra liberal. WILLIAM Herald approves of the proposed change, "provided it be by popular vote, not by the present sliding game election, wherein 'soap' does the bidding."

It is probable that ne of position raised in Canada y the press to the wholesale and commercial age. Few, if any, i the graduates, importation of pauper children from England according to the snowing of past results, need be long has had its effect. At any rate, the returns of the English Local Government Board Address, M. MacCoRMick, Principal. snow that only 411 children have been exported to Canada this season. The London Times in commenting upon the fact says that England may make up her mind that she will have to keep her own paupers, a remark the appropriateness of which will be appreciated by Canadians.

A table in Mr. Howard Hunter's report for 1887 on Fire Insurance Companies, just issued, shows the causes of fire in Ontario. The Fire Insurance Companies under Provincial jurisdiction do but a small portion of the fire business. They reported 1,058 fices, cassing a loss of \$398,034. Lightning caused 147 of these fires—the greatest number from any one cause. Defective chimneys account for 76, chimney sparks 37, furnaces 21, inendiarism, 46, supposed incendiarism 46, stoves and stovepipes 72. The causes of 426, nearly half, are unknown.

#### Anticipation.

The sky is grey and blank to day, The sad winds are complaining, Because November's sullen sway Has washed the sunshine all away In dull, incessant raining.

I care, not I, for cloudy sky, Or rainy days returning; I only long to see them fly, And let the wintry hour draw nigh, For which my heart is yearning.

A tender flower that wintry hour

Brings to its fair completeness, And never yet to sun or shower, In shady wood or garden bower, Was known its like for sweetness. So come and go, O sleet and snow,

And angry tempest swelling-Across the frezen river blow, And toss the poplars to and fro, That tower above our dwelling. I shall not sigh nor tremble, I,

Though blast with blast engages;

The little house is warm and dry,

And soon—ah, soon !—a little cry Shall drown your windy rages. Come then with fleet and hurrying feet, O welcome, dear December; And none of all the months that meet

The summer sunshine warm and sweet,

#### A Modern Hercules.

Such greeting shall remember !

Philadelphia can boast of a modern Hercules in the person of George Spotman, a giant in person and stature. He stands 6 feet 41 inches in his stockings, measures 50 inches around his chest and weighs 273 pounds, scarcely an ounce of which is superfluous flesh. His proportions are admirable, and he has amazed many an athlete expert by his displays of strength. Spotman recently paid a short visit to a gymnasium on Arch street and gave an exhibition of what he could do. The pupils eyed him curiously when he picked up the 100 pound dumbbell and twirled it between his fingers as a dude might do with a bamboo cane. When he stretched out his arms and asked all who possibly could do so to jump on his back, arms, shoulders and head to take a ride, eight sturdy and strong men complied with the request, and, holding on to his ears, hair and collar-button, they bore their weight upon him. He carried them without much difficulty, and the gymnasts who saw the performance were almost inclined to think contemptuously of their own comparatively puny physiques.

Not satisfied with this the young giant went to the strength testing scales and pulled up the 2,000 pound weight with ease. He then wrapped two straps around his shoulders and back, and fastening the ends to 3,300 pounds of iron, he calmly raised the weight and took a promenade around the hall with his load. As his last act, in stead of wrestling with a Numean lion, as Hercules, of mythological fame, did, he caught hold of a bear, which a friend had expressly brought, and hugged the animal so hard that it grunted for mercy. Spotman has yet to perform seven more difficult tasks, and then he will pose himself as a modern Hercules and the hero of twelve unparalleled feats of strength. -[Philadelphia Record.

Parisian critics already begin to warn Patti from singing Juliette in Gounod's new work at the Grand Opera. The last time that she sang in Paris her voice, proved its waning state. As they have no national sympathy for her, they think it will be a very dangerous experiment if she should For sale by all druggists everywhere or send direct undertake to reappear. undertake to reappear.

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MISCELLANE

Has a man the right to k a theatre if he chooses to do Brooklyn man who has bro the manager of the Park t requiring him either to ta leave the building. He l and now wants \$5,000 to s ed feelings. If some w theatres and other places take off their big hats or va it would be a great improv

The record of business de can Post office Departme something marvellous. The 800,000 letters mailed, and cards, 1,063,200,000 newsp icals and third and fourth the tune of 372,900,000 piece in receipts was \$3,857 566. in expenditures \$5,734,326 look as if the distribution the Government were a industry. Among other ch ment suggests the reduction cent, and a uniform char fourth class matterof ore onnces. . . . A Mr. Samuel Barton

written and caused to be what ingenious and mildly called "The Battle of the Capture of Canada." "T ala" is rather a misnomer ity the book posserses res it shows how the United forced by Great Britain at t to take over all the Briti this western hemisphere w of Barbadoes, to pay the s 000 for the privilege and t debt into the bargain. The is not very apparent. W suppose it was meant for wi would ever be foolish enou and money on anything so as a "prophecy" of this earnest. A likely enough skit" designed to ridio of the American navy. Ominous underground

seem to forebode an earth still heard on the contine one who watches the curre pears as if the nations the and irresistibly, in spite strivings, being sucked in strom. Each is aware of ger. In these days, there eagerness to fight out of n ing, that was once the case at last opened our eyes t is an awful and tragical unwillingness of each go the responsibility of be asserts its own eagernes throw the blame on anoth seem to recognize in a gre the inevitableness of war France appears to be the at present. Italy and Ge are silent but with a water " Deliver me from son

may well be the cry at tin Christianity. A little mo be advantageously ming which some doughty char ready to manifest on he speeches, lectures or wi considered hurtful to the vertised as little as possi think there is good reaso fluence. And least of a proclaimed from the pulp nothing helps to sell a boo er magazine article like tion, or even mere clerical of people will then haste danger from which they fully warned off, who we have thought of doing so. astic is an excellent ad and should therefore be cautious deliberation by control of its thunder. The terrible fire in Ro

affords another proof of of the so called "fire-esca useless for any practica exist for show and that trial time comes they The escapes in that Rock placed in a position whe head and firm nerves W quired to reach them at could have been done when death was in purs cruel tongues of fire, no hundred could have rea good for anything, fireput where they can be smallest amount of troub be plenty of them. The however, forbidding alt ment of persons in such that which furnished caust.

The Dominion Govern vite Australia and Ne here for the discussion questions and direct o The project is worthy and we trust there wi in Canada to bestow th of narrow party consider relation with these other a cable communication independent of the Un very beneficial to Canad dian Pacific Railway de steamship connection Sydney, and secures th ing the mails, which th ship company holds by another step will have a very valuable form of perhaps the only form If the Chinese don't

the United States and all missionaries and t who hail from this con strange. It appears that after forcing th foreigners to trade a Yankees and Britishe and say, while we sen merchants to you, we countrymen to come n of conduct has nothing its excuse. If the Ch huddle too much togeth gent municipal regulat state of things not only among all other nation asks an immigrant from ther or not he propose country, marry, and citizen. All that is le free will, and there ar some people than the