THE FREE PRESS.

Thursday Morning, Dec. 23, 1880.

YOUNG FOLKS CORNER.

A Christmas Carol.

Merry, merry Christmas everywhere!
Cheerily it ringeth through the air;
Christmas bells, Christmas trees,
Christmas odors on the breeze.
Merry, merry Christmas everywhere!
Cheerily it ringeth through the air;
Why should we so joyfully
Sing with grateful mirth!
See! the Sun of Righteousness
Beams upon the earth.

Merry, merry Christmas everywhere!
Cheerily it ringeth through the air;
Christmas bells, Christmas trees,
Christmas odors on the breeze.
Merry, merry Christmas everywhere!
Cheerily it ringeth through the air;
Light for weary wanderers,
Comfort for th' oppressed;
He will guide his trusting ones
Into perfect rest.

Merry, merry Christmas everywhere!
Cheerily it ringeth through the air!
Christmas bells, Christmas trees,
Christmas odors on the breeze.
Merry, merry Christmas everywhere!
Cheerily it ringeth through the air;
Deeds of Faith and Charity;
These our bell rings be,
Leading every soul to sing,
Christ was born for me!

Merry Christmas.

Christmas will soon be here. Merry Christmas, and you are glad. Why, of course you are, little one. And will Santa Claus come? I feel very sure he will. A good many things change in this world, but on Christmas Eve merry old Santa Claus is always heard of—his hair as white, his nose as red, as ever; his bag of toys just as full; his cry down the chimney of "Any good children here?" just as loud. The boy three years old sees the same figure in his dreams as did his grandfather sixty years ago. Santa Claus was always old, but never grows any older, and never will while parents love their children. How many little ones, I wonder, have hung up their stockings at night, and covered their heads with the blankets, as they crept into bed, not daring to peep, though they felt sure they heard something.

Christmas day is a happy one for most children all over the Christian world, and I hope that because this is so they will remember that this day is kept because eighteen hundred and eighty-one years ago Jesus, who said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven," was first a babe in his mother's arms. Don't forget that amidst your merry-making.

Surprised.

"Any chestnuts 'round here?" asked one of three city boys who met an aged, benevolent-looking farmer out in Livonia township. The old man hesitated:

"You don't want to steal 'em?" he asked.

"Oh, no, we just wanted to find out."

"Well, there's a few trees back there, but if I thought you wanted to steal them I wouldn't have told you for the owner has gone to town; but you're bright, honest-looking boys."

The boys blushed with the pride of conscious goodness.

"When will the owner be back?"

"Not before dark I reckon."

The boys thanked the old man, waited till he was out of sight, then jumped the fence and shook [illegible] a pile of nuts."

The shaking [illegible], but opening the burrs was difficult and unpleasant. At last however they had a splendid pile of brown nuts on the ground and were preparing to put them in the bags they had brought with them.

"Please don't take any more pains," said the benevolent old gentleman who stood beside the fence smiling kindly on the startled boys. "I'm not so strong as I used to be, and I fear I can't hold this dog much longer. I'll try to hold him until you reach the railroad track: Now be quick! Down Tige."

As the boys looked back from the railroad fence, they saw the stooping figure of the old man scooping the chestnuts into a two-bushel bag."

Young Smokers.

Young smokers experience many misfortunes when they begin the use of the weed. They are continually propounding to themselves the following queries;

Why can that sickly-looking little Jim Fiddler smoke a cigar without being sick?

Why does the smoke all rush up your nose when you leave your cigar in your mouth and hunt for your pocket handkerchief.

Why do you have such pleasant fancies during the first half of the cigar?

Why do you feel as if you would like to crawl out through the top of your hat during the last half?

Why can't the same weed that makes you sick at the stomach, without your swallowing it, be utilized as horse powder or to throw up a quarry?

Young America pauses for a reply.

A Few Rules.

The following rules should be strictly observed by persons having occasion to visit a printing office.—

1. Enter softly.
2. Sit down quickly.
3. Subscribe for the paper.
4. Pay for it in advance.
5. Don't touch the type.
6. Keep six feet from the devil.
7. Don't talk to compositors.
8. Hands off manuscript.

Gentlemen observing these rules when entering an office, will greatly oblige the editor and not fear the devil. Boys unaccompanied by their parents are requested to keep their mouths and pockets shut.

Fact, Fun and Fancy.

A "Squeeze in grain."—Treading on a man's corns.

A friendship that makes least noise is often most useful.

He hath riches sufficient who hath enough to be charitable.

To dream gloriously you must act gloriously when you awake.

Kisses sweeten a farewell. They are the cream of tears, as it were.

People that have nothing to do are quickly tired of their own company.

A man of honor will rather starve than be false to a solemn engagement.

Experience is an excellent school master but he does charge dreadful wages.

Relish Life.

Season your toil with a few cheap and common luxuries, if you cannot afford the greater ones, and see how it improves the relish. Don't think of out doors as simply a place to work and grow crops in, but as God's beautiful world, in which to grow healthy and happy and wise. Some people go through life as though they had no members but hands and feet, and no organ but a mouth—no mission but to "get a living," and no way to live except by eating. Give the eyes and ears and nose a chance—and above all, that to which all senses should minister: the mind and soul. Don't be cribbed, cabined and confined, with "all out doors" at your disposal.

Words of Wisdom.

Conduct and courage lead to honor.

Sometimes words wound more than swords.

A good book supplies the place of a companion.

Charms strike the sight, but merit wins the soul.

The man who disclaims pride, proclaims it aloud.

The heart ought to give charity when the hand cannot.

Everything good in man leans on something higher.

The secret pleasure of a generous act is the great mind's bribe.

He who labors for mankind has already begun his immortality.

Kindness is the golden chain by which society is bound together.

Duty looks more repelling at a distance than when fairly faced and met.

Find earth where grows no weed, and you may find a heart in which no error grows.

When a young man has learned to wait, he has mastered one of the hardest lessons in life.

Stop My Paper.

This threat reminds us of a story about Mr. Swain years ago, when he was proprietor of the Philadelphia *Ledger*. By his course in regard to some public matters he had offended a number of readers, one of whom met him on Chestnut street, and thus accosted him:

"Mr. Swain, I've stopped the *Ledger*."

"What is that, sir?"

"I've stopped the Ledger," was the stern reply.

"Great heavens," said Mr. Swain, "my dear sir, that won't do. Come with me to the office. This must be looked into,"

Taking the man with him, he entered the office at Third and Chestnut st. There they found the clerks busy at their desks; then they ascended to the editorial rooms and composing rooms, where all was as usual; finally they descended to the press rooms where the engineers were at work.

"I thought you told me you had stopped the *Ledger*," said Mr. Swain.

"So I have," said the offended subscriber.

"I don't see the stoppage. The *Ledger* seems to be going on."

"Oh! I mean to say—that is, that I—ah—had stopped taking it."

"Is that all?" exclaimed Mr. Swain. "Why, my dear sir, you don't know how you alarmed me. As for your individual subscription, I care very little. Good day, sir, and never make such rash assertions again."

A Sunday school boy of Maysville, Ky., was asked by the superintendent if his father was a Christian. "Yes, sir," he replied, "but he is not working at it much."

A Mississippi judge was just saying that no one but a coward would carry a pistol, when his own fell from his pocket, was discharged, and the bullet hit a lawyer in the leg.

The persistency with which the school boy will go fishing and catch nothing, is equalled only by the unsuccessful efforts of the corn doctor to secure a customer in a printing office.

"My dear Julia," said one pretty girl to another, "can you make up your mind to marry that odious Mr. Snuff?" —"Why, my dear Mary," replied Julia, "I believe I could take him at a pinch!"

IMMENSE RUSH OF CUSTOMERS TO RIGHT HOUSE.

The enormous number of customers who patronize Watkins' great stores this season is astonishing. Although about twice as large as any other retail house in town, yet there can scarcely be standing room found at the various counters for the customers who throng these favorite stores. So thoroughly are the public convinced that it is to their own interest to buy at the Right House, that the increase in **Watkins' sales last month over those of November, 1879, was $3,241.33.** While the increase for the last three months over the same period of 1879 was **$6,707.93**, and still **increase in the sales every year since 1863.** Through every commercial crisis, bad crops, and every other national disaster this house has continued to prosper better. So well do the public appreciate the sterling good value they get at the great resort of the wise and economical that there has been **a large and constant** owing to Watkins' long experience, large command of cash capital, which enables him to purchase his goods from the manufacturers direct, in the best markets in the world, and his watchfulness over the various details of his business. The unequalled amount of his sales, which enables him to sell at a mere trifle of profit, and his constant determination that no reasonable customer shall have any cause of complaint, either about the prices or qualities of the goods, or their treatment in his stores; if they will make any error, want of attention, or other difficulty known to him, he will give them satisfaction. To make room for his numberless customers, he is about to build an addition of 37 feet to his store which will give him 275 feet long of stores below stair, and altogether 875 feet, or about 51 rods long in the three flats for selling, storage, and manufacturing purposes. Remember Watkins' great sale at greatly reduced prices is now going on. Just see his Blankets, Dress Goods, Mantles, Carpets, etc, Do not forget the stores are Nos. 30 and 32 King street east, close to Hughson street, and the name is

Hamilton, Dec. 23rd, 1880.

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In a word, it possesses the stimulants to arouse the strength, the tonics to retain it, and merit of a high degree.

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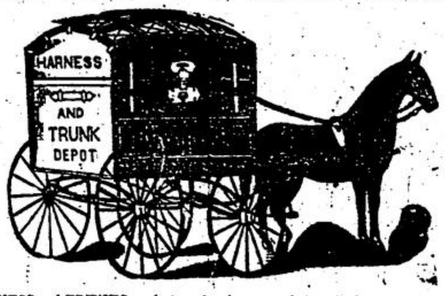

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'My Morning agony is gone—thanks to your Buchu.'

Want of space compels me to conclude.

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