

The Action Free Press
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The Young Folks.

A CHILD'S LAUGHTER.

All the bells of heaven may ring,
All the birds of heaven may sing,
All the winds on earth may spring,
All the stars in heaven may twinkle,
But all set aside together,
Sweeter far than all things heard.
Birds of pleasure, tops of bird,
Sound of woods at sun-down still,
Willing water's wisest word,
Wind in water, was weather.

One day you will find it none,
The day is it can't be none,
Heard in leaves hereafter;
Soft and strong and food and light,
Very sound of very light.
Heard from the innocent a sweetest,
Till a child's clear laughter.

One day you will find it none,
Never seen in books or heard,
Heard in tones so soft and bold,
At the midmost of gold.
Here that rings forth heaven,
If the golden crested were,
Were a nightingale—why then
Would it sing so sweetly then?
Might be half as sweet as what
Laughed a child of seven.

A TRUE STORY.

Some years ago, a young lad applied at my store for a position; he was bright, and I took a liking to him, and put him to work; he remained in my employ for a number of years, doing well and fitting himself for a good, successful business career. When he was about twenty-two years old, he had a position as one of four salesmen, salary \$1200 a year. After an absence of three months in Europe, the winter coming home missed the young salesman from the store; on asking for him, I was informed that on account of some matter in which a young woman was interested, he decided to leave the city and go west. He went, our firm gave him a good letter of recommendation, and he got a good position in Chicago. Three years afterward, he again presented himself for a position as clerk in one house, saying that he did not feel at home elsewhere. We took him on again to travel as salesman on the road; he did well for four or five years, but we noticed that he looked like a man that was drinking beer. He admitted that he was, but that it did not do him any harm. He grew larger and soon weighed 200 pounds. After which he grew to be indolent and lazy, so we decided to ask him to get another place. We succeeded in securing him a position where he would not have to travel, at the same time advising him to give up the drinking habit.

Two years followed, by this young man occasionally, and he always seemed very much pleased to see me, but I noticed that he still looked as though he took his beer.

I heard that his employer did not want him after July 1st. Two weeks after, a newspaper reporter called to enquire about his history while with us. On asking why we were informed that he was missing, had written his father, that he should never see him again, and that he had written some letters bidding his friends goodbye.

In answer to notices about it in the public press, it was discovered that his body was found floating in the sound, and that he had been buried near where they found the body. A business card was found in the pocket of his coat, with his name as representative of the firm printed on it. Moral: Lager beer leads to drink.

CHICAGO'S HIGHEST BUILDINGS.

The highest building in Chicago at present and one which is not built on the new Chicago construction system is the Auditorium. Its loftiest point is 295 feet above the sidewalk. The Fair building, now almost completed, is one section measures 211 feet to the coping, and is to be carried higher—up to sixteen or eighteen feet.

The new Masonic Temple over all 274 feet. This is constructed entirely on the new system. The Alabam Block measures 210 feet to the coping; the Woman's Temple, whose topmost stories are now being finished, towers 265 feet from the ground; the Mathematic, 193 feet; the Monadnock, 174; the Henning and Speed block, 192; the Abstract building, 160; the Chamber of Commerce block, 140; the Home Insurance 175; the Tacoma, 175; the Northern Hotel, 174; the Hooley, 164; the Owings block, 161; the Hand-McNally, 148; the Chicago Opera house, 135; and the L. G. Leiter building, 133 feet.

A Drunkard's Will.

The newspaper known as "Ashore and Ashore" gives the following as a drunkard's will:

"I leave to society a ruined character, a wretched example and a memory that will soon rot. I leave to my parents, during the rest of their lives, as much sorrow as humanity in a feeble and declining state can sustain. I leave to my brothers and sisters as much mortification and injury as I could bring on them. I leave to my wife a broken heart, a life of wretchedness and shame, to weep over my premature death. I give and bequeath to each of my children poverty, ignorance and low character, and a remembrance that their father was a monster."

Counting the Cost.

A negro in a Georgia court-room was remanded by the judge that he must tell the whole truth, or be sent to prison.

"Well, yes, boss," said the witness, "I'm steeled to tell the whole truth for fear I might tell a lie."

"Do you know the nature of no oath?" asked the judge.

"No."

"Do you understand what you are to swear to?"

"Yes, sir; I'm to swear to tell the truth."

"And what will happen if you do not tell?"

"I guess our side'll win de case, sah..."

SURPRISE Way.

You want your Cottons, Linens, Flannels always sweet, clean, snowy white?

You want "the wash?" done the easiest, the cleanest, the quickest, the cheapest way?

SURPRISE Soap "the Surprise Way," without boiling or scalding, gives these results.

* READ on the wrapper.*

The SURPRISE Way.

The SURPRISE Way.