

## OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

### A Darling Little Pet.

"Skunk, when young, make very pretty pets," says Dr. Clinton M. Merriam, in his description of the vertebrates of the Adirondack regions. "They are attractive in appearance, gentle in disposition, interesting in manners, and cleanly in habits—rare qualities indeed! They are playful, sometimes mischievous, and manifest considerable affection for those who have the care of them. I have had at different times, ten live skunks in confinement. They were all quite young when first taken, measuring from four to seven inches in length: two were so young that they had to be brought up on milk; the others ate meat and insects from the start. From some of these I removed the scent bags, but the greater number were left in a state of nature. None ever emitted any odor, although a couple of them, when half grown, used to assume painfully suggestive attitudes on the too near approach of strangers, so suggestive indeed, that their visitors commonly beat a hasty retreat. These same skunks would climb up my legs, and get into my arms; they liked to be caressed, and never offered to bite. If accustomed to the presence of a number of people, they are familiar and friendly toward all; while if kept where they habitually see but one or two persons, they will not permit a stranger to touch them."—*Buffalo Courier.*

### How The Treasury Is Guarded.

What puzzles my English friends even more than the ignorance of the people of Washington as to where the original draft of the Declaration of Independence is kept, is the apparent absence of guards about the treasury department at night, writes a Washington correspondent. The treasury building covers, as you know, two squares of ground. In its great vaults are as many dollars as the richest man in the world would want to roll in; yet you can walk up Fifteenth street at night, touching every window and door on its side from lower Pennsylvania avenue to upper Pennsylvania avenue without meeting a single watchman, except at certain hours, and then the meeting would be accidental. Within the walls are guards, but they are not visible, and the building seems deserted. "Now, in London," said an Englishman, to-night, "if you were walking past the bank of England just about the time that the street lamps were being lighted, you would meet a small body of troops, armed and equipped for sentry duty, and you would see them take their places for the night as though the bank were a fortified camp. I'd like to see you touch the Old Lady of Threadneedle."

### Not Quite Smart Enough.

A day or two ago, as the passengers were leaving one of the Detroit River ferry boats, a gentleman who stood beside a custom house officer, remarked: "When I see a poor fellow like that, I am consoled for not being rich." "Who?" "Why, that man with the hump on his back. I had rather be poor all my days, than to be deformed and have millions of money." "I can cure him in about five minutes—come and see," replied the officer, as he walked toward the unfortunate, and invited him to pass up stairs. There was a kick, but he had to go, and three or four minutes' time sufficed to remove his deformity, which consisted of twenty-two yards of flannel, and six pairs of socks. "Party smart!" growled the smuggler, as he was allowed to go. "Not so very," was the reply. "A man who carries a hump on his back, should carry a stiff neck. You didn't."

Some sixty years since a Bank of England £5 note was paid into a Liverpool merchant's office in the ordinary course of business. On holding it up to the light to test its genuineness, the cashier saw some faint red marks upon it. Examining them closely, he traced some half-effaced words between the printed lines and upon the margin of the note, written apparently in blood. After a long and minute scrutiny he made out the words: If this note should fall into the hands of John Dean, of Longhill, near Carlisle, he will learn hereby that his brother is languishing a prisoner in Algiers." The merchant immediately communicated with Mr. Dean, and he lost no time in bringing the matter before the Government. Inquiries were set on foot and the unfortunate man was discovered and ransomed. He had been a slave to the Dey of Algiers for eleven years, when the message he had traced with a splinter of wood dipped in his own blood reached the Liverpool counting house. Liberty, however, came too late; the privations and hardships of the galleys had sapped his strength, and although he was brought home to England, it was but to die.

### THE FOX AND THE HEN.

#### A Fable with many Morals.

"How big a brood shall you have this year, madam?" said the Fox to the Hen, one cold winter evening in the barn-yard. "What's that to you?" said the Hen to the Fox. "Supper!" replied the Fox, promptly. "Well, I don't know," said the hen, in reply; "I may have ten; but I never count my chickens before they are hatched." "Quite right," said the Fox, "neither do you, as a hen in the present is worth ten chickens in the future I will eat you now." No saying he carried her off. The next morning the farmer, seeing the tracks of the fox in the snow, took his gun and went out and shot him. "Alas!" said the Fox, "I should have waited for the ten chickens; there is no snow in the summer time."—*St. Nicholas for January.*

The Hon. Capt. Moreton, a brother of the Earl of Ducie, gives a glowing account in England of things out West. He has a large place out in Iowa, and goes in for what is known there as "the pupil dodge." Young men of good family are sent out to him from England, and for a liberal fee the captain instructs them in farming and things generally. On his arrival he astonished the Iowans by starting a butler and dining at 8 p. m. But they have got over these eccentricities, and the captain has become a favorite.

## Nursing the Sick.

Quietude is a great thing, of course; but real quietude means the absence of all excitement, and it must be remembered that anything out of the common will tend to excite the mind of a sufferer. Do not, therefore, walk on tiptoe; for this in addition to its usual elaboration of the gait, invariably causes a certain amount of creaking. Speak in low tones, but don't whisper; a whisper will often awake a sleeper who would not be disturbed by ordinary conversation; and never say "Hush!" Let your clothes and foot-covering be of as noiseless and unobtrusive a character as possible, and instead of gliding and tottering about like a rickety ghost, do not hesitate to walk. If you have occasion to say anything in the room, say it so that the patient can hear it if he wishes, and do not let him be aware of your conspiring privately with the others, especially at the door. That door has much to answer for. If it be visible from the bed people open it cautiously, put their heads in and slowly withdraw again. If, as is more frequently the case, it is screened by the bed-curtains, mysterious openings and shuttings are heard, unattended with any apparent ingress or egress, and sotto voce colloquies go on outside. When you enter do so honorably and at once; do not spend five minutes in turning the handle, like a house-breaker, thereby producing a series of irritating little clicks, finally terminating in a big snap, with which the door flies open. If the latch be at all rusty, a handle that is slowly wound back in this way will often stick, and either require to be rattled back into position, or, if left as it is, may start back suddenly, after a time, of its own accord, with a report like a pistol shot! It is always well to recollect that it by no means follows that a sick person is asleep because his eyes are shut; he may be acutely conscious of all that is passing in the room, though unable or unwilling to make any sign; and nothing can be more misleading, under such circumstances, than to have people hush-shushing and whispering around and creaking about on the tips of their toes. We have all sympathized in our hearts with poor Leicester Dedlock when his tongue was smitten with paralysis with his sister constantly bending over him with clasped hands and murmuring, "He is asleep!" till, goaded to desperation, he makes a sign for his slate and writes, "I am not."

Never stand at the foot of the bed and look at the patient. While talking to him it is better to sit by the side of the bed, and as near the pillow as possible, so that you may converse easily, while your face and body are turned in the same direction as his. By this means you can make all necessary observations of his features without enforcing the arrest of his eyes to your own, which is so embarrassing and disagreeable to one lying in bed, and is almost unavoidable when facing him. Keep him in as comfortable a position as possible, by all means, but don't be too demonstrative in smoothing the pillows and little offices of that sort. Fidgety attentions will worry him, and do him more harm than downright neglect.—*All the Year Round.*

## Women and Journalism.

A Chicago paper gives the following list of American women who are now connected with the press: Mrs. L. M. Latham edits a department in the Cedar Rapids *Times* of Iowa, called "Woman's Bureau"; Mrs. Fannie Folger conducts a Woman's Department in the *Manistee Standard* of Mich. Mrs. Laura Schofield keeps up a department in the interest of women in the *Kokomo Tribune* of Indiana. Mrs. Florence M. Adkinson edits "Woman's World" in Indianapolis *Sunday Sentinel*, and Mrs. Mary Wright Sewall superintends "Woman's Work" in Indianapolis *Times*. Helen Wilman presides over "Woman's World" in Chicago *Express*, and Elizabeth Boynton Harbert rules "Woman's Kingdom" in Chicago *Inter-Ocean*. Helen M. Gougar edits and publishes *Our Herald* of LaFayette, Ind., and Mary B. Willard conducts the *Union Signal* of Chicago. Mrs. E. T. Housh, is editor and proprietor of *Woman at Work* of Brattleboro, Vt. Emeline B. Wells edits and publishes the *Woman's Exponent* of Salt Lake City, and Lucy Stone and daughter, Alice Stone Blackwell, do the major portion of the editorial work of the *Woman's Journal* of Boston. Sallie Joy White is a member of the editorial staff of the *Boston Herald*, and Lillian Whiting is a member of the editorial corps of the *Boston Traveler*. Mary Clemmer Ames is as brilliant a correspondent as ever wrote for any paper, and Louise Chandler Moulton's letters to the *New York Tribune* have never been surpassed by any of their kind. Mrs. Gertrude Garrison is employed to work up feature articles for several New York papers and has no superior in her line. Middy Morgan reports for the "Stock and Cattle" department of the *New York Tribune*, and Emily B. Charles is associate editor of the *Citizen and Soldier* of Washington, D. C. Mrs. Dunway publishes the *New North-west* in Portland, Oregon. Mrs. Winslow the *Alpha* of Washington City, and Mrs. Quinby the *Ægis* of Cincinnati, Ohio, and these are only a few of the many women successfully engaged in Journalism.

## Exception Denied.

"I want to appeal this case," said Mary McGuire, as she received a thirty days' sentence in the Jefferson Market Police Court. No attention was paid to her. "I take an exception," she screamed as the officer's hand fell upon her shoulder. "On what grounds?" she was asked. "The officer swore I just came down from the Island on Monday, when I did not arrive here till Tuesday morning." "Exception denied." "I'll serve you with a writ of certiorari," she said defiantly as she was dragged into the corridor. "Tell me," she asked the officer coaxingly, "tell me why my appeal was slighted and my exception scorned, and I'll be good and go right along with you." "Because we have business to transact in this 'ere court. These things are only noticed in the higher courts, where they have nothing else to do." "Oh!"

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## A TERRIBLE PROPHECY.

### The Red Sunset, Cyclones and Earth quakes Foretelling Coming Disaster—How to Meet It.

The recent mysterious appearances following sunset and preceding sunrise have attracted wide attention from students of the skies and the people generally. During the days of recent weeks the sun seems to have been obscured by a thin veil of a dull leaden hue which, as the sun receded toward the horizon, became more luminous, then yellow, then orange, then red; and, as night settled down upon the earth, a dull purple. At first it was thought these appearances were ordinary sunset reflections of light, but it is now pretty certain that they are either the misty substance of the tail of some unseen comet, in which the earth is enveloped, or a surrounding stratum of world dust or very small meteors. Professor Brooks, of the Red House Observatory, Phelps, N. Y., has turned his telescope upon these objects and discovered what he thinks are myriads of telescopic meteors. If it is unorganized world dust, or decomposed vapors, as the *Democrat* and *Chronicle* of Rochester, N. Y., remarks: "How is this matter to be disposed of? Will it settle and form a deposit upon the earth, or remain a partial opaque shell about the earth to cut off a portion of the sun's light upon it?"

Whatever the mystery is, there is no denying that some very strange forces are at work in the upper air. The terrible tornadoes and cyclones which have swept our own country, and the fearful volcanoes and earthquakes which have destroyed so many cities and thousands of people—the tidal waves which mysteriously rise and fall on coasts hitherto unvisited by them—the tremendous activity which is evident in the sun by the constant revelation of enormous spots upon its surface—all indicate unusual energy in the heavenly bodies.

These circumstances recall Professor Grimmer's prophecies that from 1881 to 1887, the passage of the five great planets—Mars, Neptune, Jupiter, Uranus and Saturn—around the sun would produce strange and wonderful phenomena. He says: "The waters of the earth will become more or less poisonous. The air will be foul with noxious odors. Ancient races will disappear from the earth." He attempts to prove his prophecy by the fact that in 1770, when Mars and Saturn made their passage around the sun coincidentally, great destruction and mortality visited all parts of the globe. He also found the same results in previous perihelion passages of the planets, and argues that these circumstances always produce epidemics and destructive diseases which will be the skill of the most eminent physicians; that the poor will die by thousands, the weak and intemperate falling first, those whose blood has been impoverished by excess of work or dissipation next and only those who are in comparative vigor shall escape to enjoy the era of renewed activity and prosperity which will follow the period of destruction.

Inasmuch as the entire world seems subject to the sway of the heavenly bodies, no part of the earth, he thinks, can escape scourging. He even predicts that America will lose over ten millions of people; that farmers will be stricken with fear and cease to till the soil; that famine will make human misery more wretched. That hundreds will flee to overcrowded cities for aid in vain. That sudden changes in ocean currents, temperature and surroundings will entirely transform the face of nature and climate of countries; that the air will be so foul with malaria and other noxious gases; that those who survive will be troubled with disorders of the digestive organs. That many who escape other ills will be troubled with sudden and sudden pain away, while others will grow thin and drag out a miserable existence in indescribable agony for weeks. Neuralgia pains in different parts of the body will torment them. They will easily tire and become despondent. A faint, hot feeling will be succeeded by chilly sensations, while hallucinations and dread of impending ill will paralyze all effort. The birds in the air, the beasts of the field and even the fish of the sea will become diseased, poisoning the air and poisoning the waters of the globe. "We are told on the other hand that those who shall pass through the period of trial will have larger enjoyment of life and health. The earth will yield more abundantly than ever before. The animal kingdom will be more prolific and life prolonged very materially. This prolongation of life will be owing to the healthy, electric and magnetic influences that will pervade the atmosphere. It would perhaps seem that the present redness of the sun, and the presence of a belt or veil of cosmic matter, justified in a measure, the prediction of Professor Grimmer, but disturbing as his prediction may be we are told for our comfort that the strong and pure blooded need have little to fear in these calamities, that those who are delicate or indisposed should adopt means to keep the system well supported and the blood pure and that the most philosophical and effective method of accomplishing this is to keep the kidneys and liver in good condition. From the testimonials of such men as Dr. Dio Lewis and Professor R. A. Gunn, M.D., Dean of the United States Medical College, New York, and thousands of influential non-professional people, it seems almost certain that for this purpose there is no preparation known to science equal to Warner's Safe Cure. This medicine has acquired the finest reputation of any preparation that was ever put upon the market. It is a radical blood purifier, which soothes and heals all inflamed organs, strengthens the nervous system, washes out all evidences of decay, regulates digestion, prevents malassimilation of food in a philosophical and rational manner, fortifies the system against climatic changes and malarial influences and the destructive agencies which seem to be so abundant in these "evil days."

It is not our purpose to dispute the correctness of Professor Grimmer's prophecies. As we have said, the marked disturbances of the past few years would seem to give a semblance of verification of his theory. It is certain, as above stated, that we are passing through what may be regarded as a crucial period and it is the part of wise men not to ignore, but to learn to fortify themselves against the possibility of being overcome by these evils. It is a duty which each man owes to himself, and his fellows, to mitigate as much as possible the suffering of humanity, and in no way better can he accomplish this purpose than to see to it that he, him-

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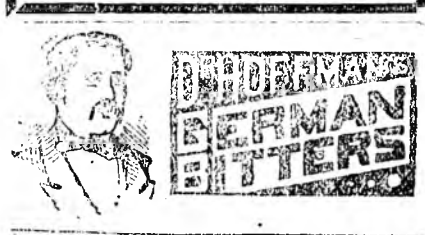
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