

YOUNG FOLKS.

Hints About Rowboats.

Rowing is a jolly art, and a common one, and you may pick up so many fascinating points from the great professional oarsmen of our day that we will talk of nothing but its rudiments here. You know that every stroke ought to be taken with the back firm, the knees well apart, the elbows close to the sides, the feet braced and the eyes set directly forward (which is really backward) and towards the stern. Throw the oar far back and take care that it does not go deep. Nothing is worse than to see an oar dipped deep and then tossed high; it is ungraceful, unscientific, and a waste of force. A slight but firm depression of the wrists will make short work of this radically bad habit.

The blade, as it cuts its way below, makes a line almost level with the surface of the water and very close to it, and on swinging through the air back to position makes another close and nearly parallel line, that, whatever its modifications or "extras," is the perfect stroke. The pull comes in the beginning of a stroke, but it must not be too much of a jerk. The oar's movement through the water, whether it be slow or swift, should always be longer than the oar's other movement through the air. And all there must be no dawdling, no hurry, "no splash." The college crews row after several fashions; and the best proof that there is an equal choice of manner is that the victory varies with the men, and that nobody knows, any year, what circumstances will combine to give the lucky ones their Jack.

Feathering, which is just scraping or tickling the water with the broad underside of the oar so that the spray flies, is a luxury in rowing; not to be tried save on smooth water when nobody is in a very great rush. But in a time of big waves or wind, we have to try instead a quick strong beat, steady as a clock tick, and leave our elegant accomplishments behind us.

Rowing, after all, is not the whole business. Boys and girls are not good marines who can only row. They should know how to manage every mood of their little craft, to launch and moor her neatly and carefully, to steer without sailor's knots, or, her ropes and to keep her astern and steady that, if necessary, they may move about even in rough weather and change seats without a qualm in the boat's nerves or their own. Where you have a rudder the steering is, I suppose, most laugh hard at the crazy, zigzag tracks some boats leave on their blue highway. A yacht, a shell, a canoe, and even a rowboat is so "clever" and "beautiful" a thing that it deserves that you should devote your whole intelligence to it and love it too much to play any foolhardy tricks with it.

If we study this fine creature, water, it is best to master him outright; for he leads us out of our own country, into a foreign place where our very spot is perilous, and where no truce is ever made or kept with mortality. So that there is immense pride and satisfaction in knowing how to keep cool, how to meet an emergency, and how to plan at once the campaign and its tactics; what to do, and when to do it. And the most precious knock of all, the top feather in a voyager's cap, is swimming, which should be learned before-hand, by right, and which alone can send us abroad with clean breasts.

Nothing but patience and constant practice will teach the thorough handling of a boat. No amount of devotion to rowing-machines in gymsnasiums will do it, though they help afterwards. The way to learn the workings of a rowboat is to work in a rowboat. One good receipt is to get a river or lake where you may have a roomy seat, a pair of easy car-locks, and a fair little gondola built of white wood or cedar and dandified with cushions, nickel and brass nails. The other is an awkward scow, at hap hazard on the sea, or a river like the Piscataqua at Portsmouth, full of strange, powerful eddies and currents. If you have your choice of training places it would be excusable and sensible should you prefer the inland route and the civiliz'd wherry, whereas it would certainly be silly and wrong to hunt up a danger for the fun of "wrestling" with it. But, as in real life ashore, those who have had to rough it young, to fight single-handed against a magnificent enemy, to them arrive the skill and the glory such as no molly-coddle amateur will be, nil nisi qui attinet.

Rowing is admirable exercise; and means strength to weak arms and breadth to narrow chests, and charities to legs and abdomen as well. Above everything it brings firmness of nerve. A five-mile row is literally nothing at all, and a twenty-five-mile one a poor thing to brag of especially if brez and tide are favorable. But be scrupulous to keep it up no longer than you can "do-so" with absolute ease. When your shoulders droop and twist with the stroke, it is time to play passenger and to give the oars to a mate.

A parting word, which ought to be the opening one of every enterprise, alive, is: Don't be afraid! Carry this for your water creed—that it is a difficult thing overturn a boat, and that if you sit square and steady and act with brains your boat will do so, too; and that oblique, and finally—and it was a noble sailor, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who said it first—"Heaven is as near by sea as by land." Those of us who are not hanged, according to an agreeable proverb, may be drowned yet; but don't dare to be afraid again, even of that! Which is a very grim and far-fetched piece of philosophy, but quite as serious as the rest, dear congregation, wherewith to end up this happy go-say sermon.

Sympathy in Affliction.

A little boy of three years, whose mother played the organ in church, and who was obliged to be left to the care of others, was asked one Sunday morning what his kitten was crying so pitifully for. "I don't know," said he, in tearful tones, "but I suspect the old cat has gone to church."

Dot's Theory.

It was little Dot's first visit to a farm and she went with her aunt to see how the pigs were fed. The little one gazed in astonishment at the young porkers for a moment, and then placing her hand on her curly hair she said reflectively: "Auntie!"

"Yes, dear."

"Does 'oo put all the piggies' tails in curly papers?"

THE NEW YORK AQUEDUCT

It is Thirty Miles Long and Will Cost About \$15,000,000.

The new aqueduct which is to supply New York of the future with water is a tunnel of thirty miles long, cut through solid rock, and large enough for the passage of a train of cars, says the *New York Mail and Express*.

It will be completed at the end of the year, and will give New York as notable a marvel of engineering skill as the Brooklyn bridge and will command with that vast structure the attention of scientific tourists and students for many years. It is not at all likely indeed, that it will be rivaled in magnitude during the century or the next half.

It would surprise a good many people to know that at this very moment New York's water supply is totally inadequate. It fulfills the demands of furnishing houses, hotels, and work-shops with water, but if a great conflagration were to suddenly visit the city, and with the wind blowing steadily in the right direction, the city would be swept as clean as were Boston and Chicago. The fire commissioners know, and have known for some time, of the inadequacy of the water supply, and on more than one occasion they have found that their firemen have been unable to cope with the flames and extinguish them as easily as might have been done if the supply of water had been greater.

The new aqueduct will remedy this evil and will give to Gotham all the water that the present city needs, with sufficient force and power to extinguish any conflagration, and it will in addition to that supply all the needs for the coming great city.

In more ways than one this new aqueduct is a very remarkable piece of work. It is known, of course, by most people that all the water that comes into New York is from the Croton river, but the big Croton dam itself is a marvelous work, by no means retains all the water of that river. To secure a full supply a system of new dams has been devised and is embraced in the new aqueduct scheme. One of these, Sodom dam, is intended to catch and store the water of the east branch of the Croton, holding it for use when required. The Mascot dam takes the water above the level of the Croton dam and stores it, to be fed to the lower or main reservoir as needed. That work is now in progress. This dam involves the expenditure of a vast sum of money. It is estimated, that the land it will submerge alone will cost \$10,000,000. It will require a number of years to build it, but when it is completed New Yorkers will have the satisfaction of knowing that it is the greatest dam in the world.

The engineers who are at work upon this aqueduct are level-headed men who will tell you, if you ask them what they are doing, that they are simply "making a tunnel" 30 miles in extent, with a sectional area of 155 feet. This is room enough for an ordinary train of cars to pass through. The aqueduct as visitors to the city can see from the car window, traverses a broken country, over lofty hills, down deep valleys, then diving in broad rivers, and most of the way cut in solid rock, the depth under the surface being 150 feet. Except where it is carried under water courses it maintains a perfectly regular though slightly descending grade, and will deliver its vast river of water at the highest elevation on Manhattan hill, giving a head for distribution which will carry it to the top of an eight-story building.

The work on the aqueduct was begun in March, 1885, and the cost in money has been something like \$12,000,000. It would be well, indeed, if this were all the cost, but as in all great engineering works, there has been a very large sacrifice of life and limb. Nearly 100 men have paid the penalty of their lives and 150 more have been seriously wounded.

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Business Morality.

Franklin (Ky.) "Favorite." Among the rubbish in the store-room of the late William L. Hilton a little old faded note-book containing some odd suggestions to his boys as to how they should proceed in life after he had passed to his reward was picked up by a "favorite" reporter a few days since, and is now, for the first time, given to the public.

Search the bible to find the bottom of the deceitful human heart and say your prayers at night. Think over every day's business at night.

Never marry until you are 30 years old. Think three times before you speak once.

Never court any girl unless you intend to marry her. There is danger in fooling young girls. Never give them any advantage in a letter.

Never buy a small place with fine buildings.

Never buy white, sprouty, crawfishy land at any price expecting to make money by cultivating it.

Never sell the products of the farm you work to any man, on time, at any price.

There is nothing in this world but death that is certain.

Never loan money to your neighbors, for if you should have to sue them they would be no longer neighbors.

Never let any man know anything about your business, except when you may have some difference and need to advise with a lawyer.

Never keep all your money in one channel.

Watch all men, as there are but few who are honest; in fact there is none honest from the heart in everything.

Never buy land of any person without first having a good lawyer investigate and pronounce the title clear.

Ascertain if the land has passed through the hands of any insane person, to prevent his heirs from suing you on the title. Never pay more than one-half down on the land unless you know you are dealing with responsible parties.

Be sure to go and ask all the parties that join the land you are buying to show you the corners of the land they own.

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