Sparrows Imported

When the early settlers in New Zealand began to break up the soil and sow crops large brown caterpillars appeared and devoured the crops. Year by year they increased until whole fields were darkened by their armies.

Ditches were dug. They were filled by the pests, and the tide rolled on. The hordes increased until they actually blocked the railroads and stopped the trains. The native birds had already learned to dread man with his guns, and the survivors had retreated into the forests and uncleared land, so sparrows were brought from England. These increased and multiplied and cleared out the caterpillars.

Steps to Heaven

One of the prettiest legends concerning trees is that held by a tribe inhabiting the Gulf coast of Australia who thinks that once a great pine tree reached from heaven to earth and by its means their ancestors used to climb up and down between the two regions. To complete the story, it is related that a hawk which had discovered the secret of fire-making, while disputing with another hawk, set fire to the earth, thus destroying the tree. The people who had climbed up to the sky had of necessity to remain there. Crystals were implanted in their bodies, and the flashing of these by night causes the light of the stars.

Water's Buoyancy

There is a general belief that it is easier to swim in deep water because of the supposed greater buoyancy. This is not true; the buoyancy is dependent only on the volume of water displaced, which is the same in both cases. One writer suggests that this idea may have arisen from the mental effects produced. When swimming in shallow water, we know that on the least fatigue, we can cease swimming and stand on the bottom; in deep water we know we must keep up and hence we exert ourselves more, swim better and feel better. Actually it should be just as easy to swim in water 1,000 feet as in water four feet deep.

Historic Region

"Spanish Main" is properly the northern coast of South America, going westward from the mouth of the Orinoco to the Isthmus of Panama, or a little farther; the mainland bordering the Caribbean sea, called by the Spanish conquerors Tierra Firme. The term is often applied, however, to the curving chain of islands forming the northern and eastern boundaries of the Caribbean sea, beginning from Mosquito, near the isthmus, and including Jamaica, Santo Domingo, the Leeward islands and the Windward islands, to the coast of Venezuela, South America.

Abundance Defended

On September 18, 1793, when the corner stone of the Washington Capitol was laid, the historians devoted much of their attention to the barbecue which followed. The ox weighed 500 pounds.

Dolly Madison set such a lavish table that one elegant foreigner scoffed —"Her table is more like a harvest home supper than the entertainment of a high official."

To which she made this sprightly rejoinder—"Abundance is preferable to elegance."

Trappist Monks

The Trappist monks are a reformed order of the Cistercian order, instituted in 1662 by Armand Jean le Bouthellier de Rance. Assuming control of the abbey of La Trappe in 1660, he found it in a most deplorable condition. The main purpose was to restore the discipline of the monastery. From La Trappe this austere rule spread into other parts of Europe, where it met with such instant favor that some of the most flourishing monastic houses in the world are now those of the Trappist reformers. In the United States there are three Cistercian abbeys, La Trappe at Gethsemane, Ky.; New Mellarey, near Dubuque, Iowa, and Our Lady of the Valley, Cumberland, R. I.

The Pomp of Power

Nicholas II (of Russia) liked living in a small South German palace rather than anywhere else. . . . In Hesse the czar knew that he was safe against attempts on his life, which were always possible in Russia, and then on the banks of the pretty stream of Darm, he could live the free, quiet life of a private gentleman. Is there better proof of the worthlessness of ... royal pomp and circumstance than the fact that what the autocrat of all the hundred million Russians loved most was to go in a slow train from Darmstadt to Frankfurt, incognito as far as possible, and there buy ties and gloves in the street?—From Von Bulow's Memoirs, Page 195.

Policies Out of Date

The insurance policy issued by Lloyd's on marine risks has undergone but little change in the past century and a half, since it was first printed, says an article in Fortune Magazine. The opening sentence formerly read "In the name of God, Amen," but it has been changed to "Be it known that." This is perhaps the greatest change in the policies of Lloyd's, which are full of contradictions and grandiose language; so much so that an English judge once declared that if it were drawn up today it would be considered "the work of a lunatic endowed with a private sense of humor."

Sorority Frosh: He is all the world to me. What would you advise me to do?

Been There: See a little more of the world, my dear.

The Children's Corner

Edited by DOROTHY EDMONDS

Bears



On my grandfather's farm
Is a great big wood
And it has a lot of bears
Just as such a place should.

And I used to be afraid
When I went that way,
So I scrootched way down
Even in broad day.

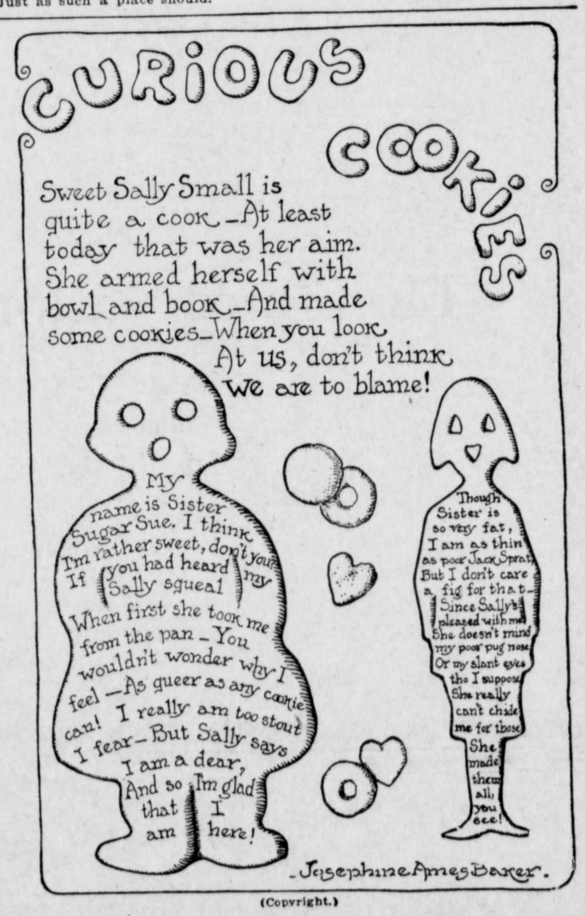
But my grandfather says
To pretend you're not afraid,
For with all us men
That's the way the game is played.

And you stick out your chest
And you say HOO, HOO!
For to holler like that
Makes a bear afraid of you

And he's never seen a bear
In a hundred years or two
That wouldn't turn and run
If you say HOO HOO!

So I stick out my chest
And I look straight ahead
And every bear I've hollered at
Has turned and fled.

—Betsy Buttles.



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NOW AND THEN

Those who have literature and Art, and have the leisure have an abundance of material to satisfy their appelites in New York.

Beside the great Metropolitan Museum where there is collections of art and Curios from all parts of the world there are numberless smaller Art Galleries. Just across the street from where I am writing there is the Spanish Museum a fine collection, gathered by Mr. Huntington, a lover of Spanish art. In this museum are found the most interesting pictures and carvings of spanish paintings and old laces and costumes. But the most beautiful of this collection is the room built for the pictures of Sorello, a great Spanish Artist. The room is semicircular with a fine light to bring out the beauty of these works of art. The skies, the colors and the faces are intensely pleasing. One can sit for hours studying them, and then wish to come again and again.

Who Came to Look on Beauty

I shall go by lightly,
Grasses, do not fear;
I shall step so softly
You will scarcely hear.

I shall touch you gently,
Fern and moss and leaf;
Cedars dark and silent
Shall not look on grief.

Birch and ash and alder,
Pine against the sky,
There is none so frightened,
None so small as I.

Who ventured here undaunted,
Thinking not to stay,
Who came to look on beauty
And cannot go away.

Gertrude Callaghan.

There is an interesting biography of Mark Twain, written by his daughter, Clara Clemens. It tells of so many intimate things about the humorous writer.

She tells how her mother wouuld slip letters from the mail that he was sending out for fear his humor would offend his friends. Once when sick he had many suggested remedies from his friends. Every once in a while he would write:

"Dear Sir (or Madam): I try every remedy sent to me. I am now on number 67. Yours is 2,653. I am looking forward to its beneficial results."

So, Sir Thomas Lipton has passed away! He will be missed as much in America as in his native land. There will be no more Shamrocks to race for the international cup. Sir Thomas dies without relatives, something unusual for a rich man. But his friends were many and "the freedom of the city" was always offered to him.

When King George knighted the noted tea merchant, a fellow townsman said, "Mr. Lipton does not have to be knighted to be a nobleman, he is already a nobleman.

Such a wonderful thing happened in New York on October 1. The New Waldorf Astoria was opened. They say they will have a special kitchen where women cooks will prepare old fashioned American dishes, Irish Stew and corn beef and cabbage. Won't it be a populalr place?

The Farm Board Cure-All.

"Are you raising too much wheat?
Plow it under!
Is your cotton crop complete?
Plow it under!
Can't you sell your ships and shoes,
Sealing wax, straw hats and booze,
Iron rails and copper screws?
Plow 'em under!"

What are we gong to do about it. An election coming off next year and depresson stalking the land. Of course the donkey and the elephant both come in for their share of blame.

Poor Old Parties

Both the Republican and the Democratic organizations in the last six months have experienced great difficulty in obtaining funds.—Washington Correspondence.

"The donkey and the elephant,
Unanimous now in aims,
Vainly solicit sustenance
To fill their thinning frames.
"And I was once Prosperity's pet!"
The elephant exclaims.

"The biggest, grandest businessmen,
The noblest intellects,
How kind, how kind they used to be!"
The elephant reflects.
"As kind as Raskob was to me!"
The donkey interjects.

They wander east, they wander west,
At many a door they knock.
"A little fodder!" they request,
But the hay is under lock.
Nobody cares a straw for them:
It gives them quite a shock.

NIMROD OF NOTE

It happened in the Cascade Mountains. "What," demanded the amateur hunter, a college professor, of his guide, "what is the name of the species I just shot?"

"Well, sir" returned the guide, suavely, "I've just been investigating and he says his name is Smith."

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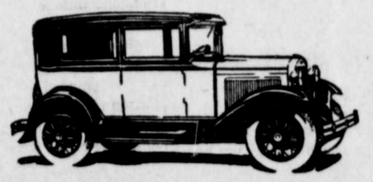
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Here's an interesting letter from a Ford owner in North Carolina:

"My Ford was purchased May 8, 1928, and has been run 121,767 miles. It has never stopped on the road for repairs of any kind whatsoever except punctures.

"The brakes were relined at 101,000 miles. My gas mileage averaged 21 miles to the gallon, and on tires, 19,000 miles per tire. I travel over all kinds of road conditions—mountainous and flat.

"I consider this a wonderful record and I assure you my next car will also be a Ford."

This is just one of many tributes to the reliability and long life of the Ford. A Ford owner in Iowa tells of driving his Ford 73,000 miles in a single year. Another writes of 120,000 miles of good service.

Think ahead when you are considering the purchase of an automobile and consider what it will be like after thousands of miles of driving. Will you still be satisfied? Will you still say "it's a great car"?

If it's a Ford, you know everything will be O. K. It will be taking you there and back in good style, just as it has always done. And you will have saved many important, worth-while dollars in cost of operation and up-keep and low yearly depreciation.

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