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Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., Dec. 11, 1891.

An Agnostic.

There were eight of the young Dares and my friend Robbie was number six. He is a sturdy little fellow, with faded flaxen hair—he won't wear a hat—and a very pink face, liberally spattered with big brown freckles. It has been the business of Robbie's life to "tend the baby," and what a relentless tyrant that baby seemed to be. All day long Robbie played with it and waited upon it and pushed it around in the rickety perambulator which had been occupied successively by all the Dares infants. One hour, and only one, in the day was free, that was during the baby's nap. Then how Robbie gloried in his emancipation! Into that brief hour he tried to compress all the fun that other small boys spread over the whole twenty-four. It was exhilarating to watch him enjoy himself.

"When the baby's bigger," Robbie told me one day, "then I'll go to school 'n' to learn to count, like Bert; 'n' I'll have a coat with pockets, like Jo's 'n' I'll sell papers 'n' make some money same as Fred does. But I have to stay at home 'n' tend the baby now cos mother's too busy. After the baby's bigger I'll get to go 'n' play all Saturdays, 'n' I'm goin' to buy me a hat like Bert's. Oh, I'll have lots of fun, after the baby's bigger!"

But one afternoon while the baby took his nap Robbie failed to devote himself to enjoyment with his usual fervor. I saw him sitting on the porch steps all alone, with a wrinkled brow and eyes fixed upon the ground.

"What's the matter, Robbie?" I asked. "Why aren't you playing?"

"Oh—cos!"

"Are you sick?"

"None."

"Come, tell me what's the trouble."

Robbie rose slowly, still frowning, and thrust his hands deep into his knickerbockers—he had no pockets, poor boy! As he approached me I could see that he was trying hard not to cry.

"Say," said he at last, with great solemnity, "Do you love God? Mother does."

"Every one loves God, Robbie, except wicked people and heathen?"

"What's a heathen?"

"Do you think God's smart?" His eyes were fixed on the ground as he asked.

"Why, Robbie?"

"Well, I don't!" he explained. "Guess I'll haf to go 'n' be a heathen. God's sent us another baby—'n' I'm disgusted with Him!"

The Great Northwest.

The States of Montana and Washington are very fully described in two folders issued by the Northern Pacific Railroad, entitled "Golden Montana" and "Fruitful Washington." The folders contain good county maps of the states named, and information in reference to climate, lands, resources, and other subjects of interest to capitalists, business men or settlers.

Holdings of second class tickets to North Pacific Coast points, via Northern Pacific Railroad, are allowed the privilege of stopping over at Spokane, Washington, and points west thereof, for the purpose of examining all sections of this magnificent state before locating. Northern Pacific through express trains carry free colonist sleeping cars from St. Paul, and Pullman tourist sleepers from Chicago (via Wisconsin Central Line) to Montana and Pacific Coast points daily.

California tourists, and travelers to Montana and the North Pacific Coast, can purchase round trip excursion tickets at rates which amount to but little more than the one way fare. Choice of routes is allowed on these tickets, which are good for three or six months, according to destination, and permit of stop-overs.

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The "Wonderland" book issued by the Northern Pacific Railroad describes the country between the Great Lakes and Pacific Ocean, with maps and illustrations.

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Servia's Boy King.

Young Alexander, of Servia, made a good impression while visiting the European capitals. His mother, the unfortunate Queen Nathalie, journeyed to meet her eyes on the son from whom the cruel Regents of the Servian kingdom kept her absent most of the time.

The boy king is as Russian in his sympathies as his mother; and is said to have seen in dark eyed Xenia, the daughter of the Prince of Montenegro his fate. Whether or not the young lady will wed the descendant of the swineherd who freed Servia remains to be seen.

Ex-King Milan is supposed to be secretly devoted to the Austrian cause. Russia might find it convenient to insist that the boy king shall have his coveted bride, and thus offset the father's opposition to Russian interests.

Alexander is manly youth, with the dark hair and flashing eyes of his mother, and with an original way of looking at things which shows that he will not be overruled by diplomats when he comes to the throne. He loves his father, but perceives and regrets the looseness of morals so noticeable in the ex-king's demeanor.

Children are taught more than they ever learn, and learn more than they ever taught.

Christmas Fancy-Work.

The following suggestions which we hope may be helpful to some one are taken mostly from Harper's Young People and Bazar.

A serviceable hat-brush can be made of four strands of Manila-ropes, each three-quarters of a yard long. Braid them together, double them, and tie with a bright ribbon bow. The ends of rope are then fringed out and rubbed with beeswax to stiffen them.

No present can be more pleasing to a book lover or to the owner of a choice library than these loose slips for books. They may be made of leather, plush, velvet or brocade, and beyond a simple monogram stamped or wrought are not decorated, embroider being reserved for actual binding.

The foundation for photograph mounts is stiff Bristol-board, and the coverings may be either old brocade, art silks, or any of the art fabrics. If embroidery is used at all, let it be small flowers wrought daintily around the photographs, and choose for the covering white satin serge.

A simple table cover is made of blue, or yellow, or red butcher's linen, with a large effective pattern of flowers, or foliage worked in white linen floss in the center and corners, or else as a running border all around. These are very useful, as they can be readily laundered without injuring them in the least.

A little case for holding grandmammas' eye-glasses is made by cutting two pieces of card-board the shape of a pair of glasses. Cover them neatly with chamois on either side. Then lace them together with fine silk cord, or with flosselle of a contracting color, leaving one end open to slip in the glasses.

A dainty case in which to lay handkerchiefs is a thirteen-inch of white linen which has been neatly hem-stitched. Turn over the four corners to meet in the center. In one of the corners embroider in outline stitch the word "Mouchoir"; in each of the other three corners a bunch of flowers—rose-buds, clover, or bluetts, using silks of natural colors.

Common old fashioned blue denim is much used for sofa cushions table covers and wall hangings, it is stamped in large geometrical or conventional designs and worked in outline in cotton or rope silk. A small table cover is made of a square of the denim bordered with a half width of the denim, with the wrong side out, making a dark blue center with a light blue border and the whole powdered with figures done in outline with white cotton.

There are several attractive little things that can be made by girls who have learned to embroider needful for gentlemen is a pocket-pin-cushion. To make it, take two round pieces of cardboard, each two and a half inches in diameter. Cover them with heavy white linen, and on one embroider in Kensington stitch a tiny wreath of blue forget-me-nots tied with a bow-knot of ribbon in outline stitch. Overhand these round pieces together, and stick the whole edge thickly with pins.

The size for octavo requires in leather a piece half a yard long and a quarter of a yard wide the push or brocade an inch more should be allowed for the hemmed edges, which must be very neatly sewed, so that no stitches are visible on the right side. The leather hems are not necessary, the leather being turned into a depth of two and a half inches at each end to hold the covers of the book slipped in, and the edges stitched together on the machine. The raw edges may be cut in points, pinked or scalloped.

Still another way is to leave a projecting edge around the cover, similar to the binding of travellers' books. The leather edge is cut to allow nearly a half an inch to turn down, and pasted firmly with a stiff interlining. The edge is then pressed under a heavy weight until a set of three slip covers in narrow leather—800, 12 m, and 18—is a charming gift for a lover of books, and perhaps will serve as an answer to the annually repeated entreaty, "Do tell me some nice Christmas present for a gentleman."

It is a fashion nowadays to use small pin-cushions. A dainty and pretty one is made of a four or five inch square of Turkish embroidery, which need not cost more than fifteen cents. Edge this with a lace ruffle, and put it cat-a-cornered in a square, and neatly covered with silk. Fasten on each corner of the cushion a butterfly bow made of silk like the cushion, and ravelled in fringe at the ends. The lace ruffle should fall over these bows. In buying the square pick out one in which the color of the cushion you wish to use is predominant; such as a blue and olive-green on a blue cushion, or a pink and green on a pink one.

The materials needed for a pretty glove case, are a piece of brown, white, or eoru linen, thirteen and a half inches long by ten and a half wide, and one yard and two inches of silk braid, which may either match the linen or contrast in color. Round the upper corners of the linen, and fold it over to the depth of two inches, to form the flap of the envelope shaped case. Fold the remaining seven and a half inches of the linen at each side into a pleat turning upward inside of the pocket. This is to give additional room for the gloves. Paint or embroider on the flap the word "Gloves" and on the oblong back of the pocket, a spray of barberries, yellow daisies or holly. If white linen is chosen, a very pretty device is to embroider or paint tiny flowers of different varieties in the natural colors, powdering them thickly over the linen in the style yecept "Dresden." After the decorations have been applied bind the top of the pocket with the braid; then, commencing at one side bind over the pleat, across the flap and down the other side, ending at the opposite pleat, this covers the edges of the braid which binds the top of the pocket, making a neat finish.

This jottings is from the Home Queen: Yellow stains left by sewing machine oil on white may be removed by rubbing the spot with a cloth wet with ammonia before washing with soap.

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