

PICNIC DAYS.

I. Under the spreading chestnut tree The well filled baskets stand...

II. Dick battles with a bumble bee; And Bob, with youthful zest...

III. The gentle rain storm rolls around And when the day is late...

The Birds and the Forests.

Existence of the Winged Creatures Maintained by the Fruits of Their Own Labors.

In the economy of nature the feathered branch of the animal kingdom and the major portion of the vegetable world are ever one and inseparable...

While we are aware that upon the acid plains a few birds exist, and that some are born in the frozen, treeless Arctic wastes...

I propound a mathematical proposition which is capable of conclusive demonstration. Given an old field, a worm fence...

The birds, creators of the forest, become also its protectors, and as a sequence their existence is maintained by the fruits of their own labors.

We view a forest: A hurricane sweeps through the woods, leveling the timber by a single blast...

Nature abhors a barren waste, and in time begins the work of restoration. Birds fly across the treeless plain...

Then squirrels come with their store of nuts for winter use, selecting choice spots for storehouses...

The wind blows briskly, and thickly fly the downy thistle, the cotton seeds of the willow and poplars...

Seeds of herbaceous plants are scattered hither and thither, as the winds and birds gather them up from the verdant spots...

Spring comes with rains; the rushing waters overflow their banks, picking up the twigs with clinging seeds...

And thus a forest is born. Not a day nor a year, for nature takes her own time and method to accomplish her objects...

Certain birds plant nuts and acorns with systematic regularity, burying them near the surface, one in a place, expecting ere long to find its food...

In Arizona the blue jays gather the pine nuts and bury them singly at a depth of an inch or more in the arid sands...

The wild cherry, but for its tasty, juicy berries, as also the hackberry, would soon become extinct...

The aromatic seeds of the juniper or cedar will only germinate under conditions of heat and moisture...

The wild apple, pear, and pulpy fruits are similarly transferred to distant points, thus ensuring the perpetual propagation of such trees.

The bee, with its savory nuts, as also chestnuts, chinapin and other small nuts, are borne to hiding places for food by birds and squirrels...

The cross-bill, with its peculiar mandibles, open the cones of pines, extracting the seeds, of which it is fond, and distributes many in flight.

Birds often practice the art of grafting. The mistletoe of Christmaside, living as a parasite upon the branches of large trees...

Age and decrepitude are common to trees as to animals, their existence terminates in decay. Were it not for nature's army of birds, aided by their allies...

Boring insects penetrate the bark and wood, existing upon the sap of growing trees, and unless held in check by hungry birds, multiply rapidly and eventually destroy the forests.

Woodpeckers, whose instinct excels the marvelous X-rays, pierce the bark and feed upon the insects of overlying bark, and, boring through, thrust in their long tongues, drawing out beetles and larvae.

In an official report made to the commissioner of the land office by my visit to the Black Hills forest, I stated that in one tree eight inches in diameter we counted and estimated 10,000 beetles and larvae.

Aphis suck the juice from leaves and tender stems; a horde of worms infests the buds, devouring the vital organs; hungry they awake at early dawn...

One battalion hovers around the conifers in search of beetles; other counts seek those enemies which curl the leaves and feed upon the juices...

In return the forest affords shelter for the birds; their nests are built among the branches, hidden by leafy canopies...

It is natural for all animal kind to seek seclusion at times; nesting places are sought safe from view; only in thick woods can perfect security be found.

Fifty years ago the San Jose scale, coating moth, woolly aphis, plum curculio, and a host of pests now so common, were not known, or gave so little trouble...

Surely no one can imagine that these pests were created during the past half century; not all of them were imported from countries which had centuries ago cleared away their forests.

Protect the birds; increase the forests, and insect pests will gradually cease their annoyance.—John P. Brown in the Conservative.

A young fellow who was looking for a clerkship was recently recommended to a clerk by a Glasgow gentleman.

More than 200 carriage workers were notified by seven shops in Cincinnati Saturday night that their services were not needed...

WHAT A TALE IT TELLS.—If that mirror of yours shows a withered, sallow complexion, a jaundiced look, mottled patches and blotches on the skin, it's liver trouble...

Why Benders Can't be Found. The Murderers Were Killed by Avengers Thirty Years Ago.

The reported rediscovery of the famous Bender family of Kansas criminals—this time in Colorado—is not so surprising or novel as it would have been several years ago...

The Colorado story is that the Benders—father, mother, son and daughter—escaped from Kansas after their crimes were exposed in 1873...

Mr. Ayres became, very naturally, suspicious of his wife when he discovered that she had given him "knock-out drops," and afterward caused him to be placed in an unconscious condition on a railway track.

It is unlikely that Mr. Ayres' suspicions will serve any greater purpose than that of reviving interest in an old tragedy. The Benders kept a small inn on the road from Parsons to Cherryvale, in Labette county, Kansas...

Another of the missing man traced him to the Bender inn, and his investigations there aroused his suspicions. He returned with a posse of men and a search warrant, but the Benders had taken alarm and fled.

The body of the murdered Dr. York was found, as were also the remains of several other victims. The Bender method of assassination was to drop the bodies of their victims through a trap door or to kill them as they sat at dinner, having been a certain that divided the main room.

There was always some doubt as to the fate of this criminal family, as several years elapsed before the members of the posse that pursued them made known the whereabouts of their missing ones...

For many years, however, owing to the silence maintained by the self-appointed avengers, rumors concerning the Bender family and their movements were widely published, and in some instances suspects were arrested, to be released upon investigation.

An active young man, neatly dressed, went up the front porch of a West End house the other morning in just three steps ringing the bell briskly and long.

"Good morning, madam. I am representing a house which makes a specialty of retreating and tempering sad irons," he began, talking rapidly, as if it would up for an eight-day period.

"The lady had half opened her mouth three times already, but he had talked her down, and while he had invited this opening he was afraid to risk it."

"The look on the young man's face was a five-act tragedy. 'Well, good heavens, madam, why didn't you say so!' he gasped, turning away.

"And how could I?" asks the aggrieved woman of her neighbors, all of whom respond in the same tone: "How, indeed?"

A young teacher last Sunday told her Sunday school class of a cruel boy who would catch cats and out their tails off.

"Now, can any little girl tell me of an appropriate verse?" she asked. There was a pause for a few moments, when one little girl arose and in a solemn voice said, "Whosoever God has joined together let no man put asunder."

FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER.

In Use For Over 30 Years.

TO SAVE HER CHILD.—From frightful disfigurement Mrs. Nannie Gallego, of La Grange, Ga., applied Bucken's Arnica Salve to great sores on her head and face, and writes its quick cure exceeded all her hopes.

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BELEFONTE CENTRAL RAILROAD. Schedule to take effect Monday, Apr. 3rd, 1899. BELLEFONTE AND SNOW SHOES BRANCH. Time Table in effect on and after July 10, 1899.