

CHARMING CHILD STORY.

One Written by Alphonse Daudet Found in an Old Reader. Once upon a time a little girl who hated "readers" because there was never any thing interesting to read in them...

BORING FOR CORAL.

Results of the Expeditions Sent Out From England. The steamer Birksgate, which arrived on Saturday from the islands, brings further news from Fiji concerning the coral-boring expedition at Funafuti...

VAGARIES OF LEARNING.

Some Funny Answers Found on Examination Papers. A certain schoolteacher, whose sense of humor is developed to a remarkable degree, goes to the trouble occasionally of writing down for her own use some of the funniest answers which she finds in her examination papers...

CURIOUS FACTS.

It requires half a day to sing the national hymn of China. Java is a native Malay word signifying "the land of nutmegs." A ton of oil has been obtained from the tongue of a single whale...

THE MERRY JESTER.

Gordon: What's worrying you? Edwards: You know that girl—that Miss Wilbur—I met at the seashore? Gordon: Yes, I suppose she wants to ignore the engagement now, doesn't she?

Wandering Freight Cars.

On December 25, 1896, Minneapolis and St. Louis car No. 3,118 left Minneapolis with a load of flour destined to Montgomery, Ala. It went through to Montgomery with reasonable promptness, about eight days...

A Pair of Gloves.

First Assistant Postmaster-General Heath yesterday rendered a decision of peculiar interest, especially to ladies. Some days ago some one in Sioux City, Ia., presumably a gentleman who had lost a wager, mailed an envelope containing a pair of gloves to Mrs. Sarah D. Tucker residing in Worcester, Mass.

To placate Mrs. Tucker, the Worcester postmaster said: "Well, madame, I will refer the whole matter to the post-office department at Washington, and there the responsibility for the damage will be located, and you will receive redress."

This statement mollified the irate woman, and the postmaster at Worcester wrote the first assistant postmaster-general, explaining the case. The matter was as carefully and thoroughly looked into by the postoffice officials as though it had been the theft of a registered parcel containing a large sum of money.

It was developed that the clerk at Sioux City, who feeds the machine used for the cancellation of stamps, grabbed up the envelope containing the gloves of Mrs. Tucker and forced the bulky envelope through the machine. The stamps were cancelled all right, but the canceller amputated several fingers of one of the gloves contained therein.

First Assistant Postmaster-General Heath after sitting in judgment on the case has written a letter to the postmaster at Sioux City calling upon him to assess his cancellation clerk the price of one pair of No. 7 "La Perle" tan gloves, and forward the same to Mrs. Tucker.

Queer Ground for Pension Claim.

A curious pension claim has recently been entered. Pat Bane, "the Green County Giant," will be remembered by many people who have witnessed inaugurations of presidents. Pat has been a familiar figure in Washington on those occasions. He is in reality a giant, standing seven feet four inches in his stocking feet, naturally a man to be singled out in great throngs of inauguration week.

A Coffin for a Penny.

Coffins at a penny each would seem to be out of all possible proportions to profit, but nevertheless the Preston Union has accepted a contract for the supply of these necessary but gruesome articles at this figure, and ranging from it to a fourpence. In spite of the lowness of the price the contractor has to bind himself to come up to a specified standard of quality.

The explanation of so one-sided a contract for no coffin could ever be made even for fourpence—is to be found in the fact that the friends of the deceased have often club money to draw, which they spend in a superior quality coffin instead of allowing their late friend to be sent to his long resting-place in one of inferior make.

He Was on His Knees.

A member of the House tells a story on Senator Mason concerning a lady who keeps a boarding house in Washington. The Senator boarded there for a while, as did the Representatives. The lady belongs to one of the well-known churches, and is very punctual in her attendance on morning services.

He Learned.

There is one man in Washington who declares that if he can hereafter obtain information in any other way he will not ask questions. He is employed in one of the departments, and his duties consist mainly in ordering and buying furniture. While on his way to order a wire screen the other day, he met a vendor of rat-traps and other contrivances made of wire.

Why the Dog Was Afraid.

The men of a certain regiment last summer grumbled a good deal about the inferior food served out to them, particularly the meat, which was often times decidedly tainted. One day a strange cur was prowling round the square, as the battalion was falling in for drill, and the colonel, on coming on parade, noticed the animal. "Whose dog it that?" he inquired of a man on fatigue duty.

Walter Baker & Co.'s BREAKFAST COCOA. Absolutely Pure—Delicious—Nutritious. Costs Less than One Cent a Cup. DORCHESTER, MASS.

THE HOLIDAY SEASON. For Christmas, 1897, we have a large line of goods suitable for gifts to gentlemen. It includes Meerchaum Pipes, Beautiful designs in great variety. Meerchaum Cigar Holders, Briarwood Pipes, Cigars, fine grades, in boxes of 25, 50 and 100.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF CARPET, MATTING, or OIL CLOTH, YOU WILL FIND A NICE LINE AT W. H. BROWER'S. 2nd Door above Court House. A large lot of Window Curtains in stock.

A YEAR FOR DEMOREST'S FAMILY MAGAZINE. \$1.00. The subscription price of DEMOREST'S is reduced to \$1.00 a year. DEMOREST'S FAMILY MAGAZINE IS MORE THAN A FASHION MAGAZINE, although gives the very latest home and foreign fashions each month...

GREAT SPECIAL CLUBBING OFFER FOR PROMPT SUBSCRIPTIONS. ONLY \$1.75 FOR THE COLUMBIAN and Demorest's Family Magazine. Send your subscriptions to this office.

Eats a Goose Every Day. Charles Wurz, of South Bend, Ind., undertook three weeks ago to eat a goose a day until he put away thirty geese. He has already disposed of twenty-three geese. If he eats the remaining seven in seven days he will win \$200.

Luetgert Found Guilty. The Jury Fixed the Penalty at Life Imprisonment. The jury in the case of Adolph Luetgert, at Chicago, tried for murdering his wife and boiling her remains in a sausage vat, last Thursday rendered a verdict of guilty and fixed the penalty at life imprisonment.

An Opportunity You Now Have of testing the curative effects of Ely's Cream Balm, the most positive cure for Catarrh known. Ask your druggist for a 1 cent trial size or send 10 cents, we will mail it. Full size 50c.

AWFUL EXPERIENCE WITH HEART DISEASE.—That Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart works like magic, and cures is proven by the testimony of Mr. L. J. Law, Toronto, Can. "I was so sorely troubled with heart disease that I was unable for 18 months to lie down in bed lest I smother. After taking one dose of Dr. Agnew's Heart Cure, I retired and slept soundly. I used one bottle and the trouble has not returned.—5. Sold by C. A. Klein.

Important Pension Decision. Among the pension decisions rendered by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Davis, was a case of considerable importance affecting the right to pension widows under the act of June 27, 1890.

Actors, Singers, Speakers. Thousands of actors, public entertainers, singers, lecturers, preachers and readers are tormented with throat weakness. These delicate organs being overtaxed become susceptible to a host of ailments, such as colds, influenza, hoarseness, tickling in the throat, sneezing, drooping in the throat, pain over the eyes, dry throat, etc., all these are fore-runners of Catarrh, a more serious complication if neglected.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. It is in every wagon.