

ONCE UPON A TIME.

My little child comes to my knee, And tugging pleads that he may climb...

It is a tale of skies that rang With angel rhapsodies sublime; Of that great host, serene and white...

The mighty deeds that men have told in ponderous tones of fluent rhyme; Like misty shadows fade away; But this sweet story bides for aye...

And, like the stars that sang of old, We sing of "Once upon a time." —Eugene Field.

A CHRISTMAS EPISODE.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

CHAPTER I.

Mrs. Perkins had "dropped in" to find out what the Joneses were going to do on Christmas.

"We've promised to take dinner with the Williamses," said Mrs. Jones. "You know, none of the children can come home this year, so we're going out to dinner for the first time a month since I've kept house."

"I don't seem to remember what it is all about; but I've heard so much about that I've got to be, just as have to the meetin' house, or any other else I've known since I was a girl."

"It was about the meetin' house," explained Mrs. Jones. "You know they used to build a new one, 'n' the deacon wanted it in one place, 'n' Mr. Snyder wanted it somewhere else, 'n' 'n' they quarrelled till they got the whole neighborhood by the ears, 'n' the consequence is we can't see 'n' we're ever like to have a go so sick of 'n' the thing, hearin' the deacon harp on it by spells all these years, that I've wished, more'n once, there could be a law made to shut up a mouth every time he thought of it."

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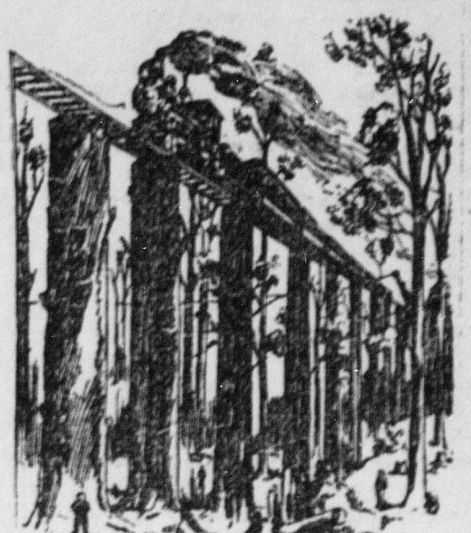
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NEW YORK'S BIG BUFFALO HERD.

The American bison is again on the hills beyond the Harlem. According to the authority of William T. Hornaday, long officially associated with the work of the National Zoological Park, the bison was there in his freedom many years ago. He is there to-day, slave in close captivity.

RAILROAD ON TREE-TOPS.

A Curious Sight Can Be Seen in Sonoma County. In the upper part of Sonoma County, California, near the coast, may be seen an actual railroad built in the tree tops.



CALIFORNIA RAILROAD ON TREE-TOPS.

Near the center of the ravine are two huge red-wood trees which form a substantial support. These giants have been sawed off seventy-five feet above the level of the creek. This natural tree bridge is considered one of the wonders of the Golden State, and for security far exceeds a bridge framed in the most scientific manner.

READY FOR BUSINESS.

With a very active, energetic workman, or a man of business, a cane or crutch is a sign of some infirmity, but he will have to use one or both if sciatica sets in and disables his hip.

THE MODERN MOTHER.

Has found that her little ones are improved more by the pleasant Syrup of Figs, when in need of the laxative effect of a gentle remedy than by any other, and that it is more acceptable to them.

GOLD BY THE YARD.

Wonderful Thinness to Which Beaters Reduce the Precious Metal. The beating of the innumerable little square pieces of gold which are used to cover domes and signs, and so on, forms a distinct industry in the gold trade which employs a large number of hands and requires no small amount of skill.

A BLOODHOUND TRACES A BABY.

A few days ago Bertha, the pretty four-year-old daughter of John C. Putnam, of the little settlement of Mills Village, Vt., disappeared.

PROSPECTS FOR LONGEVITY.

A French doctor says that persons who attain their thirtieth year with out suffering from any serious disease are likely—all things being equal—to live till they are at least seventy-three years of age.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

THE HAMMER AN ANCIENT TOOL.

One of the oldest tools in existence is the hammer. Illustrated manuscripts of the eleventh century represent carpenters with claw hammers.

HOPE HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA

Returns to the heart of the victim bound in the chains of rheumatism, dyspepsia, and other ailments, when blood is enriched and purified by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

POTATOES, POTASH

Tomatoes, Melons, Cabbage, Turnips, Lettuce, Peas, Beets, Onions, and all Vegetables, remove large quantities of Potash from the soil. Supply Potash in liberal quantities by the use of fertilizers containing not less than 10% actual Potash.

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