

For the Children

HOW THE LOBSTER WON THE RACE.



The Cat and the King they ran a race; The judges an Owl with solemn face, And three blind Crabs of courtly grace.



The Cat and the King stood toe to toe; The Donkey gave his trumpet a blow— One, two, three, and away they go!



Sure, it was a wonderful thing; A wild shout made the welkin ring— To think that a Cat should beat a King!



The Cat bowed low to the stately Queen, The Goose and the Donkey of haughty mien, And even the Lobster proud and green;

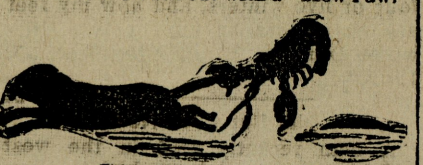
But then she rose with a pompous air, And tossed her head and tail in the air, And challenged the fleetest runner there.



The Lobster strode forth with native grace, But the Cat disdained to run him a race, And she flapped her tail in the Lobster's face.



The Lobster caught the tail in his claw, The audience shouted a grave guffaw, And the Cat struck out with a "Mew-i-aw."



Around the track the runners tore, The Lobster behind, the Cat before, She would reach the goal in one leap more.



But the Lobster he struck a bit of a mound, And over the Cat's head went with a bound, And a yard in advance he touched the ground. —Abbe Reed, in Good Literature.

THE NEW GUN.

Johnny had a brand-new gun which was a gift from his Uncle Robert. Johnny had been wanting this same gun for a long time. He used to walk down by the toy store and gaze longingly into the shop window at the gleaming barrel, at the wonderful trigger, and at the dark-polished stock and wish that the beautiful gun belonged to him.

At last someone told Uncle Robert about the boy's great desire, and the

next day a long wooden box was unloaded at John's house, addressed to Master John Howard. In great excitement he tore away the wrappings, and you can imagine his joy and happiness in at last being the proud owner of such a wonderful gun.

The following Saturday Johnny dressed himself up in a pair of overalls, a pair of stout shoes and an old cap. He loaded his gun, and with plenty of ammunition and a small box of lunch he started forth.

"Where are you going, Johnny?" asked his Aunt Minnie, as he passed down the garden walk.

"Out to shoot Molly Cotton-tail," he answered, proudly.

Aunt Minnie disapproved of the gun, but Johnny had been allowed to have his own way, so she said nothing. It was a beautiful day. Johnny walked across the meadow. At last he saw a small object hopping along in the grass. The small object hopped upon a tiny mound and blinked his eyes at Johnny. Johnny was all excitement, but he drew his gun and took careful aim. There was a loud report and then a very small, excited boy ran hastily after the little bob-tailed creature which was now hopping painfully upon three legs.

"Oh, little Molly Cotton-tail!" cried Johnny, as he caught the rabbit in his hands; "oh, oh, I have broken your poor little leg! How cruel! I am so sorry that I shot you. I will take you home with me and bind your poor little leg up."

Johnny gathered the poor, frightened creature in his arms and carried it home with him. Soon he had bandaged its legs and put it in a big box, where he might tend it until it was well.

"But where is your new gun?" asked his Aunt Minnie.

"Oh, I left it in the meadow," answered Johnny. "I will go bring it to the house and let you hang it up in my room. I do not intend to use it on poor little harmless creatures any more," and Johnny never did.—The Child's Gem.

A STRANGE ANIMAL.

I am a little boy, eight years old, and I thought I would write a little letter. About one month ago I and some other little friends were playing on the old fort green. We were playing hide-and-go-seek. Two or three of us were hiding in a tent down by the road, when suddenly one of the boys said: "Look over the hill? Isn't that a giraffe?" We all looked. We all thought it was a giraffe, so we went up to the hill. The hill was a piece of land going up higher than the level earth. When we got up the hill, what do you think we found the animal was? A leopard? No. A goat? No. A calf? No. Well, it was a little deer. The people were feeding it crackers. There was a little boy, with white, curly hair. A woman was trying to take a picture of him and the deer, but she could not; the deer walked around too much. But some time afterward she did. I walked up to the deer to pet it, but instead of petting the deer I got some saddening hits on my head. Next time I went down, two or three days afterward, it gave me some more. So I gave it some candy, and I don't think it will hit me any more.—Clayton B. Seagars, in the New York Tribune.

A VISIT TO THE NAVY YARD.

Last autumn I had the pleasure of a visit to the Brooklyn navy yard. I was invited by the father of a friend of mine, and we asked a few of our friends.

The day was a fine one, and after crossing the Brooklyn Bridge in a trolley car we walked to the navy yard.

One of the boys had brought a kodak with him, and expected to take some pictures, but as we were about to enter a blue-coated official said that it was not allowed, and he had to leave his camera behind until we came out.

After entering the yard everything was a hustle and hurry. There was the hum of drills, the screeching of engines, and the incessant hammering as the men fitted the pieces of metal on the huge sides of a battleship that was being built in drydock. We then walked over to one of the battleships that was tied up to the dock, and, securing permission, we climbed up deck, where one of the sailors offered to show us around.

Everything was intensely interesting, and we enjoyed our visit very much.—Howard Townsend, in the New York Tribune.

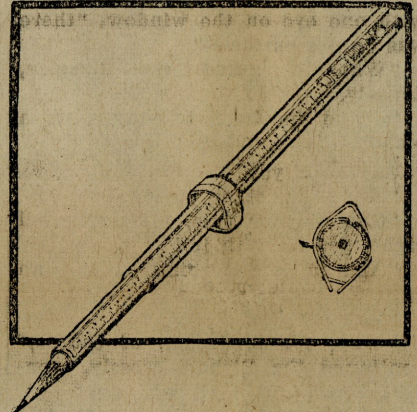
The recent prominence in the suffrage discussion at Albany of Dr. Mary Walker recalls one of the cleverest remarks that the lamented Bill Nye ever uttered. He described Dr. Mary as "the only self-made man in America."



GENERAL D. PORFIRIO DIAZ, PRESIDENT OF MEXICO.

Calculating Rule and Pencil Holder.

For the benefit of the engineer and draftsman who is required to make hasty calculations, a combined pencil holder and calculating rule has recently been devised. The calculating



Calculating Rule and Pencil Holder.

ing rule is of tubular form, and is fitted with a slide indicator, formed in the shape of a cuff. One part of the tube comprising the rule is provided with a slide member, which is graduated and used in the manner of the ordinary slide of a calculating rule. Within the tube a pencil may be fitted. By thus combining the rule and pencil, the danger of mislaying the rule is avoided, and the combined instrument is of convenient form to carry in the vest pocket.—Scientific American.

A Plant Watering Scheme.

Persons engaged in rearing household plants are often in a quandary when it is desired to leave the house temporarily without neglecting the plants.

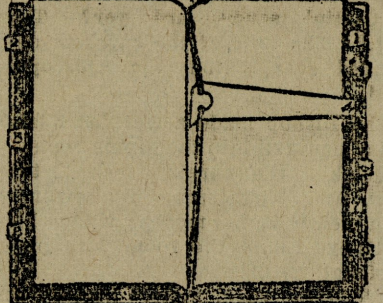
An arrangement can be readily rigged up so that the necessary water will be supplied to the soil automatically. Take a bowl of water and raise it well above the level of the plant to be watered by means of a box or a pile of books. Twist several strands of common darning wool together to form a long thread and soak them in the water. If one end be hung over the bowl and the other end left in the water a steady drip, drip will commence and continue until the bowl is empty.—London Globe.

Boilermaker Best Lawyer.

In spite of the fact that Vincent J. Thompson, a young boilermaker, arrested on a charge of moving mortgaged property from Michigan City to Gary, was opposed at his trial by two of the ablest members of the bar at Hammond, Ind., he pleaded his own case so well and baffled the prosecution without the aid of a lawyer that a jury in Judge Ames' court found him not guilty. Thompson compelled one witness to swear that he did not know the difference between a kitchen table and a cabinet. All the oratory of the lawyers availed nothing against Thompson's clever cross-questioning.

Book-Marking System.

Among the recent inventions is a very ingenious book-marking system designed for use by teachers, students and others who have occasion to read from or consult different parts of a book. The scheme consists of a series of target-shaped cards of graduating width and of sufficient length to rest across the page and protrude from the edges of the leaves. The extending end of this is marked with figure, letter or other note suiting the convenience of the one having occasion to consult the book. The other end of the slip is fitted with a rubber band, which is of sufficient proportions to fit around the volume from top to bottom. The function of this is to hold the marker in place and to permit of an arrangement of markers in such a way that one will not overlap another and hide it from



view. For a lecturer having occasion to refer frequently to the different parts of a book during the course of his remarks the convenience of this scheme will be readily appreciated.—Washington Star.

THE NEW SKIRT AND THE POETRY OF MOTION.



Edith (breaking into a hop)—"Hurry up, Mabel; you'll never catch the train if you keep on trying to run."—From Punch.

PILOT AND "DRUMMER" IN BRITISH COMMONS.

Census Shows Wide Range of Popular Representation in New Parliament.

The oft-asked and much debated question as to whether the British House of Commons is more representative than the American House of Representatives is answered by the following census of the new Commons, taken for private reasons by Lewis Appleton, of Old Queen street, Westminster, and furnished by him for publication. It has been compared with the official records and found correct.

Bankers and financiers.....	13
Lawyers	155
Brewers, distillers and wine merchants..	13
Builders, architects and surveyors.....	8
Civil and mining engineers.....	11
Coal mine owners and dealers.....	7
Commercial travelers	7
Diplomatists and Government officials..	8
Directors of public service corporations..	12
Real estate, accountants and auctioneers	7
Farmers	13
Land owners	56
Iron founders and merchants.....	13
Manufacturers and spinners.....	51
Doctors	9
Storekeepers	53
Clergymen	3
Automobile makers and dealers.....	2
Newspaper owners and journalists.....	38
Peers' sons and brothers.....	45
Art dealers	1
Pilots	1
Printers, booksellers and authors.....	8
Professors, schoolmasters and tutors....	14
Railway and naval contractors.....	3
Secretaries (stenographers)	10
Ship owners and builders.....	12
Stockbrokers	4
Military officers.....	44
Naval officers.....	2

By the foregoing census it appears the House of Commons is like the American Congress, a popular place for lawyers. The English legislative body, though, is strongly representative of a number of trades and professions not markedly present in the lower House in Washington, notably storekeepers, farmers, teachers, military and government officials, doctors, literary men and clergymen. Peers' sons and brothers, too, are in a class by themselves, inasmuch as there are few men of leisure in Congress who could be compared with them.

The American Senate is almost entirely made up of lawyers and captains of industry, whereas the British House of Lords is almost entirely made up of men of leisure.

WISE WORDS.

A contented heart is a cash register full of gold coin.

A literary editor knows that the whole world is trying to do "fancy work."

Typewriters tell no tales, but an uncommunicative stenographer would be a curiosity.

If lots of people were portioned out the kind of cake they deserve life would give them sponge cake.

A man who has money to throw at the birds can hardly see the sky for the flocks that hover over him.

The famous shot heard round the world is a toy pistol report compared to the modern chorus girl's kiss.

Opportunity, like repartee, hath a feminine way of ringing her bells when she turns the corner out of sight.

Beauty may be only skin deep, but the ugly old world is appreciative enough to adore even attractive veneering.

A woman when she puts her money in a bank has the same feeling as when she leaves her best friend in the graveyard.

Consider the ways of the diligent man, my son; he standeth in the presence of princes. Observe the methods of the diplomat; he sits right along up beside them!—New York Telegram.

Tin Corsets Draw Bolt.

A pair of corsets, made of tin stays, came near causing the death of Mary Taylor, the nine-year-old daughter of John P. Taylor, a farmer living several miles south of Petersburg, Ind. During an electrical storm the child crawled beneath the rear porch at her home, looking for a hen's nest, and while there lightning struck the house, partially wrecking it, but injuring none but the little girl in her hiding place.

The child was taken from under the house, unconscious from serious burns. Her mother, in undressing her, found the child had on rudely constructed corsets, which had been made of tin taken from the sides of old cans. The metal had been mashed into shape and covered with cloth by the child. One of the stays contained a small hole and the tin was melted. The child recovered.

Some Style.

Sam Sunflower—"Pete Green am gittin' mighty tony in his invitations dese days."

Bill Blackberry—"How's dat?"

Sam Sunflower—"Why, Pete killed dat old rooster he had foh last five yeahs en den invited de parson to a 'chanticler dinner' on Sunday."—Chicago News.