

From out her little dinner pail She took a cookie plump and brown; She slipped it underneath my desk—

And when the daily lessons were All said and done and put away, And we strolled hand in hand along

LOST AND FOUND.

By HERO STRONG.

She sat on the shore of the sea and idly threw pebbles into the surf, as it beat up the rocks and almost washed her feet.

The sun was going down in a mass of lurid red clouds; the eastern breeze was freshening along the bluff, and now and then a stray drop of rain fell on her.

Geraldine Vane drew her shawl closer around her, with an involuntary shiver. Something there was in the night closing around which reminded her of a dead day.

Her mind went back to the time with a throbbing pain. She would gladly have avoided the retrospect—but who can control thought?

Eleven years ago she was sixteen. What an old, old woman she must be grown now! She stretched out her hand through the shadows and looked at it earnestly, half expecting to see it wrinkled and withered like old Grandmother Holt's, and she was upward of ninety.

Eleven years ago she had walked these very sands, just as golden now as then—just so the summer waves had broken their hearts in music on the shore, just so the salt sea-breeze had swept her cheek and tossed the rocks outside the harbor.

But there Thane Richmond was beside her, and youth and hope, and love were hers, to say nothing of a fortune which was perfect. What more could a woman ask for?

They were a pair of lovers just betrothed, loving each other as no other lovers had ever loved before—so they said and thought, and it was very real to them, and wondrous sweet, as it always is when the dream is new.

But, after all, there was some cause of sadness; and when would love be love if there were not? Richmond was to leave her in a week for China, to be absent three years; for his future was yet to make, and he was too proud a lad to accept a wife whose possessions were greater than his own.

Geraldine was an heiress, so it was out of the question to marry nothing, and live on cheese-parings and kisses in a vine-cottage, as both the young people would have been glad to do.

Colonel Varley, Geraldine's father, was a high-bred old fellow, and he had said to audacious young Thane Richmond, when he had asked him for his daughter:

"See here, young man! Money is the thing needed nowadays, and my daughter has always worn her diamonds and ridden in her carriage. She must not marry beneath her."

When you can come to me with a fortune sufficient to support a wife and keep her in the gewgaws that a woman finds necessary now, Geraldine is yours; that is, if she has not changed her mind and married somebody with a fortune ready-made."

All of which was very cruel in the unsympathetic parent, but the parents of heroines have always been made of stern stuff, you know.

So it was decreed that Thane Richmond should go out and seek his fortune among the Celestials, and Geraldine was to go to Paris and finish her education.

But they were to write—so very often—twice or three a week, which was very moderate for lovers; and, beside the sea, with the dim light of the stars around them, one night in June, they said their farewells and vowed to be true.

The lonely woman sitting there to-night on the shore, and going back over the ways she had traveled, drew a sigh—something of the tenderness of that old time lingered with her still, and flushed her pale cheek with a soft, bright crimson.

But to return.

For two years after Thane's departure his letters had been regular, and they had satisfied the heart of the woman who had loved him, and not one man in a hundred, no matter how loyal and tender, can write a letter of love which will just meet the requirements of a loving woman's nature without being silly.

At the end of this time the letters stopped. No word of explanation—nothing to break the dull suspense which is always so hard to bear.

Geraldine, proud though she was, wrote to Thane to ask the cause of his strange silence. She received in return a few brief lines; he was weary of a youthful folly, asked her to forget him, and volunteered the information that he was soon to be married to the daughter of an attaché of the American legation at Peking.

Well, such breaks as this are happening all the time around us; they are common as births and deaths, and excite about as much attention. The world does not suffer the anguish of heart which sometimes comes of them to people so unfortunate as to be possessed of feelings; and so the world goes on as ever.

Geraldine was one of those wretched women who cannot transfer their affections as one would transfer a house or other piece of property, and in consequence she suffered deeply.

Loving once with her was loving for all time, and though she had suitors by the score—as what beautiful and wealthy woman has not?—abandoned from them all in quiet coldness.

After a while Colonel Varley took the matter in hand. No daughter of his should pine her life away for a beggarly rascal like Thane Richmond,

A CENTURY OF FIRES.

High Figures of the Losses and the Insurance Payments.

In 1858 David J. Dana published in Boston his work called "The Fire-man," in which he gives a list of what he denominates large fires (to-day they are called conflagrations) which had occurred in this country in the previous fifty years.

The record as a matter of fact, begins with the fire in Boston, March 20, 1769; but this is the only city where any data are given previous to the year 1800, hence the list given by Dana may be said to represent the fire loss for the first half-century from what were called large fires.

Dana does not enumerate any fire where the loss was less than \$20,000. There are, however, a very few—possibly not over five per cent.—as low as this figure, and from that point the upper limit is \$17,000,000.

There were two fires in the first half of the nineteenth century which reached this \$17,000,000 figure, one being the fire in New York City in 1835, while the other was the fire in San Francisco in 1851. Dana's statistics appear to be quite complete—probably as complete as could be gathered. The aggregate produced by his researches makes a total of \$191,000,000, caused by so-called large or conflagration fires.

Fifty years later—or, to be exact, forty-eight years—the National Board of Fire Underwriters, in their report for 1906, publishes a list of what they call conflagrations which occurred between 1856 and 1905. In other words, they practically cover the fifty years succeeding Dana's record. No fire enumerated by the National Board involved a loss of less than \$500,000, and the largest were, of course, the well known Chicago fire of 1871, of \$165,000,000, and the Boston fire of the succeeding year, of \$70,000,000, while the third is the Baltimore fire of 1904, with a loss of \$50,000,000. The total amounts to \$557,000,000.

It should be noted that the minimum fire enumerated by the National Board is twenty-five times greater than the minimum fire enumerated by Dana; and yet, in the second half-century, with a minimum twenty-five times higher than in the first century, the loss from large fires or conflagrations is nearly three times as large as it was in the earlier period.

The maximum fire enumerated in the first period is \$17,000,000, while in the second period it is (Chicago) \$165,000,000, or practically ten times as large.

The statistics for the last period are from the National Board of Fire Underwriters up to the close of 1905. Since then the San Francisco conflagration has occurred, and with a fire loss of \$250,000,000 a new maximum is established. This maximum is fifteen times greater for the latter period, as compared with the earlier. The first period has twenty-six fires with losses equal to or in excess of \$1,000,000, while the second period, to the close of 1905, seventy-eight such fires. These million dollar fires thus show an increase of three times for the latter, as compared with the earlier period.

The totals given above are the total fire or property loss, as distinguished from the insurance loss. The first represents the total loss caused by fire, while the latter is that portion of the loss which is returned to the insured by the insurer.

In the long run the insurance loss is about sixty per cent. of the total property loss. Thus, for a period of thirty years—1875 to 1904, inclusive—the Chronicle fire tables report a property loss of \$3,600,000,000, while the insurance loss was \$2,207,000,000, which is sixty-one per cent. During this same period—1875 to 1904, inclusive—the property loss from large or conflagration fires, as listed by the National Board, amounted to \$272,000,000, and the insurance loss, being sixty per cent. of this, was \$163,000,000—practically seven and one-half per cent. of either the property or insurance loss caused by all fires.—Journal of Fire.

Travelers.

The popular notion that the continent of Europe subsists on American travel receives a rude shock from heartless figures published by an official of the Chemin de Fer du Nord. He also shatters another superstition—that the English have always, beyond all people, been the fondest of travel. Some 250,000 travelers leave America in a year for all Europe. Let us hide our diminished heads. One million two hundred thousand English go annually to the Continent.

Every one has been told since childhood that the French are a stay-at-home folk. That idea is now driven back among the distillations. That small portion of the French population which is dependent on the Chemin de Fer du Nord, representing with Paris and its suburbs, ten or twelve millions of inhabitants at the most, exchanges with northern Germany and Belgium more than 3,500,000 passengers, three times more than the visitors from England to the entire continent.—Boston Herald.

Savings Banks in Mexico.

Savings banks are practically unknown institutions in this city. If a man has a small amount to deposit, with the expectation of being able to add to it from time to time, he will be at a loss to find a bank that will be willing to take care of his apparently insignificant sums and pay him interest on the money that is thus gradually deposited.

As a matter of fact, there are only about two places in the entire city that will show any interest in his small savings, one of these being a little bank for working people, which was organized a couple of years ago, and the other place being the Monte de la Piedad, which receives deposits of any amount and pays six per cent. interest per annum on them. The little savings bank has had a hard struggle to maintain itself. It is a noticeable fact, however, that the bank in question has few Mexican working people as depositors, most of its patrons being Spaniards who are working for wages as grocery clerks and bookkeepers.—Mexican Herald.

Free Haircuts.

M. Nossokoff, a South Side barber, will open his second annual free hair cutting period next Monday morning, and all boys and girls under sixteen years need not want for a haircut. Nossokoff and his assistants cut the hair of 2000 children last year. It is expected that the rush will be even greater this year. The first day last year it was necessary to provide police protection in order to keep the prospective customers in line for their turn, and in order that no one be kept waiting long four new barbers have been added to the staff.—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Like a Dog-Watch.

Mamma had not noticed the clock striking during all of the afternoon, and, thinking perhaps it had stopped, she asked little Rita to go into the hall and see if it was running. After a hasty survey of the long pendulum swinging back and forth, Rita ran back and announced: "Why, no, mamma, it isn't running. It's standing still and wagging its tail."—Harper's Weekly.

COMMERCIAL COLUMN.

Weekly Review of Trade and Latest Market Reports.

New York.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "Wall Street provided the only important development for the business situation during the past week. The record as a matter of fact, begins with the fire in Boston, March 20, 1769; but this is the only city where any data are given previous to the year 1800, hence the list given by Dana may be said to represent the fire loss for the first half-century from what were called large fires.

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STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Latest News Gleaned From Various Parts.

Hiram Royer, one of the oldest residents of Pottstown, died in that city, from ailments incident to old age. He was 80 years of age, and until a month ago was actively at work in a machine shop. He was the father of former Burgess Washington S. Royer.

Three mine workers, John C. Green, Stanley Franckowski and August Koakowski, were so severely burned by an explosion of gas in the Auchingloss Colliery, near Wilkes-Barre, that their recovery is doubtful.

A runaway coal train on the Pennsylvania Railroad at Shamokin collided with three empty cars, completely wrecking one and demolishing part of the locomotive. The crew escaped by jumping.

Jacob Harshbarger, charged with the murder of Tom Jaun, the Austrian peddler, was acquitted in Lewis-ton.

The Phoenix Bridge Company has been awarded the contract for building the bridge across the East River, connecting New York city with Brooklyn. The center span of the bridge will be 1470 feet long and the two side spans 725 feet.

Fred Haupt, Boyle Meyers and William Miller, of Bellefonte, were given a hearing before a justice of the peace, charged with killing fish by the use of dynamite and were sent to jail for six months.

Mrs. Maria Rudy, a resident of Hilltown Township, Bucks County, for 45 years, rode in a steam car Wednesday, for the first time in her life.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Railway Company, embracing all of the trolley lines in that part of the State, including the system of the Pottsville Union Traction Company, has awarded contracts for extensions and reconstructive work aggregating \$1,315,000.

The Reading Railway Company is changing the lettering on its cars. Freight and coal cars and box-cars are being inscribed "The Reading," instead of "Philadelphia and Reading," as formerly. The name is placed under a large black diamond.

Farmers in the Northern section of Chester County have become excited over the finding of rich deposits of graphite on the farm of Samuel Neely, near Coventryville. Four shafts have been sunk on the farm. The prices of the farms have advanced.

The Merchants' Protective Association has taken the initiative for the formation of a substantial and permanent Board of Trade. It is proposed to secure the names of at least 200 citizens who will contribute \$1 per month for the year, and at the same time inaugurate a vigorous movement for a greater Hazleton.

With the clerk of the courts at Pottsville, A. B. Garner, of Ashland, Republican nominee for the Legislature in the Second District, filed, under the new law, his nomination campaign expenses, \$100 registration fee and 65 cents for postage of campaign cards, which he had printed without cost.

Leah Kauffman, a young bride, was found dead in a spring of water in the cellar of his home at Elysburg. Kauffman had been absent from the house for some time and returning could not find his wife. Instituting search he discovered her body in the water. Hastily extricated her he sought to resuscitate the woman, but was unsuccessful. How she met death is unknown. It is thought she wanted a drink of milk, a crock containing the latter resting alongside the spring, which is narrow and deep. She evidently became unbalanced and fell in, becoming wedged in the small space and slowly drowning.

Mrs. Kauffman was one of the most popular and esteemed residents of that region. Her husband is almost crazed over the unusual sudden end of what virtually was the honeymoon period.

Citizens of Fernwood have sent a petition to Congressman Thomas S. Butler, entering a remonstrance against the efforts made by the residents of East Lansdowne to have the postoffice moved from Fernwood to their town. The postoffice has been located in Fernwood since 1871 and scores of people residing in Fernwood have written personally to the Postoffice Department at Washington, praying that the proposed removal not take place, setting forth that it would prove exceedingly inconvenient for the people of Fernwood to be compelled to walk to East Lansdowne.

There is a rumor that the Reading Railway Company may complete that portion of the Allentown and Kutztown. This road was surveyed and partly built years ago. Bridges were built and the piers for the bridges across the Maleden creek at Virginsville are still intact. A fine stone bridge was erected near Hamburg, but when the Lizard Creek Branch of the Lehigh Valley was built the project was abandoned. The line starts at Port Clinton and it is said that if the Reading had this line today it would be a great convenience in the handling of coal and freight to points east and north.

At attempt to wreck the north-bound passenger train on the Bloomsburg and Sullivan Railroad was made near Forks. A rail had been fastened to the track at a point where it was impossible for the engineer to see more than than two railers' length ahead and an ugly wreck would have been certain had not Edward Karns discovered the accident by a moment before the passenger train rounded the curve. While removing the obstruction Karns heard a noise in the underbrush and accompanied by some of the passengers made an investigation.

Alma Wheeler, a maid employed by W. W. Hall, of West Pittston, drove off a burglar whom she found trying to enter the house. When she opened the door leading to the back porch early the other morning she found him trying to get in and without an instant's hesitation struck him with a chair, knocking him down. Then she hit him again and he rolled off the porch and ran away as fast as his legs would carry him.

At a special election held in Womelsdorf, by a vote of 148 to 146, decided to borrow \$7000 to complete the borough's electric light plant.

WORTH REMEMBERING.

Egypt is the only country in the world where there are more men than women. The males exceed the females by 160,000.

Though willow grows in wet places it is naturally one of the driest woods. It contains only 20 per cent. of water. Oak contains 34 per cent.

One new law in Norway every year would be bride must exhibit a certificate that she knows how to cook. In Norway a dyspeptic is regarded as a natural curiosity.

On October 18, at Washington, the military monument in memory of Gen. George B. McClellan, former commander of the Army of the Potomac, will be unveiled. The General's widow is now 71.

Sea serpents again. Says a news item: "The officers of the Caviani, which has arrived at Auckland, New Zealand, from Rarotonga, report having seen off the Kermadec Islands, twice passed close to a sea serpent. They estimated its length at 60 feet. Its color was a reddish brown, and its head the shape of a gurnet's."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 9.

Subject: Jesus Enters Jerusalem in Triumph, Matt. xxi. 1-17—Golden Text, Matt. xxi. 9—Memory Verses, 9-11.

I. Preparations for the triumphal entry (vs. 1-7). 1. "Drew nigh." This was Sunday, commonly called Palm Sunday. Jesus and His disciples left Bethany and journeyed toward Jerusalem. "Bethpage." The location of this town is not definitely known; it was between Bethany and Jerusalem. "Sent—two disciples." Suppose to have been Peter and John. After they left Bethany Jesus sent these disciples on ahead.

2. "The village." Bethpage. "Ye shall find." Here we have a wonderful instance of Christ's presence in very minute matters. "Loose them." The animals were tied; and so many possessors are "tied" by pleasure, or greed, or gain, or habit, or the gordian knot of selfishness.

3. "Straightway He will send them." Our Lord did not beg, but borrowed the colt, therefore this should be understood as the promise of returning him.

4. "Might be fulfilled." Was the chief motive of Jesus merely to fulfill a prophecy, and did He turn out of the way for that purpose? Rather, let us see that this was the right thing to do at this time. It was necessary in order to fulfill His mission for Him to offer Himself, on this last opportunity, to the Jews as their Messiah. King, so that they might accept Him as such. "Behold, the prophet." Zech. 9:9. 5. "The daughter of Zion." The church. "Behold." Give attention and look with astonishment and wonder. "Thy King cometh." Jesus Christ is appointed King over the church (Psa. 2:6), and is accepted by the church.

6. "Did as Jesus commanded." What a blessing it would be if every one did as Jesus commanded them, without stopping to question, or suggest a different course. 7. "Their clothes." They spread their loose outer garments on the colt and sat Jesus thereon, thus acknowledging Him to be their King.

8. "The triumphal procession (vs. 8-11)." A very great multitude. Vast crowds were present at the Passover. In the time of Nero a census was taken and it was ascertained that there were 2,700,000 Jews present at this feast. "Garments in the way." An Oriental mark of honor at the reception of kings on their entrance into cities. "Branches from the trees." This was a demonstration of their joy. Carrying palm and other branches was emblematic of success and victory.

9. "Hosanna." Hosanna is a rendering into Greek letters of the Hebrew word, "Save, we pray" (Psa. 118:25). It is like a shout of "Salvation! Salvation!" It is used as an expression of praise like "Hallelujah!" The disciples rejoiced and praised God with a loud voice (Luke 19:37, 38), and the Pharisees with unconcealed disgust asked Him to rebuke them. By and by Jesus replied: "If these should hold their peace the stones would immediately cry out. Jesus here grants His people a license to rejoice and shout His praises. "The Son of David." A common expression for the Messiah. "In the highest degree." In the highest strains; in the highest heavens.

10. "Was stirred." "Was stirred." R. V. The word in the original is forcible, "convulsed" or "stirred" as by an earthquake, or by a violent wind. The same Greek word is used by Matthew (8:24) to express the effect of a violent tempest upon the waters of the Sea of Galilee. The multitude was greatly excited. "Who is this?" Well may we, as well as they, ask this question. 11. "This is Jesus." And thus He is the Saviour, the deliverer (Matt. 1:21). "The prophet of Nazareth." That prophet referred to by Moses (Deut. 18:18).

12. "Cleansing the temple (vs. 12-13)." "Into the temple." This was the next day, Monday. See Mark 11:15-16. Jesus and His disciples went back to Bethany on Sunday night. This was the second cleansing of the temple; one of His first public acts, three years before this, was to purge His Father's house (John 2:13-17). "Cast out." In the first instance He used a "scourge of small cords," now His word is sufficient.

13. "It is written." In Isa. 56:7; Jer. 7:11. "A den of thieves." The business was right enough in itself, but they had perverted the use of the Lord's house, and were troubling the people by charging extortionate prices. They were destroying the very spirit of true worship.

14. Christ's popularity (vs. 14-17). 14. "He healed them." In the presence of all the people He performed most wonderful cures. He now shows the proper use of the temple. 15. "Were sore displeased." The leaders said that they were unable to check His growing popularity. Even the children were taking up the strain and were singing His praises.

16. "Hearest Thou what these say?" They were anxious to have Christ rebuke them, instead, Jesus quotes from Psa. 8:2 to show that even this was in harmony with the Scriptures. 17. "To Bethany." They again return to Bethany to lodge.

Has No Use For Mail-Order Citizens.

Addressing a meeting of retail merchants in Jefferson City a few days ago Governor Folk, of Missouri, said: "We are proud of our splendid wealth and population, and we also want our country towns to grow. We wish the city merchants to build up, but we also desire the country merchants to prosper. I do not believe in the mail-order citizen. If a place is good enough for a man to live in and to make his money in, it's good enough for him to spend his money in. No merchant can succeed without advertising in one way or another. Patronize your own will build them up, and they will build the town up in increased trade and greater opportunities. Do not be afraid that business is going to be hurt by the recent exposure of wrong-doing in the commercial world."