

THE KEY OF THE FIELDS.

BY FRANCIS BARRETT.

Give me the key of the fields, O Fairy of Dreams! I would wander away, away...

Give me the key of the fields, O Fairy of Dreams! I would wander afar, afar...

—Youth's Companion.

CELIA AND THOMAS

By Mrs. A. T. Curtis.

Celia Gilman had only been employed in her father's office a month when little Thomas Cleary applied for work as an office boy...

Thomas was nearly twelve years old, the oldest of four children, and his father was serving out a sentence in the State prison.

"Here are your corals, Celia," said Mr. Gilman one morning laying a small package on his daughter's desk.

"Oh, yes," responded Celia. "Thomas, just put my corals in the safe, please."

"I must go out of town this morning," continued Mr. Gilman, drawing a roll of bills from an inside pocket.

"All right, father," she replied. "I shall not come back to the office to-day," concluded Mr. Gilman.

"How much is it, father?" asked Celia, as Mr. Gilman stopped a moment beside her on his way out.

"It is just \$2000, my dear, and just as soon as you get the bank's receipt for it, it will mean that we are entirely out of debt."

"Well, now you can raise Thomas' pay, can't you?" said the girl laughingly.

Mr. Gilman made no response, and the office door closed behind him.

Every time that Thomas went near the safe that morning he thought about the money it contained.

"That would buy 'most everything. It would buy me mother a house, and look as not 'twould buy shoes for all of us, and a piano for Maggie."

It was nearly noon when a clang of bells rang up from the street.

"There's a fire!" exclaimed the boy, rushing to the window that looked down on Washington street.

"It must be near here!" he opened the window and leaned out in search of further information.

"That would buy 'most everything. It would buy me mother a house, and look as not 'twould buy shoes for all of us, and a piano for Maggie."

"Say," and Thomas brought himself back into the room with a spring, a hopeful light shining in his black eyes.

"Say, Miss Celia, there's an awful crowd on the street, and two engines—a loud clanging of the bells sent the boy back to the window.

Celia smiled at his excitement as she went on with her work. "Say, Miss Celia, can I go to lunch now, and see where the fire is?" asked Thomas.

Celia nodded, and grabbing his cap, the boy disappeared. As she worked steadily on Celia became conscious of an unusual commotion in the building.

"Anybody in this office?" the place is on fire!"

Celia sprang up and rushed into the corridor. As she did so, a fireman met her.

"All out! Take the stairs!" he called. "Hurry up, young woman. Don't stop for your hat, as he saw Celia turn back toward the open door of the office."

"Hat," Celia repeated scornfully, remembering the economic practice to save the money that lay in the little safe, and resolved that she would not leave the building without it.

"You haven't time to get back. How came you to linger up here. A boy is having fits about you down on the sidewalk."

As he talked he hurried her toward the stairway.

"I can't go till I get that money," she screamed, as on the next landing a veil of smoke swept around them.

wouldn't let me go back for it. It's burned up."

"We won't worry about that just now, dear. I'm too thankful that you are safe."

Just then a call came on the telephone and Mr. Gilman responded.

"What do you think, Celia," he said almost accusingly, as he returned to the sitting room.

"The plucky boy!" exclaimed Celia. "Just think of his taking all that risk. I hope he got my corals, too."

"Plucky!" exclaimed Mr. Gilman. "What I want to know is, where he is. The fire was at noon; it is nearly 7 o'clock now, and where is Thomas?"

"He knows where we live. I always told you, Celia, that I didn't like that boy's looks. I didn't want to employ him in the first place."

"But he might as well have the money as to have it burned up," wailed Celia; "and he couldn't have spent it all this afternoon. Perhaps you can get it, father."

"That's what I'm going to try to do," said Mr. Gilman. And Celia and her mother were left to wonder at Thomas.

"I don't care a thing about the reputation," mourned Celia, but her mother or persuaded her to put on the new gown and the white slippers, and when a ring came at the doorbell she was ready to start.

"It's the carriage," exclaimed Mrs. Gilman, and Celia ran to the door. Thomas stood on the doorstep.

Thomas, with disreputable shoes, torn coat and dirty face. His hair standing out like an animated brush before he discovered that it was his own special field of labor that was being destroyed.

"No, ma'am," replied the boy. His heavy chin quivered as he met Celia's accusing look.

"I'm awfully sorry," he said; "but your father said to take it down to the bank, so I took it, and here's the receipt." And he held out a begrimmed envelope.

"O Tommy!" And Celia forgot the crisp, white dress and Tommy's grimy jacket, and hugged him vigorously.

"I couldn't get here before," explained the boy, when Mrs. Gilman appeared, "because I didn't have a nickel, and Roxbury's quite a walk, and my feet hurt."

"You are a hero!" exclaimed Celia ardently. "Isn't he, mother—a real hero? Tommy, after this you are to have \$5 a week."

"I most forgot," said the smiling Tommy, reaching into his dirty blouse and bringing out a small package, "I fetched your corals, Miss Celia."

"O Tommy!" and Celia slipped the corals over her neck, while Thomas looked on admiringly, and discovered with surprise that corals were only pink beads.

In the meantime Mr. Gilman was making his way towards Thomas' home in South Boston. It was a tall wooden tenement house on a narrow street, and when Mr. Gilman had nearly reached the house a carriage drove briskly down the street and stopped in front of the tenement, and a young lady in a white dress and a small boy got out.

Mrs. Cleary and several neighbors were seated on the steps, and eagerly claimed Tommy as their own. Mr. Gilman reached the door in season to hear Celia tell the story which made Thomas Cleary famous among his brethren.

"Thomas must have a new suit," remarked Mr. Gilman, as he and his daughter drove toward home.

"I have raised his pay to \$5 a week!" announced Celia.

"H'm! Well, I think we had better make it \$6," remarked Mr. Gilman.

"Thomas promises to make a fine man,"—From Young Reaper.

French Family Statistics. The number of French families, that is to say households with or without children, is estimated at 11,315,000.

Of this total 1,894,720 families have no children, 2,966,171 have one child, 2,661,978 have two children, 1,643,425 have three, 987,324 have four, 566,758 have five, 327,241 have six, 182,993 have seven, 87,729 have eight, 41,728 have nine, 20,639 have ten, 8295 have eleven, 3508 have twelve, 1427 have thirteen, 554 have fourteen, 249 have fifteen, 79 have sixteen, 34 have seventeen, and finally 45 families have 18 or more.—Republique Francaise, Paris.

Train Cut Off a Fox's Brush. During the run with the Vine Hounds at Whitechurch the other day a fox was caught by one of the hounds on the railway line.

Before the hounds could be whipped off an express train dashed into them, killing one and cutting off the fox's brush.—London Daily Mail.

Over 95,000 natives are employed by the missionary societies of this country and Europe in spreading the Gospel among their fellows.

POPULAR SCIENCE

Iron and steel pipe may be readily distinguished by a flattening test, according to statements made at the meeting of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

According to the American Machinist, the greatest single consumption of brass is for condenser tubes, a battle-ship alone having from 30,000 pounds to 40,000 pounds of condenser tubing in it.

The most remarkable feat of travel in the whole history of creation, with a single exception, is the invasion of Europe, Asia and the Americas by the elephant family, whose birth was in Africa.

An irrigating canal has just been completed in Hawaii. It will carry 45,000,000 gallons of water daily through sixteen miles of tunnel and open ditch.

That eminent American astronomer, Professor Percival Lowell, has become fully convinced, from photographs of Mars, taken recently at the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Ariz., and in South America by the scientific expedition sent there, that the little planet is inhabited.

Dr. John B. Watson, professor of physiology in the University of Chicago, is said to have made the discovery that sea gulls have a language of their own and think as well as talk.

The mammoth lived in Europe—and also in America—before the Glacial Period set in; it flourished in an inter-glacial time, and was driven south as its habitat was invaded by the snow and ice.

It is the fate of the oyster, peaceful as he is, to perish in many a broil. And how he is deviled! How he must submit to everyone's sauce!

How delighted people ever are to touch him on the raw! How they love to keep him in hot water!

What a stew he is frequently in! Poor oyster! His case is, indeed, uncommonly hard.

Quiet always, mild to placidity, yet he participates in nightly scenes of debauch and revel.

He frequents midnight suppers, companions of wild roisters of every degree.

His very name suggests irregularity of living, late hours, riotous company, unwholesome haunts, unlimited potations.

And yet ladies and gentlemen, the highest and most exclusive, have him at dinner, not only without scruple, but with undisguised pleasure.

What a creature of fate, indeed, is the oyster! His earliest close associate a heartless rake.

Later in life welcome guest of the high, the mighty, the brave, the fair. His inevitable end and epitaph: "In the Soup!"—From Judge.

U. S. Dowers For Titled Foreigners. Now why does any one want to discourage American dowers to titled foreigners by taxing them? Those dowers are not paid with money.

A Bit of Forestry. "Do you know how to tell a hard wood tree from a soft wood tree?" said a forester.

Why Toast is Popular. The increasing popularity of toast, says the London Lancet, is a somewhat interesting fact in that it possibly indicates that after all the public resents the inactivity of modern bread.

An Indian's Record. John W. Elder, of Warsaw, has spent 18,993 consecutive nights in his home in this city; in fact, he has never been away from home overnight, and he observed his fifty-second birthday anniversary yesterday.

Canada's government revenues from all sources last year will be more than \$100,000,000. In the first seven months the customs receipts increased \$5,500,000.

PECUNIARY DAMAGES.

In primitive society every man was his own sheriff, judge and executioner. If a member of his tribe did him an injury he got even with him, and his family took up his quarrel.

Little by little society began to deny to the individual the right to avenge his own injuries, until now, in theory, all punishment for crime and the settlement of all controversies are in the hands of the State.

It is interesting to note the pecuniary valuation, as disclosed by suits at law brought or tried during the past year which different people put upon all sorts of alleged injuries and trespasses on their rights.

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NEWS OF PENNSYLVANIA

PISTOL DUEL WITH POSTOFFICE ROBBERS.

Shamokin (Special).—Residents of Bear Gap, near here, had a pistol duel with a gang of postoffice robbers, who were found at work in the postoffice and general store at that place.

Armed with revolvers the men approached the front of the building as the robbers were about to leave. Immediately the intruders opened fire with their revolvers.

West Chester (Special).—On account of an excess of \$11 votes cast for the candidates for Register of Wills at the primaries over the highest vote for other offices, the advisability of making a recount is being considered by the leaders here.

How there could be so many more ballots cast for register than for any other office is a mystery which may be solved at the direction of the Court.

SCHOOL TROUBLE GROWS. Avondale (Special).—Owing to dissatisfaction over the retention of Miss Mary MacNamee as teacher of Buena Vista School, Penn Township, the school has almost become depleted, and action has been brought against some of the patrons because they refuse to allow their children to attend the school.

The matter has caused a split in the Board of Directors, and Wilson T. Wright has withdrawn from the meeting of the board and has also refused to send his child to school.

Following a short hearing Glenn was exonerated and the investigation closed, as far as the Police Trial Board is concerned.

Chester (Special).—Rev. Dr. Walter Calley, pastor of the Upland Baptist Church, had a narrow escape from death. He was in a back when he horse became unmanageable and the horse turned into its stable yard the conveyance was overturned and Rev. Dr. Calley was thrown to the ground.

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CHANGES IN FACULTY.

Swarthmore (Special).—Several changes have been made in the faculty of Swarthmore College for the next year. Dr. W. M. Stine, professor of engineering, and F. W. Price, professor of Latin, will be absent next year on leave.

Dr. J. Russell Smith, assistant professor in the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, will lecture in the department of political science next year.

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