BIRTHDAYS

I sm content To let the added years That come to me, Roll back into the past so far That memory Can obly find along the shore Some perfect shells and nothir r more

ing the words with a pleased look.

Kennedy assured her that she would be

ners and language since he had known

She even persuaded the boy to promise

the mine, where he had once before been employed and had been discharged. Flicker had quite made up his mind that

the young New York gentleman would marry Miss Kennedy some day, as the boy well knew it was because she asked it that he was allowed to return to the

mine, which was against the wishes of both Mr. Kennedy and his Mexican part-

The senor, who was a constant visitor t Mr. Kennedy's house, was the al-alde of San Luis, a little town about

six miles away, for under the treaty by which New Mexico was ceded to the United States many of the Mexican laws

and customs remained in force, and Sar Luis, among whose population of 150 not more than three were not Mexicans, continued to elect its alcalde, an official

whose power is much more despotic than

For many weeks Flicker worked stead-y and told his friend that he was saving is wages, as she advised, and every-ning seemed to be going smoothly, when

evening he presented himself in re-use to a message, looking gloomy and urbed. He did not seem inclined to

talk, but when, after awhile, she ques-tioned him gently he shamefacedly con-fessed the truth. He had been gambling

the night before. She looked at him incredulously for an stant; then, to his utter consternation

instant: then, to has measured as the burst into tears, "Don't! don't?" he begged her, in dis-tress, "Please don't cry," "How can I help it?" she said, "I thought you'd be angry and give me up for a bad lot. I never thought you'd cry," said Flicker, wonderingly, as

you d'ery, said came, "I am so dreadfully disappointed," she said, after a while, "I hoped better things from you," "How did you know I lost my money?"

"I didn't know it; it's the loss of your honesty and right feeling that troubles

The money is a very small part of

"It's a good deal to me." answered

Flicker, ruefully. "I was a fool just at

Flicker, rhering. "I was a foor just in the wrong time." And he explained to her that a party of Sykesburg men were about to go into Mexico on a prospecting trip and had of-fered to let him accompany them if he

would undertake a small part of the ex

penses; and his profits, if any resulted would be in proportion. Anxious to

make his share as large as possible, he

had gambled in the hope of increasing his capital, and had lost every dollar of

"And served me right for a donkey!"

he concluded, vigorously. "I won't get another chance like this in a hurry,

"None of the gentlemen at the mine would advance you any money, then?" she asked, knowing what the answer

"No; they'd-they'd think it'd go as

the other did. They don't take no stocl

"No, they don't," she replied. "And now you see what it is to lose your good

nedy seemed to be thinking of something

else; Flicker thought she was tired of having him there and he had better go. Still, when he left she made him prom-

There was a long silence. Miss

Flicker asked.

his savings.

though.

would be

name

me. it."

er, Senor Miguel Hernandez.

at

I am content That seaweed, bits of wreek And pebbles gray, Drift out of sight into the sea. For them to stay Would be to cherish grief and pain I would not, must not, feel again.

I am content That none of life

Can ever be Lived o'er with self same throb and thrill; Nor more to me Will former song, or book, or toy, Fill the measure of my joy.

I am content To live all of today; And when I dream Let fancy revel in the light That hope had seen Beyond the present, and afar, A steadfast, sweetly beck'ning star.

A steame I am content— For ago upon the heart Can never creep; And when, at last, in stillest night I seem to sleep, A birthday comes to me in truth; A birthday comes to me in truth; The gift it brings—immortal youth. —Philadelphia Times.

FLICKER'S DEBT.

Sykesburg was a mining camp in New Sykesourg was a mining caup in yew Mexico and a perfect specimen of its kind. Like the mushroom growth of a night it sprung into existence on the dis-covery of a silver mine there, and it was immediately stocked with the usual rough and in many cases desperate characters and a generous allowance of drink-

rough a deters and a generous allowand acters and a generous allowand a generous allowand a final boarding in a front of the principal boarding house-fondly termed a "hotel" by Wing Lun, its Chinese proprietor—a crowd of idlers stood one afternoon, waiting for the arrival of the stage. This was even the arrival of the stage. the arrival of the stage. This was even a greater event than usual today, for Mr. Kennedy, one of the owners of the mine, was expected to arrive, bringing his daughter, whom he had gone all the way to St. Louis to meet.

whose power is much more despond than that of any American governor. There were many stories told of the senor's harshness and cruelty, and these, with his cold, hard face and forbidding man-ner, made him greatly feared. Women were seldom seen in those parts at that time, and it was rarely, in-deed, that a delicately reared young lady ventured there, and from all accounts this was what Miss Mabel Kennedy mus be. Many of the men had never seen such a person—"not a real high roller; one o' them that can't do nothin' but look purty and read these here novelties and crow-shay," as Long Jim, one of the miners, expressed it.

Minors, expressed it. A handsome, bright faced boy of about 15 was sitting on the fence, hearing the talk and whistling softly. He now stop-ped this latter occupation long enough to redu

'Don't you 'spect she'll do nothin' else:

"Naw, I tell yer. That's all any on

The boy's eyes grew large at the thought of this ornament to Sykesburg society, but he uttered none of the thoughts, for just then the stage turned the corner of the road and rattled up to the door. The manner in which the men watched Miss Kennedy alight was perfectly respectful, but very eager, and as she raised her eyes she met the admiring gaze of the crowd and, blushing a little, she attempted to cross the sidewark into the house, but was stopped at the first step. It had been raining and the ground before her was soft and muddy; the men could manage well enough in their high boots, but her dainty shoes must suffer if she crossed. None of the men had ever heard of Sir

Walter Raleigh and how the gallant courtier laid his cloak down in the mud for Queen Elizabeth to pass over, though would gladly have done something an would glady have done something similar if they only had thought of it. As it was, some one came to the rescue with a plank, which he flung down, and Miss Kennedy walked over this impromptu bridge into the house bridge into the house. "Ef it ain't that everlastin' Flicker!"

ejaculated Long Jim.

That everlasting Flicker was the boy who had been sitting on the fence, and who, having knocked off the loose plank for the young lady's use, now proceeded to repair damages, grinning good natur-edly in response to the friendly cuff administered by Jim, who was disgusted that he had not received the smiling thanks bestowed upon Flicker, and more than one of the other men felt as Jim did, for in that minute of her arrival Miss Kennedy had awakened an admiration which only increased the longer she remained.

As for Flickler, it was soon found that As for Priceler, it was soon found that that young gentleman, having been the first to be of service to the pretty stranger, was resolved to "press his luck," to quote Jim again. Without being obtrusive or

"I beg your pardon," she said, sorry bargain with you about it. But if you for her mistake; "I see I must only thank you for your trouble. It was just in the way of friendship, wasn't it?" "That's it!" he replied quickly, repeatare my friend you will do as I would like to have you do." Then they had a long talk, and Flicker

began to understand how miserable such a bad life was, and why Miss Mabel was so anxious to get him away from it; and he told himself that she should never be "In the way of friendship." "And we're good friends?" she said, holding out her hand. disappointed in him again.

"That's what we are," he answered emphatically, and pressing her hand gently he went away as happy as a king. The next few days he devoted to pro curing his outfit; then one night he came to say good-by, wondering sadly when and where they would meet again, for who should say how long he might be After she left the hotel and went to live in the house her father had been building their friendship still lasted. Mr.

gone? "I'll say one thing," he said; "this money's loaned ter me. I'm a-goin' ter pay it back. The first streak o' luck l disappointed in Flicker—that he was lawless and unreliable and, worse still, that he had been known to drink and to get, I'll come ter you ter pay my debt if I hev ter hunt you all over the United

gamble; but, though greatly shocked, she believed that she could influence him to his permanent good, as he had And then he tried to thank her and promised that she should not find her notably improved in appearance, man trust in him misplaced, and, though he could find but few words, she understood and was satisfied. The next morning he went away. She even persuaded the boy to promise that he would try to get his living at some regular employment instead of by any means that came to hand; and her friend, Mr. Lauyon, gave him a place in

More than three years had passed when one day a fine looking young man, riding a strong pony, drew up in front of what had been Wing Lun's hotel and looked about in a confused way. Of the burthing computation on the state is the state bustling camp nothing was to be seen but a few dilapidated and deserted cab ins. The only signs of life were at the hotel, now apparently a roadside inn. A number of horses stood saddled and tied on the porch so excitedly that they did not notice the newcomer until he called out a greeting and asked: "Is this Sykesburg?" "Waal," drawled a tall man, evi

dently the proprietor, coming forward "it's what's left of it. Was yer pertike lerly anxious ter find Sykesburg?" he asked, looking up inquisitively. "Why," he exclaimed; "ef it ain't Flicker—littl Flicker! Shake hands, sonny. Don yer remember Long Jim? Say, bub," he continued, growing grave and speaking rapidly, "hev yer struck luck? Becase of yer hev, ye've come in the nick o time. There's a friend o' yourn in trouble."

"Yes, I've had luck," said Flicker, lay "Yes, I've had luck," said Flicker, lay-ing his hand on a leather pouch that hung from his belt. "Who needs help?" "That thar Miss Kennedy," Jim re-plied, as somehow Flicker had felt that he would. "Git on yer horses, boys,"he he would. One on yet indicate example should to the men, setting the example by jumping on his own, and in a few minutes a cloud of dust enveloped the

minutes a cloud of dust enveloped the party as they took the road to San Luis at full speed, Jim explaining to Flicker as they went. A year and a half ago the mine had suddenly ceased to produce anything: the company disbanded and the camp was deserted. Mr. Kennedy and his daughter shortly afterwards removed to San Luis Mr. Kenned hear attact San Luis. Mr. Kennedy had been utter-ly ruined by the failure of the mine. He and Senor Hernandez had quarreled be-fore this and were not on speaking terms, and, knowing the senor's character, every one was surprised when he now came forward and renewed bis friend. came forward and renewed his friend ship with Mr. Kennedy, advising him to open a store in San Luis and insisting upon loaning him the money needed; and Mr. Kennedy accepted gratefully, little dreaming what a terrible revenge the wily Mexican was planning for his fancied wrongs.

Among the old Mexican statutes was Among the old Mexican statutes was the infamous one which enabled a person, if he could not obtain money that was owed him, to make his debtor a peon-that is, a servant—until the amount owed may worked out a searching that is acht was worked out, a servitude that is noth Hernandez, therefore, had pressed his

lans on Mr. Kennedy, knowing that they could not be paid and intending to make him a peon. Just as this was about to be done his unsuspecting victim died suddenly. It was an easy matter to make his daughter responsible for the debt and before she realized what had occur red she found herself threatened with this terrible fate unless the money could be produced on this very day of Flicker's return.

"These fellers," said Jim, indicating his companions, "just come from thar, an they sez ole Hernandez is sayin' as he we git thar in time ter stop that off; she'll be skeered half ter death. We was thinkin' wot to do wen yer come up," he con-tinued, "but we ain't got much money an' thar ain't enough on us ter take her out o' that nest o' Mexicans by force: 'sides, the ole feller's got the law back o him

Flicker's blood rushed like fire through his veins; he was almost beside himself with pity and indignation; and he could not even think of her having perhaps tarted in captivity for Mexico, for though, of course, they would follow and bring her back, he thought the anguish of terror would be enough to kill her. His horse was a swift one, but only wings could have carried him fast enough.

AWAY UP.

Stranger Whose Title Produced Sur-

prise in Tennessee. A dignified looking stranger entered the ticket office of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern railroad yes-terday, and stated that he wished to purchase tickets for himself and family to Texas, and also wanted to se-cure rates for the transportation of a carload of household furniture. Col. Harry Wilson waited on the gentleman, and ascertained that his name was Mar-tin. He negotiated a trade with him for the tickets, and referred him to the freight office on Monroe street for infor

As the stranger displayed a goodly role of boodle it was incumbent on Col. Wilson to treat him with the considera-tion due his importance, and so he told Billy to take the colonel over and introduce him to Mr. Bartley, and he took

able him to Mr. Bartley, and he took care to lay the accent on the colonel. Billy got the stranger safely over to the freight office, and in his politest manner presented him to Will Bartley as follows: "Mr. Bartley, allow me to introduce to you Col. Martin." The stranger decay himself up hencht. The stranger drew himself up haught

ily, and striking an attitude, with his right hand over his left breast pocket, said: "I am no colonel, young man; I am something higher than that."

"Excuse me: I meant to say briga-dier," apologized Billy. "I have a higher title than that," said

he great man. Billy was equal to the occasion, and ame again with "I really meant to say

najor general, you know." He was knocked out again, however, by the supposed officer remarking with ightened dignity, which, however,

heightened dignity, which, however, was softened by a quiet, amused smile: "You have not got up high enough yet," "You must be the commander-in-chief of the army," suggested Billy in a doubt-ful sort of tone, but the stranger par-alyzed him by the announcement that he held a still higher title. Billy was strumped. We thought the dis

Billy was stumped. He thought the dis nguished visitor was no other than the resident travelling in cog., but he dis-nissed that idea, and then his curiosity of the better of his reverence, and he lurted out: "Well, who are you, any

The stranger softly replied: "I am a minister of the gospel, sir," and Billy fainted dead away, while Will Bartley made a half rate for the divine on ac-count of his high title.—Memphis Ava-lanche.

Debt of Honor Dobt of Honor. England, which is rich in gentlemen, furnished, in the beginning of the pres-ent century, a good model of that genius which the world loves in Charles James Fox, who added to his great abilities the most social disposition and real love of nen. A characteristic aneco is re ated of the celebrated orator and state

A tradesman who had long dunnet Mr. Fox for a note of three hundred guineas found him one day counting gold, and demanded payment of his long ue note. "I cannot pay you now," said Fox. we this money to Sheridan: it is a deb f honor. If an accident should happe

o me he has nothing to show to n "Then," said the creditor, "I chang

my debt into a debt of honor." and tor Fox thanked the man for his confi

dence, and paid him, saying: "His deb was of older standing, and Sheridar ust wait."

Fox was the lover of liberty, friend of the Hindoo, friend of the African slave he possessed a great personal popularity and Napoleon said of him, on the occa sion of his visit to Paris in 1805: "Mr fox will always hold the first place in a assembly at the Tuileries." — Youth' Companion.

His Prayer Answered.

A certain Chicago coal man enjoy-nothing more than he does a romp with his two pretty boys. After supper ev-ery night he has great fun with them One evening last week his wife was taken sick, and he cut short the usual roup, much to the disappointment of the boys, who had been looking forward all day to his homecoming. He told them it was time for them to go to bed, and, like obedient boys, they walked off without a word of remonstrance. Silent ly they disrobed and prepared to retire. The larger boy said his prayer and found his way between the sheets. Then the little fellow knelt down by the bedside uttered his prayer and added: "Please God, make papa funny some more." And

the father, who had been waiting just

A STORY OF THE "BAREFOOT BOY." On Haverhill's pleasant hill there played, Some seventy years ago, In turned up trousers, battered hat, Patches and freckles and all that,

The barefoot boy we kno He roamed his berry fields content, But while, from bush and brier, The nimble feet got many a scratch, His wit, beneath its homely thatch, Aspired to something higher.

Over his dog-eared spelling book Or schoolboy composition, Puzzling his head with some hard su Going for nuts, or gathering gum, He cherished his ambition.

Kind nature smiled on that wise child. Nor could her love deny him The large fulfillment of his plan: Since he who liftshis brother man In turn is lifted by him.

The Festive Frog.

A frog in the first stages of its career ives no hint as to what it will eventually become. As far as looks go on would suppose it was going to be a cat fish. It spends the first days of its ex-istence swimming about in some pool, industriously wagging the small tail that is appended to one end of his little round, egg-shaped body. By and by a pair of legs begin to stick out from under its vest. These it uses for a time to kick with, and then moves them up close to its collar to make way for its long and esculant hind legs. It is then that the little bright eyed

fellow disclaims any further relationship with his tail, and even goes so far as to cut its acquaintance entirely, and quits the water forever except for bathing purposes. Taking up its abode on the and, it soon grows into an article of commerce much sought after and prized y epicures. - Philadelphia Times

Meteorologists and Elffel's Tower

French meteorologists, it appears, have ust discovered that the Eiffel tower will just discovered that the Enfel tower will prove far more valuable to them for ob-servation than was at first imagined. Indeed, it issaid that it possesses most of the advantages of an observatory built upon a mountain. In confirmation of this it is stated that recently, while a se-vere frost prevailed in the city, a strong, arm breeze was blowing at the summit the tower, and it was three days befor this temperature reached the ground. In no elevated observatory could such direct vertical observations be made as here. Photography will be pressed into service at this elevated position, as a matter of course.—Journal of Photog-raphy.

Laws in China.

Laws in China. In China, if any prisoner resists an officer and strikes the latter so as to draw blood, the offender shall be strangled. If a criminal who resists an officer is armed, and the officer kills him to secure his person, or if a criminal escapes from prison or is killed while being pursued, or if a runaway criminal destroys him-self, the officer shall in no wise be an-werable for the prisoner's death. In any case where a criminal is killed, where the offense charged against him was punishable with capital punishment, and the officer had no right to assault or ie officer had no right to assault or yound him, the punishment of the police flicer shall not in any case exceed 100 lows.-San Francisco Alta

Barnum's Ancient Anecdote

Barnum himself is an infant in arms s compared with the age of this story t is about the meanest man on earth A grocer and general dealer advertised a drink with each purchase. He took trade. A mean man came in with an egg worth a cent and traded it for **a** darning needle, also worth a cent. Then he demanded his drink and took sherry He said he always had to have an egg in his sherry and the dealer broke the egg he had just received from him in the sherry. It happened that the egg had two yolks, and so the meanest man de

manded two darning needles because of the two yolks.-Detroit Free Press

Inharmonious Coins

All coins out of harmony with our decimal system ought to go, and not stand on the order of their going. The gold one dollar and the three dollar pieces have practically gone out of cir-culation, and this is also true of the three cent nickel. These three are not in harmony with our coinage system and mar its symmetry. The gold coins named are too easily lost.—Washington Star.

Cap and Gown Unpopular. The young ladies of the graduating class at Colby have taken a step that must be regretted by all lovers of the picturesque. They have voted to take no part in the class day exercises of the They didn't enext commencement. joy the spectacle made by their sisters in mortar board caps and black gowns last year.—Lewiston Journal.

B. &

The New Spring Assortment ar e Now vll in.

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officious he found many ways of making himself useful to her and considered nothing troublesome that gave her satisfaction and brought him a word or a smile.

Flicker's real name was Philip Ricker, which his baby tongue had contracted into the name by which he was always called. Left an orphan in a mining cam when only 2 years old, he had spent all his life in drifting from one camp to another. Self reliant, courageous and mer-ry, he was a great favorite among the men and had always associated with them and learned their ways, and this

had done him no good. I am afraid he was a very bad boy in-deed; but, then, no one had ever shown him the difference between right and wrong. Miss Kennedy, with her sweet, gracious manner and her shrinking from all that was rough and wicked, was a perfect revelation to him, and he turned to her like a sunflower to the sun. She saw it, and was deeply interested in the clever, manly boy who seemed so anxious to oblige her; though, at first, she did not realize the really beautiful and chivalrous devotion which he felt for her.

Once, not long after her arrival, he had taken special pains over an errand and when he came to her afterwards she offered him money, and she regretted it immediately. His face crimsoned and he looked bitterly mortified and wounded as he stammered

"I don't want nothin' fer this kind o' work. I-I"-

ise that he would come again the next

He went away greatly puzzled over it all; he could not make out why she had cried. To be sure, she had often told him how she abhorred gambling, but he had supposed she meant when people were unsuccessful: but she had before she knew whether he had lost or won and had told him that the money was of no consequence. She had shed tears for him; it gave him a feeling he had never had before in his life.

Meanwhile Miss Kennedy was also thinking hard. As Flicker had said, it was a good chance. She knew the men to be steady and respectable, and though Mexico was a dangerous country, it was better for the boy to try to make his way there than to go to ruin in Sykesburg or whatever similar place he might wander to. She made up her mind that she would make an effort to save him.

When Flicker came the following night she told him of the plan she had for help-ing him; it was that she herself would give the necessary money, for her father was very generous to her and gave her more than she spent. Mr. Kennedy warned her that she was only encouraging the boy in bad habits, and that the money was thrown away, but she felt sure that it would not prove so.

"You see," she said to the amazed and overjoyed Flicker, "I don't intend to give you up for a bad lot. I want to help you to be an honest, industrious man. I offer you this money because I am your friend, and I don't make any

They were in time, however; the crowd of Mexicans in the street scattered before the flying hoofs and Miss Kennedy saw a figure spring toward her and heard a

voice cry triumphantly: "Don't you know me? I'm here to pay my debt!" And in a few minutes the senor's intended peon rode away with her friends.

She had written to Mr. Lanyon some time since, but he did not receive the letter at once and it was several weeks after her rescue that he arrived at Sykesburg Very soon afterward he and Miss Ken nedy were married and went east to live They did not go alone, however, and when, in after years, they were ques tioned about the promising young man who made his home with them they were always glad to tell the story of how Flicker paid his debt.—Helen Keene in Philadelphia Times.

A Bad Case.

De Smith-Travis is pretty wild, isn't he

Bloodgood--Yes; dissipates every mo-ment of the twenty-four hours.

De Smith-Pshaw! The fellow must sleep once in a while. Bloodgood—Yes, so he does; but he is

a fast sleeper.-Burlington Free Press.

outside the door to see that they retired all right, overheard the petition and went in and gave his two boys another great romp. The little fellow then re-tired in the firm belief that his prayer had been answered .- Chicago Herald.

A Cent's Worth.

I was walking by the Hotel Buckingham the other evening (says a writer in New York Truth) when my cal was pene-trated by a hoarse shriek, "Extra! extra! full account of the fire down town—extra!'

"Let me see, boy, if you're telling the

Let me see, boy, if you're telling the truth," said a passer by. The lad held up his paper to verify his statement, and showed the headline, "\$250,000 Blaze!"

'Oh," said the inquirer, "two hundred and fifty thousand? Is that all? Well, I guess I don't want the paper." "Ah, what's de matter wid you," an-

swered the newsboy; "do yer want ter burn up de city o' New York for a cent?"

Importing Carp Necessary. A large carp is found in Lake Champlain, which, with proper care in regard to its propagation, would be a boon to our people as a food fish. It is one of the most handsome fishes in our waters, and as a food fish deserves to be looked after. It is known to ichthyologists as Ictiobus Thompsoni, Lake or Thompson's carp. We are told its flesh is not equaled in flavor by any other fish in Lake Champlain.—Burlington Free

Press.

The Central Shoe Blacking institute in Berlin undertakes to clean boots and shoes for its clients as often as required between 6 a. m. and 9 p. m. for monthly payments at the rate of fifty cents a month for men and thirty-five cents for women. Half rates are given when several members of one family subscribe.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward's eldest son, Arnold, is said to be a literary prodigy. He is only 14 years of age. He recently sent an essay to a magszine and received a check for \$50 and a letter of thanks. It is also said of him that he read Robert Elsmere" during the first year of its existence.

In Maine spruce gum now brings to be men who gather it from \$150 to \$180 a barrel, according to quality. A barrel weighs about 170 pounds.

Voltaire was a most impatient writer, and usually had the first half of a work put in type before the second half was vritten

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A -Batte of Conrad Baker, decased.-Let-ters of Administration on the estate of Conrad Ba er, late of Johnstown borough, county of Cambria and State of Pennsylvania, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to all those knowing themselves ment, and those having claims against and tate to present them duly authenticated for set tiement to CATHARINE BAKER. Horner street, City. Administratic.