

## IF KNOCKING PAID.

If knocking paid, how easily—  
We might win freedom from our cares!  
The problems that are hard for me  
Would soon be trivial affairs;  
I'd live in luxury and own  
An auto of the highest grade;  
With all my troubles overthrown,  
I'd shout for joy, if knocking paid.

Of all the things that people do  
I throw the easiest, by far,  
Is finding that the world's asked,  
And knocking at the things that are.  
The lazy man who turns his gaze  
A thousand times upon the clock  
And dawdles meanly through the days  
Is never too inert to knock.

The one who labors all day long  
With brawny arms and all his might  
Finds that so very much is wrong,  
And, oh! so little that is right!  
If knocking paid, his wife could wear  
Fine gowns upon her soft, white hands,  
And there would be a palace where  
His poor, unpainted cottage stands.

Alas! that what is must be so,  
That all things are not otherwise!  
This world is but a vale of woe,  
Where man must languish till he dies.  
The easy things are not the kind  
That cause the cares we bear to fade,  
I do not doubt that we should find  
It hard to knock, if knocking paid.  
—Chicago Record-Herald.

## An Amateur Snake-Charmer

By BRADLEY GILMAN.

The native band was playing on queer, unorthodox instruments—both reed and string—in front of the Casino in Helwan, near Cairo. Several wandering showmen were giving exhibitions with trained monkeys, snakes and other animals; and the piasters were pouring into their upheld tabourets.

One swarthy showman, quick and cruel of hand, was putting a tired mongoo through his tricks close by the kiosk in which I was seated, nursing my rheumatic knee. The little creature seemed intelligent enough, but was evidently exhausted. Presently he balked altogether, and lay panting on the hot, yellow sand.

The owner, eager for more piasters, at once gave him a sharp blow with a stick, and was about to repeat the blow, when a young American girl of about fourteen, fair, clear-eyed, sprang forward from the circle of spectators, leaping over a squirming cobra that lay in her path, and caught the man's upraised arm.

Her eyes sparkled with indignation; and she spoke at first in her mother tongue: "Stop that! Stop it, you cruel—"

Then she remembered that the Egyptian fellah probably could not understand her, and she turned to the few native words she knew: "La! la! (No, no!) Moosh gwaish! (Not right!) Mac-drasch, matidrasch! (Don't strike, don't strike!)"

The showman may or may not have understood her exact words, but he could not mistake her determined action and her indignant blue eyes. His lips parted, and I thought I detected a gleam of defiance in his face; but that quickly yielded to a mechanical grin, his crafty eyes blinked, and he nodded obedience to her command. He was equally ready to beat the helpless little creature or to refrain from beating him, according as his hope of bakshish turned.

He now stepped over the panting mongoo, stroked him with his lean, sinewy hand, and gabbled, "Poo! I'll be a beast! Poo! I'll be a beast!" words which he had probably caught, without any very clear sense of their meaning, from pitying tourists. The girl released her hold on the stick, dived into her pocket, and drew out a little harmonica, several fragments of doubtful native candy, a scarab, and several copper and silver coins. As if completing a bargain, she counted out four or five pieces of money, and gave them to the showman.

"There!" she exclaimed. "Take that! But don't let me see you striking that poor little thing again! If I do, I'll have you arrested, and— and tried before the American consul; he's my uncle."

This happened in the forenoon. The donkey-races were just beginning, and I hobbled away to watch them.

In the afternoon, as the glare of the midday sun sensibly diminished, I went out for one of my somewhat infirm promenades. Coming around the corner of the Cheriah Mohammed Ali, just outside the now deserted Casino garden, I saw several of the showmen and their trained animals and "properties," sitting or lying in the warm sun, against the white wall of the Hotel des Dains.

An Arab with a cobra lay at the end of the line. I recognized him by the ox-skin bag in which such as he carried their reptiles. A few people, natives or tourists, were walking along the shady side of the street, which I found myself instinctively seeking.

One of these tourists was opposite the cobra-Arab, when I saw him stop and look across the street with some intentness. As I came near him, my gaze followed his; and I felt a tremor of uneasiness and fear as I saw the horrid brown head of the cobra projecting from the bag, and thrusting this way and that in restless curiosity.

Another moment and the creature glided quite out of the bag, and his brownish-gray body extended its five feet of length along the dusty sidewalk. His owner was all unconscious of passing events—probably too drunk, even if he had been awakened, to recover his reptile.

The man beside me exclaimed, "I don't like the appearance of that! What had we better do?" But I had no plan to offer. The creature's fangs might have been drawn, and again they might not have been. In either case, I did not care to go near him.

By this time several other people had noticed us, and stood watching the now excited and active serpent.

power which these strange animals show.

The mongoo is not a native of Egypt, but of India. You see a few of them, however, in the possession of the fellahs. It is possible that this one had never seen a cobra, possible also that the cobra had never seen a mongoo; but between the two species is fixed a mortal antipathy. And the superiority is in favor of the mongoo, which does not move, ordinarily, with much speed, but on occasion, like the rattlesnake, can spring with astonishing rapidity.

The mongoo was pacing slowly back and forth, at the full length of his tether, his long, tapering tail, like that of a kangaroo, drooped and trailing in the dust. Suddenly the tail stiffened and the small, ferret-like head rose. He had seen his enemy. His strong hind legs gathered themselves, and with no apparent pause, he sprang straight at the oscillating, hooded head some eight feet away.

His powerful leap parted the cord which held him to his master's hand, but he overturned himself in his effort and sprawled in the dust. Before I could exactly discover how it was done the confused furry heap again gathered itself, and I saw the now elongated form of the mongoo launched again at his hated enemy, just as the young girl wavered, her hand with the harmonica dropping at her side, and she fell, unconscious, upon her side in the dusty street.

With unerring aim the mongoo struck the cobra in the neck, his teeth closing on the scaly, oscillating body like a vise.

Instantly there was a fierce struggle. All that I could distinguish was a confused writhing and twisting; then the dust of the dry roadway enveloped and obscured the combatants and the prostrate form of the girl.

The fierce, invisible struggle could not have continued more than a few seconds.

As soon as possible I raised the insensible girl from the ground, and carried her out of the dust and confusion to the sidewalk. A dash of water from the brass cup of a water-carrier revived mother and daughter; and the mother caught the girl in her arms. Then I was aware that the fierce struggle had ceased.

There lay the motionless body of the cobra, hideous even in death. Near the body the brave mongoo was pacing back and forth, like a sentinel on guard. He glanced now and then with a critical eye at his dead foe, and appeared as self-possessed and dignified as if nothing of importance had occurred.

As soon as the sleeping, drink-stupified owner of the mongoo could be shaken into intelligence the gallant little creature passed, by sale, into my possession; and he later found a home in the garden of the American consul.—Youth's Companion.

## THE RISING "SCHOOL."

Our Young Men to Be Looked to to Make a Fair Tomorrow.

Of course, whatever may be established with reference to the intellectual product of the old schools of former days, a door will still be open for those who mourn the decline of morals and the disappearance of "old-fashioned honesty" from the land. Just now we are right in the midst of lamentations of this sort. Those who incline to optimism have newspapers and, frenzied magazines thrust before their eyes to be converted by reports of investigations into various forms of "graft." We are told that men occupying positions of trust and honor have been found wanting in the virtues which are the very root of manliness and righteousness. All these things are true, alas! But are they the products of the modern school? Look at the men at whom an indignant public is pointing the finger of scorn. Their hair is white, their eyes have lost the brightness of youth, their step is tottering; they were trained in the "thorough" schools of the past, where the schoolmaster's word was law, where "lickin' and larnin'" went hand in hand; where the three Rs were the supreme anxiety. The investigators of these men who brought disgrace upon this country—they are the products of the modern school. Philadelphia was the young men of the city. Almost everywhere the warfare upon "graft" has had its beginning in the ranks of young men, most of them graduated from college within the last ten or twelve years. These young men had ideals and could not stand idly by while monstrous evils were threatening to corrode the very foundations of democratic institutions. These young men founded good government clubs, not minding the scoffs of their cynical seniors. They organized vigilance committees to bring to task the betrayers of public trusts, whom a diffident generation had lifted into power.—The Forum.

## Money in Tea Rooms.

One of the very first things that present themselves as a means of re-creating a wrecked fortune is opening a tea room. Fortunes do not always follow this venture, but a nice, comfortable income can be derived from such an establishment if conducted by experienced hands and judicious management.—Madame.

New York consumes close to 3,000,000 tons of ice annually, of which the supply of the manufactured product amounts to 700,000 tons.

## NEW YORK AS SEEN BY A DIXIE GIRL.

One of "Seventeen Most Popular" of the South Gives Her Impressions—Hurry in Work and Play—Even the Rocky Island Is Clamped Down With Steel to Keep It From Wandering Away to Sea—Says Women Look Hard—Admires Kitchen in Great Hotel, But Years For a Little Corn Pone or Beaten Biscuit.

By KATHERINE ROBERTSON.

How New York hurries; hurries in work, hurries in play! There is something electric about the very air which makes one move the faster! When I get back to Chattanooga I shall find myself running across the streets and hurrying out of the cars as though all the world depended on my getting from one block to another. I know that I shall. The thing which has impressed us girls who have come up from the South to spend two weeks here is the fact that so many persons in New York do not seem to have anything else to do but to hurry just as fast as ever they can—doing nothing. How is it that you all find so much time to play while pretending that you are so very, very busy?

One of the first impressions which this great city made upon me with its noise, its confusion, its scurrying backward and forward, its din of bells and whistles and its roar of wheels, was that in spite of all their appearance of being so occupied many had nothing to do but to play. But then New York never really goes to bed. People are toiling when others play and playing when others work. Somebody always has a holiday and many are at their tasks when their neighbors are up in the roof gardens.

## All Classes Have Play Time.

Of course, I know that somebody really does work, but when? At midday, in the afternoon, in the evening, at any hour of the day or night you go to places of amusement, you sit in the restaurants—at luncheon, breakfast, tea, dinner, supper. It certainly does seem to me that there are no three meals a day here, for there are so many persons who have nothing else to do but to eat at their leisure at all hours and to look out upon the streets, where thousands come and go, just as though they were intended to run up and down that way forever and ever.

Do you know that there is something fascinating about this city of yours? Of course you must know it, or you would not stay here and keep settling here year after year. I wonder how it is possible for so many to find a place to live on this little, rocky island, all clamped down with steel and weighted down with big masses of stone as though you were afraid that the very ground would hurry away from under your feet and go galloping out to sea, playing to be hard at work.

But you don't labor in this town as they do down South—as far as length of time is concerned, at least. In New York the people squeeze all their work into a few hours, and then away they go in their cars and automobiles, hastening to the country, hurrying to the theatres and running toward the beaches. All classes have time to play, for in the parks I see laborers and their families taking life as easy as a New York man can and having such a good time. It isn't any wonder that the first thing that a stranger asks of New York is, "When do you work?"

## New York Men Chivalrous.

Do you know that before I came here I heard much about the coldness and exclusiveness of New York people, and I was not prepared to like them at all. Well, they do have that constrained air about them, but it is all an affectation. They don't mean it. At heart they are kindly, polite and attentive.

And the men! Oh, I do like the New York men. They are the very soul of chivalry; they are courteous; they never presume; they take the greatest pleasure in doing any service. They are always so respectful and attentive, yet when there is any

## IN OLD WAR DAYS.

How the Great Struggle Made Business For the Bucksport Stage.

If one wants to hear marvellous tales concerning stage driving in old times he should go to Bucksport and secure talks with some of the old chaps who can remember back to the days of the Civil War. Then, as now, Bucksport was "eighteen miles from everywhere"—from Bangor, Belfast, Castine, Ellsworth and several other smaller places. Stages left the old Robinson House in processions every day.

Some of those old drivers were remarkable men, skilled in handling the "ribbons," very popular with their patrons and heroic in their labors to be on time under every condition of weather. The names of these men would fill considerable space in a newspaper. Most of them are dead now, but they are not forgotten.

There is another aspect of stage driving during the Civil War times, which no one has recorded as yet—the great traffic which was carried on by hackmen and stages in carrying persons who were anxious to get away to New Brunswick as soon and as quietly as possible. The demand for soldiers was urgent, because the needs of the nation were great. Many young men who were physically able to serve in the ranks did not have a liking for the job, and sooner than argue the case, they sought rest and seclusion under Her Majesty's flag, even as many vessels owners did for their property, which was exposed to

the ravages of Confederate privateers.

Not all of these young men who sought New Brunswick for safety were residents of Maine by any means. Many came to Bucksport by the Boston boat, and went inland on stage or on foot or by private conveyance, as their finances dictated. If the stories of those refugees could be told, much of interest would be revealed.

Every stage driver knew the "skedaddlers," as they were called, and all paid heavy tribute to powers that controlled the routes. From 1862 to 1864 thousands of men from Maine and other New England States took advantage of the facilities offered by remote stage lines and effected their escape, though a majority of them returned and "squared" themselves with the Government before the close of the war.

Incidentally, it may be well to say here that the famous Bar Harbor and Bangor line was claimed to be the swiftest and most elegant service by horse-power in the country.—Bangor (Me.) News.

Fusing Rubies.

Little rubies, the price of which is considerably below that of large ones of the same quality, are finely powdered, and then fused together in the electric furnace. The mass is quickly cooled by some trick that is not made public, resulting in a gem of good size, and retaining the desired lustre and tint. Neither the sapphire nor the emerald can be subjected to this treatment.

## KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS

NEW STATE CAPITOL

Building Commission Has Accepted the Building from Contractors—Dedication Will Be in October.

The new state capitol was accepted by the capitol building commission from the contractors, George F. Payne & Company of Philadelphia, and turned over to the board of public grounds and buildings of which Governor Pennypacker is president. The commission announced at the close of its meeting that it would turn back into the state treasury between \$30,000 and \$40,000 out of the \$4,000,000 appropriated. The building is practically finished and is now being cleaned and made ready for the dedication ceremonies on October 4. The acceptance of the building by the commission carries with it the acceptance of the \$60,000 bronze doors containing the heads of members of the commission and other distinguished Pennsylvanians at the main entrance.

State Zoologist Surface has advised Gov. Pennypacker that he will be able to furnish 60,000 specimens for the natural history section of the proposed state museum. These specimens will include insects, reptiles, mammals, and birds which Dr. Surface has gathered and also a fine fish exhibit which he has collected in conjunction with the state department of fisheries. Dr. Surface's collection contains specimens which, he says, are priceless. Most of them were gifts to the state, and to attempt to duplicate some would be almost impossible. In one case there are three specimens of a kind of a weasel of which only six are known to be in existence. Even an animal, bird, or insect which related to agriculture has been studied and will be included in the collection being made by Dr. Surface.

Mistaken by her husband for a burglar, Mrs. R. R. Abrams, wife of a well known riverman, of Monongahela, was shot twice, once bullet penetrating her left hand and the other grazing her elbow. On returning to his home late in the evening, Capt. Abrams called several times to his wife, but received no answer. On going to her room on the second floor he knocked on the door, but received no reply. Finding his wife was out he started down stairs, but hearing a noise in his wife's room he stopped. As the footsteps approached he fired through the door and his wife fell to the floor screaming. Dr. C. B. Wood and Dr. F. L. Lynn were called on the spot, but received no reply. Finding his wife was out he started down stairs, but hearing a noise in his wife's room he stopped. As the footsteps approached he fired through the door and his wife fell to the floor screaming. Dr. C. B. Wood and Dr. F. L. Lynn were called on the spot, but received no reply. 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