

SUNG THEIR LESSONS

Geography Set to Music an Old Time Teaching Scheme.

A PLAN OF YANKEE ORIGIN.

One of the Most Popular Airs in the List Used to Interest the Pupils in Their Studies Was "Auld Lang Syne"—"Bonny Doon" Also Liked.

Singing geography was a popular fad in the educational line in New York in olden days, particularly in up state school districts. It was of Yankee origin. It was never made part of the common school system of the state, but was taught outside the regular hours.

A set of wall maps known as Pelton's outline maps was used. There were no names of geographical divisions or places on them. The instructor would go over the map on which the lesson was found, pointing out with a pointing rod the different countries, cities, rivers, lakes or whatever might be the subject in hand, and at the same time the name of each division, place or body of water would be mentioned in song. The teacher, usually a man, would lead the class chorus as he pointed, and if the subject happened to be political divisions the song would run like this, to the tune of "Bonny Doon":

Let North America be first
In our descriptive rhyme rehearsed,
Its northern bound the arctic waves,
Its east the Atlantic ocean laves.
The Gulf of Mexico we see
Upon its southern boundary.
Its western and southwestern sides
Are washed by the Pacific tides.

The geographical verses were contained in the pupils' text book called "The Key to Pelton's New and Improved Series of Outline Maps." Among other things the following is found in the preface of one of these old time volumes:

"With respect to the versification, it is merely necessary to say that the design has been to put all the important geographical localities on the globe, in connection with much valuable matter, in a form which can be most easily committed to memory, and it is confidently believed that the exhilarating effect of harmonious sounds will greatly facilitate the acquisition of this knowledge, and care has been taken that none but popular and approved airs be inserted in the work."

"Auld Lang Syne" appears to have been regarded as an especially "popular and approved" air and was often used. In the very first lesson the pupils were taught to describe the earth by singing the following to this tune:

The earth is a large ball or globe
Whose surface has been found
Three-fourths with ocean waves submerged
And but one-fourth dry ground.

Two hundred millions of square miles
Earth's surface does embrace.
Eight hundred million people here
All find a dwelling place.

Tongue twisting names did not embarrass the geographical versifier, although the enunciation of all the pupils probably was not perfect when, for example, in the lesson on Asia they sang to the air of "Bruce's Address" such lines as these:

Now in modulations sweet
Asia's rivers we repeat.
Obi first in Russia greet,
Irish river next.

Lost in sand behold Helmund,
Then northward seek Yarkund;
Be not turbid Oxus shunned;
Sihon river see.

Ural river next in place,
Attruck and Koor river trace;
Kizil Irnak then embrace
In our melody.

There were thirty-one states in the Union when singing geography was in vogue, and the pupils were taught to bound each of them in verse. California was then the newest state, having been admitted in 1850; was the last on the list, and its boundaries were thus defined:

On California's northern side vast Oregon is placed,
Both Utah and New Mexico upon the east are traced,
Upon its southern borders next may Mexico be found,
And broad Pacific's sparkling waves compose its western bound.

In thirty-four stanzas set to the tune of "Bonny Doon" the geography class would make a tour of Europe and glean bits of information about various countries and cities visited. The tour would start in this fashion:

Now be our geographic rhymes
Transferred to European climes.
The grand divisions first we teach
With the metropolises of each.

Norway, a region bleak and cold,
By Christiania is controlled.
Sweden, that Charles the hero bred,
Takes Stockholm for its chief and head.

Russia in proud expansion sits
And to St. Petersburg submits.
Austria, with its imperial crown,
Vienna takes for its chief town.

Turkey, in southern Europe placed,
Is by Constantinople graced.
Greece, once for arts and arms renowned,
With glorious Athens still is crowned.

Thus the geography pupils sang on through the list of European nations and capitals.—New York Sun.

Enlivened the Play.

"Monte Cristo" was playing to a crowded house in a New York theater. In a box sat a man who had looked on the wine when it was red. When Monte mounted the rock in the sea and exclaimed, "The world is mine!" the man in the box shouted, "What'll you take for Hoboken?"—Brooklyn Life.

Silence is a figure of speech, unanswerable, short, cold, but terribly severe.—Parker.

A CHINESE WEDDING.

As Solemn as a Funeral, With the Women All Weeping.

A Chinese marriage is all ceremony—no talk, no levity and much crying. The solemnity of a funeral prevails. After the exchange of presents the bride is dressed with much care in a red gown, brocade or silk if she can get it; her eyelashes are painted a deep black, and she wears a heavy red veil attached to a scarlet headdress, from which imitation pearls are pendent over the forehead.

A feast is spread upon a table, to which the blushing bride is led by five of her best female friends. They are seated at the table, but no one eats. The utmost silence prevails, when finally the mother leads off in a cry, the maids follow, and the bride echoes in the chorus. Then all the bridesmaids leave the table, and the disconsolate mother takes a seat beside the chair of state where the bride sits.

The bridegroom now enters, with four of his best men. The men pick up the throne on which the bride sits and, preceded by the bridegroom, form in procession and walk around the room or into an adjoining parlor, signifying that he is carrying her away to his own home. The guests then throw rice at the happy couple, a custom we have borrowed from the heathen.—St. James' Gazette.

CHEST NOTES.

Varying Sounds That May Be Heard Through the Stethoscope.

The doctor hears some curious noises when he places the stethoscope against your chest. When the lungs are in a healthy condition the medical gentleman hears a pleasant, breezy sound, soft in tone, as you draw in the breath and expel it. Should the instrument convey to his ear a gurgling or bubbling sound he makes a mental note of the fact that you are in what is known as the moist stage of bronchitis. In the dry stage of the same complaint the sound is a whistling, wheezy one.

One of the signs of pneumonia is the crackling note that comes through the stethoscope. It is not unlike the sound that can be heard when your finger and thumb have touched a sticky substance and you first place them together and then part them, holding them close to your ear.

Doctors occasionally hear a dripping sound, and that indicates that air and water have got into some part of the chest where they have no right to be. Blow across a bottle, and you will produce a sound which is actually to be heard in your chest. It is caused in the same way—that is, by air passing over a cavity.

Filipino Buglers.

"Speaking of buglers," says Boat-swain Jurashka in his article, "Captured by Filipinos," in Wide World Magazine, "it astonished me to find that the insurgents had so many buglers and that many of them were of the best. They knew all our army calls, although they did not know their significance. I was often asked the meaning of various calls and was careful to give them any but the proper one. One insurgent colonel asked me what call was sounded as the retreat from the charge. I told him that we had no such call, but that the charge once sounded, American soldiers and sailors went through or never came back. He was very much interested and with good reason, as he had just escaped from the attack of our men at Hilo and could well believe it. He said that charging was unfair—that both sides should simply snipe at each other."

So He Would.

A little country girl visited city relatives who dwelt in a flat. Her visit lasted two weeks, and all of the time they were warning her not to make so much noise, not to run across the street and not to waken the people in the adjoining flats. In fact, they were constantly curtailing her freedom. When she got home she told her papa she never wanted to go to the city again, and he said: "You must have had a hard time of it. You do look hollow eyed."

"Well, papa," she said, "if you had folks hollerin' at you all the time you'd look hollow eyed too."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Not Ambiguous at All.

In one of England's elections a candidate for parliament, the late Lord Bath, called attention to himself by means of a donkey, over whose back two panniers were slung bearing a ribbon band on which was printed "Vote For Papa." It must be added, however, that in each pannier stood one of Lord Bath's daughters.

Sightseeing.

On a visit to his grandmother Harry examined her handsome furniture with interest and then asked, "Grandma, where is the miserable table that papa says you always keep?"—Success Magazine.

An Extremist.

A London bookseller recently received this order from a customer: "Please forward me a copy of Tennyson's poems. I don't send one bound in calf, however, because I am a vegetarian."

Good Reason.

"Here's the doctor again, miss. Don't you think he comes more often than he needs to?"

"It all depends. He may be very poor, Marie."—Frou-Frou.

Think not that thy word and thine alone must be right.—Sophocles.

THE MIRROR TONIC.

When a Peek into a Hand Glass May Help a Patient.

The looking glass, whether a plus or a minus quantity, plays a more important part in the sickroom than most nurses and physicians give it credit for.

"All things considered, I think it a good plan to give a sick person a chance to look at himself occasionally," said a prominent doctor recently. "Of course the indulgence must be granted with discretion. If a patient is really looking seedy a turn at the looking glass is equivalent to signing his death warrant, but if taken at a time when braced up by some stimulant or a natural ebullition of vital force a few minutes of communion with his own visage beats any tonic I can prescribe. It thrills the patient with new hope. It makes him feel that he isn't quite so far gone as he has thought and that possibly a fight for life is, after all, worth while. Being thus sensitive, a persistent withholding of a mirror convinces the patient that he must be too horrible for contemplation, and he promptly decides that the best thing for him to do is to give up the ghost and get out of the way."

"That is one of the mistakes hospitals were apt to make up to a few years ago. When I was a young fellow getting my first practice after graduation I served on the staff of several hospitals, and in all, especially in the free wards, those aids to vanity were strictly forbidden."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE TIPPING HABIT.

It Was Worse in the Eighteenth Century Than It Is Now.

The tipping habit is bad enough nowadays, but in the eighteenth century it was a greater evil than it is at the present time. A writer in the Cornhill Magazine tells some stories to illustrate the old condition of things.

In Edinburgh in 1760 tipping became such an evil that the Society of Clerks enacted that all servants should be forbidden to take tips and members be forbidden to give them. This example was followed by other clubs and societies. Today there is a rule in most clubs against feeling the servants.

An eccentric Irish gentleman, Lord Taaffe, used to attend his guests to the door, and if they offered any money to the servants who were lined up with the guests' baggage the host would say, "If you give, give it me, for it was I that did buy the dinner."

A well known colonel while sitting at dinner inquired the names of the host's servants. "For," said he, "I cannot pay them for such a good dinner, but I should like to remember them in my will."

Another eccentric gentleman after patiently redeeming his hat, sword, cane and cloak to the very bottom of his purse turned to the two remaining servants who were waiting obediently, each with a glove, and said affably: "Keep those. I will not trouble to buy them back. They are old and not worth a shilling."

A King's Trick.

King Gustavus III. of Sweden had been frequently invited to the little court of Schwerin. In 1783 he paid a visit to Germany, and as soon as the Duchess of Mecklenburg heard of his approach she prepared fetes in his honor. But Gustavus, who disdained the petty courts of the small rulers, sent two of his attendants—a page named Peyron and Desvouzes, a valet who had formerly been an actor—to be entertained by the duchess. The two personated the king and his minister, Baron Sparre, and sustained the characters throughout. They accepted as their due all the homage meant for their master, danced with the Mecklenburg ladies who were presented to them, and Peyron went so far as to ask one of the ladies for her portrait. Meantime Gustavus was enjoying himself elsewhere in secret.

Richmond Castle.

Richmond castle was originally one of the strongest of Norman keeps. It was probably founded by Alan Rufus, one of the sons of the Duke of Brittany, who took a prominent part in the suppression of the Saxons. At a later age the castle passed into the possession of Edmund Tudor, who married Margaret Beaufort and became the father of Henry VII. Henry was born Earl of Richmond, and he bestowed the title upon the magnificent palace which when king of England he built upon the banks of the Thames. Thus the Richmond beloved of cockneys has a comparatively modern origin. The curfew, by the way, is still rung from the tower of Richmond castle at 6 a. m. and 8 p. m., a custom "that has continued ever since the time of William the Conqueror."—London Globe.

Game in Manchuria.

The long haired tiger is found throughout Manchuria wherever there is hilly country, but is never found on the plains. It is extremely difficult to bag and is by no means numerous. In addition to tiger the following game may be found in Manchuria: Bear (black and brown), wapiti, Sika deer (two species), roe deer, serow, wild pig, leopard and lynx. All, however, are scarce and hard to bag, with the exception of roe deer and pig.—London Field.

It All Depends.

Teacher—Now, boys, here's a little example in mental arithmetic. How old would a person be who was born in 1875? Pupil—Please, teacher, was it a man or a woman?—London Telegraph.

Why Hindoos Don't Go Mad.

Why are there so few lunatic asylums and so small a proportion of insane persons in India? That is a question which many a traveler has wonderingly asked. The Hindoos regulate their lives entirely in accordance with their religion—that is, their working, eating, sleeping, as well as what we usually regard as our "life" in the religious sense of the word. Everything is arranged for them, and they follow the rules now just as they did 2,000 years ago. This constant observance of the same rules for twenty centuries has molded the brains of the race into one shape, as it were, and, although their rites are queer enough, yet there is but an occasional example of that striking deviation from the common which is called insanity in countries inhabited by the white race. They are fatalists too. With them it is a case of "what is to be will be" carried to the extreme. This has in time given them the power to take all things calmly and so freed them from the anxiety that drives so many white men into the lunatic asylums.

Thought It Was the Monkey's.

A diamond necklace was possessed by Mme. Geoffrey de St. Hilaire, the wife of the famous French naturalist. It was one of the chiefest of her "contentments," as Hindoo women aptly term their jewels. One day madame missed her necklace. There was a terrible turmoil in the house, and all the servants down to the foolish fat scullion were suspected, but in turn proved their innocence. At last it was remembered that M. de St. Hilaire had a pet monkey, and on a search being made in the "glory hole" of the quadrangle the precious bauble was discovered hidden away with a white satin shoe, several cigar ends, a pencil case and a decomposed apple. The renowned naturalist calmly observed that he had frequently seen the monkey playing with the necklace. "Why did you not take it from him?" indignantly asked his spouse. "I thought it belonged to him," replied M. de St. Hilaire. He evidently thought there was nothing unnatural in an ape possessing a diamond necklace as his personal property.

The Monasteries of Tibet.

Every Tibetan family is compelled to devote its firstborn male child to a monastic life. Soon after his birth the child is taken to a Buddhist monastery to be brought up and trained in priestly mysteries. At about the age of eight he joins one of the caravans which travel to Lassa. There he is attached to one of the local monasteries, where he remains as a novice until he is fifteen, learning to read, the sacred books and perform the religious rites of his faith. The firstborn son, being thus sent into the church, as we should say in this country, the second becomes the head of the family and marries. Unlike some other semi-civilized races, these young Tibetans have the right of choosing their own wives. Nor can a Tibetan girl be married off by her parents without her own consent. The curious custom in regard to the eldest sons results of course, in nearly every Tibetan family acquiring the odor of sanctity, numbering a monk among its members.—London Telegraph.

Slow but Inexorable Justice.

In October, 1900, Pietro Glaconi and Marie Bonelli were tried at Rome on a charge of sextuple murder by poisoning committed thirty-one years before. In England Eugene Aram was hanged for the murder of Clarke fourteen years after the offense. A man named Horne was executed for the murder of his child in the eighteenth century no less than thirty-five years after the offense. There is also the well known case of Governor Wall, who was executed in 1802 for a murder committed in 1782. Sherward was hanged at Norwich for the murder of his wife after a lapse of twenty years. But Sir Fitzjames Stephens recalls what is the most remarkable case of all. He prosecuted as counsel for the crown in 1863 a man who was charged with stealing a leaf from a parish register sixty years before—that is, in 1803. In this case the prisoner was acquitted.—London Standard.

Prohibited Coffee Houses.

So many coffee houses sprang into existence in England during the reign of Charles II, that he, entertaining a belief that many political intrigues had their beginning in those places, issued an edict ordering them to be closed. In this proclamation the following words occurred: "The retailing of coffee or tea might be an innocent trade, but it was said to nourish sedition, spread lies, and scandalize great men. It might also be a common nuisance."

Conceited.

Phyllis—Harry is the most conceited man I ever met. Maud—What makes you think so? Phyllis—Why, he first asserts that I am the most adorable woman in the world, the most beautiful, intellectual and in every respect a paragon, and then he wants me to marry him!

Life.

It has been said that life is made up of three things—heredity, environment and the will. If the heredity and environment of the child are what they should be the will will choose the right and do it.

Couldn't Help It.

Mr. Biggs—You must think me a blamed fool. Mrs. Biggs (kindly)—No, I don't think anybody ever blamed you.—Boston Transcript.

Men of loftier mind manifest themselves in their equitable dealings, small minded men in their going after gain.—Confucius.

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