

## THE GOOD SEED.

I planted a tiny seed one day,  
In the dark earth, far from sight;  
I covered it over and left it there,  
Untouched by a ray of light.  
But nature nourished it tenderly  
And mottled its bud with dew.  
Till the little seed found the gift of life  
And sprang from its bed, and grew.

At first it was only a tender shoot,  
With a promising bud of green,  
But the bud was a promise soon fulfilled  
And a beautiful flower was seen.  
Then nature gave it a loving smile  
And benedictions anew,  
While the blossom offered a recompense  
In its own sweet way as it grew.

In the fruitful soil of a human heart,  
I planted a seed one day;  
It was only a kind and tender word,  
But it drove despair away.  
And now I cherish the treasure rare  
Of a friendship constant and true,  
Which into my life, from that humble source,  
Like a beautiful blossom grew.

To let us think of the words we speak  
As seed that are sown, and then  
They will not bring us a waste of needs  
When they come into light again.  
But, filling our hearts with thoughts of love,  
We may words of kindness sow,  
Making our lives like gardens fair,  
Where beautiful flowers grow.  
—Arthur Lewis Tubbs.

## A CLOSE CALL.

"The profession where I've practiced it for the last twenty years," said the old Comstocker, "has at times what you may call its excitements. Players out there are likely to carry guns and use them. Of course, first and last, I've seen a lot of shooting, and don't a little myself, by way of not wanting to be put out of the game. But it wasn't a shooting affair that came nearest to doing for me."

"It was when they were taking out carloads of bullion on the Comstock, and every game in town was running three eight-hour shifts of dealers and lookouts, that a young German came up against a game I was dealing. He lost. He came back several times, and so I asked some questions from men who would know, and they told me he was an assayer, employed by the Bonanza Mines. He was working in the assay shop of the mine, not the mines, and as I knew he could get away with about all the bullion he wanted, and not be checked in it for a month or two, anyway, I didn't want his trade. I told him so one day, and he met him outside the game and he went clean crazy mad. He wanted to fight me with swords. Like they do. I was told, in the foreign parts' school where he was educated, I just pushed him away, and told him I was acting for his good, and went home, just having gone off watch."

"There is no use telling you gentlemen how a man will stick to a far-table when he wins, if they only knew enough to quit! Well, when I went on watch again, there was the German—Harker was his name—playing, and he was walling nearly out of sight by twenty-dollar checks—he had none smaller. He was thousands ahead of the game when I took the box, and of course I couldn't tell him to quit. It would look like the game had thrown up its tail. So he played on, sneering at me a good deal, which we have to take that sort of thing easy, of course."

"Then he began to lose. He played in all he was to the good and more than a thousand of his own money. He went broke, and when he left the table he was crazy again, and said he deserved to lose for being such a fool as to play after I'd taken the box. Of course, if a sane man had accused me of not playing level, there would have been a remark or two from my side of the table, but I allowed it to go as it lay, he not being responsible."

"I was morally certain that Harker was tapping the bullion as it passed through the assay office, but it wasn't my game to tell stories, and I didn't, contenting myself with giving orders that he was not to be let into the game again. They told me he swore revenge for that."

"It was about a week later that a friend of mine came up from the Bay—meaning San Francisco—and of course I took him through the mines, which was the regular thing to do. We went down the Ophir shaft, and got off at a station several hundred feet above the lowest workings, on a station where there were some workings that visitors were always taken to. When we left the cage and stepped on to the station, I noticed several men there who were not working, but the light was too dim for me to see any of them plainly, and for that matter I didn't think about the others, when the man who was to guide us came up, and started off with us on a drift to the south. I did notice that one of the other men followed us, but it meant nothing to me, and perhaps would not if I had known that it was Harker. I knew he visited the underground workings a great deal."

"Well, we were stumbling and slipping along the hot, wet drift, the guide first, my friend second, and I third, when suddenly my candle was knocked out of my hand. I might have hit my hand against a timber or a bit of broken logging from the side, but whatever it was gave it a rap, knocked the candle down, and it splashed in the water between the shot timbers at my feet. I stopped to pick it up, and it was some time before I found it. When I straightened up I was in perfect darkness, for my friends must have turned off at a crosscut, and the man who was following had either passed on or turned off back of me. I recalled then that I had missed the glimmer of his candle for some time."

"Well, it wasn't just the pleasant game in the world to be up against for the dark was not like other dark; it was thick, black, close dark. I fooled around in my pockets for a match some time, until I remembered that I was wearing clothes kept for visitors, and of course there was no matches. Then I concluded I'd yell out for the guide, but I wondered which way to call. I felt out with my hands to get the run of the drift, and was mightily puzzled by finding three sets of walls—

that is, back and forth on the drift, and off to a right angle, too.

"That made me feel a little nervous, for I knew enough about underground work to know that the right angle walls might be only a chamber of the drift from which a winze had been sunk, and if so I would be standing near the mouth of that winze, which might drop a hundred or two hundred feet to a slump of hot water."

"Gentlemen, I confess there was something more than heat made the sweat roll off my face just then, and I was not just fit to take it calmly when a voice near me said, 'I am going to push you down the winze.' I recognized the voice as Harker's, but there was something in that told me I was dealing with a maniac."

"I knocked your candle out of your hand; I waited till your friends got out of earshot, and now it will amuse me to trip you and tumble you down that winze."

"I don't claim any more courage than the average run of men. I've had to face men with guns, yes, and men with knives, which is a hundred times worse, and I've done it without showing fear, even if I felt some."

"But this was a different kind of game. I couldn't even see the madman, couldn't even locate him, before, behind, or at my side. I did strike out, and split my knuckles on the timbers, while he, hearing me, laughed. I couldn't reach him, couldn't see him; couldn't tell from which side he was going to attack me, or when, or how! 'Now, it don't do a man any good to lie about such a thing, and I'll admit that I was so frightened that at first I couldn't speak, and when I could, I begged the man to begin his attack, or I'd go as crazy as him.'

"He laughed at this as if he was enjoying the play, and I guess he was, but he couldn't resist the bigger fun of putting me in the winze. Suddenly he sprang on my back, and we both went down, he on top, and as he threw my hands out I felt the timbers of the little shaft, or windlass, over the mouth of the winze. 'That gave me one advantage—I knew what direction to fight from, and I fought. I do not know how long it was that we struggled in silence about the hot mouth of that winze, sometimes with nearly half my body in it, sometimes dragging myself clear of its edge, and nearly forcing him into the hole. I could hear rocks which we loosened fall and splash into the water far below, and I felt myself losing strength both from the struggle and because of the stifling gases which came up and out of the grave into which we each tried to crush the other."

"He was a rascal, I probably little better, as we clutched in each other's arms, tossed and plunged about there on the brink of the winze. At last I discovered by his actions that he had an advantage which would surely make him the winner in the end, for, in order to put me in the winze he was willing to go, too, while I had to fight both to put him in and to keep out myself."

"I had braced my feet against the windlass and was making one last effort to throw him off, when, with a crash, the windlass collapsed and fell into the winze. Then, I know, began all up with me, for it had been those timbers which had guided me. I think I would not have worked much longer if I had not heard my friends calling. They came just in time to keep us both out of the winze. They grabbed us as we were slipping in."

"I suppose you do have a good deal of excitement here, but it is probably another kind."

## Cat Breeding in England.

Cat breeding is now carried on as scientifically as horse breeding in England. The Ladies' Kennel Journal is one of the principal organs of the fanciers. A few extracts from it are worth reading:

"I have heard of the death of several noted cats this month."

"Southampton Ghost" succumbed to a ball of hair in the stomach. Mrs. Greenwood laments him deeply."

"Mrs. Marriott has a fine young orange male coming on."

"The Seraph," Mrs. Marriott's Chinchilla kitten, purchased at the C. P. show last year, has grown into a big, solid cat."

"Mrs. Waldegrave Brodie evidently does not suffer from want of buyers for her kittens, for she wrote me, 'I sell my kittens almost too rapidly, as some unborn are already sold.' She has put up a delightful cattery."

We also learn that this lady "has bought a daughter of the well-known Tom Esau."

Next we find the chronicler congratulating Mrs. H. Woodhouse, "who has a litter of five blues from Lobelia, by Kingfisher."

After a few pages of this kind of thing it is no surprise to learn that the same journal has a "Birth's" column.

## The Candle Fish of the Yukon Region.

One of the very few natural comforts to be had in the Klondike region is found in the candle fish, which is plentiful all along the shores of Alaska and furnishes food, light, heat, and medicine to the hardy gold prospectors.

The candle fish is of the smelt variety, but larger and fatter. It is easily caught and when held up to the light is almost transparent. The Alaskans dry these fish in large quantities and store them away for the winter. When a native is snowed in and without light he has only to insert the tail of a candle fish in a convenient crack and touch a match to its nose in order to obtain a clear three-candle-power light.

The backbone is largely formed of phosphorus, which not only causes it to ignite easily, but also accounts for the strength of the flame and the heat developed. The substance of the fish, largely fat, retards the rapid burning, as the tallow acts in an ordinary candle. The fish is also valuable as food. Still another use to which it may be put is as a substitute for cod liver oil, which aiding the natural heat of the body serves to protect one against the severe cold.

## Not Musical.

Presidents of this country do not appear to be musically inclined. None of them had any sort of an education as a musician. General Grant is said to have known but one tune, "Yankee Doodle," and President McKinley's favorite tune in his hours of recreation is "Louisiana Lou."

## CURIOUS FACTS.

The bottom of the Pacific, between Hawaii and California, is said to be as level that a railroad could be laid for 600 miles without grading anywhere. This fact was discovered by the United States surveying vessel engaged in making soundings with a view of laying a cable.

The crown of England is kept in the Tower of London, and not in the queen's dressing room. It is never brought out, excepting on grand state occasions, but whenever a ceremony, such as a drawing room or levee takes place, the queen wears a circlet of diamonds in the form of a crown on her head.

An English writer says there is cruelty in the keeping of goldfish. Half of such captivities die from sheer want of rest. As fish have eyes so formed that they cannot endure the light, in a glass vessel they are in an entirely wrong place, as is evident from the way in which they dash about and go round and round, until fairly worn out.

The great pyramid of Cheops is the largest structure ever erected by the hand of man. Its original dimensions at the base were 744 feet square, and its perpendicular height in the highest point 448 feet. It covers four acres, one rood and twenty-two rods of ground, and has been estimated by an eminent English architect to have cost not less than \$168,000,000.

In Nice, France, there is a society called "The Friends of Trees." The forests and mountains being almost completely devastated and denuded in the maritime Alps by the axe of the peasant, a prize is given to land owners who plant trees on vacant spots, and an annual aspic fete destines a donation of \$100 to the society or individual who plants the largest number.

The different countries of Europe vary greatly in the average stature of their peoples. The Scotch are the tallest, averaging five feet ten inches, on a level with the Polynesians and Armenians. At the other extreme are the southern Italians, French and Spaniards, all the shortest peoples, except the dwarf races of Africa. The average height in Ireland is five feet nine inches; of England and Scandinavia, five feet seven inches; of Wales, Germany and Denmark, five feet six inches; eastern France, five feet five inches; Spain, Switzerland, northern and central Italy, five feet four inches; Portugal and southern Italy, five feet three inches.

## BRILLIANTS.

A teacher who uses the rod is apt to make his pupils smart.

It is a wise fool that can keep his act of wisdom to himself.

Buying a ticket for a symphony concert is a sound investment.

The hot weather record is one that nobody cares to see broken.

Love may laugh at locksmiths, but it never giggles at the plumber.

Marriages will often sober a man who is intoxicated with love.

An "L" road patron says the bustle will give us more elevated trains.

A pessimist hangs over a fire all day and grumbles at people who go skating.

The French government cooks should take Paty du Clam off their menu at once.

Experience is like street improvement—we have to pay for it whether we want it or not.

A man who can stand cold batter cakes needn't fancy he would cut a dash in Alaska.

It is universally believed that the average actress harrises for publication only and not a guaranty of good faith.

New York has at last discovered that the trolley is a good thing, and is advising its sister cities to push it along.

General Lee fought no battle, but he kept his men in condition to fight one, which was a great thing in the recent campaign.

When a man has so much money that it troubles him—he can easily find some woman who will be glad to share his troubles.

## WOMANLY BEAUTY.

Avoid worry and cultivate cheerfulness—perhaps this is more important than face creams and sponge baths.

Fresh air in the sleeping room and a daily walk, no matter if the weather is rainy, with the shoulders thrown back and the chest expanded, are very essential. Shun waist and chest compression.

No woman possesses such a high degree of beauty that she can afford to be careless of herself. It is one thing to have and another to keep. Every one knows good health is the first important help and to have that one must pay attention to sleep, diet and exercise.

For most people tepid water is better to bathe in than extremely hot or cold water. An occasional salt-water sponge bath is excellent. If a woman is working for a good complexion she should shun fried and greasy foods and pastry as she would smallpox and will make fresh fruits, especially apples, grain foods and cream principal articles of diet.

A simple massage may be necessary to fill out the face and neck to requisite plumpness. The face should be cleaned in softened tepid water and a pure soap and rinsed, then kneed in a good cream, rubbing with the fingers. After massaging the face well wash off the oil left on the surface and lightly dust with powder. This never fails to improve the complexion and has been known to yield lasting relief in cases of neuralgia.

## ALL SORTS.

The recorder is a tidy bird. He invariably carries a comb with him.

One of the curiosities of the lake of Moho, in the Indian Ocean, is the chapel that is built of coral.

At a recent church near Leobury, England, an annual sermon is still preached, against the vice of duelling. This is done in accordance with the will and testament of a damsel whose rival lovers died fighting for her hand.

The Norwegian corps of skaters, a force peculiar to the army of that country, is a body of soldiers armed with rifles, who can be maneuvered upon ice or over the snow fields of the mountains with a rapidity equal to that of the best trained cavalry.

Israel Zangwill says he once overheard some Jews discussing him. "He is not clever," said one. "He is one of us and knows all about us. Of course, he can write of us; but there's Ben-Sant. He's written a book about us and doesn't know us at all. That's what I call clever."

A Braddock (Pa.) physician who is interested in statistics of American hero worship finds that he has personally ushered into the world five Davises, three Hobsons, one Schley and one Miles, and that in the households of his patients twenty dogs, seventeen cats and nine goats answer to the names of the heroes of 1898.

In a biographical sketch of Dr. Joseph Wood, the new head master of Harrow, one of the greatest of English boys' schools, it is stated that he has "never shrunk from the use of the cane, believing it to be a practical and salutary method of overcoming schoolboy tendencies to idleness and insubordination."

Belgium has already appropriated funds for transforming Brussels, thirty miles inland, into a seaport for transatlantic steamers. Now it is proposed to open a canal at least twenty feet deep from Brussels to Charleroi, thirty miles further inland, at a cost of \$6,000,000, and thus make the latter city accessible by all coasting craft and Rhine steamers.

The French consul at Batavia lays stress on the importance of bamboo as a material for constructing buildings, scaffolding, and he states that in Java even a lighthouse has been built with its help. The power of resistance of a bamboo cane, measuring 8 to 10 inches in diameter, even with a length of 65 feet, is enormous. Moreover, bamboo is said not to rot, either when in the ground or in water, while the dryer and older it grows the firmer it becomes.

Alexander Graham Bell, the world-renowned inventor of the telephone, has returned from Japan with two new projects—the establishment of a Japanese garden at Washington as a model, and the instruction of gardeners in the Japanese way of rowing a boat. Dr. Bell says that "in landscape gardening there is no question that the Japanese lead the world," and that "their method of rowing is far superior to anything we have in this country."

## MARRIAGE MAXIMS.

Never forget these rules when the knot is tied:

Never marry except for love.

Never taunt with a past mistake.

Never allow a request to be repeated.

Never meet without a loving welcome.

Never both be angry at the same time.

Never forget to let self-denial be the daily aim and practice of each.

Never let the sun go down upon any anger or grievance.

Never neglect one another; rather neglect the whole world besides.

Never make a remark at the expense of the other—it is mean.

Never be "stubborn," but let each one strive to yield oftenest to the wishes of the other.

Never part for a day without loving words to think of during absence.

Never find fault unless it is perfectly certain that a fault has been committed, and always speak lovingly.

Never let any fault you have committed go by until you have frankly confessed it and asked forgiveness.

Never forget that the very nearest approach to perfect domestic happiness on earth is the cultivation, on both sides, of absolute unselfishness. Philadelphia Record.

## WHY.

Why isn't a wrinkle a nick of time?  
Why isn't a pony of brandy a fiery steed?

Why are beads of perspiration the jewels of toil?

Why does the walking delegate usually ride in a parlor car?

Why does a man like to be mistaken for more than he really is?

Why does a lawsuit invariably wear out at the pocket first?

Why shouldn't a wheel-barrow come under the head of garden truck?

Why are the affairs of others always so interesting to most people?

Why isn't it superstitious to pick up pins at the end of a bowling alley?

Why would the average man rather be charged with malice than with making a blunder?

Why does the man who reiterates with emphasis that he will never do a thing always do it if you give him time enough?



FIND THREE SQUIRRELS.

## PICTORIAL PUZZLE.



FIND THE HIDDEN DUCK.

## PICTORIAL PUZZLE.



FIND A GIRL AND A DONKEY.

## PICTORIAL PUZZLE.



FIND A LAMB AND A HEN.