

Queer Little Historians.

As a raindrop loitering eastward, All alone. A tiny 'tell-tale story' In the stone.

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stood, did she utter a sound or move. Then she found her voice, and scream after scream of terror rang through the house and brought every one running to the kitchen with wildly beating hearts and pale faces.

Uncle Will quickly gathered up his beetles and put them back into the can, after a few moments Dora was quieted somewhat.

'I only wanted to see what was in it,' she sobbed.

'Want to see and know,' has brought other people into trouble before now,' smiled mamma.

'Perhaps this will teach a certain little girl that I know to restrain her curiosity, and hold back the meddling fingers that make their way into so many places where they are not needed.'

—Zion's Herald.

The Making of a Gentleman. When I meet you everywhere, boys — on the street, in the cars, or on the boat, at your homes, or at school — I see a great many things in you to admire.

You are earnest, you are merry, you are full of happy life, you are quick at your lessons, you are patriotic, you are brave, and you are ready to study out all the great and curious things in this wonderful world of ours.

But very often I find one great thing lacking in you. You are not quite gentlemanly enough.

There are so many little actions which help to make a true gentleman, and which I do not see in you.

Sometimes when mother or sister comes into the room where you are sitting on the most comfortable chair, you do not jump up and say, 'Take this seat, mother,' or 'Sit here, Annie,' but you sit still and enjoy it yourself.

Sometimes you push past your mother or sister, in the doorway from one room to another, instead of stepping aside politely for them to pass first.

Perhaps you say 'the governor' in speaking of your father; and when he comes in at night you forget to say, 'Good evening, sir.'

Sometimes when mother has been shopping, and passes you on the corner, carrying a parcel, you do not step up and say, 'Let me carry that for you, mother,' but keep on playing with the other boys.

Sometimes when mother or sister is doing something for you, you call out, 'Come, hurry, up!' Just as if you were speaking to one of your boy companions.

Sometimes, when you are rushing out to play, and meet a lady friend of mother's just coming at the door, you do not lift your cap from your head, nor wait a moment till she has passed in.

Such 'little' things, do you say? Yes, to be sure; but it is these very little acts — these gentle acts — which make gentlemen.

I think the word gentleman is a beautiful word. First, man — and that means everything strong and brave and noble; and then gentle — and that means full of these little kind, thoughtful acts of which I have been speaking.

A gentleman! Every boy may be if he will. Whenever I see a gentlemanly boy I feel so glad and proud! I met one the other day, and I have been happier ever since. — Selected.

Skill in Carving. Before commencing to carve, see that the meat is placed on the dish as it should be, and that all strings and skewers are removed before it is brought to the table.

Make sure that your knife is sharp and has a good edge before commencing, for it is rather awkward for a woman to use the steel at the table.

Turkey, chicken, goose, and duck should be placed on the dish with their heads to the left. Small birds, such as grouse or partridges, should be placed across the plate, with their heads farthest from you.

The Omnivorous Ostrich.

What does the ostrich eat? It is one of the questions. Everything. Yet in captivity the feed is selected with care. It is omnivorous and to some extent carnivorous, not refusing snakes, lizards, meat and bones.

The keeper prepares chopped alfalfa: for, as one visitor remarked, the ostrich would have a hard task to get uncut grass down that neck! It eats all cereals, clover, cabbage, and thornless cactus.

Its voracity is well known. In fact it refuses nothing, — leather, bread, wood, stones, iron, parasols, and paper.

The hard substances are used to grind the food in its stomach. If it is deprived of access to them, gravel must be supplied.

It is thought that a diet of Indian corn induces the bird to fight. Loads of worthless oranges are brought to the farm, and fed to the birds merely by way of dessert.

It was very comical to watch an orange work and worm its way down the long neck. The fruit is taken at one gulp, and then begins to go down. It twists and turns, sometimes being seen in front, sometimes bulging behind.

The birds drink from six to eight quarts of water a day, and little tanks are kept in each enclosure for bathing.

The ostrich begins to lay at three years old. The nest-making is a curious process. Early in the spring a pair start to scrape out a hollow in the sand.

The male ruts his breast-bone on the ground, and kicks behind, then, turning about, repeats the process until a hole a foot deep and three feet in diameter is prepared.

The hen then lays one egg a day until twelve or fifteen are placed side by side. The male birds sit upon them from about four o'clock in the afternoon until nine in the morning, when the female takes his place.

Our guide remarked that it took some skill for two hundred and fifty pounds of ostrich to bear down with safety upon these eggs. — Florence Crosby Parsons, in The Christian Endeavor World.

The Kite in a Thunder-Storm.

A thirteen-year-old boy at Cateau, France, while flying a kite, had a startling and perilous adventure.

The kite, twenty-seven inches long, had reached a great height when a thunder-storm was seen approaching.

The boy at once began to haul in his cord. The kite, however, was still one hundred yards or so above the earth when there came a brilliant flash of lightning.

Young Janti was thrown into the air, made two or three somersaults, and fell ten or twelve feet away.

The kite had attracted the electric fluid, which followed the cord, as Franklin's famous experiment, and descended into the earth through the boy's body.

Wonderful to relate, the boy was not killed. After a little he arose and made his way home, trembling and crying.

The nails of his left hand, which had held the string, were turned blue, as if by a terrible bruise, while the fingers were burned and covered with blisters.

Besides this, his face was bruised considerably by his fall. The kite string was burned in two by the discharge, and the kite flew away to parts unknown. — Selected.

Riddles From Russia.

Here are some riddles which the boys and girls in Russia puzzle their heads over. See how many of them you can guess without looking at the answers:

I am blind, but show others the way, deaf and dumb, but know how to count. A milestone.

People pray for me and long for my company; but directly I appear they hide themselves. Rain.

About Shoes.

Never wear a shoe that pinches the heel, say Health Culture. Never wear a shoe or a boot so large in the heel that the foot is not kept in place.

Never wear a shoe or boot that has depressions in any part of the sole to drop any joint or bearing below the level plane.

Never wear a shoe with a sole turning up very much at the toes, as this causes the cords on the upper part of the foot to contract.

Never wear a shoe that presses up into the hollow of the foot.

Never have the top of the boots tight, as it interferes with the action of the calf muscles, making one walk badly and spoils the shape of the ankle.

Never wear a short stocking, or one which after being washed is not at least one half inch longer than the foot.

Bear in mind that stockings shrink; be sure that they will allow your toes to spread out at the extreme ends, as this keeps the joints in place and makes a strong and attractive foot.

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