

## ONLY CIPHERS.

(Continued from Page 5.)

The ten-dollar gift was surely bringing its ten-fold enlargement to Miss Maria's heart.

"Give accordin' to your means' is what mother used to say when she brought the mite she could; and just took it patient that she had no more, and done her best at bein' a real, livin', every-day home missionary, though she'd 'a' smiled at the thought of bein' so called. I can see it all now, though I never looked at it that way them days. Them days and these days"—

A long pause, at the end of which Miss Maria straightened herself. A look almost of consternation spread and deepened over her face.

"Maria Jane Plummer!—Have you the face to set here with the Lord's eyes straight on you and say you can't understand? Is your soul so filled up with the spirit of all that's mean and stingy and close-fisted that you try to make Him and make yourself believe you can't understand?"

The stern look and stiff bearing with which Miss Maria regarded her imaginary self all of a sudden disappeared as she broke down with sobs.

"O mother, mother, I do see! You had all the hardness, and felt that you were losin' the blessin' of bein' able to give. But you've only passed it on, mother. You've give me to see—and to understand. You had the dear work, and I have some money"—

Wiping away the tears from her dim eyes, she again took three fresh checks.

"One more cipher! Isn't it a wonder what just one cipher 'll do? I'll send 'em in in mother's name."—*Zion's Herald*.

## Notes and Gleanings

..Forty-three per cent of the inhabitants of Cincinnati are of German blood.

..France spends thirty-five per cent of her resources on military preparations.

..Of the children of school age in Russia, 17,000,000 are receiving no instruction.

..The profits of the United States government on pennies pays the entire expense of the mint.

..One of the most prominent oil magnates in Los Angeles is a woman, who is said to control about half of the whole product.

..The Belgians are great pigeon breeders, and one of the choicest birds of this kind is the true Antwerp carrier, which is comparatively rare.

..The British War Office has adopted for use by the cavalry a short, light, straight thrusting sword. Its edge will be sharpened for about three inches from the point. The new arm will displace the famous sabre which British cavalrymen have long worn and wielded.

..A Christian Japanese merchant keeps a Bible on a table in an upstairs room of his home, and the members of the family have a standing agreement that whoever becomes angry must go upstairs and read a portion of Scripture. That is a good remedy and worth recommending to Christians everywhere.

..Last year eleven British vessels, carrying 78 officers and 781 men, were employed in charting the ocean's bed. An area of 12,661 miles was sounded, 39 dangerous rocks and shoals being discovered, and 1,924 miles of coast-line

were charted. Other rocks and shoals reported from various sources numbered 279.

..He told his son to milk the cows, feed the horses, slop the pigs, hunt the eggs, feed the calves, catch the colt and put him in the stable, cut some wood, split some kindlings for morning, stir the cream, put fresh water in the creamery after supper, and be sure and study his lessons before he went to bed. Then he went to the Farmers' Club to discuss the question, "How to Keep Boys on the Farm."

..A collection of postage stamps has been bequeathed to the British Museum by Mr. Tapling, M.P. It contains three-cornered and diamond-shaped Newfoundland, early issues of Canada, New Brunswick, P. E. Island, two specimens of five cent Connelstamps, considered by philatelists as the most valuable. Among others are halved stamps of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and P. E. Island.

..There are about 80,000 Jews in France, of whom about 40,000 live in Paris. The Jewish is one of the established churches of France, but it hardly enjoys equal religious liberty with the others, since Jewish children are debarred from attendance on their Sabbath services by the fact that the school holiday in France is not Saturday, but Thursday.

..The new Lord Salisbury, hitherto known as Lord Cranborne, is forty-three years old. He entered the House of Commons at the age of twenty-four as a member of the Darwin division of Lancashire, for which he sat until the general election of 1892, when he was defeated. In the following year he was returned for Rochester. As lieutenant-colonel of the fourth battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, he served with distinction in the South African war, and was mentioned in dispatches.

..A regular campaign against mediums has begun in Germany at the direct instigation of Emperor William, who is annoyed at the spread of spiritualism among the aristocracy. Frau Franzel, the famous Saxon medium, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment, while her husband is held for perjury. Similar prosecutions are proceeding in other cities, and a panic has seized the spiritualists, for they are convicted as swindlers even when high-placed friends testify in their behalf.



## THE CENTURY FOR 1904.

*The Century* for 1904 promises a wealth of reading and pictures that surpasses even the high standard achieved during 1893. Perhaps most notable of all the strong features of the volume will be Dr. S. W. Weir Mitchell's "The Youth of Washington," told in the form of an autobiography. It will be a daring and unique piece of historical work, written as if it were done by General Washington himself, sitting down in Mt. Vernon in his old age and recording, solely for his own eye, the story of his youthful life.

Then there will be a series of articles on "Italian Villas and Their Gardens," written by Edith Wharton and illustrated, largely in color, by Maxfield Parrish. Ernest Thompson Seton has prepared Table and Woodmyth, brief papers in a new vein, the illustrations in the author's most fantastic and amusing style. Early numbers will bring John Burroughs's "Current Misconceptions in Natural History." Already have commenced the important Thackeray letters, telling the story of the great novelist's friendship with the Baxter family of New York, with facsimiles of manuscripts and drawings by the author. Ray Stannard Baker, whose articles on the Great Northwest and the Great Southwest have been leading and widely ac-

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ceptable features of recent volumes, will continue his notes on these regions; and there will be valuable contributions by Jacob R. Riis, Dr. James M. Buckley, and scores of other notable writers.

Fiction of the volume will include Jack London's strong new novel, "The Sea-Wolf," Maud Wilder Goodwin's clever "Four Roads to Paradise," and a wealth of short stories from Anne Douglas Sedgwick, J. J. Bell, Maurice F. Egan, Roy Rolfe Gilson, E. L. Sabin, S. Weir Mitchell, David Gray, Gouverneur Morris, Albert Bigelow Paine, — the list might be indefinitely lengthened.

The artists whose work will appear in *The Century* for 1904 include the best of the day. It is not a question for any cultivated thinking man or woman today, Can I afford to take *The Century* this year? The question is rather, Can I afford NOT to take *The Century*?

"One of the finest magazines of the day."—*Oakland, Cal., Tribune*.

## ST. NICHOLAS FOR 1904.

IT WILL BE MORE INTERESTING, AND BETTER IN EVERY DETAIL.

*St. Nicholas*, for thirty years the best and best beloved of children's magazines! "I know of no magazine here or in England which will compare with it," says Rebecca Harding Davis. "The children of this generation are fortunate in having such a magazine," adds Lucy Larcom. "Nothing that has ever come into my household of children has been in equal degree the stimulus to their artistic and literary tastes," is George W. Cable's tribute.

And *St. Nicholas* for 1904 will be more entertaining, and better than ever before. B. L. Farjeon wrote before his death a delightful story called "A Comedy in Wax." It has adventure for the boys, fairy doings for the girls, and a pretty bit of love story for their elders; and will run through several numbers. Then there will be other stories, short and long, from Ruth McEnery Stuart, Bertha Runkle, Cyrus Townsend Brady, Joaquin Miller, Gabrielle E. Jackson, Elliott Fowler, Grace MacGowan Cooke, Frank R. Stockton, Albert Bigelow Paine, Julian Ralph, Laura E. Richards, Tudor Jenks, Lieutenant Schwatka, Margaret Vandegrift, Howard Pyle, Charles F. Lummis, and scores of other well-known writers.

The list of verse writers and artists, some of the very best in the land, who

have promised their work to *St. Nicholas* in the next twelve months is a long one. Some of the interesting articles, all of which will be splendidly illustrated, will tell of Japanese athletics for American boys, some queer mail carriers, interesting signs of old London, children in the White House, the Emperor Hadrain's wall, the day with Hudson Maxim, how some animals sleep, secret alphabets, diving for pearls, historic dwarfs, and many other fascinating subjects.

To-day is a good day to subscribe. No girl or boy should be without *St. Nicholas*. Only three dollars a year, and that small sum means limitless pleasure and profit for the young people in the home.

The magazine is an illustration of what can be done in setting a standard and keeping it so far beyond rivalry in a second field that there is no second. — *Salt Lake City Tribune*.

## THE INFLUENCE OF THE YOUTH'S COMPANION.

The gospel of good cheer brightens every page of *The Youth's Companion*. Although the paper is nearly seventy-seven years of age, it does not look back on the past as a better period than the present.

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