

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1899.

## SHE WON THE PRIZE.

THE \$25. WILL GO TO A LITTLE P. E. ISLAND GIRL.

She Tells in a Clear and Lucid Manner What She Knows About Soap—How Grandma Used to Make Hers in the Good Old Days—Why This Maid Likes Welcome Soap.

ST. JOHN, N. B., June 12, 1899.

TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS: It surely will be a matter of interest to your readers and we think you will be glad to publish as news matter the 1st. prize Essay in our recent school children's competition, won by a brainy Miss of P. E. Island, and for which purpose we enclose you a copy of the same. The young lady has cause to feel particularly gratified with the result, as there were very many Essays from numerous clever little people throughout the Maritime Provinces, but the Committee, (the well known educators, Miss H. May, Ward, and Messrs. W. P. Dole and D. P. Chisholm) decided that for originality and composition the Essay of Miss Ruth Warren, Summerside, was the best of all.

Yours truly,

THE WELCOME SOAP COMPANY.

I am more than pleased to have as a subject for an essay, so useful and important an article as soap.

I am sure anyone could say something about soap.

I was always, since I can first remember, fond of using it; and loved to have it to rub in warm water and see it making white foam and bubbles in the basin, and then the delight of blowing bubbles through a clay pipe, dipped in the soapy water, and watch them flying up and soaring like small world's with so many pretty colors. I still love the childish pastime and can now blow much larger bubbles than the first I blew, without using as much soap.

Besides this, soap has many attractions for me, though perhaps not everyone at my age has seen it in the many ways that I have.

Before soap came to be so cheap as they now are, my grandma had her annual soap making. Hers was manufactured on a much smaller scale, I suppose, in a smaller pot than any soap factory now uses, though it seemed grand enough to me, when it began to boil on the stove, and looked like a picture of Vesuvius, in eruption, on a small scale, and just about as terrible to me, for I was warned not to come near for fear of being scalded, for many a dreadful tale is connected with the old fashioned soap making; and I hope that in your "Welcome" soap factory no such terrors surround it.

Grandma still maintains that her soap makes the clothes cleaner than any of the new soaps. But one thing I know, that they do not make one's eyes smart even should a little get in, at washing time, as hers used to, and again the sweet perfumes with which you scent yours. Grandma never used them in her simple way of making soap, and said it was only to hide its faults but I will excuse its faults, for the sake of its pleasant fragrance. I can hardly tell which perfume is the most pleasant to me but I like to sniff the "Welcome" whatever may be its fragrance, everytime I wash with it. There is an old saying that "cleanness is next to godliness" and it is true missionaries should take lots of soap on their missions to the uncivilized, and I think the donation of soap in our mission boxes should be as acceptable as dollars.

I have heard of a dog who was fond of soap and used to lick the cakes whenever he could get his tongue on them; if he had only been a boy or girl and could speak, I am sure he would be called a slick tongue orator. A lady always tested the quality of soap by putting a piece into boiling water, and when the soap was pure, there was pure oil floating on top, and if any other matter came on top, she pronounced it impure; but I have not used this test for "Welcome Soap" until I write my next essay.

There are many kinds of soaps, from the delicately perfumed soap for the tender skin of babies, up to the common home-made soap for the rougher work of scrubbing and cleaning the pans and tubs of the tidy housekeepers.

Soaps are sometimes medicinal, such as cuticura, carbolic etc. and the soaps then serve two purposes, of cleansing and healing sores. Soap is compared to a refiners fire, as a purifier.

At the exhibition held every year the soap show is one of the most attractive in

the whole exhibition; the pretty labels, and many colored varieties give a countless medley, that catches the eye of everyone.

Soap is also fertilizing, and when dissolved in water, and put upon the plants, you will see the leaves fresher and the bloom increase. I hope any reader of this will try the Soap wash for their plants. It also checks the vermin as they cannot stand the soap. In the olden times, we are told, they made parties called tulling parties, when the young folks met together in the evening, for the purpose of tulling the homespun cloth, this we are told was the sociable event of the year.

The cloth to be tulled was first soaked in strong soap and water, and then spread out on long tables made of boards then the lads and lassies gathered on each side of the board, and began the work of tulling by rolling and kneading together back and forward until the cloth was thick and fleecy, this was the effect of the soap and water on the wool of the cloth.

The cheer and jolly sport that entered into this work with the songs and merry laughter of the young folks is said to far surpass the pleasure of any social event of the present day; but without the soap it certainly would have been a dry affair.

I daresay much could be added to this essay on the uses of soap but I will conclude by wishing you the best of success in extending throughout our fair Dominion the sale of unequalled "Welcome Soap."

## ONE OLD FASHION THAT LASTS.

Inappropriate Stairs which are Still in Demand for Furniture.

Wherever I see furniture covered with light-colored silk or satin offered for sale in the shops, I wonder how such an anachronism should have survived to this day. When I see it in establishments that make a speciality of cheap prices I am more than ever astonished at such a failure to keep up with the adaptation of taste to our actual needs that has been noticed in every other respect. It always seems to me that it would be about as appropriate to offer a man a sedan chair when he called for a cab. One is no more suited to the spirit of the times than the other.

These were the remarks of a furniture dealer, whose business was only to sell his customers what they wanted, and not to worry over their taste after he at once discovered it. But this man's mind was not to be prevented from passing on the faults of taste they showed.

"I can imagine some circumstances," he continued, "under which it might be proper to buy furniture of this kind. Large houses with ballrooms set aside for only formal use and to be used by persons in evening dress, might not seem so much out of keeping with the spirit of these dainty and elaborate silks. They came into use when life was very much more formal than it is today. Men's dress, for instance, has changed since the time they were expected to sit on silks and satins of light color, and the clothes of women are just as much changed. None of them was to be seen at that period wearing a tailor-made gown of dark cloth. That was an age of luxury. Persons in those days who could possess such objects belonged to the class that could afford to be always in just the right condition to use them. They never came in from the rain to make a call and were never confronted with the choice of standing up or certainly making a spot on a pink satin sofa cover. Every condition in the lives of those people was adapted to their furniture and their age was very different from ours. It is a knowledge of that fact that makes it almost impossible for me to sell a woman a light colored satin chair with gold wood-work after she has told me she has only one sitting room and is going to put the chair in it. Yet we often have customers who tell me that their plan is to have a pale pink or blue room, and I discovered afterward that they are to have no sitting room of any other color. Usually these people are able to furnish their houses only occasionally, and I often wonder what the pink satin sofa must look like when the husband has come home several times after a snowstorm or when he has been caught in a shower. I'm afraid the blue rooms and the pink rooms look rather cheerless after that.

The inclination to buy furniture of this kind is almost irresistible, however, with certain people. It represents to them elegance and luxury, the qualities that a parlor ought to have. The carefully shut up and secluded American parlor that used to be the fashion was better adapted

to that style of decoration than the more generally used living room which has taken its place today. The advance in taste is continuous here in New York on all sides. Even the cheapest articles bear evidence of it. Possibly the return to a simpler and truer ideal that existed many years ago will not be accomplished for some time yet. But the taste of the average man or woman is better to-day than it was thirty years ago. The revolt against the period of carved black walnut and the ebony that succeeded it, the better designs of rugs, wall paper, china and silver all show that the public taste is sounder and turned toward the simpler and better models. One has only to compare the articles offered in the shops twenty years ago with those available now to realize how great the change has been. The cheaply carved furniture—although it cost enough to buy—in black walnut and occasionally in mahogany, the tasteless designs of silver with its meaningless ornamentation, all marked a period of degenerate taste, just as did the big dogs on the fire rugs and the stile of the window hangings. All that is improved now. Only the inexplicable taste for the light colored fabrics remained as a souvenir of former customs. That does not show that the improvement in taste has halted in this case. It proves rather that they are generally attractive enough in color and design to overcome the better judgment of persons who ought not to buy them, because they are suited to only a few uses in modern life.

## LIGHT FROM A KITE.

An Electrical Experiment for Boys Suggested by William A. Eddy.

William A. Eddy, the kite expert, says that any boy who can fly kites can lighten up an incandescent lamp with electricity collected from the clouds. Mr. Eddy does it himself in a very simple way. He imposes only one condition for the success of the experience. It should be tried only when there is not a cloud in the sky, and it must necessarily take place at night. The air is full of electricity at all times, but during cloudy weather there is apt to be too much for safety.

The boy should use two kites (Malay or box) strung in tandem, said Mr. Eddy, and he will have to use two cables, one of cord to hold the kites and one of wire to carry the electricity. He will have to have three Leyden jars, which, by the way, he can make easily by coating some wide-mouthed bottles inside and out with tinfoil. This tinfoil should extend to within one third of the top of each bottle should extend and a copper wire which should touch the bottom of the bottle inside. On two of the bottles this wire should extend externally from the cork a couple of inches. On the third bottle, however, the wire should extend out of the cork quite a distance and bend over the side of the bottle so as nearly to touch the external tinfoil.

When you raise the kites far enough in the air to get them flying steadily this bottle should be tied to the kite cord by a piece of twine. Around the outside of the bottle, near the bottom, the copper wire cable should be tied and twisted about the kite cord so the kite is allowed to go up in the air. When about 500 feet is paid out connect the end of this wire to one terminal of an incandescent lamp. This lamp should be an old one in which the filament is broken. Connect a short piece of wire to the other terminal and tie the other end of this short piece of wire to the wires extending out of the two Leyden jars. Tie still another piece of wire around the outside of these jars and connect it with an iron stake driven into the ground. You will then be ready to light your lamp.

The moving of the kite cable up and down will cause the bent wire of the upper Leyden jar to spring against the outside continually. This will discharge the jars which has become filled with electricity from the air. The sparks will affect the jars on the ground and as the incandescent lamp stands in the road the only way for the current to travel is across the broken filament, in attempting to do which it will flash out brightly. One thing I would advise is that every boy who attempts the feat gets his father or an older brother to help him hold in the kites. Their pulling power becomes very great when they are a good distance up in the air.

Far too Young.

A few years ago the writer was witness of a very amusing scene which took place in a certain village church. It being christening Sunday, the clergyman stepped down to christen the children.

While christening one of them, he said to a very young looking man, "You are far too young to stand as sponsor to this child," whereupon the young man, much abashed, replied meekly, in a weak voice, "Please, sir, I'm his father."

## HOW TO MAKE PEARLS.

AN EXPERIMENT THAT IS TO BE TRIED ON CERTAIN SHELLS.

Californians Propose Reaping Advantage From the Beautiful Haliotis—Plans To Be Inserted in the Shell in the Hope That They Will Become Gems.

"If these shells were not so common," remarked a man who stood looking admiringly at a pile of haliotis shells on the beach, "they would be worth a fortune. What is more attractive than the abalone? Yet they bring hardly \$20 a ton."

The speaker was right. The shells were beautiful; every color of the rainbow gleamed and glistened as the sun struck them, producing a blaze of color, and when the back of the shell is polished it is even more beautiful.

"I am interested in pearls," continued the stranger, "and particularly in an experiment which I understand is to be tried here; that is, to force certain shells like the haliotis to make pearls to order. Of course it is a slow process, but then one smart man can set a good many shells to work in a day in a very simple manner. My informant said his method was to select a base of wood or metal the exact size and shape desired, and by boring a hole through the haliotis insert the pearl-shaped object and plug it so that it will remain in one position. What would be the result? Why, the animal would at once begin to protect itself by covering the intruder with pearls, which it takes from the shell-secreting glands around its mantle, and would continue this until the foreign object was covered with pearl. It might take a month, and perhaps four, but there would be certainly some results. The natural pearls these shells produce are said to be valuable, and I don't doubt it. A large black pearl was taken from a haliotis shell, at what is known as Catalina Harbor, on this island, years ago. It was found by a Portuguese fisherman, who sold it for \$10 to a traveller. The latter, it is said, got \$50 for it in San Francisco, and from there it went East to a big jeweller, who paid a very large sum for it.

"California, the lower portion constituting the peninsula," continued the pearl expert, seating himself comfortably in one of the boats hauled up on the beach, as if for a long talk, "has provided the world with some of the finest pearls. Taking in the islands, there is a coast line of pearl fisheries equal to perhaps thirty-five hundred miles. The original white discoverer was undoubtedly Cortez. The natives were working the fisheries, and he sent some of the finest pearls to the Queen of Spain. Later a rule was established that one-tenth of the annual find should go to the King of Spain. About one hundred and fifty years ago one Juan Ossio worked the fisheries, and tradition says that he obtained 300 pounds of pearls, so many being taken that they actually became a drug and lost their value. At the present time the work is carried on with system. The pearl oyster is found as far north as the 28th degree, those taken in bays where the fresh water pours in being the most favorable localities. Generally the season lasts from June to December, about three hours a day being given for diving. A good day's work for a man is to collect 130 shells, though some improve on this. A gang of 450 men will produce in a season 2,000 tons of pearl oysters, there being about 7,000 shells to a ton.

The most successful divers are those who use the diving suit. Each diver has five helpers, four attending the pumps, while the other watches the line. The diver takes down a basket fastened to a line and fills it with the shells as fast as he finds them. The various crews live on a small vessel, to which they return at night. The shells of each diver are kept separate and taken ashore, where they are opened under careful watch. The shell is opened by one man, who examines it, while the body of the animal is examined by another both men being closely watched. A pearl is so small that it is an easy matter to slip it away. Sometimes the men fish for days without finding anything, than a single shell will repay a long wait. The catches of the various are equally elusive. In 1881 I think it was, the coast of Sonora produced about \$40,000 in pearls, though at an earlier period this same locality produced \$200,000 worth a year.

The stories and histories of the pearls of California would make a volume. The finest pearl in the Spanish regalia came from Loreto, and weighs in the neighbor-

hood of 400 grains. One of the Presidents of Mexico had a famous pearl, and there are others famous the world over. Some fine pearls were taken in 1883—one of a light brown tint that weighed 260 grains and was worth \$8,000. In this year a speckled pearl was taken which brought \$75,000, while still another was sold for \$5,500. This pearl was brought in by an Indian who had been diving on his own account somewhere, and he evidently did not know its value as he sold it for \$10. He was found in a saloon where he was exhibiting it to a crowd, finally parting with the gem, that weighed thirty-two carats.

Are only pure white pearls valuable? asked the interested listener.

"Oh, no," was the reply. "A black pearl was taken from these fisheries in 1881 that brought in Paris \$11,000. In 1889 seven black pearls were exhibited at the World's Fair in Paris, which were sold for \$22,000. These came from the Gulf of California, near Guaymas. The gulf is noted for its fancy pearls, that is, the colored, and especially the black ones. There is a collection of pearls in this State that shows them of all colors from pure white to peacock green, and from perfect spheres to the pear and other shapes. Some remarkable pearls are owned in California, and especially in the City of Mexico, where many of the pearls went sixty years ago. One of the finest pearl necklaces ever seen was owned by the Empress Eugenie. It was composed of 340 pearls of the first water. At that time it was valued at \$150,000. Some magnificent pearls are to be seen in the Cluny Museum—twenty two in number. Philip II. had an American pearl which weighed 250 carats and was valued at \$150,000. In the reign of Charles V. some beautiful pearls were sent to Spain from America.

"Who first manufactured artificial pearls? Why, the Chinese have been famous for many centuries for their production. The French are probably the most expert. Some years ago a lady appeared in public in Paris with pearl ornaments that created much talk. Experts estimated that her necklace was worth \$50,000, and a single pearl which she wore in her hair was priceless. Some months later it was learned that the lady was the daughter of a very clever manufacturer of pearls, who for years had made the gems to order. They were made of wax or other material, and covered with a layer of the glistening matter taken from the scales of certain fishes allied to the herrings. Pearls made in this way were often used by the possessors of pearls of undoubted value when they did not wish to expose themselves to robbery. Not only white, but pink, green and black pearls were produced, and the legitimate industry bade fair to become demoralized. Numbers of men were employed to catch the little fish, others carefully removed the scales and caught the imitation nacre, while others again applied it to the shapes that had been prepared. The Chinese conceived the trick of placing little statues of Buddha in living pearl oysters that became covered with the pearly lustre, which they sold as miraculous objects to the superstitious. In some Australian fisheries Americans took advantage of the natives in a similar way. They placed small china dolls in pearl oysters, and after they had become covered showed them to the natives, who gave them valuable pearls in exchange.

"It would be interesting to know where all the pearls have gone since their use first began. Pearl fishing has been carried on in the Persian Gulf since the time of the Macedonians, and in China it was known 2,200 years before Christ. The Romans were devotedly fond of pearls. Pope Leo X. owned a pearl that was valued at \$70,000, and Julius Caesar presented a pearl to Servilia valued in our money at \$24,000. One of the most remarkable pearls was owned by a prince of Muscat. It was so clear and transparent that light could be seen through it. You see," said the pearl historian in conclusion as he rose from his seat in the boat, "I am interested in pearls, and shall be glad to learn the results of experiments which may be made here."

"That's the Worst of It."

The wife of a vicious idler wept bitterly when her husband was sent to penal servitude for three years. Her grief was obviously insincere, for they had always led a cat and dog life, and the man had regularly sponged upon her, but her sobs were so heartrending that a good lady in the neighborhood stole timidly in to console her.

"Pray do not distress yourself so," said the lady, placing her delicate fingers in the great, coarse hands of the wife. "Three years seems a long sentence, but your husband may not be away the whole period. Convicts who behave themselves are often allowed to come out months before their time."

The woman closed her red and swollen eyes, sighed heavily, and gave her chair a frantic rock.

"That's the worst of it," she groaned. "My husband can be a angel when he likes!"