

A Boy's Hat.

Nothing on this clod of sin ever gets used up quicker than a boy's hat, unless it may be a Congressman's reputation or wealth in a powder mill, and no sight between the nursing bottle and the winding sheet is more rare than one with the semblance of newness in active service on a week day. There is something in a boy's soul that rebels and kicks in mutiny at having to wear a hat of unmarred shape, and the only possible chance of preserving the shape of a new one unimpaired during the first day of its use, would be to strap the boy's arms fast to his sides, pinion his legs, push the hat down to his ears, and make him stand in an empty flour barrel, amply isolated from all walls or shrubbery against which he could bunt his head. This may be a little rough on the boy, but it will save the hat. If any other plan has been adopted with success we have not been apprised of it, or furnished with working plans of the same. We have seen a boy who had been carefully nurtured—with both shingle and slipper—go forth in the morning under a hat of gladsome look and expensive texture, and in the evening of the same day we have seen that same child of destruction march into the house with all the glory of Ichabod taken out of the thing on his head as completely as a combination trip-hammer and threshing machine could have done it, without spraining itself in the attempt. What agency compassed this terrible condition of tattered collapsiveness so speedily mortal man knows not, and probably never will until the tree of knowledge has been plucked bare, and its very roots worked up into tea for brain stimulant. It doesn't matter a pin how lamblike a boy may be, and we don't care a gnat how blue his eyes are, or how much sunlight lingers in his hair, he is the remorseless foe of all new hats, as you will find to your cost by the time he is big enough to throw a stone through a light of glass in the kitchen window. If you have a boy whose bones are not composed entirely of milk, who doesn't fulfill this forecast, slip your hand down the back of his neck, and examine the points of his shoulder-blades for incipient wings. They ought to be discernible in that neighborhood somewhere. Why this is thus is beyond our depth, but that it is so expensively apparent to every parent who has small pantaloons in the family. The nature bottled up in a boy seems to differ even more than day and night, or man and wife, from all other known forms of motive force outside of a street-car stable, in not being amenable to the same laws that seem to control the remainder of the universe, and, although boys have for centuries been nearly as abundant as stars in the Milky Way, we know ten times as much about the movements of the faintest point of light in that celestial footpath as we do about the devious ways of our own male progeny. We understand the causes of eclipse, wind, rain, and the election of Cleveland, and we know to the proximity of well-grounded certainty that Ben Butler became cock-eyed from squinting through the fence at the girls when small; but, men and brethren, what do we know about the origin of that inexplicable cause which prompts every child on the Adam side of the house of David, and Goliath, too, mayhap, to wage such unrelenting war upon everything in headgear with the smell of the shop still upon it? It is humiliating to confess that, with all our knowledge about heaps of things that will never bring us any money, we are still as much in ignorance on the boy question as the man in the moon himself. How much consolation can we find in the fact that we know why a planet stays in its orbit, if we are to remain forever ignorant about the goings and comings of our own masculine descendant, and what the mischief he's been doing with his hat? Will it prolong the color and tenacity of your hair and promote its growth, to say nothing of removing dandruff and giving life to the scalp, to know that it takes light a million years to get here from headquarters in some instances, if you are to remain in the dark ever more concerning matters that occur with exasperating frequency within a yard of your own nostrils? There may be a science or two that we have not yet found time to fully master, or some of the lumbermen in Michigan may possess information not yet sent to the front; but from all the data in hand at present we very much doubt if the sum of all earthly wisdom—in addition to what is already known in Chicago and conjectured in Milwaukee—is equal to the call made upon it by the question of juvenile depravity as applied to hats. Or, to state the matter with still greater conciseness, it is the opinion of one lumber boomer in the hive of popular thought, that at sunrise this morning there was not sufficient information above high-water mark to make it as clear as a sunbeam why a boy feels more at home under an old dishrag of a thing not fit for a gun-swab, than he does with a hat on his head worth two of the hardest dollars ever minted. There may be some things that we know fully, and with a good deal more comprehensiveness than a bachelor understands that a baby is a baby; but on this foggy question we are still tossed about by the deluge of ignorance, and don't know any more about the why and the wherefore of the same than we do about the ring price of wheat on the planet Saturn at this minute.—*Chicago Ledger*.

A Modern Solomon.

The strained relations which existed under the Folger regime between Assistant Secretary New and Appointment Clerk Butler were matters of public comment, and frequently led to ludicrous scenes. Appointments made in the department required to be countersigned by the Assistant Secretary after they left the appointment division. This led to endless bickering and quarrels. One day a laborer employed in the vaults of the Treasury applied to Mr. New to be detailed to do some work less trying to his health. He wanted to be transferred to the top story of the building, he said. As he was a protege of New, his request was granted without trouble, of course. New directed an order to be drawn and indorsed on the back:

"This man goes up stairs. John C. New, Assistant Secretary."

In due course of time the order reached the appointment division. Butler saw New's indorsement. That was enough. He at once sent for the man.

"You want to go up stairs?"

"Yes, sir."

"And you have seen the Assistant Secretary about it?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, I'll have something to say about this."

Before the astonished man could recover his breath Mr. Butler had put under Mr. New's indorsement the words:

"This man goes down stairs. J. B. Butler, Appointment Clerk."

The paper was sent back to the office of the Assistant Secretary. Mr. New looked with some surprise at Mr. Butler's order countermanding his own. Then he quietly drew his pen across it and once more wrote:

"This man goes up stairs. John C. New, Assistant Secretary."

Again the paper went back to the appointment division. Butler glanced at it for a moment, and again he wrote:

"This man goes down stairs. J. B. Butler, Appointment Clerk."

This harmless little game was kept up for some time, until the paper had been filled with Messrs. New and Butler's indorsements. Then, at last, these gentlemen thought it best to refer the matter to Secretary Folger. He listened calmly to the statements of the rivals, and after a few moments of reflection delivered the following judgment, worthy, surely, of a Solomon: "Gentlemen," he said, "I shall order the man to be employed on the elevator. This will be in the nature of a compromise. Half of his time there will be spent down stairs, the other half up stairs. The case is dismissed."—*New York Tribune*.

The Sexes in a Russian Province.

In the Russian province of Courland etiquette is excessively rigorous. Stiff bows form the nearest approach to cordiality here permitted between young unmarried people of opposite sexes. Very few opportunities are afforded them of being better acquainted. Even at dancing parties the gentleman is supposed to quit his partner immediately on the conclusion of a polka or waltz. Girls are kept under constant supervision from the moment of birth to that of betrothal. Unmarried ladies are not supposed to occupy the seat of honor on the sofa. Betrothal entirely changes all this formality into a really objectionable exhibition of sentiment. Billing and cooing, caresses, and endearments are indulged in in public without the least regard to delicacy and good taste.

SIR JOSEPH FAYRER, President of the British Medical Society, says that in every Himalayan village the native babies are kept asleep for hours, while their mothers are at work, by placing them in a trough and causing a stream of water to trickle on their heads. But the good old custom of smearing babies' fingers with molasses and then giving them a few hen's feathers to pick from one hand to another is not to be equaled up any such Hindoo-heathen method as the above.

If you will talk out of but one corner of your mouth at once, somebody may suspect you of having ordinary intelligence.

"He who is false to present duty," says Henry Ward Beecher, "breaks a thread in the loom, and will find the flaw when he may have forgotten its cause." A case in point occurs to us. Mr. Wm. Ryer, of 87 Jefferson street, Buffalo, N. Y., recently told a reporter that, "I had a large abscess on each ear, that kept continually discharging for twenty years. Nothing did me any good except Dr. Pierce's 'Golden Medical Discovery.' It cured me." Here is a volume expressed in few words. Mr. Ryer's experience is entitled to our readers' careful attention.—*The Sun*.

YOUNG lovers don't mind addition, but they despise the rule of three.—*Texas Sifters*.

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In the bright lexicon of the district messenger youth there is such a word as snail.

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Modern Architecture.

Mr. W. M. Armitage, architectural draughtsman, No. 402 Montgomery street, San Francisco, California, writes that having a very severe cough, which he found it difficult to remove, he tried Red Star Cough Cure, and after a few doses was completely cured. Encouraged by this remarkable result, he gave it to the young members of his family who were sick from a like cause, and it produced similar effects upon them. He recommends its use in every household.

Marrying for Money.

I had a conversation with a very clever and attractive New York lady, who, among other misfortunes, was afflicted with \$2,000,000. She said she would never marry, because she would not believe that any man wanted her for any other reason than her gold. "And what," I asked, "do you lose thereby? If a gentleman takes you because you are so pretty, the small pox, a fall from a horse, any accident, may destroy your beauty, and where will his love be if it is for that reason only he took you? If another one falls in love with you because you are so fresh, so young, so lively, time is safe to destroy that, and your hold on him is lost. But if he takes you for your money, you need only beware of dangerous speculations, and you will always keep the charm that brought him to your feet, and you have nothing to fear." "That is one way of looking at it," she said; and so completely did she embrace my opinion that barely a year after I received an invitation to her wedding with an English nobleman.—*Temple Bar*.

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