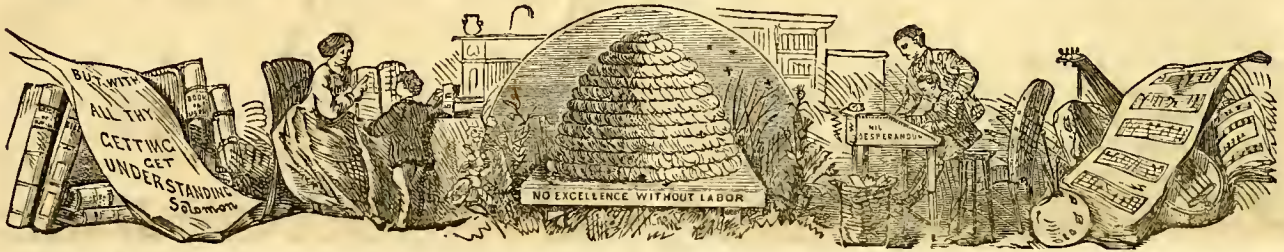


# The Juvenile Instructor <sup>105</sup>



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SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 15, 1868.

NO. 14.

## PLAYING WITH FIRE-ARMS.

THE first thought that strikes one in looking at the engraving we give below, is that the pretty little girl, who stands on tiptoe watching her brother, is in great peril. You perceive that the muzzle of the pistol is pointed at her head. It makes us shudder to think of the danger she is in; yet she does not seem to be aware of it. If her brother had his hand on the lock, we would be still more afraid; but he has hold of the stock, and appears to be examining the lock. After he has looked at it awhile he may take hold of it. If he should, and the pistol should be loaded, then he or his sister might get shot; for he is too small a boy to know much about fire-arms. You see he is but a little boy, he has to stand upon a stool to reach the drawer in which his father keeps his pistols. It seems they have got tired of playing with the toys their parents have given them. There is a "Noah's ark," and a number of the animals with which it was filled, lying on the floor. On the corner of the table is a figure of "Punch." Poor "Punch" is thrown aside for something more attractive.

Their parents could not have left the pistols for them to play with. They are not proper playthings for children. This little boy and

girl must have thought about the pistols being in the drawer and gone to it themselves. Do you think they are doing right in playing with these pistols?

Children should never touch fire-arms of any kind. Many serious and dreadful accidents have happened through the careless handling of pistols and guns. We read, not long ago, of a boy who shot his little sister, also of a man who shot his wife. They were in fun, and did not think of killing them. They probably thought the guns which they pointed at them were not loaded.

We recollect reading, when we were a boy, of a young man accidentally shooting a young lady who was to have been married to him. He had been out hunting, and before entering the house he had fired off both barrels of his shot-gun, and placed it in his room. His servant came into the room shortly afterwards, and took the gun and loaded it to shoot some rats in the stable. He did not see any, so he brought it back loaded, and placed it where he found it. His master returned to the room, and was soon joined by the young lady. In a playful mood he picked up his gun, cocked it, pointed it at her and pulled the trigger. To his great horror the



gun went off, and his intended wife, whom he loved so dearly, and for whom he would readily have died, fell at his feet covered with blood. He had killed her! This dreadful occurrence saddened and embittered his whole after life.

No person should ever point a weapon at another, even if they know that it is unloaded. It is not a safe practice. We narrowly escaped being shot by our own rifle when coming to the valley in 1847, though there was no cap on the gun at the time. Some pistols are what are called self-cockers; that is, they can be fired off by merely pulling the trigger. Such weapons must be handled carefully even by men who are in the habit of using pistols; but they would be most dangerous in the hands of a child even for a second.

We trust the little folks in the engraving met with no accident, and we are sure that when their parents returned they told them what risks they ran, and warned them against doing so again.

## THE STORY OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

*Selected from Jacob Abbott's Writings.*

COLUMBUS had, of course, no means of knowing whether the whole of the distance which yet remained to be explored of the earth's circumference was water or not, but he supposed that a great part of it was land. He thought that India extended much farther round the world toward the east, beyond where any European travelers had been. It might very probably, he thought, extend so far that only a short distance would remain across the Atlantic Ocean to the European shores. At any rate, he resolved that, if in any way he could obtain ships and sailors, he would set sail to the west from Europe, and go on till he came to land.

In forming these plans and designs, Columbus was actuated in a very high degree by the spirit of lofty religious devotion that marked his character. Mingled with this, however, as is very frequent in such cases, there were strong impulses of worldly ambition, and love of wealth and power. He truly thought that, by opening a near way to India by the west, he should promote the glory of God and advance his kingdom; but he also intended, at the same time, to acquire glory for himself and a lofty position in the world. So he went to one after another of the princes and kings of the countries in that part of Europe, made known to them his plans, and asked their assistance in executing them. He explained to them the reasons which led him to believe that there was a short way to India across the Atlantic to the west, and that a vast increase of power and boundless wealth would be the reward of the nation that should first discover and open it. He showed them that India must be accessible in that direction from the very form of the earth; and the confines of it, he was convinced, must be near. The most westerly lands that were known in that direction were the Azores and Cape de Verd Islands; and on these islands great trees, he said, had sometimes drifted in from the west, and pieces of carved wood; and once the bodies of two men different in color and visage from any of the inhabitants of the then known world, had been washed up on the shores from the sea. These things proved not only that there was land in that direction, but that it could not be at any great distance.

For ten or twelve long years Columbus persevered in vain and fruitless attempts to induce some of the kings or princes of Europe to adopt his plans. It would not have comported with his views to go out on the expedition under a commission from private persons only. He wished to be clothed with authority

from some reponsible and powerful government to take possession of and govern the countries that he should discover. At last he succeeded in inducing the Queen of Spain to listen to his plans. Her name was Isabella. Her husband was Ferdinand. Ferdinand was opposed to the plan, but Isabella became greatly interested in it, so much so that she said at last that if the king would not consent to furnish money from the treasury to procure and equip the ships, she would pawn her jewels for the purpose, and sell her crown of Castile. Castile had been her own kingdom before her marriage with Ferdinand, though by her marriage it was united with his, to form what is the present kingdom of Spain.

Queen Isabella thought, however, that the demands which Columbus made for himself were somewhat extravagant and unreasonable, and for a long time she refused to accede to them. What he demanded was to be made admiral and viceroy over all the lands he should discover.

The office of viceroy is an office of the most exalted character, and is seldom conferred upon any except the very highest nobility. Isabella was extremely unwilling to confer it upon Columbus, who though an intelligent and well educated man, still belonged to the middle classes of society. He was, however, firm in his refusal to engage in the enterprise at all except on that condition, and so Isabella finally consented to it.

Isabella furnished Columbus with two small vessels, and he himself, with the aid of some friends of his, provided a third. Thus he had a little fleet of three vessels. These vessels were fitted for sea at a small sea-port town in Spain called Palos, and when all was ready Columbus set sail. The time when the little squadron put to sea was about midsummer in the year 1492.

The vessels which Columbus was provided with were very small. They were of the kind called *caravels*, used in those days for voyages along the coast. They had no decks, and were fitted with oars as well as sails. It is astonishing that Columbus could have succeeded in crossing the wide Atlantic in them.

Columbus sailed first for the Canary Islands, which lay toward the south, off the coast of Africa, about one thousand miles from his place of embarkation. He reached these islands in safety, and stopped there a little time to rest his sailors and refit his ships. It was about a month after he sailed from Spain that he took his final departure from the Canaries, and turned the course of his ships toward the west over the boundless ocean. The crews of his ships were half afraid to go, but his calm and quiet resolution reassured them.

They went on without any thing serious occurring for about six hundred miles. It took thirteen days to accomplish this distance. They then found, to their great surprise and alarm, that the compass, which was their only guide when the sky was cloudy, seemed to fail them. They could see at night, when the north star was shining, that it did not point right. It is true it did not deviate very far, but when it once began to wander, who could tell how far its aberrations might proceed? And how awful they thought would be their condition if, while out on that boundless waste of waters a thousand miles from any shore, their only safe and sure reliance in finding their way were to desert them! The sailors were overwhelmed with terror at the danger which threatened them, and insisted on immediately turning toward home.

Columbus, however, succeeded in quieting their fears in some measure so as still to continue the voyage. He told them that he understood the nature of the deviation of the compass, and that it could not proceed very far. The needle would always, he said, point near enough toward the north to be a very safe guide for them. This was, in fact, true, though it is somewhat doubtful how far Columbus actually knew it to be true at that time.

The men, however, were reassured again by the courage, resolution, and energy of their commander, and they consented to proceed. After this they went on very pleasantly for many days. The sea was smooth, the air was balmy, and the wind was fair. Sometimes they passed great fields of sea-weed floating in the water. This was a sign of land; for sea-weed grows only on the margin of the shore. They saw birds, too, from time to time wheeling in the air around the ship, or sweeping down and dipping the tips of their wings in the crests of the waves. Columbus was sure that they were approaching some shore.

But now the breeze gradually died away, and there fell a calm. The calm continued for many days. The ships lay helpless and motionless on the sea. They had oars, it is true, but the progress which could be made with oars would be too slow to make it worth the effort to attempt to use them. The sailors soon became more impatient than ever. While the ships were going forward on their way, and they themselves were employed in their various duties, their minds were diverted in some measure from their fears, and from their longings for home; but after the calm had continued for some days, they became so home-sick and discontented that they were ready to break out into mutiny. Columbus had great difficulty in subduing this rebellious spirit. He, however, did subdue it; and partly by threats, and partly by persuasions and promises, he induced them to persevere.

(To be Continued.)

For the Juvenile Instructor.

## WAR AND ITS VICTIMS.

**M**OST of the little readers of the INSTRUCTOR are old enough to remember something about the war between the North and the South, which commenced in 1860 and ended in 1865, and the many bloody battles that took place during that war. You know very little, however, compared with those children who lived near the scenes of strife, and who heard every day horrible tales of slaughter and bloodshed; those children, whose fathers and brothers left their homes and friends to return again no more, or if to return, to come wounded and perhaps maimed for life. Come with me, and we will visit a happy home; we will look in upon the family there assembled before war has come to claim its share of their little household band. There, around the table in the cheerful sitting room, are assembled six persons, all happy and smiling and busily employed. At the head of the little group sits the father; next, the mother; and then there is brother Charles, noble and manly looking, who is very studious, and seems to be busy with his books, but every little while lays them aside and chats pleasantly with his parents, or amuses his little sister. Then there is sister May, who is two years younger than Charles, and is now sixteen years of age; by her side are two little sisters whom she is teaching a lesson in Arithmetic. How happy they all look; how useful they all seem, as they are there assembled together after their day's work is done! Can it be possible that in a few months the scene will be changed—O how changed; that that little circle is to be thinned, that those loving ones are to be separated—the father and brother to be no longer in their midst?

The papers are filled with exciting news; South Carolina has seceded from the Government, her people are rebels; the first gun has been fired and war is declared! Then comes the call for volunteers,

"To fight in their country's cause,  
And teach obedience to its laws."

That father and brother must go; they feel it to be their duty; their once lovely and peaceful country is groaning under the evils of civil war, and they must lend a helping hand.

A regiment of soldiers is being formed in their neighborhood; every day adds numbers to its ranks. The drums are beating and calling for more men, and they, with others, add their names to the list; they are sworn in as members of the regiment. Two weeks are spent in drilling; they are taught to march and halt with military exactness, and then the last day comes, the day for bidding adieu to happy home and loved ones. How hard it is for them to leave those they most love! yet it must be so. The good byes are said; the partings are over, and they go away filled with hopes, fears, and misgivings, so uncertain is life in war.

They arrive at the battle field; they are called into action; they face their enemies and fight with vigor. The bullets fly around them and over them; their comrades fall at their sides; they are safe, and escape this time without a wound. Their army has won the battle, and victory is proclaimed. A letter is sent home announcing their escape from the peril of the fight. With what expectancy is that letter received, with what thankful hearts it is read! Father and brother are alive and well, but, alas, for how long! Another battle and like many before them, they, too, fall; they die upon the battle field; they cannot ever escape the perils of war.

News of the battle reaches their home, and that household, which we once beheld so happy, is plunged into mourning; gloom and sadness reign there; the wife and mother has no longer a husband and son, the daughters and sisters have no longer a father and brother. Thus many homes were made desolate by the war; thus many wives, mothers and sisters were made to mourn the loss of husbands, sons and brothers.

How thankful the children of Utah ought to be for their happy homes here among the mountains, that their parents obeyed the commands of God and gathered out from the midst of the wicked that they might not partake of their sins nor have part in the trouble that was to come among them! The wicked would not hearken to the teachings of God's chosen, but killed their prophets and drove the saints from their homes. They will receive their reward; for the Lord has said, unless they repent of their sins, I will vex the nation sorely.

RAMTHA.

**AN ELEPHANT NURSING A BABY.**—It seems that the elephant has been taught to take care of babies. A gentleman who spent some twelve years in India says: "I have seen a woman give a young child to an elephant to take care of while she went about some other business. It amused me not a little to see the sagacity and care of the unwieldy nurse. The child, who, like most children, did not care to lie still long in one position, as soon as it was left to itself, would begin creeping about on the ground. Sometimes it would get entangled among the legs of the elephant or in the branches of the trees upon which the animal was feeding; when the elephant, in the most tender manner, would relieve the little one, either by lifting him out of the way with his trunk, or by removing the obstacles to its progress. If the child crept to such a distance as to get almost out of the reach of the animal—for he was confined by a chain—he would stretch out his trunk and lift the infant back, as gently as possible, to the spot from which it had strayed away."—*The Children's Hour.*

The tongue is inclosed by the teeth—as with a wall—and guarded by the lips—as with sentinels—so that it may not be suffered to run wild.

# The Juvenile Instructor.

GEORGE Q. CANNON, : EDITOR.

JULY 15, 1868.

## EDITORIAL THOUGHTS.



OW very thankful ought all the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to be that they live at a time like the present! Do you, children, ask why they should be so thankful? We will tell you. For upwards of fourteen hundred years—that is, since the day of Moroni—there has been no prophet, of whom we know anything, who has stood among the people and given them the word of the Lord. When God sent His Son to the earth, the people killed Him. They would not listen to His word; they would not accept Him, nor endure His presence. He chose apostles and other servants, and filled them with His Spirit and gave them power to declare the truth. But they would not have them. They persecuted them; they waged war against them, and killed every one whom they could. John, the beloved disciple, was the only one, that we have any account of, whom they did not kill. They tried to kill him, but God preserved his life; for Jesus promised him that he should live. Peter, who became the President of the Church after the death of the Lord Jesus, was crucified at Rome. He did not consider himself worthy to die as his Master did, and he besought his enemies to crucify him with his head down, which they did. Paul also was killed at the same city. His head was cut off. The other apostles, we are told, all died by violence at the hands of their enemies. The world would not let inspired servants of God live; but hunted them and killed them off like so many wild beasts.

When the people had done this, they built up a church and churches in which there were neither apostles nor prophets. Churches of this kind suited them. There was no man to whom God could reveal His will in its fullness and plainness. God was not known, only as the people read about Him in the records which those who knew him in former days had left. There was no voice heard from Heaven; no angels visited man to teach him God's will; the Holy Ghost was not poured out; its gifts were not enjoyed. Man had rejected God, had killed those whom He had sent unto them, and He left them to themselves.

For hundreds of years they were in this state. But they could not always remain in such a dreadful condition. The Lord had promised that in the last days he would reveal himself again unto the children of men. He did reveal himself unto Joseph Smith. Angels came from heaven. The Church was organized on the earth with an inspired man at its head. Apostles and prophets once more ministered among men. The Holy Ghost was bestowed upon those who repented of their sins and were baptized, and the gifts of the gospel were received by them.

This was a glorious day for those who loved the Lord and desired to do his will. They need not grope in the dark any longer. Light had come from heaven, and it shone upon their pathway. Their course was plain and clear. They could ask counsel from the Lord and receive it through him whom He had chosen to be His prophet. For such blessings as these,

are we not right in saying that the members of this Church should be thankful? Certainly we are. And if the people who now live upon the earth could see the blessings which God, our heavenly Father, has placed within their reach, they would cause the earth and heavens to resound with His praises.

Children, how do you feel? Are you thankful unto the Lord for permitting you to live at a time like the present? You read in the last number of the INSTRUCTOR about "Joshua and the Gibeonites." In that article we told you of the cunning of the Gibeonites in deceiving the children of Israel. And the Israelites would not have been thus deceived, if they had asked counsel of the Lord. They did not ask his counsel, and you know what followed; they made a covenant with a people whom the Lord had commanded them to destroy.

A people who live at a time when God has prophets on the earth, and of whom they can ask counsel, are greatly blessed. It is because of this that the Latter-day Saints are so much prospered. When they follow the counsel of the Lord, they never see trouble; the wicked never gain any advantage over them. But when they are careless, hard-hearted and disobedient, then their troubles increase and they fall into serious difficulty. Remember this through your lives, children. God has placed a prophet in His Church to counsel His people; it is your duty and the duty of every person to listen to what he says, and to obey it. If you do this, you will be happy in this life, and in the life to come you will be permitted to dwell with God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

## CHILDREN'S GAMES.

A FAVORITE amusement with my children is to say, "Guess what I see in the room?" beginning with giving the initial letter of something in the room; each child is allowed to guess in rotation till one is successful, when the child has the privilege of giving out the next thing to be guessed.

This game will commend itself to mothers who are very busy, as it does not in the least interfere with their work, even if they participate, as I often do, in the game.

My children have been interested in it for hours together; often puzzling their elders, contributing greatly to the amusement of us all.

I remember an instance in which our little seven-years' old daughter gave out "G S."

Her comrades all tried it many times in despair, came to mamma; even she could find nothing in the room answering to the initials, grandma and great-grandma tried in vain.

Our little puzzler was in ecstasies, and all the others much chagrined, and obliged to confess themselves unable to solve the question.

Grease spot it proved to be; our little girl had discovered a small one on the carpet.

When they tire of this, I say, "My ship is coming in loaded with—," naming some article beginning with A.

They go on, each naming in turn something beginning with that letter, till they can think of no more; then they take B, and so on, through the alphabet.

Mamma's dignity will not be at all compromised by taking part in these simple amusements and the little ones will enjoy them much better than if playing by themselves.

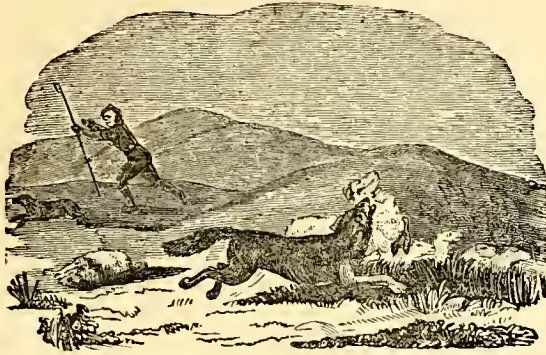
They have also several sets of the alphabet, cut singly. One child selects the letters necessary to spell any word which she chooses, without naming it, and, after mixing them together, requires another to place them in proper order to spell the word.

These games are, of course, adapted only to those who know something of spelling, but will tend to improve them in that art and they possess the desirable qualifications of amusing without noise or trouble, and make no litter.—*Little Corporal.*

For the Juvenile Instructor.

THE SHEPHERD BOY AND THE WOLF.

ABOUT two thousand five hundred years ago their lived in Athens, the chief city of Greece, a slave named Æsop. He had not only the misfortune to be a slave, but some say he was deformed also. He was blessed, however, with much wisdom and wit, and is said to be the author of a great many fables which have been translated into a great many languages for the benefit of the little folks of many nations. Fables, as no doubt many of you know, are little stories in which animals, rocks, trees, etc., are represented as speaking and acting, on purpose to teach mankind some wise lesson, or give them some good advice. Our picture is to illustrate one of these well known fables, called the Shepherd Boy and the Wolf. It runs something like this:



Once upon a time there lived, in a country where there were a great many wolves, a boy, who was hired by a farmer to herd his sheep. These fierce wolves would sometimes attack the herd of sheep and kill and devour numbers of them and their lambs. Whenever any wolves came near a flock, it was the duty of the shepherd boy to give the alarm by calling out loudly, "wolf, wolf!" so that the laborers at work in the fields near by might come to his help and drive away the wolves. The boy we have spoken of was very wicked, for he would often cry "wolf, wolf," when there was no wolf near. This would cause the laborers to leave off their work and come running to drive away the wolves. Then the bad boy would laugh at them, for there were no wolves, and he thought it was fine fun to deceive them thus. After he had done this a number of times, the men would not believe him when he cried "wolf, wolf," and did not go to his help. At last the wolves did come; in vain he cried "wolf, wolf;" all thought he was lying, and remained at their work; and the poor sheep and lambs were torn to pieces, and the boy himself barely escaped.

The moral of this fable is: a liar is scarcely believed even when he speaks the truth.

CHILDREN "put things" very happily sometimes. George was very piously trained; but he had a strong will and disliked very much to yield. When he was disobedient his mother was accustomed to make him stand in a corner of the room till he was repentant. One night, after he had been more than usually stubborn, he knelt to say his evening prayer, and made this petition.

"Oh, Lord, bless Georgy and make him a good boy; and don't let him be naughty again never—no, *nev r*, 'cause you know, Lord, when he is naughty he *sticks to it!*"

GOOD-NATURE, like the bee, collects sweetness from every flower; while ill-nature, like the spider, finds only poison.

Chemistry of Common Things.

For the Juvenile Instructor.

AIR.

IT has been seen that water is a compound of oxygen and hydrogen; we have thus learned two of the letters of the alphabet of chemistry. Atmospheric air is also a compound; oxygen is one of its elements: one part of oxygen to four parts of nitrogen—a word which means, "that which enters into the formation of nitre." Nitrous oxide is a gas made of the same elements which exist in common air, containing a larger proportion of oxygen. This gas is used by scientific dentists, to render their patients insensible to pain. When this gas is inhaled, or drawn into the lungs, it sometimes produces a kind of intoxication; laughter, dancing, shouting and other expressions of delight being indulged in. This probably gave rise to its popular name of "laughing gas"—this was before teeth were extracted under its influence.

Air is a transparent and elastic fluid which surrounds the earth and envelopes everything upon its surface. When it moves rapidly it has great power, and ships, wind-mills etc., are set in motion by it—it is then called wind. When it moves with great velocity, trees, houses, and even the largest buildings have been thrown down by it—it is then called a hurricane. Although unseen by the eye its presence may be known in many ways: birds are borne upward upon it; feathers and other light substances float in it; and the clouds are supported by it. Without it fire could not burn, animal life could not exist; and chemistry enables us to determine *why* it is life-sustaining and flame-supporting, in its nature. If you put a glass upside down on a plate, with a piece of lighted wax candle under it, and pour sufficient water in the plate to prevent the fresh air from entering the glass, when the oxygen is consumed the candle will go out. If, in this experiment, a mouse or any small animal were placed under the glass, instead of the candle going out, when the oxygen was expended, the animal would die. This proves that fresh air is necessary to sustain life and flame.

It is, then, the oxygen which sustains life—without oxygen the candle will not burn. Increase the draught of your stove, more oxygen is supplied, more light and heat are produced. Shut off animal beings from fresh supplies of oxygen, and they droop and die. Three minutes of existence without this acid-former, this vivifier, or giver of life, and the strongest man is irrecoverably dead! In close, ill-ventilated rooms *we begin to die*. The air becomes impure; every pair of lungs, every candle, every fire is greedily devouring oxygen. Where does the oxygen go to? Is it lost? No, there is no element lost throughout the universe! Look at the water trickling down the windows and the walls—hydrogen, from the fuel, has united with the oxygen to form water; if you want to see the other change, you see it in the results—languid looks and general prostration of strength; sometimes in the fatal sign of fainting, and, even of death!

What is this great destroyer of life? Carbonic acid gas. Oxygen has united with carbon to form it. What is carbon? An element which is exceedingly curious. It may be seen in charred wood;—the literal meaning of the word is "charcoal." But it is seen in its purity in the beautiful, sparkling diamond—a precious stone of the most valuable kind.

Fresh air, then is necessary, because, when we breathe, oxygen is supplied to the blood of our bodies in the lungs.

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The blood absorbs the oxygen and leaves the nitrogen to pass off again with the breath. The blood not only retains the oxygen, but it throws off the carbonic acid gas, which would poison the blood if retained. This passes away in the breath. The effect produced by the oxygen being absorbed into the blood, is to carry it into the various parts of the body through the arteries and veins, there to unite with the carbon of the blood, producing a fresh supply of heat; and thus the warmth of our bodies is maintained. We know the result: carbonic acid gas is produced, to be removed, as we have seen, in the breath.

If we are curious enough to prove this, breathe through a tube (a piece of hollow cane will do) into some lime-water (this may be made by slacking some quick lime in rain water.) The lime-water will become cloudy. The carbonic acid unites with the lime held in solution, and forms carbonate of lime, or "common chalk," which is a white substance, and may be collected, if allowed to settle.

The atmosphere itself does not become impure, because plants breathe carbonic acid through their leaves; they also absorb it through their roots. They retain the carbon and reject the oxygen. Thus, what is called equilibrium is maintained; that is, "an exact balance" in the elements. If there were no animals on the earth, vegetables would suffer, for they thrive upon carbon. If there were no vegetables, animals would suffer, for they require oxygen.

Nitrogen is also an important element in relation to animals, for it unites with many substances which we live upon. The food has to contain not only fuel, which, as we have seen, is the carbon of the blood, but it requires nourishment. Nitrogenous food is nourishing to the flesh, or muscular part of the body. We could not live long upon food made up entirely of carbon and hydrogen, for they supply warmth only to the body. Potatoes contain starch which, chemically, is carbon and water; that is, carbon, and hydrogen and oxygen in the proportions which form water. When we eat starch in potatoes, sago, arrowroot, rice and corn-meal, we are laying in fuel to be burnt in the body, to keep up the animal heat, as it is called, which is precisely the same as any other heat. When nitrogen comes in contact with starch under favorable circumstances, it converts it into sugar. All ferments contain nitrogen, and they are used by man to change the nature of substances. Yeast is used to make bread; the starch is changed, and fermentation ensues. Malt is made by a natural change, resulting from the presence of nitrogen. The malt is then steeped in water, yeast is added, fermentation follows and spirit is produced. This would fly off in the air, but it is detained by man, by distillation, in the form of whisky. Sometimes beer is made;—if beer is distilled, spirit is produced. Whisky is carbon and hydrogen principally; it will burn in the spirit-lamp and it will burn in our *bodies*. Those who drink it as a beverage do not nourish the body, for *carbon will not dissolve in the blood*; it has to be converted into sugar first. It is too late when taken into the stomach in the form of spirit. The change has already been made, of starch into sugar, and sugar into alcohol, or "spirit," which is poison!

The subject of air is a very wide one, and it can be viewed in many other than in chemical aspects. The levity, or "lightness" of hydrogen, causes it to rise in atmospheric air; this is taken advantage of by man, and the air-balloon is the result. The elasticity, or "power of returning to its former state when compressed," which air possesses, has enabled man to make the pneumatic railway, and many ingenious contrivances for rapidly conveying letters, etc., through tubes. Air is also the vehicle for rain, hail, snow, etc. The phenomena of thunder, lightning, the "falling stars" or meteors, all have to do with air. But these belong to other departments of study. How

useful is air to warn us of danger when offensive odors betray the presence of some, perhaps unseen, but deadly foe, when noxious vapors are poisoning the atmosphere. How grateful do we feel when the perfume of the rose, mixed with the fragrance of a thousand flowers, steals upon our senses!

BETH.

For the Juvenile Instructor.

### "THE SWORD OF THE LORD, AND OF GIDEON."

**T**ODAY we propose to speak of one of the judges whom God raised up to deliver Israel from the hands of their enemies. His name was Gideon.

Gideon, the fifth judge in Israel, was the son of Joash, of the tribe Manassah. He resided at Ophrah in Gilead, east of the river Jordan. He ruled Israel in the name of the Lord for 40 years, and was blessed with many wives who bore him seventy sons. How many daughters he had we are not told. He died rather more than twelve hundred years before the coming of Christ, and was buried in the sepulcher of his fathers.

We will now relate to you the causes which led to Gideon being made the leader and judge of Israel.

In the days when Gideon was a youth, Israel had forsaken the Lord to worship Baal and other idol gods of their neighbors. The result was God delivered them into the hands of the Midianites and their wandering Arab allies, who for seven years running invaded the lands of the Israelites at harvest time. They gathered their crops, they plundered and trampled down their fields, their vineyards and their gardens; they drove off and killed their sheep, their oxen and their beasts of burden, and rioted unmolested wherever they chose to go; leaving behind them naught but a barren waste, dotted with the desolate homes of the Hebrews. This destruction was of course followed by famine, which the Israelites were powerless to prevent in the dens and caves and strongholds of the mountains to which they had fled. They were weak, for the Lord had left them to themselves, and they were but a handful to the hosts of Midian who came up like unto grasshoppers on the land for numbers, and whose camels were as numerous as the sand on the sea shore.

In this extremity Israel turned to God. He heard them and sent a prophet to them, who reproved them for their folly and recalled to their minds the power and goodness of God so often manifested in their behalf.

The Lord next sent an angel to Gideon. The message he bore was that he (Gideon) was the chosen of Heaven to deliver Israel. It was some time before Gideon would undertake the task. He felt his littleness and feared the power of Midian. God however condescended to visit him in various ways. At last Gideon commenced his work. He cut down the grove of Baal and destroyed its altar near his father's house. He then sacrificed to the true God. This act nearly cost him his life; for some of the worshippers of Baal sought to destroy him; but afterwards left it to Baal to avenge his own injuries, which, of course, he had no power to do, as he only existed in the minds of his worshippers. Gideon now felt strengthened for his task. He sent forth a call to the tribes of Manassah, Asher, Zebulon, and Naphtali. Thirty-two thousand of these tribes gathered to his standard. These were too many to fulfil the purposes of the Lord. He knew that if he permitted so many to march against Midian they would take the honor and the glory of the victory to themselves. So Gideon, by His command, sent back all who were afraid of the foe and lacked faith in their mission. Twenty-two thousand returned to their homes. There were still too many. Ten thousand were more than the Lord

desired, the number must be reduced. Then He spoke again to Gideon, and told him to take his men down to some neighboring water and watch them drink. Those who kneeled down to drink he sent home, those who lapped like dogs he retained. Three hundred only lapped water. These were sufficient for the Lord of Hosts, who directed Gideon how to proceed.

To each man was given a trumpet, a lamp, and a pitcher. These were their weapons of war instead of sword, spear and shield. When night came the Lord was still near by, and he instructed Gideon what use to make of these strange implements of warfare. The Israelites were told when they reached the Midianite camp, on a given signal, to break their pitchers, wave their lamps, blow their horns, shout their watch cry, and make a terrible and strange noise all together. The time for action arrived, midnight was past and the armies of Midian lay silent in slumber. On a sudden they started and awoke. There was a noise in their midst that was strange to their ears. It was not the rushing of a mighty wind; it was not the roaring of the distant thunder; it was not the tumultuous flow of swollen water; but it was terrible to them, for they knew not what it was nor from whence it came. A moment after a multitude of glimmering lights shone in their half opened eyes, a sound of many trumpets rent the air, and all around them they heard the voices of the men of Israel shouting the terrible watch cry: "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." Gideon indeed was amongst them, and his name struck terror to their hearts.

It was dark and the Midianites could see nothing save the lights of what they feared was a vast army rushing upon them. In all their camp there was naught but confusion and dismay. Each man seized his weapon and sought to escape as best he could from the confused multitude of men, horses and camels, who, in their terror, were destroying one another. When that mad flight was ended, Midian had lost one hundred and twenty thousand of her sons; while Israel, aroused by the news of their flight, waylaid and destroyed the remnants of their hosts until there were none left to pollute the soil of Canaan. Then Gideon returned to his home in peace, all the enemies of the Lord being overthrown. But headstrong Ephraim, ever longing for a fight, endeavored to raise a quarrel with him for not calling them to his help. If they could not fight Midian, they would fight Manassah. But Gideon, with flattering words, appeased their wrath, and escaped the misfortune of having to fight them, which Jephthah had to do for the same reason some years afterwards.

And there was peace in Israel all the days of Gideon.

If ever our hearts should shrink with fear, or beat with alarm at the hearing of the vast multitudes of the wicked arrayed against the Saints, let us recollect Gideon and his three hundred, who, by the help of the Lord, overthrew the hosts of Midian, who, for numbers were like unto grasshoppers on the face of the land; so that no man could number them.

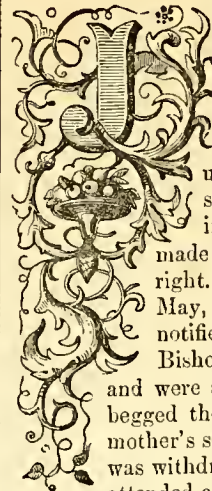
G. R.

HERE is a good lesson from an iron bar. Read it, children: A bar of iron, worth five dollars, worked into horse-shoes is worth \$10,50; made into needles, it is worth \$356; made into pen-knife blades, it is worth \$3,285; made into balance-springs of watches, it is worth \$250,000. What a drilling the poor bar must undergo to reach all that; but hammered, and beaten, and pounded, and polished, how has its value increased! It might well have quivered and complained under the hard knocks it got; but were they not all necessary to draw out its fine qualities, and fit it for higher offices?

And so, my children, all the drilling and training which you are subjected to in youth, and which often seem so hard to you, serve to bring out your nobler and finer qualities, and fit you for more responsible posts and greater usefulness in the world.

## Biography.

### JOSEPH SMITH, THE PROPHET.



JOHN C. BENNETT made an affidavit before Daniel H. Wells, alderman of the City of Nauvoo, "that he never was taught anything in the least contrary to the strictest principles of the gospel, or of virtue, or of the laws of God or man, under any circumstances, or upon any occasion, either directly or indirectly, in word or in deed, by Joseph Smith." When he made this oath he professed to be anxious to do right. The affidavit was made on the 17th of May, 1842. On the 25th of that month he was notified that the First Presidency, Twelve and Bishops had withdrawn fellowship from him, and were about to publish him in the paper. He begged them not to publish him in the paper for his mother's sake; he did this so humbly that the notice was withdrawn from the paper. The next day he attended a meeting at the Masonic Lodge Room, and acknowledged his wicked and licentious conduct; he cried like a child, and said he was worthy of the severest of chastisements; but he begged that he might be spared. His sorrow appeared so deep for the moment, or he pretended to have it, that Joseph plead for mercy, and he was forgiven still.

After this he did not remain long in Nauvoo. As soon as he got off he commenced circulating every kind of slander and falsehood against Joseph and the Saints. According to his statements they were unfit to live. While he was professing to be a member of the Church, and to have great faith in the work, he wrote several fierce articles about the persecutions which the Saints had endured in Missouri. He did not publish his own name to these; but signed them "JOAB, General in Israel." After he left Nauvoo, in writing against Joseph and the Church, he quoted from these articles. He did this to show the public what a treasonable, blood-thirsty people the "Mormons" were; but he took care not to tell them that he was the "Joab" who had written the articles!

Bennett published a book filled with the blackest lies about Joseph and the Saints. This created a little excitement, which, however, did not last long. He was despised by every one who knew him, and those who did not know him, but only heard his stories or read his book, looked upon him as a traitor and bad man. For some years before his death he had fits, which were very violent; he also partly lost the use of his limbs and of his tongue. It was difficult for him to make himself understood. He dragged out a miserable existence, without a person scarcely to take the least interest in his fate, and died a few months ago without a person to mourn his departure. And yet there was a time, probably, when he, like many others before and since, thought that if he should apostatize, the work of God would totter and fall! This is the blindness of apostates—the trick of the devil to lead them to do his bidding. He laughs at their folly, and when they can be no longer used by him, he throws them aside and leaves them to their miserable fate.

Sidney Rigdon and his family sympathized with Bennett; they had partaken of his spirit. The sickness of one of Sidney's daughters, and her wonderful restoration to health, and the reproofs she gave the family, had the effect to stir him up

again to a sense of his duty. But it was only for a little while. This you will learn as you proceed.

On the 6th of May Lilburn W. Boggs, he who was governor of Missouri at the time the Saints were driven out of the State, was shot at and wounded in his house at Independence, Jackson county. On the 20th of July he went before a Justice of the Peace and swore that he believed it was O. P. Rockwell, who had shot him, and he applied to the governor of the State of Missouri to make a demand on the governor of Illinois for the said O. P. Rockwell to be delivered up and brought to Jackson county. On the 8th of August Joseph was arrested by the deputy sheriff of Adams county and two assistants, on a warrant issued by Governor Carlin. The latter was governor of the State of Illinois. Boggs had sworn that Joseph was "an accessory before the fact, to an assault with an intent to kill, made by one O. P. Rockwell on Lilburn W. Boggs." And the governor of the State of Missouri, Reynolds, sent a requisition to Governor Carlin for Joseph and O. P. Rockwell to be given up to him. When they were arrested the Municipal Court of the City of Nauvoo issued a writ of *habeas corpus*, to have Joseph and Brother Rockwell brought before the court. But the officers refused to acknowledge the right of the Municipal Court in the case, and they returned to Governor Carlin for further instructions. The demand for Joseph to be taken to Missouri was unjust and illegal. Even if he had been guilty of the crime of which Boggs accused him there was no law by which he could have been dragged into Missouri to be tried. But this was an excuse. Not satisfied with the sufferings he had already endured in Missouri, they wanted to take him back there, so that they could wreak their vengeance upon him. The charge against Bro. Rockwell and him had no foundation whatever. They were innocent, and Boggs knew it when he swore as he did.

It was stated that Governor Reynolds, of Missouri, was not acquainted with the proceedings; but that Boggs had made oath before a Judge and the latter had made the demand on Governor Carlin. This was not legal, for a Judge had no authority of this kind; it was the governor of the State who should have made the demand. Solomon says: "a prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished." Joseph plainly saw that the plan which had been arranged, by which he was to be arrested, was only a trap, and he determined not to be caught in it. So before the deputy sheriff returned to Nauvoo he thought it wise for him and Brother Rockwell to absent themselves from the city. He first crossed the river to his uncle John Smith's in Iowa, where he stayed. Afterwards he crossed back to the Nauvoo side of the river, and stopped at Brother Edward Sayers'. He remained there until there were rumors in the city that his place of refuge was known. Then he removed to Carlos Granger's. While Joseph was absent from the city there were a great many stories in circulation about the course the officers intended to take to get him. If they could not find him themselves, it was said, they were going to bring to Nauvoo a force of men so numerous that they could search every house, and if he could not be found there, they would search the State, and not rest until they found him.

In reading the documents embodied in Joseph's history of those times we have been peculiarly struck with the sentiments of one of them. It is a letter written by Wilson Law, who was Major General in the Legion, elected in the place of John C. Bennett, and in reply to one written to him by Joseph. He says: "I do respond with my whole heart to every sentiment you have so nobly and so feelingly expressed, and while my heart beats, or this hand which now writes, is able to draw and wield a sword, you may depend on it being at your service in the glorious cause of Liberty and Truth." Would you think,

children, that the man who wrote those words would, in less than eighteen months, be forming plots to kill the man to whom he wrote them? Yet so it was. Wilson Law was a dishonest, wicked man, and he and his brother William, who was one of Joseph's counselors, were very corrupt. They both apostatized, and became two of Joseph's most bitter enemies. They entered into league with the mob, and did more, probably, than any other two men to bring about the murder of Joseph.

(To be Continued.)

## Original Poetry.

For the Juvenile Instructor.

### THE GOOD BOY.

When Willey was a little boy,  
He learn'd to read and spell;  
He always went in time to school,  
And got his lessons well.

What his dear mother bid him do  
He never fail'd to try,  
He never spoke a naughty word,  
And never told a lie.

And when he grew to be a man,  
Good people lov'd him well;  
And of his kind and noble deeds,  
The little children tell.

God lov'd him too; and when he died,  
He took him up above;  
And plac'd him in a happy home,  
Where all is peace and love.

E. R. S.

For the Juvenile Instructor.

### CHARADE.

BY J. E. SHELLEY

I am composed of 16 letters.  
My 3, 13, 4, 1, is a flower.  
My 8, 5, 2, is a part of the body.  
My 12, 1, 15, is a kind of grain.  
My 9, 10, 15, is a number.  
My 6, 16, 11, 10, is a bird.  
My 14, 2, 7, 8, is an article of wearing apparel.  
My whole is a river in the United States.

The answer to the Charade in No. 12 is WATER.

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