



Transcription of *The Little Acorn*, a manuscript newspaper, 1865.

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[Illustration]

The Little Acorn

"Great oaks from little acorns grow."

Volume I November 1865 Number II

What We Ought to Do in School.

We ought to get our lessons, and obey our teacher, and be as still as mice. We ought to try to be so good as we can, and print or arithmetic tables, and our spelling lessons when our teacher tells us to. We ought to get our reading and spelling, our geography and arithmetic perfectly. When the teacher speaks to us, we ought to say "Yes ma'am," or "No ma'am" or whatever it may be. When the teacher asks us to recite a question, we must do it as nicely as we can. When she asks us to do anything we must do it politely whether it is agreeable or not, and when she tells us to take up our books we must take them up quietly. We must be kind to our playmates because our Father in heaven wants us to be good, and we ought to try to please him. We shall please him if we try to be good. Nelly.

What We Ought Not Do in School

We ought not whisper when teacher is not looking, not turn around, not be sly, nor deceive, nor tell a wrong story, nor take anything that does not belong to us. We ought not be noisy nor rude, nor neglect our lessons, nor begin to act noisy if the teacher leaves the room, nor sit, and whisper and play, and then go up in the class and fail.

If we should fail, should not cry, and feel unpleasant about it, but try, and see if we could learn it, for if we should feel cross about it, then we should begin to fail again. We must not waste time in making pictures, or bring books to school to read. We must never laugh if any scholar makes a mistake, nor even tell tales. Fanny.

Fourth of July.

This was a happy day to me. In the morning I got up, and said my prayers. Then I went down stairs. I looked at the clock, and saw that it was half past four, so I combed

my hair and went out to walk. After breakfast I went out to play. Father had bought me some firecrackers, the night before I asked mother if I could have some, and she said I might. Then I went and played with them till dinner time. After dinner I went to the picnic. I had a nice time there and had a good many swings. The very first swing I took, a man pushed me. I was not quite on when he began to push me and I tumbled off. Hannah.

Books.

Paper is made of rags, and books are made of paper. Printers have little letters called types, and print our books with them in a printing press. The paper is sewed together, then the backs are put on, some leather, some cloth, some pasteboard, and some paper. The books I love best are story books. Picture books, readers, spelling books, arithmetics, and geographies are made of paper. Katy.

The School Room at Night.

Once I thought I would come to the school house to get a book which I had left behind. As I unlocked the door, I heard the sound of voices inside; so I stood still and listened and this was what I heard. "Well," said the school clock, "I never saw the like." "What is it?" said the stove pipe, while the maps flattened upon their nails. "Silence," spoke the sharp tongue of the bell, while the register awoke, and the ruler stood on end to listen. But the clock talked on while the pens and writing books tried to open the drawers to hear what was going on. "I have stood it too long! Why, to think how noisy the children are! They made such a buzzing today that I could not hear myself tick." "They were not studying geography," said the map from the nails, "for not half of them looked at us at all." "Nor arithmetic either," spoke up fifteen Colburn's, from under the desks. "And those bits of paper they threw in at my door were all over pictures and notes, not examples," replied the stove. At this the ink bottles winked their black eyes. "Yes, we know that," said they. "And we two," grated the slate pencils. "Just look in my desk" said Carrie's seat, "only see the story book and the string of beads, and the acorns."

"And here," cried Henry's desk, "see the chips he has whittled and this buzzer he made instead of printing." "And all this twine," "and these clappers," "and these notes," "and this paper doll," "and this heap of nut shells, "and this whip," "and these fish hooks," "and O dear me, this nasty stump of a cigar," sounded in loud confusion all over the room. "Well, I'm glad I ain't teacher," sighed the arm chair, "her head ached this afternoon and she looked real unhappy when Jimmy stamped in the entry and Sarah scowled so." "But some of the children were real good all day long and tried to get the best lessons in the world," said the [illegible]. "Well, let's hope they'll be as good as they can be tomorrow and I will tick as loud as possible," said the clock again.

Well, I opened the door and all was still, only the stove door was open and the ticking of the clock still went on.

Birds and Their Nests.

There are a great many kinds of birds; they build their nests of wool, hay, moss, and little twigs. I once saw a little bird in its nest. I felt of it. It was warm, and soft, and had very little feathers. Another time I saw three little birds that could only fly a little way. The ground sparrows build their nests on the ground, and the yellow birds build theirs in cherry trees, and currant and barberry bushes. I like little singing birds, but not ugly birds. Martha.

A Story About What I Play.

I play dolls, and hunt the thimble, and blindman's bluff, and colors, and post office and store, and roll the cover, and house and school and telegraph and [illegible] and games of several kinds.

Also stage coach, button, roll hoop, hide-and-go-seek, croquet, tag, and Copenhagen. I play croquet out in the front yard, I drive my hoop on the sidewalk, and in the yard, and I drag my little Parian marble doll in the little cart that my brother Eddy gave to me. Cynthia.

[Illustration]

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"Great oaks from little acorns grow."

Volume I. November, 1865. Number III.

Little Freddy Prescott.

Three years ago this fall, a great many of us went to school in the 3d. Primary Department, in the room next to this. There was a little boy went to school with us then, with bright eyes and a happy face. One day when he was playing he fell off from a wall and was hurt. Then we missed him from school. His mother sent word that he would come back when he was better, but he never grew better, he never was well again.

We have been alive and well these three years. We have raced and chased, played horse and ball, laughed and shouted in the open air, and have grown large and strong. All this time the little boy was sick, unable to move about, and instead of running and jumping, was obliged to be carried in a little wagon, yet was always smiling and pleasant and bore his pain cheerfully.

One day last month, while we were having our noon time, eating our dinners, and getting ready for school again, our little playmate lay dying, and now, while we are here, all well and strong, he is sleeping in a graveyard, far away. Now, while we are thinking about our little friend, and feeling sorry that he suffered so much, and could not live a happy, active life in playing and studying. There are two things in which we should try to be like him. First, he was [illegible], for he saved the life of a little drowning boy, when he was only seven years old; and he was not afraid to die.— And then, he was a little boy who loved his Father in heaven and his savior. This was the reason that he could be always happy, this was why he tried so hard to be kind to every one and this was why, when he came to die, he was not afraid but was so ready and glad to go.

Trees

Trees are very useful. The leaves come in the spring, and fall off in the autumn. Those that keep green all winter are called evergreens. Some trees have fruit, and some

have nuts. Floors are made of pine wood and some desks are made of cherry wood. Furniture and the frames of clocks and looking glasses are made of mahogany. Mahogany comes from Brazil, also oranges and pineapples grow in Brazil. Katy.

About My Dollies.

I have a little doll, and her head, legs and arms are made of China ware. Her name is Minnie. I have a little cradle to rock her to sleep in, and a little carriage to draw her in. I have also a large rubber doll, but I don't play with her much; I play the most with my China doll. I have a wax doll, but a little girl came to see me who broke its head and so mother will not let me play with it. I have a smaller China doll, which my aunt gave me, but I do not play with it for I am afraid I shall break it and I want to keep it to remember her by, for she is dead now. I have a great many paper dolls. One of them is named Hattie. Sje is a very pretty doll and has four dresses, one of which looks like silk. Nelly.

What I Do in a Rainy Day.

In the morning after I eat my breakfast I clear off the table, wash the dishes, and put them away, I dust the parlor, and practice my music lesson, and sweep my room, and dust the chairs and other things that need it. Then I take my books and read them, or my crocheting and work on that. Some times I take my dolls and play with them a little while. By that time it is noon, so I set the table, eat my dinner, and then wash the dishes, and do several other things. Then I go and dress me up and comb my hair, and then sew for mother, and for my dolls. When night comes, I think over what I have done in a rainy day. We ought not be cross and cry when it rains, because the rain does a great deal of good, especially when the wells are dry. Adelia.

Steam.

I was reading in the paper about a steamer at St. Johns, which had just arrived from Albany. The boiler burst and ten persons were immediately killed, and more or less scalded. A little child, almost an infant, was scalded to death. Steam is good for a great many things when it is not dangerous. It is used to make the engine draw the cars.

In factories the steam makes the engine go, and the engine works the whole machinery.
Hannah.

About Being Neat and Tidy.

Every little girl should know how to be neat and tidy. When they get up in the morning, they should say their prayers, then put on their shoes and stockings, and wash their hands and face, and comb their hair with out having any locks sticking up; next dress themselves, and make their bed nicely. They should then go down stairs, eat their breakfast, and then clear off the table, pack the dishes up carefully, wash them clean, and wipe them dry, and set them in their proper places. After that they should get ready for school, and in school they should be careful of their books and not bite the edges or tear out the blank leaves to mark on. When they go to bed at night, they should hang up their clothes, and not throw them on the floor. Cynthia.

Out Clothes.

Clothes are made of cotton, which is gathered in the Southern states. It grows on bushes, and is picked off by black people, and then sent up North to our factories. There is a cotton factory down by the Stone Bridge. Clothes are made of woolen also. Wool comes from the sheep. The farmers take them down to the ponds or rivers, and wash them clean and cut the wool off.

Ribbons and nice dresses are made of silk, which is take from the silk worm. The silk worm eats the leaves of the mulberry tree and lives in France.

A Swarm of Bees.

Be neat, be prompt, be orderly.
Be busy every day,
Be brave, be honest, and be good,
Be ready to obey.