













THE  
MODERN COCHIN  
ENGLISH READERS.

READER II

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## NOTE.

These Readers are designed to meet the requirements of the pupils of the Lower Secondary classes. The lessons are so graded that, on the basis of vocabulary the pupils have acquired in the Primary classes, a more living and extensive system is sought to be built up. One chief difficulty of our pupils lies in finding suitable expressions to clothe common thoughts on current and common subjects. It is hoped that the wide range of topics dealt with in the Readers, in a simple and lucid style, will obviate this difficulty to a considerable extent.

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## 1. THE COW.

companion	weight	coarse	grazing
cloven	udder	Brindaban	<i>Pongal</i>

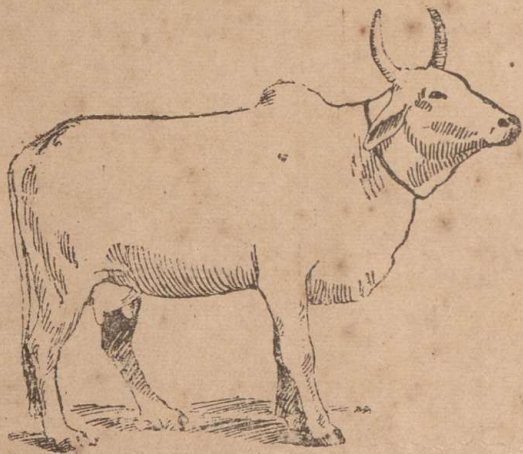
(Among the animal friends of man, that which takes the first place is the cow. She is neither a pet like the cat nor a companion like the dog, but man still takes great care of her.

The cow is a large animal with a heavy body. To support its weight God has given her long legs.

She has a thick skin covered over with short coarse hair. Her head is long with a horn on either side.) Her eyes are large and give her face a mild and gentle look. Her ears are so placed in the head that she is quick to hear things.

Look at her long tail with a tuft of hair at the end. She keeps swinging her tail to drive away flies.

The cow has no front teeth in the upper jaw. A hard pad of gum takes their place. She has a long and fleshy tongue, which enables her to gather lots of grass in her mouth.



After grazing, the cow seeks the shade of a spreading tree. There she lies down and chews the cud along with her friends.

The cow walks on the toes of her feet. There are four toes on every foot. The front toes, on which it walks, has a thorny covering called the hoof. There is a parting

in the hoof; so her hoof is said to be cloven. The back toes, just above the cleft, do not touch the ground.

Under her body, there is a bag called udder in which milk collects. It is from this bag we take our share of the milk, and the calf takes hers.

The cow is a gentle creature. She attacks a person only to defend herself. Then she uses her horns either to throw the enemy to the ground or to drive him entirely off the field.

She is extremely useful to man. In many parts of the world, man is obliged to her for his supply of milk, butter, cheese, and ghee.

In India she is regarded as Sree Krishna's favourite and held sacred. The Lord of Brindaban himself played on his flute to please her. We worship her once a year, on the occasion of the *pongal*.



Describe the general appearance of the cow.

Write about the habits of the cow.

How is the cow useful to man?

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## 2. FOOLISHNESS AND WISDOM.

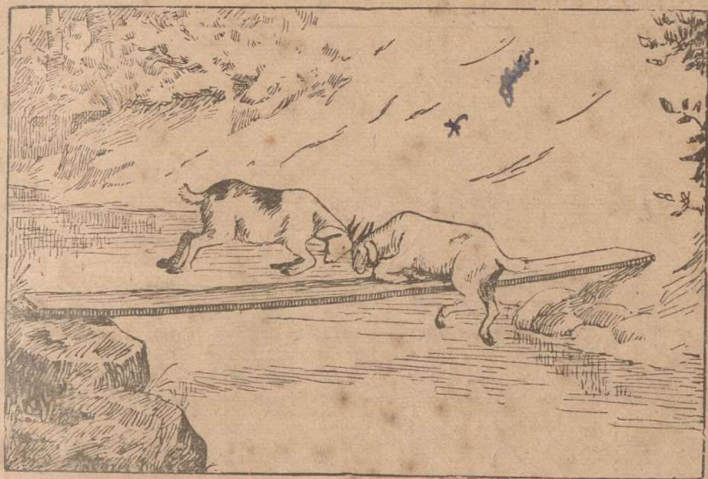
dales      narrow      plank      bridge      opposite  
yield      advanced      slipped      polite

Once two goats left their homes in the morning and went up hills and down dales in search of grass. At last they met on the banks of a mountain stream.

A narrow plank was a bridge from one side of the stream to the other. They stood on opposite ends of the bridge and eyed each other angrily; each wished to pass over first.

Each placed one foot on the bridge and ordered the other to draw back. Neither

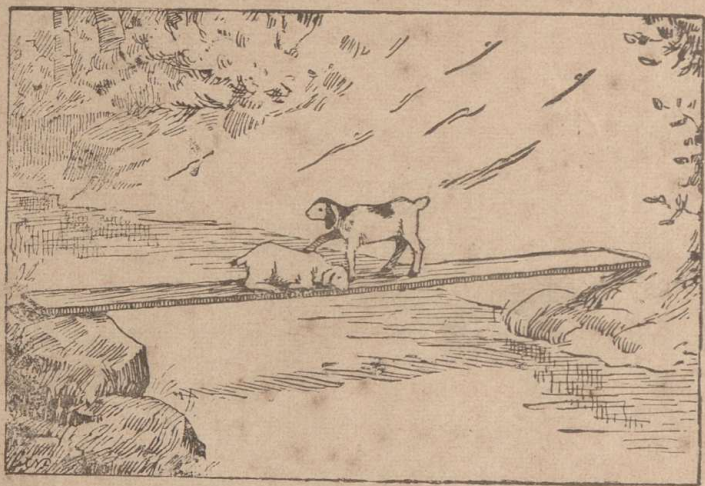
would yield; so they advanced and met in the middle of the narrow bridge.



There they began to push and fight, till their feet slipped. They fell into the swift stream down below and were lost in the waters.

That very day two kids met at the same point in the stream. They were so polite, that neither would cross the stream before the other.

Tired of waiting they agreed to cross the bridge at the same time or to go back



if they could not do so. They advanced and met in the middle of the bridge. There was only room for one to pass, but no room to turn back.

At last one of them hit on a plan. It laid itself down and asked the other to walk over its back. Then it rose up and safely crossed to the other side.



They were free now to leap from rock to rock and to roam about over the grassy meadows.

Why are the goats called foolish and the kids wise?

---

### 3. OH! NEVER DECEIVE.

deceive	believe	earnest	unbroken
heartily	grieve	doubly	punishment
confess	honestly	chamber	afford

Oh! never deceive;

Who will believe

The children who falsely have spoken?

In earnest or play,

Whatever you say,

Let the truth remain always unbroken.

Oh! never deceive;

We may heartily grieve

When our conduct is wicked and sad;

But if with a lie,

Our faults we deny,

We make them just doubly as bad.

Oh ! never deceive ;  
You will one day receive  
For your crime all the punishment due ;  
It is better at first  
To confess to the worst  
And honestly own what is true.

Oh ! never deceive ;  
But each morning and eve  
As you kneel in your chamber to pray,  
Oh ! ask the good Lord,  
His grace to afford,  
And make you more holy each day.

What are the evils if you deceive ?

What should you pray to the good Lord ?

---

#### 4. RICE.

regions	quantities	tropical	famine
ploughs	sprout	sheaves	thresh
	chaff	husked	

Rice is a native of hot and moist regions. Large quantities of it are grown in Burma, China, in the tropical portions of America and in our country.

It is one of the chief grains of our country. With many of us it is the main article of food. If the annual crop fails at any time, famine begins and thousands die of starvation.

When rains fall, rivers, tanks and lakes fill with water. The farmer takes the water to the fields. He ploughs them backwards and forwards and round and round, till the earth is broken up and made quite soft.

The soil is now ready to receive the seed. Look at the picture. You see a



farmer sowing seeds. He takes handfuls of seeds out of his basket and scatters them as he goes.



The seeds sink into the mud and begin to take root. In two or three days they begin to sprout.

When the plants are nearly a foot high, they are pulled up and tied into small bundles. These bundles are then taken to

other fields. There men, women and children, standing in rows, untie the bundles and push the young plants into the soft mud.

The farmer takes good care to stand the plants in water. He knows that they need a lot of water.

In two months more, the crops are ready to be cut. The plants then turn yellow and fall over on one side.

Men go to the fields and cut down the plants. They arrange them in sheaves and take them to a rising ground.

There they thresh the grain from the straw. They hold up the corn and pour it out of baskets. The wind blows away the chaff and bits of straw, while the grain falls in golden heaps on the ground below.

A part of the rice we keep for our own use. The rest is husked, put into sacks and shipped away to other lands.

What are the conditions which favour the growth of rice ?

How are the seeds scattered ?

How is rice harvested ?

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## 5. ALEXANDER SELKIRK.

sailor	captain	cast	solitary
island	pacific	procured	pine
society	prevailed	suicide	lurid
loneliness	science	navigation	space

Alexander Selkirk was an English sailor. He had a great quarrel with the captain of his ship. He desired to be cast away in a solitary island in the Pacific.

Then he was given his box, his bedding, a gun, a kettle and a Bible. His heart, I am sure, sank within him when he saw the ship sailing away.

He had to work hard at first to find food and drink. When in time he procured



these, he began to pine for the society of man.



His first thoughts were to kill himself. But reason prevailed and he saw the sin in suicide in all its lurid colours.

It was not long before he hit upon plans to overcome the sense of loneliness.

He read the Bible every day and learnt to praise God. He studied the science of navigation, a science in which he was deeply interested. The coming of Spring made his heart well up with delight. He kept fixed hours and places, for saying his prayers.

But then there remained the duty of attending to his comforts. He lamed kids, so as to save himself the trouble of hunting animals. He fed and tamed kittens to drive the armies of rats away from his house. He made himself shirts and coats with the skins of goats.

In time this manner of life grew very pleasant to him. His days were joyous and his nights untroubled by dreams.

Thus he lived in the island for the space of fifty-two months. Then a ship touched the island and took him home to England.

On his return he worked hard and made money. But he often said that he was not a tenth part as happy, as he had been when he lived his lonely life in the island.

How did the sailor happen to be left on the island?

How did he overcome the sense of loneliness?

How did he attend to his comforts?

Compare his happiness with that of other men.

---

## 6. SPEAK GENTLY.

harsh	mar	accents
careworn	peace	endure

Speak gently! it is better far  
To rule by love than fear ;  
Speak gently! let no harsh words mar  
The good we might do here.

Speak gently to the little child

Its love be sure to gain :

Teach it in accents soft and mild :

It may not long remain.



Speak gently to the young, for they  
Will have enough to bear :  
Pass through this life as best they may,  
This life is full of care.

Speak gently to the aged one,  
Grieve not the careworn heart :  
The sands of life are nearly run—  
Let such in peace depart.

Speak gently, kindly, to the poor,  
Let no harsh tone be heard ;  
They have enough they must endure,  
Without an unkind word.

Speak gently ! — it is a little thing,  
Dropped in the heart's deep well ;  
The good, the joy which it may bring,  
Long days to come shall tell.

Why should we speak gently to the child, the young,  
the aged, and the poor ?

Why should we not speak harshly ?

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## 7. FORESTS.

world	dense	globe	infer
habitation	agriculture	strutting	rangers
advent	ignorant		

Forests are found in many parts of the world. But you find dense ones in the hot and moist regions of the globe. Look at the map of India and you can easily infer that our country has all types of forests.

You go to a village, where a forest begins. You find tall trees with long grass growing under them. The bushes have been cut away by man ; in other words the forest has been cleared for habitation or for agriculture.

You cannot go into a forest in any direction you please. You have to follow footpaths trodden by thousands of feet.

In the forest you find birds of various sizes and colours. Parrots, doves and

pigeons greet your sight at every turn. Sometimes you hear the noise of the woodpecker and know that the little fellow is pecking at the dead barks of trees in search of food. You come across peacocks strutting about and wild fowls scratching the earth to find a grain or a worm. You see vultures sailing across the sky, ready to dart on anything they can see on the ground below.

Various kinds of beasts are to be found in a forest. Many of them are so wild and fierce, that men are afraid even to see their tracks. Rangers have often to battle with a bear or a wild boar in the course of their rounds. Sometimes they see a drove of elephants or fly before a rogue elephant. In the open spaces, of the forest, you find herds of deer, which at the sight of man take to their heels.

In the darkness of the night come out the tiger and the leopard. They come to a



village near the forest and kill men and animals.

You can easily imagine the anxious life which people in such villages lead. They are in hourly danger of losing life and property. Wild pigs come out in swarms and destroy the corn in the fields. Elephants enter their fruit gardens and work much havoc. Tigers or wolves enter the village and carry away men or children.

They make many plans to drive away the wild animals, but often in vain. They are always glad to hear of the advent of a hunter. They help him track the animals and shoot them dead.

From forests man obtains timber for building houses, ships and for making carriages and furniture of all kinds. Trees are cut down and the timber is floated down streams or carted to the nearest depot.

Ignorant people near forests used to cut down trees as they liked. That is no longer possible. There is now a set of officers, who jealously guard the mine of wealth in the Indian forests. The officers not only prevent the trees from being cut down, but also cause more trees to be planted.

What all kinds of birds and animals are found in a forest?

How is the forest useful to man?

Why do the Government guard the forests?

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## 8. HARISCHANDRA—Part I.

victorious	trait	character	nonsense
average	mortals	wagers	sacrifice
entreated	represents	interest	cremate

Once upon a time there lived a king of Ayodhya, Harischandra by name. Though a great king, and victorious, he never told anything but the truth.

It so happened that Vasishta praised this trait in the character of the king to Indra. "Pure nonsense," said Viswamitra, who was present. "I can easily make the king tell packs of lies."

The rishies put all their holiness on one side and in the spirit of average mortals laid wagers about it. Now Viswamitra had to make his words good.

He went to Harischandra and wanted help. The king granted it, though he did not know the shape it might take.

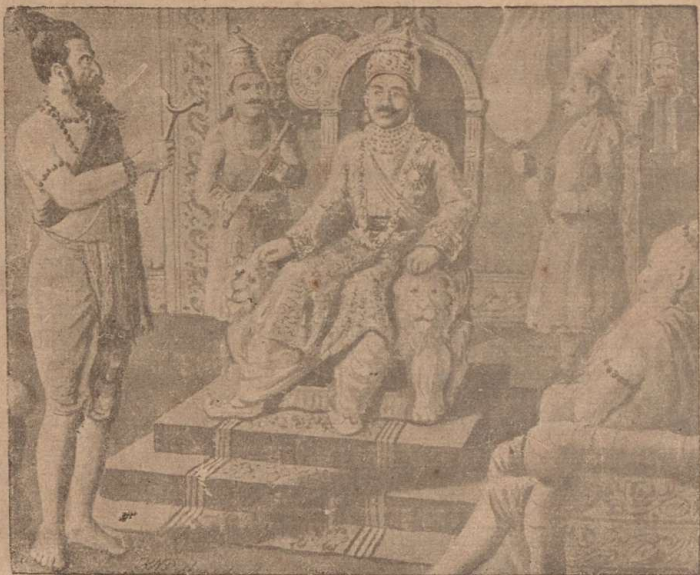
Upon this the sage said to him, "I am about to perform a sacrifice, of which, it is impossible to count the cost. Pray give me a great heap of gold."

The king readily agreed to give the money to the sage. But the sage said, "I do not want the money now. Hold it in trust for me. I will return and get it, when



I am in need of it." To this the king agreed and the sage went away.

Viswamitra's one aim was to force the king to break his promise. He created



wild beasts, which laid waste the king's lands. He used his *tapas* to rob the king of his wealth and jewels,

Having effected this, Viswamitra returned and asked for his money. The king was unable to pay it.

Chandramati, the king's wife, was there. She entreated the king to ask the rishi for a month's time in which to fulfil the promise.

The king did so. The rishi granted the request, on condition that the king left the kingdom and raised the money elsewhere.

And so Harischandra, with his wife and child, left for Benares. Nakshatraka, the Brahmin sent with him to collect the money, gave them a lot of trouble all the way.

When they reached Benares, the month was well nigh over. Nakshatraka insisted on immediate payment.

Then said Chandramati to the helpless king, "Sell me and my child for the amount and make your promise good." The king unwillingly sold them to Kala-kausika and handed the money over to the sage's man.

"Pooh," said the wily Brahmin. "This money merely represents the interest on

the amounts due, and my wages. The whole of the debt still remains to be paid off."

"Sell me also," said the king to the Brahmin, "and recover the debts due." The Brahmin sold the king to Veerabahu and went his way.

Strange were the new tasks the poor king had to face. He had to collect the dues for burning dead bodies and help to cremate them. The king did not like these tasks; but in the name of truth, he did them to the best of his ability.

Describe how Harischandra came to sell himself and family into slavery.

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## 9. THE CHILD'S FIRST GRIEF.

summer

drooping

heaven

brook

glade

wanderings

“Oh! call my brother back to me

I cannot play alone;

The summer comes with flower and bee—

Where is my brother gone?

“The flowers run wild, the flowers we sowed

Around our garden tree;

Our vine is drooping with its load—

Oh! call him back to me!”—

“He would not hear thy voice, fair child!

He may not come to thee;

The face that once like summer smiled,

On Earth no more thou'lt see.

“A rose's brief bright life of joy,

Such unto him was given;

So—thou must play alone, my boy!

Thy brother is in Heaven.”

“And has he left his birds and flowers ?

And must I call in vain ?

And through the long, long summer hours,

Will he not come again ?

“And by the brook and in the glade

Are all our wanderings o’er ?

Oh ! while my brother with me played,

Would *I had loved him more !*”

Why did the boy call back his brother ?

When the boy knew that his brother is dead what  
did he say ?

---

## 10. HARISCHANDRA--Part II.

scolded	mistress	corpse	sympathise
pyre	funeral	muster	courage
pleaded	poverty	incident	resembled
accused	murder	couple	martyr

Hard was the lot of Chandramathi, and  
her son Devadasa. Both of them were set

difficult tasks and often scolded or beaten by their mistress Kalakanti.

One day the harsh mistress sent young Devadasa to the forest to gather wood. There the child was bitten by a cobra, and he fell down dead.

The sun was sinking in the west, when Chandramathi heard the sad news. She wished to go to the forest at once, but her mistress would not let her go till she had completed the daily round of duties.

At last she got leave to go and went in search of the place where her dear son lay dead. It was a long time, before she found the corpse.

She wept bitter tears, and nature herself seemed to sympathise with her. But weeping was of no use. She made a funeral pyre and placed the corpse upon it.

The poor mother could not muster courage to light it. She set up loud cries,





which made the servant of Veerabahu rush to the place. He pulled down the pile and asked for his dues.

The helpless queen pleaded utter poverty. "You are not poor," said Harischandra, "when you have so precious a *tali* round your neck." This incident made the parties know each other.

Loud and long did they mourn over their loss. Then the queen begged leave of her lord to burn the dead body. So true to his master was the king, that he insisted on collecting the dues.

Chandramathi went home to get the money from her mistress. On the way she saw a dead child, which resembled her own. She stooped down to take it up.

Just then arrived the servants of the king. They took her before him and accused her of murder.

The proud queen had no desire to live and did not say a word in her defence. They sent her to Veerabahu's officer to be killed.

Harischandra raised his sword to kill her. At that moment angels appeared saying, "Stop, O King, stop."

They set the couple free and restored their son to life. They praised the king's love of truth and gave his kingdom back to him.

Then he returned to his own kingdom and ruled the land for many many years. His name lives in song and story because he lived and died such a martyr to truth.

Describe the king's high sense of duty.

How did Harischandra get his freedom back ?

---



## 11. SUGAR.

proverb	sweeten	quantities	preserve
diet	percentage	solution	element
starchy	untapped	extracts	manufactures
palmyra	dotted	plantation	seedlings
refineries	impurities	granulated	

“As sweet as sugar” has in all countries passed into a proverb. Man loves sugar and uses it to sweeten his food and drink. We find him using quantities of it at the present day to preserve fruits from one end of the year to the other. Indeed man seems to have used sugar from very early times in one form or another.

Sugar is present in a natural state in many articles of diet. Milk and honey hold a good percentage of it in solution. Fruits like grapes, mangoes and oranges are sweet, because they contain sugar. Sugar is again an important element in all kinds of starchy food.

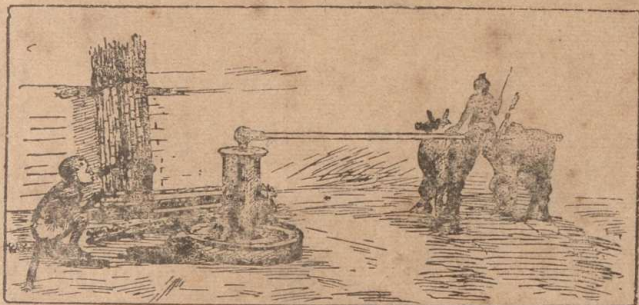
To-day man leaves no source of sugar untapped. He extracts sugar from the juice of the sugar-tree in America. He manufactures sugar from beetroot in Western Europe. In Asia he gets sugar from the coconut palm, the palmyra and also from the date and sago palms. But the sugar, with which we sweeten our cup of coffee or tea is made from the sugar-cane.



The original home of the sugar-cane is said to have been our own country. From here it was taken to other countries, which have a hot and moist climate. Nearly all

the islands of the East and the West Indies are now dotted with sugar plantations.

They never sow seeds to raise a crop. The cane itself is cut into parts, which form



the seedlings. These are planted in rows, two to five feet apart. Within one year canes attain to a height of ten feet and begin to flower. That is sign enough, the canes are ripe and harvest straightway begins.

The tops are cut off and preserved as seedlings for the coming year. They cut the rest of the cane into pieces and tie them into bundles. These bundles are then carted



away to a sugar-mill, which is close at hand.

The canes are crushed in the mill and the juice flows into a big tub placed below. This juice is then mixed with lime-water and boiled several times. till it becomes golden in colour.

The sugar is even now only raw sugar. It is sent to factories called sugar refineries. There it is mixed with lots of hot water and freed from impurities, It is then passed through animal charcoal and pumped into pans, till it becomes the granulated white sugar we use.

Describe the manufacture of sugar.

In what ways is the sugar useful to us ?

---

## 12. THE VOICE OF SPRING.

laden	blossom	brief	wheeling
airy	bleating	abound	orchard
shoot	heaven	melodies	gratitude

I am coming, little maiden ;  
With the pleasant sunshine laden,  
With the honey for the bee,  
With the blossom for the tree,  
With the flower and with the leaf,  
Till I come, the time is brief,

I am coming, I am coming !  
Hark ! the little bee is humming,  
See ! the lark is soaring high  
In the bright and sunny sky ;  
And the gnats are on the wing,  
Wheeling round in airy ring.

Hark ! the newborn lambs are bleating  
And the cawing rooks are meeting  
In the elms—a noise crowd !  
All the birds are singing loud !

And the first white butterfly  
In the sunshine dances by.

Look around thee, look around !  
Flowers all the fields abound !  
Every running stream is bright ;  
All the orchard trees are white,  
And each small and waving shoot  
Promises sweet flowers and fruit.

Turn thine eyes to earth and heaven !  
God for thee the spring has given,  
Taught the birds their melodies,  
Clothed the earth, and cleared the skies,  
For thy pleasure or thy food—  
Pour thy soul in gratitude.

What are the things which spring brings ?  
What has God done for us ?

---



### 13. CLEANLINESS.

pores	sweat	chokes	emits
intolerable	cleanse	inflamed	pimples
blotches	germs	charity	ravages

The skin of our bodies is full of tiny openings called pores. They are so tiny, that they are not visible to the naked eye.

Through these pores, sweat and a kind of oil are ever coming out. When we move about, the dust floating freely in the air, unites with the sweat and chokes up the pores in our body.

That makes us dirty. Our persons and our clothes become dirty and even the air about us emits a bad smell. If these become intolerable, people hate our presence. Have we not sometimes hated ourselves for this very reason?

How essential it is to cleanse our skin! If we allow the dust and dirt to remain on

the skin, the pores get inflamed and pimples and blotches form on the skin. Our persons become the hot-beds of disease, because we carry germs of disease wherever we go.

The only way to keep these pores open and prevent sweat from being driven back into our system, is to use plenty of water. We should bathe hands and feet as often as they become dirty, and wash ourselves in cold water once every day.

Ours is a hot country and dust particles carrying germs of diseases are always floating in the air. It is not enough that we are ourselves neat. We should try to see that our clothes are clean and our houses free from decaying matter.

In India there is a useful form which charity can take. That is to teach the very poor the elements of cleanliness and to place large supplies of water within their

reach. When their persons, their clothes, and their houses are washed every day, India will be freed from the ravages of fell disease.

How do we become dirty every day?

What should we do to be personally very clean?

How can India be saved from the ravages of disease?

---

## 14. THE LION AND THE HARE.

verily	council	petition	majesty
betided	wretch	liege	threatened
insult	drowned	throes	

Once there came to a forest in Mysore a mighty lion. From the very day of his coming, he became the self-elected king of the forest. No one ever took pains to crown him king. His deep roar and terrible voice served to show that he was verily the king of beasts.



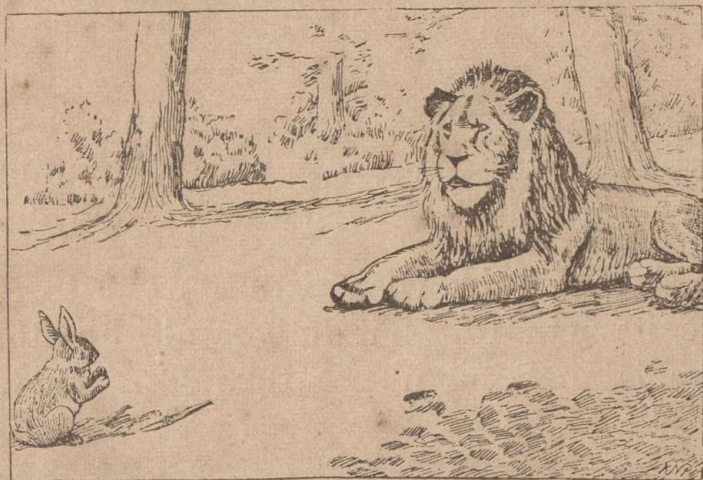
Whenever he was hungry, he had simply to come out of his den and set up a roar. That made all animals run where he stood. He killed several and ate them up at a meal.

The animals could by no means feel secure. They held a grand council and sent up a petition to the king. They would send one animal a day to the lion, if only his majesty allowed the others to go in safety. The king readily granted their prayer, being glad to get food on such easy terms.

And so the animals cast lots every day and the animal on whom the lot fell was to go to the lion. Thus whatever betided others, the king had his meal regularly at sunset.

One day the lot fell on an old hare. It determined to go to its death, as slowly as it could.

When the hare reached the lion's den, the lion was very angry. He said to the hare, "Dare you keep me waiting, you old wretch? How is it you are so late?"



"My liege," replied the hare, "it is not my fault. I met another lion, who threatened to eat me up. He would not let me go, till I promised to return to him, after I had told you."

The hungry lion was beside himself with rage. He said to the hare, "Lead me

on to the spot and show me the lion. There shall live no one to insult me in my own kingdom."

The hare took him to a deep well and whispered softly. "Now look in, my lord." Down below the lion saw another lion as angry as himself. Little knowing that it was his own shadow the stupid animal leaped into the deep well and was drowned.

Thus did the wise little hare not only save its own life, but deliver all the other animals also from the throes of sudden death.

Describe the hare's trick.

---



## 15. EVIL COMPANY.

curse	swear	offend	language
scoffers	jest	flock	trifles
priceless	Eden		

Why should I join with those in play  
In whom I've no delight ;  
Who curse and swear, but never pray,  
Who call ill names, and fight ?

I hate to hear a wanton song,  
Their words offend my ears,  
I would not dare defile my tongue  
With language, such as theirs.

Away from fools I'll turn my eyes,  
Nor with the scoffers go ;  
I would be walking with the wise,  
That wiser I may grow.

From one rude boy that's used to mock,  
They learn the wicked jest ;  
One sickly sheep infects the flock,  
And poisons all the rest.

Little acts of kindness—  
Richest gems of earth,  
Though they seem but trifles,  
Priceless is their worth.

Little deeds of kindness,  
Little words of love,  
Make our earth an Eden  
Like the heaven above.

Why should we avoid evil company?  
To what are little acts of kindness compared?  
What makes our earth an Eden?

---

## 16. COFFEE.

shrub	berries	banyan	slopes
planters	transplanted	manure	comparatively
weeding	trim	enormously	civilized

Coffee is the seed of an ever-green shrub. The shrub bears berries, which resemble those of a banyan tree. These are very sweet; but man grows the shrub not for the berries, but for the double seeds they contain.

Moist air and well-drained soil are the conditions of its growth. It thrives well on the hill slopes of the East and West Indies. In India too, we find coffee plantations in any number on the mountain slopes of South-west India.

If left to itself, the plant could grow to a height of nearly thirty feet. Planters chop off the top portion when it is four feet high, so that it may yield a richer crop and have its bushes within easy reach.



They sow seeds in a bed, not exposed to the sun, and water the bed. When the

young plants are a foot high, they are pulled up by the roots and transplanted.



There is a distance of nearly six feet between plant and plant. Though they manure a plantation carefully the yield is comparatively poor in the first two years. Then it

keeps on yielding very good crops for nearly thirty years. All the time, what with shading, manuring, and weeding, planters have to keep the garden always in trim.

Plants begin flowering, so soon as the monsoon bursts and rains commence. This is the time in which to see a plantation. Rows of plants, with dark green leaves bearing rose-tinted flowers are indeed a pleasant sight.

In three days' time the flowers fall off and their places are taken by bunches of berries. These change in colour from day to day and ripen about January.

Then they gather the berries and take them to the mill, where they are dried and husked and prepared for export. It is said that a well-kept garden soon makes the owner enormously rich.

Coffee was first taken from the African deserts to Arabia and Persia nearly a thousand years ago. From these two countries coffee-drinking spread to other parts of the world. There are few in the civilized world to-day, who do not take coffee. Whether

prepared by oneself or prepared by another hand, a cup of delicious coffee is always welcome.

Describe a coffee plantation.

How is coffee harvested?

---

## 17. THE GREEDY MISER

earnings

brass

copper

exchange

mohurs

secure

flashed

neighbours

treasure

howls

There once lived a miser. He was taught early in life to value money for its own sake. He decided to save every pie he could and saved nearly the whole of his earnings every day. He did not know how to use the money himself or how to lend it to those who could use it.

In time his money filled a brass vessel, a mud pot and a tin. The miser was afraid to



own so much money in the shape of copper and silver coins.

“If only I exchange them for gold mohurs, I can easily hide these from the



eyes of others,” said he to himself. Scarcely had the desire formed itself in his mind, when he proceeded to satisfy it. Day after day he went to the city with handfuls of

coins and before long exchanged them all for gold.

This done, the miser felt quite secure. He was much too dull to know his new peril. The sight of the yellow metal delighted him so much that he talked to it every night.

One night the miser was thus talking to his gold, when suddenly a strange thought flashed through his mind. Said he, "Suppose my neighbours hear me talking thus, what will they think? Aagain if some street-arab comes to know what I am doing, he may rob me of my gold and ruin me. I will remove the gold to a place, where there will be no neighbours to pry into my affairs."

As he thought it unsafe to keep any gold in the house, he took it all and buried it in a hole in a corner of his field. Every night he went there, saw the treasure and

talked to it, and came away after closing the hole.

One night he took his fill of pleasure, not aware that some one was near. It was a robber, who discovered that there was quite a lot of gold in the pit. As soon as the miser's back was turned, the robber came and took away the gold.

The next day the miser came there and found only an empty hole. He was very sorry and set up howls, which drew all his neighbours to the field.

They came to him and said, "What is the matter with you?" The poor old man could only sob, "Last night—a rob—ber—took away—all gold." They said to him, "where did you keep the gold." He replied, "I buried it and saw it every day. Now what can I do?" "Now too you can look at the empty hole," they said and went their way.

Tell the story briefly in your own words.

What did the miser do with his earning?



## 18. ONE STEP AND THEN ANOTHER.

stitch	flake	constant	motion
conceived	achieved	disheartened	endeavour
	sermon	preaches	

One step, and then another,  
And the longest walk is ended ;  
One stitch and then another,  
And the largest rent is mended.

One brick upon another,  
And the highest wall is made ;  
One flake upon another,  
And the deepest snow is laid.

So the little coral workers  
By their slow but constant motion,  
Have built those pretty islands  
In the distant dark blue ocean.

And the noblest undertakings  
Man's wisdom has conceived ;  
By oft repeated efforts,  
Have been patiently achieved.

Then do not look disheartened  
O'er the work you have to do,  
And say that such a mighty task  
You never can get through.

But just endeavour day by day  
Another point to gain,  
And soon the mountain which you feared  
Will prove to be a plain.

'Rome was not built in a day,'  
The ancient proverb teaches ;  
And nature by her trees and flowers,  
The same sweet sermon preaches.

Think not of far off duties,  
But of duties which are near,  
And having once begun to work,  
Resolve to persevere.

How have the undertakings of man been achieved ?  
Why should you not be disheartened ?  
What do you mean by "Rome was not built in a day?"

---

## 19. THE BOY-HERO.

decent	railway	giant	puffing
shrieking	waggon	passengers	wrecked
whistle	vigorously	disorder	courage

Jack was a poor little boy who lived with his parents in a very small house on the side of a hill. His parents were too poor to give him decent dress. Sometimes Jack used to wear his father's cap and say that he is a grown-up man.

By the side of Jack's house there was a railway line. The boy used to sit in his house and watch the giant engines as they came puffing past and shrieking. He often wondered how these engines were able to pull so many waggon attached to them and the passengers who travel in them.

One day, Jack was walking along the line. Then he perceived that a rail was not in its proper position. Even though he



was young, he thought that there was something wrong and that if a train happened to come that way then, it would be wrecked.



He wished to inform his father about this; but just then he heard a whistle. He knew that a train was coming!

Jack did not lose his presence of mind. He took up a stick, tied a red cloth on it

and standing in the middle of the line he waved that flag vigorously.

The train came nearer and nearer. The boy did not move an inch. He never thought that he would be killed if the train came on without stopping.

The engine-driver saw the boy standing on the line. The engine whistled. The boy did not move. The driver became impatient and whistled again and again warning the boy to get out of the way. But the boy was firm and did not move.

The driver stopped the train. He was very angry and jumping down from the engine, he ran towards the boy. When he reached the place where the boy stood he saw the line in disorder and his anger changed to gladness. He thanked the boy for saving his life as well as that of the other travellers in the carriages.

Every body got out of the train to see



what was the matter. Then they saw that if Jack had not stopped the train it would have been thrown over and the carriages dashed to pieces and all of them killed. They all praised him for the courage, the presence of mind and the coolness that he showed at the time of danger.

What made Jack stop the train?

Why was the anger of the driver changed to gladness?

What did Jack do by stopping the train?

---

## 20. THE ESKIMOS.

frozen	innuit	thaw	whale
windows	entrance	wind-proof	sledges

Far, far away in the frozen land near the North Pole, there lives a race of people called the Eskimos. They have never come out of their land nor have they seen any human beings until very recently. So



they believed they were the only human beings on the earth and called themselves "Innuït," which means "the men."

Their country is very different from ours. There you will find no trees or flowers or grass. Wherever you look, you find snow and ice which rarely thaw.

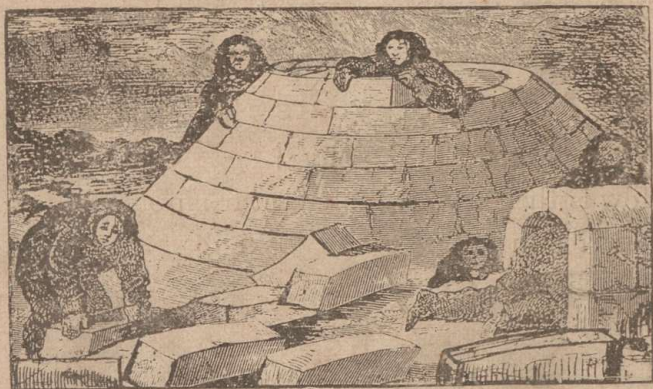
They live almost completely on fish and the flesh of the seal and the whale. These they eat raw and enjoy them very much.

In their land it is day for six months of the year and for the next six months it is night. These periods they call summer and winter.

In summer the Eskimos live in tents made of seal skins. They take the tents from place to place when they go hunting after seals and whales. They carry their tents and other things in sledges drawn by dogs.

In the winter season, they live in huts

made of blocks of ice. There are no windows to this hut. There will be a low entrance through which they creep in or



out. A block of ice, placed against this entrance, serves as a door. When the hut is finished they light a lamp inside and leave it burning for some time. The heat melts the ice and then the lamp is removed. Soon the icy wind freezes the water inside and a thin sheet of hard ice is formed on the walls. This makes the house completely wind-proof.

It is very hard to tell an Eskimo man

from a woman ; for they are both dressed alike.

The Eskimos never bathe in winter or in summer as it is very cold there. So their skin appears dark with the dirt collected there for years.

Where do the Eskimos live ?

How is their country different from ours ?

Describe the abode of the Eskimos in summer and winter.

---

## 21. FLOWERS.

luxury

medicine

wherefore

fashioned

supremest

valleys

wilderness

minister

God might have made the earth bring forth  
 Enough for great and small,  
 The oak-tree and the cedar-tree,  
 Without a flower at all.

He might have made enough, enough  
 For every want of ours—  
 For luxury, medicine, and toil ;  
 And yet have made no flowers.



Then wherefore, wherefore were they made  
All dyed with rainbow light ;  
All fashioned with supremest grace,  
Up-springing day and night ;

Springing in valleys green and low,  
And on the mountains high,  
And in the silent wilderness  
Where no man passes by ?

Our outward life requires them not,  
Then wherefore had they birth ?—  
To minister delight to man,  
To beautify the earth ;

To comfort man—to whisper hope  
Whene'er his faith is dim :  
For He who careth for the flowers,  
Will much more care for him !

Why were the flowers created by God ?  
Who will care more for himself ?

---

## 22. CLOTHING.

cottons	woollens	linens	creation
centuries	moistened	stumbled	extract
ginner	impurities	sliver	blends
processes	intersecting	warp	weft
intersection	interlacing	constitute	alternate

If you go to a cloth shop you will find all sorts of cottons, woollens, and linens. Besides these there are various kinds of silks. We can buy all of them, if only we have money enough.

There was a time, when these things did not exist. Man ate and slept just like other animals in creation. Centuries rolled by before he thought of dress at all. And then he dressed himself in the barks of trees or the skins of wild animals.

This kind of dress was not found to meet all his needs. He had to look about for something that could protect him from rain and snow. In course of time he matted moistened wool into layers and dried them.

Thus it was that man stumbled on felt, the first kind of woollens ever made.

As time went on, man learnt to make woollens for comfort. He learnt how to comb wool, to spin it into yarn and weave the yarn into cloth.

Centres of trade get their supply of wool from the most distant ends of the earth. They import the silky wool of the Alpaca and Llama from Peru. They import wool from Cashmere, Turkey, Spain, South Africa and Australia, where sheep are reared in great numbers.



Centuries before this, man had learnt how to extract fibres from the flax and weave it into the finest linens. Linens are very fine wear, but so costly that they are not for the millions.



Cotton is the other plant, to which we owe nearly all our clothes. It is picked in



the fields from the pods of the cotton plant. It is taken to a machine known as the "ginner" which extracts the seeds. The cotton is then ready for packing into bales. These bales are sent to

cotton mills where they are turned into cloths.

At the mills, the impurities are removed and the cotton is combed or "carded." The good cotton now assumes the form of a tape or "sliver" and is passed on to the "drawing frame." This draws out the sliver into a much finer one. Then the sliver is twisted which blends the fibres together to make a hard strong

thread, or yarn. Now the cotton is ready for the weaving processes.

Weaving is the art of intersecting fibres into a web. The basis of the cloth is the "warp," or row of threads running lengthwise from end to end. Across these, from side to side, run the "weft" threads. The intersection and interlacing of these two series of yarns constitute the very substance of cloth. The arrangement of weft thread with warp is the process of weaving and the loom does this.

In a piece of cloth, each alternate thread of the weft passes over the warps, while the next thread passes underneath. This is the simplest form of weaving.

The processes of converting cotton into cloth are more numerous and complex. The interior of a cotton mill is a wonderful sight. The cotton passes through at least forty different kinds of machines from the

time it enters as a ball of raw shiff till it emerges as finished fabric.

Out of what all things are our clothing made ?

Describe the manufacture of clothes from cotton.

---

## 23. THE KING AND THE ROBBER.

splendour	terror	impudent	plundered
protection	sovereign	followers	sack
	meekly	astounded	

Long ago a King named Sikander conquered Hindustan and settled in Delhi. He was the greatest King of his time and the splendour of his court was talked about in far off lands.

There was a famous robber in one of his provinces, who was the terror of the people for many miles around. The King tried his best to capture him, but the robber was never caught. One night when the



robber was on a visit to one of his relatives he was caught and brought before the King.

The monarch looked on him sternly and said, "You seem to be a very impudent robber. How dared you rob my subjects? Don't you know that it is against my laws to rob those who are under my protection? You shall answer this with your life."

"What have I done to deserve death at your hands, O! mighty King?" asked the man.

"Have you not robbed my subjects, plundered their houses and killed those who opposed you? Is not all this against the law? Think for yourself," said the King

"My lord," said the robber, "don't you be so hard upon me. If you will kindly permit me I shall prove that there is not much difference between your majesty and my poor self."

“How is that, vile thief? Do you consider yourself equal to the greatest sovereign?” cried the King.

“Even so, my lord,” answered the robber mildly. “I know you are very brave, strong, just and wise; but am I too not strong and brave? Your best soldiers failed to capture me so long.”

“You may be as brave and strong as or even stronger than myself,” cried the King in anger, “but are you not a common robber.”

“That may be so; but I wonder what they are who rob whole states and countries! With a few followers I enter a village and plunder it. But people like your majesty with a vast army plunder and sack a whole country. Surely there is much difference between us. I am a petty robber while Kings are very big robbers,” said the chief meekly.

The King was astounded at this reply and said, "Am I too a robber?" He remained in deep thought for a while, called the robber near and said, "God is just. He shall judge us both in time. I shall not punish you. My good man, you are free, but I request you not to rob any more."

How did the robber chief prove that kings are greater robbers than common robbers?

What did the king do when he heard this?

---

## 24. WELL FARE THE COTTON TREE!

fare	spin	weave	thou
past	well-worn	pulp	

Sing, well fare the cotton-tree!

Bravely may it grow,

Bearing in its seeded pod

Cotton white as snow.



Spin the cotton into thread;  
Weave it in the loom :  
Wear it now, thou little child,  
In thy happy home!

Thou hast worn it well and long;  
Are its uses past ?  
No ; this well-worn cotton thing  
Is a book at last !

Sort and grind to pulp the rags ;  
Weave the paper fair ;  
Now it only waits for words  
To be printed there.

Words from God to man sent down,  
May those pages show :  
Sing, well fare the cotton-tree !  
Bravely may it grow !

What is done with cotton ?

What use is made of cotton rags ?

---

## 25. ISWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR.

oppressed	respectable	appointment	addition
extreme	poverty	examination	distinction
conferred	professor	principal	reforms
popular	education	resigned	models
composition	social	reformer	abiding
remarriage	child-widows	orphans	porter
beggar	infirm	language	elegant
	liberal	household	countless

Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar was one of the greatest men that our country ever produced. All through life he was a friend of the poor and the oppressed.

Iswar Chandra was born in 1820 in a small village, 52 miles to the west of Calcutta. He belonged to a poor but respectable Kulin family. When he was only five years of age, he was sent to the village school, where he learnt the three Rs.

Early in life he was taken to Calcutta, where his father had a small appointment.

There he was sent to the Sanskrit College. As a student his lot was a hard one; for in addition to preparing his lessons, the poor boy had to cook for his father and himself. Sometimes there was neither food, nor anything to cook, in the house.

Even such extreme poverty did not tell upon Iswar's studies. As the first boy in the class, he won prize after prize. Before he was twenty years of age he passed an examination in Hindu Law with such distinction, that the title of *Vidyasagar* or 'Ocean of Learning' was conferred on him.

At twenty he was made Head Pandit in Fort William College. Soon afterwards he was made a professor in the Sanskrit College, from which he rose to be its Principal. He made many reforms, the chief of which was to make the study of Sanskrit easy and popular.



As Inspector of Schools, he travelled all over the Presidency. He found that education was not popular. That was why he helped to set up aided schools in all parts of Bengal. He also helped to found girls' schools, wherever possible.

In 1858 he resigned his appointment. For the rest of his life he supported himself and his family, chiefly by writing books. He wrote his books in a sweet and simple language and in an elegant and beautiful style.

Not less great was Iswar as a social reformer. He took a deep and abiding interest in the education of women. He also favoured the remarriage of child-widows.

He was also a lover of men. Even as a boy at school the boy with a little food shared it with any who had none. As a student, his first care was to visit his sick friends and nurse them. As a writer he

supported hundreds of helpless widows and orphans. The great man would never have a porter at his gate, lest a hungry beggar should be driven from his door.

The sick, the aged, and the infirm, could always count on the help of Vidya-sagar. He shared all good things with his friends and relations and often gave them liberal help. For the people of his native village, he ran a free school, a girls' school and a hospital, all at his own expense.

Long before he died, his name became a household word in Bengal. All men were anxious to know what he thought in matters relating the hindu customs. The Government always held his name in the highest regard and made him a C. I. E., that is, a Companion of the Indian Empire.

The gentle old man quietly passed away in 1891. Countless people actually wept when they heard the ill-news; for in

Vidyasagar they had lost a real friend, beloved of God and man.

What were the reforms introduced by Vidyasagar ?

Why did the Government make him a C. I. E. ?

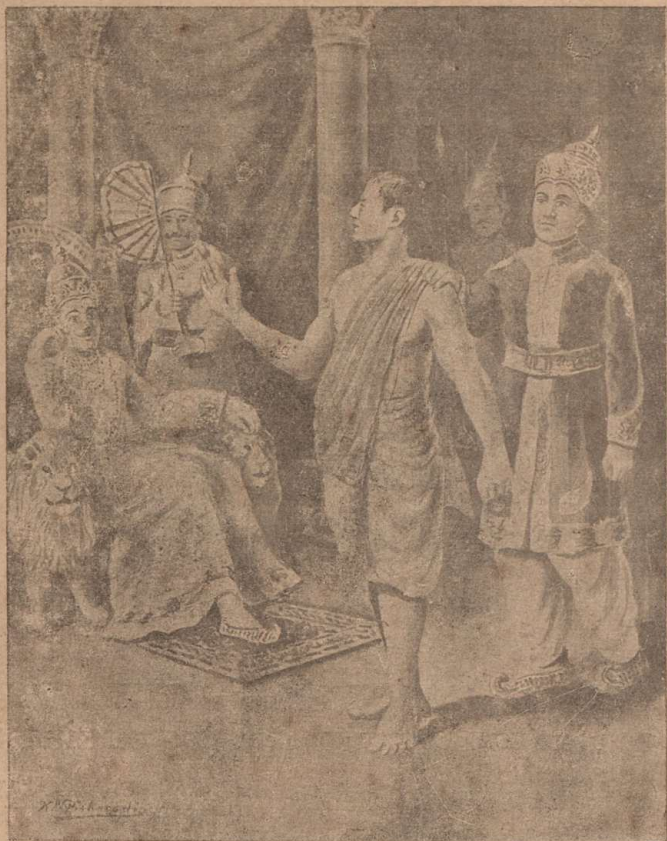
## 26. CHARITY.

yore	Hastinapura	Kuru	sacrifice
assent	procure	chip	unfortunate
splinter	charity	stables	vanished

In days of yore, there was a famous city near Delhi called Hastinapura. It was for ages and ages the seat of the mighty Kuru Empire. At the time of which we speak, prince Duryodhan was the king of kings.

One day there came before Duryodhan a poor Brahmin. He said to the king, "I intend performing a sacrifice, O! mighty king. Will you supply all the fuel needed for it? The king nodded assent and the Brahmin went away.





A few days afterwards the Brahmin returned and asked for the fuel. It was raining cats and dogs. No fuel could be supplied from the royal forest. Still the

king tried his best to procure fuel enough for the sacrifice.

The king sent his men round the city to see if the fuel needed could be bought. But there was not a chip of wood to be seen in any of the fuel shops. The city was subject to a severe fuel famine. The king's men brought word that no fuel could be had for love or money.

Another king would have found himself placed in a fix. Not so Duryodhan, who on all occasions was tender to himself. He turned round to the Brahmin and said, "O! Brahmin, it is impossible to give you any fuel. You are so unfortunate that this queen of cities cannot give you one splinter of wood. I have to refuse your request."

Prince Karna happened to be in the hall. Born to do charity, he could not bear to hear the word 'No.'

He went to his palace and asked his men to pull down the stables and collect all the wood. Then he took the Brahmin to the spot and said, "Worthy sire, here is fuel for you. I trust this will meet all your wants. Shall I ask my men to cart it all away to your house?"

The Brahmin suddenly vanished. He was no other than Sree Krishna, come in disguise to prove Karna's charity unto men.

Duryodhan's failure to keep his promise cost him his fame. What he lost Karna won; for in Karna's charity there was at all times the element of love.

Why was Duryodhan not able to keep his promise?  
How did Karna supply the fuel to the Brahmin?

---



## 27. WORK.

reward      spell      steady      purse      knowledge

Now's the time to study hard ;  
Work will bring its own reward :  
Then work, work, work!

We must spell and we must read  
Nothing but our lessons need—  
Sure and steady must succeed ;  
Then work, work, work!

Who would like an empty purse ?  
Empty brain would still be worse ;  
Then work, work, work!

With a will the task begin,  
Now's the time the prize to win ;  
Pour the golden knowledge in,  
And work, work, work!

What should we do to succeed ?  
What is the empty brain compared to ?

---

## 28. THE BANYAN TREE.

westerner	refreshing	trudge	propped
shoots	spacious	encamped	dimensions
squirrels	screeching	innumerable	clinging

Near every village tank in South India, you see the banyan tree. To us it is so familiar, that we do not care where it grows.

Not so the Westerner, who regards it as a wonderful tree. He does not think of the tree as fuel but of the cool and refreshing shade it yields. He loves the tree, because he cannot see it in any other country.

It is remarkable that no man yet prepared a seed-bed to receive the seeds of the tree. The sowing of seeds is all the work of the birds of the air. Were it not for them there might not be a single tree in India now.

Have you not seen the birds eating the berries of the tree? They leave remains of them on walls and tree-tops. From one of these tiny seeds there soon sprouts a



vigorous banyan plant, shooting up tall and straight. The villager afraid to have the inconvenient tree near his house, pulls it up by the roots and plants in the village common.

In recent times man has learnt to value



the tree at its true worth. This he has learnt to do, after miles of road have been made in India. He now makes rows of these giant trees along either side of the road in some of our districts. You may trudge on foot along such roads under the noon-day sun without feeling tired or thirsty.

Remarkable is the growth of this tree. When it finds a suitable soil, it not only grows to a great height but sends out long and heavy branches. These branches cannot long remain on the tree, unless propped up from below.

Nature makes haste to provide the props. From the branches spring shoots, which grow downwards. These in time strike root and become the strong pillars which support the heavy branches of the giant tree.

Seek the shade of such a tree as this, when the sun sends down his hottest rays.

What do you feel? You feel as if you were in a dark and spacious hall whose arched roof was supported by a hundred pillars.

Some trees have been known to cast their shade over a vast area. It is said that kings with their armies have some times encamped under the shade of a single tree. Is it not a matter for wonder that a single tree attains to the dimensions of a big grove?

About one such spreading tree you find countless animals of various types—squirrels are busy eating their food among the ripe leaves; spiders, lizards, mynas and crows are resting on the branches; the cunning serpent and the screeching owl find very secure places in the innumerable holes of the tree. Clinging to the underside of the twigs you find large numbers of bats, while stray goats help themselves to the fruits and leaves which lie on the ground.



During the hottest hours of the day cows lie down under the tree and chew the cud.

In the morning you find the houseless stranger cooking his meal near the tree in his single brass vessel. In the afternoon, the boys of the village gather under the tree to play their native games. Watch the tree and you soon find that the tree has a thousand new wonders to reveal.

Describe the growth of the banyan tree.

What sorts of animal life do you find about the tree?

---

## 29. THE MAD ELEPHANT.

intelligent	occasional	must	mahout
custody	consequence	trumpeting	intrepid
sagacious	bellow	reeled	prostrate

The elephant is one of the few animals that can be captured. When tamed it is very useful to man. It is not only an intelligent companion but also one of the best beasts of burden.



The male elephant is subject to occasional fits of irritation which sometimes develop into the condition of madness, known as "must." At the first sign of the appearance of the "must" the mahouts keep the animal in close and strict custody till the period of attack is over. Neglect in this respect has been attended by serious consequences.

A few years ago there was a very intelligent elephant which began to show signs of an attack of "must." On previous occasions of like nature, the keeper was able to control the animal by care and kindness. But this time the attack was so severe, that the elephant trumpeting loudly dashed towards the dense forest. On its way it pulled down small houses and destroyed the crops. The keeper, who made a brave attempt to secure the animal, was killed. The people, who lived in villages close by, were frightened and fled for their

lives. Some of them were killed in their rush for escape.

Help soon came in the person of an intrepid hunter. He selected a sagacious and faithful elephant named Choogie, which was not inferior in size and strength to its mad brother. Choogie, with the hunter on its back, soon approached the mad one. For some time the two animals stood closely looking at one another. When Choogie bellowed, or waved its trunk, the other did the same. Then Choogie calmly marched round the mad one and the mad one did the same to Choogie also.

After some time the mad elephant began to grow restless. It began to bellow angrily and sway its trunk. At last, it backed away a few yards and charged Choogie furiously.

Choogie, which was watching the mad one all the time, lowered its head and

when the mad one came to close quarters, it swiftly raised its head. One of the tusks of Choogie pierced the fleshy part of the enemy's throat. The enemy reeled and fell on its side. Immediately Choogie fell across the prostrate body of the mad elephant and held it firmly to the ground. Ropes were brought and the mad monster was made secure.

More elephants were sent for and with the mad elephant in their midst, it was led away to the camp from which it had escaped.

What do you mean by "must"?

How did Choogie secure the mad elephant?

---



### 30. THE RIVER.

whence	pensive	birthplace	madcap
hoyden	prank	flirted	bowers

O, tell me, pretty river!

Whence do thy waters flow?  
And whither art thou roaming,  
So pensive and so slow?

“My birthplace was the mountain,  
My nurse, the April showers;  
My cradle was a fountain,  
O’ver-curtained by wild flowers.

“One morn I ran away,  
A madcap, hoyden rill—  
And many a prank the day  
I played adown the hill!

“And then, ’mid meadowy banks,  
I flirted with the flowers,  
That stooped with glowing lips,  
To woo me to their bowers.

“ But these bright scenes are o’er,  
And darkly flows my waves,  
I hear the ocean’s roar,  
And there must be my grave!”

What are the several stages of rivers?

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### 31. THE AIRPLANE'S BIRTHDAY.

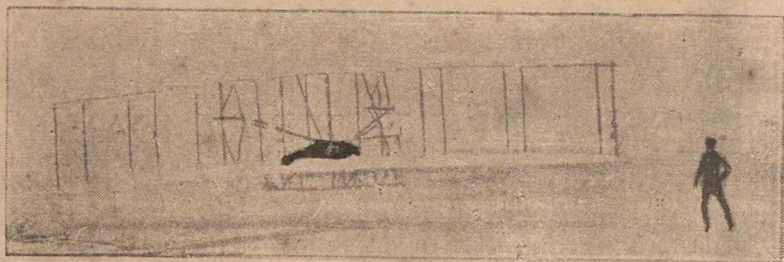
dunes	poised	assembled	operated
balancing	tense	excitement	gripped
inventors	rewarded	anniversary	fragile
airways	museum		

A chill wind was whistling around the Carolina sand dunes. It was the morning of December 17, 1903—a morning that was destined to be set apart in history.

On top of one of the dunes was an object resembling a giant kite, poised on a track. Two brothers. Orville Wright and Wilbur Wright, were working with this

curious-looking machine. They had brought it to this lonely place to test it.

The men who had assembled there to see this curious thing, saw the machine move forward suddenly. Orville Wright,



THE WRIGHT BROTHERS FLYING THEIR FIRST AIRPLANE.

lying on the lower of its two wings, operated it. His brother Wilbur ran beside it, balancing it on the track.

As it neared the end of the track, tense excitement gripped the inventors. Were their long years of planning and working to be rewarded at last with success? Would their machine actually fly? Or would it fall upon the sand, a failure?



It reached the end of the track and rose into the air. For twelve seconds it flew, its engine roaring. Then it settled to the sand 120 feet from the starting point. Man had made the first successful airplane flight in history.

Thirty-four years have passed since then. A proud and grateful Nation, the United States of America, has set aside December 17, anniversary of the first airplane flight, as National Aviation Day. On that day the newest and most powerful airplanes will take part in a big birthday party. The roaring of their engines seems to give a salute to the men who gave the world wings and to the fragile machine that first ventured out upon the airways.

Orville Wright is still living in Dayton, and will receive the Nation's tribute. He is 66 years old. Wilbur died in 1912.

Unfortunately, the airplane that made the first flight will not be present at the

party. It is now in the Science Museum in London, but Americans hope that it will come back to the United States some day.

Who were the first inventors of the airplane in the United States ?

Describe the birthday party of the airplane ?

Where is the first airplane of America now ?

### 32. BE KIND.

accents	intermingled	traces	cherish
valley	dearth	affection	fathoms
sparkles	blessings	garland	renown

Be kind to thy father : for when thou wast young,

Who loved thee as fondly as he ?

He caught the first accents that fell from thy tongue,

And joined in thine innocent glee.

Be kind to thy father : for now he is old,

His locks intermingled with gray ;

His footsteps are feeble, once fearless and bold—

Thy father is passing away.

Be kind to thy mother : for, lo ! on her brow

May traces of sorrow be seen ;—

Oh, well may'st thou cherish and comfort her now,

For loving and kind hath she been.













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