

THE MISCHIEF-MAKER.

BY JOSEPHINE POLLARD.

"This is dull enough work," said a dear little breeze,
With the fragrance of June in her breath,
"Of living on rose-leaves and taking my ease,
I'm just about tired to death!
Dear me.
I'm just about tired to death.
"I can't raise the wind in this poky old place,"
Said the breeze with a dolorous sigh,
"So my quarters I'll change, if it brings me disgrace;
I must have a 'blow out,' or die.
"Dear me!"
Said the breeze, with a dolorous sigh.
So the Zephyr quite out of her latitude falls,
And in search of adventures goes forth,
Receiving some hints as to tempests and squalls,
From her friends at the east and north,
Who say—
"You'd better keep northeast by north."
She found a small spark with the tiniest glow,
And declared it would be a great shame
To let it die out just for want of a blow;
So she fanned it up into a flame.
Ah, me!
Such a beautiful, terrible flame!
It leaped and it crackled, and still the breeze blew,
And thought it was capital fun
To see the black smoke, as it gathered and grew,
And put out the light of the sun.
"Just see,"
She exclaimed, "what fun!"
But she wearied at last of her frolicsome rout,
And the joy of her turbulent reign:
"How I wish that this wretched old fire was out,
And I in my quarters again!
Oh, yes,
In my nice cozy quarters again."
But the flame she had kindled with vigorous breath,
To her bidding refused to give heed,
But went hurrying on in its dance of death,
And mockingly laughed at her deed!
"Aha!"
How it mocked at her ignorant deed.
"Dear me," said the zephyr, "now where shall I go
To hide my disgrace and my shame?
Ah! little I thought that such ruin would grow
From the spark that I fanned to a flame!
Dear me!
And nobody else to blame.
"This caution I give to all breezes that blow,
And to people who gossip about,
Be careful of sparks, lest you kindle a glow
That you'd find very hard to put out.
Just see
What came of my little 'blow out!' "
—N. Y. Independent.

WESTERN NOTES.

Linforth, Kellogg & Co., San Francisco, have sued James McMechan, et al., to recover \$4,494 for goods sold and delivered.

"The Albany (Oregon) Register says, 'The coming season bids fair to become the busiest since the first settlement for mechanics, of which there are a scarcity.'"

Placerville, El Dorado county, Cal. has a water-power sausage machine, capable of grinding out these conundrums at the rate of 56 pounds in twenty minutes.

The Governor of California offers a reward of \$3,000 for the capture and delivery of Vasquez alive to the Sheriff of Monterey county, or \$2,000 for his dead body.

The people of Pleasanton, Alameda county, Cal., are on short allowance of bread, high water in the creeks and bad roads cutting them off from communication with the outside world.

Stalks of wheat, measuring three feet high, nicely headed out, and almost ready for harvest, were brought into the San Bernardino Argus office lately. It was raised in the valley.

The proprietor of the Los Angeles Herald was interviewed, Jan 21, by a Dr. Griffin. The doctor struck him with a cane and next drew a pistol, at which the proprietor wisely took "leg-bail."

The largest assemblage of the business men of Santa Clara, Cal., ever convened, met January 21, to take action on the proposed establishment of a jute factory. After the usual speech-making, committees were appointed and the meeting adjourned until Wednesday last.

The Wild Family of Monroe.

TUNKHANNOCK,
Wyoming Co., Pa.

January 15, 1874.

William Parks, aged about twenty-one years, has been lodged in jail at this place for repeated attempts to take the life of his father, Stephen Wells Parks, of the town of Monroe, this county. This brings into prominence the history of the Parks family, known as the "Wild Family of Monroe," which, without exceeding the bounds of truth in the least, is one of the most singular on record.

In the fall of 1871 a party from Pittston, Luzerne county, were hunting in the mountains of this county. In a wild, lonely spot, miles from any habitation, one of them, hearing a rustling in the leaves and bushes on one side of him, was astounded to see a young woman, perfectly nude, digging among the leaves, apparently for beech nuts. She was on her hands and knees, and was not aware of the hunter's presence for some time. When she saw him she uttered a harsh cry and started off like a deer through the woods and was soon out of sight. Determined, if possible, to find out something more in regard to this singular apparition, the hunter summoned his companions together, told them what he had seen, and proposed that they follow in the direction she had taken, and endeavor to learn where she came from.

The party walked for about a mile through the woods and came to a small clearing. In one corner of this clearing was a miserable hovel, built of logs and with a roof of straw. They went towards it. Before they reached it the girl who had been seen by their companion came out of the door, and following after her was a boy, also entirely naked. They jumped about the door, as if playing, on all fours, picking up something from the ground occasionally and eating it. The hunters stood for a moment speechless with surprise at the most singular spectacle, and then approached nearer. They were soon seen by the wild beings—for wild they surely were—who at once ran swiftly off and hid in the woods.

Coming up to the door of the hut, the hunters looked in. On a bench in the middle of the room sat an old man, reading from a large book which rested on his knees. His clothing was scant and ragged, and evidently made by himself. A long white beard reached nearly to his waist, and, like his hair, was matted and unkempt. There was no furniture in the room, except the bench. In one corner some straw was scattered about, as if for a bed. The bare ground formed the floor. Near one end of the room a hole was dug, in which there was a fire. Over this was an iron kettle in which something was boiling. Everything betokened the most abject wretchedness; filth and dirt were on every side.

The old man arose when the strangers came to the door. He was below the medium height, and had a sharp, bright eye and an intelligent face. He invited the gentlemen into the house, and asked them, in polite terms, the nature of their errand. The hunters were at a loss at first to explain, but finally told the old man what they had seen in the woods and about his door, and expressed a curiosity to know who and what the strange beings were.

The old man laughed and said:

"Those are my children, William and Melvina—brother and sister. They appear peculiar to strangers, no doubt, but I'm used to 'em. Clothes are of not much account, anyhow, here in the woods."

The old man then stepped to the door and gave a peculiar shout. Very soon his children were seen to emerge from the woods and come stealthily toward the house, gesticulating and chattering a strange gibberish and now and then laughing idiotically. They came near enough to afford a sufficient scrutiny. Both were well formed, with the exception of the lower limbs, which were distorted. The girl's face, although lacking any sign of intelligence, was not unprepossessing. Their heads were small, the foreheads sloping far back. Long, matted hair hung from their heads, and their skin was nearly black with dirt and exposure. While the strangers were looking at them, the boy, with no apparent provocation, struck his sister a blow in the face, uttering a peculiar cry. She ran across the clearing and the boy followed her, seizing a stick that

lay on the ground. Their father started after them, shouting, "Let her alone, Bill! Let her alone, I say!" "Bill" did not catch his sister, however, and ran off in another direction. The old man returned to his guests, who could not repress their astonishment and disgust, but solicited an explanation of the extraordinary and incredible scenes which they beheld.

The old man, without any hesitation, told them the history of himself and his wild children. His name, he said, was Stephen Wells Parks. He was born in Luzerne county, Pa., and was fifty years of age. When he was twenty-five years of age he married and moved with his wife to the farm where the hunters found him. His wife's health, he said, was poor, and her mind weak. His daughter Melvina was born in 1850. She never had any care from her mother after she walked, and no clothing except a cloth wrapped about her when it was cold. William was born two years afterwards, and was treated in the same way. Parks and his wife believed that it was useless to clothe their children out in the wilderness where they lived. Neither of the children ever spoke a word beyond their strange gibberish, which they apparently understood. They ran wild in the woods, living on roots, beech nuts, berries, and sometimes killing and eating snakes and toads. Walking so much on their hands and knees, hunting their food, occasioned the distortion of their legs. Melvina had always been of a docile, gentle disposition and easily managed. William was quite the contrary. He was vicious and ugly from the time he could creep, and at the time the hunters discovered the family was getting quite unmanageable.

The "farm" was used merely to raise enough potatoes and pumpkins to furnish food for the mother and father. The children seldom ate at home, and slept in the woods when the weather was not too cold—sometimes being gone for days at a time.

In 1867 the wife of Parks left him, stating as a reason that "Bill" was getting so unmanageable and ugly that she was afraid of him. She took with her another child, a baby, and had never returned. Up to the time of the visit of the hunters Parks had lived alone in the mountains with his wild, mute, idiotic children. If he had occasion to go away he always tied Bill up in the house with a strong rope for fear that he might kill Melvina. Parks said he found them a great burden, and their care interfered with his studies. Surrounded by wretchedness and filth, the father of these brute-like offsprings had learned the Bible almost by heart, being able to repeat whole chapters at will from any portion of it. He was also well versed in history and mathematics and had invented a system of shorthand writing which he used with wonderful dexterity. He exhibited specimens of penmanship executed by himself which were really elegant. He also recited selections from Shakespeare in a manner that astonished his hearers. He said he regretted his wife's absence very much, as it prevented him from investigating an important etymological theory of his.

The hunters left, finding it difficult to credit even what they had seen and heard. When the news of the existence of the "wild family" became known the "farm" was besieged with callers, and two enterprising individuals conceived the idea of securing the family and exhibiting the "wild mutes" about the country. Parks was willing to engage in the enterprise, and leased his unfortunate offspring for the purpose. He accompanied the exhibition, "lecturing" upon the circumstances attending the lives of his children and himself. The "mutes" were taken about the country for a few weeks but the speculation proved a failure, and they were returned to the wilderness. Removed from restraint, they tore to shreds the clothing that had been placed upon them as soon as they reached home.

After the first excitement created by the discovery of this family had died away they were forgotten. The arrest and incarceration of one of them has again brought them forward, and revealed a still more sickening chapter in their history.

Parks, the father, says that after their return home from the exhibition tour Bill became more and

more violent in his temper. He made several deadly assaults upon both his sister and father. A few months after their return Melvina gave birth to a child. This child she and Bill killed in the woods and tore it to pieces. Not long afterwards Bill attacked his sister and killed her with an old knife that Parks used to cut up pumpkins with. Parks buried his daughter and ever since that time has lived in deadly fear of his son.

One day last week Bill attacked his father, knocking him down with a club. The old man got away from him, however, and came to this place for an officer to arrest him. Two men went to Parks' place and succeeded, after a struggle, in capturing him. They put a suit of clothing on him and brought him to Tunkhannock and lodged him in jail. As soon as he was placed in the cell he tore off his clothing, and is now perfectly naked. Hundreds have flocked to the jail to see him. Parks returned home, and is now living entirely alone, and probably finds ample time for his studies. The wild, mute, maniac son will doubtless be sent to the insane asylum to spend the rest of his days.

It seems incredible that in this enlightened age, within the sound, as it were, of the church bells of a populous town, such a case of utter depravity and wretchedness could exist. But the above are the facts, which can be substantiated by plenty of reliable witnesses.—Cor. N. Y. Herald.

"There Were Giants in Those Days."

The Bible mentions several races of giants, as the Rephaims, the Anakims, the Enims, the Zonzonims, and others. Profane history also mentions giants; they gave seven feet of height to Hercules, their first hero, and in our days we have seen men eight feet high. The giant who was shown in Rouen, in 1735, measured eight feet some inches. The Emperor Maximin was of that size; Skenkuis and Platerus, physicians of the last century, saw several of that stature; and Goropius saw a girl who was ten feet high.

The body of Orestes, according to the Greeks, was eleven feet and a half; the giant Galbara, brought from Arabia to Rome, under Claudius Caesar, was near ten feet; and the bones of Secondilla and Puffio, keepers of the gardens of Sallust, were but six inches shorter.

Funnam, a Scotsman, who lived in the time of Eugene the Second, King of Scotland, measured eleven feet and a half; and Jacob le Maire, in his voyage to the Straits of Magellan, reports that on the 17th of December, 1615, they found at Point Desire several graves covered with stones; and having the curiosity to remove the stones, they discovered human skeletons of ten and eleven feet long.

The Chevalier Scory, in his voyage to the Peak of Teneriff, says that they found, in one of the sepulchral caverns of that mountain, the head of a Gaunche, which had eighty teeth, and the body was not less than fifteen feet long.

The giant Ferragus, slain by Orlando, nephew of Charlemagne, was eighteen feet high.

Rinland, a celebrated anatomist, who wrote in 1614, says that, some years before, there was to be seen in the suburbs of St. Germain the tomb of the giant Isoret, who was twenty feet high.

In Rouen, in 1509, in digging in the ditches near the Dominicans, they found a stone tomb, containing a skeleton whose skull held a bushel of corn, and whose shin bone reached up to the girdle of the tallest man there, being about four feet long, and consequently the body must have been seventeen or eighteen feet high. Upon the tomb was a plate of copper, whereon was engraved: "In this tomb lies the noble and puissant Lord, the Chevalier Ricon de Vallemont, and his bones." Platerus, a famous physician, declares that he saw at Lucerne the true human bones of a subject which must have been at least nineteen feet high.

Valence, in Dauphine, boasts of possessing the bones of the giant Bucart, tyrant of the Vivarais, who was slain by an arrow by the Count de Cabillon, his vassal. The Dominicans had a part of the shin bone, with the articulation of knee, and his figure painted in fresco, with an inscription showing that this giant was twenty-two and a half feet high, and that his bones were found in 1705, near the banks of the

Morderi, a little river at the foot of the mountains of Crussol, upon which, tradition says, the giant dwelt.

January 11, 1613, some masons digging near the ruins of a castle in Dauphine, in a field which, by tradition, had long been called the Giant's Field, at the depth of eighteen feet discovered a brick tomb, thirty feet long, twelve feet wide, and eight feet high, on which was a gray stone, with the words "Theutobochus Rex" cut thereon. When the tomb was opened, they found a human skeleton entire, twenty-five and a half feet long, ten feet across the shoulders, and five feet deep from the breastbone to the back. His teeth were about the size of an ox's hoof, and his shin-bone measured four feet.

Near Mezarino, in Sicily, in 1516, was found a giant, thirty feet high; his head was the size of a hog's head, and each of his teeth weighed five ounces.

Near Palermo, in the valley of Mazara, in Sicily, a skeleton of a giant, thirty feet long, was found in the year 1548; and another of thirty-three feet high, in 1550; and many curious persons have preserved several of these gigantic bones.

The Athenians found near their city, two famous skeletons, one of thirty-four, and the other of thirty-six feet.

At Totu, in Bohemia, in 753, was found a skeleton, the head of which could scarce be encompassed by the arms of two men together, and whose legs, which they still keep in the castle of that city, were 26 feet long.

The skull of the giant found in Macedonia, September, 1861, held 210 pounds of corn.

The celebrated Sir Hans Sloane, who treated this matter very learnedly, does not doubt these facts, but thinks the bones were those of elephants, whales, or other enormous animals.

Elephants' bones may be shown for those of giants, but they can never impose on connoisseurs.

Whales, which by their immense bulk are more proper to be substituted for the largest giants, have neither arms nor legs, and the head of that animal has not the least resemblance to that of a man. If it be true, therefore, that a great number of the gigantic bones which we have mentioned have been seen by anatomists, and have been reputed real human bones, the existence of giants is proved.—Exchange.

WESTERN NOTES.

Bailey is already two feet high around Los Angeles.

The California Legislature has passed a "no fence" law, to take effect June 25.

Virginia City is infested with check guerillas to an alarming extent.

Los Angeles county, Cal., owes for gopher and squirrel scalps the sum of \$10,364, and yet the varmints are as thick as ever. 206,287 have been captured and scalped.

The farmers along the South Yamhill, Oregon, have clubbed together and raised funds for the extermination of wolves, making the prize \$22 for each scalp.

The Carson Appeal compliments California for her having adopted the No-Fence law, and hopes the Nevada Legislature will, at its next session, enact a similar law for that State.

They complain in Los Angeles that full-grown San Francisco hoodlums have taken advantage of the present low rates of fare between the two places to visit their tranquil city for unholy purposes.

Douglas county, Oregon, can boast of a lady who has been married nine times, has eight husbands living, and is living with none of them. More than this, she has a daughter who is now 23 years of age and living with her third husband.

Sargent's mineral land bill (Senate No. 23) is generally condemned by the press of California. Among the exceptions are the Grass Valley Union and the Nevada Transcript. So says the Sacramento Union.

A worm called the limnorla, which is said to be a greater borer than the torredo or General Winn, has recently appeared in the harbor of San Francisco, and is playing the mischief with the wharf piles. These worms have done so much damage to Front-street wharf as to necessitate extensive repairs.