

to turn out and fight these fires. The trouble is, what is everybody's, is nobody's business. All that is needed is some one to lead out; and the trifling amount that this would cost would frequently save hundreds of acres of timber from being destroyed.

In Farmington canyons alone, this would have been the case, during the last few autumns. As it was, the fires raged until extinguished by rain-storms.

In silden times the Bishops would not hesitate to call for volunteers in such emergencies, but "Church and State" apparently is too thoroughly separated for that now; so it is very evident that the State had better assist in having these fires put out than wait for tardy rain-storms to do the work.

To guard against the officer being absent, I think that these duties should be performed: first, by the sheriff; second a deputy sheriff, if the fire is near the town in which they reside; third, the constable; fourth, the justice of the peace, or any person he may deputize.

I think that there is a great need of an awakenlag in the public mind, not only in regard to preserving what is left, but also in regard to replanting and at least to some extent replenishing our once "primeval forests."

I might add that the best time to fight these fires is early in the morning, when the atmosphere is cool, and the frost or dew causes the fire to burn more slowly.

T. B. C.

THE SWIMMING BOY.

He was not exactly what would be called a handsome boy. Indeed, he didn't look at all as if he were a story hero. His yellow curls, which had once been his mother's pride, were cut close off now; and his nose was unobtainably freckled. But he was a sturdy, well-built boy; and his frank face possessed a pair of most steadfast blue eyes. And it was this pair of very steadfast blue eyes which caused the young man who wrote stories to stop when they ran plump into each other in the turn of the little country lane, and look down at him. Then the young man asked—

"Where are you going?"

"Swimming," replied the boy promptly and smiling up at the other pleasantly.

"Swimming?" repeated the young man, as he looked doubtfully over the small person before him. "Does your mother know that?"

"Yes, sir," answered the boy, smiling more than ever. Then he added, as if to relieve the other's ignorance, "You see, I'm the boy who swims."

"Oh," said the young man, "you are, are you? The boy who swims?" Then the light of a new interest came into his own eyes behind his glasses, and he went on coaxingly: "It is still early, and there's plenty of time to go this afternoon. Come, tell me all about it. I want to know, you know, why you are the 'boy who swims.' Why are you not the boy who runs, or the boy who jumps, or rides, or plays ball, you know?"

"Cause I swim best, I guess," said the other. Then the young man led the way to a shaded spot than where they were standing; and, having made

themselves comfortable, he produced a couple of oranges, and, while they ate them, 'the boy who swims,' told the inquisitive young man about himself.

"You see," said he, "when we are at home, we live right on the river bank; and our back porch hangs out over it, 'cause the river has cut the bank away some there. I've got two brothers younger than I am, too,—I'm ten; and we can all swim. Mamma taught us. Yes, sir, mamma, not papa. She has a little harness that fits around our waists and chests, with a long strap to it; and whenever we have a birthday that makes us five years old, if it is in the summer time, she puts it on and lowers us into the river. Then we paddle around for a while and she takes us out. She does that every day; and then after a while we know how to swim."

"It's a funny way to learn, isn't it?"

The young man thought it was and a very nice way too.

"Yes; and then you see as soon as we do learn, mamma doesn't worry about us being near the river when she's busy. Some of her friends say they wouldn't live near the river for anything, if they were in her place; but she likes it and so do we. Well, one day there was a man who wanted to teach his wife to swim; and he came out to the river one evening while we were at supper and took her in right below our house. And pretty soon I heard some one screaming dreadful for help, and I ran out. And there was the poor lady drowning; and her husband, who couldn't swim much himself, trying to save her. So I ran down and pulled off my coat—I had lots of fire crackers in my pocket, and they might get wet, you see—and swam out to them. Then I got her loose from him some way, and towed her into the bank until she could stand up, and then the man began to holler, too, and I went back for him. He was worse than his wife, but I got him in at last; and then the people came running down to us, and crowded around, and said a lot of funny things about me being a hero. But I told them they didn't understand; there wasn't anything big in that. And then, after mamma had hugged me, and cried some, and they were all gone, I went back and got my coat, 'cause I wanted to see if my fire crackers were all right. Somehow, from that evening, they've all called me 'the boy who swims,' just as if it was my name?"

Then the young man who wrote stories did a funny thing; he asked the boy if he would mind shaking hands with him. The boy looked at him with wide-open eyes at this odd question, but he held out his own brown little hand as gladly and frankly as he had talked to his new-found friend.

"Thank you," the young man said, with a queer look in his eyes. And a few minutes later the boy who swims had disappeared around the little bend in the shady green lane, on his way to the swimming-pool, whistling and happy, and thinking of the good orange he had just had.

But the young man who wrote stories turned thoughtfully, and pursued his way with a warm feeling in his heart; and, from that day to this, I really think he is more proud of his acquaintance with 'the boy who

-swims' than anyone else he knows.—
Little Men and Women.

CONFLICTING LAWS.

Attorney General Bishop Friday transmitted the following opinion to State Auditor Richards with reference to the drawing of warrants in payment of the salary and expenses of the State superintendent of public instruction:

Dear Sir—I am in receipt of your communication of October 12th, 1896, requesting an opinion on the following question: "In drawing State warrants or the salary, contingent expenses, printing, clerical assistance and traveling expenses of the superintendent of public instruction, should they be drawn on the specific appropriation for those purposes or on the school fund?"

An examination of the laws of 1896 discloses, first that under chapter 58, section 17, it is your duty as State auditor to draw warrants on the State treasurer for the payment of money directed by law to be paid out of the treasury. Each warrant must be drawn upon the fund out of which it is payable and specify the services for which it is drawn and the specific appropriation applicable to the payment thereof. This act was approved March 10th, 1896, and took effect upon approval.

On April 5th, 1896, an act was approved and took effect as of that date, being chapter 128, making appropriations for the payment of salaries, etc., of certain State officers. In this act appropriations were made as follows: For salary of superintendent of public instruction, payable quarterly, \$1,500; for traveling expenses the sum of \$500; for printing for the office the sum of \$972; for clerical and other assistance for the office the sum of \$600; for contingent expenses and for postage \$620.

Upon examination of Chapter 130 in reference to the free school system, I find in section 14 of this act that the State superintendent of public instruction must prepare and transmit to the proper officers suitable forms and regulation for making their reports, with necessary blanks, school registers, etc., and give instructions and opinions for the purpose of aiding in the organization and government of the district schools. He is further authorized to print and circulate a summary of his opinions and rulings, and the costs of such blank forms, registers, opinions and rulings are to be paid out of the State school fund upon vouchers certified by the superintendent and with the Board of Examiners who are to allow or reject same in whole or in part and the State auditor is directed to draw a warrant on the State treasurer for the amount allowed, in favor of the person to whom said amount is due. Section 18 of that act further provides that at the end of every three months the State superintendent shall file with the board of examiners an itemized account of his expenses, verified by his oath, which shall be examined and if correct the board shall certify same to the State auditor who shall issue a warrant on the treasurer for the amount due on such account and for one-fourth of the superintendent's annual salary and