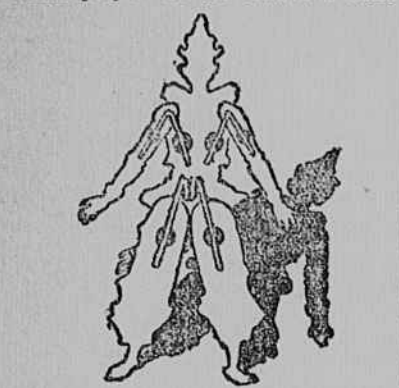


DANCING MARIONETTES.

Fun-Making Toys for the Long Winter Evenings.

Any One Can Make Them If He Follows the Instructions Given in This Article—Matches and Old Cards Turned to Good Account.

Marionettes, says a sanguine inventor, must have an inherent life of their own. The clown, the Columbine and all the figures representing animals will now appear about on their own hook.



Worn-out visiting cards, match-sticks, these are very simple materials with which people who are fond of a little nonsense now and then can fashion all the figures represented by these designs, which can at any time be set in motion like mechanical toys.

Take, for instance, a clown. First draw and paint the figure on the back of a card—the body and head first, then the two legs and arms; carefully cut out these five pieces, place the body on a table and above it the legs and arms in a position of rest.

Now these limbs must be joined, and this is how it is to be done. Take, for instance, an arm, mark with a pencil at the shoulder end of the arm the exact spot forming the axis of rotation; pierce a hole with a pin at this point and put it through the shoulder in the body. Bend a match stick at the center as much as possible without breaking and drop a little melted sealing wax, joining the two ligaments to the arm and body respectively, making the part forming the joint be in contact with the pin. Do the same for the other limbs, remove the four pins and the figure is complete. Now we have to give it life.

All that has to be done for this is to place the side of the figure on which are the matches in a plate containing a thin layer, so to say, of water. The bent fibers of wood which have not been broken will swell by means of the moisture absorbed and will try to regain their rectilinear position. The figure will then make a series of abrupt movements, which are very amusing. The legs and arms will move apart as they



do which are moved by a string. Be careful to use only large, common match-sticks. The Swedish ones are impregnated with paraffine and would not move as required.

At last we have found a use for home-made matches.

Each one can perfect the mode of fashioning these figures as he likes best. A ballet girl who can lift her foot to her forehead, a rooster which can move its legs about as pretty easy to make. A horse with twelve different joints is a bit too difficult for an amateur. For the horse each leg is composed of three different portions.

Instead of placing the figure on a plate we can put a drop of water on each joint with the finger or with a paint brush, and the effect will be the same.

The winter evenings are coming which cause young and old to assemble around the family table. The time seems favorable, says the New York Herald, to recommend to our readers those now dancing marionettes.

A Lover's Abstraction.

That the groom of one of last week's weddings was so deeply enamored of his fair bride as to foreshadow the future happiness of the couple is, perhaps, suggested by a little incident which, according to the New York Times, he does not mind telling himself. It was in the early days of their acquaintance, and he was about mailing his first note to her. Although the missive was a comparatively unimportant one, relating to some intended courtesy, its writing had been mingled with much absorbing thought of what future notes to her might breathe, and he walked down the street to mail it, puffing some very pleasant pictures from his meerschaum. At the box, still absorbed, he dropped, as he thought, the letter into the receptacle and retraced his steps to his apartments. As the door was reached he found the note still in his hand. What, then, had he put into the box? His pipe, of course, and there he found it a few minutes later, bowl out, the long stem deep among Uncle Sam's mail.

Nebuchadnezzar's Door-Step.

In the Egyptian and Assyrian gallery of the British Museum, and in close contiguity to the Hitite monument and the bronze gates of Shalmanezor, there is an object of more than ordinary interest—a bronze door-step from the great temple of E-Sagil at Borsippa, a suburb or division of Babylon. The door-step has not only the name of Nebuchadnezzar inscribed upon it, but also mentions his health, or restoration to health. From this it is presumed to have been a votive offering.

FOR VICTORIA NYANZA.

Steamers That Are Now Being Built for Use in Darkest Africa.

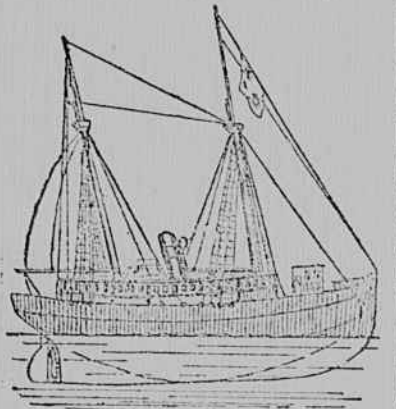
Think of building in a Glasgow ship yard a steamer which must be taken to pieces again before 5,000 Africans can carry her over 500 miles of wild African country and boat her on the inland sea of Victoria Nyanza!



The New York World's Glasgow correspondent saw this vessel on the stocks, and obtained a rough sketch of her. She is the first of a British fleet which Messrs. A. & J. Inglis have contracted to build for the British East Africa Company's service. This necessity for building the vessel so as to allow of taking her to pieces again for overland portage, makes her progress very slow. After she is launched and fitted, all the work which is now handled with so much care must be undone. Before this ship reaches her destination she must be carried through miles and miles of African forests and jungles between the coast and the big lake. It is estimated that 5,000 darkeys will be required for this work, with at least 2,000 more as relay staff to replace the sick, the runaways and the unmanageable.

The new vessel is commissioned by the Imperial British East Africa Company, of which Sir William Mackinnon is president. The company will float its own flag, issue its own postage stamps and coin its own currency.

The first steamer of the fleet is about 120 tons, builders' measurement. She is stonily built of steel plates bolted with steel bolts on steel frames. The



THE STEAMER.

bolts will be of course only riveted in their proper holes when the steamer arrives on the shores of the lake. Each plate, like every other part of the steamer, is limited in size to a load which a negro could carry conveniently on his head, and it is calculated that with their loads, and in their places, the negro caravan will, when marching in file, extend over three miles. The steamer, with its plating, is put together with bolts and nuts to be removed when the parts are taken to pieces and packed aboard the railway cars which will carry the steamer in piecemeal to the docks at London, where it will be shipped on board the London and Zanzibar direct steamer.

Though constructed for purposes of peace this vessel will be armed for rough fighting if it is necessary. She will carry an armament of two Maxim machine guns, besides small arms and a hose specially fitted to throw boiling water from the boiler among warlike natives. The iron plating of the vessel is, of course, proof against rifle or musket balls. On each bow will be fitted an iron rifle and conning tower. The engines will drive her at a speed of ten knots, and with handsome and easy lines fore-and-aft the steamer should be easily driven. Her length over all is 80 feet, with 16 feet beam. Tanned canvas sails will be sent with the steamer.

IN CUPID'S CHAINS.

Making Bridesmaids Together with Chains of Flowers.

One of the prettiest novelties at English weddings, according to the Ladies' Home Journal, is that of linking the bridesmaids together with chains of flowers attached to floral handcuffs.

Usually there are six brides besides the maid of honor. They walk two by two, those on the right side of the aisle having the chains depending from their left wrists, the maids on the left side having their right wrists connected. The chains are long enough to curve gracefully from wrist to wrist. The



IN CUPID'S CHAINS.

outside hand of each maid is free to hold her bouquet, posy or basket of blossoms, and, linking the wrists that are on the inside going up the aisle, brings the maids in the right order as they form quarter circles, one on each side, at the chancel.

After the ceremony, in the twinkling of an eye the maid nearest the bride on each side slips off her handcuff, passes it to the second maid, takes the arm of "her" usher and falls into line. Maid number two follows suit, and the two who are last to leave the church carry the chains and loops on their disengaged arm.

THE M'KEE CHILDREN.

President Harrison's Grandson and Granddaughter.

They Make Things Lively in and Around the White House—The Chief Magistrate as a Waiter at a Party of Infants.

The White House has so seldom been, in recent years at least, the scene of young child-life, that the presence of President Harrison's grandchildren there has brought them into a notoriety of which, fortunately for them, they can not be fully aware. They form a very large part of the domestic establishment on t, and their comfort and happiness are ever uppermost in the minds of grandpa and grandma. Not all nor any thing that has been said and written respecting the President's devotion to "Baby" McKee has interrupted, for an instant, their close companionship. And "Baby" McKee, says the Ladies' Home Journal, loyally repays his distinguished grandsire for his devotion. No one has such influence over the little fellow as grandpa, and to one else does he go in his little distresses and find readier solace. Mary Lodge McKee, who is Benjamin Harrison's junior by a year and a half, is more retiring in disposition than her better known brother, but as she grows in years her winsome graces will make her a formidable rival for first place in the annals of the paragon.

The babies at the White House doubtless enjoy life with a vim that other less fortunate ones do not experience. They have all the sweets and none of the bitter of public life. They see only its joys and glitter, and these are very attractive. They are petted by visitors whom they are occasionally permitted to see, and the frequent performances of the Marine band on the grounds and in the Executive mansion fill them with delight.

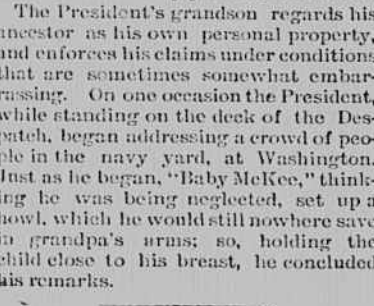
During last winter, the McKees had their cousin Martha, Mr. Russell Harrison's beautiful flaxen-haired daughter, for a playmate, and she will be with them again during the present season. Martha is between Benjamin Harrison and Mary Lodge McKee in age, and the trio made a pretty picture as they played or rode about together. McKee ("BABY M'KEE.") believes in the virtues of fresh air is cardinal among the occupants of the White House, so that it was an ineluctable day indeed which did not see the carriage loaded with the little ones and their nurses for an airing.

Shortly before the departure of Martha Harrison for her far Western home, Benjamin Harrison McKee's birthday was celebrated with considerable state. A dinner was served at which he was host, and his sister and cousin guests. And who do you think acted as waiter on the party? No less a personage than the distinguished Chief Magistrate of the Nation. And it is said that a happier, merrier party seldom assembled under any conditions than that one. That will be something for these little folks to tell their grandchildren, how they were served by the President of the United States himself, and that no one enjoyed it more than he.

The President's grandson regards his ancestor as his own personal property, and enforces his claims under conditions that are sometimes somewhat embarrassing. On one occasion the President, while standing on the deck of the Despatch, began addressing a crowd of people in the navy yard, at Washington. Just as he began, "Baby McKee," thinking he was being neglected, set up a howl, which he would still nowhere save in grandpa's arms; so, holding the child close to his breast, he concluded his remarks.

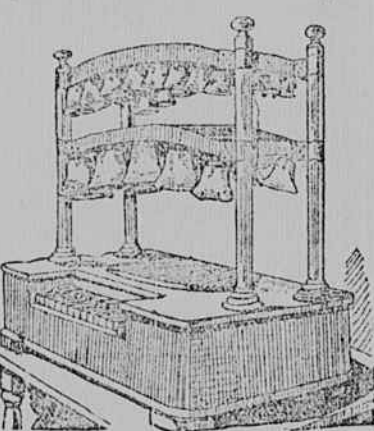
Unique Musical Instrument Invented by a Chicago Man.

Dr. Alva Owens, of Chicago, recently constructed the somewhat unique musical instrument shown in the illustration. The apparatus, which might be described as a set of chimes to be rung by electricity, was designed for advertising purposes. The instrument, it is intended, will be carried through the streets on an electric tricycle and will be played on the trip after the manner of an ordinary piano. The details and operation of the device are so simple as



ELECTRIC CHIMES.

to require but little explanation: Attached to each of the thirty bells hung on the rack above the key-board is an electro-magnet. The keys make the circuit from a battery in the base to the electro-magnets at the bells.



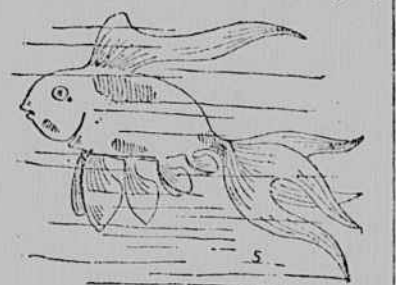
ELECTRIC CHIMES.

TWO-TAILED GOLD FISH.

How the Finny Beauties Are Bred and Colored in the Orient.

All the gold fish in this country, says the Washington Star, originally came from Japan and China, where the business of breeding them has been carried on for no one knows how many hundreds of years. You will be surprised to learn, perhaps, that their brilliant colors are obtained altogether by artifice. Nature unassisted never produced a gold fish—that is to say, the paint was lacking. The creature at the beginning is of a sallow, yellowish bronze hue. Take a pair, breed from them, and once in awhile will occur a freak that will exhibit more or less color. Mate two such freaks and you will obtain progeny with more decided tints. Out of this last generation take a pair that show the most color, proceeding cautiously in this way, and, eventually, with sufficient care and patience, you will produce a golden fish.

This is precisely the way in which the ingenious Orientals produced gold fish. Now and then a white freak would be found, which was simply an albino, and this they crossed with a golden, so as to make a brindled white and gold,



such as one very commonly seen. Funny enough, by the way, this sort of carp, in the process of turning to golden, becomes black first. But the breeders of the East have accomplished all sorts of things with gold fish beyond this. They have caused them to develop astonishingly exaggerated fins, and tails twice as big as their bodies. Most remarkable of all, they have obtained strains of gold fish, specimens of which are now on view in aquaria at the commission's building, with two separate tails, each of huge size, and two pairs of anal fins. Anatomically speaking, this is precisely as if a man or any other mammal were to be so bred as to be provided with four legs and four arms, and persons expert in biological science are much interested in discussing the question whether an eight-legged beast is not a possibility of future development. What might not man achieve, if he were a quadruped and had two pairs of arms besides?

Such an extra equipment of limbs would be in his way presumably. If one is to judge from observation of the gold fish referred to. They are rendered very beautiful by their great spread of delicately shaded fins, but they seem to find them cumbersome and have to keep continually wriggling along to prevent their great tails from weighing them down at the rear end and causing them to assume a perpendicular attitude. One of the freaks in the commission's aquaria is white, with fins of an exquisite light yellow, and its body is so transparent that you can see its red blood and the very food inside its stomach.

THE YOUNGEST SENATOR.

Public Career of Mr. Irby, General Wade Hampton's Successor.

The fact that he will replace in the United States Senate so conspicuous a figure as Wade Hampton has attracted general attention to John Laurens Manning Irby, of South Carolina. A canvass of the vote in the Legislature showed that fifty-nine Confederate soldiers voted for Irby and one of them was a member of the Hampton Legion, and so his election can not be said to be a revolt against the "ex-rebel" element.

Colonel Irby is in his thirty-seventh year. His father was Colonel James H. Irby, a distinguished lawyer and politician as well as a large and successful planter. After a course at Princeton College he attended the University of Virginia. He studied law under Associate Justice Melver, of South Carolina, and practiced his profession several years at Laurens, abandoning the law to engage in agriculture. He is now rated as one of the most prosperous and progressive farmers in the State. He lives on his model plantation, which is governed and controlled under his personal supervision.

Colonel Irby has been a member of the State Legislature since 1886, at which time he entered actively into politics, arousing the people from their lethargy to united action for the restoration of the State. He has always been prominent in the farmers' movement, and was Governor Tillman's closest friend and adviser during the remarkable campaign just ended in his State. When a new State Democratic Executive Committee was elected by the State convention all eyes were turned toward Colonel Irby, and he was unanimously chosen its chairman.

Colonel Irby is a man of splendid physique and is as brave as he is strong; He has a striking countenance, which combines frankness with determination. He is a manly, handsome man and is the picture of perfect health.

The Average Death-Rate.

In England, the average number of deaths each year is 1 out of each 43 inhabitants; in France, 1 out of each 53, and in the United States, 1 out of each 81. In this country, the rate in the Northwestern States is 1 in each 129; in the Middle States, 1 in each 89; in the Southern States, 1 in 70; in the Gulf States, 1 in each 63.

PRATT'S KILLER. Sold by Budwell, Christian & Barbee, and all druggists.

OSWI. Sold by Budwell, Christian & Barbee, and all druggists.

A BOOMING TOWN WYTHEVILLE.

Advances in the race of progress. Called the Saratoga of the South. Industries nearing completion and contemplated. Its churches and schools. The scenery surrounding magnificent.

Wytheville's boom is attracting the attention of the country. Wythe county is noted for its blue grass and fine herds and rich agricultural area. It embodies the mountain scenery and climate and fine mineral waters of Asheville, N. C., with iron and coal vastly superior to Birmingham.

Wytheville is noted for its blue grass and fine herds and rich agricultural area. It embodies the mountain scenery and climate and fine mineral waters of Asheville, N. C., with iron and coal vastly superior to Birmingham. The former of which is situated upon the eastern border and the latter the western border of the great upland mineral basin known as Southwest Virginia. The proposed Virginia and Kentucky railroad, on which work will begin soon, crosses the Norfolk and Western at this point. The Parkersburg, Little Kanawha and Virginia railway has also decided to build the proposed connecting link between the Black Diamond system and the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley via Wytheville, making Wytheville a competing railway center.

These lines will bring the Gossan ores of Carroll, the mountain ores of Bland and the limonite ores of Cripple Creek and New River and the coal fields of Wythe, Bland and the Flat Top together at Wytheville, making it the great iron and trade centre of Southwest Virginia.

New factories and industries are being located every week, among which are two hotels costing \$50,000 each, Steel Range and Stove Factory \$125,000, while applications for sites are constantly coming in. The Wytheville Manufacturing Company, organized with a dozen hands a few months ago, engaging in the building business, has increased its force to 75 hands, with twelve months' work ahead engaged, and will now increase their force to 150 hands. Streets are being graded everywhere, rail sidings for factories, while every movement goes to indicate that the place will be the growing industrial town of 1891.

ROANOKE STREET RAILWAY.

On and after Sunday, November 30, 1890, the Salem extension of the Roanoke Street Railway will be open for passenger traffic.

Until further notice regular trips will be made from Roanoke (corner Shenandoah avenue and Commerce street) to Salem (corner Fourth street and Roanoke Boulevard) by the following schedule:

Table with columns: LEAVE ROANOKE, LEAVE SALEM, and times for various routes.

The regular rates of the company are the amounts charged by the conductors. Tickets can be purchased at reduced rates by applying at the office of the company, the drug stores of Charles Lytle & Co., Budwell, Christian & Barbee, Roanoke, Va., and W. T. Younger, Salem, Va.

Some good things for this month. Delays are expensive. Now is the time to prepare for the spring advance.

A house with eleven rooms on the southeast corner of Elm and Henry streets for \$1,700. Seventy-five feet on the Boulevard for \$65 per front foot; corner lot. Fifty feet on the Upper Boulevard for \$2,100. Two hundred and twenty feet on Franklin road for \$10 per front foot. Twenty-five feet on Commerce street for \$7,200. One hundred feet on Nelson street for \$50 per front foot.

Houses for sale and rent in all parts of the city. We represent some of the best fire insurance companies and the Mutual Life of New York.

J. F. WINGFIELD, Real Estate and Insurance Agents, 114 Commerce street.

Wm. F. BAKER, Wm. H. MARKLEY, BAKER & MARKLEY, Real Estate Agents.

7474 removed to 160 Salem avenue, s. w., Roanoke, Virginia. City property, f. us and mineral lands sold. Correspondence solicited.

THE BUREAU. "What's the matter with your choir, anyhow? They were awfully flat this morning." "Some organic trouble, I think. The organist was rattled."—Munsey Weekly.

PROFESSIONAL.

A. O. FITCHER, M. D., HOMEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Residence, No. 30 Seventh ave. s. w., Roanoke, Va. Office, 28 Salem avenue. Office hours: 9 to 11 a. m., 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p. m.

WILSON & HUGGINS, ARCHITECTS, Office first floor Moomaw Building, No. 112 S. Jefferson street, Roanoke, Va. jan 1-6m.

H. S. LAMBLE, J. V. LAMBLE, ROANOKE, VA., 275 Pearl St. N. Y. LAMBLE & LAMBLE, Architects and Civil Engineers, P. O. Box 563. Roanoke, Va.

S. GRIFFIN, Wm. A. GLASGOW, JR., S. Bedford City, Va., Roanoke, Va. GRIFFIN & GLASGOW, Attorneys-at-law, room 8, Moomaw building, Jefferson st., Roanoke, Va. Practice in courts of Roanoke city and county and adjoining counties.

W. S. GOOCH, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Room 5, over Commercial National Bank, ROANOKE, VA. Courts: All the courts of Roanoke City and County. oct26-tf Telephone 99.

CLARENCE COLEMAN, CIVIL ENGINEER, Room 12, Moomaw Building, JEFFERSON ST., ROANOKE, VA. Prompt attention to work in any part of the State. Correspondence solicited. oct26-tf.

G. W. HANSBROUGH, SAM. G. WILLIAMS, HANSBROUGH & WILLIAMS, ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, Room No. 11, - - - Moomaw Building, Jefferson Street, Roanoke, Va. Will practice in the Hustings Court of the city of Roanoke, Court of Appeals of Virginia and United States district courts. mar25-tf

D. S. GOOD, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Roanoke, Va. Room No. 14, New Kirk Building, opposite Kenny's tea store. oct4-1yr

EDWARD W. ROBERTSON, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, No. 1 Thomas Building Court-House yard. sept2-3m

CHARLES A. McHUGH, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, 110 Jefferson street. First floor to rear of Gray & Boswell. tf

C. B. MOOMAW, JNO. W. WOODS, BOLETOURT COUNTY, Roanoke county. MOOMAW & WOODS, ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW. Will practice in the courts of Roanoke city and county and counties adjoining. Will attend the courts of Roanoke and Botetourt regularly, Roanoke, Va. Office: Salem avenue, opposite Stewart's furniture store. tf

THOMAS W. MILLER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Office: No. 10 Kirk Building, over Johnson and Johnson's Drug Store. ap2-tf

DR. LEWIS G. PEDIGO, Consultation and office practice. Office hours . . . . . 9 to 11 a. m. 12 to 1 p. m. 2:30 to 6 p. m. Evening hours, Saturday only . . . . . 7 to 9 p. m. Terms strictly cash. Office 2nd floor front, Postoffice building.

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FREDERICK J. AMWEG, C. E. M. Am. Soc. C. E. & Eng'r's Club of Phila. Engineer, Contractor & Builder, Commercial Bank Building, Roanoke, Va.

A. P. STAPLES, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Roanoke, Va. Office: Corner Salem avenue and Commerce streets, over Wertz's grocery. ny14-tf

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THE TIMES is the leading paper of the mineral belt of the two Virginias. If you want to keep posted on the developments of this section you cannot afford to be without it.