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NEW YORK
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with a yellow center. The flower closes again when the centrifugal action ceases.

ONE day when indulging my Yankee propensity for whittling I accidentally came across a piece of wood that had a loosely adherent bark, like our willows and maples in the spring, and at once there came the irresistible impulse to make a whistle. The first toot after its completion was hailed with wildly vociferous manifestations of savage delight, and for a week thereafter all my spare time was spent in meeting the juvenile demands to "Make me a fistle, Daddy."

NOTWITHSTANDING the great abundance of beans, cotton, and rubber in Guinealand I do not remember ever having seen a beanbag or a ball in a native village. Bows and arrows were commonly seen among children; though rarely used by men, except in far inland tribes who were so far removed from a base of supplies that firearms were out of the question.

Spear throwing and juggling formed quite a pastime with the boys, and were good training for both muscle and eye; for many tribes still use the spear in hunting and warfare.

Dolls are practically unknown outside of coast towns and mission stations, where their American and European affiliations bring the children many products of the toy factories.

One of the most amusing incidents observed by me was in connection with a boy's small express wagon that had been shipped from New York for the son of one of our missionaries. The vehicle having been shipped "K. D.," the several parts were uncrated and assembled at the waterside. Some other freight was loaded into the wagon, and two native boys were instructed to take it up to the mission station. An hour later they appeared at their destination carefully carrying the wagon and its load on their heads.

LOST LITERARY TREASURES

FROM time to time there is interesting speculation as to whether the world will ever recover certain of the lost literary treasures of antiquity. The favorite reference is to what treasure of this character may be unearthed at Herculaneum, when that immense task is completed. As a matter of fact, the excavations at the site of the Italian city have barely scratched the surface, and many have thought that, inasmuch as the people of Herculaneum were of a culture superior to those of Pompeii, there must be concealed in the ruins of the former city many manuscripts of fabulous value. Also it has been suggested that in the secret archives of Constantinople, long closed against the Christian world, there lie hidden many antiquated literary treasures.

It is of interest to recall some of the greatest of the world's literary works that have disappeared.

Sappho composed nine books of poetry. Only one ode and a few fragments remain. Of the seventy-five plays of Euripides (or, as others have it, the ninety-one plays), only eighteen have survived.

Sophocles was the author of one hundred works. Only seven of these are extant. The same number is all that remains of the seventy-two tragedies of Aeschylus.

During the time of Aristophanes some two thousand dramas were composed. Only forty-three of these have come down to us.

As evidencing the wisdom and wit of Menander we have only a few fragments.

Today only thirty-five of the one hundred and forty-two books of Livy survive.

We have only two of the six hundred and twenty volumes turned out by that genius Varro.

The greatest literary treasures the world has lost were undoubtedly in the Alexandrian library. This wonderful collection, said to have embraced some four hundred thousand (or, as other authorities estimate, seven hundred thousand) volumes, was lost by fire. Its royal founder had collected from all their nations their choicest compositions. There is a story that one of his successors actually refused to supply the Athenians with wheat until they had given him the original manuscripts of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. The destruction of the library by fire occurred during the siege laid to the city by Julius Caesar. Later, it is said, this collection was replaced by that presented to Cleopatra by Mark Antony. In 391, during the reign of Theodosius, all heathen temples within the Roman Empire were ordered destroyed; so it happened that the temple of Jupiter, where this library was kept, was not spared. About four thousand volumes, it is averred, escaped destruction, only to be burned in 640 by the Saracens under Calif Omar.



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