

The Youth's Companion

OFFER OF PRIZES

FOR THE BEST FOLKLORE STORIES.

COMPETITION OF 1890-'91.

Suggestions to Competitors.

What is your old home story?

What family story best pleased you when young, and how was it told?

Who told it?

Nearly all old towns have anecdotes or stories of local interest, which have passed from one generation to another, and have been told by household fires. Such stories in other lands, from the days of Homer and the "Arabian Nights," have been collected and have become a kind of pictorial history of the home life and character of the people.

The English and Scottish minstrels and balladists used to sing such stories; the brothers Grimm collected the household tales of Germany, and Hans Christian Andersen those of the North. The "Vicar of Wakefield" is a village tale. Irving has given us the quaint old humors of Early New York, and Hawthorne, in his "Twice-told Tales," has done for America what Scott did for Scotland in his "Tales of a Grandfather."

THE COMPANION is the oldest literary paper in the country, and its editors wish to make a collection of stories that belong to the people, and have become a part of local tradition and history, like the legends of John Alden or "Sleepy Hollow;" of Mosby's wig that terrified the Indians; Whittier's "Skipper Ireson's Ride." And not only these, but tales of old colonial houses and farms, and Southern plantations; old French legends of the rencontres; stories of sailors and seafaring people; pioneer cabin stories; wonder tales with comical solutions and endings; pleasing incidents associated with the early life of public men, like Jefferson, Lincoln, Garfield, and worthy people whose ideas were laughed at, but who won success. These suggestions of subjects, will, we trust, give a definite conception of what is meant by "Folklore" stories, for which the Prize Offers have been made. Let us repeat:

What is the oft-repeated story of your family, neighborhood or town?

What is the old traditional wonder story of your neighborhood?

What legends or remarkable incidents have given names to places in your State?

What curious story is associated with the name of some character in your town?

In addition to such stories, we shall be glad to receive humorous Folklore anecdotes and historical ballads, adapted to the paper, for which liberal payment will be made. Love stories, fairy stories, and ghost stories where the mystery is left unexplained, are not desired; and stories that awaken an intense curiosity, and in which the mystery is solved, are especially acceptable.

Answers to Inquiries.

To secure popular folklore, or traditional stories, the Publishers of THE YOUTH'S COMPANION make the following offer:

For the best Local or Folklore Story, a prize of \$1,000
For the Local or Folklore Story second in merit, a prize of \$300
For the Local or Folklore Story third in merit, a prize of \$200

All Stories, in order to be admitted to the competition, must conform to the conditions set forth in this circular. All stories that do not meet these conditions will be returned at once to the writers.

Conditions.

1. **The stories must be based upon some incident of local history, substantially in accordance with the suggestions given in the accompanying circular.**

2. **They must be adapted for publication in THE YOUTH'S COMPANION.** Writers should bear in mind that THE COMPANION is not a child's paper, but that the most of its readers are intelligent young people of from thirteen to twenty years of age. The literary character and moral tone of the stories must be unexceptionable. A purely sensational story will not be accepted, nor a Fairy, Religious, or Love Story.

3. **In Stories based upon an historical incident, in which nothing is written which might excite the sensibilities, or cast discredit upon the ancestors of living persons, real names of places and persons may be used.** But unless the story will lose historical value by the use of fictitious names, no real name should be given. Writers must in all cases inform us, in the sealed envelope mentioned below, whether the names are real or fictitious; and the editors reserve to themselves the right to change such names at their pleasure.

4. **In length, the stories must contain not less than fifteen hundred nor more than three thousand words.** Writers will do well to place on the first page of manuscript the number of words it contains.

5. **All stories must be sent so that they will be received by us on or before June 30, 1891.** No story received after that date will be admitted to the competition.

6. **Manuscripts must be sent fully prepaid, by mail or express.** They will not be admitted to the competition if insufficiently prepaid. The postage on each package is at the rate of two cents an ounce.

7. **Stories must be written on single half-sheets of note paper—not more than nine inches in length or six inches in width—on one side only of each sheet. They must not be rolled—this rule is imperative.** They should be sent flat,—unfolded,—in a strong envelope.

8. **Writers will place the title of the story at the top of the first page of the manuscript.** On the back of the last page a *nom de plume*, or assumed name, may be placed—in no case the writer's own name,—with an address to which an acknowledgment of the receipt of the manuscript may be sent. While the use of a *nom de plume* is not required, those who follow this course may be sure that in no case can their manuscript be confounded with that of another.

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9. In all cases a sealed envelope should be enclosed in the same package with the manuscript. Upon the back of the envelope write the title of the story and the *nom de plume* of the author. Enclose within the envelope a sheet of paper on which is entered (1) the title of the story; (2) the *nom de plume* under which it is sent; (3) your real name and post-office address. Enclose also postage stamps sufficient fully to prepay return postage.

10. A writer is allowed to send but one story in competition for the Prizes.

Stories sent in competition for the Prizes, that fail of success, will be purchased at liberal rates by the editors, if adapted to the paper.

If a *nom de plume* and address are given, an acknowledgment of the receipt of the manuscript will be sent by postal card. Those who prefer may enclose an addressed and stamped envelope in which acknowledgment will be sent.

All manuscripts that are not accepted will be returned to the writers if postage stamps sufficient for the purpose are sent in the sealed envelope.

The Sealed Envelopes accompanying stories that conform to the conditions will not be opened until a decision is reached. Envelopes accompanying stories that do not so conform will be opened at once, and the stories will be returned if postage is furnished.

All business connected with these Prizes must be done by mail. The editors cannot receive calls from contributors.

All letters and manuscripts connected with these Offers of Prizes should be addressed to

"FOLKLORE,"

YOUTH'S COMPANION OFFICE, BOSTON, MASS.

Recapitulation.

See Special Directions on Preceding Page.

The Title of each Story to be given on first page.

Nom de plume and post-office address, on back of last page.

Title of Story, nom de plume, real name and post-office address, in a sealed envelope.

Manuscripts must be sent fully prepaid.

Stamps for return of stories must be sent in sealed envelope.

Length of Stories must be not less than 1,500 nor more than 3,000 words.

Stories to be written on one side only of half-sheets of note paper.

Manuscripts must not be rolled.

Inquiries must be by letter.

Editors cannot receive calls from contributors in relation to these Prize Offers.

Authors can send one story only.

Stories must be in our hands on or before June 30, 1891.

Prizes will probably be announced in October.