

Edward Morse.

Composition.

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Composition

No. 1

Edward Morse

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Birds.

The birds are a source of happiness to man. In the morning, ^{they} lighten his cares by their many songs. The robins and smaller birds come close to our houses and build their nests. They show great skill in building their nests and rearing their young. A pair of birds was known to build their nest on a weak branch of a tree, which was not strong enough to bear the weight of the nest, so the

birds got a string and fastened it to the weak branch, and then with a hand of knot tied it to a limb over the nest, which made it secure.

A humming bird built her nest near my home.

The nest was about five feet from the ground.

A short time after the nest was discovered, both eggs disappeared, but the mother bird did not despair, but went to work and built another nest high up on an elm tree, where nobody could reach it. There she reared her young in time to fly before cold weather.

The humming bird's nest is made

of hair, and is neatly covered with moss. The nest is so well made, that any one passing by would not notice it from a knot of the tree.

Edward Morse,

Coasting and Skating.

It is nice fun to go coasting, with a lot of jolly boys, on a moonlight evening in winter, especially with double runners. The double runner is made of two sleds fastened together by a board, and will carry several, according to the length of the board. The boy who sits in front guides the sled by the rope, and down the hill we swiftly go. Some think it a better way to have a ~~double~~ ^{or pung} sleigh. A pung is steered by a boy sitting on a sled between

~~between~~ the shafts. Others prefer a more quiet way, with a single sled.

Skating is another pleasant way of enjoying ourselves in Winter. We sometimes build bonfires on the ice which adds to the fun. Many like skating better than coasting. In warmer climates where they cannot skate upon ice as we do, they have ^{what is} called a roller skating rink.

It makes a very pleasant pastime for both old and young. At their first trial they catch a great many falls, but with practice, they become quite graceful skaters.

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Animals.

There are many kinds of animals, some of which are very useful. The horse is a useful, and intelligent animal; he works for man and can be taught to dance to music, to throw over chairs, set them up again, to shake hands, and various other things. The horses of Arabia are noted for their beauty and speed. The reindeer is an animal used in Northern countries, to carry persons on its back, or to draw sledges, and will travel faster than a horse. The mule is another animal that is used by man to carry loads on its back over mon-³

tains, he is a very cautious animal, and will not be urged over a place where he thinks ^{it} unsafe.

The sheep supply us with wool for clothing. The skins are made into leather, and is ⁴ used for various purposes.

The flesh of the ox, sheep, and cow, give us meat for the table.

There are many other animals not useful to man, to ⁴ numerous ⁴ too mention.

Edward. W. Morse.

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Bees

From the life of bees we can learn many useful lessons. There are a great many species of bees the honey-bee being the most useful. The honey-bee lives in hives near man, but the other species generally live in old walls and hollow trees. All species are employed in making honey. The only way of defending themselves is by stinging and the people who get their honey have to work very cautiously. The honey-bee especially is regarded by man with great favor.

Edward Morse

Composition

E. W. Morse

There are many varieties of spiders, the smallest being about the size of the point of a pin, and the largest having a body almost an inch in length.

Their means of defense is by biting, and their bites are very poisonous especially the smallest, these are found mostly in meadows and when the farmers are haying they are very often bitten by these spiders and the bite swells several times as large as the spider. The spiders live mostly on flies which they catch in webs that they spin.

Edward Morse.

E. W. Morse.

Ants.

There are many kinds of ants some of which are very small. They live in large numbers under flat rocks and if you should take up the rock you would see them hurrying hither and thither to secure their eggs.

They are very strong and three or four can drag quite a large bug and when they can not if it is very near they dig out the dirt and let their prey drop into the hole.

They are easily enraged when disturbed and their means of defense is by biting.

If the horse was as strong according to his size, as the ants he so strong that man could do nothing with him.

E. W. Morse.

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Wasps.

Wasps build their nests of mud, inside of which there are cells for their young. From them as well as ^{from} the bees we can learn some very good lessons.

Like the bees and many other insects their means of defense is by stinging. They will not harm any one when left by themselves, but when disturbed their stings are found very poisonous to many persons.

Edward Morse.

Composition

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Lobster

The shell of the lobster is sort of a blackish green with darker spots which becomes red by boiling but this matter is not perfectly understood.

The lobster doffs his shell periodically, the old one splits on the head and the new one growing underneath in two equal parts.

As quick as one limb is broken off another one grows to take its place and so when they are caught their legs are found different lengths. Some times when they are caught they crack the shells of their fellow prisoners between their jaws.

E. W. Morse

Composition

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Flies

There are many kinds of flies some of which are very useful in eating up the impurities of the air. They are very ^{annoying} to both man and beast in some places they are so large and numerous that when they bite the animals it seems to frighten them so that their masters can have but little control over them.

We have flies only in the summer for like many other insects in the winter they lay in a torpid state.

Eduard Morse

Composition

Edward W. Morse.

The W. Amesbury Branch R.R.

Years ago, the prospect of building a rail-road was discussed by the citizens of this place, but not until within a few years did they feel it was a sure thing. After surveying several different routes for the road, the present one was selected, and work commenced in good earnest on the twenty-fifth of July 1871.

The building of the road was let out to contractors Reed and Parker from Lewiston Maine. Its length is nearly five miles, and it was let out by the mile to sub-contractors.

Several Shanties were erected for the accommodation of the workmen, some accommodation^g as many as thirty men. At one time there were nearly one hundred men at work on the road, and it was expected then, that it would be completed in a very short time, but some of the sub-contractors not finishing their work caused delay, therefore the road

was not completed until December 1872, it was then accepted and at five per cent to the Boston and Maine company for a series of ninety-nine years. There are two depots on the road, one located in the quiet village of Newton, and the other at the terminus of the road in this village. The latter is a very pretty and well planned depot, it is well furnished and in all respects would do credit to a much larger place.

The people of West Amesbury can now boast of a rail road costing nearly \$15000, all of which was raised by themselves. Our fathers and Grandfathers little thought when working their farms, that they would so soon be divided by a rail road, and we should hear the shrill whistle of the locomotive coming into West Amesbury three times a day. The rail road is of great importance to the carriage manufactures in transporting their carriages, as it is less expensive and much more convenient. Before this road was made the carriages were drawn five or six miles to be sent by rail. With this advantage, business will increase and the growth of the village will

be speedily hastened. In all probability the rail road will extend to Amesbury Mills at some future day, if it does, Amesbury is destined to become one of the most flourishing cities of New England. We wish it success.

Edward W. Morse.

West Amesbury July 10th / 74

This certifies; That master E. W. Morse has been a pupil in the West Amesbury High School for several years; that he has completed the course of study prescribed with the exception of Physiology, Algebra and Geometry or Latin; that he is a diligent and faithful scholar, correct in deportment and fair in scholarship. That he is a young man of superior moral character, and we cheerfully and unreservedly recommend him.

H. H. Leslie } Supt.
Jos. Merrill } Sch. Com.
Frank Wiggin }
of
Amesbury