

An Animal Story For Little Folks

Mr. Bear Is Duped

On a very warm spring day, when the woods were more attractive than the dusty highroad, Mr. Fox and Mr. Bear, who at that time were great chums, set out to pay a call on the barnyard dog. They had dressed themselves in their best Sunday clothes, for Miss Barnyard Dog was a great belle at that time and also knew the way into the hen yard and had been known to treat her friends to many chicken dinners. As they trudged along both began to grow very hot and dusty, and the fine clothes they wore did not help to make them more comfortable. Mr. Fox began to wonder how he could get rid of that heavy coat of his, for it made him weary to carry it.

"I have it," he whispered to himself. "Make old man Bear carry it for me."

"I say," he said to Mr. Bear. "Bet you a ham bone I can run to the stump in the woods over by the pond, back of Farmer Brown's, in five minutes."

"Taken," said Mr. Bear. "You can't do it."

"Carry my coat and I'll show you," cried Mr. Fox.

Mr. Bear meekly took the coat and Mr. Fox was off on the jump. He ran



HE CAME LUMBERING ALONG.

through the meadow past the hill, down the valley into the wood, jumped into the pond and had a good cool bath, smoothed out his hair nicely, put on his clothes, and then, seating himself on the stump near the cool trees, he waited for Mr. Bear.

"Rather warm," remarked Mr. Fox. "You seem weary."

"Tired to death," jerked Mr. Bear crossly, "but I won the ham bone."

"Excuse me, Brother Bear," said Mr. Fox cunningly, taking his coat and starting for Miss Dog's; "It's no race. You forgot to take the time of starting," and, with a wink, he was off.

Boys and girls, don't forget to look after the little matters in life and be very careful who is your partner.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

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The Disobedient Mice

Two contrary little mice, in disobedience to their parents' orders, left their home one day for a stroll through the world. They had not gone far when they came across a plate of nice cool milk.

"Ah!" cried Tommy Mouse, "Isn't this fine? I told you we knew more about the world than our parents. See what we have found!"

"Yes," replied Jimmy Mouse, "if we had listened to our parents we would have stayed at home and gone hungry."

Then they both fell to drinking the milk and drank and drank until they



"IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LEAVE IT," could hardly drink any more. And yet there still remained half of the milk in the plate.

"You had better trot along home," said Mr. Rat, who passed just then. "I see the cats coming this way."

"No, it would be a shame to run away and leave all this nice milk," said Jimmy. "I guess he doesn't know any better than our parents."

"I don't believe he does," said Tommy.

So they kept on drinking until they rolled over exhausted.

And just then two large gray cats came in the door.

"Let's run," said Jimmy in a weak voice.

"I'm so full I can't move," replied Tommy feebly.

"So am I," added Jimmy, with a sigh.

And those were the last words of the poor little disobedient mice.—Atlanta Constitution.

FOR THE CHILDREN

A Spoonful of Fun.

From Germany, the land of whole hearted jollity, comes the first, called "a spoonful of fun."

The players form a circle, holding hands, and one is placed in the center, blindfolded. He holds in his hand a large spoon as a wand.

Music is now played or all may sing in chorus, and the ring moves around with the music. Suddenly the music stops, and so do the players, and then the blindfolded player in the center gropes about with his spoon until he touches some one in the ring, who must then stand perfectly still.

The blindfolded one now touches the other here and there with his spoon, trying by his deftness to discern who it is that he has "caught." If the spoon holder guesses correctly the "caught" player takes his place in the center of the ring and the play goes on in the same way.

Of course all the players try to disguise themselves in some way, some standing on tiptoe to appear taller, others crouching down so as not to betray themselves by their height, for you will be amazed to find how easy it becomes to distinguish a person merely by touching him with a spoon.

The boys can put their handkerchiefs over their collars and turn forward the laps of their coats, so that their shirt fronts will not betray them. Of course the object of those in the ring is to confuse and puzzle the spoon holder.

How Navajoes Catch Prairie Dogs.

Although living almost wholly on game, the Navajoes cannot be prevailed upon to taste either fish or rabbit, but the Indian who would fight to death sooner than touch a delicious rabbit stew is greedily fond of the fat and querulous prairie dog. That whole region abounds in "dog towns," and they are frequently besieged by their swartly foes, says Golden Days.

A Navajo will stick a bit of mirror in the entrance of a burrow and lie behind the little mound all day, if need be, to secure the coveted prize. When the prairie dog ventures from his bedroom, deep underground, he sees a familiar image mocking him at the door, and when he hurries out to confront this impudent intruder—whizz goes a chalcidony tipped arrow through him, pinning him to the ground so that he cannot tumble back into his home, as he has a wonderful faculty for doing even in death, or a dark hand darts quickly out, seizes his chunky neck safely beyond the reach of his chisel shaped teeth and breaks his spine with one snap.

The Snake and the Skunk.

A New Hampshire version of an old fable runs that a skunk and a rattlesnake one day met each other and stopped to swap news and gossip. "I heard a horrid story about you the other night," remarked the serpent.

"Huh," was the skunk's reply, "I dare say I've heard it myself—I've heard enough of them, anyhow. I'm tired of being painted worse than I am. I intend at the next general convention of beasts to introduce a motion that all persons found guilty of telling lies about any of us shall be attacked and killed. Will you support me?"

"In a minute!" cried rattler. "The truth is bad enough without adding falsehood to it."

The Spirit of Courtesy.

A little girl named Bessie is told of in Everybody's Magazine. The child had had impressed on her the propriety of thanking every one who did her a kindness and also of how much we owe the various farm animals. One day at dinner she looked at her egg for some moments without eating it and then slipped quietly from her chair.

"Where are you going?" her mother asked.

"I'm going to thank Mr. Wooster for laying me dis nice egg," was the answer.

Carnatacus.

Caratacus was chief of a tribe of ancient Britons. He lived on the river Severn, in Wales. He fought the Romans nine years, but was taken prisoner and sent to Rome. When he saw the grand streets and stately buildings he said, "How can people who have such magnificence at home envy me my poor cottage in Britain?" The emperor pardoned him and sent him home with presents.

Why Not?

"Say, ma, baby cut his teeth, didn't he?"

"Yes, dear."

"Why can't he cut his hair, then?"—Browning's Magazine.

The Influence of Dress.

When Flora puts her school dress on (It's such a pretty red), With that small frock she seems to don The very wisest head. She'll learn and learn and learn and learn To spell and read and count in turn. It really seems, I must confess, As if there's magic in that dress.

When Flora wears her play day gown (It's just the sweetest plaid), There's scarce a child in all the town Has spirits half as glad. She plays and plays and plays and plays—She'd like to play all night, she says. So can you wonder that we guess There must be magic in that dress?

When Flora wears her party frock (The pale blue silk, you know), You ought to see her watch the clock Until 'tis time to go. And then her manners are so grand! It's really hard to understand. And so it seems, I must confess, As if there's magic in that dress.

Suppose that play day plaid should go By some mistake to school. Then would our playful little Flo Break every single rule? Would the red frock on Saturday Make her too studious to play? I really hope, I must confess, She'll always wear the proper dress.

—Youth's Companion.

STATE NEWS.

Wadesboro, which recently voted wet, already has seven saloons and one distillery, and doubtless others on the way.

The New York state adopts as a text book for its rural schools, "Agriculture for Beginners," written by Professors Burkett, Stevens and Hill, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Raleigh and which for several years has been a text book in North Carolina.

It makes no difference how long you have been sick, if you are troubled with indigestion, constipation, liver and kidney troubles, Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will make you well. 35 cents. Selma Drug Co. and A. H. Boyett, Druggist.

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W. J. CRAIG, General Passenger Agent, Wilmington, N. C.

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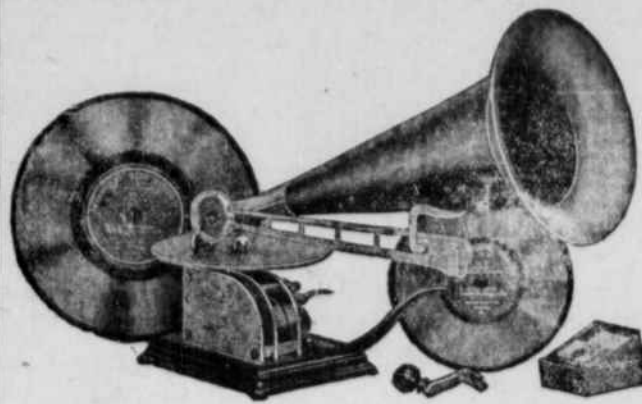
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Weak Hearts

Are due to indigestion. Ninety-nine of every one hundred people who have heart trouble can remember when it was simple indigestion. It is a scientific fact that all cases of heart disease, not organic, are not only traceable to, but are the direct result of indigestion. All food taken into the stomach which fails of perfect digestion ferments and swells the stomach, puffing it up against the heart. This interferes with the action of the heart, and in the course of time that delicate but vital organ becomes diseased.

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