

The Story of a Noble Newfoundland Dog.

The first dog of any note that my father possessed was a black Newfoundland, says a writer in Chamber's Journal. He was a very powerful and intelligent animal. My father trained him well, and taught him to go from our country place to the town with a basket fastened round his neck, with notes inside for the different tradespeople, who understood that he would readily give them up, and if required, would bring anything sent, safely back. He was often dispatched for a car to a hotel about a mile distant. Hector would go into the yard, and the hostler knew at once what was wanted. One day there was a strange man in the yard, who could not understand what Hector meant. But the dog was not to be baffled. He went straight to the bar, and gently barked to attract attention.

'Ah!' said the girl, 'Hector wants a car,' which settled the business. At that time it was very dangerous to walk at night in the country roads. It was before the rural police was appointed. When my father was absent on an evening, Hector was always sent to meet him. A spiked collar was put on to protect his throat. He was told to wait at a certain place and he never failed to be there. One night I was walking home with my father; it was so dark we could scarcely see anything. My father said, 'We ought to have met George by this time. I told him to come with the lantern.'

We walked on a few yards, and Hector met us. He was half a mile ahead of his accustomed waiting place. My father was a strict disciplinarian, and spoke sharply to the dog, scolding him for coming on. But I begged him not to do so, thinking there might be some good reason for his coming. When we reached the stile to cross the fields, the dog was restless, and growled savagely.

'Back, Hector, back!' said my father, but the dog would not obey him, and bounded over first. 'There is something the matter,' said my father, as he took out his clasp knife and opened it whispering to me: 'We may have a fight. Be sure you do not lay hold on my arm.' He then struck a light with his flint and steel, whereupon a man sprang up and moved on before us.

'Mind yourself, father,' said I, 'Hector will take care of me.' The creature came close to my side and put his nose into my hand. I knew he would fight for us to the death, for though as gentle as a lamb to those he loved, he was fierce as a lion in defense of them. My father was a very powerful and fearless man. He had his daughter to protect, and his spirit was thoroughly roused; but he knew it would be well to trust to the sagacity of the dog, and see what he would do. When we reached the stile he stood still and growled. My father said: 'Come, you fellow, come at once over this stile. I know you are there. Come at once, or I will set my dog upon you, and he will show you no mercy.'

There was a movement, and one, and then another man, came grumbling. Hector stood firm, uttering a low continued growl.

'Come along,' exclaimed my father 'there are more of you. You had better be quick.'

Another came, saying, 'That he had as much right to the road as we had.' Still the dog would not cross the stile.

'There is another of you. If you do not come at once, my dog will kill you.'

He saw the animal's patience was well nigh exhausted. The last then slunk over, and the dog bounded over the stile into the lane. Then he knew the brave creature had saved us. When we came to the public-house, George, our man-servant, was sitting comfortably in the porch waiting for us with the lantern. He had seen two men, and was afraid to come on!

I could tell many interesting stories of this noble animal. His end was sad. When we were removing to another house, he was taken to protect some of the things that were being put in the loft above the stable; the stupid man who put him there tied him up; the poor creature's feet had slipped, and when the door was opened next morning our faithful friend was found strangled.

'You're a man after my own heart,' as the blushing maiden confessed when her lover proposed marriage.

A Tame Badger.

When first caught it was remarkably savage and morose in disposition, biting at everything that attempted to touch it, but on being placed in a dog-box and treated kindly its ferocity gradually disappeared and it soon allowed itself to be patted and handled without offering to bite. In the course of a few months it became so familiar as to follow its master about the garden or in the room, and playfully seize hold of and pull at his trousers like a playful puppy, whose manners in this respect it very much resembled. It was also quite at home when taken into the house, to which, as soon as it was let out of its kennel in the stable, it would dart off with all the speed of which its clumsy legs were capable; but woe to the unfortunate carpet if he were unwittingly left in the room alone. His powerful claws, just like a bear's in miniature, would make wonderfully short work of it, and speedily reduce its gaudy yarns into a variegated heap of shoddy, if Master Badger were not immediately rejoined by society, either human or canine, or released from solitary confinement, to which he seemed to have an unconquerable aversion during legitimate play hours. He was very much attached to a good-natured Clumber spaniel, his frequent companion; and sadly did he often put Pontie's patience to the test by tugging the silken fringes of his legs and tail with a degree of impertinence not easily to be borne with. He would romp with the children, bounding from their attempts to catch him, or to them, with the greatest glee. He was next permitted to follow his master into the fields, which he would do for miles, or as long as he thought proper, just like a dog, running almost constantly around, hunting like a terrier with his nose to the ground, his game being worms and beetles. Occasionally, also, when first taken, he indulged in a scamper at full speed for a considerable distance, but readily answering to his name and returning, when he would lie panting with his tongue out, between his master's feet, a favorite refuge when anything sudden y alarmed him. When first restrained by the leash-cord he generally fell into a towering rage; he would throw himself upon the crown of his head, and bite savagely at the chain between his forelegs. It is in this position the badger usually acts upon the defensive when baited with dogs, thus defending the more vulnerable parts of the chest from attack, while nothing but the thick and almost impenetrable skin of the neck is presented to the teeth of the dog.—All the Year Round.

A STONE CRINOLINE.—Walton Hall had at one time its own corn-mill, and when that inconvenient necessity no longer existed, the millstone was laid by in an orchard and forgotten. The diameter of this circular stone measured five feet and a half, while its depth averaged seven inches throughout; its central hole had a diameter of eleven inches. By mere accident some bird or squirrel had dropped the fruit of the filbert tree through this hole onto the earth, and in 1812 the seedling was seen rising up through the unworked channel. As its trunk gradually grew through this aperture and increased, its power to raise the ponderous mass of stone was speculated upon by many. Would the filbert tree die in the attempt? Would it burst the millstone, or would it lift it? In the end the little filbert tree lifted the millstone and by 1868 wore it like a crinoline about its trunk, and Mr. Waterton used to sit upon it under the branching shades.

A Dane's Skin.

Not very long ago a portion of hard dry skin was found underneath the bossed head of a large iron nail that was fixed in the door of the Chapter House at Westminster. Upon this skin were found several hairs. Mr. Quekett, Curator of the Museum of the College of Surgeons, recognized the hair to be human, asserted that it belonged to a fair-haired person. In former times the Danes used to come up the mouths of the English rivers to pillage the churches. When they were caught they were skinned and their skins nailed to the door of the church they attacked. In the course of time, all the exposed portion would peel off, that covered by the nail would remain protected, and thus bear testimony to the cruelty of our ancestors. In the College of Surgeons may be seen three specimens of human skin, presented by Mr. Albert Way, viz., 'Portion of human skin said to be that of a Dane, from the door of a church at Hadstock, in Essex,' a second specimen is from Copford, in Essex, and a third from the north door of Worcester Cathedral.—Curiosities of Natural History, by Franklin Buckland.

Among the conclusions arrived at by means of recent investigations into the nature of steel, when used for manufacturing purposes, are the following: First, that a good soft heat is safe to use, if steel be immediately and thoroughly worked, it being a fact, too, that good steel will endure more pounding than any iron; second, that if steel be left long in the fire it loses its steely nature and grain, assuming the nature of cast iron, and therefore it should not be kept hot any longer than is necessary for the work to be done; third, that steel is entirely mercurial under the action of heat, and there must necessarily be an injurious internal strain created whenever two or three parts of the same piece are subjected to different temperatures—from which it follows that, when steel has been subjected to heat not absolutely uniform over the whole mass, careful annealing should be resorted to; fourth, as the change of volume, due to a varied degree of heat, increases directly and rapidly with the quantity of carbon present, high steel is consequently more liable to dangerous internal strains than low steel, and great care should therefore be exercised in the use of high steel.

It is not difficult to train children. They are adapted to training. No willow to form a basket was ever woven more easily than children may be influenced in right ways by wise parents. They can be fashioned as readily as clay is fashioned on a potter's wheel.

A gentleman in New Orleans was agreeably surprised to find a plump turkey served up for the dinner, and inquired of his servant how it was obtained. 'Why, sir,' replied Sumbo, 'dat turkey has been roosting on our fence for free nights. So dis morning I seized him for the rent of de fence.'

A big six-footer was lifting for all he was worth on a wagon wheel, which was stuck, when a little two-foot mite of humanity, nearly as broad as he was long, and just out of long dresses and into pants, with his hands in his pockets and a swaggering air, sang out: 'Mister, do you want me to help you? I can grunt while you lift.'

Young lady of the house to languid swell—'May I present you to Miss Terrapyn, of Philadelphia?' Languid swell, with a sigh—'Oh, yes. Trot her out.' Young lady of the house—'May I present Mr. Loftus?' Miss Terrapyn (after regarding him for some moments), quietly—'Yes, Trot him back!' Languid swell retires.

After a telegraph pole had fallen on a Savannah negro's head, he threw up his hands and shouted: 'Don't hit me again wid yer club, Mr. Policeman. It wasn't me that stole der chickens. It wer Deacon Henry.' Then he looked, saw what hit him, and walked away saying—'Golly, I see in lunk dis moruin'. I 'spected dat de policeman had me shuah dat time.'

How much is contained in the one word "happiness." How much more of the happiness of others than of our own. But we are often so selfish in looking out for our own pleasure that there is not much room left in our hearts to think of anybody else.

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On a bright, pleasant summer morning, a young man with a silk muffer around his throat and a woe-begone look in his pale face, plied the big knocker upon the doctor's dwelling. A lady answered the summons and informed the applicant that the doctor was in the garden at work. To the garden the young man went, where he found the man of medicine engaged in hoeing his sweet corn.

'Well, sir, and what is the matter?' the doctor asked, when the applicant had stated that he had come for medical advice and assistance. 'Well, doctor,' with a lugubrious face and a whining, moaning tone, 'I feel poorly all through. My head has spells of aching, my appetite is poor, my food does not set well, I am very weak. Really, I need help.'

'Yes, I see. Let me look at your tongue. Now—your pulse.' The pulse was felt, and after due deliberation, the doctor said: 'Look you, young man, you do certainly need help. Now, see. I must attend an important case at 10 o'clock, and I must have this corn hoe before I go. So while I am gone to make up a prescription for you, do you take my hoe and go on with my work here. You know how to use a hoe?'

'Yes, sir; my father was a farmer; but I haven't worked on a farm since he died.' 'And you haven't worked very much anywhere else, I take it,' the doctor threw in pleasantly. 'No, sir; I am not obliged to.'

'Very well, I'll warrant you the work here won't hurt you, so go on with it until I come back.' With that the doctor trudged off, and the young man went at the work of hoeing. He hoed to the end of the row, and then removed the light muffer from his neck. Then he went at it again. Half way down the second row he stopped and looked up, but no doctor was in sight. At the end of that row, as the absent one had not yet appeared he pulled off his coat.

The third row he hoed more slowly, stopping several times before the end was reached, but he finished it, and after a good rest, attacked the fourth row. There was but one more row, after this, and the fancy seized him to have it done before the old fellow got back. It would be a surprise to him. The thought quickened his pulses, and gave him renewed vigor. He had just completed the last hill of the last row when the doctor came back.

'Well, my young friend, how are you feeling now?' The patient really had to consider. He had been looking to see what the physician had brought with of medicine; but he brought nothing. His hands were empty. 'The work hasn't hurt you has it?'

'Oh, no, sir,' his face glowing with the exercise. 'I thought not. Let me feel your pulse again. He held the young man's wrist for a brief space, and then—' 'It has worked to a charm. Now, sir, do you go home, and repeat this dose twice a day, every morning and afternoon; do it faithfully, and be honest with your diet; don't use tobacco, and if that doesn't work a cure come and let me know. My fee, sir, is one dollar.'

'One-dollar?' gasped the astonished youth. 'That is all I charge when patients call at my door.' 'But, sir, in mercy's name, what is it for? Where is your prescription? What have I taken of yours?'

'My prescription, my dear young friend, I gave you before I left you here with my hoe; the medicine you have been taking in my place a health-giving potion which I should have enjoyed had I not given it up to you. And now, dear sir, I will tell you frankly, you are rusting out, literally tumbling to pieces for want of exercise of both body and mind. That is all, sir. You can follow my prescription and be cured, or you can take your own way.'

The young man paid his dollar and went his way. Not then could he be cheerful; but afterwards, when he had allowed reason fair play, and had come to prove the life-saving medicine and the new life-giving virtues of the doctor's prescription, he came and thanked him.

If you would not have affliction to visit you twice, listen at once to what it teaches. The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear.

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