Little Home Made Tales For Little Home Folks.

## Jack Gay And His Fozes.

jack was beginning to get tired of ruling behind and to wish that he was bact home. When he beard old Sue give one short sharp velp and then another dog bayed, long and Inad, all the dogs ran to the woods and sion all began to yelp and yowl "They've strnck a fox, stick on Jack" sxid uncle Howell as he gave his horse a cut and struck for the woods lack was getting his olood up too, and whooped like a Comanche indian. "Shut up Jack," said uncle Howell, "it's too soon in the sume to holler yet." Just then the dogs all hushed, prette soon old Sue howle, again, and velps could be heard all about in the woods, some of the dogs sounded just Itke they were crying, they wonld whine so funny. "That's the music," saill uncle Howell, as first one dog and then another joinell in a chorus of barks, ronnumg for dear life, and seiping in rhythm of zound, that sent the hot blood of sport in all the riders veins, that made Jack feel like he could fly, that made the borse prick up his ears and dance and snort with excitement -It's a hot trail, hies on boys, ho!d on Jaak," shonted uncle Howell as he sleared a ditch and a ten rail fence, nerer stopping to see whetler Jack held on or not. But Jack was right there every time. It was a long rave they had. but Mr. Fox hall formde the dogs his last time. He trien raining along the fence on top of the rails, so as to cut off the smell of his feet, but the dogs had been fooled that way before. He would cross his tra-ks and run back, but they knew all about that, they were gaining, gating on him all the time. "Oh, he thought, if I only hiul strength to get to the river" Then with his little red tongue hangiug out and his great big bushy taii dray ging the ground, he elipped throngh the fence, out of the woods into Mr. Hollands field, no one had se-m him yet. He glided down the ditch, lap. ping a little water once in a while, and hearing the doge gaining on him closer, and closer, tuey came. Loud. er, and louder Mr. Howell's voice rang out in trimuph as he urged the dogs on, and Little Jack sonnded like a toad frog croaking, he was so hoarse.

Mr. Fox thought, "oh, the river, the river is in sigbt, can I hol I ont to reach it." On he went, but he had to cross the road to get to the river. There was a buggy in the roud, near the church and school loouse, so he kept in Mr. Joyner's field until he got to the gin house, then the dogs were in sight, and Mr Howell and Jack were at Mr. Hol. land's gate. Mr. Fox rested a mo ment, then across the road he sprang and Jackson Randolph saw him.
"Here's the fox, here : here! here." he shouted and waved his hat, and Mr. Huwell and the dogs heard him, then there was music al! around, down the road the horse came thuluaering, acrows the field, over the fence, into the ditch came the doge, panting, foaming, hatisling. Mr, Fax
went right over the pshes of Mr, Joyner's burned houses "If they had not seen me, I would crawl up one of those fire-ruined chamneys' he rumi nated, butuway the went, out by the stables, out by the grave yarl, the dogs now coming so close, he could hear them fall over the fenee. "If I can only get to the blue banks he thouglu, I will jump in the river, it is almost here, und he made a great effort. The blue banks was a bluff one hundred feet high rising up from the water. Archie Joyner fell off there and it didu't hurt him, and Mr. Fox thonght he could do so too. On came the dogs, on came Mr. Howell and the horse, hallooiug, and panting, and foaming, the wools ringing with the fray. Old Sue was right at Mr: Fox. Mr. Fox was now right at the blutf, Mr. Howell thandered up crazy with excitement, and the doys were wild, ker-bliff went Mr. Fux right orer the blr.ff, and the dogs lealod after, but oh God! that horse, hat horse and Mr. Howell and litile Juck, can't they stoi, ?' too late! the fratic horse and rider monscions of fear, unable to stop, plange headlong (wer the cliff.
The fox acid dogs whirled over and over ats they fell. but Mr Howell and sut arm back wards over Jack horse flew down ward, never turning over becallise a stroug, brave, fearless rider bela him steanly, ker-splash, they struck the water, 30 feet deep, ander they well to rise up in a moment ab ove the surface. Uncle How ell was out of the sadule, holdang Jack with one hand, he swan to the opposite shore. "Don't cry Jack, are you hurt son?" sand tender heart ed nucle Howell, as he reached the shore. ' $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{no} \mathrm{I} \mathrm{ain't} \mathrm{hirit}$, is the fox, we ought'er canght him." "Look," he shouted, and pointed to a sand bar down tije river, where the old grey fox, ufier as heroic a fight for life as ever Spartan made, lay blear-eyed and croucbing, looking with savage contempt of old Sue as she floated dead down the current, amit leeling that at last he had es Caped. "Lonk," he beard it, knew he was seen. He knew it was his death knell. But death was not to come from wau's iuhumanity or dog's ferocious instinct. Uncle Howell was brave, and the bravest are the tenderest. He checked his first impulse to call the dogs and have the fight out. "That fox has earned his life Jack, let's give it to inim" "All right," said Jack, "when our clotleés get dry let's go find then little foxes." And as they rowed across the river in a little boat, they did not know that the old fox was dead from exhaustion and fright.
[Concluded uext week.]

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