

The Young Folks.

The Greyhound's Warning.

St. Nicholas,

(Concluded from last week.)

"They call me a gypsy," answered the woman, assuming a mysterious look. "I foretell events."

The king was not overawed by her air of mystery, but told her that she must at once leave the place.

She moved away darkly and sullenly, when the children uttered an audible laugh. She caught the sound, and turned sharply.

The king was caressing the hound. The fact that a hound was faring better than she, seemed to increase her bitter feeling.

"He can play now," she said, looking enviously toward the dog. "Let him. A dog will howl one day, and then the kingdom will want for a king: then the kingdom will go."

The king appeared to be disturbed by the evil prophecy. He addressed the strange woman in a softer tone, and offered her money.

The black lines faded partly out of her face, and she protested lower and said: "A dog will die in this palace one day; then the kingdom shall be restored again."

People were very prone to believe in omens, signs and fortune-telling at this time, and the gypsy's words became known in the palace, and were treasured up to see if they would come to pass.

There was nothing remarkable in the prophecy. It one were to say that a dog would howl in Queen Victoria's park at Balmoral before the Queen should die, or that the cock should crow in the grounds of Windsor Castle before the Prince of Wales should take the throne, it would probably all come to pass, and it so common an event were looked for, it might seem to unthinking people quite a remarkable thing.

The civil war grew more fierce; the king's life was threatened; the king began secretly to plan an escape from Hampton Court, and from this turbulent part of the kingdom. He was really a prisoner in his palace; old friends were every where turning against him, and he was sometimes made to feel that his only friend, except his children, was his faithful hound.

"Poor thing, poor thing! he is faithful to me," said the king one day. "But how can I be faithful, I may leave you one day, good fellow, and then a dog will howl. It is a pitiable case when a king cannot be true even to his dog."

The hound seemed to understand the king's great trouble, and at such times would lick his master's hand, and press his knee and whine, as though to break the reverie.

It was toward the close of a dark afternoon on the 11th of November, 1647. Night came early, with no ray of sunset. The palace gardens were obscured in a deep mist, and the river ran dark below them, with hardly a ray to penetrate the gloom.

The king ate an early supper, and then retired with his favorite dog. It was his custom to go to his chamber for devotions immediately after the evening meal.

It was very still in the palace; very gloomy, with the dull sound of the November rain incessantly falling. Occasionally the step of the guard was heard on the corridor. The little duke and the princess were waiting the return of their father in a dimly lighted room near the banquet hall.

He did not come. The foot of the guard sounded firmer, and became impatient.

Suddenly the pitiful howl of the king's hound broke the silence of the palace. The little duke heard it, and started to go to his father's chamber. The young princess followed him, a strange look of terror in her baby face, and her eyes filled with tears.

The children came to the main stairway when they were ordered back by an attendant. In their retreat they again heard the hound in their father's chamber utter the same friendless, piteous howl.

There was a back staircase that led up to the same room. The children passed silently through the empty apartments that led to it, and were started again and again on their noiseless way by the pitiful howling of the dog, which now began to be piercing in its distress.

Just as they arrived at the foot of the staircase, a heavy sound was heard at the chamber door above. It was answered by a sharp bark from the hound.

"Father must have gone," said the little princess; "what made the dog howl so?"

There was a crash at the door above. The young princess clasped her brother in fear, and tried to draw him back.

"They are breaking into his room," said the prince; "let us go to him; let us defend him."

There was a hurried step and a cry on the stairs. The children drew back: the hound came bounding down and ran up to them and around them in anxiety and terror. There were more footsteps on the stairs, and another cry:

"Give the alarm; the king has escaped!"

Years pass. The stormy scenes of the English Revolution are over. King Charles I. has long slept in the silent vaults of St. George's Chapel, and his separated children have grown to manhood and womanhood in exile.

There came to Hampton Court Palace one late summer day, Oliver Cromwell, Protector of the Commonwealth of England. He, too, was attended by a faithful dog.

He slept in the old royal apartment, and his dog kept guard at the door. He awoke one morning, but his dog did not come to him. He arose and found that the trusty animal was dead.

Oliver Cromwell was a stern man, but, like most men of that day, he was superstitious. He believed in signs and omens and witchcraft, and he had heard of the withered gypsy's prophecy.

He was shaken in health, and the sight of the dead dog awakened his nervous fears. "Alas!" he said, "the kingdom has departed."

Cromwell soon died, and, as all our school-children know, Charles II., son of the first Charles, came back to the throne, amid great rejoicings and celebrations.

And this is the old story—a curious mingling of true history and superstition—that was told over and over again in the Christmas-tide to open-mouthed groups around Maryland firesides in the old Colonial times.

Farm and Household.

How to Cure Split Hoof.

I had a horse that had both hoofs split from top to bottom. He could not walk without his feet spreading apart. I kept him for three months on straw one foot deep in the stable, but all did no good.

At last I went to the blacksmith shop and had heavy shoes made which spread wide at the heels. To these heavy shoes there was welded, at the outside of each heel, a piece made of shoe nail iron. These pieces were made to fit well around the foot, about an inch below the hair.

I let the pieces come together within half an inch each, and turned up about three-fourths of an inch. In the turned up part, a hole was made to receive a bolt an inch long, with a square head and screw and nut on the other end. On nailing the shoes on and putting the bolt in and screwing on the nut, the foot was brought together. In this way, I was enabled to work him every day I wished.

Previous to this my horse had not walked one mile in three months. Next day after I had the shoes put on I drove him in a carriage twenty miles, and I have used him right along.—*Cor. Cincinnati Gazette.*

Pruning Trees.

Pruning trees is often spoken of and as often neglected, so we speak of it again now. Pruning of fruit trees can better be done at this season than any other, on warm sunny days of course, and the brush removed, quite as easily taken care of. It is well to keep an outlook for the work of rabbits and mice about the foot of young fruit trees. Their ravages, especially of the mice, may frequently be prevented by treading the snow firmly about the trunks; and the boys can find no better sport than tramping for the rabbits, which will seek the orchards when the snow is deep and their fodder scarce.

As a general thing orchard trees get too much pruning. In young trees only thin out so as not to have the main leaders crossing or interfering with one another. Or when a few shoots grow much stronger than the rest, cut these away. Insist on all the branches in young trees growing only on a perfect equality. On older trees which have been bearing a number of years it will often benefit to cut out a large portion of the bearing limbs. By a long series of bearings, branches will often get barked around and stunted, preventing the free passage of the sap which seems to revenge itself by forcing out vigorous shoots a long way down from the top of the tree. It is down to the vigorous shoots that we would cut the bearing branches away. One must use his own judgment as to the advisability of this. If the tree bears as fine and luscious fruit, as ever, of course no such severe work need be done, but if not, now is the time.

Accounts.

At this season, friend, don't forget the accounts. Square up once in the year, to know how you stand with the world. Do it now, if you did not before the new year came in. You have doubtless thought often of opening a complete set of accounts, such as the merchant keeps—now is the time to crystallize that desire into action. And if the complete system is objectionable, than keep a detail account with each branch of the farm system, as of the cows, the swine, the poultry, and with each of the several crops,—taking care-full note of all receipts and expenditures; and have a general cash account, with your whole business. Even this imperfect system will be found of great advantage in telling the results of your various operations, which otherwise you positively know nothing of with certainty.

The *Scientific American* suggests as a scarecrow, fitted to intimidate the boldest bird, two small looking glasses fastened back to back, and hung by one corner to an elastic pole. The bravest crow will depart if one of the lightening flashes from the sun's reflected rays fall on him.

Another terror involves an artificial hawk made from a big potato and long goose and turkey feathers. It is astonishing what a ferocious looking bird of prey can be constructed from the above simple materials. It only remains to hang the object from a tall bean pole, and the wind will do the rest. The bird makes swoops and dashes in the most alarming and headlong manner. Even the most inquisitive of venerable hens has been known to hurry rapidly from its dangerous vicinity, while to small birds it carries unmixed dismay.

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The undersigned would respectfully announce to all the people everywhere, that to his already extensive stock and variety of Merchandise in the Grocery, Provision, and Hardware line.

He has added a very choice assortment of PURE DRUGS, PATENT MEDICINES, BRUSHES, PERFUMERY, &c., which he flatters himself he can assure the public they will find it to their advantage to examine before purchasing elsewhere.

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CAULDRON KETTLES of different styles, ADJUSTABLE BARN DOOR HANGINGS, MEADOW ROLLERS, BLACKSMITHS' FORGES, POTS and GRATES, DOG POWERS for churning, One and Two Horse POWERS and THRESHERS, of the latest and best patterns, &c., &c.

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Just Published, in Sealed Envelope. Price six cents. A Lecture on the Nature, Treatment, and Radical Cure of Seminal Weakness, or Spermatorrhea, Induced by Self-Abuse, Involuntary Emissions, Impotence, Nervous Debility, and Impediments to Marriage generally; Consumption, Epilepsy, and Fits; Mental and Physical Incapacity, &c.—by ROBERT J. CULVERWELL, M. D., author of the "Great Cause of Human Misery."

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All work warranted. Call and examine my stock before purchasing elsewhere. W. OUSTERHOUT. Harford, April 26, '76.—4f

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In all diseases affecting these organs, whether they secrete too much or too little water, or whether they be afflicted with stone or gravel, or with scabs and patches in the loins over the region of the kidneys, these Pills should be taken according to the printed directions, and the Ointment should be well rubbed into the small of the back at bed time. This treatment will give almost immediate relief when all other means have failed.

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