

drea, many were the times he was decorated with paper collars, made from old copy books, or wore a green ribbon in honor of his patron saint, or carried a card wishing you "a happy New Year." In winter time when sleighing was good, he would quite enjoy a ride on a sled; and in summer swinging was as much to his taste. He would sit in the swing, which had a securely inclosed seat, and gently rock to and fro, without the least remonstrance. Whether he really enjoyed it, or only wished to please his human friends, we cannot say.

He was a faithful nurse, and often patiently watched the baby sleeping in her carriage. He lived to a good old age, being nearly twenty years old when he died. His "buff, buff," was missed for many a day, both at home and abroad; for he had been a pensioner on many of the neighbors, and used to make a daily round of visits, after the dinner hour, when he thought there might be a stray bone or a scrap of meat to be disposed of in their yards. His death caused universal regret in the family, for he had been the childrens' companion both in work and play.

OUR LITTLE FOREST FRIEND.

Red Squirrels are among the most interesting of Mammals. They are not uncommon in wooded districts, but seldom, if ever seen where trees are wanting. Who is not made more cheerful on some winter's day, in the absence of so many of the beauties and joys one is blessed with in the summer months, to see this hardy little animal dashing among the branches, then jumping, with wonderful certainty, from the finest tapered branch of one tree to another, in quest of a stray nut, then sitting up in the most cute way,

munching it, holding it from him in its fore paws. The little fellow has been tempted out of its winter home by the bright sunshine, for they are to some extent hibernating in their habits. This winter home is generally made in a hole formed in the crotch of some large oak tree. It is a well prepared nest for cold weather. Some varieties of Squirrels have a summer nest, which is of a pensile nature, made at the end of a branch, which sways to and fro with every gust of wind. The Squirrel is remarkably fearless, he will sit up near his nest and not move away, even when disturbed by thoughtless school boys, firing sticks or stones at him; not until he or the nest is hit will he move, he will then scamper off to the tree top. Squirrels are great homers, using the same place for having their young year after year, unless interfered with, when they will seek new quarters, carrying their young in their mouth, similar to a cat with her kittens. Four or five form the family, and when first they make their exit from the nest, are easily captured, but difficult enough when full grown, seemingly being suspicious of even a well baited trap, that all is not right. One of their characteristics is the ability to make great leaps from tree to tree, with accuracy and certainty. They make good use of their paws and their teeth, in defending themselves, as well as a means of getting their sustenance. The chief point of beauty in the Red Squirrel is its fine bushy tail, which it takes great pride in keeping trim and clean. It also seriously objects to any one touching it, like the Irishman's coat. The length of its tail is about as long as its body, and the other points are its bright and intelligent eyes, small ears and color, which blends from a deep red on the ridge of its back to