

THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW

A BIRD OF A STORY.

THE REMARKABLE BEHAVIOR OF AN ENGLISH SPARROW

("Whig," July 18.)

Have birds the power of reasoning, held to be the sacred gift of the human race? It would seem they have from an incident which occurred at George Offord's shoe store recently. On the day in question Archie Abernethy was seated inside the store reading. It was towards the close of the day and business had about ceased, the stores and streets being almost deserted. Mr. Abernethy's attention was attracted by a loud chirping of sparrows. Thinking that perhaps a fight was in progress between two feathered champions he paid no attention to the noise. A minute or two later a sparrow, with feathers all disturbed and standing on end, hopped nervously into the store through the front door and stopped about six feet from the entrance. The bird seemed to be laboring under intense excitement, and after chirping several times, hopped quickly out of the door again. Mr. Abernethy eyed the bird and watched its strange behavior, but still his curiosity was not aroused. The bird repeated the same tactics a second time, casting its eyes up to the hero of this story in a pleading manner. The bird's second exit from the store was marked by loud chirping outside and Mr. Abernethy could hear an answering chirp, as if made by a sparrow at some distance.

A third time did the sparrow enter the store, and began hopping back and forth towards the door. Mr. Abernethy by this time made up his mind something was wrong and that the bird was trying to attract his attention, so he arose and followed it out. The bird did not fly away frightened, but hopped

along in the lead, keeping up a running conversation in bird language. Outside the door the bird took up a position on one of the grates, covering an opening into the cellar, and fluttered its wings in a manner which plainly told of its distress and pointed out the cause.

On looking down through the grating Mr. Abernethy saw a young sparrow. It had fallen into the deep opening and was unable to get out. Going down into the cellar, he picked up the stranded youngster, and holding it up to the grating gave it liberty. The mother showed unmistakable joy at having regained possession of her offspring, and together they flew away. After this who will say a sparrow cannot reason. The only thing lacking to make the story complete, Mr. Abernethy says, is for the sparrow to return and thank him for having rescued the little one.

The remarkable development in the circulation of the *Rockwood Review*, and the steady increase in the number of advertisements, speaks volumes for the popularity of the little journal, to say nothing of the enterprise of its youthful agents.

Dr. Reynolds of Hamilton Asylum, paid a flying visit to Rockwood on the 11th July.

Mr. Percy Johnston has grown several inches in stature of late, and the great question is what to call the boy.

Dr. Webster spent his vacation in Rochester.

Miss Orser and Miss Mabel Orser have returned from a pleasant holiday.

Miss Hawkins, Miss Smith, P. Redmond, W. Madill, J. Lawless took holidays in July.