

CONCERNS RELATIONS IN GENERAL 9

of the cat's feelings and the meaning of pain when Sophonisba plucked half a dozen hairs out of his head.

My sister-in-law Pansy, indeed all our relations, consider Sophonisba's method of training her boys brutal and disgraceful. I absolutely approve, but I usually prefer to go out for a walk till she has quite finished making an example. My mother-in-law, meeting me running down the road with my fingers in my ears, says she cannot understand however she came to have such a daughter, and invariably adds "But then Soapy was always the odd man out."

"We like relations e-e-comin' an' g-g-goin'," announced Edward the Second, who stammers slightly.

"That's the right and hospitable spirit," said I heartily.

"'Cos when they comes, an' when they goes, they 'tributes to our money-boxes," explained Billium.

Billium does not stammer, he drawls.

They at once clamoured to be allowed to meet their Great-uncle Perc at the station. Sophonisba said they might, but I warned warningly.

"Now mind yo an' do things."

They seemed surprised and hurt at the idea, and we set out gaily to meet the train. We were almost at the station when I was distressed to discover they had brought their money-boxes with them.

Sophonisba just said, "Oh, bother!" and took them away. She did not seem to think it odd that she should greet a rich uncle she had not seen since her babyhood with a couple of money-boxes under her arm. I hoped he would not notice, but thought it only right I should offer to relieve her of the burden.

"I will take one," I said, firmly if faintly. I wondered unhappily what he would think when niece met him with one money-box and nephew-in-law with