

touch her except my wife, who can play with her and caress her while the bird talks in a soft gentle tone as though she were telling her about something nice

When Polly hears the door bell ring she very often calls out "milk" at the top of her voice. She is such a chatterbox, one day I thought I would teach her to spell milk, and sure enough it was not long before I was rewarded for my trouble; she will spell it and pronounce milk as well as I can myself.

One time some children were playing hide and seek with their aunt Mary, and when they failed to find her one of them called out "Aunt Mary I won't play," and Polly heard it. Though that happened ten or twelve years ago Polly to this day calls out "Aunt Mary, I won't play."

Strange to say, the bird will never say anything bad about herself. She will say she is a good Polly and a pretty Polly, but she never says "bad Polly." Sometimes she calls out "where's Polly?" after which she will answer "Polly's gone up stairs."

Some years ago children taught her to say:

Hickery, chickery, my black hen,
She lays eggs for gentlemen,
Sometimes nine and sometimes ten,
Hickery, chickery, my black hen

She will repeat this for five or ten minutes at a time when she is in one of her talking moods. Sometimes in the middle of the rhyme she will stop suddenly and say "oh!" as though she had forgotten part of it and begin it over again.

I could never teach her to whistle though I often tried. She is very fond of music and will sing the following:

Johnny Morgan plays the organ,
His father beats the drum,

His sister plays the tambourine,
Bomb bomb, bomb bomb, bomb, bomb.

I have heard it said that double yellow headed and grey parrots were the best talkers, but I doubt if there is one living that can beat my Cuban. Though she is about sixteen years old she has not forgotten anything she was taught when young. At this age she still picks up names. She is strong and is healthy as ever and may live for years yet.

This Cuban parrot is a handsome bird of a dark green color, each feather being edged with black. The forehead is white, and her cheeks, front of neck and upper part of her breast is a bright rose pink, the latter color being more or less widely continued down and over the breast in different birds. When she has her wings and tail spread out most beautiful shades are to be seen—colors that one would scarcely believe the bird possessed.

I could write more about this great pet, which is an incessant talker. She is very fond of children. She never makes any harsh noises unless she gets frightened. Though she only cost me five dollars, one hundred dollars would not buy her to-day.

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Mr. Appleton's suggestion to adopt a fixed standard for three years is a good one and should meet with approval. No standard, however, no matter how good, will cause all men to see or judge the birds with the same eyes.

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