

fool struck the fence about three quarters of the distance from the ground, and over he went, head foremost, into the goat pasture. It was fortunate for him that he did not break his neck. As it was, his spirit was broken, and that was about all. He went home a much humbler boy than he was when he came to the goat-pasture; and a somewhat wiser one, too.

After that unfortunate leap, if Tom ever boasted largely of what he could do and what he had done, it was a very common thing for his playmates to say, "Taku caro, Tom; remember that famous leap."

#### FUN-LOVING ANIMALS.

An interesting work on the "Passions of Animals" has the following concerning their fun-loving propensities:—

Small birds chase each other about in play; but perhaps the conduct of the crane and the trumpeter is the most extraordinary. The latter stands on one leg, hops about in the most eccentric manner, and throws somersets. Some people call it the mad bird; on account of these singularities. The crane expands its wings, runs round in circles, leaps, and throwing little stones and pieces of wood in the air, endeavors to catch them again, and pretends to avoid them, as if afraid. Water-birds, such as ducks and geese, dive after each other, and cleave the surface of the water with out-stretched neck and flapping wings, throwing an abundant spray around. Deer often engage in a sham battle, or a trial of strength, by twisting their horns together and pushing for the mastery. All animals that pretend violence in their play stop short of exercising it; the dog takes the greatest precaution not to injure by his bite; and the orang-outang, in wrestling with his keeper, pretends to throw him, and makes feint of biting him. Some animals carry out in their play the semblance of catching their prey; young cats, for instance, leap after every small and moving object, even to the leaves strewn by the autumn winds; they crouch and steal forward, ready for the spring, the body quivering and the tail vibrating with emotion. They bound on the moving leaf, and again spring forward to another. Bengal saw young jaguars and cougars playing with round substances like kittens. Young lambs collect together on little hillocks and eminences in their pastures, racing and sporting with each other in the most interesting manner. Birds of the pie kind are the analogues of monkeys, full of mischief, play, and mimicry. There is a story told of a tame magpie that was seen busily engaged in a garden gathering pebbles, and with much solemnity and studied air burying them in a hole about eighteen inches deep, made to receive a post. After dropping each stone, it cried "carrack!" triumphantly, and set out for another. On examining the spot, a poor toad was found in this hole, which the magpie was stoning for his amusement.

#### CINNAMON-FIELDS IN CEYLON.

One morning was, as usual on our first arrival, taken up by visits. In the afternoon we drove through the far-famed cinnamon-gardens, which cover upward of 17,000 acres of land on the coast, the largest of which are near Colombo. The plant thrives best in a poor, sandy soil, in a damp atmosphere. It grows wild in the woods to the size of a large apple-tree, but when cultivated, is never allowed to grow more than ten or twelve feet in height, each plant standing separate. The leaf is something like the laurel in shape, but of a lighter color. When it first shoots out it is red, and changes gradually to green. It is now out of blossom, but I am told the flower is white, and appears, when full in blossom, to cover the garden. After hearing so much of the spicy gales from this island, I was much disappointed at not being able to discover any scent, at least from the plants, in passing through the gardens, there is a very fragrant-smelling flower growing under them, which at first led us into the belief that we smelt the cinnamons, but we were soon undeceived. On pulling off a leaf or twig, you perceived the spicy odor very strongly, but I was surprised to hear that the flower had little or none. As the cinnamon forms the only considerable export of Ceylon, it is, of course, preserved with care. By the old Dutch law the penalty for cutting a branch was no less than the loss of a hand; at present a fine expiates the offence. The neighborhood of Colombo is particularly favorable to its growth, being well sheltered, with a high, equable temperature, and as showers fall frequently, the ground is never parched.

#### ST. ANTHONY AND THE COBLER.

We read a pretty story of St. Anthony, who, being in the wilderness, led there a very hard and strait life, insomuch that none at that time did like; to whom there came a voice from heaven, saying, "Anthony, thou art not so perfect as is a cobbler that dwelleth at Alexandria." Anthony, hearing this, rose up forthwith, and took his staff, and went till he came to Alexandria, where he found the cobbler. The cobbler was astonished to see so reverend a father come to his house. Then Anthony said to him, "Come and tell me thy whole conversation, how thou spendest thy time." "Sir," said the cobbler, "as for me, good works have I none, for my life is but simple and slender. I am but a poor cobbler; in the morning when I rise I pray for the whole city wherein I dwell, especially for all such neighbors and poor friends as I have. After, I set me at my labors, when I spend the whole day in getting my living, and keep me from all falsehood, for I hate nothing so much as deceitfulness; wherefore, when I make to any man a

promise, I keep it and perform it truly; and thus I spend my time poorly, with my wife and children, whom I teach and instruct as far as my wit will serve me, to fear and dread God. And this is the sum of my simple life."

In this story you see how God loveth those that follow their vocation and live uprightly. This Anthony was a great, holy man, yet this cobbler was as much esteemed before God as he.

#### THE BATTLE OF THE FIDDLERS.

It is reported in the history of Chester, England, that it was besieged by the Welsh in the reign of King John, during the time of its great fair, when the commandant assembled all the musicians who had come to the place upon the occasion, and marched them in the night, with their instruments playing, against the enemy; who, upon hearing so vast a sound, were filled with such terror and surprise that they instantly fled. In memory of this exploit, a meeting of musicians is annually kept up to this day, with one of the Dutton family (their royal master) at their head, to whom certain privileges are granted.

I give this historical incident just as it comes to me, at the same time that I must confess I should not be willing to stake my reputation as a historian upon the truth of it. However, it may have happened; and I have myself heard musicians play, who, I am sure, if they could be brought together in one company, and would consent to march against an enemy, in full blast, would frighten a whole battalion, so that they would take to their heels. At all events, the aforesaid battalion must be men of strong nerve, and deserving ever so much credit for heroism, if they maintained their position in such circumstances. So, on the whole, I think the story may be true.—*Extract.*

#### LIVING SAXON.

Some of our readers will be surprised to learn that there are animals which, though Saxon while alive, become Norman after they are dead. This strange transmutation converts sheep into mutton, oxen into beef, calves into veal, swine into pork, deer into venison. The reason assigned is, that the Saxon peasants who tended these animals had no acquaintance with their flesh as food—the only exception to the general rule being bacon, which the Saxons ever partook. Thus we see now, in spite of the Norman incursion, Saxon maintained its ground side by side with the new language.

#### SINCERITY.

Sincerity signifies a simplicity of mind and manners, in our conversation and carriage one towards another; singleness of heart, discovering itself in a constant plainness and honest openness of behavi-