

THE TRUE STORY OF A STORK.

WHY THE SERMON WAS DULL.

A writer in "Our Animal Friends," relates a curious incident about a stork which made its nest upon the roof of a house in Northern Germany, and, having been petted by the children, became very tame and companionable.

At the first signs of approaching cold weather the stork prepared to flit to warmer climes. The children were sad at the thought of losing their pet, but their parents consoled them with the assurance that the bird would surely return the next spring. The children, still uneasy at the idea of the stork not being cared for during the long winter, consulted together and evolved a brilliant idea, which they immediately proceeded to put into execution. They wrote a little note in their best German script stating that the stork was very dear to them, and begging the good people in whose country it might spend the winter to be kind to their pet and send it back to them in the spring.

They sealed the note, fastened it to a ribbon, tied it round the bird's neck, and tucked it under its wing. The next day they sadly watched the stork wing its way toward milder skies. The snow and ice came. Christmas-tide brought the children gifts and fresh amusements, but their summer pet was not forgotten. When the spring came round again their little feet used to climb to the roof day by day looking and longing for the stork's return; and behold, one fine morning there it was, tame and gentle as ever.

Great was the children's delight, but what was their surprise to discover round its neck and under its wing another bright band with a note attached, addressed to "the children that wrote the letter the stork brought." The ribbon was quickly untied and the missive opened. It was from a missionary in Africa, stating that he had read the children's note and had cared for the stork, and thought that young people whose hearts had prompted them to provide for the comfort of a bird through the winter, would be willing to help clothe and feed the destitute boys and girls of this mission. A full name and address followed. The German children were full of sympathy, and the missionary's note won a golden answer from the family. Other letters came and went by post between them, until by and by the children learned to know the missionary and his little black waifs almost as well as they knew the beloved stork that proved so trusty a messenger.—Ex.

"The dullest sermon I ever listened to!" exclaimed Sam, petulantly, as he came home from church.

"Yes," replied grandfather, a twinkle in his eye, "I thought so myself."

"Did you, grandfather?" exclaimed Sam, glad to have some one to stand by him.

"I mean to say I thought you thought so," replied his grandfather. "I enjoyed it because my appetite was whetted for it before I went to church. While the minister was preaching I noticed it was just the other way with you."

"How?" Sam demanded.

"Why, before you went," answered grandfather, "instead of sharpening your appetite for the sermon, you dulled it by reading a trashy paper. Then instead of sitting straight up and looking at the minister while he preached, as though you wanted to catch every word he said and every expression of his face, you lounged down in your seat and turned half-way around. I never knew anyone that could bear a sermon right from the side of his head. Then you let your eyes rove about the church and out of the window. That dulled the sense. You dulled your ears by listening to a dog that was barking, and the milkman's bell, and the train puffing into the station. You dulled your mind and soul by thinking you were a terribly abused boy for having to go to church and stay through the sermon, and so you made yourself a dull listener. And I never knew it to fail in my life that a dull listener made a dull sermon."

—Morning Guide.

DO EVERY THING WELL.

Every boy wants to excel in something. But boys and girls alike do not always remember that no one thing stands alone. He who means to do well in one thing must have the habit of doing well. You cannot slight everything else and succeed in one chosen game, or one particular study. Aim at perfection. The advice of the teacher, which is here given, is worthy of careful attention.

A young student whom we know was very ambitious to gain a certain rank in his class which would entitle him to a scholarship. If he gained the scholarship, he could go on with his course. A well known professor was