

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

WHAT THE BIRDS SAY.

Something had gone wrong in the Martin household that bright summer morning; for when the old sun went looking so merrily into the sitting room he saw two or three young faces which were full of clouds and gloom.

"I don't see any fun in having vacation if you can't do as other people do" said Alice, in a very fretful voice. "We are just as rich as the Hollies are and they are going away to stay all vacation, and May has lots of new things."

"Of course! And Tom Holly, and lots of other fellows, have gone with Professor Vesche on that mountain trip, and I have to stay at home," quoth Rob, giving his knife an extra jerk.

"I wish mamma had not gone away and I wish Aunt Celia would not be sick and want her," complained little Dick, spreading himself out on the floor, and looking almost ready to cry.

Then Alice began again, and they grumbled all round once more, while sister Dora, the grown up sister, who sat sewing in the bay window could not help smiling, though she looked sorry at the same time.

"I wonder if boys and girls know how birds talk." A little silence. Alice would not be the first to speak. What had birds to do with what she was thinking of?

"Birds talk! I never heard of such a thing" said Rob, contemptuously. "Pretty poll's," asked Dick, rolling over, and looking at his sister.

"No, dear, not pretty poll's, but robin's and blue-birds, and wrens and yellow-breasts, and all the little birds that live in the trees and bushes, and fly all about our house every day."

"Pahaw!" said Rob, snapping one blade of his knife shut, and opened. Dora went on without minding. "Every morning, when you are gone to school, and mother is out attending to her household duties, I sit here with my sewing or writing; and then come and talk to me—sometimes one, sometimes another, of the little birds. They are sure to come if I am not feeling just right."

Dick got up and went and stood by Dora's chair, and a look of interest crept into his face. "I never heard 'em," he said. And Alice felt half angry with her sister for not paying more attention to their complaints, but she listened while Dora talked;

"Well, I am going to tell you how they speak, and then you will understand them yourself some day." Dora put her arm around little Dick and looked at the other children as she spoke.

"Some mornings I feel disappointed, as you do this morning. I can't have want, or something I looked for doesn't come. Then, while perhaps I am singing, up by the window comes a cheery little wren, and says to me, Don't fret! There is plenty of joy left in the world. Peep! Let's sing and be glad. Some one is taking care of us all." When I looked at his little, brown coat, and heard his merry voice, I feel that I must not fret; because He who made the little birds cares for them and me, and loves me, even when He takes away things which I want.

The tears came into Alice's eyes; but she looked out of the window and no one saw them. Dora went on. "Sometimes I get tired, and my daily duties seem such old, dull things, and I wish I could drop them and find something new. Then a blue-bird perches himself right here on the window-sill, and chirps to me, 'Oh, what a beautiful world this is! Let us be happy in it. How blue the sky is, and how brightly the sun shines! And what trees and flowers and breezes! And how good the Giver of it all is! Let us thank him. Beautiful, beautiful life!'"

How ashamed I am of myself then! I can't help thinking of all my blessings, and being hopeful and brave."

"Well, you're grown up," proclaimed Rob, and don't care for things as we do!"

"Don't I Rob? Oh, yes!" and the young lady's face grew expressive of feelings which the children did not understand; "grown-up people do care for things a great deal, and it is a big care, too, very often; and sometimes nobody knows about it but God—the good God, who cares for the little birds, and so much more for his children on earth."

"Birds don't know about God, do they?" asked little Dick, with his eyes full of childish wonder.

"No, Dick; but God knows about birds. And I think He sends them to us, to teach us and help us. Why, sometimes when I'm feeling cross or tired, and a little bird hops up here, and sings to me, I feel as if God had sent it right to me, to tell me to be cheerful or contented. See here, all of you

Dora called with something in her voice which drew both Alice and Rob to the window.

On a bush near the house, and looking right in the window, was a little brown bird, singing so sweetly and tenderly; and while they all looked, down flew another, a brilliant blue-bird, right on the window-ledge, and chirped away merrily at them.

"Oh, Dora! tell us what they are saying?" called Dick, laughing at the little bird's head, leaning first on one side and then on the other; and at the queer little eyes that seemed to look right at him.

"I think they must be saying, 'Boys and girls, don't be cross? Don't fret? God is very good to you; He gives you so many pleasures. Go out into His bright world and be happy.'"

Dick clapped his hands with glee, as the blue-bird held up its head, and seemed to repeat the words, "Be happy! Be happy!" in its gay little notes. And Alice said, "What a beautiful color it is!"

Then away flew the little messengers, singing as they went. And I think they had said something to the children which made things seem different the rest of the day, although it was vacation time, and mother had gone away, and they could not have some pleasures which they had hoped for.—Churchman.

CHARLIE ROSS AGAIN.—The mystery of the disappearance of Charlie Ross has again been the courts. In Philadelphia, last week, Samuel A. Bekners, James Pickett, and Sarah Brown, were brought up on a charge of aiding and abetting the abduction of Charlie Ross. In letters introduced as testimony allusion is made to a new "jewel," the owner of which would be obliged to come down handsomely in order to receive it. Mosher and Douglass are spoken of as running a powder wagon. The death of Mosher is referred to, and the "jewel" is reported safe. The "jewel" alluded to is believed to represent the lost boy. All the evidence was in the form of hints, intimations, &c. The prisoners were all committed for trial.

A MOUSE PLAGUE.—The Scotch farmers appear to be at their wits' ends for means of ridding themselves of the vast armies of mice which are threatening to overrun the border country. The land is represented as resembling the ground in the neighborhood of targets for rifle practice, being literally riddled with holes. All the vegetation is destroyed in certain localities in Teviotdale, not merely the blades of grass, but the roots also, having been consumed. The farmers are encouraging the increase of hawks, owls and weasels, and other carnivorous birds and beasts.

A BUFFALO RUSH.—Mr. Joaquin Miller tells a curious California story, which recalls that of the cattle in Harte's "Gabriel Conroy." He describes an immigrant train passing over the prairie and meeting a herd of buffalo at full speed and moved by one of the apparently insane impulses which sometimes seize these animals. In an instant the immense herd had passed—there was no wagon, there were no men, oxen, horses left; even their bodies were obliterated. The one survivor was a woman, who was carried out of the horrible struggle on the back of one of the herd—how she never knew; her first consciousness was that she stood in safety upon a little hillock and the whirlwind had gone by.

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Smith's Bible Dictionary, Farrar's Dictionary, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature, Stanley's Sinai and Palestine, Thompson's Land and Book, Conybeare & Howson's Life and Epistles of Paul, Wemer's New Testament Grammar, Trench's Synonyms of New Testament, Lange on Genesis, Alexander on Isaiah, Stuart on Proverbs, Delitzsch on Job, Lange on New Testament, Tholuck on the Sermon on the Mount, Trench on the Parables, Trench on the Miracles.

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Noah Porter's Human Intellect, Hamilton's Metaphysics, McCosh's Defense of Fundamental Truth, Wayland's Elements of Moral Philosophy.

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