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## BIRDS OF THE MERRY FOREST By LILIAN LEVERIDGE

## CHAPTER XXIII. (Continued.) <br> The Hummingbird's Nest.

Hummingbirds are most frequently seen on the wing, and then the wings grows weary, and you at times it perching for a minute or two on a twig or flower spray. Yesterday the children had seen a mother Humming-bird-distinguished from its mate by the absence of the ruby-sitting on a rose bush quite still for about half an hour. This was so unusual a proceeding for this restless, sprightly bird that they thought it must be
sick, and Boy Blue stepped out softly sick, and Boy Blue stepped out softly quite close to it, but suddenly it spied him and darted away
"Nothing sick about it!" Boy Blue had exclaimed." "I suppose it was only day-dreaming.
All these thoughts and memories passed through the children's minds as they sang and watched the bird
flit to and fro. Just as they started on the last stanza of the Swing Song on the last stanza of the Swing Song,
which they had been asked by the which they had been asked by the in its own quaint, airy way. Back and forth, up and down-how it seemed to enjoy the pretty pastime And the children enjoyed watching it none the less.

Suddenly the Hummingbird darted away, just as it had done so many same before, and dropped into the flowery nook.
"Dimple," whispered Boy Blue eagerly, "I believe it has a nest in that tree-and it looks easy to climb." "O Boy Blue!" pleaded Dimple in alarm, 'don't.
"You needn't come, of course, but I'm going to see if I can climb that ree. Neither Daddy nor Mother said "But I'm sure they never thought we would again," Dimple urged.
"Why, Dimple, Daddy would be ashamed to own a boy who was afraic to climb a tree. of course, it's dif ferent in your case."
"Boy. Blue, please don't," Dimple pleaded anxiously, but the look in her hrother's eyes tola her without word use. "You better stay here," advised Boy Blue, rising to his feet.

Without another word they clambered down the steep, rugged rocks, and Boy Blue fires quce at the foot of it to take off his shoes and stockings.
Dimple did the same
Her brother looked at her in surprise and dismay. "Dimple! "You're not going to climb that tree!
"Yes, I am."
"Well, I won't let you."
"How can you stop me when you're
up the tree?" "Now, Dimple, don't be trouble-
"Now, Dimple, don' be troubleenough with you Saturday for one Dimple continued unbuttoning her shoe in silence.
"Promise' me you won't," the boy begged as he rose to his feet again. Inl promise." rled veration for a minute. But in zled firm set of her little mouth and the steady gleam of her eyes he read a determination equal to his own. Accordingly he gave up his attempt to turn her aside from her purpose. The tree was easy to climb, and he was soon hali-way up and were exin the lower branches. kept a sharp
lookout for the nest, so their ascent Woy Blue climbed as near to the top as he could get, but failed to dis over the object of their search. He old Dimple that he had got a glimpse of the Hummingbird, and thought the est must be somewhere in the tree quiring of her more courage than quiring of her more courage than nervous and frightened, and her thoughts were anything but-comfort ing. What would Daddy and Mother say to this?
Two bright eyes peering down at her through the leaves caught sigh Perhaps the bird understood-who knows? Or did she come near to find out? At any rate, Dimple saw the mother bird poise on humming wings scarcely a foot from her face and at the sight all fears and fore bodings dissolved like mist.
"Hello!" chirped the bird. "It was tage, wasn't it?"
"Wes, I did," Dimple replied, Would you like to see my nest?"
"Oh, yes, please!"
"Here it is, then."
And there beside her on the bough, half-hidden under a canopy of leaves, case of a nest that Dimple had ever seen. It was made of plant-down and covered with pretty, grey lichen and soft, green moss. It was wonderfully and beautifully made. Inside were two eggs, delicate as pearls and almost transparent.
At sight of this treasure Dimple was for a moment almost speechless with joy. Then she whispered, "Oh! This is the sweetest thing I ever saw. May I show Boy Blue?"
Dimple called to him the great news, and in a few minutes he was beside her. He, too, was at first silent with wonder and delight.
"I never thought of anything so pretty as enis, he whispered at bird itself-the kind of thing you might dream, but never expect to come true."
By this time the tiny mother had gone back to brood over her pearls of eggs, and she dismissed them with
a nod, may come again when the
birds are out," she said, very cor dially. that the children climbed After that the children chimbed home.
At the garden gate they came upon Daddy and Mother tying up a baby rambler rose the wind had been paying with too roughly. At once they the story of their afternoon's adven the sto
tures.

## (To be Continued.)

BISHOP REEVES REJOINDER.
Re the epitaph found on the marble slab-the only "headstone ever erectin the cemetery" of Alma, menon page 615, I remember hearing one very like it when I was a little boy of about eight years old. A gentleman was keeping us in roars of laughter by his jokes and anecdotes, and among others mentioned this epitaph:"Remember, man, as you pass by, As you are now, so As I am now, so must you be, But some wag wrote underneath:But some wag wrote underne "To follow you I'm not content

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