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was so young, and I wanted so much to live my life and be happy. I called for my dear Boy Teacher, my one and only friend, but he was nowhere near, for school wasn't out yet.

"Tom took me in his big rough hands-so different to the Teacher's soft, gentle ones—and as they tight-ened on my neck I began to gasp and

choke. It was terrible!

"Suddenly he stopped and let me breathe again. 'Well, I'm blest if I can do it!' he said. 'The Boy would feel bad about it; and he's the de-centest chap on this island. For his sake I'm going to give you another chance, old fellow.'

"I was very much relieved, you may be sure, but my adventures were not yet over. Tom tied me up in a coarse sack where for an hour I nearly smothered. He carried me down to the water, put me into a boat, and rowed away.
"For a long time I heard nothing

but the creak of the oars and the lapping of the water against the boat. At last, however, I felt it grind against the pebbles, and in a few more minutes I was once more breathing the blessed air and blinking in the sunshine.

'There, Jack,' said Tom. 'I've done the best I can for you, and you'll have to take care of yourself from now on. Goodbye, and good luck to

"He rowed away over the wide blue water. I was sorry to see the last of him, for all he had come so near murdering me, but I was mighty glad to find myself alive and free.

"I was alone in a big, strange country. I never saw my own little island, nor my dear Boy Teacher again. I often think of him and won-

der where he is.

"The next spring I met Sooty, and we came to the Merry Forest, where we have lived ever since. And now my story is ended, for you all know the rest."

How quiet it was there in the cedars as Jack finished his story! Not a breeze whispered, not a bird peeped. But they were loud now in their applause, for everyone had been greatly interested.

Dimple and Boy Blue thanked Jack for the story, and then, with many promises to come again, they very carefully climbed down from their high perch and went home.

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OUR FRIEND, THE SNAKE.

There seems to be born into the average human being an aversion for the snake. Despite this fact, there is a movement on foot, almost worldwide in its scope, to stop the destruction of harmless snakes, because they feed on insects and their larvæ, moles, house and field mice, and other plant and vegetable enemies.

On this continent, California was the first to start in the movement. On the Pacific Coast the most destructive agent of the crops is the gopher, or ground squirrel. As soon as it was learned that the gopher snake lived solely on the gopher, a state-wide campaign was started to protect the snake. Then two or three of the eastern states were aroused to the fact that their agricultural interests were aided through the protection of native snakes.

The mole, which is such a menace to the lawn, garden and crops, can only be annihilated by the snake.

The rats, carriers of contagious diseases, terror of the poultry raiser and wholesale destroyer of all sorts of grain, are a delicacy to the snake.

The poisonous varieties of snakes can be detected often before being seen by the peculiar, nauseating, cucumber-like odor. As a rule, no snake will bite a human being unless first attacked. Comparatively few varieties of northern snakes are poisonous.—The Thrift Magazine.

Boys and Girls

Dear Cousins,—
I am really writing to you to row, because, just as I was sitt down to it, to-day slipped round corner, and I don't suppose I'll find it again! So some of you guess what time it is! It is a very beautiful time, late and Much too late for young cousing that is something for them to forward to-staying up and ing the stars come out one by I saw a falling star to-nighting for the quietness as the car motors gradually stop running, ing the scent of the acacia-tree getting a few minutes of real

and quiet in your heart.

It's a pity that in the city you get it only so late, as a rule. The why Sunday is really such a beautiful day of the sunday is really such a beautiful day of the such as t ful day always, whether it rain not, because church is waiting everybody then, and even if you possibly follow the sermon—and hard on hot days, isn't it? You sit still, and be quiet, and re That's a hard thing for a good recousins to understand, I know even if you don't quite see it remember it, and try it, and if

gradually dawn on you.

I am going to find lots of places this summer, I hope, and may not be writing as regularly ou for a few weeks. Like a many of you, I am going to be the lakes and mountains, and lo forward to hunting about for spots where I can lie down an soak in sunshine and the sign beautiful places. I shall be the of all of you too, all kinds of the I could never show you in a le but they'll reach you all the s I have a special sort of "wirel that operates between me and special friends. So you'll knowing the when I'm thinking about I wonder if, in the end, that " less" will make you do what I you to do, and be what I want yo be-the very best you know ho

We'll see. Well, I must just give you my and very best wishes for beauti holidays, and them stop; it's nea the day after te-morrow now!

Your affectionate, Cousin Mike

HE KNEW THE CAUSE.

At an engineer's shop the pro tor had one man upon whom he rely for being punctual to his ust recently he had fallen i habit, and on several occasions been late. He was behind time a mornings ago, and the picalled him into his office. "C manage to get here at your old to James, as you used to do?" he "I can't sleep nights now, sir, it makes me late sometimes, by will try and alter it," replied man. "If it is sleeplessness suffer from I was a why don't suffer from, James, why don't consult a doctor and find out cause?" "Oh, I know the cause, It is six weeks old."

N. N. N.

A DEAN'S "TIP."

The Dean of Lincoln, the Very Dr. Fry, in a recent speech at tingham said that many Lin race-goers always visited the Co dral. On one occasion when he shown a party of them around, Irishman from Liverpool, thinking that the Dean was a verger, insisted on giving him 6d. "I told him that I did not need it," said the Dean. "but he pressed it into my hand and whispered; 'well, buy yourself a drink and a cigar.'" "I am a teetotaler and a non-smoker," added the Dean.