

Young People's Department.



AFRICAN ELEPHANTS.

THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT.

FARMERS in Africa have a great deal of troublesometimes with elephants. These great creatures get together at times in herds and roam up and down the country, and when they do that they are apt to do a great deal of harm. As long as they keep to the woods they are all right. They can't do the woods much harm, for there are trees in Africa a good deal larger than they are; but when they come out to a place where people live and have gardens and farms, they trample down everything that comes in their way. And people can't do much to keep them away. They are so big and strong that they think nothing of fences, and the poor people can only look on while the great brutes eat and trample upon whatever comes in their way. It does not do to fire at them, for there is nothing

more terrible than angry elephants. They will tear down and tread upon everything that comes in their way—men, women, children, fences, huts, houses—anything. It is better to let them alone, except that sometimes people drive them away by beating drums and pieces of metal and making all kinds of noises.

It is a very dangerous thing to hunt the elephant. There are men in Africa who are trained from childhood to be elephant hunters, and it is the king who sets them apart for it. Thus it becomes a very high honor. The bravest and the strongest sons of Africa are needed for this great work. They hunt the elephant chiefly for his tusks, which are ivory and bring a high price. But the flesh of the animal is very good to eat, and when one is killed the people rush to the carcass to get a portion of it, for elephant flesh, for some reason or other, in Africa, is never sold. It is a treat to which all are welcome who are in reach of it.