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THE STORY THE SNAIL TOLD TO ARTHUR.

Arthur was lying on the ground in
the garden, face downward, with his
head propped in his hands, and an
open book before him.

"Oh, dear, I shall never get this
lesson; I am slower than a snail," he
murmured.

"How do you know how slow a
snail is?" asked a voice close by him.
"Yes, I am a snail," he added, as if
answering his questioning look; "and
I wonder how much you know about
the snail family, anyhow."

"Not much," answered Arthur;
"only that they are supposed to be
about the slowest thing there is."

"That is not much, I am sure; for,
although we are rather slow, we
manage to do a great deal in the
world."

"I would like to know something
more about you. Will you tell me?"
asked Arthur, more interested in this
living object than in his lesson.

"Well, I might give you a few facts
to think about," answered the snail,
slowly. "In the first place, some of
our family live in all parts of the
world. We live in a shell, which we
always carry with us, and into which
we can retire at any moment we
wish. The name, snail, means to
creep, and I am sure if you had to
creep along on one foot you would
not go much faster than we do."

"Only one foot!" said Arthur, in
surprise.

"Yes, that is all we have," answered
the snail. "We have to pull ourselves
along with that the best we can."

"What do you live on?" asked
Arthur.

"Oh, we live all right. We eat
different kinds of vegetables, such as
lettuce, cabbage, or any nice fruit,
or soft substance. The gardeners are
not usually very fond of us, unless
it is to eat us."

"To eat you!" exclaimed Arthur.
"Surely no one does that!"

"That shows how much you know
about it," said the snail, disdainfully.
"Why, in Europe we are much prized
as a great delicacy. We grow larger
there, about two inches in diameter,
and also as high; and are used in
soups, as well as cooked alone. The
glassmen of Newcastle have a snail
feast once a year, and thousands are
used at that time."

"I am sure I would not eat a
snail!" said Arthur in disgust.

"You need not," answered the
snail, tartly; "but you need not think
we are not good enough for you.
Why, the Romans kept us in en-
closures, and fed us on meal and
wine, that we might be extra nice."

Arthur saw he had made a mistake,
and hastened to ask:

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"What do you eat with? I do not
see any teeth."

"We have teeth, though. They are
fastened on our tongue, and we
often have from one to two hun-
dred."

"My, what a lot! I guess you
never have the toothache, do you?"

"No, we are never troubled that
way. There is a strange thing about
us that you likely do not know; and
that is, if our head is cut off we grow
another one."

"Wouldn't it be nice if people were
that way! I guess they would always
be losing their heads to see if they
could not get a better one. Wouldn't
they, Mr. Snail?" and Arthur laughed
at his odd conceit.

"I presume they would," answered
the snail; "but my family name is
Helicidas."

"Well, I can never pronounce that
right," said Arthur. "How many are
there in your family, anyhow?"

"Altogether we number about four-
teen hundred. That is, that many
different species are found the whole
world over."

"Whew!" said Arthur. "You are
quite an extensive family, and no
mistake. Do they all carry their
houses with them, like you?"

"To be sure they do, and some of

them have very beautiful ones instead
of the plain brown, like mine. When
the cold weather comes we go into
our houses, close the doors, and
sleep all winter, until the warm



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MONTREAL.

weather comes again. Then we are
ready to begin living again."

"How do you tell where you are
going?"

"Why, we look with our eyes, to
be sure, the same as you do."

"But I do not see any eyes."

"If you look close you will see
little round knobs on the end of the
longer feelers; these are the eyes."

"I see now," said Arthur, after ob-
serving his strange companion a mo-
ment. "Well, I like you better than
I did, and have enjoyed our talk; now
I must really study this lesson," and
he was soon poring diligently over
his book.

The snail toiled slowly away, hunt-
ing out the tender bits in the lettuce
bed.—Irma B. Matthews.

THE PUPPIES.

Elsie Danvers was a little golden-
haired girl of six when she went with
her family to camp out for a few
weeks at one of the beautiful Adiron-
dack lakes.

It was all new to them, this life in
the forest, and where one rolls up
in a blanket at night to sleep on the
softest of balsam mattresses.

The little camp was situated on a
point between two small bays.
Around it great hemlocks and pines
rose to a height of ninety feet, and
a fringe of silver birches on the shore



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