

the creature were gone, there was no end to the interesting things connected with rat life and habits which his little friends learned. One of the first things they observed was the care he took to keep clean, always washing himself after each meal and paying great attention to his toilet. He showed great delicacy of appetite, preferring the best and nicest things to eat.

His teeth they found to be singular things. They were shaped like a wedge and the inside of them was soft and easily worn away, while the outside was hard enamel, and this hard part remaining longer, always kept the teeth sharp and serviceable. But the strangest thing was that they grew all the time, and if he did not have to gnaw something hard to wear his teeth off, they would grow up into his mouth above and kill him at last.

They learned, too, that their claws were peculiarly constructed, so that, unlike the cat, they could descend as well as ascend a tree or wall, head foremost, with perfect ease. To enable them to do this, their hind legs are so made that the feet can turn outwards and the claws hook upon any convenient projection.

Bright Eyes became as tame as a kitten and would jump into the laps of his friends or lie by the fire and sleep like a cat or dog. He grew very large and kept the house free from his less fortunate relatives.

What wonderful things can be learned from the dumb creatures God has made, and even the despised rat can and does teach us the wisdom and goodness of our Creator.

—Physical strength and energy contribute to strength of character, and both may be had by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

IN GOOD SEASON.

It was a bright January day, with beginnings of the regular thaw that is expected in this winter month. Rufus Trent was having a frolic in the yard with his dog before school, when his father came out and took his way to the stable. As he passed the smooth lawn, he stopped and gave a vigorous pull at a tough root that had a few spreading leaves above it.

"Do you pull weeds in winter, father?" asked Rufus, coming up, and looking at the dangling weed his father carried. "Seems to me there's enough of that to do in spring and summer. What harm would that weed do in winter? It wouldn't grow now."

"It would be getting ready to grow, and very early in the spring it would begin," said Mr. Trent, as the two walked on together. "Besides," he went on, "it might not be seen as well, when the grass began to grow around it. If it is pulled up now, it is certain that it will do no harm by and by. It is a fine plan, my son, to attend to things the minute you find that they need attention. I've pulled up that ugly weed in good season, and now I am very sure that it will do no harm. It is worth while to prevent evil, as well as to cure it;" and Mr. Trent flung the sprawling roots and stalk upon a heap in the refuse box by the stable, while Rufus frisked away with Rover, and forgot all about it.

"I see that you brought home your book, Rufus," said his mother one evening soon after, "that means that you have a lesson to learn. Set

about it now, and make sure of it before you begin anything else."

"I've plenty of time to learn that lesson," Rufus answered, lazily picking up a story book from the table.

Then his father looked up. "I've heard you say that often lately, my boy," he said. "Perhaps it is true that you have plenty of time, but if you get in the habit of putting off what is to be done, you will do it when you have no time to spare, and the habit of laziness will grow like a bad weed. Remember the weed I pulled in season, and pull up this weed of laziness at once, before it has a chance to grow."

—This would be a pleasant world if people would only give the same name to the same quality in others as in themselves. But we call ours firmness, and that of others obstinacy, and so for many other qualities.

—All we want in Christ we shall find in Christ. If we want little, we shall find little. If we want much, we shall find much; and if in utter hopelessness we cast our all on Christ, He will be to us the whole treasury of God.



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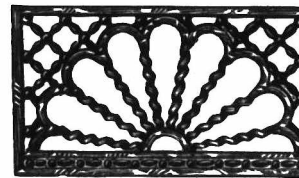
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