

WHAT IS A DESERT?

A mother was assisting her little boy the other evening in the mastery of his geography lesson, and coming to the description of a desert, which formed part of the lesson to be memorised, she quoted the words of the text to the effect that a desert was a "barren tract." The little fellow repeated the descriptive phrase after her, but his air of mystification showed that he hadn't the slightest idea of the meaning conveyed by the group of words, and, the better to reach his youthful understanding, she endeavoured to simplify the description by defining a desert as "a place where nothing would grow." The boy's face brightened with the light of awakened intelligence, and the mother, proud and expectant, once more put the question - "Now, Johnny, what is a desert?" Prompt came the response - "I've got it!" Pa's bald head."

SMARTER THAN HIS TEACHER.

When a man once becomes firmly convinced that he is a great genius it is then that the fringe slowly begins to form at the bottom of his trouser legs. But a boy may be a genius and not know of it, as witness the following humorous example:-

"You can't add different things together," said a teacher to his class. "If you add a sheep and a cow together it does not make two sheep or two cows." A little boy who was the son of a milkman held up his hand and said -- "That may do with sheep and cows; but, if you add a quart of milk and a quart of water it makes two quarts of milk. I've seen it done more'n a hundred times."

Very often, however, the wide-awake boy is knowingly smart, and takes the starch out of his amiable parents like anything:-

"Oh, Tommy, how could you? It was very wrong in you to take your little sister's share of the sweet cake." "Why, ma?" asked Tommy, "didn't you tell me that I was always to take her part?"

He is happy whose circumstances suit his temper; but he is more excellent who can suit his temper to any circumstances.

THE CALICO DRESS.



FIG for your upper-ten girls,  
With their velvets, and satins, and laces,  
Their diamonds, and rubies, and pearls,  
And their milliner figures and faces;

They may shine at a party or ball,  
Emblazoned with half they possess;  
But give me in place of them all  
My girl with the calico dress.

She is plump as a partridge, and fair  
As the rose in its earliest bloom;  
Her teeth will with ivory compare  
And her breath with the clover perfume;  
Her step is as free and as light  
As the fawn's whom the hunters hard press,  
And her eye is as soft and as bright  
My girl with the calico dress.

She is cheerful, warm-hearted, and true,  
And is kind to her father and mother;  
She studies how much she can do  
For her sweet little sister and brother;  
If you want a companion for life,  
To comfort, enliven, and bless,  
She is just the right sort of a wife  
My girl with the calico dress.

TEACHING BOBBY REPENTANCE.

Sunday School Teacher (who is trying to explain the meaning of repentance) "Suppose a bad boy steals an orange, and his good mother should catch him with it, and should take him by the hand and tell him how very wicked it was, and how very, very grieved she was, don't you think that little boy would feel sorry?" "Yes'm." "And why?" "Cause—" "Because what?" "He'd feel sorry 'cause he hadn't ate the orange afore his ma cotched him and took it from him."

Bobby's view of the case was a very natural one for a boy. He simply wanted to eat the evidence of his crime, and so end the case. Very good for Bobby!



BY THE SALT SEA