

Children's Department.

Olga's Dream.

Towards the close of a dull November day, Olga climbed the big arm-chair which stood before the blazing wood fire. Marie was cross, and had a great pile of clothes to mend. The sleepy cat, stretched on the rug at her feet, refused to open her yellow eyes and play with the spool which Olga dangled enticingly over her paws. Papa won't be back from the city till nearly tea-time; so, with a sigh, she cuddled into a little heap on the soft cushions, and watched the canary hopping about his cage. As she gazed dreamily at the pretty creature he vanished away, and she found herself in a large garden. Flowers grew on every side, and the air was filled with the perfume of roses. A little brook ran through the centre, and made a silvery tinkling as it flowed over the pebbles. But what instantly attracted her attention were the birds of every variety which flew through the air, or perched on trees and bushes. Tiny humming-birds, gaudy parrots, sober-looking crows, and noisy sparrows were all there, with many others.

As Olga gazed about in a bewildered way, a blackbird, followed by three fledglings, who were learning to take a few timid flights, came towards her, and, much to her surprise, the mother-bird said in a chirpy little voice, "I suppose you are wondering where all these birds came from, and why they are here. This, you must know, is 'the bird's paradise,' and those which you see have been hunted down and killed for their beautiful feathers. Here we live our innocent happy lives, where the cruelty of man cannot reach us, and no one covets the glossy plumage with which our Heavenly Father has clothed us.



Mr. L. B. Hamlen,

Of Augusta, Me., says: "I do not remember when I began to take Hood's Sarsaparilla; it was several years ago, and I have found it does me a great deal of good in my declining years.

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regulates my bowels, stimulates my appetite, and helps me to sleep well. I doubt if a preparation ever was made so well suited to the wants of old people." L. B. HAMLEN, Elm Street, Augusta, Me., Sept. 26, 1891

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"I will tell you how I came to be here. It is a sad tale, but one which is, alas! only too common.

"One bright, sunshiny day in early spring I was standing on the edge of my nest, which was in the branches of a lofty maple. Our little ones were very hungry, and my mate had gone to find some dinner for them. Just as he came flying towards us, carrying a large worm in his mouth, I heard a loud bang, and he dropped to the ground. As I stood there trembling with fear, another followed, and suddenly I felt such a sharp pain in my side, that I loosened my hold and fell at the feet of a man who had a bag full of birds and bloody wings slung over one shoulder. He picked me up roughly in his strong, cruel hands, and tore first one wing and then the other from my body. Flinging me aside, he then did the same to my mate, who fortunately was dead, then threw them into his bag and walked away. Bleeding and racked with pain I lay on the hard ground, listening to the heart-rending cries of my children, who were too young to fly, and must surely die of starvation. As twilight came on I grew very weak, and felt that the end

was near. One bright star shone above the tree-top, and as I looked at it with eyes that were fast growing dim in death, a ray of light shot down between the branches which almost blinded me, and there, clad in dazzling white, stood a beautiful angel. Tenderly she lifted me and laid me in the folds of her robe. At the touch of her gentle hands all pain passed away, and I fell into a deep sleep. When I awoke, it was to find myself in this lovely garden, my mate and little ones by my side."

Olga smiled through the tears which had gathered in her eyes before the pitiful story had come to an end. As she wiped them away, and turned to pick a large red rose which grew on a bush near by, she noticed a canary which peered at her curiously with his bright, black eyes from a neighboring branch. "Tell me your story, too, pretty bird," she said, and moving a little nearer he began:—

"For a long time my home was in the store of a bird dealer. He had a great many birds like me for sale, confined in wooden cages so small that we could scarcely stretch our wings. We were only given enough seed to keep us alive, and often our water cups were empty all day. Some pined away and died, but though we were very uncomfortable, most of us lived.

"But one day a gentleman bought me for a birthday present for his son. My cage was wrapped in paper, and was carried what seemed a long distance. At last the paper was removed, and I was put into a large brass cage. A tub of clear water stood on the floor, and how I enjoyed splashing around in it. After taking a good bath I hop-

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