Children's Department.

A Bridge Built by Red Ants.

The following remarkable story, told by an eye witness, is entitled to a place among the instances of intelligence among the lower animals. A cook was much annoyed to find his pastry shelves attacked by ants. By careful watching it was discovered that they came out twice a day in search of food, at about 7 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon. How were the pies to be protected against the invaders? He hit upon the plan of making a barricade of molasses, hoping the ants would be unable to cross the sticky line thus formed. He then watched to see the result of his protection.

He did not have long to wait, for at 6.50 o'clock he noticed that off in the left hand corner of the pantry was a line of ants slowly making their way in the direction of the pies. They seemed like a vast army coming forth to attack the enemy. In front was a leader, who was larger than any of the others, and who always kept a little ahead of his troops.

They were of the sort known as the medium sized red ant, which is regarded as the most intelligent of its kind, whose scientific name is Formica rubra.

About 40 ants out of 500 stepped out and joined the leader. The general and his aids held a council and then proceeded to examine the circle of molasses. Certain portions of it seemed to be assigned to the different ants, and each selected unerringly the point in the section under his charge where the stream of molasses was narrowest. Then the leader made his tour of inspection.

The order to march was given, and the ants all made their way to a hole in the wall in which the plastering was loose.

Here they broke rank and set about carrying pieces of plaster to the place

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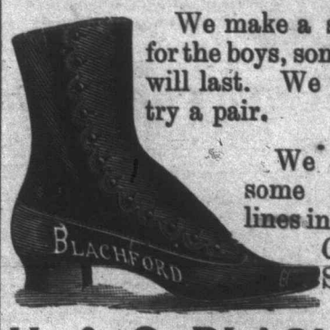

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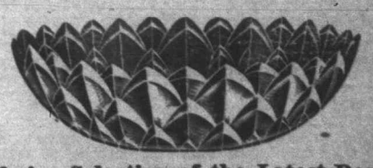

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