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very much like a dragon came from an island in the lake and killed a large number of the people. Year after year it came till the people became panic-stricken and were about to go to some far-off place to live where they might be safe. But there was a little boy whose heart had been stirred by the awful position in which his people were placed. He decided upon a little plan of his own whereby he might help his tribe. He would kill the dragon! Men had tried it time and time again but they had failed. Then how could he, a mere boy, do what strong men had failed to accomplish? He did not ask how, but trusted that time would show him.

Day after day he sat silently by the lake shore and gazed out toward the island as his mother told him of the sorrow which he must lift from the hearts of the people. Then he carefully fashioned three arrow-heads out of hardest flint. When they were smooth and sharp as a knife he bound them to three stout shafts and fitted the shafts with feathers. When he had selected and strung a fine bow he was ready.

One evening just before sunset he took his three arrows and bow, and stepping lightly into his birch canoe paddled away to the island which was the home of the dragon. The sun lay upon the lake like a great red ball of flame when he stepped from his canoe to the shore.

He had no difficulty in finding the lair of the beast. A broad, deeply-worn path ran from the water's edge back into the island. Up this path he hurried till at length he came upon the beast lying asleep in a dark hollow. Carefully he approached it, and fitting an arrow into his bow, drew with all his might to the full length of his arm and sent the arrow whizzing through the air. It flew so straight and swift that the boy was certain his work was finished. But the arrow, upon striking the body of the animal, was broken to slivers and dropped to the ground without causing the slightest injury. With a roar the dragon awakened and came toward the boy. Quickly fitting another arrow he let it fly, but with the same fruitless results. The animal was in a rage by this time and was coming down upon him with all speed when a little woodpecker fluttered down from the branch of a tree near by and perched upon the boy's shoulder. He was somewhat startled by this strange action on the part of the bird and he turned his head to look at it. As he did so he thought he heard it speak. And it did speak. Quietly he listened as the little bird told him the fatal spot in the animal at which he must shoot his last arrow if he would be successful. He must aim so as to pierce the eye. The bird flew back again to the tree and the boy knelt to take careful aim. Suddenly the animal's eyes turned up and showed a gleam. With a flash the arrow left the bow and flew straight to its mark.

With a fierce roar the dragon stretched its full length upon the ground and blood flowed like a small river from his mouth and eyes. The boy knelt by the writhing body of the dying beast. As he did so the bird came again and nestled upon his shoulder. Then the boy's heart was very thankful for what the bird had done and, dipping his finger in the dragon's blood, he touched the bird's head and to this day the spot can still be seen.

Two Foxes.

A Story for the Very Little Ones.

Once there were two Foxes who lived together in the depths of a great forest, and they never had a cross word with each other.

So one day, one of them said in the politest Fox language, "Let's quarrel!"

"Very well," said the other, "just as you please, my dear. But how shall we set about it?"

"Oh, it cannot be heard," said the

Fox who proposed it; "the two-legged people fall out and have no time—why should not we?"

So in all sorts of ways they tried to quarrel; but it could not be done, because they were such polite Foxes, and each would give up to the other.

At last one of them brought two stones, round and smooth. "Now," said he, "you say they're yours and I'll say they're mine, and then, don't you see, we can quarrel about them, and fight and scratch and have a lively time! I'll begin. Those stones are mine!"

"Very well," answered the other gently, "you are welcome to them."

"But you must talk back—we shall never quarrel at this rate," cried the Fox, jumping up and kicking his brother's face. "You old simpleton! Don't you know it takes two to make a quarrel?"

So they tried again. "I own this forest, the whole of it," said the first Fox.

"You do!" exclaimed the other Fox. "Well, then how do I happen to be here? Of course I'll get out," he added very politely.

"No, indeed you won't," said the first Fox, "for you are my brother, and we share equally: what is yours is mine, and what is mine is yours."

So they gave the quarrel up as a bad job, and never tried to play at the silly game again.

Some Candy Recipes.

Molasses Candy.—Boil together a cup each of molasses and brown sugar and a tablespoonful of butter and vinegar. When a drop hardens in cold water take from the fire, beat in hard a small teaspoonful of baking soda and turn into buttered tins. As it hardens you may cut it into squares or wait until it is hard, then break it.

Maple Fudge.—Break a pound of maple sugar into bits and put it over the fire with a cup of milk. Bring to a boil, add a tablespoonful of butter and cook until a little dropped into cold water is brittle. Take from the fire and beat hard until it begins to granulate, then pour into a greased pan.

Peanut Brittle.—Boil together a cup each of molasses and brown sugar, two tablespoonfuls of butter and a tablespoonful of vinegar. When a little dropped into cold water is very brittle add a cupful of shelled roasted and skinned peanuts. Take at once from the fire and pour into greased pans.

Cocoanut Candy.—Make a fondant according to the rules given often in this column and work into it as much grated cocoanut as desired, flavor with a few drops of vanilla and roll between the hands into balls. Place these on oiled paper to harden.

The Lost Top.

I lost my top; oh, what a pity!

But now it's fat, I know.

I'm sure 'twas swallowed by my

kitty.

'Cause when I listen, so,

And put my ear down close to her,

I hear it humming—"Whir—whir—

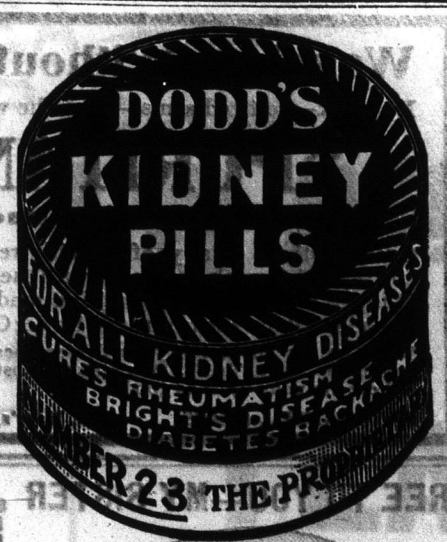
whir!"

—St. Nicholas

Composer and Upholsterer.

Signor Tosti, the famous composer, has an old hobby—that of upholstering. The great author of "Good-bye" when he is not composing is teaching, and when he is not teaching he is upholstering. Every chair in his wife's drawing-room was upholstered by Tosti himself. The composer is continually on the look-out for fine old chair-frames. All he finds he buys and upholsters, keeping the finished product for himself or sending it as a gift to some friend.

Repeat it—"Shiloh's Cure will always cure my coughs and colds."

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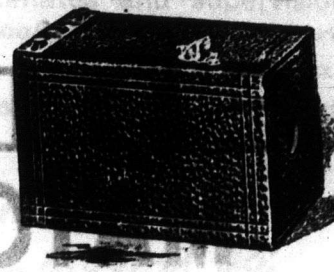
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