

THE ADVENTUROUS ROAD.

let me go, because Paul knows me better than you, you see!"

Of course Audrey got what she wanted, for she had a very pretty way of coaxing. And Peg Leg got what he wanted, too, and joined the party. He followed them sedately along the road, stalking behind like a serious old gentleman with two wooden legs.

Mammy's confident manner comforted Audrey, but the old woman was secretly far from feeling hopeful; she was at a loss where to look for the boy.

However, she hobbled along bravely, peering right and left into the shadows among the trees, while Audrey tripped beside her, and the wind howled and raved up and down the Skid Road.

It was nearly dark now, though not quite, and the friendly animals had all gone to bed. Only the Cougar and the Wild Cat were prowling about, and sometimes the old woman thought she caught sight of slinking forms among the shadows and was afraid—not for herself nor the little girl, who were safe on the open road, but for the boy who was lost in the woods.

"There's a snake lives under that stone," said Audrey when they came near the top of the knoll and could see the flat white boulder in the distance. "It was curled up on top when I went by this morning."

"Dat so, honey?" Mammy answered absently, for she was just thinking they had better turn back and go in search of Paul's father at the farm.

She stopped in the road and pointed out the stump.

"Dar's a bees' nest in dat ar Holler Stump," she remarked, "an' some o' dese yere days I'se gwine to get me some mighty fine honey-comb outen dar!"

Then they both began to laugh at Peg Leg's antics,