

Longfellow praises him for his power of making his readers see and hear and smell the sights and sounds and sweet smells of the country.

He listeneth to the lark.

He listeneth and he laugheth at the sound,
Then writeth in a book like any clerk.

And as I read

I hear the crowing cock, I hear the note
Of lark and linnet, and from every page
Rise odours of ploughed field or flowery mead.

Tennyson calls him "the first warbler," meaning that he had the skill to put words and lines together so beautifully that they seem to sing to us. All these powers Chaucer had. But he had another and even more wonderful gift than that of singing, or of describing nature, or of story telling. And that is, the gift of making men and women act and talk in his stories so that they are real to us, and we feel towards them as we do to living people. This is what we call creative power. Chaucer was the first English writer to show it, and no English poet, except Shakespeare, the greatest of all, has it in a higher degree than he. And lastly, Chaucer's poems are good to read, because they make it plain that the poet, like his own young squire, loved—

Truth and honour, freedom and curtesie.

He shows us life as he saw it in the world around him, with good and evil mixed. But he never lets us think that it does not matter which we choose; he never tries to make wrong seem right; but honours and exalts what is true and pure and brave and unselfish. So that it may be said of him, as, happily, it may be said of most of the long line of English poets who follow him, that he teaches—

High deeds, and honourable thoughts,
And love of truth, and all that makes a man.

One morning a Sunday-school was about to be dismissed, and the youngsters were ready in anticipation of relaxing their cramped little limbs after the hour of confinement on straight backed chairs and benches, when the superintendent arose and, instead of the usual dismissal, announced: "And now, children, let me introduce Mr. Smith, who will give a short talk."

Mr. Smith smilingly arose, and after gazing impressively around the classroom, began with: "I hardly know what to say," when the whole school was convulsed to hear a small, thin voice back in the rear lisp:

"Thay amen and thit down."—*Savannah News.*

The Caribou.

By W. H. MOORE (adapted).

The caribou or American reindeer (*Rangifer caribou*), which is found in the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, is in size midway between the Virginian deer and the moose, and is without a doubt the most erratic in its wanderings of any of our native mammals. Its true habitat is among barrens, somewhat overgrown with black spruce, upon which usnea moss grows in profusion. The usnea moss (really a lichen—*Usnea barbata*) is the main diet of the caribou, whether its long pendulous threads or fronds grow on the spruces of the barrens or on the trees of rocky, elevated positions. This animal also follows the roads made by the lumbermen and crops the lichens which grow on the felled trees.

When disturbed, the caribou often goes away, perhaps not to return for weeks; and when pursued may be expected to do exactly the opposite to what another animal would do. Herds of half a dozen or more have been known to allow a hunter to come up with them, and to stand staring at him in amazement, as one after another of them was shot down. At other times they flee at the slightest warning at the approach of a hunter. The actions of this animal are very uncertain. If, while wandering about, one of them should come across a man's trail in the snow, it will sometimes wheel about and run for perhaps twenty miles without stopping; and, at another time, it is quite as likely to follow up his trail.

The colour of the caribou, which in summer is a glossy reddish-brown, becoming grayer towards winter, serves to protect it, because it much resembles that of the moss-grown bushes among which it stands. The under parts being of a lighter colour than the upper, the form of the animal is much broken, and its outline is rendered indistinct to any but an experienced eye.

The female caribou brings forth a single fawn at first birth, and after that two are born at a time. Unlike the cow moose, she is often the possessor of a pair of antlers, which are, however, much smaller and more slender than those of the male. Some hold that the antlers of the female caribou are never dropped. This statement is based on the belief that the antlers not having an enlargement at their base—known as the "burr"—cannot be dropped and again reproduced. The writer, however, believes that the antlers of the female are