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teen minutes as Harry had never seen it. The whole world seemed full of water. This lasted for fifteen minutes; and it was accompanied by a strange roaring noise which puzzled the store-keeper as much as it did Harry. Then the rain ceased; presently it was just a drizzle.

"I think I'll go back now," said Harry. "Father must have the nails." As the rain seemed over the store-keeper let him go.

When he left Winthrop he found the road almost washed out. A stream like a small river was running down the middle of it, and all the tall weeds on each side were beaten flat and dirty. But it was when he reached the creek that Harry was most surprised. The trees were down—smashed flat in all sorts of positions; only two or three of the smaller ones had been left standing. And the water, which had been only a few inches deep an hour before, now boiled and rushed along muddily, till Harry was quite frightened. But one thing remained clearly in his mind—his father had said he must have these nails. So he urged Prince into the creek, and, slipping and sliding, the steady old horse went through. The water came so high that Harry had to

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draw up his legs, but that was all, and once on the other side, he had a clear road home.

He had not gone more than a quarter of a mile, however, when he saw a man galloping toward him, and when they neared each other, Harry saw that it was his father.

"Harry!" cried Mr. Willis. "Are you safe?" His face was white, "I think so," said Harry, in a brave voice.

"That was an awful storm," said his father. "It blew down the west corn-crib, and we thought the house was going. Your mother is almost crazy about you. Did you get to Winthrop?"

"Yes, sir," said Harry. He held out a damp package. Then all at once a funny feeling came into his throat, and his lips twitched and he burst into tears. Then quickly Mr. Willis jumped off his horse and came and put his arms round the little boy. "Why, Harry," he said, "what's the matter? It's all right now."

"Yes, sir!" sobbed Harry. "I was just thinking—how scared I've been!" —Youth's Companion.

#### QUEER PETS.

There are pets, and pets, some of them surprisingly curious creatures. A great deal has been written about the fads and foibles, the little individualities and eccentricities of people, but there is one subject which is even more fascinating about these fellow-citizens of ours. Their pets, the animals which they fondle and indulge and protect, are the true expression of the hearts of the masters and mistresses, and it is through these intimate little friends that we can read most nearly the individualities we are so fond of discovering.

We are quite accustomed to seeing a very much-humoured dog or pussy or a canary or two about the houses of our friends claiming our attention and affection; but we do not feel so comfortable in the presence of a lion or panther or even a bear, no matter how tame the master assures us the creature is. And yet it is no uncommon thing for children on the frontier western farms to bring up a bear cub or a cunning little panther kitten as an admired and admiring playmate.

In Medford, Massachusetts, a short time ago a young pet deer created quite a sensation by coolly walking into a candy store and sampling some of the open trays of candy (with great apparent relish), then riding in an elevator, taking a shower bath, posing for his picture, and doing several other very undeerlike stunts. He belongs to a Mr. Schofield, who found the little creature toddling around alone in the woods and took it home to his family who brought up their new pet on an ordinary nursing bottle.

The strangeness of the creatures that prisoners will tame and train presents one of the most curious and pathetic features of prison life. Spar-



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rows, blackbirds, spiders, and even flies have all been made pets by convicts. Not long ago a sad little story found its way into the press—of how a Portland "lifer" named Persons was driven insane through the confiscation of a field mouse he had caught and tamed. Wainwright, the White-chapel murderer, made friends with the prison cat and interrupted the chaplain's exhortation at the foot of the gallows to inquire concerning its welfare.

Even the large commercial companies have pets, or mascots as they call them. One of the big coal companies of Boston has adopted a cute, fuzzy little mite of a baby mule that seems to be all legs and long waggley ears, and has named it "Teddy." The

King of Saxony, is said to seek consolation in the possession of a number of American iguanas, which she feeds herself.

The Duchess Vera of Wurtemberg has a weakness for lizards, but it is to chameleons she is particularly attached. The Princess Hildegarde of Bavaria received a few months ago, as a birthday present, a Persian lynx, or caracal, from German East Africa. The creature is a handsome bright brown in color, with a long tail, and although naturally fierce in disposition, has already learned to take food directly from the hands of its mistress.

In Russia there are some very curious pets. The Czar's only great-aunt, the Grand Duchess Alexandra

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mother, which came recently from the West in a lot of newly purchased horses, wears always a look of perpetual surprise on her expressive equine countenance when she gazes at her progeny.

On shipboard the mascot is anything from a fox to a parrot or a gull. One retired sea captain, whose home is on Cape Cod, brought thither a most lovable baby seal, which learned to adore the family and its land residence above all its salty kin.

Princess Eitel-Friedrich, daughter-in-law of the Kaiser, has a penchant for pet monkeys. One of the fourteen in her model monkey house at Potsdam escaped recently and wrought great havoc in the imperial gardens before it was captured. The countess of Montignosco, deprived of her children through divorce from the

Josefovna bought two pair of camels while on a visit to the Caucasus some years ago, and now she has no fewer than seventeen of these rather remarkable pets. Baroness von Heldburg, wife of Duke George II. of Saxe-Meiningen, is a royal lover of snakes.

As to the care that is bestowed on the pets of the wealthy, one might easily write a volume, so much is there to tell. Princess Engalitcheff, an American woman with a foreign title, is credited with being the first person to send her pets to a manicurist, and now not only she, but many aristocratic pet owners recognize the importance of the dog-and-pussy-manicurist, dentist, jeweler, and trained attendant.

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