

CHARLIE'S GUN.

Charlie Butler lived in the country, in a big house with beautiful trees all about it. Charlie had a black and white dog named Jack, and another little black dog called Jill. Jill had short legs and a big head.

Charlie was only seven years old, but he wanted a gun, because he saw his father had one, and Charlie teased and teased until one day his father bought him a gun. Then Charlie wanted to shoot something with his new gun; so his father took him out to the woods back of the house and showed him how to rest the gun against his shoulder, and aimed it at a little squirrel who was sitting up in the branches of a tree. When the squirrel saw the gun aimed at him, he began to sing, and (this is what he said:

You can't catch me!
I live in a tree
High up above the ground;
I take my rest
In a little nest,
So snug and safe and sound.

I'm fond of fun;
I romp and run
About from tree to tree;
When you pass by
I'm up so high
That none of you can see.

Charlie was surprised to hear the squirrel sing this, and Jack barked, and Jill barked, and Charlie's father said "Fire!" Then Charlie pulled the trigger of his gun, and it went "Flash! Bang!" so loud that Charlie was scared; then there was a cloud of smoke and a smell of powder, so strong that Charlie thought that something dreadful had happened. But when the smoke cleared away, there was the squirrel on the tree. He sang his song again and ran away. Then Jack and Jill barked again, and Charlie and his father went into the house. Charlie did not want to shoot any more that day, but his father promised to show him how to shoot until he could hit the squirrel every time.

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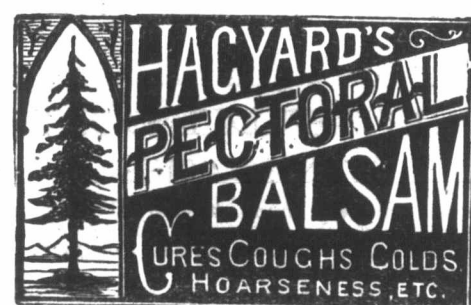
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