



A RUSSIAN HOUSE

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RUSSIA is a far-away country. The people dress strangely, and have odd-looking buildings. A great many of our furs come from Russia, as there are many animals there which have thick, fine fur on them. For part of the country is very cold, and God has given them these for covering to keep them warm and comfortable. How good God is to all of his creatures! We cannot be too thankful to one who is so kind.

BROWN BEARS.

THE brown bear is not at all a bad-tempered animal by nature, and seldom attacks people unless driven by hunger. It will then even face the fires which are burned around camps to keep off wild beasts. In the olden times bears were led about the country, dancing and performing tricks of various kinds, but when it was discovered that the dancing was the result of the bears being placed on a hot floor, the performance was forbidden. A bear was found one Sunday at Potter's Bar, near London, by a policeman. He promptly took Bruin in charge, and learned on inquiry that the poor creature had been led from place to place by some men who gained their living by his dancing. One bright morning he made his escape, and is now happily housed in the Zoological Gardens. Numbers of tales have been told of bears, most of them going to prove that they are not so bad if kindly used, though very few people would care to be hugged by one.

CUSTER'S MISTAKE.

THERE was quite a party of young folks at Seaside Home last summer, and among them a little boy named Custer who was slightly lame. He did not use crutches, but, as one leg was a trifle shorter than the other, he walked with a hobble.

This made him very shy and sensitive: he thought that everybody who looked at him was taking notice of his awkwardness and perhaps laughing at him. One day he saw some of the other children whispering together and looking toward him, and it made him very angry and miserable. He caught up his bucket and spade and went off to a lonely part of the beach, and could not be persuaded to join the company of little well-diggers again that day.

"They were laughing at me, I know they were, they are unkind. I will not go near them again," said Custer, hot tears dropping from his eyes.

But the next morning the whole merry crowd came round him after breakfast. "A happy birthday to you, and many happy returns!" they cried.

"Why, how did you know it was my birthday?" he said in surprise.

"Oh, a little bird told us, and we have planned a birthday sail and picnic for you," laughed the merry children; "so come along."

And that was what they were whispering about! This happy day made Custer determine that he would try in future to have in his heart sweet charity which "thinketh no evil."

GOOD-NIGHT.

"NIGHT is not good, mamma!
I love the shining light,
The merry, singing birds,
And our red roses bright:
Why do you say good night?"

Red roses droop, my child,
Beneath the shining sun;
Bright birds that sing at morn
Swiftly, when the day is done,
Seek their still nests, each one.

Night brings the cooling dew
To grass and flower and tree—
Brings rest to beast and bird,
Sweet sleep to you and me,
And all on land or sea.

And so, to all that live,
We love to say, "Good-night."
O may it bring to you
Sweet dreams of all things bright.
Good night, my child, good night!

ROB AND HIS ORANGE.

WHEN I saw Rob peeling his orange, I thought to myself, "I wonder what he will do with it?" For I knew that he did not often have oranges, and that his little sister did not have one now. What do you think he did? When it was all nicely peeled he broke it: exactly in half, and gave his sister one piece. He might have eaten it all, because his sister did not even know that he had it until he called her to give her part; but he was too generous a boy for that. I think he will grow up to be a kind and generous man, and one whom God will love and man will honour.

GOD'S WORD TO CHILDREN.

HONOUR thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee." (Deut. v. 16.)

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother; for they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck." (Prov. i. 8. 9.)

"A wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother." (Prov. x. 1.)

"For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother; and, he that curseth father or mother, let him die the death." (Matt. xv. 4.)

"Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." (Col. iii. 20.)

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right." (Eph. vi. 1.)