

come, and we children were awild with delight. We had never had an opportunity of knowing a parrot; neither had Sizer. One day mother was busy preparing Aunt Clara's room, and John and I were helping her. Suddenly mother dropped down on the nearest chair, saying: "O dear, I had forgotten Sizer!" In a minute she was able to explain that in her joy that Aunt Clara was coming she had forgotten Sizer's love of birds. "What if anything should happen to the parrot?"

We thought we could give Sizer away.

It is easy to give a cat away, but he will not always stay given. So we presented him to the man who brought vegetables from his farm, four miles from the city, and mother felt relieved.

At last Aunt Clara came, with trunks and boxes, and a big cage containing her pet. Polly was a handsome bird, green and gold, with a few beautiful red feathers, a wise, solemn expression, and an accomplished tongue. She was very tired after her journey, and began to say, "Polly's sleepy! Good night, Polly! Hello boys!" and stretched her neck and legs to get rested.

We young people felt as if we could stand by and listen to her all night; but Aunt Clara said she would be

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cross if she was kept awake too long, and John carried the cage to Aunt Clara's room. In the morning we heard cries and squeaks that startled us at first, but very soon a jolly "Ha, ha, boys! Good day, Polly! Good day!" assured us that Miss Polly was the author of the strange sounds.

Aunt Clara said at breakfast that she had put Polly's cage on the porch upstairs, so that her ladyship might enjoy the fresh air. She was so very noisy, she added, because she could see a big, gray cat on the fence. We all knew that Sizer was four miles from the fence, and only laughed at Polly's vehemence. After breakfast John was allowed to bring the cage down to the dining-room, and there it stayed during the entire visit. The cage door stood open, and Polly walked out or in at her own sweet will.

When John set the cage down Aunt Clara opened the door, and Sizer had come home again, and we were filled with alarm. Aunt Clara looked on quietly and said: "You need not be afraid; Polly is a match for any cat I ever saw." So we thought it would be fun to see an encounter between bird and cat, for we knew Sizer to be no coward. He only looked at the bird this time and sprang out of the win-

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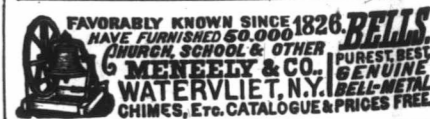
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