



AN ARMY OF ANTS.

REMARKABLE ANTS.

Bees and ants may be called civilized animals. They live in cities, and understand the value of co-operation. Indeed, they could give men some valuable lessons upon one of the oldest, the best known, and the truest of human proverbs: "In union there is strength."

Ants show wonderful intelligence, and the "driver ants" not only build boats, but launch them, too; only these boats are formed of their own bodies. They are called "drivers" because of their ferocity. Nothing can stand before the attacks of these little creatures. Large pythons have been killed by them in a single night; while chickens, lizards, and other small animals in Western Africa, flee from them in terror.

To protect themselves from the heat, they erect arches, under which numerous armies of them pass in safety. Sometimes the arch is made of grass and earth, and gummed together by some secretion; and, again, it is formed by the bodies of the larger ants, who hold themselves together by their strong nippers, while the workers pass under them.

At certain times of the year, freshets overflow the country inhabited by the

"drivers," and it is then that these ants go to sea. The rain comes suddenly, and the walls of their houses are broken in by the flood; but instead of coming to the surface in scattered hundreds, and being swept off to destruction, out of the ruin rises a black ball that rides safely on the water, and drifts away.

At the first warning of danger, the little creatures rush together and form a solid body of ants—the weaker in the centre. Often this ball is larger than a common baseball, and in this way they float about until they lodge against some tree, upon the branches of which they are soon safe and sound.

"Hunter Ants" are found in the tropical countries. It appears that at particular seasons, when pressed for food, they leave their nests and enter the dwellings by millions. They are harmless to the residents if they do not disturb or kill any of their number. In half an hour the ants enter every room, wardrobe, trunk, and cranny in the house, in search of insects. They cover the walls, floors, ceilings, and even the under side of the roof, and woe to every cockroach, fly, or wasp, that does not immediately escape!

In Trinidad they filled Mrs. Car-

michael's house for five hours, destroying hundreds of insects, and a score of mice and rats, which she saw covered with hundreds of the little warriors, until they were worried to death and then devoured. After this thorough depopulation, the ants suddenly left for their nests.

The negroes are so impressed with their usefulness, that they call these ants "God's blessing." One of them, passing Mrs. Carmichael's house just after the above scene, called out: "Ah, missus, you've got the blessing of God to-day; and a great blessing it is to get such a cleaning!"

MY PETS.

We two always do agree.
For I love puss and puss loves me;
We always play about together,
And get so thirsty this thirsty weather.

I have a puppy, rough and black,
But pussy's prettier far than Jack;
Her eyes are of a brighter yellow,
Though he's a darling little fellow.

I often wonder what puss thinks,
She looks so solemn when she winks,
And when she purrs I almost fancy
She says, "I love you, little Nancy."

The pup she really seems to hate,
And when he prowls around her plate
And touches what I've given my darling,
I must confess she takes to snarling.

The animals aren't perfect yet,
But then, I too sometimes forget;
They don't obey me to the letter,
But by and by I'll teach them better.

—The Water-Lily.

KATIE'S PRAYER.

Katie climbed up into the broad window seat to have a nice time with her new picture-book; and just as she was beginning to dream a lovely dream about two little girls in a picture, Robbie came and wanted to get up there too. Now Katie wanted to be alone very much, and when she saw Robbie coming she felt just like saying: "Go away." Shall I tell you what she did? She whispered a little prayer to Jesus like this, "Dear Jesus, make me a good little sister to Robbie;" and then she put out her hand and helped him up, and they had a happy time together. I think that Jesus answered Katie's prayer; don't you?

A bright little fellow of four summers awoke one morning, and, turning to his grandmother, said: "Grandma, I dreamed that I had a carriage last night." "Did you?" said she. "Well, what did you do with it?" "O," said he, in his thoughtful manner, "I left it in the dreamhouse."