

Now there is one strange peculiarity about this wonderful tree. It grows from a seed; when this seed is put into the ground, instead of growing up quickly, it forces its rootlets down—down—through the hardest earth, for very many feet it may be, until it reaches water. Then, having got to the life-giving stream, it springs up immediately, fresh and vigorous, and in time becomes a splendid tree.

Does this not remind us of some words of the Lord Jesus, when He spoke of the "living water," which he can give, and which He promises shall be in each true believer "a well of water, springing up into everlasting life"? The seed could not grow until it touched the water; neither can we grow at all, spiritually, unless we come to Christ and drink "out of the wells of salvation." He tells us that the "living water" means the Holy Spirit, "which they that believe on Him should receive," and that our Heavenly Father will "give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." Will you not ask Him, that you may have life and grow, and bear fruit to God's glory by-and-by?

Fetching the Fowls Home.

Our puss was a character. She was no ordinary cat who flew at all feathered creatures as her natural enemies. No; she was far too well brought up for that, and she had been far too much indebted to a motherly hen, when she was a tiny kitten, ever to feel ill-will towards any poultry. The fact was, pussy's mother had met with a sad accident only two days after she was born, being shot by a farmer in mistake for a rabbit. While we were anxiously considering how we could keep the little kitten warm, a kindly-natured hen settled the difficulty by stepping into the basket where the kitten was and settling down beside it.

From that day pussy and the hen were inseparable; they ate off the same dish and were always together. I suppose the rest of the poultry understood that they were to receive the cat as a friend, for none of them ever seemed afraid of her.

As she grew older, we trained puss to fetch the fowls home in the evening. During the day they were allowed to stray on the moors in the neighborhood of our farm; but about six o'clock puss always fetched them home. How she made them understand, I can't say; they certainly knew that when puss came for them it was time to go home. And it was the funniest sight to see them returning—cocks and hens and tiny chicks—all following pussy, who invariably took the lead and brought all safely into the poultry yard, where she always received a saucer of milk for her pains.

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