

that the parent owls had followed them home, and that they were now asking for their children in angry tones.

Then they knew that the truth must all come out now! And so it did.

In the morning their neighbour came in to say he was sure there were some young owls secreted somewhere, and then the boys had to confess their misdeeds. Their father must have been a very kind one, for all the punishment he prescribed was to take the little things back to Beechwood and put them in their old nursery in the willow-trees.

But it was a four miles' walk; besides, they had grown very fond of their pets. Perhaps if they gave them their liberty in part, their father would not mind. So the boys took them out to a part of the garden where there was a flourishing row of beans, and driving two stakes into the ground, they fastened an owl to each, and waited to see what would come next. In the morning they found six skins of moles and six of mice, showing that the old birds had discovered their darlings and that they had brought them those dainty morsels for their supper.

So it went on for ten days, till at last one morning the owls were gone. The string had been cut and the pets had departed. How and where they never knew. Who set them free they could not tell. Then the boys went and told their father all, and I think—(don't you?)—that though they saw them no more, they were happier than when the weight of doing wrong was on their consciences.

"Be sure your sin will find you out," the Bible says. How little these boys thought there would be any witness to their disobedience! Let us always be open, honest, straightforward, for that is the happiest for ourselves, and above all, it is pleasing to God.

**A Ride on a Crocodile.**

Mr. Waterton, the celebrated naturalist, gives a very amusing and graphic account of the capture of a cayman in South America. After having managed to slip a stout rope over the head of the monster as he was in the water, the difficulty was to get him on the land.

"My Indians asked if I would allow them to shoot a dozen arrows into him, and thus disable him. This would have ruined all. I had come above three hundred miles on purpose to get a cayman uninjured, and not to carry back a mutilated specimen. Our canoe was at a considerable distance, and I ordered the people to bring it round to the place where we were. The mast was eight feet long, and not much thicker than my wrist. I took it out of the canoe, and wrapped the sail round the end of it. Now it appeared clear to me that if I went down upon one knee, and held the mast in the same position as the soldier holds his bayonet when rushing to the charge, I could force it down the cayman's throat, should he come open-mouthed at me. When this was told to the Indians they brightened up, and said they would help me to pull him out of the river. I then mustered all hands for the last time before the battle. We were four South American savages, two negroes from Africa, a creole from Trinidad, and myself a white man from Yorkshire.

"I placed all the people at the end of the rope and ordered them to pull till the cayman appeared on the surface of the water; and then, should he

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plunge, to slacken the rope and let him go again into the deep.

"I now took the mast of the canoe in my hand (the sail being tied round the end of the mast) and sunk down upon one knee, about four yards from the water's edge, determining to thrust it down his throat, in case he gave me an opportunity.

"The people pulled the cayman to the surface; he plunged furiously, and immediately went below again on their slackening the rope. I now told them we would run all risks, and have him on land immediately. They pulled again and out he came.

"By this time the cayman was within two yards of me. I saw he was in a state of fear. I instantly dropped the mast, sprang up, and jumped on his back, turning half round as I vaulted, so that I gained my seat with my face in a right position. I immediately seized his fore legs, and, by main force, twisted them on his back; thus they served me for a bridle!

"He now seemed to have recovered from his surprise; and probably fancying himself in hostile company, he began to plunge furiously, and lashed the sand with his long and powerful tail. I was out of reach of the strokes of it, by being near his head. He continued to plunge and strike in the most savage way, and made my seat very uncomfortable.

"The people dragged us about forty yards on the sand: it was the first and last time I was ever on a cayman's back.

"After repeated attempts to regain his liberty, the cayman gave in, and became tranquil through exhaustion. I now managed to tie up his jaws, and firmly secured his fore-feet in the position I had held them. We had now another severe struggle for superiority, but he was soon overcome, and again remained quiet.

"While some of the people were pressing upon his head and shoulders, I threw myself on his tail, and by keeping it down to the sand, prevented him from kicking up another dust. He was finally conveyed to the canoe, and then to the place where we had suspended our hammocks. After breakfast was over we commenced his dissection."

The same writer gives a striking description of the daring of the crocodiles in the Orinoco. One fine evening the people of Angustura were sauntering up and down the promenade, when a large cayman rushed out of the river, seized a man, and carried him off before the eyes of his friends, and plunged into the river with his prey.

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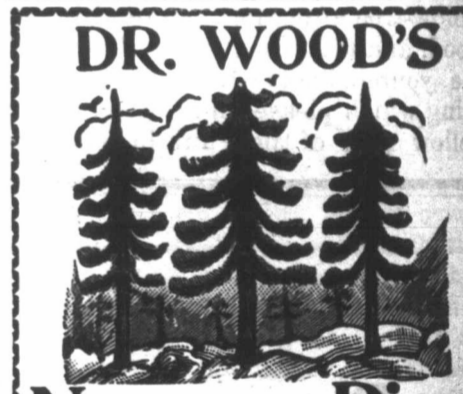
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Wheat, spring  
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Oats  
Peas  
Hay, timothy  
Hay, clover  
Straw  
Straw, loose  
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Dressed hog  
Beef, fore  
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