

36 THE LITTLE PEOPLE

unresisting body and stood over it expectantly. Having bitten it several times and elicited no response, he suffered himself to feel assured of his victory. Then, pulling it disdainfully into a heap with his forepaws, he turned his back upon it, gave a regretful sniff at the remains of the broken egg, and ran cheerfully up the bank into the underbrush.

When the five young raccoons came down from the sycamore and began to depend upon their own foraging, it soon became necessary to extend the range, as game grew shyer and more scarce. Even chub and suckers learn something in course of time; and as for woodmice and chipmunks, under such incentive as an active family of raccoons can give them, they attain to a truly heartless cunning in the art of making their enemies go hungry. Hanging together with an intense clannishness, the raccoon