



AN ANTELOPE.

ANTELOPES.

The different kinds of antelopes form a very large family. Naturalist enumerate twenty-nine species in all. The antelope constitutes a link between the goat and the deer. They are most numerous in Asia and Africa. None of them except the two species, chamois and saiga, are found in Europe.

The American continent possesses but two representatives of the antelope family. These are the so-called Rocky Mountain sheep or goat—the true antelope—and the prongbuck or cabrit of the North American plains. The Rocky Mountain antelope, possessing a coat of long woolly hair, is closely related to the chamois of Europe; and in this form, as well as in the prongbuck, the connection between the antelopes and the goats may be traced. The prongbuck species presents a singular exception to other members of the great antelope family, in that the sheath or covering of the horns of the male is developed and shed annually. The female has no horns, and is a very pretty creature, as our picture shows. The chief home of the prongbuck is the prairie lands of Central America, and its northern limit would appear to be about the fifty-third degree of north latitude.

Antelopes chiefly inhabit hilly countries, though some reside in the plains; and some species form herds of two or three thousand, while others keep in small troops of five or six. These animals are elegantly formed, active, restless, timid, shy, and astonishingly swift, running with vast bounds, and springing or leaping with

surprising agility; they frequently stop for a moment in the midst of their course to gaze at their pursuers, and then resume their flight. The greyhound, the fleetest of dogs, is usually outrun by them; and the sportsman is obliged to have recourse to the aid of the falcon, which is trained to the work, for seizing on the animal, and impeding its motion, that the dogs may thus have an opportunity of overtaking it. In India and Persia a sort of leopard is made use of in the chase; and this animal takes its prey, not by swiftness of foot, but by its astonishing springs, which are similar to that of the antelope; and yet, if the leopard should fail in its first attempt, the game escapes. The fleetness of this animal has been proverbial in the countries which it inhabits, from the earliest time. 2 Sam. 2. 18; 1 Chron. 12-8; as also the beauty of its eyes; so that to say, "You have the eyes of a gazelle," is to pay a high compliment.

CAPTAIN ALECK.

They had a great time in getting a name for their boy company, and the reason they were in such a hurry was that the uniforms must be lettered in time for the parade on Decoration Day.

At last they settled on "Brave Sons of Defenders" for a name; and as their belt buckles wouldn't hold all that, they had "B.S." on the breast-clasps, and a very satisfactory-sized "D." on the belt buckles.

Decoration Day came, and the sun shone on guns and swords and banners, real ones and play ones, and speeches were made

from a big stand, and a dinner was served at which some old soldiers said the "Brave Sons" beat the regulars out and out!

But Aleck was not there. Aleck live a good way out of town, and so did Johnny Forbes, and Aleck had promised Johnny's mother to call for her little boy and take him to town under his care. But accident will happen even on Decoration Day, and what did Johnny do but fall off of Mr. Pierson's rail-fence, when he was in sight of town, and break his wrist!

Of course Aleck had to go back with him, and the pain made the little chap so sick that our "Defender" had to carry him part of the way, so it was a long and slow journey home. Then Aleck had to go for the doctor, and so when he got to town at last, the parade was over, and he felt dreadfully like crying, only he knew "Defender" wouldn't cry.

When old Colonel Park found out what had kept Aleck from the parade he made a speech, and said here was a private who had been in active service while the rest of them were playing soldiers, and, as commanding officer of the camp, he forthwith made him a brevet-captain for gallantry on the field.

And after that the old soldiers always saluted him when they met, touching the caps and calling him "Captain."

DOLLY'S SECRET AND MINE

BY ALICE KING.

I wonder, my dolly, if you don't know
How much I love you, dear.
With those little pink ears that listen
Do you really never hear?

Don't you feel my lips when I kiss your
cheek,
And hug you tight to me?
Aren't there any nice quivers up your
back?
I'm sure there ought to be.

Do those sky-blue eyes not see a thing
Of all God's, pretty world?
And can't you know if I'm short or tall
Or my hair is straight or curled?

Don't you care the least bit when you
quite alone,
For nearly all the day?
Would you just as soon be lying on
shelf
As out with me at play?

I'm sure, 'way down in your sawdust
heart,
There's something that does know;
And you really love me a little bit,
And would like to tell me so.

So when I kiss you, I'm going to believe
You like to kiss me too.
It's a secret nobody else will have,
'Cept only me and you.