

actually caught. "Let us fetch Snap," they cried. Out they ran, and in a few minutes were back again with a terrier yelping at their heels. Their plan was for one to hold the dog whilst the other released the prisoner just in front of him; but both they and Snap were a little too much excited. Snap having once seen the rat would not be held. In his eagerness to get at it he rushed upon the trap and began to roll it over and over, nor could the lads drag him away. Poor Whiskers was of course in the most dreadful terror, and expected nothing else than a cruel death.

It so happened, however, that as Snap dashed the trap about, the fastening of the wooden lid in its bottom became loosened; open it flew, and out jumped Whiskers, and ran for his life. Snap was so entangled with the trap that our young friend got a few moments start, and he made the best of it; but in less than a minute dog and boys were in full chase and full cry after him. Their pace was faster than his, and Snap was almost close upon him, when that unlucky dog got a rap on the nose—meant for the rat—from the stick of one of the boys. In the confusion thus caused Whiskers contrived to slip, breathless, into his hole. He crept back to his mother in a very subdued state of mind, but said nothing about his adventure.

Soon the effects of his fright began to wear off. He told himself that, after all, getting into the trap had been a mere accident, and was a thing not likely to happen again, whilst his fancy often recalled the smell of that savoury bait. Whenever he thought of it the barley porridge seemed more tasteless than ever. In short, not a fortnight had passed before he had made up his mind to try a second expedition. It was to that wonderful larder, of which he had heard his mother speak, that he this time resolved to go.

Yet it so happened that he did not reach it. The road which he supposed would lead to it brought him out into a kind of scullery. Still, he thought that he might have come to a worse place for his purpose, for close to the mouth of the hole there lay upon the floor a most dainty slice of bread and butter. It was not so savoury certainly as that unlucky bacon, yet it looked very nice, and he began to nibble at it. He found it so much to his taste that he would have eaten every bit of it up had he not heard footsteps; and though he ran into the hole, it was with the intention of coming out as soon as all was quiet again, and finishing the slice.

But as he waited he began to feel very poorly, and more inclined to go back to his mother than anything else. He went, but at every step he took he grew worse and worse. "Oh dear, oh dear!" he sobbed, as soon as he reached her.

"Why, what is the matter?" asked Mother Rat.

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"Oh dear, oh dear!" groaned poor Whiskers, "I have such a dreadful stomach-ache."

"A stomach-ache! Why, surely that wholesome porridge cannot have disagreed with you? Where have you been, Whiskers, and what have you been eating?"

Then, as well as his pains would let him, the sufferer confessed what he had been doing.

"My poor, foolish child!" cried his mother, "how could you be so silly as to disregard my warnings? There can be no doubt about it—you have been poisoned!"

And so he had, and very ill he became. Both he and his mother thought that he would die. His sufferings were great. But happily for him he had only tasted a very little of the poisoned food; so he got better, though at present he is but in a weak state. It is worthy of notice, however, that he is now most careful to do as his mother tells him; and with that awful stomach-ache fresh in his memory, he is of opinion that "plain and wholesome" is to be preferred to dainties.

Births, Marriages, & Deaths.

DEATH.

Entered into rest at Perth, on Saturday evening, 14th April, 1894, Flora Madelina Matheson, widow of the late Henry D. Shaw, aged 58 years. "At evening time it shall be light."

MARRIAGE.

At St. George's Church, Kingston, Jamaica, on the 31st of March, 1894, by the Most Rev. Enos Nuttal, D.D., Primate of the West Indies and Bishop of Jamaica, assisted by the Rev. H. H. Kilburn, the Rev. Allan Parker Kennedy, Rector of St. Andrew's and St. Alban's Churches, of the Parish of St. Elizabeth, to Maggie Louisa Gamble, elder daughter of Alexander Souter, Esq., and niece of the late N. Allan Gamble, all of Toronto, Canada.

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The transfer books will be closed from the 17th to 31st May, inclusive.

Notice is also given that the general annual meeting of the company will be held at 2 o'clock p.m., Tuesday, June 5th, at the office of the company, for the purpose of receiving the annual report, the election of directors, etc.

By the order of the Board. S. C. WOOD,
Managing Director.
Toronto, 19th April, 1894.



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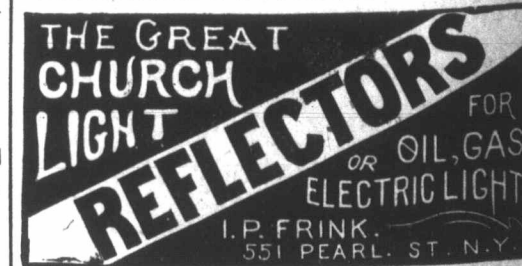
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