

Then she came back to the house, and taking up her thimble, sat down resolutely to accomplish the task which should have been accomplished long ago. The outdoor sunshine never looked more inviting, and the thought of the woods more attractive than during the next hour ; but she had time to think, and she resolved that her fault should never conquer her again. It had been a hard lesson, but she had learned it, and when the words "in a minute" rise to her she represses them, remembering the pleasure she lost that bright spring morning by procrastination.

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A BRIGHT BIRD.

He was an English starling, and was owned by a barber. A starling, can be taught to speak, and to speak very well, too. This one had been taught to answer certain questions, so that a dialogue like this could be carried on :

"Who are you?"
 "I'm Joe."
 "Where are you from?"
 "From Pimlico."
 "Who is your master?"
 "The barber."
 "What brought you here?"
 "Bad company."

Now it came to pass one day that the starling escaped from his cage and flew away to enjoy his liberty. The barber was in despair. Joe was the life of the shop; many a customer came attracted by the fame of the bird, and the barber saw his receipts falling off. Then, too, he loved the bird, which had proved so apt a pupil.

But all efforts to find the stray bird were in vain.

Meantime Joe had been enjoying life on his own account. A few days passed very pleasantly, and then, alas! he fell into the snare of the fowler, literally.

A man living a few miles from the barber's home, made the snaring of birds his business. Some of the birds he stuffed and sold. Others again were sold to hotels near by, to be served up in delicate tid-bits to fastidious guests.

Much to his surprise Joe found himself one day in the fowler's net, in company with a large number of birds as frightened as himself. The fowler began drawing out the birds, one after another, and wringing their necks. Joe saw that his turn was coming, and something must be done. It was clear that the fowler would not ask questions, so Joe piped out:

"Hey! what's that?" cried the fowler.

"I'm Joe," repeated the bird.

"Are you?" said the astonished fowler. "What brings you here?"

"Bad company," said Joe promptly. It is needless to say Joe's neck was not wrung, and that he was soon restored to his rejoicing master, the barber.

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