

Young People

A World of Trouble

A wee gray mouse on a pantry shelf
Sat nibbling her midnight tea;
A banquet meet for a princess to eat,
Yet sighed as she munched, did she,
And quoth, "Ah me! if it weren't for
cats,

How pleasant this world would be!"

A tabby cat on a sunny step
Was lapping her morning tea;
She'd milk and mice and she'd ev'rything
nice,

Yet sighed as she lapped, did she,
And cried, "Dear, dear! if it weren't for
dogs

How lovely this world would be!"

A prudent pup in a hiding place
Was gnawing his midday tea;
"With silly kits to be scared into fits,
And sumptuous bones," mused he,
"Alack, alack! if it weren't for boys,
A heaven this world would be!"

—The Congregationalist.

Your Pet Birds and Their Care

The outdoor bird, flying here and there and everywhere, does not need the services of a manicure, but the house bird, whose only exercise is hopping from the perch to the swing, frequently needs to have its claws cut. If a bird is not tame you will need to use much care in capturing it, for all birds, and canaries in particular, are timid little creatures, and can be literally "frightened to death." The best time to catch the canary is when it is sleeping; but, if this is not convenient for you, catch it by covering its head, not by seizing its tail or body. To examine its feet you should place the canary on its back in your left hand, with your thumb at the base of its tail. Held thus the bird will not struggle, and you can trim its claws easily. As you hold the claw to the light you will notice the blood channel, which you must be careful to avoid. Although the work of manicuring is not

really difficult, it is something of an ordeal, both for yourself and your pet, and it is well to remember that, as a rule, the need for it can be avoided by giving the bird a rough perch, which will tend to keep the nails short.

The most scrupulous cleanliness is necessary in keeping captive birds in good condition, and so your cage must not only be roomy but of such a sort that it can be cleaned easily and thoroughly. It is never a good idea to buy a secondhand cage. No matter how thoroughly you clean it, there is danger of some infection about it which will injure your pet, and make your piece of economy an extravagance in the end.

It is a good idea to put fresh sand in the bottom of the cage every day. If this is not convenient, place a piece of paper under the cage where the bird roosts at night, removing it in the morning. This will help in keeping the sand clean, and make such frequent changes unnecessary. The seed and water cups should be not only filled every day, but should be washed out. Once every week the cage should be sprinkled with insect powder and the perches scalded.

The younger your bird, the better your chances of taming it. It seems as hard to teach an old bird new tricks as the old dog mentioned in the proverb. It is not easy to raise a bird by hand, but those who perform that experiment successfully have no difficulty with the taming question. The bird which has taken its food from your fingers since it was too young to know the meaning of fear, regards you as its best friend.

In case you are trying to tame an older bird, do not keep the cage hanging on a hook out of reach. Let it stand on the table, so that the bird can see you and become acquainted with your presence. Put your fingers through the bars and your hand in through the door frequently, but be very gentle and deliberate in all your movements; the bird which once becomes thoroughly afraid of you is tamed with great difficulty.

After a time you can make the experiment of letting the bird loose in the room. If it flies about wildly at first, be very careful not to catch its excitement. If you are quiet and composed it will become tranquil after a time. Very often a piece of chickweed or lettuce placed in the cage will lure it home when the time of its excursion is up. If it shows no intention of returning, you must catch it, but do this very carefully, or it will be further than ever from taming after its taste of liberty. One of the best ways of catching a canary is to throw a handkerchief lightly over it before seizing it. There are a few birds which cannot be tamed, but their number is comparatively small. The chances are that, with time and patient effort, your pet will come to your whistle, perch on your finger, and show to the best of its ability that it has given you the entire love and trust of its little heart.

The parrot is more easily tamed than most birds. Perhaps because its strong beak is such a satisfactory weapon, both offensive and defensive. It shows none of the fluttering timidity of its golden-hued rival in the family affections. It perches on the wrist or shoulder of its master or mistress, and from this point of observation looks on all that is taking place with the dignified tolerance of a bird philosopher. We have known a parrot which was accustomed to accompany its bird mistress on her daily bicycle ride, perching upon the handle bars, and seeming to enjoy the scenery and fresh air quite as well as the other partner of the cycling trip. Another parrot would perch upon a cane and allow itself to be carried anywhere, never betraying any sign of insecurity in its exalted position.

Of course a bird which is allowed comparative freedom is tamed much more easily than one which is confined in a cage, but it is said that a bird chained to a perch or given the freedom of a room does not learn to talk as readily as one which is kept in close quarters; so, until Polly has mastered a satisfactory vocab-

ulary, it is not advisable to be too generous in the matter of liberty.

You should remember that a parrot which is thoroughly tame in the way of being perfectly tractable where you are concerned, may be hostile and suspicious towards strangers. Do not encourage your friends to take any liberties with your parrot. Many an inquisitive forefinger, poked through the bars of Polly's cage, is given a crunch which the owner does not speedily forget. Then, too, parrots are of decidedly jealous dispositions, and often show resentment towards their mistress' friends by a vigorous nip. Just as you keep a fierce dog muzzled when strangers are about, it is well to keep Polly in the seclusion of her cage at such times when you have company.

An Adventure

But here is an adventure in a den of outlaws that is not fiction nor legend, but a sober narrative of fact. Audubon, the naturalist, himself relates the story as one of his experiences while on an exploration trip on the prairies of the upper Mississippi.

He had had a long march over the open prairie one day without seeing a single house. As night approached the distant howling of wolves warned him to reach the shelter of the woods before lying down to sleep. Soon after entering the woods he saw firelight, and approaching, found a cottage. He was happy at the prospect of shelter for the night and knocked at the door. A tall, rough-looking woman appeared, and on hearing his request allowed him to enter.

When he went in he found there was another guest, a fine-looking young Indian, who sat before the fire with his head bowed, paying no attention to anything. Audubon spoke to him in French, and the Indian turned his head, showing that he had an injured eye.

The old woman expressed great wonder and admiration over Audubon's fine gold watch. Watches were not so common in those days and were very expensive. Audubon, to please her, put the

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET A HIGH-CLASS AUTOMOBILE FREE!

How to Win the Car

Every man and woman, boy and girl who reads the Canadian Thresherman and Farmer is heartily invited to enter our "Wheat Estimating Contest." The competition is open to everybody in Western Canada who complies with the rules and all who enter have an equal chance to win the car. Think what pleasure you could have touring the country with this beautiful, speedy and comfortable automobile. Someone will get it—why not you?

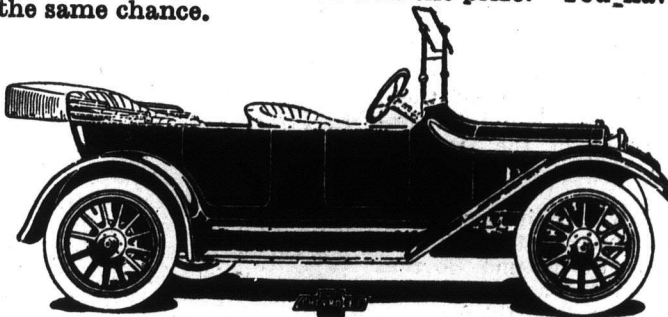
We will present this handsome "Chevrolet" automobile (1916 model) to the first reader of the Canadian Thresherman and Farmer who estimates nearest to the number of Whole Kernels in Three and One Quarter Pounds of No. 1 Northern wheat between 1st April, 1916, and 31st July, 1916. The contest is open to every bona-fide farmer in Canada, except residents of Winnipeg. This \$725 car is all complete with Electric Starter and Lights, Mohair Top, Windshield, Ammeter, Speedometer, Tools, etc., and will be delivered to the winner F.O.B. Winnipeg. The car is on view in this city now and may be seen at any time.

Contest Closes July 31st, 1916

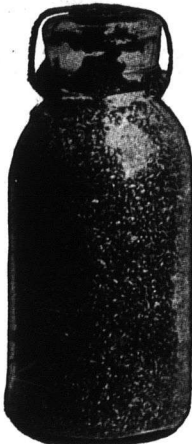
About the Wheat

The wheat is a fair, clean sample of No. 1 Northern obtained from the Dominion Grain Inspector at Winnipeg. The wheat and bottle were taken to the Dominion Weights and Measures Office and exactly three and one quarter pounds were weighed and poured into the bottle, which was immediately sealed up in the presence of two witnesses. The bottle was then photographed and deposited with the Union Trust Company, Winnipeg, and will remain in their vaults until the contest closes, July 31st, 1916, when it will be taken out and counted by a board of three judges, none of whom are in any way connected with the Canadian Thresherman and Farmer. Everyone who sends in a year's subscription for the Canadian Thresherman and Farmer, either new or renewal, is entitled to estimates as explained. These estimates may be credited in whatever way desired, and you may send in as many estimates as you wish. Remember every additional estimate increases your chance to win the automobile. Estimate early and increase your chance of winning, for it is the first one that estimates nearest to the number of whole kernels that wins the car. Don't be afraid to try. One kernel may win you the grand prize. For further particulars, write to the E. H. Heath Co., Ltd., Winnipeg

Don't let this opportunity slip by. You have just one month in which to win the car. Send your estimates in now; then drive the Chevrolet home on August 1st. In previous contests of this kind one of the very last guesses taken won the prize. You have the same chance.



Someone will win this car—You can be the lucky person



This is a photograph of the actual bottle of wheat after it had been weighed and sealed. The cut shows it much reduced in size.

Estimates will be accepted as follows:

- 1 year's subscription at \$1.00 gives you 3 estimates
- 2 years' subscription at \$1.50 gives you 7 estimates
- 3 years' subscription at \$2.00 gives you 11 estimates
- 4 years' subscription at \$2.50 gives you 15 estimates
- 5 years' subscription at \$3.00 gives you 19 estimates
- 6 years' subscription at \$3.50 gives you 23 estimates
- 7 years' subscription at \$4.00 gives you 27 estimates
- 8 years' subscription at \$4.50 gives you 31 estimates
- 9 years' subscription at \$5.00 gives you 35 estimates
- 10 years' subscription at \$5.50 gives you 40 estimates

Note—By taking out a subscription for more than one year you reap the benefit of a lower rate in addition to increasing your chance of winning the car by receiving more estimates. Subscribers who have already renewed their subscriptions may also enter the contest—their subscriptions being extended from the date they are due to expire.

Contest Closes July 31st, 1916

Address all communications to
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WINNIPEG, CANADA

E. H. Heath Co. Limited, Winnipeg

Please find enclosed \$.....for.....years' subscription for the Canadian Thresherman and Farmer to be sent to

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My estimate as to the number of whole kernels in

3½ lbs. No. 1 Northern Wheat are.....

If more space is required for names and estimates, use a blank sheet and attach securely to this coupon.