



PRAIRIE DOG TOWN.

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QUEER looking dogs, you say! and well you may, for they are not a bit like dogs. They are more like small woodhucks, and are called dogs probably from the little yelping noise they make when talking to each other. They are about thirteen inches long, and of a reddish brown colour. They are very sociable little creatures, hundreds of them living in the same district with their burrows close together; these districts are called towns or villages. Around the mouth of each burrow they pile the earth to a height of about eighteen inches, and from the top of these they see what is going on in the community, as one or two consequential looking little fellows are doing in the picture. This attitude is one of the most amusing things in the world. In Lincoln Park, Chicago, is quite a colony of prairie dogs, whose antics are an endless source of fun. Burrowing owls and rattlesnakes often live in the same holes with the prairie dogs. There is one of each here, you see. They seem to be having a sparring match, and are evidently making such a clatter as to alarm the little papa dog, who is coming down to see what all the noise is about.

THE skill of the parent is shown in making the child do of his own accord what the parent wants him to do, and in making him refrain of his own will from doing what is unwise and injurious.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND EZEKIEL.

B.C. 701.] **LESSON IV.** [Jan. 24.

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER AND DELIVERANCE.

Isa. 37. 14-21, 33-38. Mem. verses, 15-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them.—Pa. 34. 17.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God is the hearer and answerer of prayer.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

Sennacherib, with a great army, attacked the cities on the coast of Palestine, destroyed, he says, forty-six cities of Judah, and while he was at Lachish, thirty miles from Jerusalem, sent an army corps under the Rabshaketh, or chief officer, to demand the surrender of Jerusalem. They said that no one had withstood their army, and none could. To yield meant captivity, loss of the kingdom, all manner of sorrows, and the destruction of the nation as the people of God and the upholders of the true religion. At Isaiah's word, Hezekiah refused to surrender. Then Sennacherib sent the letter again demanding the city. *Messengers*—Of Sennacherib. *Hezekiah prayed*—And so did Isaiah. (2 Chron. 32. 20.) *Lord*—Jehovah, as this word always means when printed in small capitals in our Bibles. *Of hosts*—Organized forces—angels, worlds, powers of nature—ready to do God's will. *Dweller between the cherubim*—Which are upon the mercy seat over the ark. Here God often appeared in glory. (Exod. 25. 22.) *Reproach*—See verses 1-13. *They were no gods*—Sennacherib had destroyed other nations, and their gods had not saved them, for they were mere idols. But Hezekiah pleads that God be not classed with

such idols, for he is really God, and would prove it to all nations by giving his people deliverance. *The angel of the Lord*—A spirit from heaven; or some natural force, as a penitence, which is called God's angel or messenger. (See Pa. 104. 4; 2 Sam. 24. 13 16.) *And it came to pass*—About twenty years later.

Find in this lesson—

1. A great need.
2. The true source of help.
3. An earnest prayer.
4. The answer.
5. Some things about God.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What great trouble came upon the Jews in Jerusalem? "The Assyrians besieged them with an immense army." 2. What did Hezekiah do in his trouble? "He went into the temple and prayed." 3. By what prophet did the answer come? "By the prophet Isaiah."

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

5. What does the Gospel promise? The Gospel is the promise of God to pardon, sanctify, and save from eternal destruction all who, according to his commands, repent and believe on his Son.

God Bless the Farm.

God bless the farm—the dear old farm,
God bless its every rood!
Where willing hearts and sturdy arms
Can earn an honest livelihood—
Can from the coarse and fertile soil
Win back a recompense for toil!

God bless each meadow, field and nook,
Begemmed with fairest flowers;
And every leaf that's gently shook
By evening breeze or morning showers;
God bless them all—each leaf's a gem
In Nature's gorgeous diadem.

The orchard that, in early spring,
Blush rich in fragrant flowers,
And with each autumn surely bring,
Their wealth of fruit in golden showers,
Like pomegranates on Aaron's rod—
A miracle from Nature's God.

And may he bless the farmer's home,
Where peace and plenty reign;
No happier spot 'neath heaven's high dome
Does this broad, beautiful earth contain,
Than where, secure from care or strife,
The farmer spends his peaceful life.

Unvexed by toil and tricks for gain,
He turns the fertile mould;
Then scatters on the golden grain,
And reaps reward an hundred fold—
He dwells where grace and beauty charm,
For God hath blessed his home and farm!

LETTER TO OUR BOYS.

MY DEAR BOYS,—There are so many boys who are just crossing the threshold of that corner saloon that I must unburden my mind. If I could only make you and them believe that there is nothing smart or manly about this sping of the vices of grown-up people, but that it is altogether contemptible, something would be gained. To be a vicious boy is not to be a man. You might just as well try to grow up by mounting a pair of stilts and stuffing a pillow under your vest, and donning a long-tailed coat. People would only laugh at you for your pains, and you would be the guy of all the town, while you would remain just as much a boy as ever. So it is with your cigarettes and your lager-beer, and even with the "whiskey straight," that you called for so manishly at the saloon last week.

Let me tell you that the saloon, instead of making a man of you, ruins all your chances of manhood. Men do not grow on a diet of cigarettes and lager beer and "whiskey straights." To speak with all seriousness there is no manliness, honour, respectability, wealth or fame in a whiskey-barrel; but this is what a barrel of whiskey

does contain, as some one has put it in rhyme:

- A barrel of headaches, of heartaches,
woes;
- A barrel of curses, a barrel of blows;
- A barrel of tears from a world-weary wife;
- A barrel of sorrow, a barrel of strife;
- A barrel of all unavailing regret;
- A barrel of cares and a barrel of debt;
- A barrel of crime and a barrel of pain;
- A barrel of hope ever blasted and vain;
- A barrel of falsehood, a barrel of cries
That fall from the maniac's lips as he dies;
- A barrel of agony heavy and dull;
- A barrel of poison—of this nearly full;
- A barrel of liquid damnation that fires
The brain of the fool who believes it inspired;
- A barrel of poverty, ruin, and blight;
- A barrel of terrors that grow with the
night;
- A barrel of hunger, a barrel of groans;
- A barrel of orphans' most pitiful moans;
- A barrel of serpents that hiss as they pass
From the bead on the liquor that glows in
the glass.

Believe me, dear boys, this awful barrel in which you are trying to find the elixir of manliness, contains only these ingredients. Is it worth while for any bright boy to meddle with them. Your friend,

AN OLD MAN.

BOUND ANNUALS

1891.

Adviser	30
Babyland (Boards)	0 7
" (Cloth)	0 8
Band of Hope	0 2
Band of Mercy (Boards)	0 2
" (Cloth)	0 8
" (Cloth Gilt)	0 7
Boys' Own Paper	2 0
" (Gilt)	2 4
Bo-Peep (Boards)	0 8
" (Cloth)	1 0
British Workman	0 8
British Workwoman	0 8
Cassell's Magazine	2 7
Chatterbox	1 0
Children's Friend	0 8
" (Cloth)	0 8
Children's Treasury	0 8
Child's Companion	0 8
" (Cloth)	0 8
Child's Own	0 8
" (Cloth)	0 8
Cottage and Artisan	0 8
Family Friend	0 8
" (Cloth)	0 8
Friendly Visitor	0 8
" (Cloth)	0 8
Girls' Own Paper	2 0
" (Gilt)	2 4
Good Words	2 2
Infants' Magazine	0 8
" (Cloth)	0 8
" (Gilt)	0 8
Leisure Hour	2 2
" (Gilt)	2 4
Little Folks	1 0
" (Cloth Gilt)	1 0
Little Wide Awake	1 0
" (Cloth Gilt)	1 0
Mother's Companion (Boards)	0 8
Our Darlings	1 0
Prize	0 8
" (Cloth)	0 8
Quiver	2 2
Sunday	1 0
Sunday at Home	2 2
" (Gilt)	2 4
Sunday Magazine	2 2
Young England	2 2

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