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BOYS AND GIRLS.

Never Say Die.

Two gay young frogs, from inland bogs, Had spent the night in drinking; As morning broke and they awoke, While yet their eyes were blinking. A farmer's pail came to the swale, And caught them quick as winking. Ere they could gather scattered senses, Or breathe a prayer for past offences, The granger grave—that guileless man—

Had dumped them in the milkman's can: The can filled up, the cover down, They soon are started off for town. The luckless frogs began to quake, And sober up on cold milk shake. They quickly find their breath will stop Unless they swim upon the top. They swim for life and kick and swim, Until their weary eyes grow dim; Their muscles ache, their breath grows short,

And, gasping, speaks one weary sport: "Say, my dear boy, it's pretty tough To die so young, but I've enough Of kicks for life. No more I'll try it; I was not raised on a milk diet." "Tut, tut, my lad," the other cries, "A frog's not dead until he dies. Let's keep on kicking, that's my plan— We yet may see outside this can." "No use, no use," faint heart replied— Turned up his toes and gently died. The braver frog undaunted still, Kept kicking with a right good will, Until, with joy too great to utter, He found he'd churned a lump of butter; And climbing on that chunk of grease, He floated round with greatest ease.

The moral:—

When times are hard—no trade in town, Don't get discouraged and go down, But struggle still—no murmur utter— A few more kicks may bring the butter.

Two Big Snakes Got Loose.

One day an express man brought a big box to a store in Chicago where they keep birds, rabbits and monkeys for sale. In this box were two immense snakes, each about fourteen feet long. They belonged to a circus man and had been left at the store until he could call for them. The box was put in one corner, and the owner of the place locked his door and went home to supper.

In the evening he and his wife went to the theater and when the play was over, he said, "I guess I'll go round by the store and see if everything is all right." So he walked on till he reached the door and there he heard the most curious sounds. Everything was in commotion. The canaries and red birds were chirping, the parrots talking as fast as they could, the pet dogs were whining, and the monkeys chattering like crazy men.

As the proprietor unlocked the door and stepped inside he fell over something soft and "squirmy." Quickly turning on the electric light he saw, to his horror, two great snakes gliding round the room. They had escaped from their box and had been having a fine time. Cages were overturned and their occupants were screaming with fright. The cage which had held two little monkeys was empty and a big bulge about half-way down the body of one reptile showed what had become of them. The other snake was making for two pretty white rabbits, who were crouched in a corner of their cage trembling with fright.

Hurriedly the storekeeper ran to the telephone and called up the animal keeper at Lincoln Park. "Come quick," he said, "the snakes are eating up all my pets!" Then he tried to capture the slippery things, and finally got one in a corner and fastened him in. When the keeper came he caught the other snake round the throat with his bare hands and soon had him inside his box. Then he seized the other in the same way and soon both the unpleasant visitors were put where they could do no more harm. You see, he has worked with all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds for so many years that he knows just how to handle them and not get hurt himself.

What would any of us have done if we had found ourselves in a room with two big snakes loose? One would have run away as fast as ever he could. It is a great thing to know just what to do at such a time, and to

do it quickly. That is what we call having "presence of mind."

A New Version

"Give an account of the life of Hannibal" was one of the questions in an examination of the eight-grade pupils recently.

"Hannibal," wrote one youngster, "was one of the patriots of the Revolution and led an African regiment in the battle of San Juan Hill. He helped to write the Constitution and By-Laws and fought a twenty-round draw with Aaron Burr. He afterward built the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad, but he died a poor man because Pierpont Gates beat him out of it."

Our Foolish Alphabet.

Why, think of it! We've not even a reputable alphabet; the letters are all tangled up. J is J when it isn't Y, and more than half the time Y is doing duty for I. S is sometimes Z, G is J, and poor C is always either S or K. We've got four distinct ways to express the N sound—gn, pn, kn, and n; four ways to write the terminal syllable "er"—e-r, a-r, o-r, and i-r; and five ways to sound the letters o-u-g-h—uff, awf, ow, oo, and o. And there are no rules! Each of the myriad cases must be separately hammered into a student's head. And this is work for babes!

Give Mother a Vacation

We hope our young readers will take these thoughts to heart, for there is not a boy or girl who, in looking back in later life, will not think: "Oh, mother, mother; if I only had you now how I would work to save your dear hands! Why couldn't I see then?"

During the hot days now upon us it is better to feed the family on bread and milk, or let them "forage" for themselves awhile, and give the tired mother a vacation, than to keep her grilling over a hot cook stove, turning out roasts, pies, cakes, and other "cooked things" to please the capricious or voracious appetites of the family. Mother is the last of the family to think she needs a vacation. Indeed, if you hint such a thing to her she is usually surprised into speechlessness at the folly of such a suggestion. She would tell you that such a thing was utterly impossible. There is so much necessary work these hot days that cannot possibly be shirked, she thinks, and really, when you sit down and think of it, you are almost persuaded that she is right. No one could be so illy spared as mother. She must not neglect the putting up of her fruits, and filling her shelves with the abundance of fields and gardens; then there is butter and, in many families, cheese to make, and nobody can do all this but mother. The poultry must be looked after, too, and in the multitude of her duties she forgets that she owes a duty to her family far higher than merely to look after their material wants. She forgets that it is her duty to look after herself; to attend to keeping herself wide awake, wholesome and healthful, both mentally and physically. Mother too often becomes a machine and grinds away, as any other machine does, until it breaks down or wears out, and then, patching herself up temporarily with drugs or drenchings, she goes on a little further "even unto the end." And the pity of it is that her family will let her do it; they even get to expecting it of her, and, accepting it as their right, go blindly on, always pushing her into the background which she seems to like best, until some day the cord will snap, the wheel get out of gear, and they will sit helplessly down and wonder how they can ever get along without mother.

Now, girls, just give mother a thought. See that she has her vacation, too. She won't get many more of them, but she ought to have at least a rest and a change of scene. Can't you advise one for her?

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