

Nature's Mug.

Who of our little readers ever heard of a natural mug? Well, there is just such a thing in the West Indies; it grows on trees in hot climates where there is little rain. These mugs hold about one quart; when the dew falls it is received into the mug, and a valve closes at the top and prevents evaporation. Birds are often seen to insert their beaks and procure water from them. This shows how good God is in thus providing a drinking-place for the little birds that live where water is hard to find. "They sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them."

Percy and his Pet.

After all, there is no plaything like a live pet. It is so amusing to watch its antics, and to know that it enjoys the fun as well as yourself. Percy thinks so. He has lots of toys and games, but he loves none of them half so well as Shag, his Scotch terrier.

You have no idea how clever that dog is. He can do everything but talk,—indeed, I am not quite sure that he cannot do that—not in human language, of course, but so that Percy understands what he means. When he stands with open mouth, and two paws extended, he is saying: "Do come and have a game, little master."

So Percy fetches the ball and throws it, and off rushes Shag, barking with delight, and brings it back in his mouth. No matter how often Percy throws it, Shag is always ready to run, and heartily enjoys the game.

Uncle Joe, who gave this delightful present to Percy, says that Shag can play capital games at snowballing; that he never minds how often you pelt him, but is always good-humoured. Percy is rather young to be out in the snow, so he has not tried that game yet. But he hopes, when he is older, to do so. Meanwhile he and Shag have lots of fun indoors.

Ready to Serve.

A little Irish girl was one day asked to do some trifling act of kindness for some other child, younger and weaker than herself. When engaged in the small service she was gently reminded that the Lord Jesus regarded a cup of cold water given in His name and for His sake, as directly given to himself. Looking up into her teacher's face, the little one answered shyly,—

"Sure, an' I would give Him the whole jugful!"

It was a very simple expression of affection, and might be regarded as silly; but it came from the heart, and it is for that the Lord cares. He knew the child would have served Him if she could, and He just took "the will for the deed." But though she had neither silver nor gold, she had what He values far more, and that I am happy to say, she brought Him. She just gave her heart to Jesus, and He put His Holy Spirit into it, and sealed it as His own.

Years passed away; the little girl grew up, and was able to take class in a Sunday school, trying to lead others to the Saviour. Then we heard her sing with heart and tongue,—

"Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee:
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise."

We thought of her childish saying,

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and rejoiced that the readiness for service had so blossomed into a life of usefulness.

A Real Knight.

A pleasing sight it was, I do assure you. Not the first part of the scene, for the little maid was crying bitterly. Something very serious must have happened. Wondering, I paused; when, round a corner came my knight. On a prancing steed? Wearing a glittering helmet and greaves of brass? No. This was a nineteenth century knight, and they are as likely to be on foot as on horseback. Helmets are apt to be straw hats or derbys; and as for greaves—well, knickerbockers are more common to-day.

This particular knight was about ten years old—slender, straight, open-eyed. Quickly he spied the damsel in distress. Swiftly he came to her aid.

"What is the matter?" I heard him say.

Alas! the "matter" was that the bundle she held had "burst," and its contents were open to view. Probably the small maid expected a hearty scolding for carelessness. And, indeed, whoever put that soiled shirt and collars in her care, might reasonably have been vexed.

A new piece of wrapping-paper also proved too frail. Must the child get her scolding? Poor little soul! No wonder she had sobbed so mournfully.

But the boy was not daunted. He tucked the "burst" bundle under his own arm.

"I'll carry it to the laundry for you," he said, in the kindest voice, and off the two trudged together.

Soon after I met the small girl again. She was comforted and serene.

"Was that boy your brother?" I asked. She shook her head.

"Did you know him?" Another shake.

"A real gentleman!" said I. "A genuine nineteenth-century knight. Bless him.—*Harper's Young People.*"

—There is the literature of knowledge and there is the literature of power. The function of the first is to teach; the function of the second is to move. The first is a rudder, the second an oar or a sail. The first speaks to the mere discursive understanding; the second speaks, ultimately it may happen, to the higher understanding or reason, but always through affections of pleasure and sympathy.

—There is a seed-time, and afterward harvest. Do not think that everything can come at once. Possess your soul in patience. Do not expect

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