

"We will pay you 3 per cent.," said the cashier.

"You do not understand me," said the Boer. "I have here some money, see, my sons out there with their rifles are guarding it; I wish to have you relieve them: how much will it cost me?"

"It won't cost you anything; and we will give you 3 per cent.," answered the banker, proceeding to explain what he meant by 3 per cent.

"You pay me for keeping my money," exclaimed the amazed Boer. "Impossible; you are not honest. I can't let you have my money; but, anyway, I have six sons and we have good rifles; we will take the money back to the farm."

And with his treasure the Boer and stalwart brood rode away.

A Boy's Perseverance.

Down in Missouri there lives a boy who likes pets. He began with a pair of pigeons that he got in trade for a dog that he had traded a knife for. His parents allowed him to keep the pigeons until they multiplied so that there were pigeons all over the place. Then he sold the pigeons and bought a goat that ate the clothes off the line every Monday. He was compelled to dispose of it, and traded it for a pair of game chickens. In a week there wasn't a rooster left in the neighborhood; the game rooster had killed them all. His father took the game chickens for a ride one night, and left them three miles out in the country. Three days afterward the boy brought them home, but he never told any one how he got them. And so he fought for his pets one by one; his dog was lost, his lamb stolen, his rabbits ran away. He had come down to one old hen.

Recently he bought a "settin" of eggs. A "settin" of eggs is as many as a motherly hen can hatch into chicks. He had made up his mind that his hen was lonely and needed company, and what is so companionable as a hatch of little chicks to scratch for? The hen, however, had different views, and didn't want to sit on the eggs. But he was not a boy to be stumped by a hen—he had borne too many losses already. He put the eggs in a box, in which he had made a nest of hay. Then he planted the hen on them, put a board, in which he had bored a lot of holes, over her, and left her to come to terms. That night his big brother kicked off the board and set the hen free. The next morning the boy put her back, and put some bricks on the board, for he thought she had raised the board and released herself. The brother kicked both bricks and board off that night. The boy replaced hen and board again, and again they were kicked off. Then he got a board and made a hole in it for the hen to poke her head through and nailed the board to the box. Once a day he takes the board off and chases the hen around the yard for exercise, and twice a day he carries food and water to her.



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