

Amy waited, her eyes filled with tears, and presently the old man went on. "My wife weren't strong, and she couldn't bear it, and now I'm a lonesome old man with little cheer, but if ever I take that to try and forget things, I'll deserve all I've borne twice over! Don't you touch it, little Miss. I'm not the first by many a one as could tell you of the pain and sorrow it brings them as meddle with it. Good day, Missy, and thank you."

The old man rose and trudged wearily away, and Amy ran in to tell her mother about the queer old man's story and his advice. "And I never shall touch it, mother," said Amy stoutly, "never."

JACKO AND POLLY.

The great fun was to watch her and Jacko in their contests for the upper perch. Polly, having taken her tiffin, was disposed for an afternoon nap, and she accordingly commenced to mount the rope ladder, but Jacko immediately set up a chatter, savagely showing his teeth meanwhile, and shaking the rope violently to impede the movements of Poll. In spite of this, up she goes steadily, hand over hand, nearer to the coveted perch, on which sits the monkey in a boiling passion, and trembling with excitement. Holding on by his tail and hind legs, he now attempts to get hold of Poll, but she snaps at his hands right and left, with a rapidity that is perfectly astounding, and presently a shriek of pain announces that her beak has drawn blood, and down drops poor Jacko like a stone, while Poll takes quiet possession of the perch, when, after repeating a few self-congratulatory notes, she dozes off as if nothing had happened. Jacko, meanwhile, sits upon his haunches examining his bite with a very rueful countenance; but a little petting from me sets him right, and a thorough examination of everything eatable and drinkable having been made, he goes regularly to work to "blow the steam off." Making the rope ladder his centre, he performs a series of splendid jumps to it from all the articles of furniture in the room, much to the disgust of Polly, and then, after a headlong rush round the apartment, he bounds up the ladder like a flash of lightning and makes

a grab at Polly's tail, dropping at once to the ground, to escape the consequences of this daring act. The bird, however, was never injured by him in this way, for she watched his every movement. The only time that he ever stole a march upon her was once when she happened to be feeding in the sand tray immediately beneath the rope ladder, down which her stealthy enemy slipped like a serpent, and making a snatch, caught her by the base of her tail. At that moment a well-directed branch of bananas from me hit him in the chest, and down he came, whereupon Poll seized him by the fleshy part of the lower arm, and bit it through. This was a lesson which he never forgot, and although his mischief compelled him to annoy Poll as a source of fun, still he grew to respect if he did not love her.

THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

Miss Louise M. Alcott says: I can only hope that with the new and freer ideas now coming up, some of the good old ways may also be restored. Respect shown to the aged, modesty, simple-dress, home-keeping, daughters learning from good mothers the domestic arts, are so much better than the too early frivolity and freedom so many girls now enjoy. The little daughter sent me by my dying sister has given me a renewed interest in the education of girls, and a fresh anxiety concerning the sort of society they are to enter by and by. Health comes first, and early knowledge of truth, obedience, and self control; then such necessary lessons as all must learn, and later such accomplishments as taste and talent lead her to desire,—a profession or trade to fall back upon in time of need, that she may not be dependent or too proud to work for her bread. Experience is the best teacher, and with good health, good principles, and a good education, any girl can make her own way, and be the braver and better for the exertion and discipline. No late hours, unwholesome pleasures and dress, no mixing of school and flirtation, but simple amusements, daily duties, and a purpose in life to keep them girls at heart even while preparing for the work and happiness of women.