

January 28, 1915.

at about the same time. First came measles, then whooping-cough, and now it was mumps.

Fred was a young husky, however, and well prepared to meet such tormentors and put them to rout within as short a time as could be expected.

"I am glad they are just coming along one right after another, if I've got to have them at all," he said to mother one day. "Now I'm through with three of them, or will be as soon as old mumps leaves. But I'm getting pretty tired of being shut up in the house. I don't know what to do with myself, only to look out the window."

"Let's look out the window together and see what is going on outside," said Grandmother Hewitt.

Fred was fortunate in having a grandmother who had been president of a young ladies' seminary, who had travelled abroad, and who had learned to make good use of her eyes.

"Let's make a list of some of the things to be seen to-day from this window," continued grandmother, handing him pencil and scratch-pad. "You do the writing."

"Well," she went on, "what is that perched on the top of Mr. Haskell's chimney?"

"Mocking-bird," answered Fred.

"Head the list, then, with mocking-bird," said grandmother. "What is he doing?"

"Singing, like as not; but I can't hear him with the window closed and these bunches so near my ears," replied Fred.

"Now what is he doing" asked grandmother again, as the bird seemed to toss himself up into the air, wings spread, and then dropped back to the chimney-top.

"Dancing for joy, I guess," was Fred's answer.

"Good!" exclaimed grandmother. "Put it all down: 'Mocking-bird, on a chimney-top across the way, singing, dancing for joy.' He is just deliriously happy, I imagine, and his ecstasy carries him right off his feet. Now let's see what more he can give us for our notes. Do you notice anything peculiar about his wings as he spreads them?"

"White on them, and across, like bars," Fred replied.

"You will be taking high honours as an observer one of these days," commended grandmother. "Now watch Sir Mocker a little longer while I write a letter. He may stay on that chimney-top more or less all day, and possibly all night, for when he once gets well started with his medley-song he hardly knows how to stop. I hear him, or some relative of his, frequently when I am awake at night. Make a note of all his antics—if you can. And Sir Mocker is only one of many interesting objects to be seen from a window by a shut-in boy."

"But not all shut-in boys have a grandmother to tell them about things," responded Fred.

Grandmother smiled. "Columbus set sail on a voyage of discovery," was all she said.

Fred spent the rest of the forenoon making notes concerning things to be seen from his window, and wondering just what grandmother meant by that remark about Columbus.

Pomona, Cal.

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