

"And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living."

"That's you, Jim," exclaimed one of the boys, "it's just like what you told me of your father."

Jim read on—"And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want."

"Why, that's you again, Jim," the same voice said, "Go on." "And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat; and no man gave unto him."

"That's like us all," said the same voice again. "We're all beggars and might be better than we are! Well, go on; let's hear what came of it."

Jim went on, but his voice began to tremble—"And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father."

At this point he broke down and could read no more. It was his own story told in the Bible; it made him think of his own home, of his father, of the love and care that had been given him when he was a little boy, and he made up his mind that he would arise and go to his father.

Will the boys and girls who read this story look for the fifteenth chapter of Luke and finish the Bible story?

THE QUARRELSOME MONKEYS.

It was Tommy's sixth birthday, and he was having a birthday picnic in the park, with half a dozen of his little friends. A picnic in the beautiful park was always a delight; and to-day there were favours, a birthday cake, and other things belonging to parties, besides.

Whenever the children tired of games, they went to watch the animals awhile. There was a bears' den built of great stones, with a pole in the middle for the bears to climb; and there were wolves, foxes, wild-cats, and a great many other animals, besides the owls and herons, the cranes, and storks. The deer, buffalo and ostriches had little parks of their own, fenced in with iron netting; and the prairie dogs were happy in their queer round temple, burrowing out of sight in the soft earth, or sitting up gravely on their hind legs to stare back at the children.

But the place of all others which the children enjoyed most was a large pavilion in which the parrots and monkeys lived. Here at one side were parrots of all kinds and sizes, with beautiful, brilliant plumage and loud, harsh voices. In the centre of the room was a circular tank in which were a great many fishes, whose backs the children could touch, as they went swimming by. The fishes were not at all afraid.

And last of all—monkeys! They always kept those to the last, did the children; for they were the most fun

of all. Was ever anything more comical than a cage of monkeys, swinging from perch to perch, playing tricks, climbing up the sides of their cage, chattering, scolding, eating, and looking around anxiously with their wrinkled faces, like very active little old men!

Tommy had just slipped a peanut into the outstretched hand of one of the monkeys, when a larger one swung himself head downward by his tail, snatched the peanut, and scampered up the side of the cage. The smaller monkey raced after him, scolding angrily; and a fierce quarrel began. In the excitement, the peanut was dropped, and a third monkey, hunting through the sawdust for something good to eat, found and ate it, smacking his lips with great enjoyment.

The quarrel grew louder and louder. Tommy tried to stop it by offering a whole handful of peanuts; but the monkeys were too angry to notice him. So he dropped the peanuts on the floor of the cage and turned away. And when they looked back from the door of the pavilion, the children saw the two monkeys still quarreling on the high shelf, and the third calmly eating the nuts, turning his head from side to side with quick, comical glances.

"Weren't they silly to quarrel over a little thing like that!" said Tommy. "Of course, though, it was mean in the big one to snatch the peanut away."

"But if the little one had kept his temper, he'd have been lots better off," said Doris. "He needn't have been impolite, even if the big one was."

"I guess mamma's right," laughed Ralph, as they stopped again to watch the gentle prairie-dogs, "she says it never pays to quarrel. O, did you see that little fellow go down out of sight in that hole!"

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