

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

THE THREE IS ITS.

"O mamma," cried little Blanche Philpott, "I heard such a tale about Edith Howard! I did not think she could be so very naughty. One—"

"My dear," interrupted Mrs. Philpott, "before you continue, we will see if the story will pass the three sieves."

"What does that mean, mamma," inquired Blanche.

"I will explain it. In the first place, is it true?"

"I suppose so; I got it from Miss White, and she is a great friend of Edith's."

"And does she show her friendship by telling tales of her? In the next place, though you can prove it to be true, is it kind?"

"I did not mean to be unkind, but I am afraid it was. I would not like Edith to speak of me as I have of her."

"And, it is necessary?"

"No, of course, mamma; there was no need for me to mention it at all."—Good Words.

OUR LITTLE PEOPLE'S CLUB.

A TALK BY THE PROFESSOR.

Warm weather, young folks! These are not exactly the "dog" days, yet are bad times for those four-footed friends of ours. How many boys here like dogs? Every one! You know some dogs are wise, and others not foolish, but stupid. Let me tell a story:

Once a Frenchman, to annoy the owner of a Newfoundland dog, said he did not believe the dog to be smart. The dog's master, vexed at the slur, gave his friend a push, and knocked him over the bank into a shallow river. The dog immediately sprang in, and seizing one of the Frenchman's coats, proceeded to swim for shore. Unfortunately, another Newfoundland dog saw the affair, and leaped into the river to the rescue. The second dog seized the other tail of the coat, and wished to swim back to his master, while the first dog held fast and struggled for his side, and the owner of the coat cried in vain for help. At this ridiculous juncture the coat gave way, and each dog proudly swam home with a piece of cloth in his mouth. What the half-drowned Frenchman thought about the wisdom of dogs by this time can only be imagined. Glad enough he certainly was to see his friend plunge in and swim to his aid.

Well, young folks, my next story tells of a dog who knew what he was about. A gentleman in Scotland noticed a shepherd's dog lying close to some men who were watching a detachment of ten sheep. Suddenly the dog started off to the main body of the flock, brought back ten sheep, and drove them into the empty washing-pen. Soon the men had reduced the number of sheep in the pen to three. Away ran the dog, soon returning with ten more. Again all the sheep were washed but three, and again this sagacious dog returned with ten. So he continued through the afternoon, proving that in some way he could count both three and ten.

Once, we are told on good authority, a little terrier saved a great ship. This dog was purchased in France by a sea-captain, and named Neptune. Little Nep soon learned to like the ship, and would run up the rigging like a sailor. He could scent the land before it was seen by the sailors, and as the ship approached the shore would sniff and bark for joy. When Nep had been to sea with his master about two years, the Hortensia—that was the vessel's name—came sailing along the coast of Florida, where are many bars and islands. The captain went below and turned into his berth to sleep. Nap lay as usual at his master's state-room door. There lies in the Florida Straits a rock called the Double-headed Shot Keys. A lighthouse is built upon it, that vessels may be kept off in the night.

"Be sure to call me by three o'clock," said the captain, "as by that time we shall reach the Double-headed Shot Keys."

The night wore on, and all was still but the splashing of the water. The

mate went below to get something from his chest, sat down upon it for a few minutes, and before he knew it was fast asleep. The men on deck, receiving no orders, supposed all was right, and one by one they too fell asleep. No one was awake except a Spanish lad, whose turn it was to be at the wheel, and steer the vessel.

Meanwhile the wind changed, a stiff breeze sprang up, the sails were filled, and the Hortensia ploughed through the ocean, straight toward the double-headed Shot Keys. The lad, half asleep at the helm, knew not of the danger, neither could he see ahead from where he stood; for the great sails concealed the view of the lighthouse; but Nep, the good sailor that he was, discovered that land was near—he smelt it. He rushed into his master's state-room, and barked and jumped up to him as he lay in his berth.

"Get down! Be still, Nep!" said the sleepy captain.

But Nep would not be still. He only barked the louder.

"Be still!" said the captain again; and he pushed the dog away. Again the faithful little fellow barked furiously. The captain, thoroughly aroused, began to think something must be the matter. He sprang up, and Nep ran forward, barking, to the companion way. The captain's head no sooner came above the deck than he saw that right ahead was the fearful rock and the lighthouse, and the ship plunging toward it at the rate of nine miles an hour. He seized the helm; the ship struggled—swung around—and when her course was shifted she was so near the rock that in three minutes more she would have struck. The sleeping sailors were aroused to their duty, and the astonished mate rose up from his nap on the chest to learn that but for the faithful dog the waves might have already closed over them.

All dogs would not prove such agreeable companions at sea.

Arctic explorers complain that their Esquimaux dogs are very much in the way on deck. The English explorer, Capt. Nares, says: "Being in strange quarters, the dogs are baying in concert, the distracting noise frequently diversified by a sharp howl, as a sailor in forcing his way through their midst uses the toe of his boot. The packs collected from four different settlements are strangers to each other. The king dog of each team is necessarily tied up, his subordinates clustering around and crouching at his feet. In their anxious endeavours to protect their followers, and if possible to maintain and extend their rights, these king dogs are straining their very utmost at the ropes, snarling and lifting their upper lips, evidently longing for the time to arrive when they may get it out and decide who is to be ruler over all. By sheer fighting each has worked his way to the position he now holds, the most determined and enduring animal gaining the day. A long series of contests will be undertaken before the supreme one is acknowledged." These hairy dogs will not sleep under cover, and they bolt their meat frozen hard.

Have you heard of "Jock the navy's friend," young folks? You know the men who labor on public works in England are called navvies. One of these men befriended a nameless dog, and ever after, Jock, as he was called, watched the navy's coat and hat. For years they travelled and worked together, until one day the sandy earth gave way over the poor navy and they dug him out, dead.

Jock was lying watching a pickaxe and bundle of dinner all that day and night, and would allow nothing of his master's to be touched. The foreman tried to coax him away with meat but without success. At last an old chum of the navy's went and fetched the poor fellow's cap, and held it for Jock to smell; then, but not till then, as if his beloved master had just sent him a message, he jumped off the coat and followed, while the dead man's things were carried to his old home. There were made Jock comfortable in a corner on the navy's old coat, and a dish of food by his side. The next morning Jock was found there dead upon his master's coat, with the dish of food untasted beside him.

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