

Short Story for

Our Boys and Girls

Everybody had told Jamie he was stupid until he began to think it might be so. His parents were dead and he lived with Uncle Peter in the city. Uncle Peter sent him to school to Miss Nellie.

One day Miss Nellie told her boys she was going to the seashore, to Herrick Island for her vacation, but she did not like to go alone. It was much pleasanter to have someone for company, to run along the beach and find shells, to pull flowers on the marshes, to go out sailing, or for a dip in the sea. She had no brother so she wanted one of the boys to go with her, and this was how she would decide which one of them it should be. Each boy should bring a collection of something selected by himself, either from his own home or the stores or from what might be given him by friends—whatever he chose, but it must consist of a collection of articles all belonging to one class, and every boy should describe his particular collection, tell where the articles were made or grown and their use. Three weeks would be allowed them to make ready, and then, on a Friday afternoon, a committee, formed of the trustees and relatives and friends of the boys, should decide which collection was best and who was entitled to the prize—a two weeks' stay at Herrick Island.

How the youngsters' eyes shone at this announcement. "What is the ocean like? I never saw it, did you?" asked Jamie of his school-fellows at luncheon time. "Coolest! Lots of times!" responded Tommy Waddell, grandly as though oceans were common where he lived. "It's something like a kettle of boiling soda, only a great deal bigger, you know."

"Does it smell like that?" asked Jamie, doubtfully. He did not much fancy the smell of boiling soda. "No, it smells salty, 'cause there's codfish in it," he supposed.

"It sounds like a buzz when it's going," said Ned Dolan, with an air of wisdom, "and it always is going."

Jamie knew all about buzz saws. Uncle Dan had one in his mill out in the country, and Jamie used to live with Uncle Dan. The boy could seem to hear that saw roar now, and hear Uncle Dan shouting he must keep away from it. He wondered if he would have to keep away from the ocean if he was near it? It was considerable of a puzzle in his mind what it could be like. How he did wish he could see it, and with Miss Nellie! He was devoted to Miss Nellie in his shy, boyish fashion.

The boys were wild with plans; all talked at once, and each, it would seem, had already begun to make a collection of one thing or another, everyone but Jamie—he had no little store of treasures, not a single article of value.

TRAIN FOR BUSINESS

Most men train their brains and almost entirely neglect their bodies. They do not seem to realize that keenness of judgment and clearness of thought depend on much on the body as on the brain itself. Any man can prove this to his own satisfaction by attempting to decide a weighty business problem while suffering with an acute attack of indigestion or a violent spell of biliousness.

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with them, saying, "Just wait and see."

At last the fatal day arrived. The corals were laid out; everybody said so. The pieces were laid out on blue velvet. "They cost hundreds of dollars," grandfather said, "announced their exhibitor proudly.

The candies were sweet indeed. "It took every cent I have saved this quarter," besides what was given me," Tommy informed his friends with much satisfaction. "I made the little shelves to put them on myself," he added.

To Bobby Jones' friends there was nothing so nice as pins; and no one would have thought pins would have displayed so well. Bobby had stuck delicate little pink ones next to the blues, and lemon colored beside the greens; lovely pearls, flaxen silver and cut steel contrasted with gold, garnets, and jets; the effect was beautiful.

Johnnie Towne had a fine assortment of fans. Ben Morris had buttons, Charlie Williams soap, in a variety of shapes displayed in an attractive box; and Silas Casey had sponges of all kinds and sizes, arranged on a pink cotton flannel table cover; and there were many others.

Jamie's turn came last. He had knots; nothing else. But such knots! He had corals, the shadings and streakings are so blended that no one could show distinctly, but are all merged together in a heavy beauty. He had corals, the shadings and streakings are so blended that no one could show distinctly, but are all merged together in a heavy beauty.

Jamie had shown himself to have an eye to effect, too. At his suggestion, Uncle Dan had permitted one of the men to make the shadings and streakings are so blended that no one could show distinctly, but are all merged together in a heavy beauty.

The visitors were loud in their expressions of approval of everything. "Such an excellent idea of teaching!" they said; and all agreed that the boys had shown wonderful taste in the arrangement of their displays. Finally the committee sat down and conferred in low tones, the youthful exhibitors remaining standing.

In the silence that followed, Miss Nellie announced, with heightened color in her cheeks, "We will not listen to the committee's report."

Then there was silence again. In his suspense, poor Jamie imagined he heard buzz saws everywhere. Of course he did not really suppose this collection would be thought the best; but—perhaps—oh, he did want to know! He was so wrought up that he started at the strapping of a chair behind him as one of the trustees arose, and wheeled around so suddenly that he bumped up against that gentleman.

"Oh, please, I—did not mean—I mean—I'm sorry," stammered Jamie, hardly knowing what he was saying in his confusion.

NEVER MIND, WE CAN EXCUSE YOU UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

"Never mind, we can excuse you under the circumstances," said the trustee, good-humoredly. "You are the boy who collected the knots, are you not? Well, you have won the prize!"

"You have won the prize," he repeated, in response to the unspoken appeal in the boy's eyes.

Then how the buzz saw whizzed in Jamie's ears! But no, it was applause. Gentle at first, then louder and louder. It didn't seem to him that clapping and cheering could be for him. But he reached out his arms with a swift impulse toward visitors and school-fellows as if he would take them all in. His eyes were moist and his voice trembled as he murmured his half-audible thanks. His once known what to do or say he was so happy.

To think of his winning the prize with nothing but knots! He exclaimed Tommy Waddell, munching one of his peppermints. "But you're the right sort, Jamie. We all think so, and any boy who has a tip-top me like Herrick Island!"—Bobby Waddell.

"CHRONIC DIARRHOEA BELIEVED." Mr. Edward E. Henry, with the United States Express Co., of Chicago, writes, "Our General Superintendent, Mr. Quick, handed me a bottle of your 'Chronic Diarrhoea Remedy' some time ago to check an attack of the old chronic diarrhoea which I have used since that time and cured many of our train who have been sick. I am an old soldier who served with Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley four years in the 23rd Ohio Regiment, and have no ailment except chronic diarrhoea, which this remedy stops at once."

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More War Talk (St. John Telegraph)

In Great Britain, going to start Germany? This somewhat startling question is suggested by several features of the news of the day in England. Every morning the people of the Mother Country are told that there is danger of invasion. Every day, without exception, some serious and respected journal complains because British preparations by land and sea against Germany are inadequate. The naval building programme is measured by Germany's. The concentration of all forces is planned to check a movement of German transports and ships of war. The coast defences are infirmed with the idea of retarding steps by the Germans. In Germany, say new military progress or invention is considered with respect to its value in a campaign against the United Kingdom. In London, Germany is held up day after day, by fame, as the one nation which Britain must watch with the keenest vigilance. To some extent, it is true, the talk of war is due to partisan attempts to secure political advantage by representing opponents as careless of the national safety; but unfortunately there is more than that in it. There is, however we must repeat to see it, a strong, and evidently a growing current of opinion which holds that Germany cherishes sinister designs which it would attempt to carry out whenever circumstances appeared to promise success. If Canadians were told morning, noon and night, that their country was in danger of invasion, they would grow uncomfortable to say the least. In Britain the sustained note of menace cannot but be irritating and productive of a sense of strain. An examination of the latest British newspapers shows that almost every news reference to naval affairs contains some mention of the possibility or probability of a conflict with Germany.

A Doctor's Statement

Bald St. Paul, C.C. Quebec, March 27th, 1907. "Dr. T. A. Slocum, Limited, Toronto, Ont. Gentlemen:—I have used them with very great satisfaction both in my own case and in that of my friends. It affords me much pleasure to recommend a remedy which is really good in cases for which it is intended. I am, yours very truly, DR. ERNEST A. ALLARD.

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Trains of the Midland Division leave Windsor daily, except Sunday for Truro at 7.45 a. m. and 5.15 p. m. 6.30 a. m. and 2.30 p. m. connecting at Truro with trains of the Intercolonial Railway, and at Windsor with express and Business trains to and from Halifax and Yarmouth.

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