

# LITTLE FOLKS



BEN, OUR PUPPY.

## Stories of Our Pets.

### A Mischievous Puppy.

I am a puppy, and I go blundering about the place trying to get into holes that are too small for me; and I am rather fond of boots and shoes and kid gloves to exercise my teeth upon, and I am not in the least degree particular whether the boots and shoes and gloves are old or new: in either case they answer my purpose just the same. If anything in the way of kid or leather is not to be found, I manage to content myself with the sleeve of a coat, or a gentleman's silk hat, or any trifle such as a lady's bonnet, or even a fur muff.

My parents were large creatures, and took up some space in the world, and if I live long enough I shall be a large dog, too, and then I shall take care of the house, and go for long walks with my master, and

shall look down upon other dogs who are not so high up in the world as myself.

As it is, puppy though they call me, I am far from being small; but my limbs are not altogether under my control, and I go blundering about in a manner which seems greatly to amuse my young master.

To-day I am in disgrace. To begin with: I had a good chase after the hens this morning, and cook, who caught me in the act, rapped me sharply on the head and drove me out of the yard.

Then I made my way into the house, and Master Charles, to whom I belong, had a good game with me; and he was teaching me how to shake and worry a handkerchief which he made believe to be a rat, when I had the misfortune in my excitement to take the leg of his trousers between my teeth, which

tore it badly, and I was driven out of the nursery in disgrace.

Of course it was the fault of the servant who was ordered to take me to the stables, that, instead of doing so, she loitered to talk to another servant, and I escaped without being observed into my mistress's bedroom.

I looked about to find something with which to amuse myself, and there on the floor outside the wardrobe was a cardboard box with the lid off.

Naturally enough I looked in and saw something that pleased me greatly, and that seemed so pretty, I felt certain it would be good to eat. It didn't smell like anything appetising, to be sure, but I took it in my mouth, and gave it a shake, and was trying with my teeth to break the white, shining beads that they called pearls, when I heard a shriek behind me, and the housemaid cried, in as much dismay as though the house had been on fire, 'That wretched puppy has got the mistress's new cap!'

Then, to my sorrow, I was whipped, and carried by the skin of the neck out to the stables and thrown down upon the straw, and there I was left alone to whine and cry as long as I liked.

But whining and crying would not open the stable-door, and the sunlight was streaming in through the window, and there were some curious flies with long legs flying against the walls, and as I am naturally of a cheerful disposition I left off crying, and went over to look at them.

They were very funny things; their legs were so long, and their bodies so short, and one of them came flying close to me, and at last I put up one of my paws to touch it, and feel what it was like, when Master Charlie called out from the doorway, 'Ben, Ben, leave that daddy-longlegs alone!' and I was so startled that the fly escaped me, and I bounded out of the stable, rejoiced once more to be free.—  
'Sunday Reading for the Young.'

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