

times on one wheel, sometimes in midair, the wretched man not daring to slacken his speed, compelled to catch his breath on the wing, now and then a savage blow of the whip and a threatening word from his tormentors in the vehicle. His feet only could tell the nature of the ground over which he skimmed in this mad race, but at times his brain swam and he seemed to be tracing the milky way among the stars of the infinite.

But this terrible drive must end some time. When the dawn began to streak the sky as the jaded man could see by the faint coloring about the zenith, the buggy wheel struck a rock, and everything piled up.

A light glared, a friendly human voice sounded in his ears, saying, 'Come, get up, it's morning.'

He raised his body, so full of aches and pains, every bone must be broken, but Derby and Lal were looking meekly at him from their stalls, and by the light of a lantern in early morn father was removing the bridle from the neglected horse.

A Partnership.

Danny and Davy were partners. Their stock in trade was a fine lot of sound, sweet hickory-nuts and big, rough butternuts, and they had such fun gathering them! How they pelted the trees in the wood-lot, and what a shower of nuts came rattling down, like the most delightful kind of a hail-storm!

Then they carried them home in bags, and spread them out to dry on the floor of the wood-house chamber. This was a large, unplastered room with rafters running across the roof and beams along the walls. Danny and Davy loved to play there on rainy days, because there was nothing in it that could be soiled or spoiled or broken.

When all the nuts were spread, the two little fellows sat down on the door-step and agreed together how they would sell them and what they would get with the money. Dear me, how many things these small partners planned to buy, as if there was no end to their fortune.

'And we won't eat another nut!' said Danny, resolutely. 'We'll keep 'em all to sell!'

'Not one single 'nother nut!' said little Davy, screwing up his mouth tight, by way of showing that no nuts could make their way in there.

But a few days after this two



DRAWING LESSON VI.

very excited boys came running to mamma, each one with his nice little face quite spoiled by a little wrinkly frown.

'Mamma!' cried Danny, 'Davy is eating up all our nuts!'

'Haven't eaten a single 'nother one!' said Davy, indignantly. 'It's Danny, his own self!'

Mamma looked from one troubled but honest little face to the other.

'You must not quarrel about this,' she said. 'I do not believe that either of you have taken the nuts; but we shall soon find out the thief, whoever he is.'

And sure enough, just while she was speaking they heard a noise like a rolling nut in the wood-house chamber. The children's eyes grew very large and round. Then they pulled off their shoes and crept noiselessly to the wood-house stairs. Mamma followed them very softly.

They stopped half-way up the stairs and peeped through the railing. Strange to say, there was nobody there!

'Why, mamma, how funny!' began little Davy; but, 'Hush!' whispered mamma, with a smile.

She pointed to a heap of hickory-

nuts, and there, with his tail curled saucily over his back, and with one nut in his small, furry paw, sat the drollest little red squirrel, taking his breakfast as comfortably as if he had been invited by the little partners themselves.

When he had finished this nut he took another and stuffed it into his mouth, and with a whisk and a frisk ran up on a beam, capered across the rafters, jumped on the window-sill, and with a long, light spring bounded into the great apple tree outside.

'So you are the thief, Mr. Squirrel!' said Danny. 'Well, I think you have laid up enough nuts for winter, and now I am going to shut the window and keep you out.'

'Say, Davy, I'm awful sorry I said you took those nuts,' he said, remorsefully.

'And I'm dregful sorry I said you took 'em,' echoed little Davy.

'Never say such things again when you are not sure they are true,' said mamma.

And the little boys thought they never would.—Youth's Companion.