

Young People's Department.



THE BEAVER.

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Most children know, the beaver is a very curious little animal. He can live either on land or in the water, and moves about on the one as well as in the other. His hind feet are webbed so that he can push himself along quickly in the water. He cuts down trees. He does this with his teeth, which are big and sharp and shaped like a chisel. When he cuts down a tree, he gnaws it down to a point, so that he can drive it into the ground. This shows great wisdom for a dumb creature, but it is the power which God has given him. And you know how he uses it. If you were to come to a place in the woods

where beavers had been, you would find a large pond and a regular little village of houses—some under the water and some above, all nicely plastered with mud. This they do with their curious flat tails. The pond they make by building a dam across a little stream. It is not an easy thing even for men to build a dam, for water is very strong and quickly washes anything away that is not very stoutly put together. But the beavers know how to make a dam that the water can not break down. To do this they have to cut down trees, drive them into the ground, tie them together with small branches, and fill them all in with earth and stones. And they know enough to make the dam very thick and strong at the base.