

## TAMING WILD BEASTS

Captain Hare, a Devonshire man, brought home on his return from the Peninsula War a wolf which he had caught young in the Sierra Morena. By kind treatment it had become perfectly tame, and had lived with him on the same terms of affectionate familiarity as a favorite dog. During many a mountain bivouac the soldier, his horse, and the wolf had slept together beneath a friendly cork tree or in a sheltered ravine, sharing through campaigns the weariness, the scanty food, and the danger. During Captain Hare's furlough, part of which was passed at Bristol, his pet accompanied him in his daily promenade—it is said somewhat to the terror of the Bristol citizen, who cheerfully yielded the sidewalk. Upon his departure Captain Hare left his comrade in the keeping of Sir Hugh Smith, of Aslton Court. The faithful animal never ceased to sorrow over the separation, pacing before his kennel at the length of his tether the whole day long, and keeping always the sharpest lookout for strangers, in the hope that among them might come at last his old master.

But perhaps the most striking of well-authenticated instances of the wolf's capability of affection and faithfulness is one narrated by Cuvier. In this case the animal was taken young and brought up as a dog would have been. He became familiar with all the household, followed his master, showed sorrow at any absence, obeyed his voice readily, and behaved in no respect differently from a well-domesticated dog. His master, being obliged to travel, presented the wolf to the Menagerie du Roi, where he was received and confined. Here he remained for weeks, uneasy and discontented, pining and refusing food. Gradually he became reconciled to the situation, recovered his health, and attached himself to the keepers. After an absence of eighteen months, his master returned. At the first sound of his voice the wolf sprang up, frantic with joy, and being set at liberty rushed to the master and overwhelmed him with caresses. A second separation was followed by the same symptoms of grief, which again was allayed by time and by the friendship of a dog which had been given him as a companion. Three years passed this time before the master again returned. When he did so, his coming was at night, but again his first word awakened in the wolf the uneffaced memory of a beloved voice, and happy cries came from the cage. When the door was opened the faithful creature rushed forward, placed his forefeet on his friend's shoulders, menacing the keepers who offered to remove him and giving touching evidence of his joyful affection.

## FILLING IN TIME

Lady Anne Lindsay, the author of the old poem, 'Auld Robin Gray,' was not only a delightful conversationalist, but she was a great story-teller. This gift made her not only a welcome guest abroad, but a valuable member of the home circle, for it is related in *A Group of Scottish Women* that at a dinner party, which she was giving to some friends an old man servant caused some amusement by saying in a perfectly audible undertone: 'My lady, you must tell another story. The second course won't be ready for five minutes.'

## AN OFFER

A man offered recently in a London paper to forward, on receipt of postage stamps, 'sound practical advice that would be applicable at any time and to all persons and conditions of life.' On receipt of the stamps he sent his numerous victims the following: 'Never give a boy a penny to hold your shadow while you climb a tree to look into the middle of next week.'

## FAMILY FUN

The Mysterious Paper Bands.—With three paper bands, each about 2ft in length by 1in in width, form three rings or hoops by fastening the ends together before the audience. With a pair of scissors make an incision in the first paper ring and cut round, when it will fall into two separate rings. With the second band repeat the cutting operation, when the surprising result of two separate rings, so interlocked that they cannot be separated without breaking one of them, will be found. Now take the third ring or hoop of paper and divide it in a similar manner to the previous ones, when, instead of two separate or interlocked hoops, one long band double the size of the one just cut, is produced. By cutting this band again in a similar manner a hoop four times its original size is formed. Can you explain by what means these perplexing results are obtained?

This is how it is done: Paste the ends of the first strip of paper evenly together. Twist the second strip of paper twice and paste the ends of that also together. Twist the third strip of paper once. Now cut through with a pair of scissors as indicated, and the desired effects are obtained.

## All Sorts

A mob has many heads but no brains.

A mill cannot grind with the water that is past.

A landlord can always raise the rent. That is more than many of his tenants can do.

There is no good substitute for wisdom, but silence is the best that has been discovered yet.

Teacher: 'Now, Harry, can you tell me what an island is?' Small Harry: 'Yes, ma'am. An island is a place you can't leave without a boat.'

'Well,' said Dr. Kidder, 'there's only one way to get rid of insomnia. "And that is?" queried the patient. "Go to sleep and forget all about it."

'Ah, kind friend,' said the moralist, 'it is deeds, not words, that count.' 'Oh, I don't know,' replied the woman. 'Did you ever send a telegram?'

At the commencement of the term in a girls' school, one of the elder pupils was boasting of her home. 'Why, there's a verandah on our house,' she declared proudly. 'That's nothing,' quietly remarked a small newcomer; 'we have a mortgage on ours!'

'There were only three boys in school to-day who could answer a question that the teacher asked us,' said a lad to his mother.

'And I hope my boy was one of the three?' said the fond parent.

'Well, I was,' answered the lad.

'I am very glad; it makes your mother proud of you. What question did the teacher ask, Johnnie?'

'"Who broke the window?"'

As Darwin was walking one day in his garden he perceived a wasp upon the gravel walk with a large fly nearly as big as itself which it had caught. Kneeling down, he distinctly saw it cut off the head and abdomen, and then, taking up with its feet the trunk or middle portion of the body, to which the wings remained attached, fly away. But a breeze of wind, acting on the wings of the fly, turned round the wasp with its burden and impeded its progress. Upon this it alighted again on the gravel walk, deliberately sawed off first one wing and then the other and, having thus removed the cause of its embarrassment, flew off with its booty.

Indignant Passenger (to railway manager): 'Here, I say, I got a cinder in my eye from one of your beastly engines, and it cost me ten shillings for a doctor to get it out and dress the eye. Now, what do you propose to do in the matter?'

Railway Manager: 'Nothing, my dear sir, nothing. We have no use for the cinder, and you are perfectly welcome to it. No doubt, strictly speaking, you did go off with our property—the cinder, of course, was not yours—but we do not care to make a fuss about such a small matter. Pray do not give the incident a moment's thought.'

According to Swiss law no standing army can be maintained within the limits of Switzerland, though every citizen is liable to military service for a period of twenty-five years. In addition to this all able-bodied men between the ages of seventeen and fifty years are enrolled under a special category. The training during the first year is the heaviest; afterwards the man has to practise with a rifle each year, while he is called out for training every alternate year. Each man is compelled to fire a certain number of rounds of ammunition under stringent regulations. In this way, by constant rifle practice, every man knows how to handle a rifle, while a large number are taught to ride, and all have a good knowledge of drill.

The common otter is the most interesting specimen of British carnivora, and is still prevalent all over Britain, where fish exist. It travels great distances from river to river in search of food, often visiting the sea, where crabs, shrimps, salmon, etc.—delicacies the otter likes to feed upon—abound. During severe winter weather the otter will hunt upon land as though he were a fox, killing rabbits, ducks, chickens, and—as spring advances—even young lambs. Foxes are often blamed for the havoc wrought by otters, in spite of the fact that the otter's tracks and strong scent are very evident, and utterly unlike those of the fox. He hunts more by scent and hearing than by sight, and his long tail and outstretched hind legs acting as a rudder, help to direct his movements in the water. No fish stands a chance with him. The animal glides easily and silently through the water. The limbs are short, the toes webbed, the claws small, curved, and blunt. The close, thick fur readily throws off the water, the ears are small and protected by flaps, and the teeth are modified to catch and retain the slippery food on which the animal feeds.

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