Chats With the Puzzlers

By Frances Carroll

"IT certainly is a jumble, Miss Carroll."

It was a sweet, but I must confess, impatient and somewhat discouraged voice that pronounced this opinion over the telephone this morning. What was she talking about? Why, about the locoed houses, of course.

"Well, I can't deny that they are a bit confusing," I laughed back, "but you surely wouldn't want a puzzle that you and everybody else could solve with the reading. To whom would the honors go?"

"You are right, I suppose," came the answer in a more cheerful tone, "but I really was beginning to get a little discouraged. Now, I'll go right to work, and see if I can't send you the correct solution by tomorrow."

Another contestant writes a letter today, asking permission to add two more answers to those she sent in.

Cannot Change Answers Sent In.

I am sorry, but this cannot be done. You can easily see, puzzlers, that if it were allowable to change the answers which have been submitted the editor of the Woman's Page would soon be dizzy with confusion, and discouraged over her futile attempts to keep matters straight.

"I just want to write you," begins a letter which brings with it a breath of country air to my desk, "that our camp owes you an everlasting debt of gratitude, Miss Carroll, for the puzzle contest. The men bring The Times out from town every afternoon, and if you could just see us sitting around our camp fire in the evenings, here on the bank of the Potomac, and laughing over those locoed houses, you would feel repaid for your work in the puzzle department. I have never laughed as much in my life as I have over our efforts to straighten out this jumble."

Letters That Rejoice Heart of Editor.

Now, that is the sort of letter that rejoices the heart of any editor, I can assure you.

Now that the two typographical errors which last week confused some of the puzzlers, have been straightened, the many who are working to solve the problem of the locoed houses are going about their task with a right good will.

All day there have been telephone calls, letters, and messages in regard to the present week's puzzle.

I must tell you, too, puzzlers, that this morning's mail brought in a number of really good puzzles which have been submitted for your confusion by a number of puzzle makers of Washington.

So sharpen your wits, for other "locoed" things are coming your way.

PRIZES OFFERED PUZZLE SOLVERS

Weekly prizes of five, three, and two dollars, respectively, are given to the contestants for the puzzle printed on the Woman's Page of the Sunday evening edition of The Times each week for the three solutions adjudged worthy.

The contest, which closes at 3 p. m. on Friday of each week, is open to all who care to solve the puzzles.

The awards are based, primarily, on correctness, timeliness, and neatness. Originality in presentation also receives consideration in awarding the prizes.

DAILY FASHION TALK TO READERS OF THE TIMES

Cost of This Simple Dress in Three Materials

Navy Blue Poplin.

For size eight is required:

Navy blue poplin, 27 inches wide, 4 yards, at 19c yard	$0.76
Material for bands, 1 yard, at 15 c yard	.15
Braid, 10 yards, at 6c yard	.60
Large pearl buttons, 6 for	.10
Total	1.61

Plain Color Percale.

Plain percale, 36 inches wide, 3⅛ yards, at 12½c yard	$0.40
Washable braid, 10 yards, at 6c yard	.60
Large pearl buttons, 6 for	.10
Total	1.10

Plaid Gingham.

Plain gingham, 27 inches wide, 4¼ yards, at 12½c yard	$0.53
Large pearl buttons, 6 at	.10
Total	.63

THE little girl's dress pictured today will be found simple to make and extremely appropriate for school wear. It can be worn over a guimpe when necessary.

An attractive frock could be developed of navy blue poplin, with bias bands of contrasting material, edged with braid and large pearl buttons down the front. Gingham or percale will also make up well in this style.

The skirt is straight, and can be either plaited or gathered.

McCall pattern, No. 3417, which is cut in four sizes, from six to twelve years, is required for this dress, and it is obtainable at the Palais Royal. Price, 15 cents.

Some Causes of Divorce

By Dorothy Dix

ARTICLE NO. 2.

THE second thing that leads to divorce is that almost every marriage is founded on deceit and misapprehension.

Courtship is a confidence game in which both youins and maidens endeavor to take each other in, and if the music of the wedding bells could be translated into prose they would cry out, Stung! Stung! Stung!

It is true that, except in rare cases, a man does not engage in a deep, dark, nefarious plot in order to lure a woman to the altar, nor are there many women cold and crafty enough to deliberately ensnare men into marrying them. Nevertheless, the man in love and the woman in love unconsciously act a part before the one he or she is trying to win, and are no more like that real person than a dog rose is like an American Beauty, or a cold boiled potato resembles the pommes de terre au gratin of the fashionable restaurant.

Nor is the deceitfulness of mankind and womankind altogether responsible for this. Dame Nature, who, as we have shown, is the great matchmaker, inspires us in the courting season to put the best foot foremost. The same instinct that puts, in spring, the livelier iris on the burnished dove, and that makes the peacock strut and pose before his mate, makes a young man put on his best clothes when he goes a-courting, and makes a girl marcel her hair to the roots when her best young man is a-coming.

A Game of Pretend Is Cause of Woe.

It is what causes plain, prosaic John Jackson to pretend that he adores German opera and understands Browning because Gladys Gwendolyn Smith affects these things, when his real taste is musical comedy and George Ade. It is what leads Angelina Jones to sit up with a rapt expression at the baseball game to which Bill Jenkins has dragged her, although she is enduring a martyrdom of boredom and wondering why her escort yells himself black in the face over what some crazy looking men are doing to a measly ball.

No man who was trying to win a girl would dream of such a thing as showing himself to her with a three-days' stubble of beard on his face. Nor would he let her see that he was by nature overbearing and tyrannical, and stingy, and selfish. On the contrary, he is chivalrous, and tender, and self-abnegating, and lavish toward her. He anticipates her every wish and has no thought except to please her, and she naturally argues from this that when she marries him she will get the one perfect husband in the world.

In the same way a woman deceives a man. You don't catch her appearing before him in curl papers and a Mother Hubbard wrapper. You never hear of any girl who feels called upon to tell the man she is in love with that she is utterly useless and no account, that she doesn't know how to cook an egg, or make her own clothes, and that she hates the sight of a cooking stove, and has the incurable bargain sale habit, and that if he marries her he will have to board in a hotel and hustle early and late to make enough money to pay her bills.

She's Mild, Angelic, And Purrs.

Nor does she warn him that she is selfish and high tempered and has nerves, and that all of her family are afraid of her. Far from it—in his presence she is so mild and gentle that butter wouldn't melt in her mouth, and she purrs so under his hand when he plans their little home that it is no wonder that he believes that he is getting a household angel.

Is it any wonder when these two people get married, and drop the lovely masques that they have been holding up in front of their faces, and see each other as they really are, that there should be trouble? I once heard a woman say that she felt as is she were a bigamist, because the man she was married to was so different from the man that she thought she was marrying. Without doubt, the majority of marriages might be annulled on the ground that a different bride or bridegroom was substituted at the altar for the one that the man or woman thought he or she was marrying.

If marriage is a failure because men and women deceive each other as to what they really are, it is also a failure because men and women do not deal honestly with each other in regard to the conditions of matrimony. It is, as you may say, a skin game in which neither the principals nor the prospectus is on the level.

A Hand-Painted Dream Fools the Girl.

When a man is courting a girl, in speaking of their future life he deals in glittering generalities. He may tell her that he is poor and that they will have to live in a vine-wreathed cottage, and the girl translates this to mean about a $75-a-month suburban home, full of white enameled furniture and rose-strewn chintzes—the real imported English kind you know.

He doesn't come down to brass tacks as he should, and say: "Look here Maude, if you marry me you will have to live in a four-roomed flat in Harlem and do your own cooking, and make your own hats and dresses, and scrap with the butcher, and inch and pinch and scrinch and have no amusement except my society and a walk in the park on Sundays.

"Now, do you think you love me enough to pass up everything else for the joy of being at my side?"

Nor does a girl give a man a chance to withdraw on this safe side of the altar by telling him that she is one of the light-minded, frivolous sort of women that has got to have fine clothes, no matter if she works her husband to death or drives him to stealing to get them and that she is a charter member of the race suicide club, and that she means to devote her life to bridge instead of babies.

When the Show-Down Comes, Love Flies Away.

Is it any wonder that, when a man marries the woman who has led him to believe that she is one thing, and finds out that she is another, he falls out of love with her? Is it any marvel that, when the woman who thought she was marrying a man who was a perfect lover discovers that she is united to a grinding tyrant, she ceases to care for him? Is it surprising that matrimony that must be lived under conditions that they never bargain for is full of disillusions to both men and women?

Nor need any one throw up his hands in horror when such people complain to the divorce court. The wonder is that all of the flim-flam couples do not squeal and that so many duped, deceived men and women are dead game sports, who stand by their sorry bargains to the end.

One of the great remedies for the divorce evil would be for men and women who are thinking of getting married, to try to deal honestly by each other and by themselves, in the days of courtship.

THE TIMES INQUIRY COLUMN

Answers to Questions Asked by Its Readers

Starchy Vegetables.

A. C. B., Fort Yates, N. Dak.—Nearly all vegetables contain a certain amount of starch. The potato is preeminently the starchy vegetable, however, and, as is the case with all plants which contain starch, the amount of its starch increases as the vegetable matures. So that old potatoes contain more starch than new ones. Other starchy vegetables are peas, beans, and turnips. Bread, of course, contains a large quantity of starch.

The Spanish Pretender.

E. A. E.—The Spanish pretender to the throne is the grandson of Don Carlos, who was a brother of Ferdinand VII, King of Spain. The only child of Ferdinand was a daughter, borne him by his fourth wife. Inasmuch as it was unconstitutional for a woman to reign in Spain, the law was reversed, and the daughter of Ferdinand occupied the throne. The present pretender claims that the throne should have descended to the heirs of Ferdinand's brother, Don Carlos, instead of to the heirs of Ferdinand's daughter. These claims, however, have not been, and are not, recognized by the court of Spain.

2. At a dinner, the salad is served just after the vegetable course and just before the dessert. At a luncheon, it may be served either after the bouillon or later, just preceding the dessert.

Go-Carts and Go-Baskets.

Mrs. W. W. C., 3642 Eleventh street northwest.—What you describe is not a go-cart, as you mistakenly call it. It is known as a "go-basket." It runs on two wheels, and can be folded and taken on a street car. You will have to purchase the go-basket direct from the manufacturer. If you care for the address of the factory from which a go-basket may be obtained, I shall be glad to learn it for you and send you the information upon receipt of a self-addressed envelope.

About Bleached Hair.

C. E.—The inquiry department of the Woman's Page of The Times does not give recipes for dyeing auburn hair blonde, or for changing any other color of hair. Not only does bleaching and dyeing ruin the hair, and destroy the healthful condition of the scalp, but bleached hair is a mark of unrefinement which I am sure you will wish to avoid when you think it over.

Address Is Given.

M. N.—The address of the company which you ask for is 115 Nassau street, New York City.

Chocolate Macaroons.

Inquirer—To make chocolate macaroons use one ounce of rice flour, one pound of sugar, half a pound of almonds, half an ounce of unsweetened chocolate, chopped nut meats, six whites of eggs, and half teaspoonful vanilla extract.

Pound the almonds in a mortar with the whites of eggs until the mixture feels smooth, then add sugar, rice flour and extract, and beat with a spoon until the mixture is white and soft. Dissolve the chocolate and add it to the other ingredients.

With a bag and plain tube, force the mixture on to baking sheets covered with wafer paper, and sprinkle thickly with the chopped nuts. Bake until firm underneath.

CUSTARD JELLY.

For another dessert, simple and yet good, make a quart of soft custard and stiffen it while yet warm with a half box of gelatin dissolved in a little cold water. Smooth and cool it at the same time by slow stirring. Now beat stiff the whites of the eggs used, fold them in, flavor according to preference, and set them in a mold. Serve with cream or with preserves around it in the form of a ring.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT FRECKLES

Freckles are fickle things.

They will distribute themselves over the face of a thirteen-year-old boy until his countenance looks like a bran mash.

Later in life they will desert him utterly and give him no excuse for wearing whiskers.

Young ladies who have freckles are always saying: "I freckle so easily!"

This conveys the idea that their skins are as thin as tissue paper and that they are frail, gentle creatures.

Young ladies who do not have freckles mention the fact modestly yet proudly.

This conveys the idea that they have perfect complexions.

Freckles, however, fall alike upon the just and the unjust. There are many scientific explanations of freckles, but none of the explanations clears up the freckles.

Freckles may easily be removed. A sharp knife will take them off, but the deep-seated one have to be pulled with a corkscrew.—Chicago Post.

PLUMES ARE CLEANED WITH INDIAN MEAL

A woman who has success in cleaning ostrich and other feathers puts a cupful of Indian meal, half a cupful of flour, and three level tablespoonfuls of borax into a paper bag, and with it one large or two or three small feathers.

These she shakes about until the soil has disappeared from the feathers, and then she shakes them free from the mixture. Fine knitted wool articles and laces are sometimes cleaned in this way.

NOT HARD TO STOP CRYING OF BABY

Newpop—My wife went shopping yesterday and left me to take care of the baby.

Oldwed—You have my sympathy, old man. Bet you had the time of your life trying to keep him quiet.

Newpop—On the contrary, I found it dead easy. The little fellow never let out a howl in three hours.

Oldwed—Say; how did you manage it?

Newpop—Oh, I merely gagged him, tied his hands behind his back, bound his feet together, nailed his clothes to the floor, and then chloroformed him.—Chicago News.

Daily Horoscope

"The stars incline, but do not compel."

Tuesday, August 30, 1910.

Now fitful winds essay
To drive thy bark astray.

MERCURY is in the greatest eastward elongation on this day. The moon, holding Mars in benefic aspect, enters a sign that is held by astrology to rule largely for vacillating purpose, weakness of will and moods and changes.

There should be a determined resolution this day to cultivate staying power, steadiness and concentration on any subject that is in hand.

In dealing with persons known to be of variable mind of fitful ideas, all things should be clearly and precisely understood and they should be pinned down to clear agreements.

Women must sedulously avoid flirtation and coquetry today.

There is an evil sign over intrigue, caprice and mockery.

Mars rules favorable for persons suffering from physical ill or from mental worry. There should be good results from brave efforts to gain cure or alleviation.

Travel for health, short journeys for rest, changes of environment or routine for the sake of relief are all under good signs.

Persons wearied by overwork or responsibilities should find it possible today to shake off many unimportant details that have been permitted to weigh them down.

The Sun and Saturn hold relative places suggesting that they who deal exclusively in money or have ambitions that are altogether mercenary should be prepared for an unfortunate period of some duration. For commerce and industry, however, the conjunction is exceedingly good, making for stability in trade, openness of bargaining, and success and gold for those who give value for what they receive.

The time is good also for granting favors, seeking and giving employment and bestowing charity.

Mercury moves into a place that is held to be well for all efforts to gain publicity. Advertisers, sales-people, agents, and canvassers should benefit and those who write are under a kindly star.

Favor lies on all who deal in food stuffs or who are concerned in any way with brewing, bottling, distilling, stewing, preserving, canning, baking, and cooking.

These ensuing forty-eight hours are marked as good for fishing.

In the household the sign is favorable for hiring maids.

Persons with this birth-date are under stars that suggest that they will profit during the twelvemonth by not placing too high a value on outward appearances, dress, and rank.

Children born today are under signs that often grant success in public service but also incline their subjects to moodiness and fitfulness.

PRICES CLIMBING IN THE MARKETS

Return of Vacationers Brings Marked Advance In Vegetables and Produce.

With the return of the thousands who spent their summers away from the city, the produce market is rapidly growing stronger.

Nearly all the truck garden produce today shows a marked advance over last week. Corn which was selling as low as 8 cents a dozen last week is now bringing 18 and 20 cents; tomatoes which had been at 8 and 10 cents, now from 12 upward. Beans, celery, beets, lettuce, egg plants, and lima beans also, are higher than last week.

Eggs continue to rise and are now selling at from 28 to 30 cents a dozen. Poultry remains the same as last week, except for a drop of one-half cent on ducks. Butter is selling at from 30 to 38 cents a pound.

CLAIM POCAHONTAS AS TRIBAL MOTHER

The announcement that a monument costing $5,000 will be constructed soon in memory of Pocahontas brings to light the fact that the descendants of the tribe of which the aistoric Indian girl was a member still remain on the banks of the Pamunkey river, in the wilds of northern Virginia.

There may be found prototypes of the girl who saved the life of John Smith, and there is enacted each year a reproduction of that incident. The Indians array themselves in costumes and portray the scenes of the early times with accuracy. These Indians take pride in living apart from other Indians and in preserving the traditions of their forefathers.

The tepee has given way to the lumber-built house and the redskins have come to live much as the palefaces do, but the legends of their ancestors are repeated with reverence, and the Indians seek to live up to them. The tribe has 110 members.—Indianapolis News.

FINE SALAD MADE OF CANNED SALMON

From canned salmon or a boiled leftover the fresh fish a delicious salad is available for a warm day's luncheon.

Flake a pound of it into small pieces with a silver fork. Mix carefully into this a tablespoonful each of capers, olives, and gherkin pickles chopped fine. Arrange the mixture on white lettuce leaves, garnish with the yolks of hard boiled eggs and cover with mayonnaise. Decorate with little touches of aspic jelly if this is at hand.

This is a foreign recipe "choicely good."

On a day when a rather substantial course is wanted to accompany the roast try the following original recipe of peppers with pasta: One quart of tomatoes, three peppers sliced fine. Let them simmer together two hours. Boil tender in salted water a package of spaghetti and brown well three good sized onions in a little rendered beef suet. When the spaghetti is tender drain it, add tomatoes and onions. Let boil two minutes. Serve with grated cheese.

FISH CREAM GOOD FOR THE DIGESTION

A dainty which may be substituted for the meat course with benefit to the digestion on these dog days is fish cream.

Pick the cold cooked fish free of skin and bones and pass it throught the meat chopper. To two cups of this add one cup of milk which has been poured while boiling hot over one cup of bread crumbs and allowed to stand fifteen minutes. Season with half a teaspoonful of minced chives or parsley. Add two tablespoonfuls of melted butter and two beaten eggs. Pour the mixture into a greased mold and steam for thirty minutes. Serve on a hot platter.

Or the family might be tempted with a delicate chicken loaf made from leftover portions from a cold cooked fowl. Chop the meat and to a pint of it add a cup of thick white sauce, seasoning to taste. Line a mold with boiled rice, and while the rice is still hot put in the chicken. Press well, spread rice over the top and bake in a pan of water half an hour. Unmold and serve with cream or tomato sauce or surround with chicken gravy thickened.

BUTTERMILK CAKE.

Beat together one cup of butter, three cups of sugar, and the yolks of four eggs. Add three cups of buttermilk, and five cups of flour sifted with one-half teaspoonful of soda.

Then add well-beaten whites of the eggs, and flavor with lemon or coffee extract and cinnamon.

Bake forty-five minutes.

SPONGE DROPS FROSTED.

Two eggs beaten, one cupful of sugar beaten with eggs; one cupful flour with one teaspoonful baking-powder beaten in well, one teaspoonful lemon extract, and one-half cupful boiling milk, also beaten in. Bake in gem pans, cupcake tins or square tins.

Frosting—one cupful powdered sugar, two tablespoonfuls butter, two teaspoonfuls butter, two teaspoonfuls cocoa, one teaspoonful vanilla and two tablespoonfuls hot coffee.

BOILED BEEF TONGUE.

Soak the tongue over night in cold water. Drain, cover with fresh cold water, and add enough, vinegar to make slightly acid. Add a few cloves and peppercorns, and boil till very tender.

Let cool in the water in which it was boiled. Drain, remove the skin, and cut in slices when cold.

OKRA GUMBO.

One chicken, half a cupful of salt pork fat, two sliced onions, three cupfuls strained tomatoes, one teaspoonful sassafras powder, fourteen okra pods sliced, a little salt and red pepper.

Dress the fowl and cut it in pieces for serving. Put the pork fat into a frying pan; when hot add onion, seasoned chicken, and cook until fowl is brown and tender; add remaining ingredients and cook for one and a half hours.

ORIGIN OF GYPSY TITLE.

Many suggestions have been made to explain the term Rom or Romani, applied to the gypsies. The last is that of Leo Winer, in the Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society for April. He points out that the name is current in Christian countries only, Europe, America, and Armenia. From the law of Charlemagne it appears that the gypsies pretended to be pilgrims, and their name was usually connected with that of Rome. Utimately, he thinks, it originated in the Greek "erimites," a hermit, and that when the popular etymology connected all hermits and pilgrims with Rome, all other terms designating pilgrims were so transformed as to bring them in keeping with this new idea.—Indianapolis News.

ALFALFA IS USED AS CURATIVE AGENT

Alfalfa has found a way into the doctor's office as a curative agent. Dr. Marian N. Clark, of Los Angeles, claims that there are remarkable curative qualities in the grass and its blossom. She tells of success in prescribing alfalfa juice for the nerves and claims that it is one of the wonders for waking people up out of lethargy and making them feel like working harder.

Also that a few tablets of alfalfa will cure men of the smoking habit and take them out of the jimjams and into sound reason and good bodily health in a remarkably short time. She uses the grass reduced to small bulk, though in some cases she admits that men are so foolish about their habits that she might make a mistake and prescribe the alfalfa in the hay form, as though it were for other donkeys.—Worcester Telegram.

KEEPING WINDOW SHADES.

When the window shades have become old, worn, and cracked, they may be made to look like new and last for many years. Lay the shades flat on the floor and paint them with any color of oil paint desired. This can be purchased at the hardware store in small cans. First paint one side, and when dry turn them over and paint the other side. When they become soiled they may be washed off.

CURE FOR HICCOUGHS.

Hiccoughs are distinctly mortifying to the victim. As they are signs of poor digestion, and may mean bad stomach trouble if of frequent occurrence, they should be treated medicinally. For temporary cures try gradually dissolving a small lump of sugar on the tongue. Slow sipping of water is also good, or gargling the throat with ice water.

A FAT REDUCER.

Before starting to starve or drug off your extra layers of fat try the effect of this simple exercise which is a great reducer of adipose tissue. Standing with knees close together, rise on the tips of the toes, and, at the same time, elevate the chest and force down the palms of the hands as if pushing hard on a board. Bend the hands up slightly so the muscular strain comes on the fleshy part of hand close to the wrist.

USE DRAWN WORK ON YOUR BLOUSE

If something new be your aim in matter of the ornamentation of a blouse, drawn work is suggested by some of the most successful makers as an effective relief from the perennial insertion or embroidery.

The coarse meshes so much in use this season offer stability and an unusual coolness, to which characteristics is added the easy "drawing" quality.

When marquisette or voile is drawn and worked with coarse linen thread in some of the simpler drawn-work patterns, the decorative value is wonderfully increased. Squares, lines, and pointed plastrons are attainable, and when the whole blouse is built over a contrasting color to bring it into harmony with the skirt, the result is decidedly successful.

LOCAL MENTION.

Don't Worry About Qualities when you buy furniture at Grogan's. Give your purchases the test of actual use, and if any defect should appear it will be remedied to your satisfaction, or the article replaced without question.—Advt.

Harvey's Restaurant, 11th & Pa. ave., announces the opening of their upper floors on Monday, Aug. 29, same having been closed for decoration and renovation. All old friends and visitors invited. The usual select menu will be served, in addition to the famous Harvey Restaurant.

Moose Convention—Balt., Aug. 22-26. Grand Carnival and Street Parade, Wed., eve., 8 p. m. Low rates and cool, clean, comfortable service via the Electric Line.

Wanted—Everyone To Know We Darn Socks free. Star Laundry Co., 1315-1317 14th St. N. W.

"For Automobile Eye Insurance, Ask Druggist for Murine Eye Remedy."

Bedtime Stories

SAMMIE AND SUSIE LITTLETAIL

By HOWARD R. GARIS

SAMMIE AND THE BLACK DOGGIE.

ONE day, when Sammie Littletail was on his way home from Dr. Possum's house, where he had gone to get some sweet-flag root, for Uncle Wiggily Longear's rheumatism, something happened to the little boy rabbit. He was coming through a big field, where the grass was quite high, when he heard a little bark. He knew at once that it was a dog, and Sammie was afraid of dogs, as all rabbits are, so he started to run. But the dog called out:

"Don't run, little rabbit."

"Why not?" asked Sammie. "I'm afraid of you."

"But I won't hurt you," went on the dog.

"You might," answered Sammie. "Dogs always hurt rabbits."

"Not all dogs," continued the little black one. "Besides, I am what they call a doggie. A doggie is a small dog, you know, and small dogs won't hurt rabbits."

"Are you sure?" asked Sammie.

"Perfectly sure. Besides, I am a trick dog, and trick dogs are so well fed at home that they do not have to hunt rabbits to eat."

"Are you sure?" asked Sammie again.

"Perfectly sure. You just watch me, and you will see that I do not eat you. Watch me carefully."

"Oh, I meant are you sure that you are a trick dog," went on Sammie.

"Of course, I am sure. I can do lots of tricks. I can play dead. I can turn a back somersault, and I can walk on my hind legs——"

"Oh, I can do that, too," interrupted Sammie.

"Yes, I know. I saw you do that a little while ago. But can you walk on your front legs, with your hind ones up in the air? Now, can you do that?" and the black doggie looked straight at Sammie.

"I never tried that," replied Sammie.

"No; and I guess you'd better not, unless you want to fall. I fell lots of times before I learned it. But I can do it now, and every time I do my master gives me a sweet cracker."

"What's a sweet cracker?" asked Sammie, who thought it sounded very nice.

"Don't you know what a sweet cracker is?" asked the doggie, who was much surprised.

"No, I don't," declared Sammie.

"Well, you ought to. I'm astonished at you. It's sweet, and it's a cracker, that's all I can tell you. You ought to know such things yourself."

"Look here!" cried Sammie, who thought the doggie was trying to show how smart it was, "do you know what molasses carrots are?"

"No," said doggie. "I don't believe there are any such things."

"Yes, there are," declared Sammie. "I have had them to eat. So, you see, if I don't know what a sweet cracker is, you don't know what molasses carrots are. We're even now."

"Oh, let's talk about something else," said the doggie, quickly. "I will show you some of my tricks, if you like."

"I would like to see them very much," answered Sammie, politely.

So the little black doggie walked on his hind legs, and then he walked on his front legs. Next, he played dead, and Sammie was quite frightened, until with a bark the doggie jumped up and turned three back somersaults, one after the other, just as easy as you can upset the salt-cellar. After that he made believe to say his prayers, and rolled over and sneezed like any boy or girl, it was so natural.

Sammie was becoming very much interested, for the doggie's trick were almost as good as those Sammie had seen at the circus, when, all at once, who should come along but a big man. He whistled to the little black doggie, and the doggie, who was trying to stand on the end of his tail, got down and ran to the man. Sammie was so frightened that he ran, too, only he ran home.

Sammie told his papa and mamma and Susie and Uncle Wiggily what had happened to him, and they told him he must be careful not to go near black doggies again.

"Oh," promised Sammie, "I won't, you may be sure. But, Uncle Wiggily, are squirrels all right to play with?"

"Oh, yes, squirrels are very nice," said his uncle. "Why, did you see some?"

"Yes, I met two, and they said their names were Billie and Johnnie Bushytail, and they are coming over to see me some time."

"That will be nice," remarked Susie. "May I play with them, too?"

"I guess so," replied Sammie. "But, mamma, I'm hungry. Isn't there anything to eat?"

"You can have some bread and butter," said his mamma.

"With sugar on?" asked Sammie.

"We are all out of sugar," went on Mrs. Littletail. "You must run to the store for some."

"I will," promised Sammie, "after I eat something."

"All out of sugar," remarked Uncle Wiggily. "That reminds me, I must make some maple sugar soon. I will have it when Billie and Johnny Bushytail come over to see you; or, perhaps before then, if you are good children." So Sammie and Susie said they would be good, and in another book after this one, I'm going to tell you about Billie and Johnny Bushytail, the little boy squirrels, and what they did. They lived near Sammie and Susie Littletail. But the story next time will be about Uncle Wiggily making maple sugar.