

Jimmy's Lesson.

How Jimmy Learned to Be Kind to the Toads.

Coming along the street the other day I saw three little boys stoning a toad. Before I could speak, Professor Selton came by and said: "Why, Jimmie, what have you there? A common toad? Just what I want tomorrow for my lecture at the summer school," and he skillfully picked up the toad. "By the way," he added, "tomorrow I shall need some help with my toads. Can't you three come down to the university and help me?"

I never saw Jimmy look more surprised, but he managed to say he could, while the others barely nodded. "The work is easy," the professor said. "Come to my office at a quarter before three sharp and I will tell you what to do."

I was disappointed that he did not speak to the boys about their cruelty, but decided he thought it better to wait until he should have them alone.

When I went to the lecture the next day I expected to meet those boys coming out of Professor Selton's office looking so ashamed and so very, and—well looking as if they never wanted to see a toad again. Surely Professor Selton, fond as he was of toads, would talk to them, I thought.

The very first thing I did see when I entered the university was those same boys, not, however, hurrying out the side door but in a little procession entering the lecture room and, yes, actually mounting the platform! Professor Selton himself was at the head of the line! Each boy carried in his hand a large box made of glass and wire netting. Every box had a toad in it, and each boy put his box on the table and took a chair which Professor Selton placed in front of the box.

I could not see that the boys were the least help. They watched the toads, to be sure, but what was the use of doing that? The toads could not get out. Just as Professor Selton was ready to begin his lecture, his assistant came an with insect net and two small boxes. The end of the insect net was black with flies which he emptied into Jimmy's box. Lifting the glass top of the others, he put in something from a pasteboard box, but I could not see what it was.

Professor Selton told us a great many interesting things about toads, but those boys simply sat and stared at their toads. Jimmy Ashley looked up only once and that was when the professor said something I could hardly believe. "If the housekeepers would keep tame toads, they would do away with the endless bother of flies." Toads are better than all the fly traps and insect powder ever invented.

Very soon after saying that he closed his lecture and turned to the table. "These boys," he said to the class, "have been keeping count of what their toads have eaten during the hour. Johnny's toad has potato-bugs in the box. How many has he eaten Johnny?"

"Not any," responded Johnny despondently.

"Tom's has elm beetles. What is his record?"

"Twenty-eight," was the reply.

"And Jimmy's has flies: Has he eaten a good many?"

"Sixty-six," said Jimmy triumphantly.

Then Jimmy got up and sidled over to the professor. "He ate something else," he said in a loud and impressive whisper. "He ate his skin."

"When? This last hour? Why didn't you tell us what he was doing?" asked the professor, eagerly.

"I couldn't stop," answered Jimmy. "I was afraid I'd loose a fly."

The professor looked a bit disappointed and then laughed. "Never mind," he said. "You have seen something that perhaps none of the class have ever seen or ever will see. Tell us about it."

"It wasn't much," said Jimmy. "His old skin began to crack—began right on the back of his head—and it cracked all down his back, and then it came off."

"In strips," asked the professor. "Or was it in little pieces?"

"Oh, no; like—like—like a glove," said Jimmy. "Then he rolled it up and swallowed it." The children were listening eagerly.

"That's all right," said the professor. "It is just what toads do. When they outgrow a suit they take it off and pack it away in that easy fashion." Then he wrote on the blackboard the records, and for Jimmy's toad he wrote:

66 flies

1 Spring Suit.

Everybody laughed, even Jimmy.

As I was leaving the lecture-room I heard Jimmy ask the professor about tame toads.

"The best way, I think," said Professor Selton, "would be to take a piece of wire screen cloth and roll it to make a circular pen about a foot across and of the same height. If you put that down on the ground by the back screen door, your toad will eat the flies, so that you will not have half the bother about that screen door that you do now." As he said this his eyes were merry.

Jimmy smiled. How did the professor know his trials over that door?

"You'll have to be careful about food and a bathing place, you know," added the professor.

"Yes, sir," said Jimmy, "but all that wouldn't be as much bother as keeping out the flies without the toad's help. May I take the toad with the summer suit on? I'll take real good care of him and bring him over whenever you want him."

—Youth's Companion.

Those Popular Sunday Rates Again in Effect On "The Katy."

The M. K. & T. Ry., will sell return tickets to all points within 50 miles of Monroe at one fare for the round trip to all trains after 9 p. m. Saturday nights, and for all trains Sunday. Tickets good returning for trains of Sunday night. J. F. BLAKEY, Agent.

F. M. Wolf, living near Stone Station, Indiana, who has been dumb for more than two years, has recovered his speech as the result of chewing tobacco. Two years and a half ago Wolf was struck by lightning and until last Sunday was unable to utter a sound.

Monuments.

Before buying that monument for the grave of a departed friend see Thomas & Shearman. They will make the price and you will be pleased with their work.

Letter to J. M. Proctor, Monroe City, Mo.

DEAR SIR: Perhaps you are going to paint your house, and don't believe in Devoe. We'll make you an offer.

Paint half your house lead oil, the other half Devoe Ready Paint.

In three years the lead and oil part will be hungry for paint; The Devoe half will turn water as well as when new.

If not, our agent will stand by this:

"If you have any fault to find with this paint, either now or hereafter in the wear tell your dealer about it."

"We authorize him to do what is right at our expense."

Devoe Ready Paint holds color better than lead; turns water twice as long.

Yours truly,

F. W. DEVOE & Co.

He Learned a Great Truth.

It is said of John Wesley that he once said to Mrs. Wesley: "Why do you tell that child the same thing over and over?" "John Wesley, because once telling is not enough." It is for this same reason that you are told again and again that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy cures cold and grip, that it counteracts any tendency of these diseases to result in pneumonia, and that it is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all druggists.

Saturday morning we had a hearty laugh at a gentleman who wrote us and used one of the Missouri State Senate letter heads. In the upper left hand corner, over the seal of the state was "John A. Lee, President." He had carefully drawn his pen through the name John A. Lee.

New Games

A FREE game inside each package of

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Alex's Sugar.

Alex. Grady, the polite all-around gallant and ladies' man, does not know sugar from salt and that is why Mrs. Earl Janes, of Florida, thought Alex, fond of sweet things. Mr. Janes and wife went away from home and left Alex, to look after things during their absence. A gentleman brought twelve mules there and left them for Mr. Janes. Alex, thought they looked like they needed salt, and going into the kitchen he found a jar on the table and taking a gallon of something out of it gave it to the mules. He said he never saw mules eat salt as fast as they did that, but when Mrs. Janes came home he learned to amazement that he had sugared instead of salting the critters.

Street and Dress Hats at reduced prices at Miss Tудie Swinkey's.

Reflections of a Bachelor.

Generally the family skeleton is the liveliest thing in the family.

It is almost as dangerous to a man's morals to go into politics as to go into Wall street.

The only thing that keeps women from paying more for hats than they do is that more is not asked.

The real reason why a woman secretly admires a man's brain power is that he can read a railroad time table.

A man gets sleepy very early when his wife wants to spend the evening talking over their honeymoon.

The way to be happily married is to be in a novel.

To advertise your confidence to the world, give it to a woman.

It is the man who has been fooled the oftenest by women who knows that a widow would not do any such thing to him—New York Press.

Taxes.

County Clerk McKay has just completed the railroad tax book and below is given the valuation and the amount of taxes paid by the railroad, bridge, telegraph and telephone companies in Marion county: The total assessed valuation is \$1,519,187. State taxes paid \$2,734.47. County and municipal taxes, \$19,366.94. Total tax, \$22,101.41.—Hannibal Journal Palmyra correspondent.

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