

### "FATHER'S COMING TO DINNER!"

MOTHER is busy at the kitchen fire, and Sarah is setting the table. Father will be in before long, and he likes to see the table set neatly, and not have it all bustle and hurry when he comes.

Sarah is neat and ready. This her mother taught her to be, and it is a great lesson for young people to learn. "Have a place for everything, and everything in its place," is a good old maxim.

Look at the girls you know. There is Hetty Marvin: when she comes in from school, down goes her hat in this corner, and her books in that; off she flies through the door, but finds that her shawl is in the way, so she hangs it on the door-knob. When she wants to sit down, at last, to study her lessons, the whole house is in an uproar.

"Where are my books?" she cries, "I am sure I put them on my own table."

"Are you very sure, Sis?" her brother Jack asks, in a taunting voice. "If you did, I think it must have been the first time in your life. Seems to me I know where they are. What will you give me if I tell you?"

"You are real mean. I dare say you hid them away," she answers, in a pet, as she goes off on her hunt, and at last finds them in the corner behind the front door. How much better to be like Sarah, thoughtful for others. She is neat and careful, because she knows that it will give her father pleasure. When she sees anything out of place she sets it where it should be, and love makes all her labor light.

### GOOD TEMPER.

NO trait of character is more valuable than the possession of a good temper. Home can never be made happy without it. It is like flowers springing up in our pathway, reviving and cheering us.

### THE ANCIENT ANIMALS OF THE VALLEY OF THE THAMES.

THOUGH Britain is now an island, it was not always so. The researches of geologists show that it was once united to the continent of Europe. The fossil remains of animals discovered in many parts of England are the same as those found in France, and a species of freshwater mussel, now extinct in this country, still lives in the river Seine. The flint implements, too, which prove that even at that early age human beings existed on the earth, though there was no historian to chronicle their deeds, are found to be of a similar type in England and France, and seem to show that, at a far distant time, the same race of people inhabited both countries. But these men were not our ancestors; they died out, or were exterminated by the influx of tribes superior to them in intelligence, and the shape of their skulls, which have been dug up out of the gravel beds in France, shows that they belonged to a different race from any now inhabiting either country.

At that time the valley of the Thames must have presented a very different aspect from what it does now, and it is supposed that our river was then a tributary of the Rhine. The vegetation was of much the same character as at present, for, after lasting countless ages, the great Tertiary period had come to an end; England was no longer covered with groves of palm-trees and tropical ferns, and the strange animals of the Paris basin were already extinct. The temperature, that had been gradually cooling, at length became so cold that what is known as the Glacial period, or age of ice, ensued. After a long interval, the climate grew warm again, and it was at this time that man came into existence: at least we may conclude so, for there are no certain vestiges of human beings before the age of ice. The forest trees such as we still now have, appeared, and dense forests of oak and elm and thickets of alder grew to the water's edge. The climate too was probably not very different to what it is now, except that the winter was colder and the summer hotter than in our day.

But if the trees on the banks of the Thames were of the same kind as at present, it was far otherwise with the animal kingdom, for the gigantic mammoth browsed on the young shoots of the oak, whose branches gave shelter to troops of apes, whilst the woolly rhinoceros wallowed in the mud and the huge hippopotamus came swimming up the river. The wild horse and the ass scoured the plains, and herds of bisons and wild bulls roamed through the woods, that at night echoed with the cries of the hyena or the growling of immense tigers. There were several distinct species of rhinoceri natives of Britain and other parts of Europe, but they were not all co-existent. They first appear about the middle of the tertiary period, but the species that lived then appears to have given place to other kinds. Of these the woolly rhinoceros, which had two horns, was the most common, and its remains have been found in an entire state in the ice of northern Asia. Besides its woolly coat it had another peculiarity, which does not exist in every living species—its nostrils were separated by a bony partition, and hence it is called the *Rhinoceros tichorinus*. There was also a smaller and more slender species, which had two horns, and another kind, no larger than a hog. The hippopotamus, of which there were two species, did not differ much from that of Africa. Its bones have been found, together with those of the rhinoceros, in excavating the gravel at Charing Cross, Waterloo Place, the London Docks, Bethnal Green, and many other parts of London; and a jaw-bone of a hippopotamus, armed with a formidable pair of tusks, was dug up at Peckham, and is now in the geological collection of the British Museum.

It was at the close of the tertiary period, and just before the appearance of man, that many of the animals appeared which still inhabit Britain, such as the hog and the horse; but the first horses were very small, being no larger than the ass: there are no fossil remains of such horses as we see now-a-days. One species of the deer was of gigantic size, and there was a large serpent, and the caves were the abode of huge bears, that exceeded the grizzly bear of North America in size; and a terrible creature, called the *machairodus*, now totally extinct, preyed on the denizens of the woods. Flocks of birds flew through

the air, and vultures brooded on the rocks. Beavers constructed their dwellings in the stream, and were not extinct till historic times.

In the valley of the Thames the remains of both arctic and tropical animals are found, and the reindeer, glutton, musk-sheep, and even the lemming, once frequented Britain. It might be imagined that these animals lived at different periods, but the bones of hippopotami are found with those of the reindeer, and it is probable that as England was then united to the Continent, and the land continuous, the animals migrated according to the change of the seasons, and the hippopotamus swam up the rivers from France and Spain. The reindeer extended its wanderings as far as the south of France, where it was at one time very numerous.

Amid the multitude of savage animals which then swarmed in these countries, the primitive human beings must have led a precarious existence. Armed only with flint-headed arrows and axes, or bone-pointed spears, they doubtless frequently fell a prey to the tiger or the terrible cave-bear. Their skeletons show that they were a small race of men, with round heads and low foreheads, and very prominent ridges over the orbit of the eye. They were probably something like the Eskimo or Laplanders, and their lives were spent in hunting or in resisting the attacks of wild beasts.

A. R.



### THE CIRCUS HORSE AT ASTLEY'S.



CAPTAIN BROWN in his *Anecdotes* thus describes a Spanish horse that used to perform in the amphitheatre at Astley's:—

"This docile animal in his public performance in the amphitheatre used to ungirth his own saddle, wash his feet in a pail of water, fetch and carry a complete tea equipage, with other strange things, and he would even take a kettle of boiling water from off a blazing fire. The late manager of the amphitheatre was very fond of this animal, which was so gentle and teachable; and when from age the horse had lost all his teeth, and was unable to masticate his corn, he was fed upon bread; and at last died at the age of forty-two years."



### THE CAT O' NINE TAILS (TAILS).

TO SISSIE ON HER NINTH BIRTHDAY.

#### TALE I.

I ASKED a cat, gray, old, and sage,  
If she cou'd tell me Sissie's age;  
The cat replied evasively,  
"Greet her to-day with three times three."

#### TALE II.

Not quite content, I asked the cat  
If she could tell me more than that;  
She said, "Three rows of pins at play,  
That is the secret of the day."

#### TALE III.

"You trifle, wise old cat," I said;  
But Pussy merely shook her head,  
And calmly mew'd, "Her age, be sure, is  
Just thrice the number of the Furies."

#### TALE IV.

"Furies and cats are friends, I trow,"  
Said I, and made a graceful bow.  
"You grow unpleasant, sir," said she;  
"Then multiply the Fates by three."

#### TALE V.

"Madam," I said, "you have referred  
To folk who don't exist." She purred.  
"I thought," said she, "you'd find excuses;  
Then count the number of the Muses."

#### TALE VI.

"Why, who could count your *mews*?" said I.  
"You dunce!" cried she, with kindling eye,  
"Your dulness sends me into fidgets;  
Then take the last of all the digits."

#### TALE VII.

I said, "My summing powers are weak."  
She snarled, — her voice assumed a shriek, —  
"He never wins who never strives;  
Then count the number of my lives."

#### TALE VIII.

"I can't," I cried, in sheer despair.  
The cat was screaming in the air, —  
"Then see my tails," — she rose in state, —  
"And you deserve to feel their weight."

#### TALE IX.

Just then, within an opening door,  
Behold a blaze of splendor pour!  
The cat is gone, the tapers shine,  
I cry, "Dear little Siss benign!" (Be nine.) W.

### THE ERNE, OR SEA EAGLE.

A HALIBUT, a large flat fish like a turbot, reposing near the surface of the water, was seen by an erne, which pounced down and struck his talons into the fish with all his force. Should the halibut be too strong, the eagle, it is said, is sometimes, but rarely, drowned in the struggle. In this case, however, as more frequently happens, the bird overcame the fish; he remained upon it when dead as if he were floating on a raft, and then spreading out his wide wings, he made use of them as sails, and was driven by the wind towards the shore.