

their mother had to bring her own wood; and half the time they would not come home to dinner, nor was it unusual for them to go off before breakfast. Naturally, the boys were not favorites in the neighborhood. "If Mrs. Douglass don't put reins on them kids of hern they'll be hung some day," one neighbor predicted. "She lets 'em run plumb wild. I don't see what they do in the woods all the time noway."

But this man did not look with their eyes. Every creature attracted their attention. For some reason they gave new names to many of these. They called wasps "gaskers" and wood peckers "shigews". They found seven kinds of lizards. They named each kind after a member of a family of seven by name of Cated who lived in the neighborhood. They had the Mr. Cated lizard, the Mrs. Cated lizard, the Tommie Cated lizard, and so on down to the baby.

Swimming was another pastime. They went in from two to half a dozen times a day. John was a good swimmer and a good diver. George was a tolerable swimmer but not much good as a diver. Jim could not swim or dive either. He went in, however,, as often as his brothers. He was not afraid. He did not paddle about in the shallow parts of the pond but boldly waded into water up to his chin.

Besides the three little boys Widow Douglass had a grown up son, who was called Will. He was supposed, of course, to look after the farm. Some people claimed he did not do this very well. They said he spent too much time with the girls. Perhaps he did. One morning, at any rate, he announced to his mother and brothers that he was going to get married on the third Sunday in August. "And ma, I want to have the weddin' here," he said. "As there aint nobody but Mary and her pa we couldn't have it at her house very well. You can cook up a little somethin' for us."

It did not take long for the Saturday before the wedding day to come. The boys were kept busy that day helping their mother. They felt tired at night and went to bed early.

About five o'clock next morning George and Jim heard their dog barking somewhere out in the field. The dog had run a rabbit up a hollow tree. They soon twisted it out and