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FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

A SMART DOG.

Mingo Can Tell a Counterfeit Coin From a Good One.

A dog that can unerringly discriminate between a good and a bad coin and never hesitate an instant over a counterfeit that will puzzle his master seems hardly credible. It is more than is generally claimed for dog sense. Nevertheless such is the fact.

The accompanying picture is that of a spitz which is now 7 years old. It goes by the name of Mingo and is the property of C. Harrison, a San Leandro roadhouse keeper. Mr. Harrison has a number of these dogs, but Mingo is the only one that acts as the watchdog of his master's treasury. It is the custom of Mingo as soon as a customer drives up to the door to run out to the vehicle, and, putting his paws on one of the wheels, survey the visitor. Those who know the dog throw the coin in payment of the refreshment sought to Mingo, who immediately catches it up and runs with it to the man in charge. Mingo also goes into the parlor and collects for whatever is served there, and if there happens to be any change coming to the purchaser he takes it back.

One day a would be wag threw the dog a counterfeit dollar, who made his usual rush for the coin, but, to the amazement of the fellow, the dog refused to take up the money and sat expectantly waiting for another. Amid the laughter of his companions he



threw a good coin to the dog, when, to the further astonishment of those present, he ran off with it, leaving the other on the floor. The owner was called in, who knew nothing at that time of the smartness of his dog, and the experiment was repeated again and again, but the counterfeit would not go with Mingo.

Since then—some four years ago—Mingo has had more bad coin tried on him than could be found in the government collection of such coins, and, with an instinct as true as that which takes the magnetic needle to the north, he chooses between the good and bad. If there is any doubt as to a coin offered, it is thrown to the dog, and the master stands by the dog's decision.

This little fellow, "who swears with his tongue and smiles with his tail," is never put to the necessity to rattle the coin on the floor or take it to an electric light to examine it, but in darkness or in light it is ever the same. He will not take up a counterfeit, and the bogus nickel or the leaden dollar, half or quarter he knows in a moment. He has been tested hundreds of times and will pick a good coin out from a dozen bad ones or will leave only the bad ones lying on the ground from a handful thrown him. He is a natural born money maker, grabs at a coin as would a miser, and for a stranger it would be as hard to get it from him.

As a judge of coin he could not be equaled at the subtreasury. He is keenly alive to business and day or night is always awake to the jingle of the merry chink.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Hobson's Choice.

In the time of Shakespeare and Milton it was customary, after the theaters, for gentlemen to ride home on horseback, selecting from the many horses in front of the theaters the best one they could get. The first keeper of the hackney stable at Cambridge, England, Tobias Hobson, conceived a plan of placing his horse in line before the theaters and forcing customers to take them in turn, not allowing them to select. No personal choice, but "Hobson's choice"—that is, this or none—became a by-word.—Success.

Her First Glass of Buttermilk.

Little Daisy was fond of sweet milk. One day a glass of buttermilk was put beside her plate at dinner. She tasted it, put it back on her tray and said: "Mamma, did a bad cow lay this milk?"—New York Times.

A Wise Little Girl.

"Little girl, what have you in your basket?" asked the inquisitive man. "If mother'd wanted everybody to know, she wouldn't have put the lid on so tight," piped the little miss.

If I Were You.

If I a little girl could be—
Well, just like you—
With lips as rosy, cheeks as fair,
Such eyes of blue and shining hair,
What do you think I'd do?
I'd wear so bright and sweet a smile,
I'd be so loving all the while,
I'd be so helpful with my hand,
So quick and gentle to command,
You soon would see
That every one would turn to say,
" 'Tis good to meet that child today!"
Yes, yes, my bird, that's what I'd do
If I were you.

Or, if I chanced to be a boy.

Like some I know,
With crisp curls sparkling in the sun
And eyes all beaming bright with fun—
Ah, if I could be so
I'd strive and strive with all my might
To be so true, so brave, polite,
That in me each one might behold
A hero—as in days of old!
"Wouldn't he a joy
To hear one, looking at me, say,
"My cheer and comfort all the day!"
Yes, if I were a boy I know
I would be so.
—Sydney Dayre in Independent.

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