



CHAPTER II.  
EBENEZER was a boy very much like yourself in several ways. He was not a Sleephead or a Daydreamer, but he was next thing to it. He was nephew of Senator Tuckanap, and a grandson of old General Sourdough—but he'd never admit it. He used to get just as angry when we reminded him that he was quite as much of a Sourdough as a Carrottop, as you were when we called you Sleephead, and when my brother Lefty here said to him, 'Hullo, Ebenezer,' he didn't like it a bit better than you did when we said you were a Sourdough. He insisted that he was a boy, and for all we could do we couldn't get him to admit that he was a Weasel!

He was the most persistent lad I have ever seen.  
He'd always say that had was bad, that blue could not be green.

We couldn't get him to deny that while was always white, and though we'd try and try and try he'd say that he was right.

Interrupted the Left-handron.  
"And wasn't he?" asked Tom.

"That had a part of the story," snapped the Right-handron, "and if you don't stop interrupting me I'll never speak to you again."

"I didn't mean to," said Tom, apologetically.

"That's just the worst part of it," snapped the Andron. "You are an interrupter by nature, and that is the most incurable kind. But, as I was telling you, Ebenezer was a boy, and no amount of talk on our part could convince him that he was a Weasel. Well, Lefty and I were very young then, and up to the time of which I am speaking we had always made our little trips in the Fairy Country or in Glantland by ourselves, and we had lots of fun together. I can warrant. This time, however, we decided to take Ebenezer with us to Glantland, which was a place he had often heard us tell about, and concerning which he was very curious. We told him that it would never do for him to visit Glantland, because the Glants were always very hungry, and liked nothing better to eat than a boy like himself. It would be dangerous for him to go, we said, unless he would promise to obey us in everything we told him to do, and to admit that he was whatever we chose to call him."

"You see, my dear Tom," said the Left-handron in explanation, "the Glants had confidence in us as they accepted as true anything we said, so that if we should happen to meet a hungry one and he should want to eat Ebenezer because he was a boy, all that would be necessary for us to do to save Ebenezer was to say, 'Hold on. He is not a boy. He is a Weasel.' Then Ebenezer would be all right, because Glants do not eat Weasels."

"I see," said Tom, nodding his head.

"Ebenezer promised that he would obey us and wouldn't deny that he was a Weasel if we told the Glants he was one, and we took him off with us," resumed the Right-handron. "We went straight to Glantland and had a perfectly lovely time until about an hour before it was time to return, when we encountered a huge Giant named Skilgh—my, how hungry he was! He was hungrier than Lefty's friend, who went into a restaurant and ordered

"For my lunch will do." Then the waiter standing by in the usual way asked him, "Want you also try our best mouse to-day?"

"I don't want to interrupt," said Tom, "but it seems to me that man must have been awfully rich."

"No, he wasn't," returned Lefty. "He was going to eat the dinner, you know, and then die without paying for it. He wasn't a very good man."

"No," remarked the story-teller. "But he was a very hungry man, in which respect he was just like the giant I am trying to tell you about. And my, how the giant roared with glee when he caught sight of Ebenezer."

"Good!" he cried, "that's just what I wanted for my lunch. A nice fat boy."

"Then he reached down," said the Right-handron, "and grabbed Ebenezer by the arm, and was about to eat him

and rushed back to where Ebenezer was standing.

"What's that you say?" he said eagerly.

"I say I am not a Weasel, but a fine fat boy," said the vainglorious Ebenezer stoutly.

"Then my friends, the Androns, have deceived me, have they?" roared the giant.

"Yes," said Ebenezer. "But I can't stand being called a Weasel!"

"With that," said the Right-handron, "Skilgh clapped Ebenezer into his market basket and then turned on Lefty and me. Lefty managed to get away, but I was caught."

"What did he do to you?" asked Tom, trembling with excitement.

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by clear morning, he had his umbrella up and positively declined to put it down and carry it closed, because, he said, an umbrella couldn't possibly be a cane, and he wasn't going to try to make anybody suppose it was a cane he was carrying.

"I don't see anything in that story to make me unhappy, even if I were a chum of Ebenezer's," said Tom, as the Andron finished.

"You don't? Don't you think it was sad that the Giant couldn't eat a boy who'd behave in that way?" asked Lefty with a scornful glance at Tom.

"It was very sad, Tom," said the Left-handron. "So don't deny it especially if you want to go off with us on our trip to the stars."

"Are you really going to the stars?" gasped Tom, breathless at the very idea and forgetting all about Ebenezer.

"Perhaps," returned the Andron.

"And may I go with you?" whispered Tom.

"You may if you will do whatever we

say," said the Left-handron.

"I'll do that," said Tom.

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to jump out of a well from a depth of 14 feet.

And equally strange things are found among the plants and vegetables. A well-known student of nature once tried the growing force of a squash. When it was 18 days old and measured 2 inches in circumference, he fixed a sort of harness around it, with a long lever attached. The power of the squash was measured by the weight it lifted, the weight being fixed to the lever. When it was 29 days old, two days after the harness was fixed on it, it lifted 500 pounds. On the 19th day it lifted 500 pounds.

The seed of the globe turnip is about the 20th part of an inch in diameter, and yet in the course of a few months this seed will be enlarged by the soil and the air into 2,000,000 times its original bulk, and this in addition to a bunch of leaves. And has been found by experiment that a turnip seed will, under fair conditions, increase in weight 15 times in a minute. Turnips growing in peat ground have been found to increase more than 15,000 times the weight of their seeds in a day.

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