

Pete the Peddler or A Boy's Start in Life



the trunk until she had selected and paid for what she wanted and he was ready to go. Then Pete told her of the conversation he had heard and asked her for further particulars.

PETE'S ears were wide open to the talk of the two women. He was forgotten for the moment, and the farmer's wife asked of Aunt Hannah: "But what did the man want of the old trunk?"



"Nobody knows. He said that it was an old family trunk, and had been sold by mistake, but he probably lied about that."

"That was the end of the conversation. Before Pete went away he asked where the widow Commerford lived, and was told that it was on his road and a mile away. After stopping at two houses, he reached the Commerford farm."

HOW THEY CAPTURED THE GREAT EEL

A GREAT EEL came up out of the sea and killed or drove away all the people in Songs-of-Victory Town. But, after a while, a man who had fled with his family returned, and, with his wife and ten children, began housekeeping in his old home.

of snaws the boys went again to Old Man Heron and asked him what now they should do.

"Why is it that nobody except ourselves lives in this village?" the father told him the story of the Great Eel, and how, at any time, the monster might return and devour them.

Then they turned their canoe, and all together they paddled away for Songs-of-Victory Town.



They pulled the head of Great Eel into the canoe. The eel was so large that it was difficult to handle.

trunk about the house, and so Jim looked it to the barn and filled it with hay and let the setting hens use it.

"What sort of a man was he?" asked Pete.

"He was a keen-looking man and a slick talker. He said that it was a trunk brought over from Holland by his great-grandmother, and he did not want to lose it."

"You might get traces of it?"

and perhaps I may come across the trunk for you."

"Then, you must carefully describe it to me," replied Pete.

And there was another matter that would trouble the old man. Some one else was hunting for that trunk; some one else must know about the papers under the false bottom.

After the boy had puzzled over the matter for a long time he rose up and moved on and tried to dismiss it from his mind.

CAN YOU READ THIS STORY OF LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD?

CHAPTER XVII BY THE THOUGHTFUL GRAN

"& OH, GRANNY! SHE SCREAMED, 'LOOK AT THAT LARGE UGLY FACE!'

4 EAT U, M, GRAYED

HE; & HE RAISED

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK WITH SOLUTION OF CHAP. XVI

SOLUTION OF CHAPTER XV. "Oh, Granny," cried little Red Riding Hood, "what great eyes you have got!"

FOR THE KINGSHIP OF RATLAND

THERE was a fight on, tooth and nail; a great fight for the kingship of Ratland.



beyond the very partition where Sharp-tooth had his front gateway made the spot very desirable.

It seemed absurd that the Sharp-tooths should get such a start in life when they were no better than the Long-tails.

Raven-boy thought he would like very much to attend that feast himself, but his reputation as a mischief-maker was so great that he had doubts as to how he would be received.

"He called out to the Eagle: 'Now, cousin, be my messenger. Go and ask the Chief if I can come to his party.'"

But the Chief said: "No. That Raven-boy is altogether too mischievous. He will play tricks on us."

"Come in," cried the Chief, "we have just caught the mischievous Raven-boy and he is going to dance for us."

All the people were astonished and the

was ignorant of this growing jealousy, and on the night when the wheat was first stored in the completed granary it issued invitations to a graining bee.

Every rat in the Andrus barn was there—big and little, gray and brown. All the smaller and less important families arrived punctually to the minute—the Long-tails came late.

Jaws clashed and claws clatched, fur flew and blood flowed. Little by little Father Long-tail forced his adversary toward the barn door.

A cheer went up from the crowd; and they fell to with renewed energy. Just as the sun rose the task was completed and the hole nicely concealed from the searching eyes of Farmer Andrus.

And now stepped forth Father Long-tail, towering and majestic.

"I call upon Father Sharp-tooth to do battle with me for possession of the territory lying around the Granary Hole! He is only a squatter. You can show no deed by which he is entitled thus to

Chief cried out: "Ho, ho! so this is the mischievous youngster!"

"Said the lion, I'm only a big yellow cat. Really and truly I'm nothing. But that! Said the lamb, now to fooling. You needn't be trying. Altho' I'm silly I know your A Lyin'!"

THE CITY SPARROW. "I love this country life," explained Miss Sparrow, from the city. "Because I think the angieworms Are really very pretty."

Keep the rest of us in poverty and subtraction. Who is he that we should gnaw holes for his pleasure and profit? One hour a week, forsooth! Come out, Father Sharp-tooth, and let this be a battle of honor to the strongest.

"You may take your choice," said Father Long-tail calmly: "Either you fight with me, or I and my family, which numbers twice your own, will fall upon you and annihilate you—male, female, the aged and the infant—none shall be spared."

Then arose Father Sharp-tooth, and his eye glittered.

"Once I get him behind that board fence, where it is not so blindingly light, I can see to make an end of him," muttered Father Long-tail.

Father Sharp-tooth gave one desperate lunge, and then turned despairing eyes upward. Above him he saw Jock and Jenny, round-eyed and excited.

"I wish you would lend me your skin to dance in. I cannot dance very well unless I have extra clothing on."

Less Pomp at Paris Funerals. A picturesque figure will vanish from Paris, owing to the decision of the Municipal Council to abolish the office of "organizer of funeral pomp" at funerals.

When You Were Little. O, longest years ago, When everything was new, The sky seemed just the bluest bowl With just inside, to you.

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