

The Foxes and the Bear.

[From the Richmond Enquirer.]

An influential Southern paper tells the following allegorical story as illustrative of its view of the "late unpleasantness." Once upon a time some foxes and a bear went into partnership, and occupied the same cave. They lived together peacefully for many years, the foxes finding the bear of great advantage to them, for he did most of the fighting in a great battle they once had with a lion. But at last there arose a family quarrel, and it came about in this way: When the winter came it was the habit of the bear to stop work and spend the whole of the time in the cave sucking his paws, and in this way he enjoyed himself hugely. The foxes seeing how well the bear got on without work, and how well he enjoyed himself, commenced sucking their paws, but some way or other they found that they could not make a living in that way, as the bear could, and that on the whole it didn't pay; so they had to go out in the cold and forage for victuals as usual. Then they began to envy the bear, because he appeared to enjoy himself and live so much easier than they did and took a violent hatred to him just because he sucked his paws. They passed a law that the sucking of paws should be forever abolished among foxes, and they began to remonstrate with the bear upon the impropriety of his conduct and to petition him to give up his horrible practice. But the bear said he would do no such thing; that it was agreed upon when they first went into partnership that he should be allowed to suck his paws in peace, that he had a constitutional right to do so; that it was necessary for his comfort and happiness, and that paw sucking he would do to the end of time, and the foxes had no right to interfere with him. Then the foxes got up anti-paw-sucking societies, which declared that paw-sucking was the sum of villainies, and preached at the bear, petitioned him, and even went so far as to pull his paws out of his mouth, at which the bear got into such a violent rage that he declared that he would dissolve partnership with the foxes and leave the cave and go and set up business for himself. But the foxes said he had no right to leave, and that he shouldn't leave. The bear said he would not ask them any odds; that he could whip a thousand little foxes, and one morning he told the foxes good-bye, he proceeded to walk out of the cave and leave it forever. But he had hardly got out of the cave before the foxes set up a tremendous howl and fell upon him, and there was such a fight as was hardly ever seen before. The bear flung the foxes right and left, slapped them over, and crushed them, but the more foxes he killed the more they seemed to increase in number, for the foxes finding that the bear was about to get off, sent out and hired some foreign foxes to help them, so that as soon as one set of foxes was killed other foxes were put in their places, and the bear had no rest. But he stood to bay and drove the foxes off as soon as they came up. Finally, the foxes finding out that they could not whip him in a fair fight, determined to starve him out; so they surrounded him completely, so that he could get nothing to eat or drink. The bear then began to suffer severely and to grow thin and weak and in his distress called upon the eagle and lion to come and help him, but they told him that he must do his own fighting. At last the bear became so completely exhausted by hunger and fatigue that he could hardly stand up, and the foxes thinking that they might now make a venture, collected together in great number and fell upon the bear and wallowed him so that he stopped fighting and cried "Enough!" and said he would go back to the cave again and carry on business as before. But the foxes told him to wait awhile, he must have his abilities removed. So they tied him hand and foot with strong cords, and muzzled him, and placed a strong guard around and began to parley with him and persecute him. They told him before he could get back into the cave again he must take a solemn oath of allegiance to the fox government. The bear took the prescribed oath, and said, "Now let me in." But the foxes said not yet; you must take another oath, that paw-sucking is unconstitutional and swear again never to suck your paws. The bear took that oath also, and even went so far as to declare that he believed paw-sucking had been a disadvantage to him, and that he was glad that he had been forced to give up the abominable practice. After taking this oath and making this confession, he said, "Now let me in." But the foxes said not yet, you must eat a little dirt first. At this the bear was indignant—he declared that he had never eaten any dirt in his life, and it did not agree with him; but the foxes said no matter, you must eat a little,

just a little; and the bear made a wry face and took a mouthful and ate it, and said "Now let me in." But the foxes said not yet; you must eat more dirt; and the bear ate more dirt, and said, "Now let me in." He hadn't eaten dirt enough. The bear then began to eat dirt ravenously until his abdomen swelled out like a Digger Indian's, and said, "Now let me in." But the foxes said wait awhile longer, you must become fatter. The bear was now in a most miserable plight, he was nearly starved to death, and was covered with wounds and sores from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet, and thousands of hungry blue-bellied flies taking advantage of his defenseless condition had settled upon him, and were feeding on his sores and fattening on his proverty; and every time the bear attempted to shake off these flies, the foxes said that he was still rebellious, and was trying to get away, and took occasion to tighten his cords and persecute him. They told him that he must not disturb the flies, but must love them and let them eat. And the bear let the flies alone and let them eat, and said, "now let me in." But the foxes said, "Wait a little longer, we are afraid if we let you in, you won't stay in, but will rebel again and leave us and get back to your old practice of paw-sucking; you must give us guarantees of your good behavior." And so the foxes kept putting off and tantalizing the poor bear, and he is left outside of the cave to this day, and if he complains the foxes make fun of him and call him Old Sour Head.

Grades of Villiany. The man that would take a newspaper for a length of time, and then send it back "refused" and unpaid for, would swallow a blind dog's dinner, and then stone the dog for being blind.—Ee.

He would do more than that. He would marry a girl on trial, and send her back at the end of the honeymoon, with the words "Don't suit" chalked on her back.—Iron City.

He would do worse than that. He would steal the chalk to write it with, and afterwards use it on his shirt to save the expense of washing, and then sue his wife's father for a month's boarding.—Standard.

Worse yet, he would chase a sick rat ten miles over a corduroy road, and institute post mortem over him after he has caught him, in order to recover a stolen grain of corn.—Mooapatown Star.

We endorse every word of the above. He would steal the rotten acorns from a blind pig, and steal all the winter meat of an editor.—Somerset Herald.

He would be as mean as the man who cursed his poor old blind mother for stopping in the doorway to beg her bread, and who gave his only child a penny for going to bed supperless, and then charged him a penny for his breakfast.—Nonia Torchlight.

Stronger yet. He would sponge a living from the hard earnings of his poor old father, until the old gentleman became unable to work, and afterward sell his remains to the medical students for anatomical purposes.—Bluffton Banner.

Give it to him. He would steal the coppers off a dead nigger's eyes, then kick him because they were not half dollars.—Bates Record.

Keep the ball in motion, and show him no mercy. He is worse than the man who, after his sister was married, sued her and her husband for their board. His sister for board before she was married, and her husband for board and lights while courting her.—Oscoda Herald.

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