

THE
TALE OF A MONKEY
OR
THE MISCHIEVOUS MANŒUVRES
of
DANDY JACK.







INTRODUCTION.

All



LITTLE boys and girls, at least all who have been to the circus, know Dandy Jack. He is the little grotesque image of a general officer which rides upon the shaggy, long-maned Shetland pony. He makes the greatest quantity of fun for the boys and girls, and receives therefor the most presents of cake, candy, nuts, apples, and sugar-plums. He is the pet

of the ladies, the admiration of all juveniles, and the envy of his brother and sister monkeys, from whom he diverts all the attention and gifts of the visitors. But he also receives all the whippings from the ring-master for clumsy riding, much to the delight of the aforesaid brothers and sisters, who like nothing better than to see him well beaten.

When I was many years younger, long before I became your uncle, before many of you were born,

I first saw Jack. He and I were both young, and in the course of a confidential friendship which sprung up between us, founded originally upon a piece of preserved citron which I presented to him, and continued and consummated by numberless presents of dried apples, sugar-candy, shell-barks and chestnuts, figs, dates, and bitter almonds, (which latter he did not seem to enjoy,) extracted from him the materials for the first two parts of the following life. Later in years, when in a fit of contrition, occasioned by what he considered a mortal illness, he lamented his folly in attempting to imitate the vanities of mankind, he related most of the other parts. For the remainder, I am indebted to other but not less reliable sources of information.

In the hope that this little volume may prove an amusing and instructive story to those little readers into whose hands it may chance to be thrown, and that, like *Oliver Twist*, they may constantly ask for more, I am very truly,

UNCLE TOBIAS.

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DANDY JACK.

LIFE IN THE FOREST.



ANDY JACK was born on the banks of the Orinoco, a large river in the northern part of South America, flowing into the Atlantic Ocean. What his name was in his native country I have been unable to ascertain, but here he was called Jack when he first landed, and subsequently Dandy Jack, from the dandyish

airs which he adopted when he became a star-performer in General Welsh's Circus.

A human baby, when it is first born, can but just stretch out its little arms and legs, and is barely able to make itself heard by a feeble cry. But a young monkey is no sooner born to mirth and mischief, which are the monkey's vocation, than it commences to give unmistakable signs of life, by the liveliest motions and the most extreme interest in everything which happens around it.

Jack was a perfect monkey at his birth. When he opened his eyes upon the interminable intricacies of the forest, he opened them to see infinite opportunities for funny and mischievous pranks, innumerable chances to victimize, and to be victimized in turn; — for an Orinoco forest is peopled with uncounted monkeys, large and small, — the trees are



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filled with birds of the gayest plumage and the longest tails, — the recesses are the abodes of Pumas, Jaguars, Ocelots, Peccaries, Capybaras, and other animals, — the huge Anaconda winds his deadly coil round the gigantic palms, waiting for his prey, and many smaller but not less fearful serpents dwell under the roots of the trees, amongst the rank grasses and plants, and in the creeks and shallows of the watercourses, — and every living thing is to a monkey either the subject for mischief or the object of curiosity or alarm.

Of all the foes of the monkey, the Jaguar is perhaps the most formidable. Sly, stealthy, and noiseless in its motions as the monkeys themselves, it is a thousand times more powerful. One stroke of its paw is death, or a mortal wound equally dreadful. Dandy Jack was but just born when the whole neigh-

borhood in which his parents resided was thrown into the greatest alarm by the visits of a Jaguar.

Scarcely a night passed without carrying with it the spirits of numerous monkeys slain by their terrible enemy. Not an assembly of monkeys could be held, either to enjoy social converse, concoct plans for mischief, or concert measures for safety against the common foeman, but the Jaguar, or rumors of the Jaguar's approach, would disperse the assemblage.

It happened on a night soon after Jack's birth, that, after a long and exciting discussion upon the subject of alarm, and how to rid themselves of it, the monkey family had scattered to their homes, and Jack's mother, with her infant in her arms, had settled for the night's repose in the fork of a tree on the banks

of the river. Everything was silent throughout the forest, except the running of the water, the dropping of a leaf or twig, the occasional crackling of a branch, and once in a great while the groan of a monkey dreaming of the dreaded foe. Jack nestled close to his mother, who held him tight, fearing even in her sleep lest he should be taken from her.

All at once the inhabitants of the forest were awakened by a tremendous crash,—the monkeys, old and young, little and big, opened their eyes, jumped from their resting-places, and uttered yells of terror. It was their constant dread, the Jaguar. He had crept from the brakes, under which he lay hidden through the day, and had nearly climbed to the top of a tree in which a large family of monkeys, among them Jack and his mother, had found a resting-place, when the breaking of a branch

gave the alarm, and enabled them all for the time to save themselves.

Jack, as I before remarked, was a perfect monkey at his birth. In all physical perfections, even to the tail, and in all mental imperfections, even to envy and covetousness of the possessions of others, he was the very ideal of a monkey. No sooner was he old enough to climb among the branches, to think for himself, to form a correct monkey estimate of his own position in the world, than he observed, with mingled feelings of astonishment, indignation, and envy, that every Macaw, Parrot, and Paroquet, not to mention many other birds, throughout the vast region which he was born to regard as especially his own, was the proprietor of a tail,—of a length which naturally induced comparison with his own, and many of them so perfectly gorgeous in the bril-

liancy of their colors, as to excite anything but content with his own brown and black appendage.

From this moment, during his abode in the forest, the possession of a parrot's or paroquet's tail was a ruling passion of Jack's mind. Nor was he alone in this desire, — every monkey in the forest seemed beset with this curious impulse; — and the poor parrots, vain of their splendid display of tail-feathers, lived in a constant state of fear. No sooner did a monkey spy a prize, than he gave notice to all his companions. The whole colony, state, or nation of the monkeys was instantly alive with excitement; they grimaced, chattered, swung themselves from branch to branch, and gradually surrounded in every direction the unfortunate object of their envy. Finally, he is approached; for a time they play with him,

pretending to pluck at him, now here and now there, while he in the most serious manner defends himself with his sharp beak and claws. At length the monkeys in front entirely engage his attention, one swinging on a branch below him absorbs his efforts, while our friend Jack, with a single dexterous jerk, robs him of the pride of his life.

Whether monkeys are or are not directly related to the human family, they entertain the same hatred for the whole tribe of serpents, and carry on against them a never-ending warfare. The dexterity of Jack, his self-possession and capacity for seizing the exact moment for action, made him a prominent actor in the war with the serpents.

Sitting on a branch eating a piece of mango, but with open eyes for anything which may occur worthy of notice, Jack perceives a snake slowly



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twisting up the trunk. In an instant he pricks up his ears, holds his mango in one hand, and creeps stealthily along on the branch without disturbing his enemy or giving him any notice of his approach. He is now within reach. In an instant Jack seizes him immediately behind the head, and jumps to the ground, where he hammers his head with a stone until all power of injuring others is destroyed, and then tosses him away with contempt, a plaything for younger and less courageous monkeys.

It would occupy a much longer space than this book affords to tell all the adventures, the comical feats, the surprises, the hair-breadth escapes of Jack's life in the forest. But one I will tell you, as it shows how cunning is oftentimes overmatched by cunning, and that those who live by taking advantage of the weaknesses or carelessness of others must guard

carefully against any display of weakness themselves.

Among the animals which inhabit the forest where Jack was born, one of the largest, perhaps the largest except the Jaguar, is the Puma. Like the Jaguar, it is an enormous cat; but instead of the beautiful yellowish tawny skin, with rose-shaped spots of black, the Puma's coat is dusky brown, becoming almost black on the back and head.

Like the Jaguar, the Puma is the deadly enemy of the monkey race, which it kills and devours whenever it is able to catch them. But the monkeys are small and nimble; they can climb far above where either Jaguar or Puma may venture, and grin and chatter their defiance with most perfect impunity. Hence the Puma, driven by the dire necessity of hunger to set his wits at work, some-

times takes the monkeys by setting a trap for them.

No little boy or girl, no old gossip, no country schoolmaster, not even an old maid, is possessed of the desire for information, the curiosity, of a true monkey. Long and favorable opportunities of studying the characteristics of the monkeys have taught this to the Puma;—and it was this insatiable curiosity which, during his abode in the forest, came near bringing our hero's life, and this history, to a sudden close.

One bright summer afternoon, when the sun began to decline, and the monkeys came out of the thick coverts in which they had hidden to escape from the scorching noonday heat, they discovered, much to their astonishment, still more to their gratification, a large Puma stretched at full length under a tree, and to

all appearances quite dead. For a long time the monkeys discussed the question in every possible way, whether the Puma, their old enemy, was really dead; but there appeared to be but one way to satisfy their minds, and this was perhaps attended with some little danger. This was for a committee to descend and examine the outstretched body, and report upon the facts of the case. Our friend Jack, though by no means the oldest member of the assembly, was appointed to this delicate duty.

Jack, by no means destitute of courage, still had his doubts as to approaching the prostrate form; he carefully descended, leaping from bough to bough, and stopping at every step to see if he could detect the slightest motion. But not even the movement of a hair betrayed the existence of life. With the greatest cir-



PUMA PRETENDING HE IS DEAD. — Page 22.



cumspection he then jumped to the ground, and examined every part, head, feet, body, claws, tail even, with the most minute and searching care. At length, perfectly satisfied with the survey, he made a sign to his companions that it was perfectly safe to descend and exult over the death of their enemy, even to dancing and cutting up capers over his body.

One by one the monkeys descended, playing all sorts of antics upon each other, and mocking the Puma with every monkeyish indignity. At length the whole company had descended; the ground, the body of the Puma, and every branch which would bear the weight of a monkey were crowded with grinning faces, and the whole forest seemed chattering with delight. This lasted, however, but a moment; the Puma satisfied by the weight on his body that the

council was full, and judging from the noise that no more company was expected, leaped suddenly to his feet, and taking them entirely by surprise, killed some with his powerful claws, others with his teeth, strewing the ground with their bodies. Jack, who was standing on the body in the centre of the council, and haranguing the assembled wisdom on the happy event which had happened to them by the death of their enemy, was thrown high in the air by the abrupt ascent of the Puma, and stretching out his arms in falling caught upon a branch of the tree, and thus saved his life. The remainder of the monkeys scattered in every direction, and hid themselves in dark holes and corners far away from the scene of this dire defeat.

Jack had now arrived at his full growth. No more daring or more mischievous monkey

had ever killed snakes, tormented the parrots, robbed bird's nests, or annoyed the Peccaries on the banks of the Orinoco; and he was now about to be transferred to another sphere of usefulness, to take a long sea-voyage to a far-distant country, and become the life-resident of a much more civilized country.

We have before noticed Jack's curiosity, and that it led him into numerous difficulties, from which he was relieved only by hair-breadth escapes. The people who live on the banks of the Orinoco are savages of the lowest order, scarcely excelling in intelligence the monkeys themselves. They live in rude huts made of poles set on end and fastened together at the top, sometimes covered with twigs and broad leaves, sometimes filled in with clay. They roam the forests, killing deer and smaller animals, and scarcely cultivate the ground at

all. Jack was well acquainted with these natives, — he had often visited their wigwams in the character of an uninvited guest, and, not being received with great marks of pleasure, had generally satisfied himself for the slight by stealing their mangoes and bananas. He knew all their habits of life so well that he had ceased to take an interest in them, and they were equally indifferent to him.

But one day, Jack and his companions were astonished beyond all expression by the arrival in their waters of an entirely different looking and acting company of men. They wore blue trousers, very large at the bottom, and very tight at the waist; shirts that hung very loosely over the trousers, very short blue jackets, with anchors on the collars, and straight, wide-rimmed tarpaulin hats, with long ribbons hanging down behind. They came up the

river in a large boat, such as Jack had never seen before, with long oars instead of the paddles which the natives used to propel their canoes. In the back seat of the boat was another man, somewhat differently dressed, with a blue cap, and a gold-lace band around it, who seemed to command the rest and direct their movements.

They came along slowly up the river, every once in a while running on to a snag or large log which had dropped over into the stream from its banks, or stopping to look around and examine the country, its luxurious vegetation, its immense populousness with living creatures, and, as Jack was fain to observe, were excessively delighted with the dexterity and gambols of the monkey tribe, which followed them step by step up the river, jumping from branch to branch, swinging over their heads, and com-

ing at times, almost near enough to them to be caught.

In the boat Jack saw what he supposed to be a little house, just big enough for half a dozen monkeys to live in, and his restless love of knowledge was instantly excited to know for what purpose these strangers had brought into his country so beautiful a residence, altogether disproportioned to their own size and wants, but so exactly adapted to a monkey's desires.

The boat came at length to a little cove in the river, where there was an open space shaded with large trees. Here they rowed up to the shore, and, fastening the boat, took out several large baskets and a demijohn, and the little house in which Jack was so much interested. Some of the men opened the baskets and took out bread and hams, and cold

roast chicken, while the commander appeared to be deciding where the little house should be placed. He at last determined to place it at some distance in the forest, in a beautiful secluded spot near a little stream of water,—in fine, the very place above all others where Jack would have put it if he had been consulted. Some of the sailors (for such were the men with wide trousers and shuffling, swinging walk) now took the little house up on their shoulders and trudged off to the selected spot.

They first made the ground quite smooth around it, then set the house down, then they lifted up one end and fastened it up very ingeniously with some little sticks and a high pole, then put into it some of the very richest and ripest bananas, melons, and other choice fruits, and then went to their dinner.

Jack and the other monkeys had witnessed all these proceedings with the greatest interest and delight. They came as near as they dared while the house was being set up, and chattered their gratification to each other with full chorus. Now it was complete. They watched the retreating sailors, to be sure not one was left behind, following them almost to the shore where the boat was moored. Being satisfied that they were entirely alone, they determined to take possession of the house, at least for the time being, — to eat up the fruit, and to examine the structure in case they should wish to build one for themselves.

Our hero was the first to descend from the branch, where he had been sitting to examine the performances, and to enter the house, where he helped himself to a delicious melon,

and commenced to refresh himself. About fifty others followed his example, and the house was filled with the delighted monkeys, not less pleased with the fruits because they had taken them without leave. The house, on the whole, was rather crowded, and the monkeys pressed rather hard against each other, and against the pole which supported the house in such an ingenious manner. All at once the pressure upon it became too great; it gave way, the top of the house came down with a smash, the monkeys were shut in, and a spring, which they probably had not noticed, fastened the top down securely. Jack's first discovery was that the house, which he had before considered as perfect, had neither window nor door; his next, that the house was moving along, and that it was somewhat difficult at times for him to sit upright,

owing to the irregularity of the motion. Some small round holes in the top of the house enabled the monkeys to breathe, and to perceive that the trees appeared to be moving over their heads. This was the abrupt termination of Jack's life in the forest.

THE SEA-VOYAGE.



THE house in which Jack and his fellow-patriots, were now secured seemed, as I before remarked, to be moving along, and as they looked through the little holes the trees seemed to be moving over their heads. After a little time the motion ceased, and the house appeared to be lowered carefully down, and Jack, as he looked through one of the holes, could see the gold-laced cap of the officer, and the sailors moving one way and the

other. They seemed to be very much pleased with their visit into the forest, and occasionally one would look into the holes, and laugh as though the tumbling down of the top of the house and the catching of so many innocent monkeys was a proper occasion for enjoyment. Whatever *they* may have thought, Jack's ideas of his present situation were anything but pleasant.

In a short time, Jack heard the officer give an order in a language which he did not understand, and the house appeared to be moved again, and, as near as Jack could guess, was placed in the boat;—there was considerable moving and scraping and noises of various kinds, and they began to move again with a very easy, sliding motion, quite different from their other journey. The trees moved faster overhead,—the men struck up a song,—Jack

saw little spots of color which he knew to be paroquets and parrots, almost dancing among the green leaves, until it began to grow dark, the air grew quite cool, the boat rocked up and down, and the forest seemed to be left behind. As far as Jack could see, there was nothing but sky and stars, and large white clouds sailing along.

They were now on the ocean, and the way it happened was thus. The little house which the monkeys admired so much was a very large figure-of-four trap, such as the boys in the country use to catch rabbits in the woods. The sailors belonged to a man-of-war, and were sent on shore to catch some monkeys, which they managed to do as described above. They were now rowing out to the ship, which lay at anchor some two or three miles from the shore.

• Monkeys that live a natural life in the forest are in the habit of retiring to rest as soon as it is dark, and Jack and his companions began to fall asleep. They were awakened and thrown into a state of the greatest fear by a sharp and very loud discharge which appeared to be directly over their heads. This was followed, after an interval of a few minutes, by a distant boom, which shook the air. The motion was now a long sweeping sway or roll, but shortly ceased by the boat striking somewhat heavily, and the sailors were evidently moving about preparing to leave the boat. All the monkeys instantly set up a tremendous chattering, intimating that they did not wish to be left behind. This was entirely unnecessary, as they did not intend to abandon them. The house was tied firmly to a large rope, and while Jack was yet in fear it swung slowly in

the air, and was lifted aboard ship, where it was placed in the fore-castle, or forward part, close by the fore-hatchway.

Every few hours during the night Jack heard the bell ring, and the march of sentries on the deck,—for it was so late when they reached the ship, that the sailors were not allowed to gratify their curiosity by looking to see what they had caught. At length morning dawned, and Jack was wide awake long before the sun rose over the sea. There was now a great movement on the deck,—voices ordering, whistles sounding, men running to and fro, and sounds of creaking, and rolling, and rattling, such as Jack had never heard in the forest.

By and by the house was moved; one end of it was drawn up, and the monkeys perceived a sort of cage open at the front, into which

they instantly removed, the back was dropped down, and they were exposed to the gaze of the whole crew.

As Jack looked out from his prison, for such it was, a curious scene met his eye. On either side were wooden walls, upon which soldiers were steadily pacing forwards and back. Below them were immense cannon, the use of which Jack did not yet understand. The deck, or floor, which was longer than the longest room, was covered with sailors, like those Jack saw in the forest, but each about some work, while officers were directing here and there; and before the cage was constantly a great crowd of laughing faces; men pointing with their fingers at one monkey or the other, and offering them bits of candy, apples, and now and then a "plug" of tobacco, which the monkeys, would smell of, taste, and then throw away with disgust.

Some hours passed in this way, when all at once the crowd of rough but good-natured faces broke away, and a group of officers approached, one of whom Jack recognized as the one he saw in the forest. One who looked older than the rest, and to whom they all paid the greatest respect, held by the hand a little flaxen-haired girl, who danced and frolicked along, and seemed delighted with the grinning faces, sharp eyes, and ready fingers and quick motions of Jack and his companions.

Thus commenced Jack's life on board ship. In a few hours the ship weighed anchor, and the voyage was begun. During its course Jack and some of his companions became acquainted with many of the crew, and were allowed, on their good behavior, to come out of the cage, and walk about deck, run up the shrouds, swing by the ropes, and, I am sorry to

say, play any tricks they pleased on the marines, who are made for the especial butts of sailors and monkeys. I will relate to you a few of Jack's adventures aboard ship, which were not always so funny that they saved him from the rope's-end.

One of the first things which Jack observed when he came on board was an officer looking at a distant object through his telescope or spy-glass. This instrument seemed to be in almost constant use, and the officers generally passed it from one to the other, and then conversed upon the objects which they were thus enabled to see. Jack made many efforts by flattering and caressing the officers of his acquaintance to get a sight through the glass; but either they did not regard his observation as of any importance, or valued the glass too much to trust it to his unsteady hands. One day the

glass had been in constant demand, and being laid down for a moment Jack seized the opportunity to take an observation as shown in the cut.



He had scarcely, however, got the glass in his hands when a loud voice commanded him to let it alone. Jack was so thunderstruck that, instead of leaving the glass, he commenced to run away with it, and was pursued from quarter-deck to fore-castle, and from there to the foretop, where a sailor caught him, took away

the glass, and, despite his biting and scratching, carried him down to be punished.

Although Jack was sometimes excessively mischievous, his pranks were very amusing to the sailors, and even the officers at times liked to amuse themselves with him. After dinner, they would often admit him to their cabin, where they would feed him with nuts, grapes, and various dainties, and sometimes give him a sip of wine, of which he was very fond. One day he was presented at table with two kinds of wine each in a glass. In order to be sure of the best, he took a glass in each hand; one of the officers then attempted to take away one of the glasses which contained champagne. Jack instantly poured this in with the claret, and then gave up the glass. Another beverage of which Jack was very fond was beer, which was regularly messed out to the

sailors. Swinging one day in the ropes, which was a favorite occupation, a sailor held out to him a mug of beer. Jack wanted some beer very much, but seemed uncertain whether the sailor was not deceiving him; and in order to make sure, he laid hold of a loose rope, lowered it into the beer, much to the amusement of the sailors, drew it up again, and sucked the wet end. Having thus satisfied himself that it was really beer, he descended at once.

Almost immediately on coming aboard Jack struck up quite a friendship with the captain's daughter, the flaxen-haired girl whom he saw the first morning out of his cage. Often she saved him from richly merited punishment by her intercessions with the officers, and Jack was not entirely ungrateful. If he was presented in the cabin with a nice apple

or a bunch of grapes, he would jump into Miss Rosa's lap and offer her the first bite.

Time, which passed very slowly to the sailors, who had been absent from home on a three-years' cruise or voyage, passed very rapidly with Jack. Since they left the mouth of the Orinoco they had not seen land. Every day they met great steamers, frigates, merchantmen, and numerous small vessels, and now for a day or two sails were constantly in sight, going and coming, before and behind, and all around them. From conversations which Jack heard among the officers in the cabin, and between the sailors, he learned that they were approaching the end of their voyage. Late one night there was a great stir on deck ; Jack scrambled out of his berth to see what was the matter. Officers with glasses in their hands were standing on the



JACK AND THE LITTLE GIRL. — Page 50.



quarter-deck busily spying something, which Jack finally discovered, was a lighthouse. Several vessels large and small were near the man-of-war in which Jack was sailing, most of them bound in. In a few minutes the sailors run back one of the large cannon on the fore part of the deck. Jack who had the greatest horror of the noise made by the cannon, scampered off to the farthest part of the ship, and hid himself behind a large coil of rope, stopping up his ears with his fingers. They now fired a few shots, which shook the ship and boomed over the waters. Jack afterwards learned that they were now off Sandy-Hook light, as it is called, and that this was the signal for a pilot to take the ship up to New York.

I had almost forgotten to tell you a little anecdote of Jack, which showed his thirst for knowledge, and his efforts to make himself a

monkey of letters. The captain, who was a very serious, sedate man, passed a great portion of his time in his private cabin, and busied himself in writing, and reading various scientific works. Jack observed when he first came on board that every one treated the captain with the greatest respect, and he concluded, after thinking the matter thoroughly over, that it was on account of his superior information, acquired from the books which he was so constantly consulting. Jack determined, therefore, to make himself master of the secrets contained in these books. Whenever the captain sat down to read, he first put on his spectacles, and this Jack thought must be an important part of the proceeding, as he did not know the real use of glasses. So one day when the door of the cabin happened to be open, and the captain was pacing the quarter-

deck with his arms behind him, Jack slipped into the cabin, took the spectacles from the table where they were laid, put them on his nose as the captain was in the habit of doing, seated himself in the great easy-chair, and, taking a large volume in his lap, commenced to read.



Jack looked very wise indeed when the captain looked into the cabin, but he did not

know his letters, — he did not even know that the book was upside down ; so that, wise as he looked, he was but little better informed for this attempt to imitate his superiors. Luckily for Jack, he did not injure the book, which was one the captain valued very much. Perhaps he would have done so had it been filled with pictures, as another monkey did of which I heard not long since.

A naturalist had been making a large collection of insects, particularly beetles, and in order to discover the names of some of them had referred to a large volume containing plates of beetles, beautifully engraved and colored, which he had left open on his table. He had in his possession a small monkey, which just at this time escaped from its confinement, and, entering the studio, perceived the book lying upon the table. Supposing the pictures

were real beetles, the monkey commenced pinching them out of the leaves and eating them, thus, in a very short time, accomplishing the utter destruction of the book.

About an hour after Jack had hidden behind the coil of rope, to get away from the noise of the firing, a boat came to the side of the ship, and two men came over the sides and upon deck. When they were hailed by the sentry, they made answer that they were pilots. They were large, healthy-looking men, with broad shoulders, long, heavy arms, and browned with exposure to the weather. They were dressed with rough pea-jackets, and heavy boots with trousers tucked in at the tops, and tarpaulin hats like the sailors. As soon as they came aboard, the captain gave orders to have them take charge of the ship; there was a little bustle of preparation, — their boat was

secured astern, — and then all aboard was quiet and orderly as usual.

In the morning, when Jack awoke and rubbed his eyes, a strange and busy scene met his view. Countless numbers of vessels of every shape and size, — dories, gigs, yawls, barges, cutters, sail-boats, sloops, schooners, brigs, barques, ships, steam-tugs, ferry-boats, great sea-steamers, — some at anchor, some making sail, some smoking and fuming and tugging away, — while thousands of flags of every color fluttered in the breeze, and thousands of men tugged at the oars, pulled at the ropes, and were busy in more ways than I could tell you in a week. And behind all these Jack saw great piles of buildings, towers, spires, and domes, shining in the morning light, and giving an appearance of security and stability to what would otherwise have

been only a great picture of endless changes. This was New York. Before Jack's eyes were the harbor and its infinity of craft, — traders to every sea; and in those stores and warehouses were the products of every clime beneath the sun. Surely it was worth more trouble and care and anxiety than it had cost our friend Jack, thus to be transported from a forest filled only with wild animals and birds, and men almost as wild as they, to such a splendid city filled with everything which can delight the eyes and mind. And so Jack's sea-voyage came to an end, and a new life opened before him.

THE MENAGERIE.



WHEN the ship anchored off the Battery, as it is called, it was saluted with a peal of guns, and almost instantly surrounded with an immense number of little boats, filled with men, women, and children. A great many of these were friends and relatives of

those on board. Some were wives, who had not seen their husbands for years; some, children, who came to see their fathers; fathers and mothers, to see their sons; and so



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through the whole range of human relations. Other boats contained people with merchandise of various kinds to sell to the sailors as soon as they should be paid off, and were ready, with true sailor improvidence, to throw away the earnings of months, and years even, for a few trifling bawbles or a few hours' enjoyment.

As Jack had now for several weeks been allowed to roam the ship from stem to stern, he had a very good opportunity to see these various people, and they all seemed to take a great deal of delight in his quickness and cunning, and many of them made him little presents of fruits and sweetmeats, while the boys did not fail to make themselves and each other a great deal of amusement at his expense.

From roaming the ship, Jack by and by

came to clamber down into the boats which came alongside. He was encouraged to do this by the men and boys who came in the boats, and who held up various temptations which Jack was quite unable to resist. Jack had been taken back into the ship several times by a sailor whose duty it was to look after him and his companions, and had had his ears well cuffed, and even received a smart whipping, for leaving the ship without orders or leave of absence. But this neither diminished his desire for mischief nor his love for the dainties which were constantly held up to him, but which he could not make his own without lowering himself to get at them. Indeed, monkeys, like bad boys and girls, are inclined doubly to desire that which they should not possess, and seem impelled by a fatal instinct to seize every

possible opportunity to break the laws under which they live. So Jack, whenever a nice apple, a handful of nuts, or a piece of candy was offered him, was determined to have it at every hazard, and finally added to his other criminalities that of desertion from the American flag, in order to escape a punishment which he knew was richly his due.

It was a holiday, and of course a great many more people than usual had come alongside the ship,—more, too, from mere curiosity and amusement. Jack had received in the morning strict orders to keep within the limits of the ship, and to resist every effort to induce him to go down into the boats. Indeed, it had been a matter of discussion between the two old salts who acted as Jack's guardians, whether it would not be better to cage him up for the day with the other mon-

keys. It was at length decided, after the consumption of several quids of "Pig-tail," a kind of tobacco much in use among sailors, to rely on his discretion and loyalty, not, however, without first exhibiting to him a new and very brilliantly colored green cow-hide, with the intimation that, unless he wished for a much nearer acquaintance, it would be well for him to abstain from his illegal excursions.

The motto of the monkeys is, "What is *to be* will *be*," and our friend Jack was not a whit behind his kindred in acting up to his firm belief in this interesting axiom,—the deduction from which, in Jack's mind, was, "The *present* is what is *to be*." So Jack determined to make the most of the *present*, and let the *future* take its natural course. I must do Jack the justice

to say, that, simple as this decision appears to be, he had not arrived at it fully and finally until late in the afternoon, a wholesome dread of the acquaintance with the cowhide having preserved for a long time the balance in favor of law and order. But late in the afternoon, temptation being piled upon temptation, and the voice of admonition and the fear of punishment becoming weaker and weaker, he sat looking out from a porthole on the lower gun-deck, waiting for some provocation to break the law, and let himself down into a boat.

The opportunity was not long wanted. A company of strolling musicians thought they might possibly earn an honest penny by exhibiting their proficiency to the officers and sailors of the man-of-war. They came alongside in a small boat, and commenced grind-

ing the organ, beating the tambourine, and screeching and screaming to the very top of their voices. With them was a little dog, dressed in a green jacket with a great number of gilt buttons, that stood upon his hind feet and tried to dance to the music, and a small, but very mischievous boy, who was determined to make Jack's acquaintance, and kept calling out to him in Italian, a language which seemed much more natural to Jack than English, and holding up as high as he was able a huge stick of sugar-candy, beautiful to Jack's eye, and suggesting the most perfect delight to his taste.

For a time, Jack sat eying the tempter with apparently the most philosophic indifference. The sailors lolled out over the guns, or leaned upon their elbows on the sills of the portholes, listening to the music,

chaffering with the musicians, and tossing cents and three and five cent pieces into the tambourine, which was handed round regularly after each tune.

It was now sundown; the salute was just about to be fired, the drums beat, the boat-swains sounded their whistles, and all the boats were ordered to leave the ship. At this moment, every one on board being called away, Jack was left unwatched, and, seizing the favorable opportunity, dropped himself into the boat, which instantly rowed away from the ship, Jack sitting by the side of his new friend, and very complacently eating the stick of candy.

In all probability Jack would have been seen from the ship and pursued and brought back but for the firing of the salute, which not only occupied the attention of those on

board, and caused an immense white cloud of smoke to obscure his flight, but made such a terrific noise, that Jack, whose conscience was instantly awakened to the enormity of his offence and the fear of the promised punishment, jumped into the bottom of the boat, and, covering himself with a corner of the woman's shawl, did not venture to look out of his hiding-place till the boat struck the step at the pier, or landing, when he was removed to the home of the musicians in whose company he had fled.

It was some few days before Jack's new friends thought proper to show him the beautiful and wonderful sights of the great city which was now to be his home. They judged very correctly, that, although the dress in which he paraded the decks of the man-of-war might be well adapted to the tastes of sailors and

marines, and well calculated for such exploits as catching parrots in the forest or climbing to the masthead, it was not at all appropriate for the resident of a great city, nor in harmony with the profession of which he was destined to be so distinguished an ornament. The first thing to be accomplished under these circumstances was to procure for Jack a proper wardrobe,—a task by no means so easy of performance, but which was greatly facilitated by the occurrence of a great event in our national history.

This was the publication of General Scott's celebrated "Hasty-plate-of-soup" letter, which gave the illustrious author an enviable and wide-spread popularity, and occasioned him to be nominated as the Whig candidate for President of the United States. Jack's intelligent Italian friends at once saw the propriety of

dressing Jack to represent a general officer, an idea rendered the more appropriate by the fact that Jack was to be henceforth, during the greater portion of his public life, an equestrian performer.

My little readers must endeavor, with the assistance of the picture, to imagine the excitement occasioned in the Bowery, and on Broadway, by Jack's first appearance as there represented. The Italian family who had adopted Jack to occupy the place of another monkey, fled or deceased, were, as I before remarked, strolling musicians. Their company consisted of the father, who played the organ, the mother, whose instrument was a tambourine, and who sang to accompany it, a little boy and girl, a bear, who was henceforth to bear Jack, and a dog, who stood upon his hind legs. The organ had in front two little chambers,



JACK AND THE MUSICIANS. — Page 70.



through which, as the man turned the crank, a procession of kings, queens, knights, lords, and ladies passed and repassed in concert with the music. The bear was muzzled, so that he could not bite, and led by a cord, which the man pulled and twitched to make him hop, or dance as it was called, to accompany the tune.

Jack's duties were to ride the bear, to dance occasionally on the ground, to pick up coppers, and to climb up to the parlor-windows to receive small amounts from people who wished to gratify their children by permitting them to put the compensation into Jack's own dingy-colored palms. It was while in this profession that he learned to distinguish high and low, rich and poor, proud and humble, saint and sinner, and all the other thousand distinctions which divide man from his fellow-

man, and make society a state of never-ending turmoil and strife.

A less keen observer than Jack would soon have discovered that, for him, the profession into which he was adopted without his own hearty consent yielded but a slender remuneration for the fatigues which he was obliged to undergo, and the punishments and vexations which he was compelled to endure. In the streets he was constantly annoyed, and even tormented, by the boys; at home the young savage who had enticed him from his happy home aboard ship abused him in every possible way, and if he resented it at all, he was instantly set upon by the whole family and punished till he cowered down behind his only true friend, the bear, entirely chapfallen and broken in spirit.

At night and on Sundays Jack's uniform

was taken off, and he was free of limb, and would have been free of heart but for his tormentor; and after some weeks' endurance he determined again to seek his fortune as soon as an opportunity should present for him to escape. He was well aware that the uniform of a general officer is too rarely seen in New York not to attract attention, and thus lead to his detention and return to his present head-quarters; so he decided to watch his opportunity when in undress, that he might more freely mingle with the crowd and get away unnoticed. But how could he live, far away from his native land, in this great city, where were no parrots, no mango-groves, no cocoa-nut trees, no oranges, no bananas? How could he support himself without any regular profession in a place where every one appeared to be busy, and, to Jack's un-

educated apprehension, all masters of some trade, or art, or occupation? But, at all events, "sink or swim, survive or perish," Jack had made up his mind for a free and active "Declaration of Independence" from his present slavery.

One Sunday, just at the edge of evening, Jack had crawled away into a corner far from his tormentor, and was thinking how he might possibly escape from the persecution which had now become intolerable. Monkeys are lovers of mischief, it is true, but they like no pranks played upon themselves, and nothing is so sure to disgust a monkey, and irritate him beyond all forgiveness, as to make him the victim of a practical joke. To this Jack had now been subjected, until forbearance was no longer a virtue; and this was the tone of his reflections.

All at once the great bell of the City Hall sounded an alarm of fire, and as it appeared from the hubbub around, it was in the very section of the city where Jack was imprisoned. It was, in fact, in the very street, indeed within a few doors. A fire in New York is the literal realization of Babel. Such uproar and confusion, — such running and rushing, — such rattling of engines and hose-carriages, — such ringing of bells and shouting through trumpets.

But all these things, new as they were, made but a faint impression upon our hero's mind. His thoughts were entirely on some means of escape: he watched every movement of his keepers, no longer his friends, and was overjoyed to see them rush out to watch the progress of the firemen, and judge if the consuming element was to drive them

from their habitation. Now was the time for Jack. Seizing the best cap of his young tormentor, less perhaps for a covering than for the retaliation which he would thus inflict, he rushed from the house. Passing from the yard to the shed, he saw the poor bear walking back and forth, pulling on his chain in the agony of terror. Jack stopped for a moment to take a sad farewell of his poor friend, who he knew would be compelled to suffer doubly on account of his escape, and then, with a "tear flowing down his manly cheek," he climbed up the shed with the stolen cap on his head.

A shout from the Italians told Jack that he was discovered; but it was altogether too late. Climbing to a safe retreat on the edge of a roof, he calmly took the cap from his head, and before the eyes of his late asso-

ciates tore it shred from shred, grinning and chattering his delight at its destruction. while the poor boy, thus deprived of his Sunday head-piece, gave vent to his anguish in hideous cries of vexation.

The night was now fast closing in, the fire had been extinguished, the crowd had scattered, and Jack, carefully climbing from cornice to cornice, had got far away from his tormentor. He was now tired and hungry, and determined to descend from the house-tops and search for a place where he could procure some food. With this view he let himself down by a gutter into a narrow yard, surrounded on every side with high sheds.

The part of the city where Jack now was contained large dwelling-houses, which were originally occupied by the rich and fashionable, but were now let out in tenements to

the poorest class of people. Whole families occupied but a single room. Scenes of destitution, such as would have chilled Jack's heart, filled dwelling after dwelling whose walls but a few years before shone with colors and gold, and echoed to the light laugh, the joyous voice, the happy song, of the wealthy, the thoughtlessly happy, the educated and refined. The door of the dwelling which adjoined the yard where he landed was open, and Jack entered, and looked into the first room to which he came. It was occupied by a poor laborer and his family, who were now at their evening meal.

A slight noise which he made attracted the attention of a little boy, who said, "O father, see that Jacko!" For a moment, he did not know whether to stay or fly. Seeing no occasion for fear, however, in the good-na-



BABOON AND CAT.—Page 85.



tured faces of those who sat and stood around the little table, he allowed them to approach him, and finally took his place in a chair, where one of the children fed him with a portion of his own bread and milk. Jack thought nothing in his life had tasted so delicious as this homely meal,—the gift of a kind heart. So truly is goodness appreciated, and kindness gratefully felt, even by a monkey.

The next morning the father was about to go to his work, when he was reminded of the little stranger. What to do with him was, to these poor people, a serious question. Even the little food which he required from day to day was more than they could give, and those who lived in the dwellings around them were as poor as themselves. All at once it occurred to the father that in a street near by there was a menagerie, or collection of animals, and

he thought he might perhaps dispose of Jack to the keeper, to the advantage of all parties.

In a short time this matter was settled, and Jack was transferred to the menagerie, where he was chained, with a collar about his neck, near a large cage of monkeys, which stood in a long range of cages containing lions, leopards, tigers, lamas, hyenas, and various other animals, brought from far-distant countries, and some of which Jack had never before seen. Of his life in the menagerie, which was in some respects a dismal routine from day to day, varied only by the different persons who came to see the animals, I will tell you one or two anecdotes.

In the large cage of monkeys which stood near where Jack was chained were quite a number of monkeys, of different kinds, and varying very much in size. The largest of

these was a baboon, or dog-headed monkey, a great, savage, sulky animal, of whom all the rest lived in constant fear, for he was the most terrible of tyrants, and delighted above all things in lording over the smaller and weaker animals of his race. A cat had been put into the cage, and, day and night, he would hold this cat squeezed up in his arms. Satisfied that she could not exist without his leave, he shared with her his food and drink, allowing her only as much as he pleased, unless the keeper, as he would at times, took her away from him.

This savage persecuted in every way the other monkeys. If a tail hung within his reach he caught hold of it and bit it, sometimes entirely off, before the keeper could come to the rescue. If a small monkey fell into his clutches, an ear would be taken as

the penalty. They, of course, revenged themselves whenever they got a chance, but this was not often ; so they transferred the oppression from one to the other, the smallest monkey being completely trodden under foot.

Near this cage was another, filled with small monkeys, whose playfulness and activity afforded great diversion to the little visitors. One day a great humble-bee, which had got maimed by some chance, fell into this cage of monkeys. It at once set up a tremendous buzzing, which drew the attention of the monkeys, who were evidently quite upset by the entrance of such an intruder. They approached it with the greatest care whenever it became still for a moment, and retreated with the utmost alarm and horror the instant it began again to buzz. At last one of them, after careful consideration, and a considerable

scratching of his head to stir up the ideas, picked up a piece of paper which he saw on the bottom of the cage, and twisted it into a little hollow cone, in the twinkling of an eye. He then approached the humble-bee, which was lying on its back, spinning round and round, and making the most extraordinary buzzing, and swept it into the paper, twisted it up with astonishing rapidity, and flung it with all his strength from the cage.

The same monkeys were very much perplexed one day by a snail, that made its way into their cage. At first they scarcely ventured to put their fingers near it, but eyed it from a safe distance, chattering and rubbing their heads together at its strange appearance. At length it lifted up its head, elevated its horns, and began to move. This was irresistible, and they accordingly just touched it with

the tips of their fingers, when it instantly retreated within its shell. At this sight, and the cold and slimy feeling of the snail, the monkeys were filled with the most ludicrous dis-



may. They retreated as usual to the farther corner of their cage, looked first at their fingers and then at the snail, which in a few moments thrust out its head and began to crawl, when the same experiment was repeated until some new object engaged their attention.

The monkeys which lived in the menagerie with Jack were not all of them of amiable dispositions. I have before told you about the tyrant baboon, and will now tell you of another monkey which entertained a spite against one smaller than itself, and was constantly watching for an opportunity to worry it. One day a boy held out an apple to the smaller monkey, who, seeing the prize within his reach, for a moment forgot his enemy and came forward to take it. No sooner had it moved within reach than its persecutor caught it, tumbled it on the floor of the cage, and bit it in the neck. It then grasped the poor little victim's tail and ran up to the roof of the cage, where it transferred the tail to its mouth, and swung the monkey by it backwards and forwards, biting the tail most severely, and

creating the most hideous outcry. The keeper left his work and proceeded to the cage, whereupon the tormentor let go of his victim's tail, and, sitting bolt upright in the corner of the cage, looked as demure and unconscious as possible. As the keeper approached, whip in hand, the monkey watched him out of the corners of his eyes, ready to jump in any direction at the motion of the whip. The other monkeys curled into the farthest corner from the scene of the mischief, carefully avoiding its author, except the poor little monkey who had been the sufferer, and who, the instant the keeper put his head into the cage, jumped on his back, and remained there till his oppressor had received his punishment.

Jack was not put into a cage with other monkeys when he came to the menagerie.

Whether his easy address and assured manner showed him a well-bred monkey, or whether the keeper thought it would occasion trouble to introduce a new member into either of his monkey families, I am unable to say; but when Jack came he was chained to a post, and he spent most of his time clambering up and down, running along a rail which was fastened into the post, and picking up little articles which were dropped within his reach. Jack's life, although pretty much the same one day with another, was, on the whole, not unpleasant. One of his greatest annoyances, the source of intense disgust and vexation, was the constant habit indulged in by the boys of grinning and making up wry faces at him, as he had by no means a small opinion of his own personal good appearance, and supposed, not

unnaturally judging others by himself, that they intended to imitate him.



It was indeed fortunate for our hero that he was so readily admitted into the menagerie, as it provided him a home during the whole of the long and severe winter which followed his arrival in New York, and during which an exposure to the severity of the weather out of doors would in all probability have occasioned his death. Here, then, he remained, in a large hall, well heated

for the comfort of the animals, which were mostly natives of much warmer climates, and carefully provided with food, — better, indeed, than he had ever been in his life, even when he lived in the forest.

THE CIRCUS.



SPRING now began to open. The snow melted away,—milder weather succeeded to the severe frosts which had ruled over sea and land,—bridging the rivers, and covering the lakes and ponds with a thick coating of ice. During the winter the owner of the menagerie had made an arrangement with a travelling circus to unite the two exhibitions for a summer tour. At the very commencement of summer they were to start, and thus

Jack was to see life under new aspects, and from a new position.

When the tour was really begun, they were all gathered together,—lions and tigers, elephants, hyenas, lamas, monkeys, musicians, circus-riders, clowns, and attendants,—and, being packed in great vans or wagons, prepared to start for the place where they were to give their first performance. This was at a large village in the country. Here the tents were set up, and the seats and everything got ready. At this moment the monkey which had always ridden the pony became too sick to ride, and the keeper of the menagerie selected Jack to fill his place. But Jack had yet to take his first lesson in riding, and this he received in the following way.

A pair of nice, spirited horses were brought into the large tent, having on them nothing

but bridles and surcingles, — a broad strap to fasten around a blanket. Upon one of these horses Jack was placed, and the reins were put in his hand. On the other a circus-rider leaped, and, standing up, held the reins in his hand, and commenced to ride around the ring. After he had ridden around two or three times, the horse upon which was our friend Jack was loosed, and Jack was fairly launched as an equestrian performer. Our hero played his part at first like an old stager. He found no difficulty in sitting or standing upon the horse, and, on the other hand, the horse found no difficulty in carrying him, as he was an extremely light weight.

From the first lesson the teacher proceeded to the second, and Jack was getting along quite well, when all at once the horse took it into his head to give a little performance on



JACK'S LESSON IN RIDING. — Page 101.



the outside, upon his own account. The entrance to the tent had not been closed up entirely, — a passage-way leading from this tent to the smaller one which was used for storage, &c., and through which the horses had been brought in, having been left open. The horses were now at full speed, the circus-rider leading, and Jack following at a tremendous pace, when, just as Jack's horse was at the entrance of the circle, instead of passing around, he turned like lightning into the passage, and in a second was in the open air. The crowd of men and boys who always surround an exhibition of any sort in a country place, received this demonstration, which was not in the bills, with a shout of delight. The horse, excited by the noise, from a gallop broke into a dead run, and on reaching the first turn in the road, finding the bars down

into a pasture, he took to the fields. The escape was seen in a moment, and the whole company of riders went off in pursuit. Jack's horse was very spirited; he had the start, he was light-weighted, and seemed to understand that, for a time, he could have everything his own way. Until the rest of the company arrived, he was contented to race around and around in the field; but no sooner did they enter and attempt to surround and take him, than he determined to show them it was not an easy thing to be done. The first thing which the pursuers did when they entered the field was to put up the bars, that Jack might not get out into the road, and give them a longer chase. His horse seemed to know this dodge as soon as it was performed, and did not care even to show that he noticed it at all. He selected a small elevation at the far-

the end of the field from the entrance, and, racing to it with all his might, turned around, and for a moment faced his pursuers, who were now scattering in every direction in order to make the chase as short as possible.

As they approached nearer, he stamped his fore-feet, pawed in the grass, and then, neighing defiance, he set off directly at right angles to their advance, and, making for a wall heightened some two feet by a fence made of rough rails and brush, cleared it at a bound, and raced off, leaving them far behind.

Although Jack was already quite tired with this exploit, he did not know exactly what to do, — so he decided to sit quiet and let the horse take his own way. This was a very sensible conclusion, inasmuch as Jack did not know the use of the reins, and could not have guided the horse back if he

had had ever so good an intention to do so. After racing around to his perfect satisfaction, the horse was at length secured, and Jack returned to the tent, where he was well received, as being in no way the cause of the event which had occurred. What happened to the horse I do not know; but as the chase was the talk of the whole county, and the performances were full of people who came to see the celebrated monkey and his horse, I presume he was not very severely punished.

Jack became a prominent attraction at the circus. The brilliancy of his feats in riding, jumping the bar while on horseback, and many other noted performances, made him the delight of the women and children, and furnished constant themes for country editors to expand upon, and fill up their

otherwise tame and spiritless weekly sheets. A Shetland pony was purchased for Jack's sole use, and every care was taken to preserve his health, and to keep up his spirits to the key necessary to enable him to perform his arduous duties. Had he been a clap-trap advocate, with an endless quantity of adjectives at his command, and blessed by nature with a quadruple amount of impudence and charlatanism, he could not have been more petted and caressed by those about him.

Jack's vanity was flattered by the continual attentions which were lavished upon him by his master and the keeper, and by the thunders of applause with which he was welcomed by the juveniles and their mammas; and, like a great many men as intelligent as himself, he regarded these trivial

compliments as the legitimate reward of his great merit, and really considered himself as nothing less than a hero. His dress, which



added to his self-love, was an elegant uniform, with gold-lace trimmings, and a cha peau with feathers; and when in full costume, he was in the habit of looking in a

mirror which hung in the dressing-room of the establishment, and wondering at his own splendid appearance, which he considered as very like that of the dressed-up military puppets which parade our streets, with high-sounding titles, having about as much real meaning in their case as if they had been given to our friend Jack.

Another of Jack's accomplishments while in the employ of the circus-company, was to walk the tight-rope. This was suggested to Jack's master by the exploits of a celebrated Frenchman, who about that time amused the visitors at Niagara by walking over the river on a rope from one side to the other, but who finally dropped into the stream, and was found a few weeks afterwards in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. That our Master Jack did not share his fate is accounted for,

partly by his performances having been confined to the circus, where there was no running water, and partly by his superior dexterity in holding on to the rope; for which nature had peculiarly fitted him, by giving



him four hands, instead of two hands and two feet.

With the end of autumn, the days began again to be cool, the nights frosty and cold, and the proprietors of the menagerie and circus commenced to make preparations for

retiring to winter quarters, as it was getting to be quite too uncomfortable in the tents. Jack was no longer wanted to ride the pony or to dance on the rope, and having so long been a star-performer, he was unwilling to take his place with ordinary monkeys, to go undressed, to accept trifling pittances of apples and orange-peel from the boys; and, as he had ridden by the side of men in the circus, he did not see why, with his good looks, and the quickness and readiness to learn for which he was so remarkable, he could not walk beside them in life. So, taking what is commonly called "French leave" of his master and companions, he determined to set up for himself. How this resulted, you will learn in the next chapter; but you must not think Jack particularly unwise in this decision. Thousands of boys and girls,

and of men and women too, act in this respect exactly like him. They are always discontented with their lot in life; they are always grumbling at what they are obliged to do in their occupation; they are always thinking they ought to be as well off, as well dressed, as others; they are always attempting to do what they are unfitted by nature and by education to accomplish, and neglecting the duties which they can perform, and which they should find a delight in doing. These people might learn a lesson from Jack; but they neither see with their eyes nor hear with their ears the lessons and admonitions of their every-day experience. So we will leave them to their fate, and finish the history of Jack.

JACK SETS UP FOR HIMSELF.



OUR hero had now seen a great deal of human life, at least in its outward appearances, and he judged himself quite able to fill a position in society. Like most people who are discontented with their situation, much of the dislike arose from being obliged to do anything. So Jack, setting up for himself, had no intention of adopting any occupation by which to work for a living.

His early life in the forest was his ideal of the life which he wished to live in society ; — no work, to get up in the morning, seek for a breakfast and find it, amuse himself for the first half of the day eating and drinking if anything chanced to fall in his way, and finish the day with continued amusement, till bedtime. This was life in the forest, and this life, with the addition of fashionable attire, — eye-glasses, a switch, and perhaps a dog with a silver collar, — was to be transferred by Jack to Broadway and the Fifth Avenue. In fact, Jack was no inventor ; this life, with just these additions, is the life of thousands of gentlemanly-dressed loafers in every city, town, and village throughout the civilized world. Here he is, as he looked when he first appeared ; and let my little readers say if they do not see the very



THE MONKEY GENTLEMAN. — Page 110.

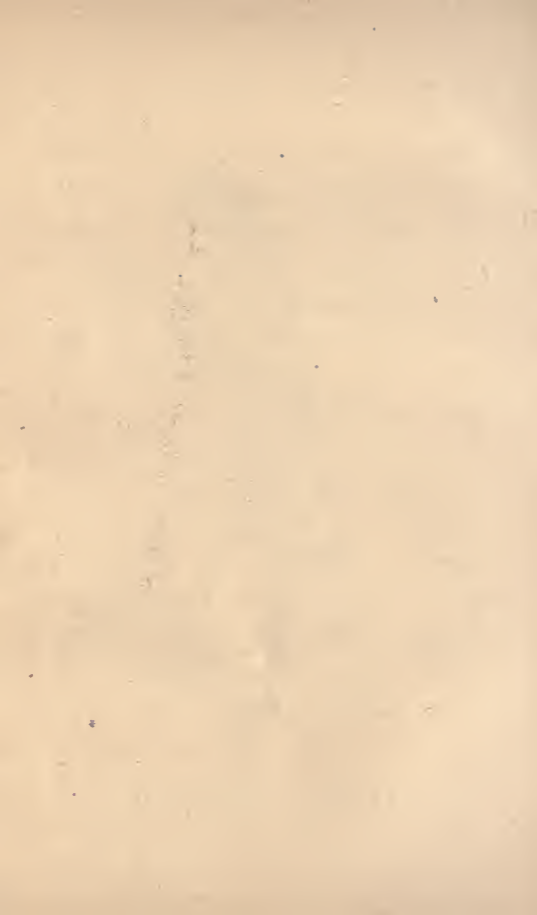


image of this portrait every day of their lives in some human shape.

But Jack, mean-spirited as he was, could not successfully sustain, for any length of time, the character which his human compeers manage, by fleecing their friends, borrowing of their acquaintances, and stealing from others, to carry through year after year, till age robs them of every external attraction, and they drop off into workhouses, or worse places of refuge.

Jack soon discovered that his slender means were nearly exhausted, and that, being entirely without any friends or acquaintances of whom he could beg or borrow, he must soon do something for a living; so he looked about him to discover what occupation would require the least physical labor, and demand the smallest amount of mental

effort, while it would enable him in some measure to indulge in his propensity for idleness, and at the same time permit him in the street to go well dressed, and pass himself off for a gentleman. New York is the place to find such a profession if there is any place in the world where it can be found; but it is by no means easy to satisfy all these requisitions in full, and Jack spent many days, and even weeks, in parading the principal streets, for the purpose of making a decision exactly to his mind; and it was not until delay was no longer possible that he decided upon becoming a photographic artist.

Jack determined upon this occupation, because he saw, at every corner of street, lane, and alley, frames hung out filled with photographs, which even a monkey might see it required but little knowledge and skill to

produce; and he thought, from the immense number of people who entered this profession, that their productions must be a necessary of life, while the very name of artist set Jack's idle ambition on fire. He had not the power to judge between these wretched degraders of art, and those men who give their lives to examining the secrets of nature, and whose discoveries and inventions furnish to whole hordes of miserable followers the means of living without a great expenditure of thought, talent, or labor. And Jack—as he, like the greater portion of those whose signs decorate street-corners, entered the profession only for the living which he expected to wring from it—probably cared little for excellence. He neither intended to get up with the sun, nor to waste the midnight gas, searching for new methods, and endeavoring to perfect what

were already known. It is no wonder, then, that being a photographer was as little to his benefit as being a gentleman, and that a few weeks saw him at the end of his career as an artist, with threadbare clothes, soleless boots, and no money in his pocket.

What was he to do now? It was the middle of winter. Accustomed by nature to the heat of the tropics, with a constitution adapted to those climates, he was ill-calculated, without the warmest clothing, to endure the bitter cold of some of the days, or the penetrating moisture of others. And, reluctant as he was to return to his old master, the keeper of the menagerie, he felt compelled to do so, and to take his place again among his former associates, over whom his only advantages were, that he had seen more of the world, and learnt more of its bitter lessons.



JACK A PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST. — Page 114.

He is now back in the menagerie, and, as he says, was never more happy and contented in his life. His wanderings in the streets, and the exposure to which he was subjected, gave him a serious sickness, which came near proving fatal, and during which he bitterly regretted that he had attempted to imitate mankind. But the kindness and care which he received from the keeper and his assistants struck a chord of fine and tender feelings in Jack's heart, and he feels a gratitude which will never pass away for the unbought sympathy which was felt for him in his sickness, and for the skill which saved him from an early death.

The other monkeys in the menagerie are much as they used to be when Jack was here before. They spend their time mostly in idle gambols; and I am sorry to say the larger

ones occasion more misery than happiness to the small ones, who, in order to live at all in comfort, are obliged to keep at a respectful distance from their superiors, and to look well after their tails.



