

Beginning New Serial, "Captain Chub," by Ralph Henry Barbour

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A SON OF THE DESERT

BY BRADLEY GILMAN

CHAPTER I

"BETTER THAN FOOT-BALL"

It is not very good fun for a boy of fifteen to sit at a window and watch other boys play foot-ball; if he has any spirit in him he longs to go and take a hand in the sport; but if the doctor has warned him solemnly not to go out unless the sun is shining, he would do well to heed the warning, and restrain his impatience as best he can, and get what little fun he may from watching the game. But it was only natural, I admit, that impatient Ted Leslie should be drumming restlessly upon the window-pane.

Ted's home was in Lexington, Massachusetts, a few miles north of Boston; but he was living in lodgings, for a few months, with his father in that quarter of London known as Hampstead.

Just at the point where Ted thought he could not possibly stay in any longer, the door of the library opened, and his father entered.

One glance through the window, and another at his pale hollow-eyed boy, and Colonel Leslie grasped the situation. He went over toward the open wood fire, backed up to it in a comfortable position and remarked: "I wonder if there is anybody around here who would like to take a trip to Egypt?"

He looked steadily at the rug under his feet as he spoke, as if he were studying its texture; but a twinkle was in his eyes, and a smile played about the corners of his mouth.

Ted Leslie drew a long breath, glanced at his father, and quite forgot about his youthful

friends and their game of foot-ball outside. The two were more like older and younger brothers than like father and son. Ted's mother had died, years before, and the Colonel had drawn very close to his boy, and had taken him frequently on journeys in Europe.

Ted rose slowly, still keeping his inquiring gaze fixed upon his father, and came over to the fireplace. He walked insecurely: evidently he was recovering from a serious illness. He took hold of the lapels of his father's loose coat, and asked, with a mischievous air of scolding authority: "What is the meaning of that remark? Come, out with it, sir."

Colonel Leslie's face now changed to a more serious expression. He took his boy's thin hands in both his own and said: "Well, this is what I mean, Ted. My old friend, General Hewatt, who is stationed at Cairo, has been home for a furlough; I met him last week at the Army and Navy Club, where, as you know, I have a non-resident membership. He is to return to his post in Egypt next week. Now, it occurred to me," here the quizzical expression came back to his kind face, "that if you happened to know a young fellow of about your size, a young fellow, I say, who has been having a rather hard run of illness, and so needs a warmer, drier climate than London offers,—well, you might say to such a young chap that General Hewatt is willing to pilot him to Egypt, and entertain him there for a few months, until the extremely hot weather comes on."

Ted Leslie's face began to tinge with red, and

FOR VERY LITTLE FOLK

The Fine Good Show



“GOOD MORNING, COW, COME AND TAKE A WALK WITH US.”

A LITTLE girl and a little boy started down the road together to take a walk. They met a dog.

“Good morning, Dog,” said the little girl. “Bow-wow!” answered the dog.

“Come and take a walk with us, Dog,” said the little boy.

So they all went down the road together.

Pretty soon they met a cat.

“Good morning, Cat,” said the little boy. “Miaouw!” answered the cat.

“Come and take a walk with us, Cat,” said the little girl. So they all went down the road together.

Pretty soon they met a rooster.

“Good morning, Rooster,” said the little girl. “Cock-a-doodle-doo!” answered the rooster.

“Come and take a walk with us, Rooster,” said the little boy.

So they all went down the road together.

Pretty soon they met a duck.

“Good morning, Duck,” said the little boy. “Quack, quack!” answered the duck.

“Come and take a walk with us, Duck,” said the little girl.

So they all went down the road talking merrily with one another.

Pretty soon they saw a little pinky-white pig with a funny little curly tail.

"Good morning, Pig," said the little girl. "Grunt, grunt!" answered the pig.

"Come and take a walk with us, Pig," said the little boy.

So they all went down the road together.

Pretty soon they came to a pasture.

In the pasture was a nice, old, red cow.

"Good morning, Cow," said the little boy. "Moo, moo!" answered the cow.

"Come and take a walk with us," said the little girl.

But the cow shook her head; she could n't open the pasture bars.

"We will let down the bars for you, Cow," said the little boy and the little girl.

So they let down the bars, and the dog, and the cat, and the rooster, and the duck, and the little white pig with the curly tail, and the little boy, and the little girl, all went in to see the cow.

The little girl climbed on the cow's back, and the little boy climbed on the cow's back, and the dog jumped on the cow's back, and the cat jumped on the cow's neck, and the rooster flew up on the cow's head, and the little white pig with the curly tail, and the duck, walked behind the cow, and they all went down the road together just as happy as they could be.



"GOOD MORNING, PIG, COME AND TAKE A WALK WITH US."



"GOOD MORNING, DUCK, COME AND TAKE A WALK WITH US."

Pretty soon they met a carriage with two women in it.

"Mercy on me!" said the two women. "What's this!"

"This is a fine, good show," answered the little girl.

"Well, I should think it was!" said the two women. "It is a beautiful show."

"Thank you," said the little boy.

"Good-by," said the two women.

"Good-by," said the little girl.

So the cow, carrying the little boy, and the little girl, and the dog, and the cat, and the rooster, with the little white pig with the curly tail, and the duck, walking along behind, all went down the road together.

Pretty soon they met a wagon with three men in it.

"Well! Well! Well!" said the three men. "Just look! What's all this?"

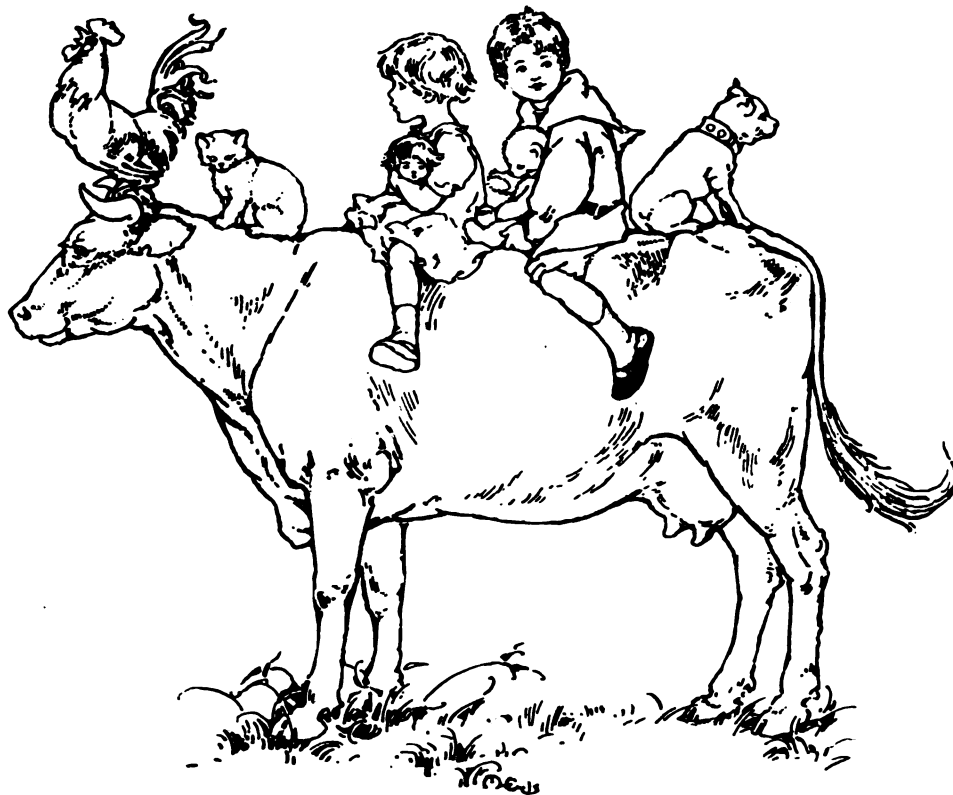
"This is a fine, good show," said the little boy, bowing very politely.

"Indeed it is!" said the three men. "It's great!"

"Thank you," said the little boy, "I am pleased that you like it."

"Good-by," said the little girl.

So the cow, carrying the little girl, and the little boy, and the dog, and the cat, and the rooster, with the little white pig with the curly tail, and the duck, walking behind, all went down the road together.



THE FINE, GOOD SHOW.

Pretty soon they came to a store. The Store Man stood out in front of his store.

"Good morning, Mr. Store Man," said the little boy, "I have a little silver piece in my pocket."

"Good morning!" said the Store Man. "What can I do for you?"

"We want to buy some things for our Show," said the little boy.

"I'm glad of that!" said the Store Man.

So the little boy jumped down, and the little girl jumped down, and the dog jumped down, and the cat jumped down, and the rooster flew down.

"We want to buy a little corn for our cow and our pig," said the little boy.

"And we want to buy a little wheat for our rooster and our duck," said the little girl.

"And we want to buy a little meat for our dog," said the little boy.

"And we want to buy a little milk for our cat," said the little girl.

"And we want to buy some great, long sticks of candy for us!" said the little boy and the little girl together. "I hope you have some."

The Store Man took the money and brought out all the things.

The cow and the little white pig with the curly tail ate the corn; the rooster and the duck ate the wheat; the dog ate the meat, and the cat drank the milk, and the little girl and the little boy ate the great, long sticks of candy.

"Good-by, Mr. Store Man," said the little girl.

"Good-by, Mr. Store Man," said the little boy.

"Good-by, all of you," answered the Store Man.

So the little girl, and the little boy, and the dog, and the cat, and the rooster, and the duck, and the little pig with the curly tail, all went back up the road again.

Pretty soon they came to the pasture. The cow walked in.

"Good-by, Cow and Dog and Cat and Rooster and Duck and Pig!" shouted the little boy.

"Good-by, Pig and Duck and Rooster and Cat and Dog and Cow!" called the little girl.

"Moo-moo!" answered the cow.

"Grunt-grunt!" answered the pig.

"Miaouw, miaouw!" answered the cat.

"Quack, quack!" answered the duck.

"Cock-a-doodle-doo!" answered the rooster. "Bow-wow!" answered the dog.

And the little boy and the little girl put up the bars and ran back home as fast as they could go.



"THE STORE MAN BROUGHT OUT ALL THE THINGS."

Jessie Wright Whitcomb.



"THE LITTLE BOY AND THE LITTLE GIRL PUT UP THE BARS."