

SLEEPY-TIME TALES

THE TALE OF OLD DOG SPOT

BY ARTHUR SCOTT BAILEY

CHAPTER V. Teasing the Cat.

When Miss Kitty Cat came to the farm house to live she soon showed old dog Spot that she could fight like a wren. The first time he cornered her she put some scratches on his nose that he never forgot. And after that he always took great pains to keep out of reach of Miss Kitty's claws.

So long as Miss Kitty Cat ran away from him, Spot would follow her, yelping madly. But when she stopped, he stopped, too, digging his own claws into the dirt in order to

leave a safe distance between Miss Kitty and his nose.

He quickly discovered that there were ways in which he could tease Miss Kitty Cat that annoyed her greatly, while keeping his nose out of harm's way. Growing always made her tail go big. Barking made her spit at him. But there was something else that angered her still more. When Spot stood stock still one day, with his tail stuck straight out behind him, and pointed at her with his nose, he made her almost frantic.

"What are you pointing at with that long nose of yours?" Miss Kitty Cat snarled.

Spot didn't say a word. For the moment he didn't move any more than the iron dog did, that stood in a yard on the corner of the village and never so much as wagged his tail from one year's end to another. Somehow Spot's queer behavior gave Miss Kitty Cat an odd, creepy feeling along her back. Her fur rose

Romance in Origin Of Superstitions

By H. I. KING.
The Moon an Insanity.

How universal was formerly the belief that there was a direct connection between the moon and insanity is shown by the fact that our worse lunacy and lunatic are derived directly from Luna, the Latin name of the Roman moon goddess corresponding with the Greek Selene. Luna, the moon and she was only one of the various personifications of the moon which existed in all mythologies and of which Isis of the Egyptians appears to have been the original. It used to be a common belief among sailors especially, that if a person slept in the moonlight he was liable to go mad. That superstition is still in existence as is also the more common one that lunatics are more violent when the moon is at the full. Even Thackeray, in his story of "Catherine," appears to credit this mistaken belief; and it is not so very long ago that responsible physicians began to doubt the theory.

It is very common superstition today that to sleep in the moonlight is dangerous—that "something will happen" to one who does so. A life surviving from the insanity superstition.

This idea of the connection between the moon and insanity is derived from the belief of the ancients that inspiration and madness were closely connected. The prophetess of the Delphian shrine worked herself into a frenzy before she uttered her oracles and the priests of the moon goddess bathed themselves in her rapturous beams to obtain inspiration and declared from her altars after the manner of maenads.

Modern medical science declares that there is not the slightest connection between the moon and insanity and modern research shows that the whole idea is a superstition surviving from the days when the priests of Isis by the banks of the Nile, in their fanaticism toward their shining goddess and with "eyes in fine frenzy rolling" declared her oracles to an awe-struck people.

Parents' Problems

How can a child inclined to "look for trouble" be helped? Is not "looking for trouble" the sign of a certain kind of selfishness? Such a child is thinking too much of himself and what others say and do to him, rather than of his relation to and actions toward them. He should be made to feel that not what his friends do to make him happy, but the pleasure which he is able to give them, is the important thing. One child was helped by the thought that of course his feelings were going to get hurt if he kept them all on the outside, but that if he tucked them away out of sight and looked after other people's for a while he would find that there wasn't any trouble, after all.

Where It Started

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on end. She glared at Spot and spat at him in a most unladylike fashion. Spot found it very hard to stand still and never let out a single yelp. Once he almost whined. But he managed to stifle the sound.

"If she swells up much more she's likely to burst," he thought.

"Go away," Miss Kitty scolded. "Don't you know better than to stare at a lady?"

Never an answer did old Spot make.

It was a little more than Miss Kitty Cat could endure. With a yowl that had in it something of anger and something of fear, too, she jumped off the doorstep where she had been sitting and whisked around the corner of the house.

With Miss Kitty Cat's first leap Spot came suddenly to life. He barked joyfully and followed her. Miss Kitty Cat ran up a tree in the yard and stayed there until Spot went off chuckling.

"I'm glad I played that trick on her," he said to himself. "It seems to bother her more than anything else I've ever tried."

Thereafter Spot often pointed at Miss Kitty when he met her, either inside the house or about the yard. And she never failed to fly into a passion.

Such manners I never saw," she spluttered when she talked one day with a cat from the nearest farm house.

"I'd soon cure the old dog of that unpleasant trick if he tried it on me," her neighbor remarked.

"What would you do?" Miss Kitty Cat wanted to know.

"I'd chase him."

"He can run faster than I can," said Miss Kitty.

"When he's pointing at you jump at him before he can turn around. If you draw your claws across his nose just once he'll be careful after that to look the other way when he sees you."

"Your plan sounds as if it might be worth trying," said Miss Kitty thoughtfully.

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The Buying Impetus

By JACK LEE

A DECIDED impetus in retail buying on the part of consumers is already being felt in business circles and the move is having its strengthening effect on wholesalers and manufacturers. The buying urge is expected to make itself more evident in the near future. This is the opinion of experts who are watching continually the ever-changing conditions.

In early summer, especially in the past month, buying in retail stores has been comparatively low. Customers bought only what was absolutely necessary. Many persons went without things needed and got along with the best they had, waiting for that mythical "return to normalcy." Don't hold your breath until business reaches "normalcy." You'll be blue in the face.

But now merchants are noticing an increase in their retail sales. It probably isn't enough to brag about, but it is evidence of smoother waters ahead. They predict that buying will continue and finally resolve itself into brisk buying before the latter part of September.

Buyers already are in the market obtaining their fall and winter stocks.

This impetus in retail buying is welcomed by all concerned. It is already having its influence on wholesalers and manufacturers. The move seems to be national, according to reports of business and economic conditions from various centers.

In the east the buying impulse is credited to an increased demand for labor in all industrial lines.

At home there is no doubt that an era of better times is about to be ushered in because of the bumper grain crops which are now moving to market.

Contrary to all predictions last spring, wheat and oat crops are good and are bringing good prices. Hogs, in spite of the cheapness of feed, are bringing prices not to be sneezed at. Other live stock is holding its own and farmers of Nebraska at last see a rift in the dark clouds which have been obscuring the sun of prosperity for months.

Crop money has relieved financial stringency in the country and city banks. Farmers have been able to pay off a part of their obligations to the small banks. The small banks in turn have passed the farmers' money on to pay off obligations to the city banks. The influence of this crop money is felt in all lines.

Grain men say that grain prices will continue good because of the heavy foreign demand for our wheat. This demand has been heavier this year than for a number of years. At present corn is the only fly in the farmers' ointment. If corn does not pick up in price one stockman has suggested that it be used in feeding hogs on a large scale for marketing purposes.

As an Omaha banker put it recently, "If the farmers had lived in the past four years as they have the past six months we would not have had the stringent conditions we have experienced. When money was plentiful farmers spent it like water. When money was scarce, farmers began to save and wasteful buying and squandering ceased. There has been none of this in the past six months. Farmers have been careful with what money they could get. The result is now being felt."

Bank clearings, which are always good business barometers, have been on the increase in Omaha for the past three weeks. While not as heavy as last year, which was an unusual year, the clearings are above those of practically every city its size.

Yet, as Archer Wall Douglas of the United States Chamber of Commerce says in a recent article:

"While these promising signs have appeared on the business horizon, it is not yet time to 'holler,' for we are not yet out of the woods. There are still adjustments to be made, financial wrecks to be disposed of, many problems to be solved. But we seem to be headed definitely toward better conditions, even though they are still far off. We are apparently in the initial stages of emergence from the present business depression and entering upon a period when each particular business will be governed more by natural laws pertaining to it and less abnormal forces which turned the world upside down."

Business men declare that there is a certain current of suspicion on the part of the consumer toward the retailer and wholesaler because of prevailing prices.

This suspicion is unjust. In practically all lines wholesaler and retailer have accepted losses on high-priced stocks and are disposing of them at prices in comparison to those demanded by the wholesaler or manufacturer.

More thrift, more faith in the retailer and less of hit-and-miss buying and more judicious expenditures will do a lot toward getting business ahead.

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