

"Very well," said the teacher.

Perhaps she meant she knew very well. For there were suspicious, gingery traces about Jamie's mouth. His pockets bulged uncommonly large, too. And presently, when the teacher was busy teaching little Johnny Orr to say his alphabet, Jamie quietly and, as it were, under cover slipped two large ginger cookies into the pocket of the hero of the day.

It was characteristic of Jamie, this willing offering to a superior genius whose superiority was so established that he recognized as fruitless and forebore from any attempt at emulation. Susy's pronounced preference for Willie did not trouble him. He preferred Pauline. Her imagination was less fecund and her demands less difficult. An occasional ginger cookie, or a red apple from his lunch kept her perpetually his friend. Susy scorned such overtures if made to cover the lack of fearlessness of exploit which her soul loved. Jamie had heard with composure her statement that nobody dared to jump off the new red barn.

"Course not," he said calmly. "Nobody could."

But Willie promptly took up the challenge.

"I could," she said.

"Ya-as," drawled Susy, "but you won't."

"I will!" asserted Willie.

"When?"

Susy always followed up a prospective adventure.

"Saturday," said Willie, "a' that's tomorrow."

"Poh!" said Susy. "I don't believe you dare!"

"You'll see," said Willie stoutly.

The next day two good women were sorely puzzled over the anxiety of their respective sons to pay a visit to the Oliphant ranch. Jamie, as usual, after much wheedling, obtained the desired permission, and appeared a little after noon riding his buckskin pony. Johnny's case was more difficult. Requiring, as he did, his mother's company, on account of his tender years, he was reduced to despair and tears, before the coveted consent was gained. It did not occur to either of them to tell of Willie's boast.

Each secretly feared that at last the hero would write failure large. The jump from the big barn was a fearful hazard and each knew that the grown-ups, indifferent to deeds of heroism, would put a stop, immediately to such a proceeding. So, unheralded, approached the fatal hour.

Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Oliphant, deep in a discussion of the relative merits of devices for pickling, little dreamed of the fearful suspense, in which the hearts of their offspring beheld the intrepid Willie, slowly crawling along the ridge pole of the barn. Ascent had been easy, by means of the long ladder, set on the "lean to." The group at the barn door waited in breathless silence. The big barn was wide open. Through it came the sound of Jamie's pony, moving restlessly now and then, and the cluck-cluck of a hen, picking about the bins—and fussing with her chicks. Above the big door the hay mow door swung wide. Above that was the high gable, and above that the little figure perched, astride.

At last Jamie spoke weakly.

"He'll kill himself, I'm afraid."

Susy turned on him a contemptuous glance.

"Everybody knows you're afraid," she said.

"Come down, Willie!" shouted Jamie, his fear again overmastering even his pride in his hero. "Come down. It's too far to jump."

"Naw it aint," shouted Willie. "That's nothin'."

Still he seemed to hesitate.

"Jump!" shouted Susy. "You said you would!"

Immediately Willie took the leap. Not with his accustomed knightly fling, however; a half-hearted leap, which brought him down perilously close to the wall. Above the hay-mow door projected a long, stout beam which had been used by the painters in scaffolding and by some chance still remained. By the merest margin did Willie clear it. No, he had not cleared. The stout jeans jacket that he wore caught on the end of the beam, and the invincible hero was suspended safely, his small bare feet kicking ineffectually at empty space within the empty hay-mow doorway. In his extremity the boy, for the first time, realized his extremity. "I can't get down," he said as plaintively as any common boy. Johnny promptly ran for his mother.

This was why the Oliphant dinner bell was rung at the unusual hour of four in the afternoon to call the men from the field; and this is how the fact of the extraordinary courage of Willie became known to the grown-up persons, who had hitherto been blind to the fact that the lion heart which beat high beneath the blue-checked shirt of one commonly supposed to be merely a boy.

CLUBS.

Edited by Miss Helen G. Harwood.

CALENDAR OF NEBRASKA CLUBS

February	
12. Fortnightly.....	Lincoln
13. Friends in Council, Babylon captivity.....	Tecumseh
13. Sorosis, Eng. literature.....	Tecumseh
13. Cozy c., French women.....	Tecumseh
14. W. S. c., Literature.....	Auburn
15. Round Table, Queens of Eng.....	Crete
15. Self Culture c., History.....	St. Paul
16. Review & Art c., Swift.....	York
16. History & Art c., Book Review.....	Seward
16. Fin de Siecle c., Debate, Indian question.....	Seward
16. W. S. c., Nebraska Day.....	Columbus
16. Zeretie c., Literature.....	Weeping Water
18. W. S. c., Household Economics.....	Norfolk

Lillie E. Baker, Corr. Sec., of the Norfolk Woman's club furnishes the following report:

A delightful afternoon was enjoyed by the Woman's club last Saturday at the reception given by the teachers of the Norfolk schools. Misses Wood, Nelson, Reese and Allberry received the guests. The room was beautifully decorated with potted plants and draperies in the club colors. Supt. O'Connor read an interesting paper on "The duties of patrons to teachers and schools." Mrs. John R. Hays responded on behalf of the club. An interesting discussion by teachers and patrons followed which awakened a closer sympathy between teachers and patrons. One side of the room was partitioned off by a large screen draped with club colors. Behind this screen were arranged small tables daintily spread, where light refreshments were served. Music for the occasion was furnished by the High school orchestra and others. Each guest was presented with a suitable badge composed of club colors, white and yellow.

Among the members of the Mattapanock club of South Boston are Mesdames Julia Ward Howe and Louise Chandler Moulton.

The midwinter meetings of the Massachusetts state federation, by invitation of the Woman's club of Boston, will occur in that city February 15th. At the morning session, Dr. J. Stanley Hall, president of Clark university will give an address on "Boy Nature." This will be followed by half an hour of questions and answers. "The personal and social development of a boy" is the topic for

the afternoon. The following paper will be given under the preceding title, "How to make him a good man;" "How to make him a good citizen." A discussion from the floor will follow these papers and the club wishes that subjects such as "the boy's friends;" "literature for boys;" "discipline;" "the boy's room;" "respect for the rights of others;" "the boy's teacher and school," and "the sense of honor" may be taken up.

The Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth century, in Brooklyn, New York, gave a special service last Sunday, in commemoration of the first Sunday rites solemnized by the Pilgrims on the Atlantic shore, January 21st, 1621.

Hallie Ermie Rives, a novelist, has aroused the antagonism of Chicago club women. She asserts that the interest Chicago women take in clubs is "destroying their domestic love and filling the divorce courts." Dr. Julia Holmes Smith says that "Miss Rives views are the expressions of immaturity." Chicago women maintain, moreover that the exigences of club life prevent "idle marriages." Dr. Frances Dickinson, head of the Harvard medical college, has remarked in regard to the matter: "I was in club life from 1886 until 1894 and in all that time no one ever asked me to endorse her application who was not a married woman, and I don't know of a divorce among club women of Chicago."

The National Congress of Mothers, in a circular they have issued, urge the union of individual clubs with their association for the following reasons:

"Such union will increase the efficiency and importance of the individual club. The stronger clubs will widen their influence by service to the weaker; the weaker will feel the stimulus of contact with the stronger; all will feel the inspiration of a common purpose.

"No woman's club, working for the uplifting of humanity, can be complete without a section for child study and interchange of thought on subjects pertaining to the home."

Club Day at the Denver Woman's club last Saturday was in charge of the social science department. The afternoon's topic was the "Novel as a social agent." The speaker, Miss Ring, analyzed the relation of the novel to society and dwelt upon its industrial aspect and also upon love and character study as portrayed by the novelists.

The Kansas House of Representatives passed the Butler bill February 2nd: "an act requiring proprietors, managers and persons having charge of establishments or places where women or girls are employed to provide chairs, stools or other contrivances for the seating of such employees, and to permit them to use the same for rest when not actively engaged in duties inconsistent with such requirement."

The first annual conference of the National Legislative League will be held in Washington February 19th and 20th. All clubs affiliated with the organization are asked to send delegates and all who think that there should be no discrimination against any class of citizens in the provisions of the national and state constitutions are invited to be present. The Philadelphia Times gives the following report:

"At this conference the organization of the League will be perfected and public questions discussed. Plans will be made for active efforts to abolish all the legal enactments injurious to women, especially those laws which deny to them their equal rights to their children, their property and their earnings.

"A protest will be made to Congress against all Federal injustice based on

sex; above all, the provision by which the free-born American woman, on marriage to a foreigner, loses her birthright of citizenship in this republic. The initiative will be taken in the endeavor to secure for women equality of legal, political and industrial rights through national and state legislation."

Chicago club women are aiding materially in making Chicago an art centre. Various Chicago clubs purchase several good pictures by Chicago artists at each annual exhibit of the Art Institute. Outside of the artists who have private patrons the largest sales are made to women's clubs. The Chicago Woman's club has appropriated a large amount for pictures this year. The Arche and Klio clubs also intend purchases.

The Social Union club of Denver endorsed at its last meeting the house bill for an appropriation by the legislature of a sum of money for a parental school.

The program for the Iowa federation of Women's clubs, which will occur May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, in Council Bluffs, has been completed. On Tuesday, April 30th, the vice presidents will meet with the following subjects for discussion: "Ideal results of women's clubs;" "Manual training in our public schools;" "Our women's clubs, beneficial factors in home life;" "How can club women work with teachers?" "The value of outdoor study;" "Objectionable advertising;" "Compulsory education." There will be the usual business meetings. One session will be devoted to library work. The Press women of Iowa will be given an hour. The Bird Hour will certainly offer opportunity for humane speculation. The topics assigned under this subject are "preservation of birds" and "study of birds." One evening will be given to art and another to music. The main address of the federation will be given by Mrs. Ketzle of the Polytechnic school of Peoria.

The program of the Fairbury Woman's club January 29th: Miss Lullie's music received an encore. Mrs. Freeman read a paper on "the leading magazines, their editors, and noted contributors." Mrs. Cross read a humorous story. Mrs. Balch reviewed a short story from The Sky Pilot. Mesdames Moon and Simpson sang a duet. The members were served with chocolate, lady fingers and wafers.

The program of the Fairbury Woman's club for February 5th: Business, quotations—music; song; paper, "A few composers of sacred music;" recitations; music; talk, "The influence of sacred music;" song; talk, "music in churches."

Elizabeth Allsop of Gosden Common, near Guilford, who has died at the age of one hundred, had received a prize not long before from the late Duchess of York. The Duchess gave prizes to the domestic who had lived the greatest number of years with one family and Mrs. Allsop had been in the service of one family for seventy-four years.—Woman's Journal.

The women of the Tennessee federation have drawn up a bill providing for compulsory education, which is now before the legislature.

On Friday, February 1st, the Deborah Avery chapter of the D. A. R., met with Mrs. W. C. Henry. Mrs. Sawyer's paper was a refutation of the remark that the western chapters needed no money for the reason that the west had no history. The foregoing assertion was made by one of the officers of the national organization in the continental congress during the discussion of the amendment providing for the "retention of three-