

More Seeds of Knowledge; Or, Another Peep at Charles eBook

More Seeds of Knowledge; Or, Another Peep at Charles

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chairs and card tables were made of, grew in a country called Brazil in South America; and that the raisins in the plum-pudding on Christmas day, were dried grapes, and came from Spain.

“Papa,” said Charles one night, when he was, as usual, telling his papa what he had done in the course of the day,—“I wish I might learn more geography, instead of any grammar; I like it so much better: I like geography very much, but I do not like grammar at all.”



“And why should you have said so?”

“Because it is not right to say—‘there they goes’; nobody says so, but very ignorant people indeed; I heard the butcher’s boy say so one day; but then, you know, he is a poor ignorant boy and I dare say has never learnt any thing.”

“How did you know that he was an ignorant boy, Charles?”

“I knew it by his speaking wrong, papa.”

“Then you see it was true what I told you that if you speak wrong, people will directly think you are an ignorant person, as you thought the butcher’s boy.”

“But I should never say, ‘there they goes,’” said Charles, “I know better than that.”

“Ah, Charles,” said his papa, “you must learn a little more grammar, and then you will know that you made exactly the same blunder as the butcher’s boy, when you said, ‘there goes two white horses,’ you should have said, ‘there go two white horses.’”

world but them and the savages, they would not know there were any people cleverer than themselves.”

Charles used to go every fine day after his lessons were finished, to play in the square gardens; and as all the other boys whose parents lived in the square went there too, he had several friends, and amongst them one a little older than himself, named Peter Ross, whom he liked better than any of the rest.

“But why did the Africans go, papa?” said Charles, whose eyes were full of tears at this sad tale. “Why did they not send the sailors away again, and say they would not go with them?”

large fortunes there, by growing sugar; and there are still gold mines in other parts of America, where negro slaves work.”

[Illustration: *Little Charles seeing A Christmas pantomime.*]

As soon as he was dressed, he ran down stairs to breakfast, with a smiling face. "Here is the day come at last!" he said, "I am so glad mamma, I wish it was night; I am seven years old to-day."

Macbeth went with a large army to the place where they had landed, and having killed a great number of them in a battle, he forced the rest to return to Denmark.



"I will try to explain it, my dear: There is at present a civil war in Spain, because when the last king died, some of the people said that his daughter should be queen, and others said his brother should be king; so the daughter was placed on the throne and crowned; but the brother, whose name is Don Carlos, is very angry at this, because he thinks he has the greatest right to the crown; so he has persuaded all who are on his side, to go to war with all who are in favour of the queen, therefore the Spaniards are now fighting against each other."

"Which do you think will win?" said Charles.

"I cannot possibly say, my dear. But I wish to show you, Charles, the terrible consequences of a civil war. It may happen that fathers and sons are of different opinions, and that one fights for the queen, and the other for the king; and then it is possible that in battle the son may kill his father, or the father his son."



“Yes, then there was a king again, he was Charles the second; and now every year on the day that he returned, the bells ring, and the guns are fired, it is the 29th of May, and is called king Charles's restoration. When May comes, if you listen on that day, you will hear the bells ringing very merrily, and then you will know what it is for.”

“So I shall,” said Charles, “I am glad of that, I like to know things, I wish I knew the history of every country in the world.”

“It is a very good thing to know a great deal of history,” said his mamma; “and the best way of gaining this knowledge, is to read with attention the books that have been written on purpose to teach little boys history; they are the best for you to read now; then, when you are older, you will be able to understand the large books that are in your papa's book-case, and you may become acquainted with the history of the whole world, if you like.”

“Then the missionaries go to teach them better, I suppose?” said Charles.

“Yes, my dear, these good men are so anxious to do good to their fellow creatures, that they do not mind the difficulties and dangers they meet with; and it is no easy matter I assure you Charles, for many of them have been cruelly murdered by the barbarians they were trying to instruct.”

“Poor men,” said Charles, “how sorry I am for them; but why do any more of them go, papa, if they are so badly treated?”

“Because though some have been unfortunate, others have done a great deal of good; for instance, the missionary you read about this morning, went out a great many years ago to some of the South Sea islands, which he found inhabited by savages who knew nothing, and lived more like wild beasts than men; but he contrived to make friends of them, and has taught them to build houses, cultivate the earth, build ships, and make many useful articles of furniture, and tools to dig and plant the ground; and although all these things are of a very rough kind, it is better than not knowing how to make them at all, you know.”

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