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## A Trip with Uncle Josh

My dear Children:—

I think you would like to take a trip to the Academy Zoo with me. Yes, I said Academy Zoo; for we have not only a Zoo in the Academy, but a Floral Hall also. I shall take you to see the flowers later; but if you hurry we will visit the Zoo at once. Let us take that car marked "Imagination Avenue." How swiftly we travel!—That station ahead is Imagination—Well, here we are, at the Academy Zoo. Come this way, children.

The first animal I shall show you is a Fox. He was caught in Richmond, Va. He is so well trained that he is allowed to roam at large. I myself have seen him at True Reformer's Hall on Saturday evenings many times. He is a fine fellow, as clever as all foxes are reputed to be. He walks stealthily, brushes his hair back, wears a Balmacaan, smokes, chews things. The authorities have him on the Junior floor of this building, altho' counting from the year in which we secured him, he should be on the Sub-Middle floor.

We are now on the Sub-Middle floor and that animal with a soulful face is a Moose; not a "Bull Moose" but just a plain moosery Moose. He was brought here at great expense from Jamaica. He is called "Pete." Every summer he goes up to the Great Lakes; for, a moose like he, is fond of water; that is, he is fond of looking at it. He wears English clothes, a Balmacaan overcoat and eye glasses. He is put on exhibition at Hotel Miner at every meal.

This is the third or Middle floor. That animal you see grinning is not a cherrie Cat, but an Opossum; not an ordinary 'Possum but a real, genuine corn and persimmon fed Kentucky Opossum. We got him from the Hampton Zoo, but he originally came from the wilds of Kentucky. He is very intelligent, can play a

cornet, can dance and entertain, although not generally regarded as a "do right", he would make a good pet for some guest at Hotel Miner. All his attempts, however, in that direction have been so far futile, notwithstanding the fact that his cage is littered with photos of those who regarded him as a pet at the Hampton Zoo. He is fed at Hotel Miner.

Over here is a Giraffe. See how tall he is, and what a neck! He comes from Tampa, Florida. He had a brother here just two years ago who was noted for his ability to play football; but this fellow; although of good size, seems very timid in regard to football; his specialty being music—quartette music. All the visitors call him "chief." He is very docile and was once trained to carry chocolates to Hotel Miner, but, not being petted, he grew discouraged just as he was about to be selected as a pet.

Down in this alcove is a Kangaroo. He is noted for his ability to jump. This fellow did not come from Australia, but from Edwards, Miss. Since then, to the Hotel Miner guests, he has been the cynosure of all eyes. Never, until this year, has he been taken seriously. Year before last a lady from Lynchburg admired him, but he bashfully jumped away. Last year a lady from Raleigh looked at him kindly, but he jumped again. Then a lady from New York State glanced at him and walked over to where the giraffe was passing out chocolates. This year a kind, sympathetic little miss from Richmond, attracted, no doubt, by a dear little English moustache and a marcel wave brush back, began to train him; now he is so docile that on every Sunday evening he takes supper with her, every Monday evening he calls at Hotel Miner and every noon he humbly follows a beaten path to the School of Commercialism, far outclassing that famous "Lamb, who followed Mary to school one day." We are wondering if it isn't time for his jumping to start again.

On the top floor, the Senior Floor are a lion, an elephant and a camel. The lion came indirectly from New Jersey, directly from Boston or New Haven. You can see from his actions that he thinks he is the king of beasts. Since his ingress here the two have reverberated with noisy, but harmless, roaring. This noble fellow has dodged the shots of Hunters Davis and Sphax, and although these hunters were using Latinical and Geometrical rifles that had a range of four years. His noisy and boisterous proclivities do not render him an idol of the gentle sex.

The elephant is called not Jumbo, but "Dumbo." He is not of the peanut kind, but has all the characteristic clumsiness of his species. He came from the jungles of Norfolk. He is well cared for, petted and flustered by a lady from Lynchburg.

This camel came from Port News. He is of the humpless variety. This doesn't surprise us so much as the fact that he is not of the noiseless variety, for he is the noisiest animal in the Academy too. Every Summer he is turned loose and he invariably goes to Atlantic City and, like all camels when about to take a long journey, fills up. He has considerable trouble trying to remain a pet at Hotel Miner. A lady from Danville took him to train year before the last, but Mr. Camel became "boss" and "fell from grace." Nothing daunted he ambled over to the experienced training of a lady from Pawling, N. Y., but after a period of no-candy-carrying days, he was again in disfavor; ladyless, but happy; homeless, but noisy.

Now, let us catch this car marked "Reality Street Only." These cars do not tarry, do they? Here we are at home again. Good bye children. The next time I shall take you to the Botanical Gardens to see the flowers.