

A
P R E S E N T

FOR A
LITTLE BOY.

LONDON :

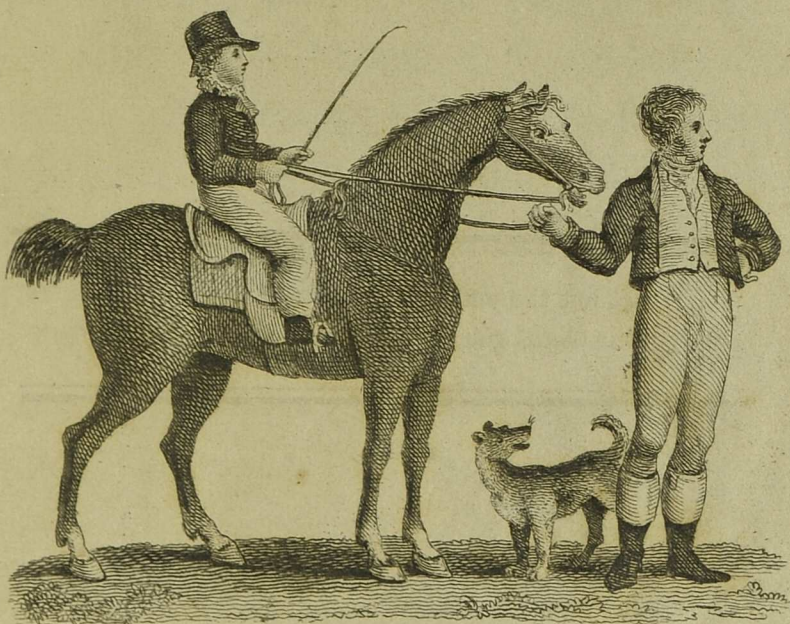
PUBLISHED BY
HARVEY AND DARTON,
55, Gracechurch Street ;
AND WM. DARTON, 58, HOLBORN HILL.

Price One Shilling.

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away as fast as it could, and the lad followed, but in striving to beat it down with his hat, he ran against a bee-hive. The busy insects, disturbed by the shock, came out in great numbers, and stung his hands and face sadly.

Another little boy was playing at a short distance from a well, which he had been told not to go near. He thought, however, there would be no danger in just taking a peep; so, dis-



regarding the prudent advice which had been given him, he went to the edge of the well, and stooping forward to look in, he overbalanced himself, and was in the act of falling, when a young woman, who happened to be within sight, ran to save him. She was just in time to catch hold of his clothes ; but in her haste, reaching too far, she fell after the child ! It was about twenty feet to the water, but only four more to the bottom of the

well. The young woman reached the bottom without being seriously hurt, and when she had a little recovered from her surprise, found herself standing on her feet in the well, with the child in her arms. Their cries reached the ears of two gardeners, at work near the spot, who, with a bucket-rope and a ladder, drew them both safely to the top, though much bruised and very wet.

Thus it may be observed, that disobedience is frequently followed by suitable punishment; and in what will be next related, we shall see that good children as often meet with a proper reward for their good conduct.

There was a fair at a village in the country, where lived a good little boy, whose name was Charles. As fairs are generally frequented by many rude and disorderly persons, Charles's parents did not approve of his going to one by himself; but as he had been a

good boy, and they had promised he should go, his father being at leisure, went with him. The first thing that attracted their notice was a tea-kettle and coffee-pot, large enough for a family to live in. They learned the following account of it, which proves the truth of the old proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention."

A tinker, who had no other method of gaining a livelihood, than by travelling, to sell his tin and iron ware, and mending pots, kettles, &c. found it very difficult to travel with his family, goods, and tools. He therefore made a tea-kettle, of tin and iron plates, large enough for himself, his wife, and two children to live in: this was fixed upon a carriage with four wheels, and drawn by a little horse, from place to place. Wherever the tea-kettle made its appearance, its novelty drew many admirers, and the man received seve-



ral presents, from visitors who had no occasion for a tinker.

In time the tea-kettle proved too small for the increasing family, and another apartment was added in the shape of a coffee-pot: this served as a bed-room: so that, of one or more of the children, it might be said, that they were born in a coffee-pot, and brought up in a tea-kettle. In addition to this neatly-furnished tea-kettle, the owner contrived some curious



clock-work, with moving figures, &c. for the entertainment of visitors, and he called it the Peregrination House."

Charles next wished to see some of the wild beasts; but his father telling him he should soon take him to see those in the Tower of London, he was satisfied without seeing those at the fair.

When the holidays were come, Charles and his father took the opportunity of going to the Tower, to see the

wild beasts. Here they saw a lioness which was so attached to a dog, as to refuse eating without it; and they were told that the dog did not willingly leave the den by night or day. It was sleeping with its head on the side of the lioness, when they visited the Tower. This Lioness had formerly another little dog as a companion, which was taken away at the time she had two whelps; and when they were of an age to be removed, her little favourite dog was lost. Without a companion she would not eat, and his place was next supplied by a dog nearly of her own colour. At the time the whelps were with the lioness, a visitor going too near the front of the den, was sadly wounded by her claws. Children, therefore, when they go to view wild beasts, should keep at such a distance as to be out of their reach.

They saw also, in the back yard of the managerie of the Tower, two mon-

keys, which were very expert climbers ; they ascended a pole with as little difficulty as most persons go up a pair of stairs. Travellers inform us that monkeys plunder fields of the grain, and plantations of sugar-canes ; and, while one stands (as a sentinel) on a tree to look out, the others load themselves with the booty : but, if the owner of the field appears likely to interrupt them, their faithful companion on the look-out gives notice by crying out *hoop, hoop, hoop !* which the rest perfectly understand : they scamper off upon three legs, holding their plunder in their right hand, and evade their pursuers by climbing up trees. The females, even loaded with their young ones, clasp them closely to their breast, leap like the others from tree to tree, and escape with the rest.

There was, among many other beasts in the Tower, a baboon called Jumbo ; he was very expert in throwing and



catching nuts, biscuits, and apples; but it would be better for such little boys as go to see him, neither to play with him, nor to go within the reach of his paws to tease him, as he has been seen to throw half a mop-stick with great force, to a distance of several yards from him.

On their way home from the Tower, Charles and his father saw in the street, a dancing bear with a monkey on his back.—The methods used to teach the



bear to dance, are set forth by a late benevolent author, in nearly the following words :—" The cruelties practised on this poor animal, in teaching him to walk erect, and move to a tune of a flagelet, are such as make sensibility shudder. Its eyes are put out, it is kept from food, and beaten till it yields obedience to the will of its savage tutors. Some of them are taught by setting their feet on hot iron plates, &c. It is shocking to every feeling mind to


reflect, that such cruelties should be practised by our fellow-men.”—Charles’s father would not stay to look at the dancing bear ; and we hope too, that none of our little readers will stop to encourage persons who act so cruelly to any part of the brute creation.

When Charles and his father had reached home, Charles said that he was greatly delighted with what he had seen, and was much obliged to his kind father for having shown him the beasts in the Tower ; at the same time he expressed a wish to know something about birds as well as beasts. His father told him that he did not know of any information more proper for children, than the natural history of birds and beasts ; and, therefore, if he continued to be a good child, he would give him a book containing some account of a few of them. As Charles continued to behave well, his father soon performed this promise ;

for, one morning, as Charles looked on the table in his bed-room, he was surprised to see a new book lying on it, with a piece of paper, on which was written,

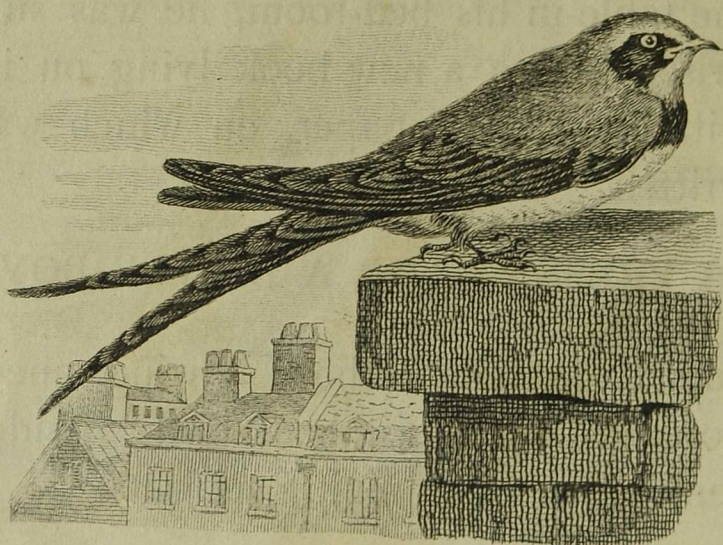
A PRESENT FOR A LITTLE BOY.

and it contained the following anecdotes of several kinds of birds, besides some other entertaining subjects.

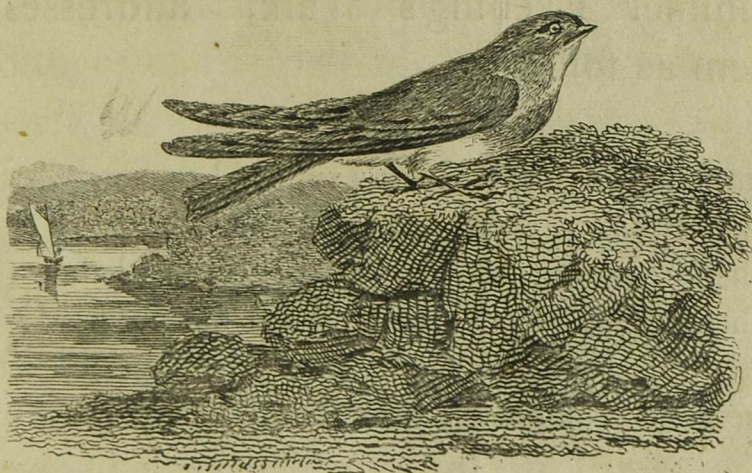


OF MARTINS AND SWALLOWS.

There are four species of the swallow kind known in England :—the house-martin, the swallow, the swift, and the bank-martin, which each have habits peculiar to themselves. The *swallow* is the first that makes its appearance in spring. It may be distinguished from the other species, by the length and forkedness of its tail. It frequently builds in chimneys, five or six



feet from the top ; no doubt, for the sake of warmth. The nest of the swallow consists of a shell composed of dirt, mixed with short pieces of straw, and lined with fine grass and feathers. Their food consists of flies, gnats, and other insects ; and they drink as they fly along, sipping the surface of the water. This little bird is an instructive pattern of industry and affection ; for, while their young ones require support, they spend the



whole day in supplying them with food. There is seldom one of these birds to be seen after the middle of October; but to what regions they fly is not exactly known. Sir Charles Wager, returning up the English Channel, in the spring of the year, fell in with a large flock of swallows, which settled on the rigging of his ship, like a swarm of bees. They were so tired, that many were taken by hand; and, after resting for the night, they renewed their flight in the morning. A clergyman, named White, in a pretty little poem, called "The Naturalist's Summer Evening's Walk," addresses them as follows:

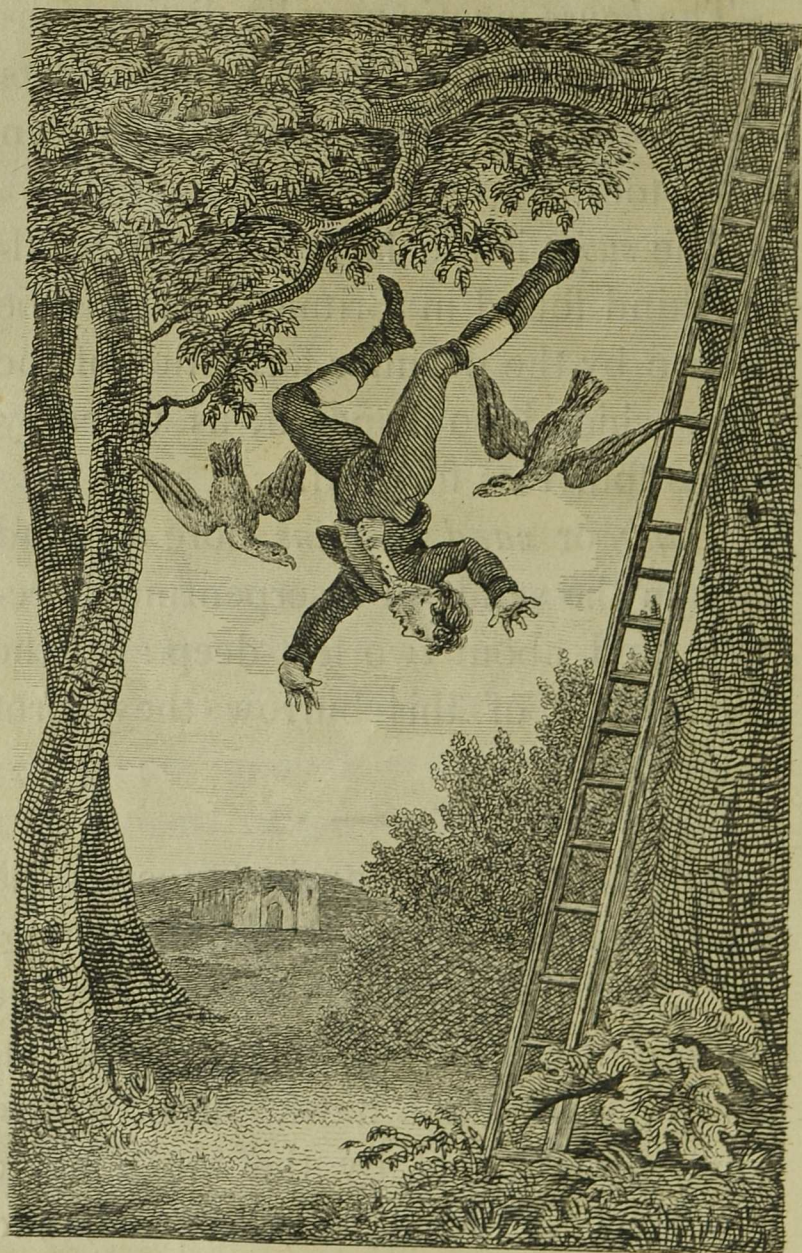
Amusive birds! say, where's your hid retreat,
When the frost rages, and the tempests beat;
Whence your return, by such nice instinct led,
When spring, sweet season, lifts her bloomy head?
Such baffled searches mock man's prying pride,
The great Almighty is your secret guide.

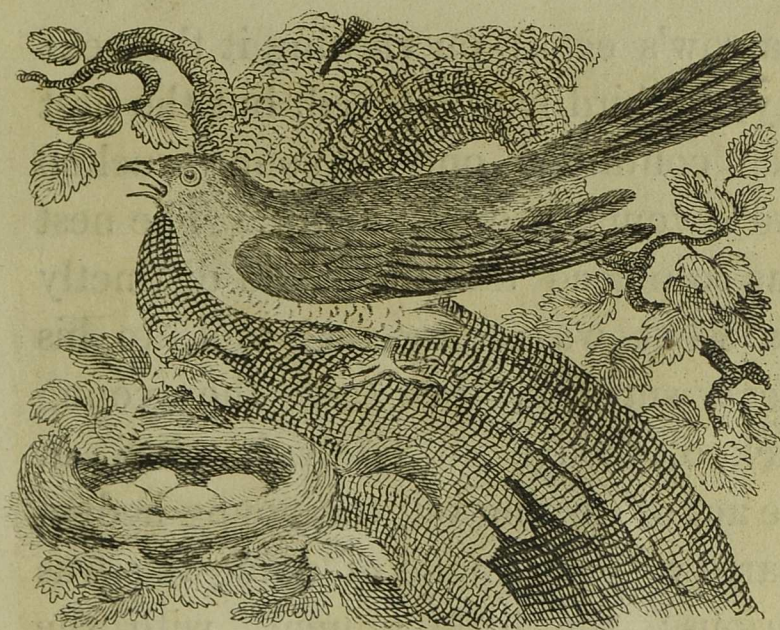
The *house-martin* may be distinguished from the other kinds, by having its legs covered with feathers quite down to its toes.

The *swift* is the largest of the swallow kind found in Britain. It may be known by the peculiar formation of the foot, which is so disposed, as to carry all its four toes forward.

Bank or *sand martins* bore a round hole in the sand, in a serpentine direction, and about two feet deep : at the further end of this burrow they form their nest.

The following is an instance of the danger of robbing birds of their young. —“One Edward Oats, employed in the garden of the Archbishop of York, attempting to take a hawk’s nest, was so violently attacked by the birds, as to occasion him to fall from the tree, and he was killed on the spot.”—This happened near Midsummer, in 1800.



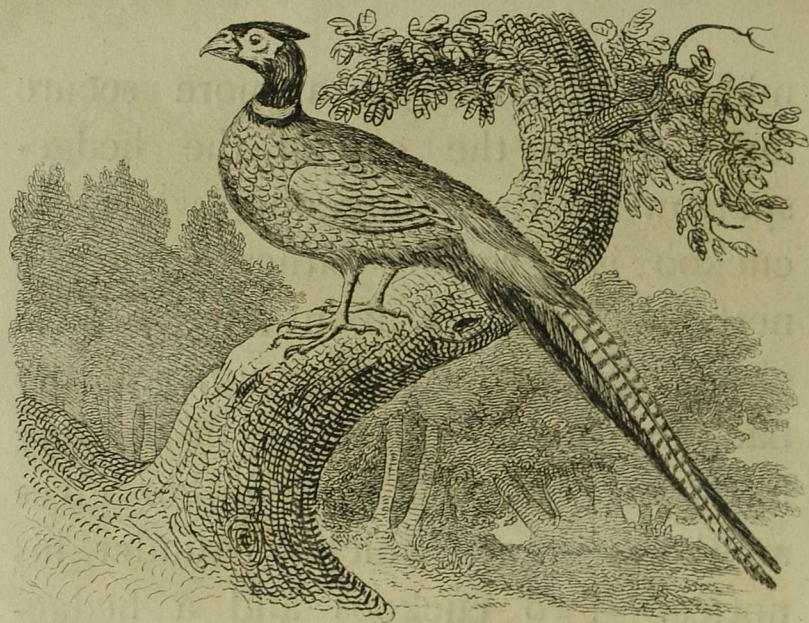


OF THE CUCKOO.

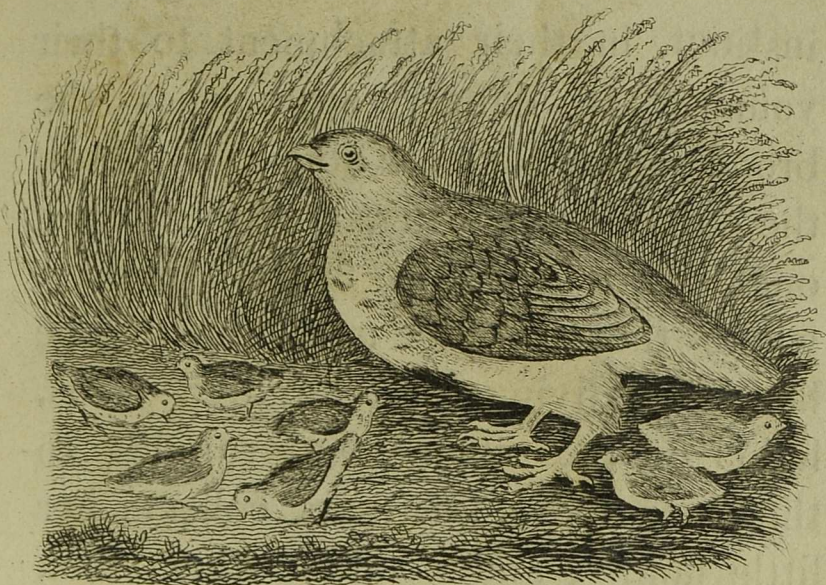
Cuckoos build no nests, the female deposits her solitary egg in that of another bird, by which it is hatched: she most frequently chooses that of the hedge-sparrow. By the accurate observation of Edward Jenner, as published in the 78th vol. of the Transactions of the Royal Society, he observes, that, “on June the 18th, 1787, he examined a nest, which then contained a cuckoo’s and three hedge-

sparrow's eggs; on viewing it the next day, the bird had hatched, but the nest then contained only a young cuckoo and a young hedge-sparrow. The nest was so placed that he could distinctly see what was going on; and, to his great surprise, he saw the young cuckoo, though so lately hatched, in the act of turning out the young hedge-sparrow. The mode of doing this was curious: the little animal, with the assistance of its rump and wings, contrived to get the bird upon its back, clambered backward up the side of the nest, till it reached the top, and threw off its load with a jerk. He made several experiments in different nests, by repeatedly putting in an egg to the young cuckoo, which he always found turned out of the nest. It is remarkable that nature seems to have formed the cuckoo different from other young birds, as at this period it has a very broad back, with a depression in the

middle, which gives a more secure lodgment to the egg of the hedge-sparrow or its young one, while the cuckoo is throwing either from the nest. When it is about twelve days old, all this cavity is filled up, and the back appears of the shape of nestling birds in general." Our author gives another instance which fell under his notice. Two cuckoos and a hedge-sparrow were hatched in the same nest, one hedge-sparrow's egg remaining unhatched: in a few hours the hedge-sparrow and egg were turned out, and a contest began between the cuckoos, which was very remarkable; each alternately appeared to have the advantage, as each carried the other several times nearly to the top of the nest, and then sunk down again under the weight of its burden, till at length the strongest prevailed, and was afterwards bred up by the hedge-sparrow.



Pheasants are mostly found in low, woody places, on the borders of plains, where they delight to sport: during the night they perch on the branches of trees. The young follow the mother as soon as ever they are freed from the shell. There are great varieties of this beautiful bird, equally admirable for their plumage. Some which are brought from the provinces of China, are kept in aviaries in this kingdom.



Partridges make but little or no nest, scratching shallow holes in the ground, where the hen frequently deposits her eggs, to the number of eighteen or twenty. After the hen has sat three weeks, the young come forth, full feathered, like chickens, capable of running and picking up ants, slugs, grain, or any other food they find.

Standing corn proves a safe retreat: but when they happen to be surprised, they exhibit wonderful instances of

instinct, in their attachment to their young. If danger approaches the brood before they are able to fly, both the parents take wing, and the young ones get under the nearest shelter, where they remain motionless. The hen, after flying some hundred yards, lights on the ground, and running to the place she set out from, collects her little family, and conducts them to a place of safety. The cock, at the same time, endeavours to engage the attention of the sportsman, and when all danger is over, the call of the female directs him to her retreat. The hen, in the absence of her mate, has been known to take the part of alluring men from her brood, and is noticed in nearly the following words, by White, in his Naturalist's Calendar. "A hen partridge came out of a ditch, and ran along, shivering with her wings, and crying, as if wounded and unable to get from us.

“ While she acted thus, a boy who attended me, saw her brood, that was small and unable to fly, run for shelter into an old fox-earth under the bank.”

After harvest, partridges often resort, in the day-time, to woods or covers, to avoid birds of prey ; but at night they go into the stubble, and nestle together, to avoid foxes, weasels, &c. which inhabit the woods.

They feed on corn and other seeds, and live chiefly on the ground, making more use of their legs than of their wings.

Having related that the hen partridge will sometimes act the part of the male, to preserve her young, we are not a little surprised at reading the following account of a turkey, in the Daily Advertiser, in the spring of the year 1798.

“ There is now in the possession of Mr. Mundy, of Wick Farm, near Abingdon, a cock turkey, which being



tired of his solitary life, during the confinement of the hens while sitting, seemed desirous to sit himself, which he did very closely on a rotten goose-egg. His master thinking it a pity that so good a nurse should not be rewarded for his attention, put 13 eggs in a nest, on which he sat three weeks longer, and hatched 12 fine chickens, which enjoy, if possible, more attention than usual."

A brood of partridges, when rising



make, so much noise as to alarm men and frighten beasts. It is also dangerous for travellers, that pigs should be suffered to run across the public road.



If some rude boys had seen this poor woman thrown from her horse, her basket overturned, and her eggs broken, it would have been to them a subject of mirth. How much more becoming would it be in such a case, to procure assistance for a fellow-creature who has met with so distressing an accident; for though a child might not be able to do much, he might fetch those who *could*. If any should be inclined to adopt a contrary conduct, let them read the following verses, and thus learn to fulfil

The Law of Love.

BLESS'D is the man whose soft'ning heart
Feels all another's pain,
To whom the supplicating eye
Was never rais'd in vain.

Whose breast expands with gen'rous warmth,
A stranger's woes to feel;
And bleeds in pity o'er the wound
He wants the power to heal.

He spreads his kind, supporting arms,
To every child of grief;
His secret bounty largely flows,
And brings unask'd relief.

To gentle offices of love
His feet are never slow :
He views, through Mercy's melting eye,
A brother in a foe.

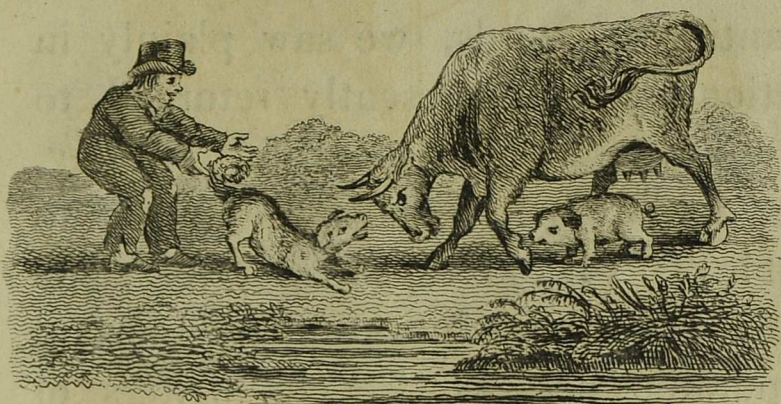
To him protection shall be shown,
And mercy from above
Descend on those who thus fulfil
The perfect law of love.

It is very wrong in children to laugh or hoot at foreigners, or any other person whose dress or manners may be different from our own. We should recollect, that if we were to go into France, or any other country, we should then be foreigners among the people where we went ; and how should we like to be laughed at, because our language or appearance was unlike theirs?

Philip Thicknesse, Esq. would probably have excited the derision of



many rude children, if he had travelled in England, as he did through part of France and Spain. “My monkey,” said he, “with a pair of French boots on, rode postillion upon my horse, some hours every day. Such a sight brought forth old and young, sick and lame, to look at him and his master: they came to look and to laugh, but not to deride or insult.” May this example be followed by all the children in England.



ANECDOTES OF TAME AND WILD SWINE.

As a pig was grazing on Hampstead Heath, a rude boy set his dog to bite it; but the little grunter ran for protection to a cow, which was grazing on the heath. The cow used her horns against the attacks of the dogs, whilst the pig kept between the cow's legs. At length, tired with repeated attacks, the boy and dog left the cow and pig. Could the little grunter have spoken

in the language of men, what grateful words might have been heard. However, it grunted a little, as it ran towards its master's stable, and what was wanting in words, we saw plainly in actions; for it presently returned to the heath with a mouthful of hay, and laid it before the cow for her to eat! This it did repeatedly, for some time, to the admiration of several reputable persons. Yet, writers of eminence say the hog is naturally stupid and useless through life: they have compared it to a miser, whose hoarded treasures are of little value, till death has removed the owner. But as all men are not of the same agreeable disposition, so neither are pigs equally tractable: though some pigs have evinced so teachable a disposition, that children might take a useful lesson from their conduct. Even little pigs run at the grunting of their mother: and we have been told that

herds of swine, in America, upon hearing the sound of a bell, or the blowing of a horn, or conch-shell, return from the woods to their master's farm, where they remain during the night in safety. Though hogs may appear stupid, when compared with some other animals, yet several have been taught to read and spell, in appearance, better than some little boys could who were several years older.

One pig was shown in London, that was taught to spell the name of any person or place. Several alphabets, in single letters, being placed before him, he pointed out the letters with his snout, and placed them in order, to make out the words required. The pig, in being taught, must have suffered great pain, if not some cruelties. Some little boys, who have obstinate tempers, have been beaten to make them mind their spelling: how difficult then must it be to teach a



pig to converse with men. We rather suspect some harsh methods must have been used by the teacher of the learned pig, and on that account it appears improper to encourage such shows.

Although the pigs we have been speaking of were very tractable, we should remember that pigs are *swine*, and not all of a temper; nor are the same hogs equally kind at all times.— A sow that was looked upon as very



harmless, for some time suffering the children of a cottage frequently to stroke her and get upon her back, with only grunting a little louder than usual, was visited by the daughter of a cottager at Wanscomb, in Kent, who, in attempting to take away one of the young pigs, received from the sow so severe a bite, as to occasion the loss of her arm; and the public newspapers added, “that the girl, who was not more than seven years of age, fell

into the sty, and would probably have lost her life, but for the timely assistance of a neighbour."

Hogs are found in great abundance in some parts of China, and in many of the northern countries of Europe, in a wild state.

All animals may be termed wild, which live at large, and not under the care of man; those of the hog kind which remain in this state, live together, while young, in families, and unite their strength against the wolves or other beasts of prey; and when in danger, they call to each other with a loud and piercing cry. The strongest face the danger, and form themselves into a ring. When thus united, few beasts venture to engage them.

The flesh of hogs, called pork, is best in hot countries; and a pig with green peas, is a common dinner in the West Indies. The Mahometan religion has proscribed this wholesome

food from the greatest part of the East Indies ; but in China, and those parts of the east that do not acknowledge the Mahometan law, their pork is finer than in most other parts of the world, and it makes a principal part of the food of that extensive region.

Most animals love their young, and it is not safe for children to take pigs from sows, puppies from their mothers, kittens from cats, or goslings from geese.

At a farm near Dagenham, in Essex, some children on a visit to the farmer, were much pleased with the sight of a brood of goslings : one little boy ran so close to them, that the goose and gander flew at him with their mouths open, and striking with their wings. His father, fearing they might fly at his face, and hurt his eyes, ran to take him away ; but not without receiving



so severe a blow on his shin from the pinion of the gander, as to cut the flesh off the bone, cause great pain, and be a long time in getting well.

Hunting the wild boar is a very dangerous amusement, though common in Germany, Russia, Poland, and other countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa; for the hog was not known in America, till introduced by the Spaniards.



When the boar is roused by the hunters, he moves slowly, and seems but little afraid of his pursuers; he frequently turns round to attack the dogs, when, keeping each other at bay for a time, he again goes forward, and the dogs renew the pursuit.

Thus the chase continues, till the boar is tired, and refuses to go any further: the dogs then attempt to close in upon him from behind, and as the young ones are often most

forward, they generally lose their lives ; but at last the hunters kill them with their spears.

OF MILLS, &c.

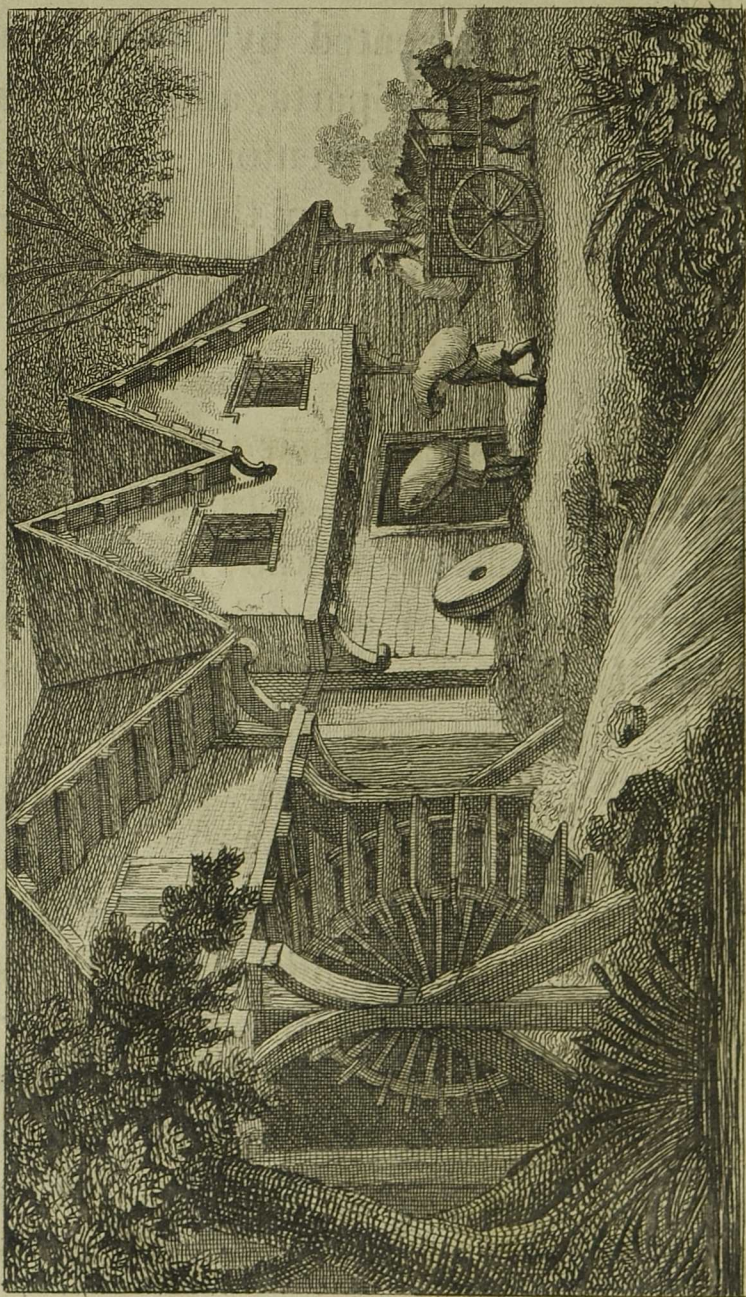
In the rude state of society, when men lived in tents, and abode in the fields, they had no need of mills to grind their corn ; bread was unknown to them ; the fruits of the earth and the beasts of the forest, supplied them with food, and but little art was used to prepare it. A mess of pottage, stewed with venison, was a savoury dish, and must have been in great esteem ; for to obtain such a mess, Esau sold his birth-right to Jacob.

As mankind increased in numbers, inventions were brought about by necessity ; and, no doubt, early attempts were made to preserve corn, and to prepare it for food, before mills were

used, or ovens contrived. Mills, it is said, were first invented by *Myla*, son of the first king of Sparta, and perhaps named after their inventor. Simple, indeed, must have been the first constructed; and, for many years, they were worked by hand.

The Romans had their mills worked by slaves and asses: it does not appear that water-mills were known to them. Wind-mills are of a much more modern invention: the first model of these was brought from Asia into Europe, in the time of those wars called *holy*!

Corn is now ground between two *millstones* placed one above the other; the surface or face of which, as now used, is perfectly level, except within a few inches of the eye or centre, which is left a little hollow to receive the corn. The faces of the stones are





repeatedly scratched with a mill-bill, to renew the necessary roughness for cutting the grain ; there are, also, furrows cut from the eye of the stones to the skirts, in order to carry the meal forward as it becomes ground ; the meal is then passed through a cylinder covered with wire* of different fineness, within which, a set of brushes

* Bolting-cloths are generally laid aside, as wire answers better.

is turned with great velocity, which separates the flour of different qualities, from the pollard and bran.

The stones of a modern flour-mill are carried round at the rate of 120 times in a minute.

Women were formerly employed to grind at a mill; but we may reasonably suppose it was not a large one, and that they worked at it but occasionally. It was a good exercise, tending to promote their health; but above all, it tended to the comfort of their families. From their frugality and industry, the women of the present day are said to have received the appellation of *Lady*; from two Saxon words, *leaf* and *dian*, the former meaning a *loaf*, and the latter *serve*,—and thus *leaf-dien* is a *breadserver*: for the wives and daughters of our ancestors took a delight in making and

baking cakes and bread, and having the privilege of serving their families and guests at table, which was not the custom in other countries. They also had the pleasure of distributing bread to their poor neighbours, and they were named *Ladies* of the House, *Ladies* of the Manor, &c. according to their situations.

Little boys are often very curious observers of mill-work, and should any one ever desire to see the inside of a mill, let him *be careful of the wheels*: for want of this, some have lost their lives, and one man had his arm drawn from his body, by the works of a mill, though he was favoured to live many years afterwards. This happened in the year 1777: his name was Samuel Wood, he was cured in St. Thomas's Hospital, London.



At a village in Essex, not far from Rumford, some children were playing near a windmill: to see the sails go round was very amusing, but one little boy going to examine them too closely, was struck by one of the sails, which caught him up, and threw him a considerable distance, and when found he was lifeless.

THE END.

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