

THE  
ENTERTAINING HISTORY  
OF THE  
**GOLDFINCH**  
AND  
**LARK.**



LONDON:  
*Printed for the Booksellers,*  
And sold in Town and Country.

*Price Two-pence*



The Goldfinch on the Lawn.

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# GOLDFINCH AND LARK.

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## CHAP. I.

**A**S old nurse Wilson was taking Master James Jennings and little Jane a walk, after dinner, they rambled about till they were almost two miles from home, when passing near a cottage they observed, unseen, some little children getting a bird's nest. Jane no sooner heard the pretty innocent young birds cry out, than she began to weep for pity, and said, she was quite shocked at the cruelty!

What a wicked thing it is, said the good old nurse to little James and Jane, for children to rob the poor birds of their little ones, after all the pains which they have taken to form their nest so curiously, and attend their young with such care!

Yes, said Jane, it is indeed, very cruel, and I hope brother James will never be guilty of the like!





They were just about to return home, when they met a little boy, who was crying very sadly; the old nurse enquired of him, what was the reason of his being in such distress?

He replied, that his father was gone to a market town, at a short distance, to sell some singing birds, for he was a bird catcher; and he had been left in charge of them that were at home; he went out to play at marbles with some boys down in the village, and whilst he was gone, the cat had killed a cock Canary bird, which was to been sold to morrow, to Squire Benbow, at the grove; and he was afraid his father would flog him for going out.

Nurse Wilson told him, it was indeed very wrong not to do as his father desired

him, but if he would promise to be more obedient in future she would go and try to make all things easy at home. But what is your name?

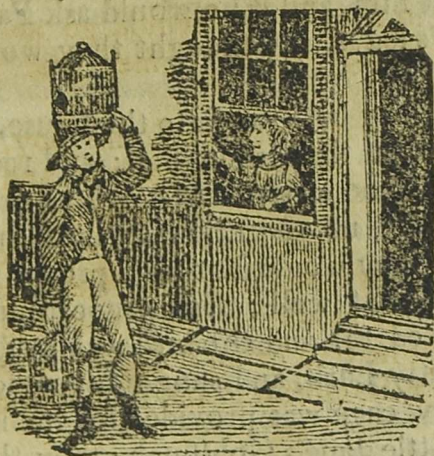
Billy Morris, answered the boy, Away they all went to Morris's cottage, and found him just returned from the market.

The nurse made up the loss which was occasioned by the boy's carelessness and bought a fine goldfinch for little Jane, and desired the man to bring it to Mr. Jennings's house the next morning, and then they departed home.

## CHAP. II.

Mr. JENNINGS was a gentleman, who had gained a large fortune by trade and had now retired from business, and resided in a neat and pleasant village, in the north of England; having only two children, James and Jane.

This good old nurse Wilson, had lived in the family many years, was very fond of the children, and was always diverting them. She had informed Mr. Jennings of what had occurred yesterday, and that she had pur-



chased little Jane a bird, which would be brought home on the morrow.

When Jane awoke the next morning, she begged nurse to call up James, for she was sure the man would presently bring the bird; and so it happened, for as soon as Jane had breakfasted, she ran to the parlour window, and waited anxiously till she saw the man come up to the door, he had one upon his head, and another in his hand; she ran immediately to call James, who was playing in the orchard, and told him, the man was come with her bird, and that he had brought ano-



ther with him, and if he would ask Papa and Mamma's leave, she thought they would buy it him.

Away they both ran into the house, to find Papa, which they soon did ; and requested him to buy the other. Mr. Jennings said he should have no objection to buy the bird, provided they would but take proper care of it, and feed it well ; this proposition, they both agreed to, and the bird was bought ; it was a pretty Lark, and sung most melodiously. A new cage was provided for it, likewise one for little Jane's Goldfinch ; they thanked Papa and Mamma for their kindness, and very soon had the birds put into their new habitation, and hung them up against the parlour window ; where they frequently sung most delightfully, to the great pleasure of our little folks.

### CHAP. III.

NEAR to Mr. Jennings's house, lived a Mr. and Mrs. Simmonds, a people of rank and fortune ; they had a little daughter about ten years of age, who was a very sweet and

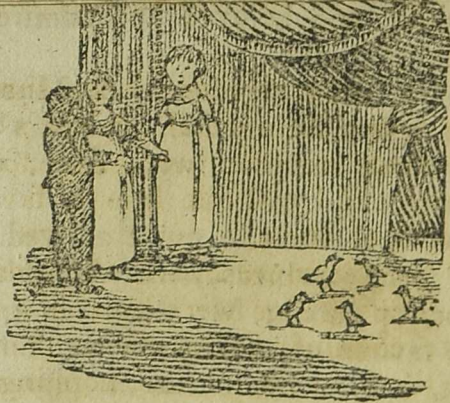


sensible child, and beloved and admired by all her acquaintance,

It being a very fine afternoon, Miss Simmonds, was invited by Mr. and Mrs. Jennings, to come and play with Jane, which was accepted.

As soon as their little guest arrived, Jane took her to see the birds, with which she was very much pleased; Mr. Jennings granted them the favour of taking the Goldfinch on the lawn, before the house, as represented in the frontispiece, which delighted them all very much; after viewing the various pretty colours of the feathers on the bird, master James gave them the following description of it:

It is, said James, a very lively little bird and sings very sweet. Its bill you may observe is white, tipped with black, and surrounded with very rich scarlet feathers; the cheeks are white, and the top of its head black, and its back is brown. See the quill feathers are black, marked in the middle with a beautiful yellow, and tipped with white; the tail is black, and has some white spots near the end.



Goldfinches build a very pretty nest, on the thin branches of fruit trees, and sometimes in bushes, and generally have young ones twice in the year. I think, Papa says they live upon several kinds of seed, and are very fond of those of the thistle. Now it is in a cage, it must be fed with canary, flax, or hemp seed.

Miss Simmonds and Jane were quite pleased with master James's description of the Goldfinch, and thanked him: they soon after removed it into the summer-house, while they went and rambled in the garden.

We have not yet, said James, shown Miss

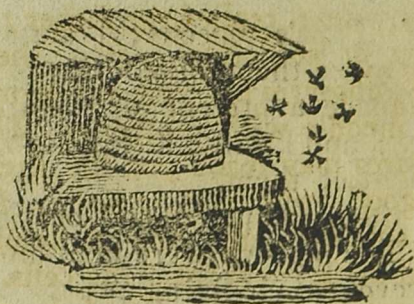
Simmonds Papa's pigeons; I am sure you will like to see them of all things; Squire Benbow made a present of them to Papa yesterday; and I will ask him to favour us with a sight of them.

Away they scampered, and obtained their desire. The pigeons were kept in a chamber to prevent their flying away. You may observd them, in the picture, hopping about the floor.

Mr. Jennings's, who was a very curious gentleman, kept several hives of bees, which were placed at one end of the garden: as they approached the spot, they heard the humming of the bees, and they saw a great quantity flying about the hive. Mr. Jennings begged them not to go too near, lest they might be stung, but stand at a distance from them. They perceived them all in motion, but without the least hurry or confusion.

Miss Simmonds requested Mr. Jennings to give them a short account of that insect. Mr. Jennings was always pleased to give information and much more so when he found children desirous of receiving it. He therefore addressed them as follows:





Observe, my dears, said Mr. Jennings, how very diligent those bees are, in going in and out of yonder hive! And this busy way of life never ceases during the season in which they lay in their food, and fill their cells for winter. When the time comes in which they begin to build their cobin, they divide themselves into distinct bodies. One party is employed in ranging the fields and gardens, in search of honey, which they suck out of the sweetest of flowers. Another party is employed in storing the honey, and doing the other work of the hive: whilst the third party fly abroad to collect food for those that work.

They must be very sensible creatures, said Jane, to do all this so regular.



Yes, my dear, replied the father ; there is no hurry or confusion among them ; for every one observes his own employment, and will not meddle with another's. These little creatures may teach you the great benefits of good order and industry ; for they will not suffer an idle one to remain with them, but drive them from the cells.

They were now permitted to visit the large fishpond, at the bottom of the orchard. The water being very clear, they saw the fishes frisk and dive to their no little amusement. But tea being now ready they presently were seated in the parlour.

#### CHAP. IV.

WHILE at tea the little folks behaved well, and talked very prettily of what they had heard and seen in the former part of the afternoon ; and as Mr. Jennings perceiving they were delighted with the instructions he had given them, he took them into his study, and gratified their curiosity by showing them several handsome pictures, and a book which described Master James's Lark so nicely that he could not forbear reading it to his play-fellows.

The characteristics of the Sky-lark, which distinguish it from other birds, are the long heel or claw of the back toe; the earthly colour of its feathers; and its singing as it flies. But when confined in a cage, a turf of grass is generally placed within, on which it stands and flutters its wings all the time it is singing. It is not much larger than the house sparrow, yet longer bodied. When at large, they build their nest in plain open ground, under some high grass; and though in winter we see great flocks of them, yet fewest of their nests are found of any birds that are so plentiful. It breeds thrice in a year, in May, July, and August, rearing their young very quickly. Young nestlings may be brought up with almost any meat: but if you give them sheep's heart and egg chopt together, till they are three weeks old, it will not be amiss; and when they come to eat alone, give them oatmeal, hempseed, and bread, mixed together, with a little egg; and their charming song will reward your pains. Mr. Jennings then presented the following pretty Poem, which Jane read to the young company.

HAIL, the charming rosy morning!  
See the pretty lark arise;  
O' opening day again returning,  
Bids the songster seek the skies.  
Now his tender partner leaving,  
Ever mindful of her young;  
His soft breast with transport heaving,  
He begins his early song.  
Higher as the bird advances,  
Hark! what raptures fill the air!  
Warbling sweeter, while he glances  
On the nest, his joys are there,  
While the little sky-lark raises  
His sweet note, till out of view,  
Children you should join in praises  
And adore your Maker too.  
Imitate this bird's example;  
He's not proud with all his mirth;  
True, his airs are fine and ample,  
Yet at night he rests on earth.  
Though he don't excel in beauty,  
All admire his tuneful theme;  
You, my dear, attend your duty,  
All around will you esteem.





## CHAP. V.

THE next morning, both the Goldfinch and the Lark were served with fresh water, and sufficient seed for the day, before our little Miss and Master had eat their own breakfast; thus they pleased Papa, but he was afraid this attention to the birds would not last long.

At this instant the arrival of Mr. Jennings's father was announced, from London. He was heartily welcomed to the village; and which was most pleased James or Jane, it is impossible to say; and they had good



reason to rejoice, for he brought a very pretty present for each of them. He gave to Jane a very fine large dress-doll, as you may see in the picture. James received a pretty book of the History of Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom of Coventry, which delighted him exceedingly ; and thought the grand picture in it much handsomer than any one in his father's house ; and so eager was he to learn the history of this great lady, and so pleased with the present, that when he had begun he never ceased until he had read it through.

Jane now thought of nothing else but her new doll ; making clothes for it, and teasing her mamma for ribbons and other finery, so that she made it very soon the smartest doll in the parish. She was indulged by her mamma ; but was desired not to forget other things of more importance, and only now and then to amuse herself with her grand-papa's present.

James had also a caution to be careful of his Latin task. They both promised obedience ; but we shall find, by reading the next chapter, they fulfilled not their word.

## CHAP. VI.

ONE morning as Jane sat very busily employed in cutting out a new cap for the great doll, her mother entered, and enquired if she had fed the bird. She replied, Yes ; but the colour coming into her face, her mother suspected she had told her a falshood ; but desired her to go with her, and see if there was any seed left in the cage.

Jane followed her mother very reluctantly into the parlour, and found the cage had been taken down, and some of the family were looking at the poor bird, which was almost dead, lying in the cage. She immediately began to cry, and confessed that she had neglected to feed it ; and had let the cage remain all night exposed to a cold rain, in the yard ; for which she was very sorry, and promised to be more careful for the time to come.

The poor little Goldfinch was taken out of the cage, and warmed and nourished by a little new milk, when it began soon to stretch out its limbs, and hop about, and by proper care soon gained strength, and sung as sweet as ever.

Mrs. Jennings spoke very seriously to

Jane, on her forgetfulness; but more particularly on the falshood she had told. What a wicked thing it is, said she, to tell a lie! for when once a little girl is found in an untruth, no one can believe them when they speak the truth. How angry God is with such children! and he will most surely punish them for it! Jane's mamma was very much hurt at her conduct; but offered to forgive her, if she would beg pardon. Jane did so; and promised that she would never tell another untruth, but would sooner be whipt than be found in a story any more.

## CHAP. VII.

Jane rose early the following morning, and hasted to kiss her mamma: she said she would behave better in future, and that her mother's displeasure had caused her not to sleep in the night; and hoped never to deserve her anger any more.

Her mamma was quite pleased with her; and for her good behaviour told her she should have a party in the afternoon, to play with her. Jane was very much pleased and ran to tell her brother James, whom she found



very busy attending to the birds. The Lark was singing very sweetly, and the Goldfinch seemed quite merry, hopping about from side to side, showing his little guardians, that he was pleased with their attention to him. From feeding the birds, away they went to their tasks which they readily performed, and James made amends for the neglect of the former day; and thus they pleased their dear parents very much.

The time arrived when the little party was expected; consisting of the Miss Smiths, Master Goode and his sister, Miss Simmonds, Master Benbow, and his cousin George, who all lived in the village at no great distance from each other.

The little company being assembled, the new book and the doll were produced; but the beautiful picture pleased every one who saw it. The birds were the next amusement; for they were never again forgot. We should think of the pretty creatures, says Jane, for you know my dear brother, they cannot help themselves; and as we have deprived them of their liberty, to please us with their song, we ought not to suffer them to want any thing.





After tea was over the romping game of blind man's buff was proposed, and presently begun with great glee; as you may perceive in the picture.

See Miss Simmonds is going to throw Master George down, he his buff—Miss Smith keeps him in the back ground—Master James seems to dodge him—and the others have taken care for themselves. However they are all in a merry mood. They played in this manner till Master James fell down and hurt his nose, and the rest were all quite tired. It is not safe to have the eyes bound

up; for little folks often get hurt by falls at this play.

The time now advanced for each to return home; and Mr. Jennings ordered out the coach, to conduct them thither; for his little friends being very warm, he was fearful the night air might, if they were exposed to it, give them colds.

Wishing each other a good night, and quite pleased with their afternoon's diversion, the coach bowed off to each respective abode.

Master James and Miss Jane continued to gain more and more the affection of their dear parents, by their diligent attention to their commands, and were kind and obliging to all around them. They grew up in the fear of God, and the remainder of their lives was abundantly blessed with prosperity and happiness.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings, lived to a good old age; saw their children well settled in life; and their society courted by all.

My dear young readers may, in this little History, see the pleasures and rewards that

await those who are obedient to their parents, and fulfil their commands ; and by following the good example, will not fail, like Master James and Miss Jane, to gain the blessing of God, and the love and esteem of all good men.

THE END.

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