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mouse

cried
hăng

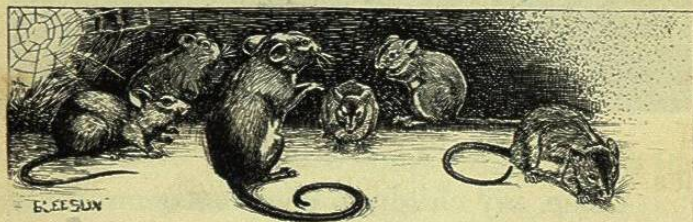
plan
talked

THE MICE.

In an old house in town there were very many mice.

One day a cat was brought to the house.

"What shall we do now?" cried the mice.
"We cannot run; we cannot play; we cannot go about the old house at all. For if the cat sees us, she will be sure to catch us. We shall have to stay at home day and night."



They talked about this for a long time, and no one could think of any plan but to keep out of the cat's way.

At last a very old mouse stood up and said, "I will tell you what to do."

"What is it? What is it?" said all the other mice.

"It is this. Let us get a bell and hang it on the cat. When she runs from place to place the bell will ring. Then we will know when she is near us, and can run out of her way."

"Oh, that is a fine plan!" cried all the other mice.

Some of them ran to get the bell. When they came back the old mouse said, "Our plan is a very good one as you all know. Now who will take the bell and hang it on the cat?"

Not a mouse would do it.

off
please

idle
drive

lamb
song

sticks
mouth

even
never

THE LITTLE SCHOOLBOY.

One day our teacher told us of a little boy who did not like his books or his school. "I do not want to go to school," he said. "I want to play all day."

"The sun is shining, and the birds are singing, and I cannot bear to be shut up in

school on this fine day. Why is it that boys have to work? I think I will go and have some fun in the fields."



So off he ran into the green fields. He saw a bee flying about from flower to flower. "Please, little bee," he said, "please come and play with me."

But the pretty bee said: "Oh no, no; I have no time to play. I have so much work to do that I must not be idle. I must get all

the honey I can;" and away went the bee, buzzing among the flowers.

Then the boy saw a dog. "Come here, my pretty dog," he said, "come and have some fun with me."

But the dog said: "I cannot come. I must take care of all the sheep that you see in this field;" and he ran to drive back some lambs that were too near the road.

Then the boy saw a bird picking up a straw from the ground, and he said: "My sweet little bird, will you come and play with me? Will you sing me a pretty song?"

But the bird said: "No, no, I cannot be idle. I must get straw and sticks, and build my nest. So good morning;" and away it flew with the straw in its mouth.

Then the little boy began to think. "I see," said he, "that even the birds, the bees, and the dogs are busy. There is work for all to do, and I must not be idle."

So he ran to school as fast as he could, and never again wished that he might play all the time.

south	wēst	hēat	fārm'ers
ēast	fōld	lāne	scām'per
lōw	rēd'den	pēach'es	shīv'er ing

THE WINDS.

Which is the wind that brings the cold?

The north wind, Robert; and all the snow;
And the sheep will scamper into the fold
When the north wind begins to blow.

Which is the wind that brings the heat?

The south wind, Lucy; and corn will grow,
And peaches redden for you to eat
When the south wind begins to blow.

Which is the wind that brings the rain?

The east wind, Henry; and farmers know
That cows come shivering up the lane
When the east wind begins to blow.

Which is the wind that brings the flowers?

The west wind, children; and soft and low
The birdies sing in the summer hours
When the west wind begins to blow.

— Adapted from E. C. Stedman.

once	yārd	fōl'low	whīle
ēnd	trīed	grōwn	al'most

THE PET LAMB.

Lucy has a pet
lamb which her
father gave to her.
She is very kind to
it, and when she
goes out to play the
lamb is sure to fol-
low her.

She calls the lamb
Robin. Is not that
a funny name for a
little sheep?

The lamb knows
its name, and when
Lucy calls, "Robin, Robin, Robin," it will
run to her as fast as it can.

One day it went to school with Lucy.
When the children went into the schoolhouse,
the lamb stayed in the yard to eat grass.
When play time came, Lucy took Robin home.

