

At last Lucy finished her work. As she was putting it away she said, "Mother, I think the fire is very bright this evening."

"And I was about to say," cried Mary, "that this light is better than we had last night."

"My dear girls," said the mother, "it must be that you feel happier than usual to-night. Is that why you think the fire better and the light brighter?"

"But, mother," said Mary, "I do not see why we are happier now than we were then; for last night our cousins were here, and we played 'Pussy in the corner' and other things till every one was tired."

"I know! I know why!" cried Lucy. "We are happy to-night because we have been busy. We are happy because we have been doing something useful."

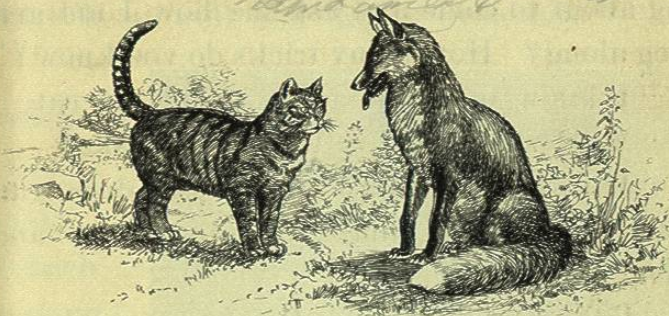
"You are right," said their mother; "and I am glad you have both learned that it is sometimes better and pleasanter to work than to play. You could never be happy if you had no useful work to do."

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THE CAT AND THE FOX.

One day a cat met a fox in the woods. "What a fine-looking fellow he is," said Pussy. "Is there any wonder that people are always talking about him? I think I will speak to him."

So she went up to him and said, in her very kind way, "Good morning, Mr. Fox! How are you? How are you getting along now that the times are so hard?"

The fox was a proud fellow, and thought himself very much above any cat. He looked

at Puss from head to foot and did not speak for a long time. Then he said, "Oh, you poor little mouse hunter, what are you thinking about to come and ask me how I am getting along? How many tricks do you know?"

"I know only one trick," said the cat.

"And what trick is that?" he asked.

"Well," she said, "when the dogs run after me, I can jump up into a tree and save myself."

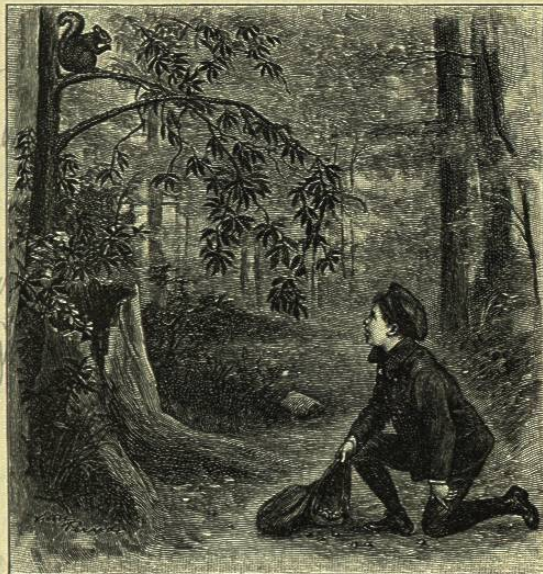
"Is that all?" cried the fox. "Why, I am master of a hundred tricks, every one of them better than that. I pity you, poor Puss. I have more tricks than dogs or men can ever know."

Just then a hunter with four dogs was seen coming through the woods. The cat climbed quickly up the tree and hid herself among the green leaves. "Now show us some of your tricks, Mr. Fox!" she said.

But before he could save himself by running the dogs were upon him. They caught him and held him fast, but did not see Pussy sitting high above them.

"Ah, Mr. Fox," said she, "your hundred tricks are not of much use to you. If you had had only one trick like mine, you might have been well and happy even now."

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THE SQUIRREL TO THE LITTLE BOY.

Yes, little boy, I am up here — out of your reach, I am glad to say. Would you like to catch me, and keep me in a cage? Well, you will not catch me to-day. I will keep out of your way.

How glad I am that you have not brought a gun with you. Oh, I know why you did not bring it. You are so little that your father will not let you have a gun.

Don't you wish you could climb a tree as quickly as I can? See me run out on this branch. You can't do that.

Don't hold up your hands; I am not going to fall. I laugh at little boys who think I shall fall when I run out to the end of a branch.

What have you come here for? What a funny question to ask. You have come here for nuts. Wait a minute, and I will drop one into your basket.

There now, thank me. You may have all the nuts you can find among the dry leaves on the ground. There are enough nuts in these woods for boys and squirrels too.

My home is not in this tree. It is in that big tree on the other side of the brook. What a pleasant home it is, too! It is in a hollow branch, and I go into it through a hole just large enough for a door.

There are ever so many nuts under the leaves by that big tree — enough to last me all the winter, I think.

I must not stay here any longer. I see a man coming this way. He has a gun, and will shoot me if he can. I must tell the other squirrels to keep their eyes on him and not let him see them.

Come again, some time, and I will tell you a funny story about some of the other little people that live in the woods. Good morning!

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IN A MINUTE!

Frank Brown had one great fault. Often when he was asked to do something he would say, "In a minute," and then would not think about it again for a long time.

He always wanted to go with his mother when she went to town or to see his uncles