

THE WOLF AND THE GOAT

A WOLF saw a Goat feeding at the top of a steep precipice, where he could not reach her.

“My dear friend,” said the Wolf, “be careful! I am afraid you will fall and break your neck. Do come down to the meadow, where the grass is fresh and green.”

“Are you very hungry?” said the Goat. “And is it your dinner time? And would you like to eat me? I think I will not go down to the meadow to-day, thank you.”

And she capered contentedly about on the edge of the rock, as safe from falling as she was from the greedy Wolf with his false care for her.

THE HEN AND THE SWALLOW

A HEN who had no nest of her own found some eggs, and, in the kindness of her heart, thought she would take care of them, and keep them warm.

But they were the eggs of a viper; and by and by the little snakes began to come out of the shell.

A Swallow, who was passing, stopped to look at them.

“What a foolish creature you were, to hatch those eggs!” said the Swallow. “Don’t you know that as soon as the little snakes grow big enough, they will bite some one—probably _you_ first of all?”

“Then,” said the Hen, as she stood on one leg and looked at the ugly little snakes, first with one eye and then with the other, “you think I have done more harm than good?”

“I certainly do,” said the Swallow, as she flew away. “Good judgment is better than thoughtless kindness.”