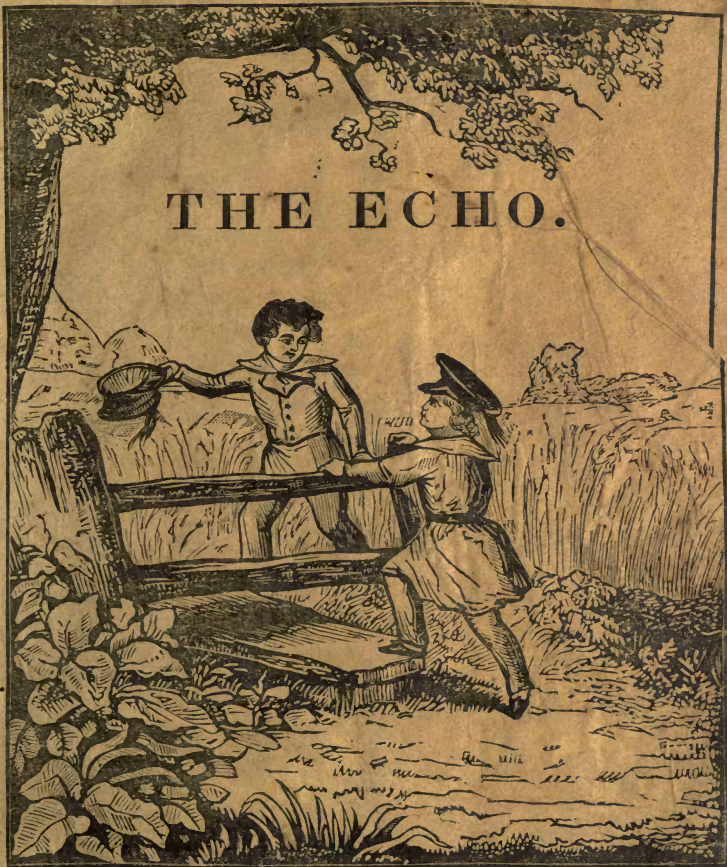


THE ECHO.



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‘But they did not know that.’

Benny Street

THE ECHO:

A STORY ABOUT

WILLIAM AND DICK.

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY S. COLMAN,
30 CORNHILL.

THE ECHO.

Once on a time, two little boys,
And naughty ones you'll say,
Resolved, before they went to
school,
That they would truants play.

The spot they chose to loiter at,
And seat themselves to chat,
Re-echoed, or sent back the
voice,—
But they did not know that.

Says William to his cousin Dick,
‘We shall not be found out.’
But Echo heard the naughty
boy,
And answered, ‘Be found out.’

‘I fear,’ said Dick to William,
That some one overhears!’
He looked to see, and Echo then
Cried, ‘Some one overhears.’

‘O! never mind,’ said William,
then,
‘Come, do not be afraid!’
So, when they both began to play,
Said Echo, ‘Be afraid!’

‘What can it be?’ said William;
‘O, let us go to school;’



‘Come, do not be afraid!’



‘Said Echo, “Go to school!”’

For he began to be afraid.

Said Echo, 'Go to school!'

**Then, softly whispering, they said,
'O, if our master knows.'**

**But Echo, hearing every word,
Said, softly, 'Master knows.'**

**'What shall we do?' then Wil-
liam said;**

'We must not tell a fib.'

**And then they heard the Echo's
voice**

Say, 'Must not tell a fib.'

**So Dick began to cry, and said,
'William, you brought me here.'**

**Said Echo, in a mournful tone,
'William, you brought me here!'**

**'I never will do this again,
If master will forgive,'
Said William to Dick; the voice
Said, 'Master will forgive.'**

**'Then let us go,' said William;
'Come, Dicky, do not cry.'
And, in the same tone, Echo
said,
'Come, Dicky, do not cry.'**

**'We shall not be so very late,
If we make haste away.'
And Echo, with a warning voice,
Cried out, 'Make haste away.'**

**Then Dicky dried his tears, and
said,
'I will do so no more.'**



“Then let us go,” said William.’

THE ECHO.



‘And off they quickly ran.’

**And Echo, in a cheerful voice,
Then said, 'Do so no more.'**

**'Then we'll be off to school,'
said they.**

**And off they quickly ran;
And, luckily, were just in time,
Before the school began.**

**Remember, then, my little
friends,
Though Echo nothing knew,
There's One above who always
knows
Both what you say and do.**

EXPLANATION.

It may be well to inform our young friends, that there is nothing in this little tale but what may be quite true. An echo is the rebounding of any sound which has struck upon some object that has the power to turn or send it back again. Such an object may be a wall, a rock, or the sides of a vault.

Sounds, whether made by the voice, or by any other cause, are borne upon the air, and at last lost in the distance; but if, in its way, the sound meets with any object, as a wall, or the side either of a rock or a house, that has the power to bound it back again, it is again heard, in a softer tone, as if some one at a distance had repeated the same words.

You may hear this when a gun is fired; the sound returns again, as if a second gun had been fired at a distance; and so it is also when it thunders; the echo, or rebounded sounds, are very plainly heard, several times over.

There are many rocks, walls, caves, and buildings in England, which are remarkable for this curious power. Echoes are frequently heard under vaulted passages, as the arches of a bridge, &c.

The two little boys, in our tale, were alarmed at hearing their own words repeated; but they would not have been so frightened, had they not known they were doing wrong. Had they been good boys, the echo would have amused them; but, acting wrongly, they were frightened, and it made them do as they ought, by going to school.



‘And, luckily, were just in time.’

