

SHORT STORIES,

OR

Treasures of Truth.



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Short Stories like these
Are printed to please
The best of the girls and the boys ;
Then read them, I pray,
And learn day by day,
For books are much better than toys.

Those children who learn,
And make their concern,
To comfort their parents and friends ;
Find pleasure and joy
In useful employ,
Which makes them most ample
amends.





THROWING THE SPEAR.

See Page 4.



SHORT STORIES,

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Treasures of Truth,

SELECTED FOR

YOUTHFUL MINDS.



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THROWING THE SPEAR.

(See the Frontispiece.)

A SPEAR or lance, in heroick ages, was generally thrown from the hands, as by the Indians at this day; in later times the combatants thrust them against each other on horseback.

In some countries they are used in hunting wild beasts; the fishermen also use a kind of spear to kill large fish.

The two men in the frontispiece are throwing at a mark, with the intention of improving themselves in the art of throwing the spear, on a pleasant spot on the side of Crouch-hill, near Banbury.



“ Little strokes fell great oaks,” says Poor Richard, and I wish that little folks would apply the maxim to themselves. How often do we hear, when a lesson is placed before them, “ O dear, it is so hard, I cannot do it.” This is all that is done towards it, and the charge of ignorance is imputed to the teacher.



The dog leads the blind Fidler with a string, who plays on the violin to induce the passengers to bestow their charity, and though neither of them had the smallest pretensions to the art of Orpheus, they yet charmed the money out of many a pocket. They sang of distress, and distressing it was to hear them.



This man supplied the market with provisions, and yet was always in the high road to poverty. His ass was the emblem of patience, and the dog of fidelity. He went early and late to market, and with such assistants might have become rich, if he had not had a wife, who consumed all the produce of his dairy in drink.



This horse was equally famous for his grace and agility. Nature designed the length of the ear the better to convey the sound, and a flowing mane and tail are necessary to the creature's comfort, since by these it is enabled to whisk off the stinging flies. Poor Firebrand fell a victim to that obstinacy so fatal to horses on the smell of fire, and was burnt to death in his stable.



This poor ass was quietly grazing by the road side, when these boys not only disturbed his meal, but one of them mounted, and the other went before to pull him forward. This made the creature quickly retreat, when he turned round and kicked the offender into a duck pond, who was so much hurt, that his play-mate was forced to dismount, and let the worst ass ride him home.



This ferocious animal in shape represents the cat, but in size it is larger than the leopard. So malignant and cruel is its nature, that it never can be tamed, but bites with equal fury the hand that feeds or chastises it. When it discovers a flock or heard, it destroys all indiscriminately. It lurks among bushes, near the banks of rivers, and bounds upon its prey in the manner of a cat.



The two properties for which the Eagle is most remarkable are, his surprising sharpness of sight, and the wonderful renewal of his strength. The former is in such perfection, that he can plainly descry the smallest fish lurking at the bottom of the river, and is able stedfastly to look upon the sun. The renewal of his strength is effected every ten years. They live about 100 years.

12 *The Gleaner going Home.*



The ears of wheat, left on the field, after it is bound into sheaves, the good farmer permits the poor to collect.—In Rosina, the trio speaks thus :

See, content, the humble gleaners
Take the scatter'd ears that fall :
Nature, all her children viewing,
Kindly bounteous cares for all.

Before the bright sun rises over the hill,
In the corn-field poor Mary is seen,
Impatient her little blue apron to fill,
With the few scatter'd ears she can glean,



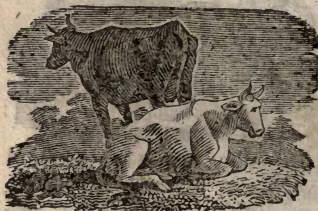
Let no one despise an ass, since our blessed Saviour made his entrance into Jerusalem on one. The ass was the only creature that God ever suffered to speak, and this was to reprove the Prophet Balaam for his severity to him. This ass is a partner with his dame in her eggs and poultry, and if they come to a bad market, he comes in for a share of the loss, which he takes patiently.



Whether this youngster is flying with good or bad news, racing or hunting, he will not stop to tell us ; but he is in fact doing neither ; for he is moving at this quick rate, because his horse chooses it. This boy was related to that famous rider Johnny Gilpin, who lost his hat and wig on the road, and whose droll excursion made many a horse laugh.—Which diverting History is printed at the Office in Bridge Street, Banbury.



All animals of the cat kind have sharp and strong claws, round heads, and whiskers; are naturally sullen, cruel, and treacherous; and cannot, like obstinate children, be persuaded or forced to do any thing, even for their own good. This cat was the terror of all mice and birds, but while she watched these pretty nibblers, she stole by wholesale herself. Indeed she was kept very sharp, and the children often teased her.



Cows give milk, which is made into butter and cheese, and their flesh, “The roast beef of Old England,” is proverbial for its good qualities; but these creatures are too well known to say much of them. It must however be observed, that they have produced more knights than any king ever made, and more to our taste too. Who does not wish to sit down to the famed Sir Loin?

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Both the King and the Queen
Love all dutiful youth,
And for all who've thus been,
They have Treasures of Truth.

