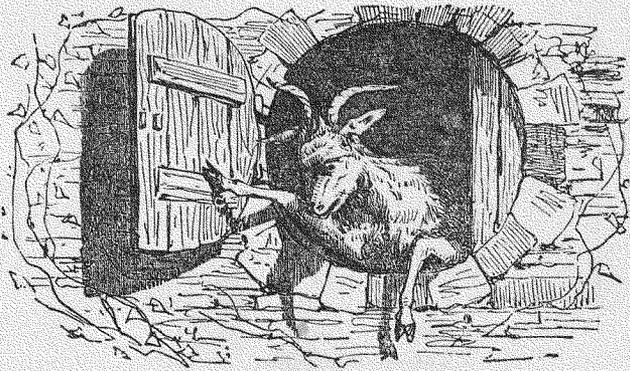




GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY E. H. WEHNERT



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With many Illustrations, and Coloured Frontispieces, by

E. H. WEHNERT.

THE THREE BROTHERS.
THE DONKEY CABBAGES.
CLEVER ALICE.
THE GOLDEN BIRD.
SNOW-WHITE AND ROSE-RED.
THE HOUSE IN THE WOOD.
THE OLD WOMAN IN THE WOOD.
THE GOOSE GIRL.
THE ALMOND TREE.
THE SOARING LARK.

P R E F A C E.

THE "Kinder und Hausmärchen" of the Brothers Grimm is a world-renowned book. Every collector of stories has borrowed from its treasures,—hundreds of artists have illustrated it,—plays have been founded on many of the tales,—and learned essays of deep research have been written upon it by men of literary eminence.

The Brothers Grimm themselves thus speak of their work:

"We may see, not seldom, when some heaven-directed storm has beaten to the earth a whole field of ripening corn, one little spot unscathed, where yet a few ears of corn stand upright, protected by the hedge or bushes which grow beside them. The warm sun shines on them day by day, and unnoticed and forgotten they ripen and are fit for the sickle, which comes not to reap them that they may be stored in some huge granary. They remain till they are full ripe, and then the hand of some poor woman plucks and binds them together and carries them home to store them up more carefully than a whole sheaf, for perchance they will have to serve for all the winter, and she cannot tell how long beyond.

"Thus does it appear to us when we consider how little is left of all that bloomed in earlier days,—how even that little is well-nigh lost, save for the popular ballads, a few legends and traditions, and these innocent Household Stories. The fireside hearth and chimney-corner; the observance of high-days and holy-days; the solitude of the still forest-glade; above all, untroubled fancy; these have been the hedges which have kept intact the field of legendary lore and handed it down from age to age."

In this translation of these "Household Stories," it has been simply endeavoured to render the homely talk of Germany into the homely talk of our own country. A few short pieces have been omitted to which English mothers might object, and principally on the score of that mixture of the sacred and profane which is common in German imaginative composition. It may, perhaps, also be objected that in some of the Tales the expression, "the greater the rogue, the better his fortune," occurs; to such criticism the Brothers Grimm reply, "The right use of these narrations will find no evil therein, but, as a good old proverb has it, a witness of our own hearts. Children point at the stars without fear, while others, as the popular belief goes, thereby offend the angels."

Any praise of Mr. Wehnert's illustrations is quite unnecessary. They are so full of character, and so happily in accordance with the spirit of the work, that every one who admires the stories must be delighted with the pictures.

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