

high grass, the fox was sure to come along, and, sniffing around with his sharp nose, he would find it out, however well it might be hidden. Cats and martens threatened the life of her little ones if she built in the bushes, and squirrels, sparrow-hawks, owls and other birds of prey that love to plunder nests lay in wait on the tree tops. Wherever could this little bird choose a safe place?

In the midst of the forest stood a mighty oak, and in the highest crest an eagle had built his eyrie. He had heaped up a mass of strong, dried sticks with some finer brushwood as a lining, and this was his nest. Every year he added new twigs and sticks to this pile, so that the eyrie became higher and thicker every season. Among the lower twigs there were many loop-holes and hollows, and in one of these loop-holes beneath the eyrie the little bird built her nest. She lined it with moss, feathers, wool and hair, and there she laid her eggs and hatched them. There at last she was safe.

The big bird paid no heed to the little bird. She was too small to serve as booty, and so quick in slipping in and out of the branches that he could never have caught her had he wished to do so. But the many enemies of the little bird, the martens, cats, squirrels, sparrow-hawks, kestrels, and whatever else their names may be, all these never ventured to come near the eagle eyrie. They feared the strong claws and the sharp beak of the king of birds.

Now when the wagtail's young, hidden so safely away, slipped out of their eggs, they opened their beaks wide, for they were very hungry. And here again their busy little mother had made a wise choice in living beneath the eagle's nest, for the mother eagle feeds her young on animals she has plundered, such as hares and chickens. Many bones, skin and pieces of flesh remained from the meals of the eagle family, and round these pieces swarmed hundreds of flies and beetles, which the little bird deftly caught and carried to her children, finding enough for herself and family, and to spare.

So you see that, although the yellow-wagtail was a very little bird, she had her wits about her.

CURRENT EVENTS.

A large part of the coastwise trade of Eastern Asia is now in the hands of the Japanese, and British steamships in the east are feeling the resulting loss of business.

Oscar II., King of Sweden, died on the 8th of December, and was succeeded by his son under the title of Gustave V. The late king was much loved by his people, over whom he had ruled for thirty-five years.

More than half the sugar produced in the world is made from beets.

Travelling by airships is now so far a matter of fact that a map has been prepared in England showing the location of valleys in which such ships might find refuge in a storm.

A flying machine on which Professor Bell has been at work for some years, has made its first successful ascent at Baddeck, N. S., where the inventor has his summer residence.

The revision of the Vulgate, which has been entrusted to the members of the Benedictine Order will take about a quarter of a century to reach completion. The Benedictines were chosen for this work because of their great learning.

It is estimated that rats do fifty million dollars worth of damage a year in England. In some European countries organized efforts are being made to check their ravages.

The great squadron of United States war ships ordered to the Pacific coast is now on its way thither. Though small as compared with the British fleet assembled in home waters in recent years it is the largest fleet that ever started on so long a cruise.

The new British torpedo boat destroyer Tartar on her trial trip made a speed of over thirty-seven knots an hour.

The difficulty of drying and pressing peat has been the chief hindrance to placing it on the market as fuel. In Germany it is now mixed with waste coal and used to make gas for driving engines, a ton of crude wet peat thus treated producing six hundred horse power of energy.

Sulphate of magnesia, commonly known as Epsom salts, is said to be a safe and useful anaesthetic.

In France they have discovered a method of transmitting electrical power without wires. It is to be tried on street car lines and applied to different forms of machinery.

Another crop failure in India has brought a return of famine conditions in some of the provinces.

Oklahoma has taken its place as the forty-sixth state of the United States of America. The new state includes Indian Territory, and its population is about one and one-half millions. Guthrie, its capital is a city of twenty-five thousand inhabitants. The name Oklahoma means "Land of the Fair God."

As a result of their peace conference, the five small states of Central America, have formed an alliance and agreed to submit to an international court all disputes that may arise between them.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

The teachers of Sydney Mines, C. B., have asked the school board for an increase of salary. A correspondent of the *Sydney Post* puts their case strongly in the following words: "The salary paid the teachers is admittedly too small to permit of their living here without calling upon their own financial resources, and it is either a case of the school board realizing this and acting accordingly, or the problem will develop into a serious one. A teacher receiving only a salary of \$190 per annum cannot procure clothing and other necessities of life on one dollar a week, but this is what she must do when it is considered many of them must pay \$14 per month for board alone. The unreasonable-