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found out. It was so compact and well filled that it would roll across the table without getting out of shape, though it contained eight little mice that were naked and blind. This well-filled cradle, a striking instance of the efforts of instinct, was found in a wheat-field, suspended in the head of a thistle.

Though the harvest-mice hang their nests up amidst the straws of the standing corn, above the ground, yet in the winter they burrow deep in the earth, and make warm beds of grass. Their favorite home, however, seems to be in the corn ricks, into which they are carried at harvest.

A neighbour housed an oat rick lately, under the thatch of which were assembled nearly a hundred, most of which were captured; and some I saw. I measured them, and found that, from nose to tail, they were just two inches and a quarter, and their tails just two inches long. Two of them in a scale weighed down just one copper half-penny.

The Village Blacksmith.

The village blacksmith is at work, making and mending and altering. How the children love to peep into his smithy of an evening as they are returning from school. The red glare of the furnace is so attractive, and the whole place looks so strange and wonderful, that Bobby's eyes are wide open as he peeps over the low door.

What does the blacksmith do there? Oh, all sorts of iron work. He makes and mends the iron rims of the cart-wheels, and every kind of iron instrument; he makes and mends horses' shoes, and nails them on to the horses' feet, that they may go comfortably along the hard roads.

How exciting it is to the children to watch the man blowing the huge bellows, making the flames leap up and roar, till the horseshoe in the fire is at white heat; then to see the blacksmith with his tongs lift the shoe on to his anvil, and with his heavy hammer beat it into the required shape, while the red sparks leap out in all directions!

No wonder the children like to watch; and the blacksmith is very kind, and has many merry words for his young visitors.

—It is high praise to have it said of you, "He is as gentle as a woman to his mother." It is out of fashion to think if you ignore your mother and make a little sister cry whenever she comes near you, that people will think you belong to the upper stratum of society. Remember that, as a rule, gentle boys make gentle men (gentlemen).

—If I have done any honourable exploit, that is my monument; but if I have done none, all your statues will signify nothing.—Agesilaus.

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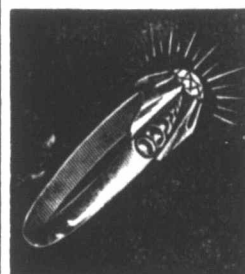
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