



### THE CLUCKING HEN.

"Mother," said a boy, "I heard the children at school to-day reading the verses about the Clucking Hen. What is a clucking hen?"—"A hen is called a clucking hen while she sits on her eggs. The name is taken from the noise she then makes. She makes the same noise when she calls her chickens. I should like to hear the verses. Do you know them?"—"Yes, I know them by heart. I must tell you that an old rooster is the one to speak first.

"Will you take a walk with me,  
My little wife, to-day?  
There is barley in the barley field,  
And hay seed in the hay."

"Thank you," said the clucking hen;  
'I have something else to do.  
I am busy sitting on my eggs;  
I cannot walk with you.