

The Life of the Grasshopper

public and private life is spent under his eyes; but, where Jack Rabbit gambols, the Cicada is an entire stranger: La Fontaine never heard of her, never saw her. To him the famous singer is undoubtedly a Grasshopper.

Grandville,¹ whose drawings have the same delicious spice of malice as the text itself, falls into the same error. In his illustration, we see the Ant arrayed like an industrious housewife. Standing on her threshold, beside great sacks of wheat, she turns a contemptuous back on the borrower, who is holding out her foot, I beg pardon, her hand. The second figure wears a great cartwheel hat, with a guitar under her arm and her skirt plastered to her legs by the wind, and is the perfect picture of a Grasshopper. Grandville no more than La Fontaine suspected the real appearance of the Cicada; he reproduced magnificently the general mistake.

For the rest, La Fontaine, in his poor

¹ Jean Ignace Isidore Gérard (1803-1847), better known by his pseudonym of Grandville, a famous French caricaturist and illustrator of La Fontaine's *Fables*, Béranger's *Chansons* and the standard French editions of *Robinson Crusoe* and *Gulliver's Travels*.--Translator's Note.