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ABOUT SEEDS.

How wonderful seeds are! A bean, a chestnut, a grain of corn or rice or wheat, the tiny flower seed—each one planted will send up a plant that will bear its own kind. Each plant has a seed vessel which is a true treasure box, because it has in it the promise of the plant to come.

God, who made the world, has made everything in it beautiful and wonderful. And even in the tiniest of the little seeds we shall find how he has fitted it for exactly the place it has to fill—just as he has a place and a work for the smallest boy or girl who reads this.

Grass seed is very light and small; the wind can shake it from its case and blow it along. The seed of the maple tree has a pair of wide wings, so that it will float far before it drops to the earth to plant a new tree. The poppy has a seed pod like a beautiful little box with a fluted lid. The seeds of all berries are in a nice pulp, so that birds will pick them and carry the seed far off to grow in a new place. The chestnut has a prickly burr with four brown nuts or seeds in it. The rose seeds are in a bright red berry, which attracts birds. Cherries, plums, pears, apples, have their seeds inside a rich pulp.



IN THE FIELDS.

Do you know that a watermelon is really only a great, handsome seed box? The pumpkin and squash are seed boxes too. So are bean and pea pods. The lady-slipper has a queer pointed seed box, and when it is ripe it snaps open and flings out the seeds a yard or so off. Thistles and dandelions have sails of down on the seed, so that they can be carried about by the wind. Some seeds, as nuts, beans and peas and grains, are good for food. Pomegranate seeds are of this kind. In a big, round seed box, about the size and shape of an orange, are a great number of seeds, each enclosed in a pulp, and the whole making a refreshing food. See how many seeds you can find, and you will wonder at the variety of their colour and their strange and pretty shapes, from the big coconut down to the little portulaca like a bit of steel filing.

Some children can be very nice and polite when aunts or cousins are visiting at the house, but as soon as they are gone their good manners are gone. Their politeness did not spring from the heart, but from vanity or ambition to please.