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THE BROTHERS: OR, KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.



It was on a bright, early spring morning, the birds were singing sweetly, and the flowers just budding forth, that Robert and Walter White, their satchels hanging upon their arms, started on their way towards school.

They lived on the banks of a beautiful river, and there was a long lane leading to the house, through which, at this season of the year, their walk to school was very pleasant, though even in winter they enjoyed it; for then, they would laughingly tell their mother in the afternoon, "they had *Slipped*, not *walked* to school." Sometimes, when the snow was very deep, their father would let the old servant, Peter, take them in a sleigh; and that was the most delightful way of all others, to be wrapped up nice and snug in the warm buffalo skin, to see the horses prancing along, and to hear the merry song of the sleigh-bells, as they glided swiftly over the snow.

But on this morning the snow had all disappeared, and instead, the ground was covered with a fresh green grass, dotted here and there with that little yellow flower, the butter-cup.

The two brothers walked slowly along, talking pleasantly together, for they were very fond of one another, when suddenly the elder exclaimed—"See that dog, Walter, over in the field there; I am going to try if I cannot hit him," and as he spoke he stooped and picked up a stone from the road.

"Oh, don't, Robert, please don't," replied the other, but the words had hardly passed his lips when the stone flew from his brother's hand, hitting the animal, and severely wounding him in the leg. Walter immediately threw down his satchel, sprang over the fence, and advanced towards the poor beast, who, on seeing him, turned as if about to try and escape, but his limb was too badly wounded; besides, the kind voice and coaxing tone of the lad seemed to reassure him. After Walter had bound up the cut with his handkerchief, he lifted the dog in his arms.

"Why what are you going to do?" said his brother, hastily, as he advanced, and was about to place his hand on the dog's head,