



SNIP AND THE HEDGEHOG.

SNIP'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE HEDGEHOG.

The hedgehog is a queer little animal with short limbs. It feeds mostly on insects. It has its body covered with sharp spines instead of hairs, and can roll itself up into a ball, and thus show an array of prickles pointing in every direction.

Slow of foot, this little creature cannot flee from danger; but in the sharp, hard, and rough prickles of its coat, it has a safeguard better than the teeth and claws of the wildcat, or the fleetness of the hare.

The hedgehog has powerful muscles beneath the skin of his back, and by the aid of these, on the slightest alarm, it rolls itself up so as to have its head and legs hidden in the middle of the ball it thus makes of itself.

Little Snip, one of old Rover's pups, saw a hedgehog the other day, for the first time. As soon as it saw him, the little creature seemed to change from a living thing into a ball. Snip did not know what to make of it. His curiosity was much excited. He went up and

looked at it. If the two could have spoken, I think this would have been their talk.

Snip.—“Of all the queer things I ever saw, you are the queerest. What are you anyhow?”

Hedgehog.—“Suppose you put out your paw and try.”

Snip.—“I don't like the look of those prickles.”

Hedgehog.—“Don't be a coward, Snip! Put your nose down and feel of my nice soft back.”

Whether the cunning hedgehog really cheated him by any such remarks as these, I cannot say; but Snip at last mustered courage enough to put his nose down to the ball. Rash Snip! Up rose the bristles and pricked him so that he ran back to his little brothers, howling and yelping as if he had been shot.

Having put Snip to flight, the hedgehog quietly unrolled itself, thrust out its queer little head with the long snout, and crept along on its way rejoicing. As for Snip, I am quite sure he will never put his nose to the back of a hedgehog again as long as he lives; and if his brothers have sense enough to

profit from the sad experience of Snip they will never do so either.

TRUE BEAUTY.

“Handsome they that handsome do,”
Grandma said to little Sue;
And the dull gray eyes grew bright,
Kindled with an eager light.
From that hour she strove to make
Herself more fair for others' sake.

Though no roses decked her cheek,
She grew gentle, kind, and meek;
And her voice soon found a tone,
Which, till then, it had not known.
And, at length, her playmates all,
Their “best friend” did Susie call.

Then no longer did she sigh
For snowy brow and sparkling eye;
Well content that those she knew
Should find her ever good and true.
And the maxim grandma taught,
Often was in Susie's thought.

THE SPIDER THAT LIVED IN THE ATTIC.

There was an old spider living in the corner of the attic who had a fine ear for music. He never felt so happy as when he heard the buzzing of wings. Then he knew that a fly was near, and he watched, out of one of his eight eyes, to see her get caught in his web.

One day he heard a loud singing, and looked out with every one of his eight eyes for a big blue fly, but could not find her. Then he ran down a thread to his web and saw a man with a queer instrument in his hand.

It was the professor who lived in the house, and who wrote books about all kinds of insects. He wanted to be sure that the spider could hear, or at least feel sounds, but the spider did not care for the tuning fork, with which the professor touched her web, for it was not good to eat.

After a while a mosquito came singing around. But mosquitoes are much wiser than flies and so it did not get its wings caught in the web, though it came very near, and at last the old spider grew tired of watching and went to sleep.

Then the mosquito stopped singing, and climbed the long thread and looked into the spider's parlour where he lay asleep, but he was not caught; he flew away to sing around the head of a sleeping child.

If you will watch the spiders, the ants, the bees, the butterflies, and the beetles, as the professor did, you will find out some things you would like to know.

Do a few things well, and you will be better able to do more and greater things by and by.