



John Bunny's School in Bunny Town
Achieved a reputation.
The Bunnies passed with highest marks
In each examination.

And day by day, and week by week,
The cheerful hours did pass;
Each Bunny trying hard to be
The smartest in his class.

But yet, in time, these Bunnikins
Of lessons grew quite tired:
To have some real variety
They each and all desired.

Said one, "My lessons grow quite dull,
Some change I'd like to see;
Reading and writing, spelling too,
Grow wearisome to me.

Some time ago we learned about
The Birds both great and small;
Those Nature Lessons seemed to us
The nicest of them all."

Then said John Bunny, "Good Idea!
The time has come that we
Should learn of beasts upon the land
And fishes in the sea.

"We'll talk of Beasts that roam the wilds,
In countries far away:
To learn their names and habits
Will take us many a day.

"Some animals are wild and fierce;
They roam through plain and wood,
And hunt for other animals
That form their daily food.

"While others, just as big as they,
And some much bigger yet,
Exist on roots, and grass and leaves,
And thus their living get.

"So we will sort them out in groups,
According to their habits,



To make our lesson easier
For weeny little rabbits.

"The LION is the King of Beasts,
Poets his praises sing;
And all the other animals
Accept him as their King.

"His roar is like the thunder,
Consistent with his might.
Like other Cats he sleeps by day,
And hunts his prey at night.

"The TIGER is both fierce and strong,
The largest cat that's known;
He lives in forests, hunts by night,
In couples or alone.

"His tawny hide is barred with black,
Alternate with the yellow;
Though fierce and wild, you must admit
He is a handsome fellow.

"The LEOPARD
is both fierce
and strong
And very bold,
and so
He ventures
where the
Tiger
Would never dare
to go.

"The OUNCE,
the Leopard of
the Snows,
Frequents the
mountain peaks
Where through the snow-clad ranges
For mountain sheep he seeks.

"The JACKAL feeds on the wild hare,
But likes tame poultry best;
And men who live where Jackals roam
Consider them a pest.

"The strange HYENA hunts at night,
But hides the whole day long;
He is a coward, though his teeth
Are extra large and strong.

"His cry is something like a laugh,
Both weird and strange in tone;
He follows other animals,—
Afraid to hunt alone.

"In many lands the BEAR is found;
Some black, some brown, some white.
To tell you all about the Bears
Would take a day and night!

"Some live in caves and some in trees,
And some amidst the ice.
Some sleep the whole long Winter
through,
Which must be rather nice.

"When Bruin starts his Winter sleep,
Quite fat and sleek is he;
But in the Spring when he comes out,
A different sight we see.

"For Bears are fat as butter
When first their sleeps begin;
But, when the Winter's over,
They're very, very thin!

"They wake up when they're hungry,
(Perhaps they have a pain),
And start to eat and eat and eat,
Until they're fat again.

"The WALRUS is a Water Beast,
Which weighs about a ton.
He spends his life amidst the ice,
Under the Arctic Sun.

"The WOLF is
like a great
fierce dog.
A Dog, in fact, is
he.
And in the North-
ern Countries
The largest wol-
ves we see.

"These are the
animals which
prey
On other Beasts
for food.—
We'll now consid-
er those who eat
The growth of field and wood.

"The Great WILD BOAR of India
Eats roots and fish and fruit;
Stays by himself—though when attacked
He is a dangerous brute.

"The ELEPHANT, though huge in size,
May yet be tamed with ease:
And when his driver wants to mount,
He goes upon his knees.

"And in our parks the Elephant
May oftentimes be found;
The children love to have a ride,
So far above the ground.

"But in the countries where he lives,
In bands he roams the wild;
And other animals he meets
Don't find his temper mild.

"The Lion, and the Tiger too,
(Though both are fierce and strong),
Make way when Mr. Elephant
Happens to come along.

"The CAMEL in the desert lives,
Where water's hard to find;
He goes for weeks without a drink,
And doesn't seem to mind.

"And men who live near sandy wastes
Call him the "Desert Ship";
Without his aid they dare not go
On many a desert trip.

"The tall GIRAFFE, as you may know,
Grows eighteen feet in height.
He feeds upon the leaves of trees,
And so is harmless—quite!

"He reaches with the greatest ease
The tender shoots up high;
But when he wants to reach the ground
Quite hard he has to try.

"Although his neck is very long,
His legs are longer yet;
He has to spread them wide apart
If grass he wants to get.

"The HIPPOPOTAMUS is found
In rivers, and can sink
And walk along the bottom,—
A clever feat, I think!

"The "River-Cows" they call them in
The countries where they live,—
(Though Cow's a word that hardly seems
The right idea to give.)

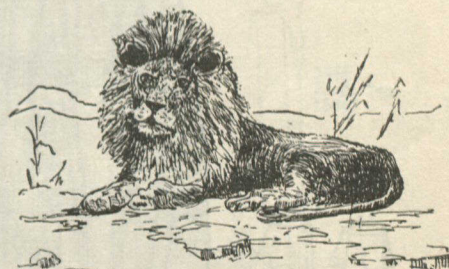
"The ZEBRA, all except his stripes,
Is something like the horse;
In bands he roams the desert plains,
And lives on grass, of course.

"The CROCODILE of India
You all have heard about.
He's not a wild beast really,
But we couldn't leave him out!

"We've only had a few short words
About each special beast.
To give the details of each one
Would take a page, at least.

"Are you, my Bunny, one of those
Who knows, and understands
The habits of the great wild beasts
Which live in foreign lands?

"Books may be had which tell at length
The lives these wild beasts lead.
It might be good to get these books
And all about them read.



And good John Bunny, later on,
Will tell about the DEER;
Of many kinds, in many lands,
Some details you shall hear.

Perhaps, in Canada, you think
There isn't much to tell;
But you will have a lot to learn
Before you know them well.

And some day we will have a page
Of Animals near Home,
That through our own Canadian woods
And mountain-country roam.

