

ravages in the interior of that country, and even attacked men. One of these fierce animals, after having broken a window, got through it into a little cottage, in the forest of Orts. Two children, one six and the other eight years old, lay on the bed, awaiting the return of their mother, who was gone to gather some wood to make a fire.

2. Seeing no one else about, the wolf leaped upon the bed to devour his tender prey. Seized with fright the two boys slipped under the mattress, and there lay flat, without breathing. So near the flesh and not able to reach it as soon as he would have liked, the savage beast became more excited, and began to tear the blanket and bed-clothes to shreds.

3. Whilst the enraged wolf was seeking the boys an enormous mastiff, which had followed its mistress into the wood, came to the rescue. The dog had caught the scent at some distance from the houses, to which the villagers, with arms filled with wood, were slowly walking. Running like a deer, he entered the hut, and falling upon the wolf, seized him by the throat and strangled him.

4. Let any one picture to himself the state of the poor mother, when she returned to her humble home. She sees at her feet a dead wolf—her dog covered with blood—the bed all tossed—her children no more. But the noble dog came towards her, as though he would say, "Come!" and returning to the bed, stuck his head under the mattress. The poor woman took the hint, and turning up the bed, there lay the objects of her anxiety, alive, but frightened almost out of their lives.