

Illustrated

THE

PROVERBS

OF

LITTLE SOLOMON.

CONTAINING

ENTERTAINING STORIES.



EDINBURGH:

Published by OLIVER & BOYD, Newmarket.

Price Three pence.

Ella Dyer Robinson
1908



PROVERBS
OF
LITTLE SOLOMON.

CONTAINING
ENTERTAINING STORIES,

From the following
WISE SAYINGS:

- “ A faint Heart never won a fair Lady.”
“ Safe bind, safe find.”
“ Brag is a good Dog, but Holdfast is a better.”
“ A burnt Child dreads the Fire.”
“ A Bird in the Hand is worth two in the Bush.”
“ Naught is never in danger.”



EDINBURGH:

Published by OLIVER & BOYD, Netherbow

Price Threepence

PROVERBS
OF
LITTLE SOLOMON,

STORY I.

~~~~~  
*Faint Heart never won a fair Lady.*  
~~~~~

Two officers, one of whom was a midshipman in the navy, the other a captain in the army, courted at the same time a very beautiful young lady: as they were both polite and handsome, and nearly equal in fortune, and equally urgent for a favourable decision, she was a long time in fixing on a method of determining on which person she should bestow her hand. At last, wearied with the importunity of her lovers, and

tired of consideration, when there was no particular bias to influence her choice, she ordered them to follow her, immediately drove to the Tower, where she alighted, and proceeded to the apartments in which the wild beasts are kept; here, throwing her fan into the den of one of the fiercest lions, she turned to her lovers, and said, "that man should be her husband, who would venture into the den to regain it for her."—The captain, making a low bow, assured her, "he would do any thing in reason, yet he could not think of risking his life for a woman." But the midshipman, drawing his sword, marched boldly into the den, and looking the lion firmly in the face, took up the fan, and, escaping unhurt, presented it to his



mistress, who, giving him her hand, exclaimed, "Here is your reward.—Beauty is the reward of courage, while contempt is the

portion of cowardice:—A faint heart never won a fair lady.”

MORAL.

We learn by this Proverb, never to be disheartened by seeming difficulties, but to pursue every honourable design with vigour and resolution. Dangers may threaten, and disasters hover over us; yet, a fixed determination to succeed, when our pursuit is virtuous, will seldom fail of being attended by the expected success.

The sense of the Proverb may be better expressed in this manner:—“A fainting spirit never atchieved a great action.” For, though it is generally true, that the ladies prefer a man of courage to a cowardly one; yet, the proverb is so often applied contrary

to its literal meaning, that we think the above alteration of its terms, perfectly justifiable and proper. The lesson it gives, when thus altered, is, that diligence and perseverance are absolutely necessary to the success of our undertakings: with them, nothing is impossible; without them, the fairest prospects are rendered desolate, and the most brilliant expectations become unsuccessful.

Let ev'ry good and virtuous youth,
Pursue the path that leads to truth;
Nor shrink, tho' threat'ning dangers rise,
A faint heart never won a prize.

STORY II.

~~~~~  
*Safe bind, safe find.*  
~~~~~

A YOUNG gentleman had a present made him of a beautiful little

horse, of a snow-white colour, and spotted like a spaniel. The mane was soft as silk, and hung down upon his neck in ringlets; the neck was long and slender, the chest high and noble, and his whole shape was elegant, and in the most exact proportion; while a fine flowing tail added grace and dignity to his motions, and conveyed the idea of animation and vigour. When the horse was given to Charles (for that was the young gentleman's name), he was desired to take particular care of it, and always when he returned from riding to take it into the stable, and fasten it to the manger himself; for the horse, being young and lively, was apt to get out when left loose, and set off, galloping about the country. For

some days, Master Charles was very particular in following these directions, and being fond of his poney, took great care to prevent its getting away. Unluckily, having ridden a longer time than usual, one morning, he was informed that his drawing-master was in the house; when taking his horse to the stable in a hurry, he forgot either to tie him up, or shut the door. On returning home, he began his lessons, and some company arriving before he had concluded them, it was not till late in the afternoon, that he thought any more of his horse, or of his accustomed diversion. But, how shall I describe his surprise and grief, when on running to the stable, he found it empty, and his pretty poney nowhere to be seen. With the tears

flowing from his eyes, he ran into the parlour, and informed the company of his loss. It happened, that the person who had given him the horse, was among them ;



who, taking the boy by the hand, told him, that as he had now suffered for his inattention and want of care, he hoped he would in future remember what was said to him, and never forget the old proverb, "Safe bind, safe find."

MORAL.

This Proverb teaches us, to avoid carelessness in the disposal of our property, and always to place it in security; otherwise, it is very probable, that when we look for it, it may be found. Children should never scatter their playthings about the house, as they often do: as soon as they get tired of them, they ought to put them into a box, or drawer, where they will remain safe, till they again want them.

Children should never careless be,
 But always bear in mind—
 Unless they safely put away,
 They'll hardly ever find.

STORY III.

*Brag is a good Dog, but Holdfast
 is a better.*

IN the reign of the great King Alfred, the country was infested by a number of fierce wolves, who did so much damage to the cattle, and spread such terror among the inhabitants, that Alfred, ever attentive to the welfare of his subjects, made a law, ordering that every person should be excused such a part of the taxes, as was proportionate to the quantity of

wolves he destroyed. This reward induced many people to hunt them with dogs trained up for the purpose, and was the principal cause of their being all destroyed. One day, as a country squire was seeking for their haunts in a thick forest, accompanied by two dogs, whose names were Brag and Holdfast, the former barked very loudly, and the gentleman turning round, discovered a huge and hungry wolf running towards him with great violence. Brag continued barking, but never attempted to seize the furious animal, who, springing upon the gentleman, would have torn him piecemeal, if Holdfast had not in the same moment flown at the wolf, and seizing him by the under jaw, held him so very fast, as



to prevent his doing the gentleman any injury.

This fortunate incident made the gentleman say, that "Brag

was a good dog, for giving him notice of the wolf's approach; but that Holdfast was a better, for preventing him doing any mischief."

MORAL.

This Proverb applies to such persons as talk big, boast of their courage, and rattle away, as if they were vastly superior to others, who, having more modesty, are content to display their abilities in the performance of great actions, and not in merely talking about them. Let me advise my young friends, never to undertake any thing which they are incapable of managing, as it only exposes them to derision and laughter; and also, never to give way to the foolish custom of bragging, and making game of

other boys, who are less noisy than themselves. Likewise, they should always remember, that "He only, who behaves well, deserves praise and reward; and not him, who is for ever saying what he will do, but never doing any thing."

Brag is not a bad child, but Holdfast is much better,

For Holdfast reads well, while Brag scarce knows a letter:

He talks loud, it is true, and puts on a big look,

But Holdfast's the boy, who sticks close to his book.

STORY IV.

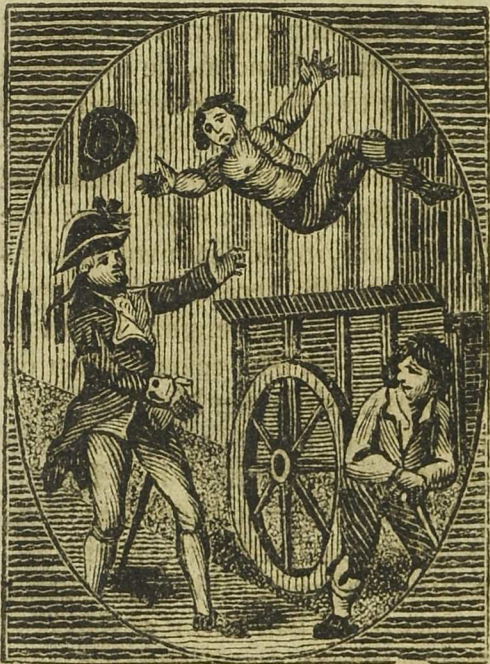
A burnt Child dreads the Fire.

THE principle of self-preservation is learnt so early, that it appe

absolutely inseparable from our nature; though, when an infant is born, it may be asserted, as an indisputable truth, that it has no idea of danger, and therefore cannot pay any attention to its own safety. Yet, no sooner does the child become acquainted with pain, than it instinctively shrinks at its approach; and, as heat is generally the first feeling acquired from without, they are quickly sensible of its power, and soon learn to fear its effects. 'Tis from this we derive the origin of the Proverb, "A burnt child dreads the fire."

This Proverb admits of a variety of applications, though they all turn on one point,—the avoiding that mode of conduct, which, at any former time, may have led us into difficulties.

“When the celebrated Marshal Saxe was in London, he happened one day to offend a scavenger who was cleaning the streets near Charing Cross, and who challenged the Marshal to box with him; the Count, relying on his own uncommon strength, accepted the proposal, and the scavenger began to strip; but he had scarce taken off his shirt, when the Marshal, despising the puny appearance of his antagonist, seized him by the arms, to the great astonishment of the spectators, and threw him into his own cart, with the same ease as if he had been a truss of straw, where he struggled for some time, and narrowly escaped being stifled in the mud.” When he got out, the Marshal asked him, If he was ready to begin the fight?



—“No, no,” replied the fellow,
—“A burnt child dreads the fire,
and *I* have already had a sufficient
specimen of *your* power.”

MORAL.

Though the general truth of this Proverb cannot be denied, yet many instances might be given, in which the power of habit is superior to a sense of danger. The inhabitants of the country round the fierce volcanoes of *Ætna* and *Vesuvius*, who are continually exposed to all the horrors of fiery eruptions, still carry on their customary business with deliberation and calmness; and though living in places supposed to be situated on the arch of a burning abyss, and often witnessing the ravages of destructive earthquakes, are never driven from their habitations, till the storm reaches their very doors; and, no sooner is it abated, than they return, and re-

build their houses, over the smoaking ruins of the former ones.

When naughty children go astray,
 And wisdom's precepts wont obey;
 Their friends, each blockhead's back
 should strip,
 And make him dread, th' uplifted whip.

STORY V.

~~~~~  
*A Bird in the Hand is worth Two  
 in the Bush.*  
 ~~~~~

A FOWLER having laid his nets in a field, and scattered some food upon them, retired to a distance, and then waited the effects of his artifice. In a little time, a young goldfinch flew from a tree, and began to pick up the crumbs, which the fowler perceiving, immediate-

ly drew the cords, and the wings of the bird being entangled, he was easily caught. When the man took him in his hand, the goldfinch begged very hard for his liberty, (supposing that birds could speak their feelings) assuring the fowler, that if he would let him go this time, he would return at the end of the summer, and again suffer himself to be taken. "Besides," continued the pretty fellow, "my value is so little, that I am not worth carrying away; whereas, if you were to catch those two nightingales, who are singing so sweetly in yonder bush, they would fetch you a considerable sum."———"Thou has petitioned very cleverly," replied the fowler, "but I am not to learn, that wert thou to escape now, I should never see thee



more ; neither should I have had thee at all, hadst thou expected any danger in lighting upon the nets : with respect to the nightin-

gales, they are not in my possession, thou art; and no one can deny, that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

MORAL.

From the consideration of this Proverb, I would advise my readers never to toss up, play at pitch at the hole, hustle-cap, nor indeed at any thing that encourages gambling; there are many exercises much better: Cricket, trap-ball, marbles, and many other games and diversions, which are calculated to improve the health, and render the body active and nervous; while the former games tend only to the destruction of their morals, by leading them into idle and dissolute company. It is also breaking the tenth commandment, which says, "Thou

shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor *any thing* that is his;" plainly implying, that we ought to be content with our own, and not endeavour to obtain possession of the property of others, by such an unlawful method as gaming. This Proverb also insinuates the folly of giving up a certainty for an uncertainty. Whatever is in our own pockets, we are sure of; that which is in the pocket of another, we cannot positively say will ever be ours. If the fowler had let the goldfinch fly, in the expectation of catching the nightingales, he would, most probably, have been disappointed: this he knew, and preferred the small prize he possessed to a much larger, of which there was only the possibility of his having.

Good boys will never play at toss,
 For 'tis of most the bane ;—
 Nor e'er endure a certain loss,
 For an uncertain gain.

STORY VI.

Naught is never in Danger.

A WORTHLESS young fellow, who lived at a village a few miles from town, often amused himself, by laughing at any one who accidentally fell down, or got hurt by any mischance. On such occasions, he would point with his finger, and say, jeeringly, " Ah, it is only a scratch, naught is never in danger," and then walk away, without offering the least assistance. One day, however, he happened (as if on purpose to

punish him for his inhumanity,) to be invited to a fox hunt, where being mounted on a high-mettled horse, he leaped every gate, and crossed every ditch that lay in his way, till coming to a deep and broad channel that had lately been cut, in order to build a lock for a canal, his temerity led him to venture, and taking a furious leap, he was thrown off his horse, one of his legs broken, and his horse killed on the spot. In this miserable situation he lay for some time, when an old woman, hearing a man's groans, went and looked into the chasm: "For heaven's sake, mistress," he exclaimed, "lend me some help."—"Marry, come up," cried the woman, "not I, indeed, thou art rightly served:



when my poor boy was in the river, yonder, thou saidst, Naught was never in danger, and then left him to get out as he could, and so

I leave thee to do." She then hobbled away. A few minutes after, a farmer passed by. "Some assistance for the sake of mercy," uttered the poor wretch.—"Ad-zooks," said the farmer, "but ize glad to zee thee there; dos'nt remember when vather broke's arm, valling off the barn, thee snigger'd and cried, Naught's ne'er in danger.—I'll vetch 'un to look at thee."—He then walked off, leaving the groaning man to lament the consequences of his own want of humanity. In this lamentable manner he passed some hours; and it was not till the company, whom he had set out with in the morning, returned home, and afterwards went to seek him, that he procured any relief.

MORAL.

My young readers may learn,
 from this story, that it is best, for
 their own sakes, to behave oblig-
 ingly, and to assist every one, that
 they may have a right to expect a
 return of the same kindness they
 have bestowed upon others.

Let youth good-natur'd be to all,
 And lend a willing hand;
 That when themselves should chance
 to fall,
 They might some help command.

FINIS.

