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THE
SHEPHERD BOY.



N O R T H A M P T O N .

John Metcalf...1836.

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SHEPHERD BOY.



ONCE more I quit my wint'ry bower,
And hasten, pleas'd, away ;
While sweet content crowns every
hour,
And brightens all the day.

Onward I trip, with cheerful speed,
To yonder smiling plain ;
And whistling with my tuneful reed,
I call my fleecy train.



My little dog, how willing he
Runs all the country o'er ;
Performs his duty faithfully,
And then trips on before.

Soon as the cheering sun is up,
 The tuneful lark begins :
 Well pleas'd to hear, I gladly stop
 To listen while he sings.



All Nature's works, with one accord,
 Some grateful tribute pay ;
 And fain would I adore the Lord,
 And louder sing than they.

Oft am I fill'd with peace and joy ;
How good is God to me !
O do thou bless a Shepherd Boy !
Teach him to sing of Thee !



Where'er around I turn my eyes,
How charming is the scene !
Mountains, whose summits reach the
skies,
And valleys cloth'd in green.

Thou feedest all my num'rous flock,
Extend thy care to me ;
They drink the cooling water brook,
But give me drink from Thee.



Each morn I call them out to feed,
Beside the sparkling rills ;
But feed thou me with food indeed
From thine eternal hills.

Once, as oppress'd with sleep I lay,
With pining hunger bold,
A prowling enemy came by,
And robb'd my little fold.



But thou, great Shepherd, dost not
sleep,
Nor slumber, oft, like me ;
So that no foe can steal a sheep
Eternally from Thee.

Then let my humble voice resound,
To Thee my strains belong ;
While hills and valleys catch the sound,
And echo back the song.



Often as this is my employ,
Jesus shall be my theme ;
He died to save a Shepherd Boy,
And I will sing of Him.



THE SQUIRREL.

THE Squirrel is a beautiful little animal, equally remarkable for the elegance of its form, the liveliness of its disposition, and the agility of its motions. It is gentle and harmless; though naturally wild, it is easily tamed; and though excessively timid, it soon becomes familiar. Its tail constitutes its greatest singularity, as well as its principal ornament. It is also not less useful than ornamental; for being sufficiently large and bushy to cover the whole body, it serves as an excellent defence against the inclemencies of the weather. It also greatly assists it in clinging and adhering to trees.



THE CROCODILE.

The Crocodile infests Egypt, and other warm countries. This large and voracious animal, the terror of man and beast, is hatched from an egg, like those of the tortoise and snake, covered with a skin instead of a shell. The crocodile will float on the surface of the water, and lie among the weeds near the shores, very much resembling an old log covered with a rough bark; and when other animals come to drink, it will seize, and draw them under water, and devour them; though sometimes when it has seized the tiger, a dreadful battle has ensued.



THE STORK.

The Stork is here seen bearing off its aged parent upon its back. Storks live to be very old; their limbs grow feeble, their feathers fall off, and they are incapable of providing for their own food or safety. Their young ones then assist them, covering them with their wings, and nourishing them with the warmth of their bodies; even bringing them provisions in their beaks, and carrying them from place to place on their backs: in this manner returning, as much as lies in their power, the care which was bestowed on them when they were young ones in the nest. A striking example of *filial piety*, inspired by instinct; from which *reason* itself need not be ashamed to take example.



STEAM-BOAT.

Steam-boats are used to carry passengers and merchandise up and down large rivers. They are called Steam-boats because they have large wheels like those of a mill, which are turned by the power of steam.