

The simple goat did not consider that the fox had not strength to drag him up; so he liked the proposal, and placed himself as directed. Then the fox, as he had proposed, climbed along his companion's back, stepped on his head, and gained the top of the well in safety.

"Now then," said the goat, "you are to give me the help you spoke of."

"Thou old fool," replied the fox, "hadst thou but half as much sense as thou hast beard, thou wouldst never have believed that I would hazard my own life to save thine. However, I will give thee a bit of advice which may be of service to thee hereafter, if thou shouldst ever have the good luck to escape from this danger: 'Never venture into a pit again, till thou hast well considered how to get out of it.'"

"True," said a crow, who was perched on the top of the well, and had watched the whole transaction; "but I, for my part, had rather be the good-natured though imprudent goat at the bottom of the well, than the selfish, crafty fox at the top of it."

---

#### LESSON XIV.

##### THE GLEANER.

Before the bright sun rises over the hill,  
In the corn-field poor Mary is seen,  
Impatient her little blue apron to fill  
With the few scattered ears she can glean.