

ash which stands on the hillside shall serve you."

As soon as the man had made the new handle for his ax, he began to use it. Day after day his strokes could be heard, and soon all the great trees in the woods were laid low.

"Ah," said an old oak, as he fell crashing to the ground, "it is all our own fault that we are thus lost. If we had taken the part of the ash tree and not given up its rights, we might have stood here safe from harm for many years."

"Very true," said a tall pine tree that was lying close by. "When those who are strong fail to take the part of those who are weak, they are sure to be the losers for it."