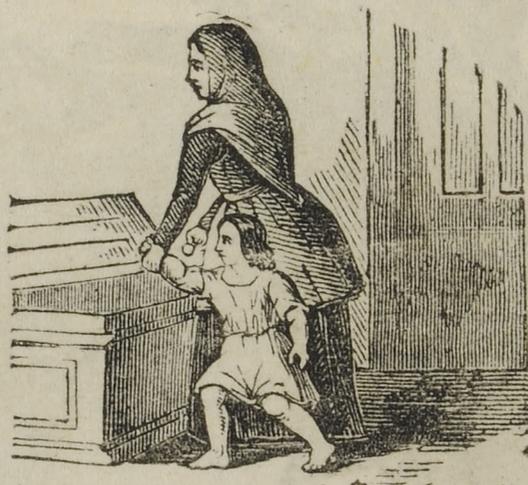


DEAN'S
Illustrated Farning Books.

**THE BRAVE BOY,
AND THE EAGLE.**



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THE BRAVE BOY,
THAT OBEYED GOD RATHER THAN MAN.



IN a town in one of the midland counties of England lived a poor boy ; his clothes were almost threadbare, and his daily allowance of food was often very scanty.

He was an orphan, and having no one to provide for him, he supported himself by working at a factory, where he earned five shillings a-week. He was a very good boy, and loved to read his Bible, and to go to the house of God on the Sabbath day. But he had an ungodly master, who knowing of his wish to go to church on Sunday, ordered him to work on that day. However, Jem thought it his duty not to obey, and accordingly spent that sacred day in his usual peaceful manner.

The next morning, when he presented himself at the factory, the master inquired, "Where were you yesterday?" The boy answered, "I went to church, sir." "Then you may go to church again to-day!" replied the master, angrily; and paying him what was due to him, he instantly dismissed him. Jem was now without any means of earning a livelihood; but he knew it was useless to despair, so he began to look out for another situation.

On one of his applications, a gentleman asked him the reason of his dismissal from his former place. The boy replied, "Be-

cause I did not wish to go to work on Sunday, sir." The merchant was much pleased with this answer, and immediately engaged him at the increased wages of ten shillings a week. "Godliness has the promise of the life that now is, as well as of that which is to come."



THE

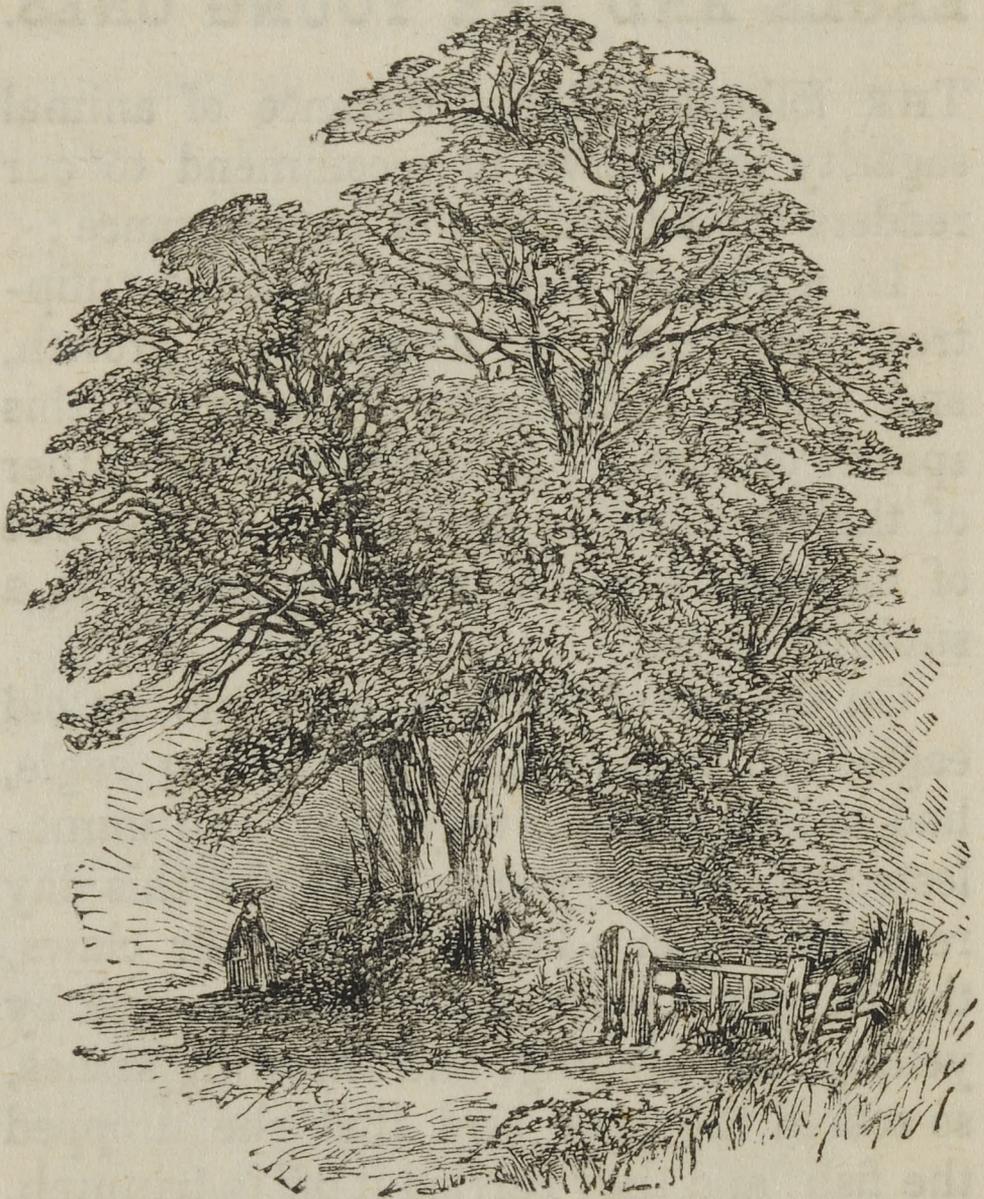
EAGLE AND HER YOUNG ONES.

THE following lively instance of animal sagacity may serve to recommend to our readers the advantages of perseverance :

In a remote field stood a large tulip-tree, apparently of a century's growth, and one of the most gigantic of this species of tree. It looked like the father of the surrounding forest. A single tree of huge dimensions, standing alone, is a sublime object.

On the top of the tree, for years, an old eagle, commonly called the fishing eagle, had built her nest every year, and unmolested raised her young. As she this day returned, with a large fish in her claws, the workmen surrounded the tree, and by yelling, and hooting, and throwing stones, so scared the poor bird that she dropped the fish, and they carried it off in triumph. The men soon dispersed ; but Joseph sat under a bush near by to watch, and to bestow unavailing pity. The eaglets at

once set up a cry for food, so shrill, so clear, and so clamorous, that the boy was



greatly moved. The parent bird seemed to try to soothe them ; but their appetites were too keen, and it was all in vain.

She then perched herself on a limb near them, and looked down into the nest with a look that seemed to say, "I know not what to do next." But her indecision was momentary. Again she poised herself, uttered one or two sharp notes, as if telling them to "be still," balanced her body, spread her wings, and was away again for the sea.

Joseph now determined to see the result. His eyes followed her till she grew small, smaller,—a mere speck in the sky, and then disappeared. She was gone nearly two hours, about double her usual time for a voyage, when she again returned, on a slow, weary wing, flying uncommonly low, in order to have a heavier atmosphere to sustain her, with another fish in her talons. On nearing the field, she made a circuit around it, to see if her enemies were there again. Finding the coast clear, she once more reached her tree, drooping, faint, and evidently nearly exhausted. Again the eaglets set up their cry, which was soon hushed by the distribution of a

dinner such as—save the cooking—a king might admire.

“Glorious bird!” cried the boy in ecstasy and alone, “what a spirit! Others can sing more sweetly; others can scream more loudly; but what other bird, when persecuted and robbed—when weary—when discouraged—when so far from the sea—would do what thou hast done! I will learn a lesson from thee to-day. I will never forget hereafter, that when the spirit is determined, it can do almost anything. Others would have dropped the head, and mourned over the cruelty of man, and sighed over the wants of the nestlings; but thou, by at once recovering the loss, hast forgotten all. I will learn of thee, noble bird: I will remember this, and I will set my mark high. I will try to do something, in the world; *and I will never yield to discouragements.*”

