



TROTТИНО.

HIS FAULTS.

There was once a mother-rabbit who had two little rabbit children. The older one was called Lapino and the other Trotтино.

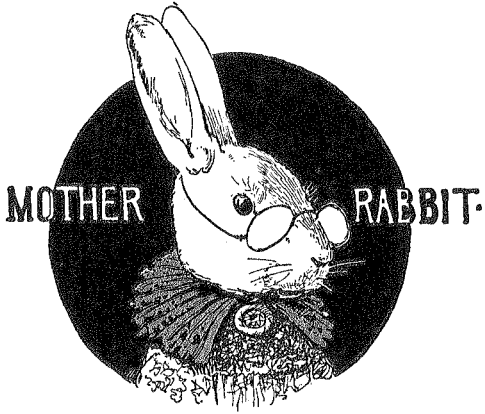
Lapino was a most lovable little rabbit. He was not only pretty, but good, also. Kind, obedient, good-humored, willing to give up to his little brother, and always ready to

help his mother, Lapino was a model for all little rabbits.

His mamma would have been the happiest of rabbit-mothers if Trotтино had been like his brother. But Trotтино, though he was a very good little rabbit in many ways, had great faults.

He was disobedient, Trotтино was; not from naughti-

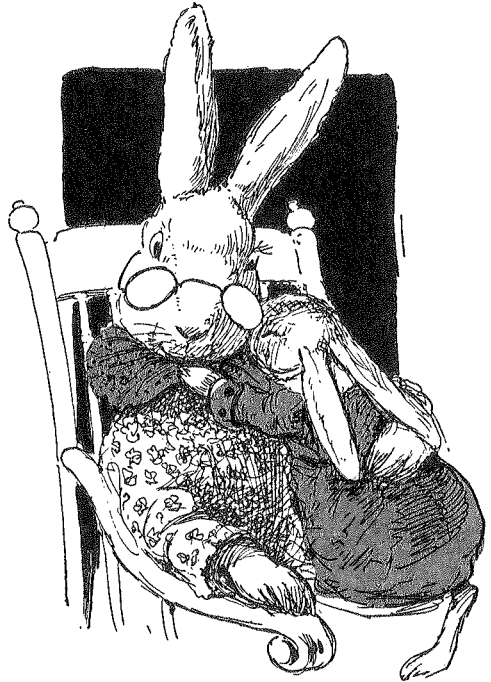
ness, but because he did not try to think. When he wanted to do something which



he thought would be "good fun," he forgot all about his mother's wishes. If he had been more thoughtful he would have heard a voice, the voice of his little rabbit-conscience, saying to him, "Don't do that, Trottino! It is naughty!" But alas! he did not think of these things.

Another fault of Trottino's was greediness. He had a kind heart and would some-

times go without a beautiful carrot, or a very tender cabbage leaf, in order that he might give it to some poor little rabbit who had nothing to eat. But he was too fond of dainty food, and his mamma often tried to make him ashamed of it and sorry for it.



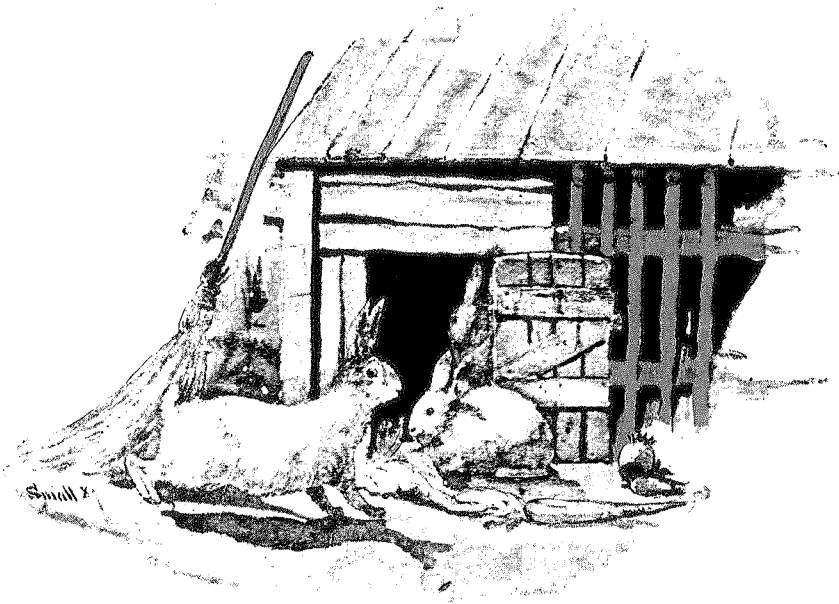
ASKING PARDON.

At such times he would throw himself on her neck

and ask her pardon, and say to her, "I won't do so any more!" But he would do the same thing the very next time.

He did not seem to know

that a rabbit of honor ought to think well before giving his word, and that when his word was once given he ought to hold to it.



MOTHER RABBIT GOES TO MARKET.

Lapino and Trotтино began to be large enough to eat alone, but they did not yet know much about plants, and so their mother had told them not to eat anything unless she gave it to them.

When the weather was fine she took her children out for a walk in a beautiful field where there were all sorts of plants, and she pointed out to them which were good; but the rabbits were forbidden to go out into the field alone.

One morning Mother Rabbit saw that her cupboard was empty. She said to Lapino, "My little Lapino, I must go to the town. Hurry, my child! Get up, and make your bed and your little brother's, and have the room all clean and tidy

when I get home. I will come back as soon as I can, and take you out for a nice walk in the sun. You, Trotтино, be good, and mind your brother."

"Yes, mamma," replied the two children; and the mother



GOING TO MARKET.

rabbit, taking her big basket, hurried away.

Lapino arose. With his little paws he shook up the straw on which he had slept, and arranged it so that it had quite the air of a well-made

bed. Afterwards he carefully put the room in order.

Trottino did not usually trouble himself about such work, so Lapino was astonished to see him give all this help, and praised him for being kind and working well.

But if Trottino helped about



the house it was not for the sake of gaining compliments; he had another idea. When all the work was done he sat down in the open doorway of the house.

"Oh! do come and see, Lapino, how fine the weather is!" cried he to his brother.

"Very fine," answered Lapino; "when mamma comes home, and after she has taken a little rest, I shall be glad to go out of doors."

"Poor mamma! It is true that she will be very tired. She will have to rest a long while, and we shall have scarcely any time for our walk! What if it should rain?"

"That would be very provoking; but why do you think it will rain?"

"Because — because — I have heard Mr. Grisonnet, who is a very wise rabbit, say that when it is clear in the morning it often rains before night. It seems to me that there are clouds already! Come and see!"

Trottino slipped outside and went several steps away. Lapino followed him, but only as far as the door.

MOTHER RABBIT GOES TO MARKET.

"I do not see any clouds," said he. "But where are you going, Trotto? Come back quickly! You know very well that we are not large enough to go out alone!"

"Oh! not last week, perhaps; but we have grown since then! My legs are stiff from staying in the house so long. I need to run."

"Oh, well! Run a little before the door, but do not go far."

"I do not know how to play all alone! I get tired of it! Dear Lapino, come; play with me. I will be good. I will not run away at all. If you knew how I long to play leap-frog!"

"COME, PLAY WITH ME . I WILL BE GOOD." ©

