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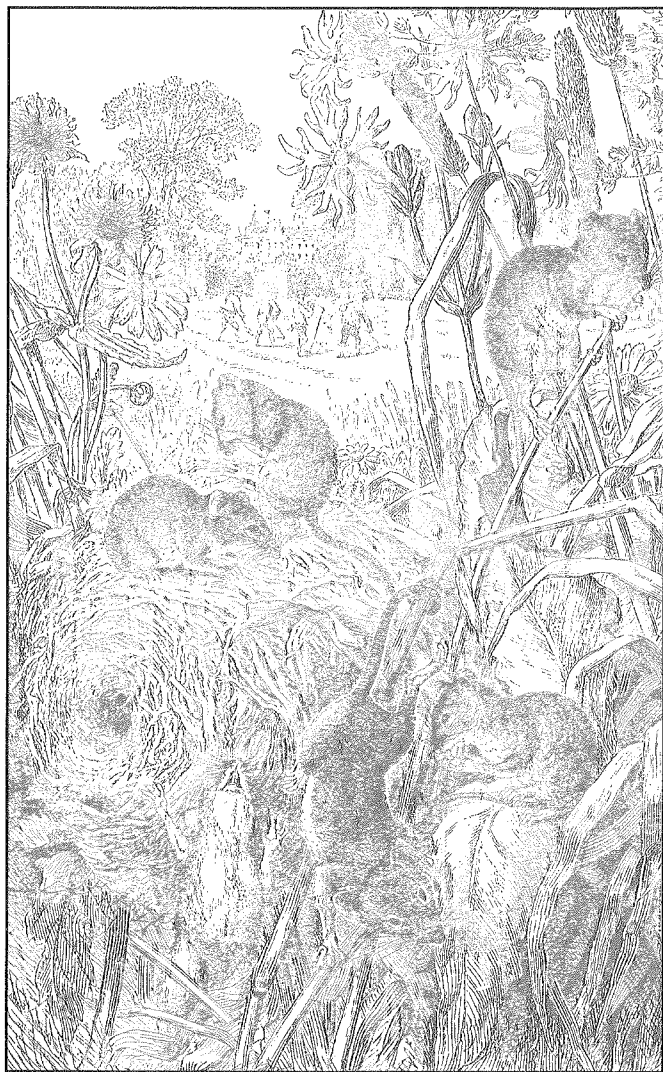
To Mom

For the first eight to ten years of a child's life the field or garden is the best schoolroom, the mother the best teacher, creation the best lesson book.

With leaf and flower and tree, and with every living creature, from the leviathan of the deep to the speck of dust in the sunbeam, we can learn from each the secrets of its life.

Teach the children to see the glory of Christ in all of nature. Take them out into the open air, under the noble trees, into the garden; and in all the wonderful works of creation teach them to see an expression of His love.

As Basil the Great, bishop of Caesarea, has said, "If you speak of a fly, a gnat, or a bee, your conversation will be a sort of demonstration of His power whose hand formed them; for the wisdom of the workman is commonly perceived in that which is of little size. He who has stretched out the heavens, and dug out the bottom of the sea, is also He who has pierced a passage through the sting of the bee for the injection of its poison."



A Nest of Harvest Mice

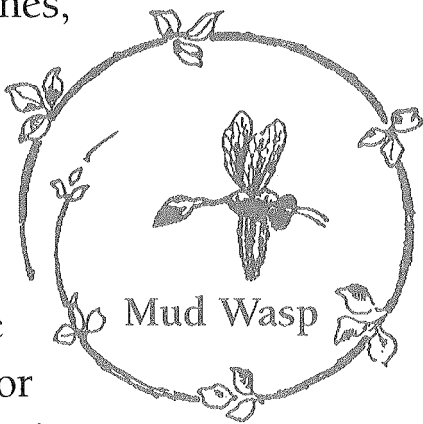
Harvest mice have long tails that help them to hold on to stalks of plants so they do not fall.

A Little Mother

Children, did you ever think about how much your mothers do for you? They give you good things to eat and clothes to wear. They help to make a pleasant home for you.

God also made mothers for many of His tiny creatures. He made these mothers to care for their little ones, just as your mother cares for you.

One little mother is the **mud wasp**. She works very hard. She never seems to stop for a minute. What can she be doing? Just now, she is building a nest. She comes with a little ball of mud. She spreads this mud with her jaws. She begins in the middle and spreads it down one side of the



nest. Then she darts away. She has gone for more soft mud. Soon she comes back with another piece. She begins at the top and spreads it out on the other side.

Making a Nest

This mud wasp is building her nest. What a noise she makes as she works! Soon she will have one room done.



Then she will go in and lay a little egg. After that, she must find something for her baby to eat when it creeps out of its egg.

What do you suppose she brings? She brings little spiders! As many as eight

spiders may be put in for one baby wasp to eat.

The mother wasp walls up the spiders in a room with her egg. She makes many more rooms like this. Then she flies away and never comes back. She never sees her own little ones. She has given them all the care that they need.

The Little Children

What happens inside the mud wasp's nest? The eggs she has laid are still at first. Soon it is time for them to **hatch**. A tiny white **grub** creeps out of each egg. It looks like a little worm.

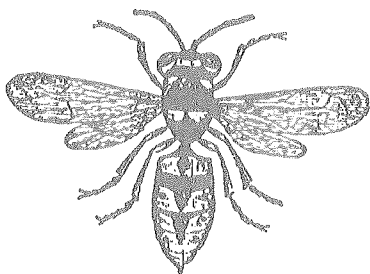
A worm creeps out of an egg? Yes! That is just what a baby wasp looks like. It eats the spiders that its mother left for it. It grows bigger very fast.

After a while it goes to sleep in a little case. It seems to be dead, but it is not. It is only growing to be a wasp like its mother. By and by it wakes up—a full-grown wasp. It never grows any more. It bites a hole through its mud house and flies away.

Do you think the wasp knows how much its mother did for it? We cannot tell. We do know that each new mother wasp will care for its own little ones. God the Father made them to follow His plan.

The Paper Wasp

God made the mud wasp to build her house of mud. Another wasp, the paper wasp, builds her house of paper.

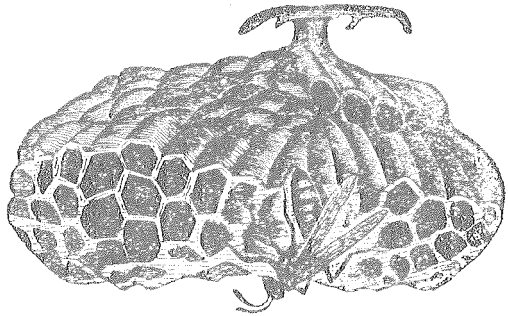


Where does a wasp get paper? She does not find it. She does not buy it at the store. She makes it herself!

The paper wasp chews bits of wood off of old fence rails or fallen trees. She bites the wood chips into tiny pieces to make paper.

The paper wasp may build her nest under a bridge or the edge of a building. This protects her home from wind and rain.

Each room, or cell, in the nest is closed at the top, but open at the bottom.



When the wasp has finished working on her nest, she lays an egg in each cell.