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HISTORY
OF THE
ROBINS

INTRODUCTION.

MANY young readers, doubtless, remember to have met with a book entitled *An Easy Introduction to the Knowledge of Nature*, which gives an account of a little boy named Henry, and his sister Charlotte, who were indulged by their mamma with walking in the fields and gardens, where she taught them to take particular notice of every object that presented itself to their view. The consequence of this was, that they contracted a great fondness for animals; and used often to express a wish that their birds, cats, dogs, &c. could talk, that they might hold conversations with them. Their mamma, therefore, to amuse them, composed the following fabulous histories; in which the sentiments and affections of a good father and mother, and a family of children, are *supposed* to be possessed by a *nest of red-breasts*; and others of the feathered race, are, by the force of imagination, endued with the same faculties. But before Henry and Charlotte began to read these histories, they were taught to consider them, not as containing the real conversations of birds (for that it is impossible we should ever understand), but as a series

of fables, intended to convey a moral instruction applicable to themselves, at the same time that they excite compassion and tenderness for those interesting and delightful creatures, on which such wanton cruelties are frequently inflicted, and recommend *universal benevolence*.

Having given this account of the origin of the following little work, the author will no longer detain her young readers from the perusal of it, as she flatters herself they will find ample instruction respecting the proper treatment of animals in the course of her fabulous histories, which now invite their attention.

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THE ROBINS.

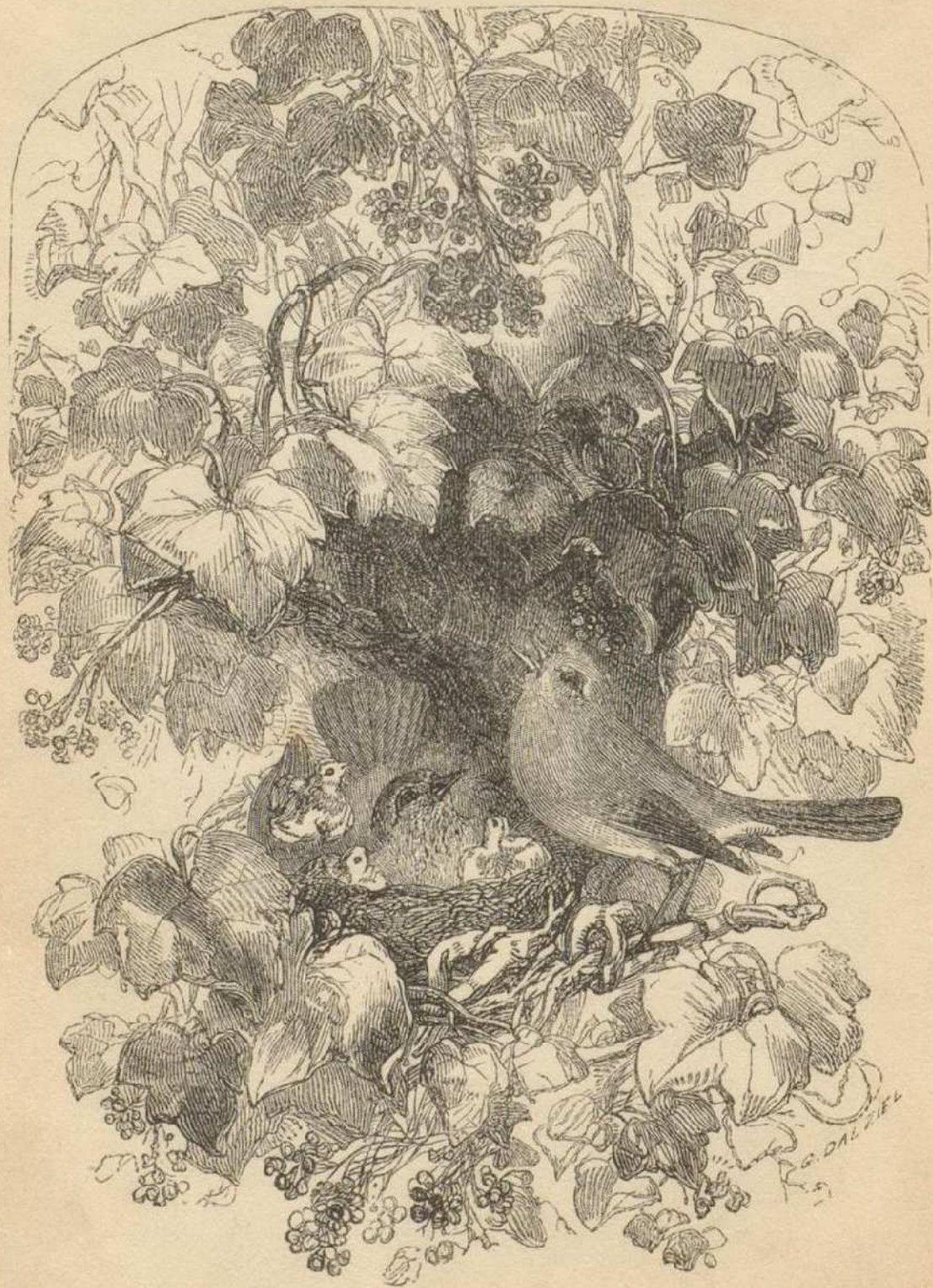


CHAPTER I.

IN a hole, which time had made in a wall covered with ivy, a pair of redbreasts built their nest. No place could have been better chosen for the purpose; it was sheltered from the rain, screened from the wind, and in an orchard belonging to a gentleman who had strictly charged his domestics not to destroy the labours of those little songsters who chose his ground as an asylum.

In this happy retreat, which no idle schoolboy dared to enter, the hen redbreast laid four eggs, and then took her seat upon them, resolving that nothing should tempt her to leave the nest for any length of time till she had hatched her infant brood. Her tender mate every morning took her place while she picked up a hasty breakfast, and often, before he tasted any food himself, cheered her with a song.

At length the day arrived when the happy mother heard the chirping of her little ones; with inexpressible tenderness she spread her maternal wings to cover them, threw out the



THE HISTORY OF THE ROBINS.

FABULOUS HISTORIES.

THE
HISTORY OF THE ROBINS

FOR THE
Instruction of Children on their Treatment of Animals.

BY MRS. TRIMMER.



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