

**THE BAD FAMILY:  
& OTHER STORIES**

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The Bad family: & other stories by Fenwick .

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**FENWICK .**

**THE BAD FAMILY:  
& OTHER STORIES**



The Bad Family;  
& Other Stories

BY

MRS. FENWICK

LONDON : GRANT RICHARDS

1898



## CONTENTS

	PAGE
<i>Introduction</i> . . .	ix
<i>The Bad Family</i> . . .	1
<i>The Good Family</i> . . .	15
<i>Foolish Fears</i> . . .	29
<i>The Broken Crotch</i> . . .	39
<i>The Journal; Or,     Birthday Gifts</i> . . .	45
<i>The Basket of Plums</i> . . .	55
<i>The Choice of Friends</i> . . .	75
<i>Cousin James and     Cousin Thomas</i> . . .	87
<i>The Disasters of Im-     patience</i> . . . .	97
<i>The Deaf and Dumb     Boy</i> . . . .	109
<i>Limbby Limby</i> . . .	119
<i>The Ocean Parrot</i> . . .	135





## Introduction

Mrs. Fenwick, like Mrs. Turner (some of whose Cautionary Stories have already been published in this series), lived and wrote at the beginning of this century. Mrs. Turner practised verse, Mrs. Fenwick prose. I can tell nothing of Mrs. Fenwick's life, except that among her books were *Infantine Stories*, the *Life of Carlo, Mary and her Cat*, *Presents for Good Boys and Girls*, *Rays from the Rainbow* (an easy system of teaching grammar), and *Lessons for Children; or, Radi-*

## Introduction

*ments of Good Manners, Morals, and Humanity.* It is from the last-named book that the first ten of the following stories have been taken. It was a favourite work in its day, and not only was it often reprinted in England, but was translated into French: for little French children, it seems, need lessons too.

As for these *Rudiments*, although it was Mrs. Fenwick's purpose that they should lead to good conduct, it would satisfy their present editor to know that they had amused. That is why they are printed here, and also to show the kind of reading prepared for the childhood of our great-grandmothers and great-grandfathers. In those days exaggeration was rather in favour

## Introduction

with story-tellers ; and we therefore need not believe that there was ever a family quite so bad as the Bad Family in this book, or a Good Family so good ; or that Mrs. Loft (in 'The Basket of Plums') would have bought fruit from a household down with fever ; or that a boy of ten could write so well as the hero of 'The Journal.' But after making allowances for exaggeration, we may take everything else as truth. As I said, these stories are included in this series chiefly to provide entertainment ; but if they also have the use Mrs. Fenwick wished—if the misadventures of Frank Lawless keep us from robbing orchards, and 'The Broken Crutch' leads to the befriending of weary and