

# **OLD ROBIN AND HIS PROVERB**

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Old Robin and His Proverb by Mrs. Henry F. Brock

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**MRS. HENRY F. BROCK**

**OLD ROBIN AND  
HIS PROVERB**





OLD ROBIN AND THE CHILDREN.

OLD ROBIN  
AND HIS PROVERB.

BY  
MRS. HENRY F. BROCK,  
AUTHOR OF "BEAUTY OF TRUTH," &c.

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"When pride cometh, then cometh shame:  
But with the lowly is wisdom."—Prov. xi. 2.

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MCCCLXXI.

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\*Still downward goes Christ's way:  
Wilt thou, with fond endeavour  
To scale heaven's lofty towers,  
Be vainly toiling ever?  
The Saviour stoopeth low;  
He who with him would rise,  
With him must downward go.

"Down, therefore, O my mind!  
Unlearn thy lofty thinking;  
The light chaff mounts alone,  
While solid grain is sinking.  
Into the small, deep spring,  
The waters freely flow,  
Till it breaks forth a stream,  
So thou, my soul, be low."

*From the German.*

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## OLD ROBIN AND HIS PROVERB.

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### CHAPTER I.

*'In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.'*—*ISA. xxx. 15.*

"I WOULDN'T give a fig for a cup of tea without cream, Alice."

"That's the Eton fashion of talking," the sister replied, smiling as she spoke, "but not the Eton fashion of tea-drinking, I imagine."

"Do not speak of matters of which you are ignorant, Miss Alice. Do you mean to insinuate that we Etonians, brought up on the ancient royal foundation of Henry VI., ever condescend to potations of skimmed milk? And what's more," added Frank, "you can't say as much down here, in the old hall of the Davennes. Can she, mother? I appeal to you. Has not Alice a pious horror of touching anything better than skimmed milk, as long as

there are Goody Luffs and old Robins in the parish, who can appreciate the cream?"

"Fie upon you, Frank! said his sister. "It would be well for you if old Robin's proverb were yours."

"Well, so it would," said Frank; "and so it will be, I daresay, one of these fine days, when I am old, and wise, and gouty."

Alice shook her head at the merry boy. "I shall get old Robin to lecture you."

"And may I ask who this old Robin is?" said a voice from the opposite side of the breakfast-table.

"Alice will give you the necessary information, uncle," said Frank; "old Robin is her *beau-ideal* of human octogenarian excellence, in spite, wonderful to relate, of his having neither wig, spectacles, nor gold-headed cane."

Alice placed her hand upon her brother's lips. "You are a sad boy, Frank. I will tell you who old Robin is, dear uncle. He is one of papa's tenants, who has lived the greater part of his life in this parish. He is the very model of peace and contentment: Moreover, he is a wonderfully clever old man. He has read a great deal, thought a great deal, and