

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.

A POOR woman, who lived in a little cottage in the country, had an only son. His name was Jack, and though he was rather idle and fond of play, he was a kind, good-tempered boy. They were so poor that as Jack could only earn a little money now and then by frightening birds away from the corn or by picking up stones and weeds out of the fields, the poor woman was forced to sell her cow, and sent her son with it to market, where he met a butcher, who offered him a hat full of beautiful coloured beans for it. Jack was so pleased with this bargain that he went dancing home to show his mother the beans, and she was so angry that she threw them out of the window, and after sending the boy to bed without his supper, sat down to cry. Early in the morning, when Jack looked out of window, he saw that the beans had taken root, and that a great beanstalk had grown in the night so high that he could not see the top of it. He was out of bed in a minute, and began to climb the beanstalk ; but it took him a long time to get to the top, where he met an old woman, who told him that a giant lived in a great house not far from where they were, near the mountains, and that if he would be careful and had the courage to go to the house, he might get back the wealth of which that very giant had robbed his father.