to live in this grove, after having experienced the
comforts of the orchard?" Dicky and Flapsy were
desirous to depart, being alarmed for their own
safety. "No," said the father, "let us stay a little
longer—now we will go on."

They accordingly took another flight, and saw a
man scattering seed upon the ground. "See there," said Dicky, "what fine food that man throws down! I
dare say he is some good creature who is a friend to
the feathered race. Shall we alight and partake of
his bounty?" "Do not form too hasty an opinion,
Dicky," said the father; "watch here with me a
little while, and then do as you will." All the little
ones stretched their necks, and kept a curious eye
fixed on the man. In a few minutes a number of
sparrows, chaffinches, and linnets descended, and
began to regale themselves; but, in the midst of
their feast, a net was suddenly cast over them, and
they were all taken captive. The man, who was a
birdcatcher by profession, called to his assistant,
who brought a cage divided into a number of small
partitions, in which the linnets and chaffinches were
separately deposited. In this dismal prison, where
they had scarcely room to flutter, were those little
creatures confined who lately poured forth their
songs of joy fearless of danger. As for the sparrows,