

THE JACK-RABBITS.

“What are Jack-rabbits?” asks the little Boston boy. Well, I will tell you. They are really *hares*, which live on the Western prairies, and are a good deal larger than common rabbits.

They run very fast, — so fast that few dogs can catch them, and little boys would have to look very sharp to keep them in sight. But Dora’s father had found four young ones, so small that they scarcely filled his straw hat; and he thought Dora and her two little brothers would like them for pets.

Dora put the rabbits in a box which her brother Dick had made on purpose for them, and fed them on fresh grass and milk. For a few weeks Dora and the boys were very happy with their pets.

But, as the rabbits grew larger, their box seemed to be rather crowded. So one warm night Dora left them out on the floor of the shed, where they could hop and play as much as they pleased.

Now, it happened that there was a large crack between the boards in one corner of the shed, which was so concealed by rubbish, that Dora had not noticed it. When she came to look at her pets in the morning, not one of them was to be seen.

They had all run away. Dora was very sad at first; but she brightened up at once when her mother reminded her that the rabbits were much happier frisking about in the open fields than they could possibly be as anybody’s pets.

W.

