



ROVER AND HIS FRIENDS.

I.

ROVER was a good faithful dog; but his master, I am sorry to say, was not a good man. He used to beat Rover cruelly for nothing at all; and one day the poor dog made up his mind to run away, and leave his bad master forever.

So Rover ran till he met a little girl and boy. Their names were Minnie and Bonnie. Rover liked their looks, and followed them home, and tried to make them understand that he would like to be their dog.

The parents of these children lived in a cottage far away from any town, with high hills all round, and a thick wood not far off. The father was not a rich man. Sometimes he went into the woods to cut fagots; and sometimes he went on the hills to look after a flock of sheep.

Bonnie and Minnie begged their parents not to send Rover away; and at last their father consented that the dog should stay with them a while on trial.