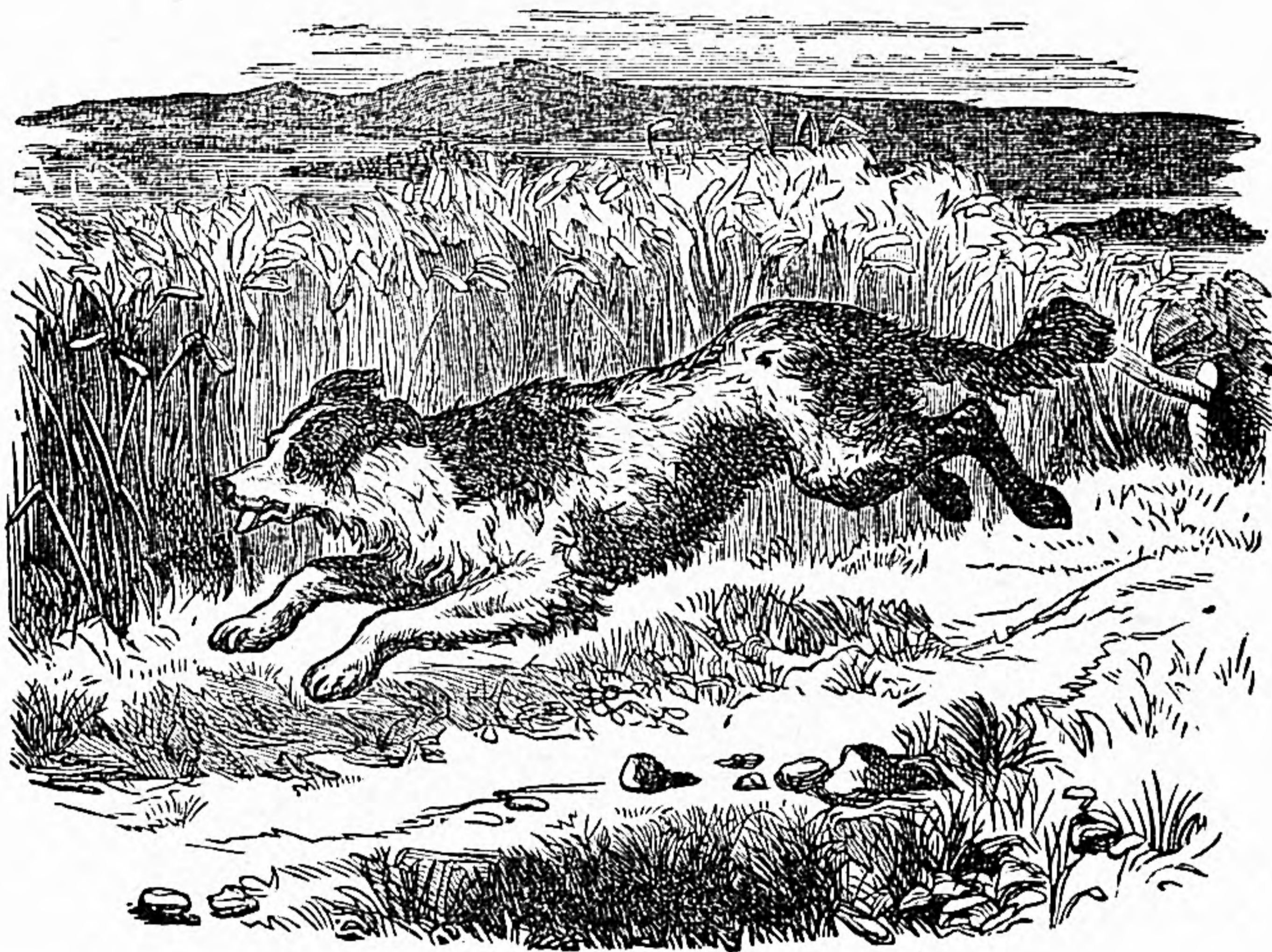


ROVER AND HIS FRIENDS.



III.

Rover trotted along by the edge of a wheat-field for some distance, and then darted off into the woods. The children did not know what made him run off; but I know: he had seen his old master, and was resolved not to be caught by him, — no, not while he had legs to run with.

Rover watched till his old master was out of sight; and then the good dog came back and frolicked as before.

The father of Bonnie and Minnie taught him to take care of the sheep. It was hard work at first; but, as soon as Rover began to learn what was wanted, he seemed to be proud of his knowledge, and could drive the sheep, and take care of them, much better than a man could.

One night in winter the silly sheep got out of their nice warm shed; and, when morning came, not one of them could be seen anywhere. “The sheep have run off: what shall we do, Rover?” said the children’s father. Rover barked, and smelt around on the snow; then looked at his master and barked, as much as to say, “Come with me!”