

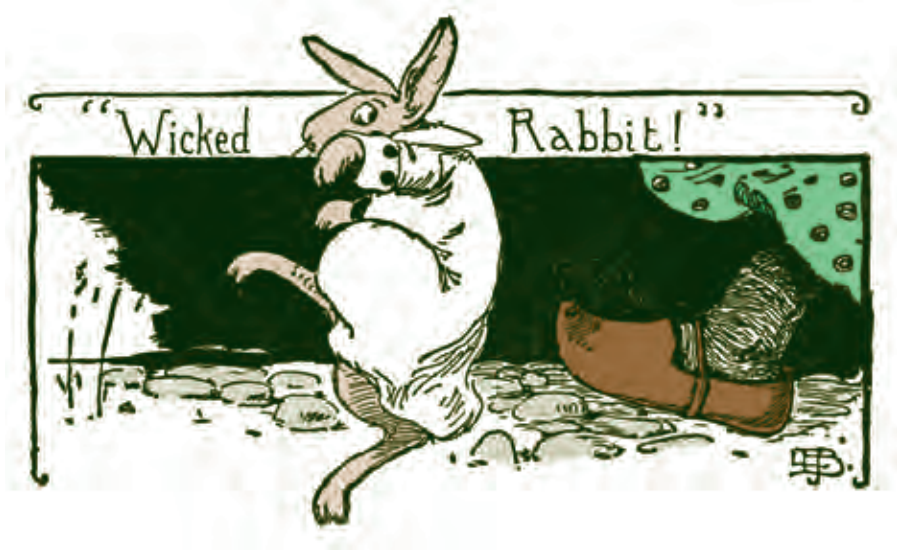
Trottino's Tale

Madam J. Colomb



C H R I S T I A N L I B E R T Y P R E S S

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INTRODUCTION

Young children typically enjoy animal stories. Christian Liberty Press has republished this enjoyable animal tale for parents and teachers to read to their children. *Trottino's Tale* is a heart-warming story, originally published as part of a larger collection of animal stories in the late nineteenth century, and written in a manner similar to Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

Animal stories are often used to impart significant moral truths. *Trottino's Tale* is a short, moral story about a disobedient rabbit that gets himself into trouble, but ultimately he learns his lesson. This book, however, is more than mere moral instruction; it provides teaching suggestions toward the end of the book to help parents and teachers minister to the spiritual needs of young children.

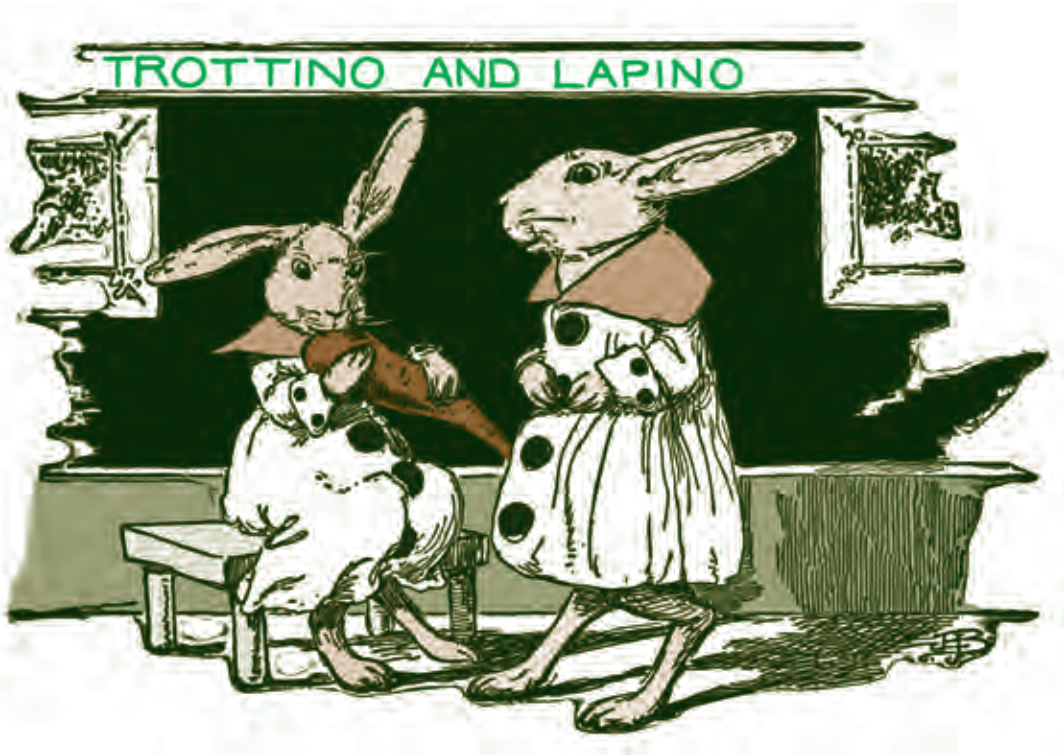
Instructors and parents are encouraged to read the following story to their children and use it to help train their children in the ways of the Lord. It is important to spend time discussing the lessons contained in each chapter with the children. The teaching instructions at the end of the book provide creative ideas for sharing biblical truths with young children. These suggestions will often provide the basis for profitable discussions regarding how to apply Gospel truth to everyday life.

Instructors are encouraged to utilize the appropriate teaching suggestion after they read each chapter to their children. Use the instructions to systematically review the main truths or principles contained in each chapter with your students. Take time to read to the children the Scripture passages that are included with the teaching suggestions.

May Almighty God use this book to bless the lives of the readers and hearers of this story.

*The staff of Christian Liberty Press
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TROTTINO AND HIS FAULTS



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There was once a mother rabbit who had two little rabbit children. The older one was called Lapino and the other Trotтино.

Lapino was a most lovable little rabbit. He was not only handsome, but good, also. He was kind, obedient, good-humored,

willing to give up to his little brother, and always ready to help his mother. Lapino was a model for all little rabbits.

His mamma would have been the happiest of rabbit-mothers if Trotтино had been like his brother. But Trotтино, though he was a very good lit-



It is naughty!" But alas! he did not think of these things.

Another fault of Trottino's was greediness. He had a kind heart and would sometimes go without a beautiful carrot, or a very tender

tle rabbit in many ways, had great faults.

He was disobedient, Trottino was; not from naughtiness, but because he did not try to think. When he wanted to do something that he thought would be "good fun," he forgot all about his mother's wishes. If he had been more thoughtful he would have heard a voice, the voice of his little rabbit-conscience, saying to him, "Don't do that, Trottino!





cabbage leaf, in order that he might give it to some poor little rabbit who had nothing to eat. But he was too fond of dainty food, and his mamma often tried to make him ashamed of it and sorry for it.

At such times he would throw himself on her neck and

ask her pardon, and say to her, "I won't do so any more!" But he would do the same thing the very next time. He did not seem to know that a rabbit of honor ought to think well before giving his word, and that when his word was once given he ought to hold to it.

MOTHER RABBIT GOES TO MARKET

Lapino and Trotтино began to be old enough to eat alone, but they did not yet know much about plants, and so their mother had told them not to eat anything unless she gave it to them.

When the weather was fine, she took her children out for a walk in a beautiful field where there were all sorts of plants, and she pointed out to them the plants that were good; but the young rabbits were forbidden to go out into the field alone.

One morning, Mother Rabbit saw that her cupboard was empty. She said to Lapino, "My little Lapino, I must go to the town. Hurry, my child! Get



up, and make your bed and your little brother's, and have the room all clean and tidy when I get home. I will come back as soon as I can and take you out for a nice walk in the sun. You, Trotтино, be good, and mind your brother."

"Yes, Mamma," replied the two children; and the mother rabbit, taking her big basket, hurried away.

Lapino arose. With his little paws he shook up the straw on which he had slept, and arranged it so that it had quite the air of a well-made bed. Afterwards, he carefully put the room in order.

Trottino did not usually trouble himself about house-work, so Lapino was astonished when Trottino came briskly forward and took a share in all that was to be done. Lapino praised him for being kind and working well.

But if Trottino helped about the house, it was not for the sake of gaining compliments; he had another idea. When all the work was done, he sat down in the open doorway of the house.

“Oh, do come and see, Lapino, how fine the weather is!” cried he to his brother.

“Very fine,” answered Lapino. “When Mamma comes home, and after she has taken a little rest, I shall be glad to go out of doors.”

“P o o r
Mamma!

It is true that she will be very tired.

She will have to rest a long

while, and we shall have scarcely any time for our walk! What if it should rain?”

“That would be very provoking; but why do you think it will rain?”

“Because—because—I have heard Mr. Grisonnet, who is a very wise rabbit, say that when it is clear in the morning it often rains before night. It seems



"COME, PLAY WITH ME . I WILL BE GOOD." ©



to me that there are clouds already! Come and see!"

Trottino slipped outside and went several steps away. Lapino followed him, but only as far as the door. "I do not see any clouds," said he. "But where are you going, Trottino? Come back quickly! You know very well that we are not old enough to go out alone!"

"Oh, not last week, perhaps; but we have grown since then!

My legs are stiff from staying in the house so long. I need to run."

"Oh, well, run a little before the door, but do not go far."

"I do not know how to play all alone! I get tired of it! Dear Lapino, come; play with me. I will be good. I will not run away at all. If you knew how I long to play leapfrog!"

LAPINO AND TROTTINO STRAY AWAY

“Well, I’ll come, then; but we must stay near the house,” said Lapino.

So he went to play leapfrog; and he was thinking so much of taking care of his little brother and keeping close to him that he did not see how Trottino was gradually leading him farther and farther from home.

He stopped the game suddenly, however, because he found himself near a flight of steps, which looked strange to him.

“Where have you brought me, Trottino?” said he, in an anxious tone. “We must go back home.

What will Mamma say if she does not find us there when she returns?”

“Bah! She won’t say anything because we will be there. Don’t

you see where our door is? It isn’t far. We still have time to play; it isn’t long since Mamma went away. Oh! What beauti-



ful lettuce! Surely that must be tender!”

There was, indeed, at the foot of the flight of steps, a basket full of lettuce. The woman who owned it had gone into the house to sell vegetables to the cook, and she had left her largest basket at the door while she went in. Trottino, greedy rascal, was nibbling as fast as he could at the best head of lettuce in her basket.

“Fie, Trottino! What are you doing there?” cried his brother. “If Mamma should see you she would say that you were stealing, and that thieves deserve to go to prison between two policemen!”

“What crisp lettuce!” replied Trottino. “Mamma never brings us anything but the



outside leaves; and the heart is the best part!”

As Trottino said this, he received a kick, which sent him rolling over toward his brother, while an angry voice called out, “Wicked rabbit! A thief of a rabbit! Good only to be made into a stew!”

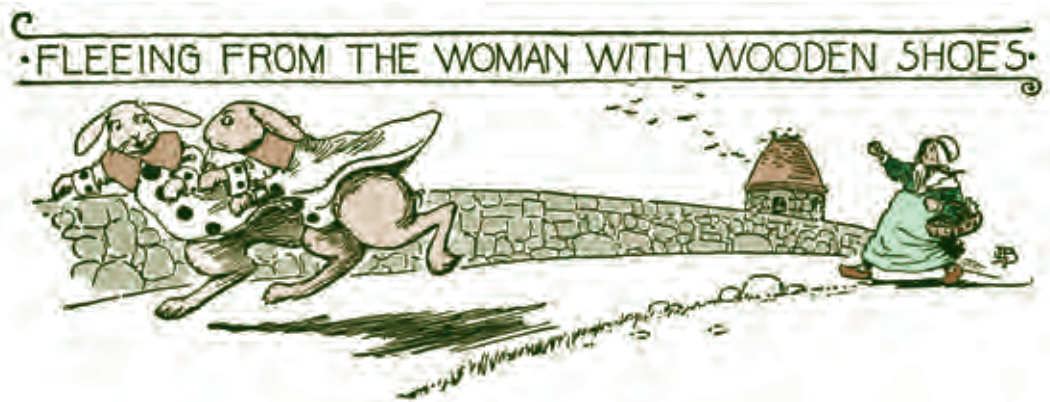
The woman who owned the vegetables had come out of the house and had seen him eating her lettuce. Of course, she did not like that at all; and, as she had wooden shoes on, her kick pained Trottino very much, so that he ran away, groaning.

Lapino had not been kicked, but he was greatly frightened. The two rabbits had now only one idea—to flee from the woman with the wooden shoes; and so in their terror they ran farther and farther still from home.

The poor little things ran so fast they were quite out of

They could hear her shouting, again and again, “Wicked rabbit! A thief of a rabbit! Good only to be made into a stew!” How angry she was! How gladly would she have given Trottino another kick!

By and by her cry grew faint; then it ceased altogether. They turned a corner in the lane and



breath; but they did not dare stop an instant to rest. For whenever they looked back, as they did now and then, they saw the old woman, with the dreadful wooden shoe still thrust out.

came to a wide, green meadow. Their legs ached with running so fast and so far; and they had scarcely one bit of breath left.

Lapino stopped first.

TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

Instructors are encouraged to utilize the following teaching suggestions *after* they have first read the story to their students. Use the following information to systematically review the main truths or principles contained in the stories with your students.

Chapter 1:

Trottino and His Faults

Scripture Reading: John 8:31–34; Proverbs 3:1–6

Emphasize that *all* children are created with a sinful human nature, but that not all children have the exact same tendencies toward sin. Explain that some children are quiet on the outside like Lapino the rabbit, while they still struggle with rebellion and sin in their own hearts.

Remind the children that the power to resist temptation and sin comes from God the Holy Spirit—and that every true child of God has the Holy Spirit living inside his or her soul. Without God’s help, all boys and girls will grow up to be slaves to their sinful human natures (John 8:31–34). Encourage your children to abandon any notion of self-sufficiency in their efforts to resist sin. Like the rabbit Trottino, children will not make real long-term progress against sin without reliance upon God’s Divine grace and support. Read Proverbs 3:1–6 to your students.

Point out the fact that Trottino had at least one good habit. He was willing to admit when he was wrong and ask forgiveness. Millions of youngsters never learn the importance of this Christian virtue.