

XXXIII.

THE CARPENTER.

How many things can love invent
To catch a baby's sight!
Now see his mother, with her hands
Making a carpenter who stands
Working with all his might.

In mother's arms is baby's school,
His books these little plays;
Within each one she leads his mind
The germ of some great thought to find,
And treasure all his days.

The successive gestures in this play are difficult to describe. They should be seen in order to be understood. However, I will explain them as clearly as possible.

The position of the hands, with which the representations begin, resembles that which made the charcoal-burner's hut. The hands are, however, held more freely. The tips of the little fingers, ring fingers, and middle fingers meet. The forefingers are free. The forefinger of the left hand represents a tree. The forefinger of the right hand is a woodman. A sawing movement indicates that he is felling the tree. When this movement has been made several times the tree is supposed to have fallen, and the left forefinger is held in a horizontal position with its tip touching