

Never perhaps has author written so little and been read so much. It should be welcome news, therefore, that two of Kenneth Grahame's manuscripts, now in the possession of the Bodleian Library, are graciously permitted to be published for the first time. These are a series of letters from the author to his small son, linking up the first whisper of *The Wind in the Willows* with the book itself; and a perfect little child's tale called 'Bertie's Escapade,' which, as Mole and some of his colleagues appear in it, constitutes another 'first whisper.' In her Preface Mrs Kenneth Grahame has related many incidents in the lives of father and son—the Listener' who 'hearkens so eloquently,' and 'the Story-Teller,' creators of *The Wind in the Willows*.

Of this famous book, Mr A. A. MILNE writes:—

‘For the last ten or twelve years I have been recommending it. Usually I speak about it at my first meeting with a stranger. It is my opening remark, just as yours is something futile about the weather. If I don’t get it in at the beginning, I squeeze it in at the end. The stranger has got to have it some time. Should I ever find myself in the dock, and one never knows, my answer to the question whether I had anything to say would be, “Well, my lord, if I might just recommend a book to the jury before leaving.” . . . It is what I call a Household Book. By a Household Book I mean a book which everybody in the household loves and quotes continually ever afterwards; a book which is read aloud to every new guest and is regarded as a touchstone of his worth.’