

The Project Gutenberg Etext of A Collection of Beatrix Potter Stories  
by Beatrix Potter  
(#2 in our series by Beatrix Potter)

Copyright laws are changing all over the world, be sure to check  
the laws for your country before redistributing these files!!!

Please take a look at the important information in this header.  
We encourage you to keep this file on your own disk, keeping an  
electronic path open for the next readers.

Please do not remove this.

This should be the first thing seen when anyone opens the book.  
Do not change or edit it without written permission. The words  
are carefully chosen to provide users with the information they  
need about what they can legally do with the texts.

**\*\*Welcome To The World of Free Plain Vanilla Electronic Texts\*\***

**\*\*Etexts Readable By Both Humans and By Computers, Since 1971\*\***

**\*These Etexts Prepared By Hundreds of Volunteers and Donations\***

Information on contacting Project Gutenberg to get Etexts, and  
further information is included below. We need your donations.  
The Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation is a 501(c)(3).

Presently, contributions are only being solicited from people in:  
Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa,  
Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada,  
Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina,  
South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, and Wyoming.

As the requirements for other states are met,  
additions to this list will be made and fund raising  
will begin in the additional states.

These donations should be made to:

Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation  
PMB 113  
1739 University Ave.  
Oxford, MS 38655

Title: A Collection of Beatrix Potter Stories

Author: Beatrix Potter

Release Date: July, 1996 [Etext #582]

Edition: 11

Language: English

The Project Gutenberg Etext of A Collection of Beatrix Potter Stories  
by Beatrix Potter

\*\*\*\*\*This file should be named bpsto11.txt or bpsto11.zip\*\*\*\*\*

Corrected EDITIONS of our etexts get a new NUMBER, bpsto12.txt  
VERSIONS based on separate sources get new LETTER, bpsto11a.txt

Produced by Charles Keller for Tina, updates by Lisa Hill.

Project Gutenberg Etexts are usually created from multiple editions,  
all of which are in the Public Domain in the United States, unless a  
copyright notice is included. Therefore, we usually do NOT keep any  
of these books in compliance with any particular paper edition.

We are now trying to release all our books one year in advance  
of the official release dates, leaving time for better editing.  
Please be encouraged to send us error messages even years after  
the official publication date.

Please note: neither this list nor its contents are final till  
midnight of the last day of the month of any such announcement.  
The official release date of all Project Gutenberg Etexts is at  
Midnight, Central Time, of the last day of the stated month. A  
preliminary version may often be posted for suggestion, comment  
and editing by those who wish to do so.

Most people start at our sites at:

<http://gutenberg.net>

<http://promo.net/pg>

Those of you who want to download any Etext before announcement  
can surf to them as follows, and just download by date; this is  
also a good way to get them instantly upon announcement, as the  
indexes our cataloguers produce obviously take a while after an  
announcement goes out in the Project Gutenberg Newsletter.

<http://www.ibiblio.org/gutenberg/etext02>

or

<ftp://ftp.ibiblio.org/pub/docs/books/gutenberg/etext02>

Or /etext01, 00, 99, 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93, 92, 91 or 90

Just search by the first five letters of the filename you want,  
as it appears in our Newsletters.

Information about Project Gutenberg (one page)

We produce about two million dollars for each hour we work. The time it takes us, a rather conservative estimate, is fifty hours to get any etext selected, entered, proofread, edited, copyright searched and analyzed, the copyright letters written, etc. This projected audience is one hundred million readers. If our value per text is nominally estimated at one dollar then we produce \$2 million dollars per hour this year as we release fifty new Etext files per month, or 500 more Etexts in 2000 for a total of 3000+. If they reach just 1-2% of the world's population then the total should reach over 300 billion Etexts given away by year's end.

The Goal of Project Gutenberg is to Give Away One Trillion Etext Files by December 31, 2001. [10,000 x 100,000,000 = 1 Trillion] This is ten thousand titles each to one hundred million readers, which is only about 4% of the present number of computer users.

At our revised rates of production, we will reach only one-third of that goal by the end of 2001, or about 3,333 Etexts unless we manage to get some real funding.

Something is needed to create a future for Project Gutenberg for the next 100 years.

We need your donations more than ever!

Presently, contributions are only being solicited from people in: Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, and Wyoming.

As the requirements for other states are met, additions to this list will be made and fund raising will begin in the additional states.

These donations should be made to:

Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation  
PMB 113  
1739 University Ave.  
Oxford, MS 38655

Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation has been approved as a 501(c)(3) organization by the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. As the requirements for other states are met, additions to this list will be made and fund raising will begin in the additional states.

All donations should be made to the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation. Mail to:

Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation  
PMB 113  
1739 University Avenue  
Oxford, MS 38655 [USA]

We need your donations more than ever!

You can get up to date donation information at:

<http://www.gutenberg.net/donation.html>

\*\*\*

You can always email directly to:

Michael S. Hart <[hart@pobox.com](mailto:hart@pobox.com)>

[hart@pobox.com](mailto:hart@pobox.com) forwards to [hart@prairienet.org](mailto:hart@prairienet.org) and [archive.org](mailto:archive.org)  
if your mail bounces from [archive.org](mailto:archive.org), I will still see it, if  
it bounces from [prairienet.org](mailto:prairienet.org), better resend later on. . . .

We would prefer to send you this information by email.

Example command-line FTP session:

```
ftp ftp.ibiblio.org
login: anonymous
password: your@login
cd pub/docs/books/gutenberg
cd etext90 through etext99 or etext00 through etext02, etc.
dir [to see files]
get or mget [to get files. . .set bin for zip files]
GET GUTINDEX.?? [to get a year's listing of books, e.g., GUTINDEX.99]
GET GUTINDEX.ALL [to get a listing of ALL books]
```

**\*\*The Legal Small Print\*\***

(Three Pages)

**\*\*\*START\*\*THE SMALL PRINT!\*\*FOR PUBLIC DOMAIN ETEXTS\*\*START\*\*\***

Why is this "Small Print!" statement here? You know: lawyers.  
They tell us you might sue us if there is something wrong with  
your copy of this etext, even if you got it for free from  
someone other than us, and even if what's wrong is not our  
fault. So, among other things, this "Small Print!" statement  
disclaims most of our liability to you. It also tells you how  
you can distribute copies of this etext if you want to.

#### **\*BEFORE!\* YOU USE OR READ THIS ETEXT**

By using or reading any part of this PROJECT GUTENBERG-tm etext, you indicate that you understand, agree to and accept this "Small Print!" statement. If you do not, you can receive a refund of the money (if any) you paid for this etext by sending a request within 30 days of receiving it to the person you got it from. If you received this etext on a physical medium (such as a disk), you must return it with your request.

#### **ABOUT PROJECT GUTENBERG-TM ETEXTS**

This PROJECT GUTENBERG-tm etext, like most PROJECT GUTENBERG-tm etexts, is a "public domain" work distributed by Professor Michael S. Hart through the Project Gutenberg Association (the "Project"). Among other things, this means that no one owns a United States copyright on or for this work, so the Project (and you!) can copy and distribute it in the United States without permission and without paying copyright royalties. Special rules, set forth below, apply if you wish to copy and distribute this etext under the Project's "PROJECT GUTENBERG" trademark.

Please do not use the "PROJECT GUTENBERG" trademark to market any commercial products without permission.

To create these etexts, the Project expends considerable efforts to identify, transcribe and proofread public domain works. Despite these efforts, the Project's etexts and any medium they may be on may contain "Defects". Among other things, Defects may take the form of incomplete, inaccurate or corrupt data, transcription errors, a copyright or other intellectual property infringement, a defective or damaged disk or other etext medium, a computer virus, or computer codes that damage or cannot be read by your equipment.

#### **LIMITED WARRANTY; DISCLAIMER OF DAMAGES**

But for the "Right of Replacement or Refund" described below, [1] the Project (and any other party you may receive this etext from as a PROJECT GUTENBERG-tm etext) disclaims all liability to you for damages, costs and expenses, including legal fees, and [2] YOU HAVE NO REMEDIES FOR NEGLIGENCE OR UNDER STRICT LIABILITY, OR FOR BREACH OF WARRANTY OR CONTRACT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL, PUNITIVE OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES, EVEN IF YOU GIVE NOTICE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

If you discover a Defect in this etext within 90 days of receiving it, you can receive a refund of the money (if any) you paid for it by sending an explanatory note within that time to the person you received it from. If you received it on a physical medium, you must return it with your note, and such person may choose to alternatively give you a replacement copy. If you received it electronically, such person may choose to alternatively give you a second opportunity to receive it electronically.

THIS ETEXT IS OTHERWISE PROVIDED TO YOU "AS-IS". NO OTHER WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, ARE MADE TO YOU AS TO THE ETEXT OR ANY MEDIUM IT MAY BE ON, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

Some states do not allow disclaimers of implied warranties or the exclusion or limitation of consequential damages, so the above disclaimers and exclusions may not apply to you, and you may have other legal rights.

#### INDEMNITY

You will indemnify and hold the Project, its directors, officers, members and agents harmless from all liability, cost and expense, including legal fees, that arise directly or indirectly from any of the following that you do or cause:

[1] distribution of this etext, [2] alteration, modification, or addition to the etext, or [3] any Defect.

#### DISTRIBUTION UNDER "PROJECT GUTENBERG-tm"

You may distribute copies of this etext electronically, or by disk, book or any other medium if you either delete this "Small Print!" and all other references to Project Gutenberg, or:

[1] Only give exact copies of it. Among other things, this requires that you do not remove, alter or modify the etext or this "small print!" statement. You may however, if you wish, distribute this etext in machine readable binary, compressed, mark-up, or proprietary form, including any form resulting from conversion by word processing or hypertext software, but only so long as \*EITHER\*:

[\*] The etext, when displayed, is clearly readable, and does \*not\* contain characters other than those intended by the author of the work, although tilde (~), asterisk (\*) and underline ( ) characters may be used to convey punctuation intended by the author, and additional characters may be used to indicate hypertext links; OR

[\*] The etext may be readily converted by the reader at no expense into plain ASCII, EBCDIC or equivalent form by the program that displays the etext (as is the case, for instance, with most word processors); OR

[\*] You provide, or agree to also provide on request at no additional cost, fee or expense, a copy of the etext in its original plain ASCII form (or in EBCDIC or other equivalent proprietary form).

[2] Honor the etext refund and replacement provisions of this "Small Print!" statement.

[3] Pay a trademark license fee to the Project of 20% of the gross profits you derive calculated using the method you already use to calculate your applicable taxes. If you don't derive profits, no royalty is due. Royalties are payable to "Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation" the 60 days following each date you prepare (or were legally required to prepare) your annual (or equivalent periodic) tax return. Please contact us beforehand to let us know your plans and to work out the details.

WHAT IF YOU \*WANT\* TO SEND MONEY EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO?

The Project gratefully accepts contributions of money, time, public domain etexts, and royalty free copyright licenses. If you are interested in contributing scanning equipment or software or other items, please contact Michael Hart at: hart@pobox.com

\*END THE SMALL PRINT! FOR PUBLIC DOMAIN ETEXTS\*Ver.12.05.00\*END\*

Some of these pages were OCR'd by Charles Keller for Tina with OmniPage Professional OCR software donated by Caere Corporation, 1-800-535-7226. Contact Mike Lough <Mikel@caere.com>

The Original  
Peter Rabbit Books  
By BEATRIX POTTER  
A LIST OF THE TITLES  
[\*indicates included here]

\*The Tale of Peter Rabbit  
The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin  
The Tailor of Gloucester  
\*The Tale of Benjamin Bunny  
\*The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle  
\*The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher  
The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse  
\*The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck  
\*The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies  
The Story of a Fierce Bad Rabbit  
\*The Tale of Two Bad Mice  
The Tale of Tom Kitten

The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse  
\*The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes  
\*The Tale of Mr. Tod  
\*The Tale of Pigling Bland  
\*The Roly Poly Pudding  
\*The Pie and the Patty-pan  
\*Ginger and Pickles  
\*The Story of Miss Moppet  
Appley Dapply's Nursery Rhymes  
The Tale of Little Pig Robinson??

THE TALE OF  
PETER RABBIT  
BY  
BEATRIX POTTER

ONCE upon a time there  
were four little Rabbits,  
and their names were--  
    Flopsy,  
    Mopsy,  
    Cotton-tail,  
and Peter.

They lived with their Mother  
in a sand-bank, underneath the  
root of a very big fir tree.

"NOW, my dears," said old  
Mrs. Rabbit one morning,  
"you may go into the fields  
or down the lane, but don't go  
into Mr. McGregor's garden:  
your Father had an accident  
there; he was put in a pie by  
Mrs. McGregor."

"NOW run along, and don't  
get into mischief. I am  
going out."

THEN old Mrs. Rabbit took  
a basket and her umbrella,  
to the baker's. She bought a  
loaf of brown bread and five  
currant buns.

FLOPSY, Mopsy, and

Cottontail, who were good  
little bunnies, went down the  
lane to gather blackberries;

BUT Peter, who was very  
naughty, ran straight  
away to Mr. McGregor's  
garden and squeezed under  
the gate!

FIRST he ate some lettuces  
and some French beans;  
and then he ate some radishes;

AND then, feeling rather  
sick, he went to look for  
some parsley.

BUT round the end of a  
cucumber frame, whom  
should he meet but Mr.  
McGregor!

MR. MCGREGOR was on  
his hands and knees  
planting out young cabbages,  
but he jumped up and ran after  
Peter, waving a rake and calling  
out, "Stop thief!"

PETER was most dreadfully  
frightened; he rushed all  
over the garden, for he had  
forgotten the way back to the  
gate.

He lost one of his shoes  
among the cabbages, and the  
other shoe amongst the potatoes.

AFTER losing them, he ran  
on four legs and went  
faster, so that I think he might  
have got away altogether if he  
had not unfortunately run into  
a gooseberry net, and got  
caught by the large buttons on  
his jacket. It was a blue jacket  
with brass buttons, quite new.

PETER gave himself up for  
lost, and shed big tears;  
but his sobs were overheard by

some friendly sparrows, who  
flew to him in great excitement,  
and implored him to  
exert himself.

MR. MCGREGOR came up  
with a sieve, which he  
intended to pop upon the top  
of Peter; but Peter wriggled  
out just in time, leaving his  
jacket behind him.

AND rushed into the toolshed,  
and jumped into a can.  
It would have been a  
beautiful thing to hide in, if it  
had not had so much water in it.

MR. MCGREGOR was  
quite sure that Peter  
was somewhere in the toolshed,  
perhaps hidden underneath  
a flower-pot. He began  
to turn them over carefully,  
looking under each.

Presently Peter sneezed--  
"Kertyschoo!" Mr. McGregor  
was after him in no time,

AND tried to put his foot  
upon Peter, who jumped  
out of a window, upsetting  
three plants. The window was  
too small for Mr. McGregor,  
and he was tired of running  
after Peter. He went back to  
his work.

PETER sat down to rest;  
he was out of breath and  
trembling with fright, and he  
had not the least idea which  
way to go. Also he was very  
damp with sitting in that can.

After a time he began to  
wander about, going lippity--  
lippity--not very fast, and  
looking all around.

HE found a door in a wall;  
but it was locked, and

there was no room for a fat  
little rabbit to squeeze  
underneath.

An old mouse was running  
in and out over the stone doorstep,  
carrying peas and beans  
to her family in the wood.  
Peter asked her the way to the  
gate, but she had such a large  
pea in her mouth that she could  
not answer. She only shook  
her head at him. Peter began  
to cry.

THEN he tried to find his  
way straight across the  
garden, but he became more  
and more puzzled. Presently,  
he came to a pond where Mr.  
McGregor filled his water-cans.  
A white cat was staring at  
some gold-fish; she sat very,  
very still, but now and then  
the tip of her tail twitched as  
if it were alive. Peter thought  
it best to go away without  
speaking to her; he had heard  
about cats from his cousin,  
little Benjamin Bunny.

HE went back towards the  
tool-shed, but suddenly,  
quite close to him, he heard  
the noise of a hoe--scr-r-ritch,  
scratch, scratch, scritch. Peter

scattered underneath the  
bushes. But presently, as  
nothing happened, he came  
out, and climbed upon a  
wheelbarrow, and peeped over. The  
first thing he saw was Mr.  
McGregor hoeing onions. His  
back was turned towards  
Peter, and beyond him was  
the gate!

PETER got down very  
quietly off the wheelbarrow,  
and started running  
as fast as he could go, along  
a straight walk behind some

black-currant bushes.

Mr. McGregor caught sight of him at the corner, but Peter did not care. He slipped underneath the gate, and was safe at last in the wood outside the garden.

MR. MCGREGOR hung up the little jacket and the shoes for a scare-crow to frighten the blackbirds.

PETER never stopped running or looked behind him till he got home to the big fir-tree.

He was so tired that he flopped down upon the nice soft sand on the floor of the rabbit-hole, and shut his eyes. His mother was busy cooking; she wondered what he had done with his clothes. It was the second little jacket and pair of shoes that Peter had lost in a fortnight!

I AM sorry to say that Peter was not very well during the evening.

His mother put him to bed, and made some camomile tea; and she gave a dose of it to Peter!

"One table-spoonful to be taken at bed-time."

BUT Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail had bread and milk and blackberries, for supper.

THE END

THE TALE OF

BENJAMIN BUNNY

FOR THE CHILDREN OF SAWREY  
FROM  
OLD MR. BUNNY

ONE morning a little rabbit  
sat on a bank.

He pricked his ears and  
listened to the trit-trot,  
trit-trot of a pony.

A gig was coming along the  
road; it was driven by Mr.  
McGregor, and beside him sat  
Mrs. McGregor in her best  
bonnet.

AS soon as they had passed,  
little Benjamin Bunny  
slid down into the road, and  
set off--with a hop, skip and  
a jump--to call upon his relations,  
who lived in the wood at  
the back of Mr. McGregor's  
garden.

THAT wood was full of  
rabbit holes; and in the  
neatest sandiest hole of all,  
cousins--Flopsy, Mopsy,  
Cotton-tail and Peter.

Old Mrs. Rabbit was a  
widow; she earned her living  
by knitting rabbit-wool mittens  
and muffetees (I once bought  
a pair at a bazaar). She also  
sold herbs, and rosemary tea,  
and rabbit-tobacco (which is  
what WE call lavender).

LITTLE Benjamin did not  
very much want to see  
his Aunt.

He came round the back of  
the fir-tree, and nearly tumbled  
upon the top of his Cousin  
Peter.

PETER was sitting by himself.  
He looked poorly,  
and was dressed in a red cotton  
pocket-handkerchief.

"Peter,"--said little Benjamin,  
in a whisper--"who has  
got your clothes?"

PETER replied--"The scarecrow  
in Mr. McGregor's  
garden," and described how he  
had been chased about the  
garden, and had dropped his  
shoes and coat.

Little Benjamin sat down beside  
his cousin, and assured him  
that Mr. McGregor had gone  
out in a gig, and Mrs. McGregor  
also; and certainly for the day,  
because she was wearing her  
best bonnet.

PETER said he hoped that  
it would rain.

At this point, old Mrs.  
Rabbit's voice was heard inside  
the rabbit hole calling--  
"Cotton-tail! Cotton-tail!  
fetch some more camomile!"

Peter said he thought he  
might feel better if he went  
for a walk.

THEY went away hand in  
hand, and got upon the  
flat top of the wall at the bottom  
of the wood. From here they  
looked down into Mr. McGregor's  
garden. Peter's coat  
and shoes were plainly to be  
seen upon the scarecrow,  
topped with an old tam-o-  
shanter of Mr. McGregor's.

LITTLE Benjamin said,  
"It spoils people's clothes  
to squeeze under a gate; the  
proper way to get in, is to  
climb down a pear tree."

Peter fell down head first;  
but it was of no consequence,  
as the bed below was newly  
raked and quite soft.

IT had been sown with lettuces.

They left a great many odd  
little foot-marks all over the  
bed, especially little Benjamin,  
who was wearing clogs.

LITTLE Benjamin said that  
the first thing to be done  
was to get back Peter's clothes,  
in order that they might be  
able to use the pocket handkerchief.

They took them off the scarecrow.  
There had been rain  
during the night; there was  
water in the shoes, and the  
coat was somewhat shrunk.

Benjamin tried on the tam-  
o-shanter, but it was too big  
for him.

THEN he suggested that  
they should fill the pocket-  
handkerchief with onions, as  
a little present for his Aunt.

Peter did not seem to be  
enjoying himself; he kept  
hearing noises.

BENJAMIN, on the contrary,  
was perfectly at  
home, and ate a lettuce leaf.  
He said that he was in the  
habit of coming to the garden  
with his father to get lettuces  
for their Sunday dinner.

(The name of little Benjamin's  
papa was old Mr. Benjamin  
Bunny.)

The lettuces certainly were  
very fine.

PETER did not eat anything;  
he said he should  
like to go home. Presently he  
dropped half the onions.

LITTLE Benjamin said that  
it was not possible to get  
back up the pear-tree, with a  
load of vegetables. He led  
the way boldly towards the  
other end of the garden. They  
went along a little walk on  
planks, under a sunny red-  
brick wall.

The mice sat on their door-  
steps cracking cherry-stones,  
they winked at Peter Rabbit  
and little Benjamin Bunny.

PRESENTLY Peter let the  
pocket-handkerchief go  
again.

THEY got amongst flower-  
pots, and frames and  
tubs; Peter heard noises worse  
than ever, his eyes were as big  
as lolly-pops!

He was a step or two in  
front of his cousin, when he  
suddenly stopped.

THIS is what those little  
rabbits saw round that  
corner!

Little Benjamin took one  
look, and then, in half a minute  
less than no time, he hid himself  
and Peter and the onions  
underneath a large basket. . . .

THE cat got up and stretched  
herself, and came and  
sniffed at the basket.

Perhaps she liked the smell  
of onions!

Anyway, she sat down upon  
the top of the basket.

SHE sat there for FIVE HOURS.

\* \* \* \* \*

I cannot draw you a picture  
of Peter and Benjamin underneath  
the basket, because it  
was quite dark, and because  
the smell of onions was fearful;  
it made Peter Rabbit and little  
Benjamin cry.

The sun got round behind  
the wood, and it was quite late  
in the afternoon; but still the  
cat sat upon the basket.

AT length there was a pitter-  
patter, pitter-patter, and  
some bits of mortar fell from  
the wall above.

The cat looked up and saw  
old Mr. Benjamin Bunny  
prancing along the top of the  
wall of the upper terrace.

He was smoking a pipe of  
rabbit-tobacco, and had a little  
switch in his hand.

He was looking for his son.

OLD Mr. Bunny had no  
opinion whatever of cats.

He took a tremendous jump  
off the top of the wall on to  
the top of the cat, and cuffed  
it off the basket, and kicked it  
into the garden-house, scratching  
off a handful of fur.

The cat was too much surprised  
to scratch back.

WHEN old Mr. Bunny had  
driven the cat into the  
green-house, he locked the  
door.

Then he came back to the

basket and took out his son Benjamin by the ears, and whipped him with the little switch.

Then he took out his nephew Peter.

THEN he took out the handkerchief of onions, and marched out of the garden.

When Mr. McGregor returned about half an hour later, he observed several things which perplexed him.

It looked as though some person had been walking all over the garden in a pair of clogs--only the foot-marks were too ridiculously little!

Also he could not understand how the cat could have managed to shut herself up INSIDE the green-house, locking the door upon the OUTSIDE.

WHEN Peter got home, his mother forgave him, because she was so glad to see that he had found his shoes and coat. Cotton-tail and Peter folded up the pocket-handkerchief, and old Mrs. Rabbit strung up the onions and hung them from the kitchen ceiling, with the rabbit-tobacco.

THE END

THE TALE OF  
THE FLOPSY BUNNIES

FOR ALL LITTLE FRIENDS

OF  
MR. MCGREGOR & PETER & BENJAMIN

IT is said that the effect of  
eating too much lettuce  
is "soporific."

\_I\_ have never felt sleepy after  
eating lettuces; but then \_I\_ am  
not a rabbit.

They certainly had a very  
soporific effect upon the Flopsy  
Bunnies!

WHEN Benjamin Bunny  
grew up, he married  
his Cousin Flopsy. They had  
a large family, and they were  
very improvident and cheerful.

I do not remember the separate  
names of their children;  
they were generally called the  
"Flopsy Bunnies."

AS there was not always  
quite enough to eat,--  
Benjamin used to borrow  
cabbages from Flopsy's  
brother, Peter Rabbit, who  
kept a nursery garden.

SOMETIMES Peter Rabbit  
had no cabbages to spare.

WHEN this happened, the  
Flopsy Bunnies went  
across the field to a rubbish  
heap, in the ditch outside  
Mr. McGregor's garden.

MR. MCGREGOR'S rubbish  
heap was a mixture.  
There were jam pots and paper  
bags, and mountains of chopped  
grass from the mowing machine  
(which always tasted oily), and  
some rotten vegetable marrows  
and an old boot or two. One  
day--oh joy!--there were a  
quantity of overgrown lettuces,

which had "shot" into flower.

THE Flopsy Bunnies simply stuffed lettuces. By degrees, one after another, they were overcome with slumber, and lay down in the mown grass.

Benjamin was not so much overcome as his children. Before going to sleep he was sufficiently wide awake to put a paper bag over his head to keep off the flies.

THE little Flopsy Bunnies slept delightfully in the warm sun. From the lawn beyond the garden came the distant clacketty sound of the mowing machine. The blue-bottles buzzed about the wall, and a little old mouse picked over the rubbish among the jam pots.

(I can tell you her name, she was called Thomasina Tittlemouse, a woodmouse with a long tail.)

SHE rustled across the paper bag, and awakened Benjamin Bunny.

The mouse apologized profusely, and said that she knew Peter Rabbit.

WHILE she and Benjamin were talking, close under the wall, they heard a heavy tread above their heads; and suddenly Mr. McGregor emptied out a sackful of lawn mowings right upon the top of the sleeping Flopsy Bunnies! Benjamin shrank down under his paper bag. The mouse hid in a jam pot.

THE little rabbits smiled

sweetly in their sleep  
under the shower of grass;  
they did not awake because  
the lettuces had been so  
soporific.

They dreamt that their  
mother Flopsy was tucking  
them up in a hay bed.

Mr. McGregor looked down  
after emptying his sack. He  
saw some funny little brown  
tips of ears sticking up through  
the lawn mowings. He stared  
at them for some time.

PRESENTLY a fly settled  
on one of them and it  
moved.

Mr. McGregor climbed  
down on to the rubbish heap--

"One, two, three, four! five!  
six leetle rabbits!" said he as  
he dropped them into his sack.  
The Flopsy Bunnies dreamt  
that their mother was turning  
them over in bed. They stirred  
a little in their sleep, but still  
they did not wake up.

MR. MCGREGOR tied up  
the sack and left it on  
the wall.

He went to put away the  
mowing machine.

WHILE he was gone, Mrs.  
Flopsy Bunny (who  
had remained at home) came  
across the field.

She looked suspiciously at  
the sack and wondered where  
everybody was?

THEN the mouse came out  
of her jam pot, and Benjamin  
took the paper bag off  
his head, and they told the

doleful tale.

Benjamin and Flopsy were in despair, they could not undo the string.

But Mrs. Tittlemouse was a resourceful person. She nibbled a hole in the bottom corner of the sack.

THE little rabbits were pulled out and pinched to wake them.

Their parents stuffed the empty sack with three rotten vegetable marrows, an old blacking-brush and two decayed turnips.

THEN they all hid under a bush and watched for Mr. McGregor.

MR. MCGREGOR came back and picked up the sack, and carried it off.

He carried it hanging down, as if it were rather heavy.

The Flopsy Bunnies followed at a safe distance.

THEY watched him go into his house.

And then they crept up to the window to listen.

MR. MCGREGOR threw down the sack on the stone floor in a way that would have been extremely painful to the Flopsy Bunnies, if they had happened to have been inside it.

They could hear him drag his chair on the flags, and chuckle--

"One, two, three, four, five, six leetle rabbits!" said Mr. McGregor.

"EH? What's that? What have they been spoiling now?" enquired Mrs. McGregor.

"One, two, three, four, five, six leetle fat rabbits!" repeated Mr. McGregor, counting on his fingers--"one, two, three--"

"Don't you be silly; what do you mean, you silly old man?"

"In the sack! one, two, three, four, five, six!" replied Mr. McGregor.

(The youngest Flopsy Bunny got upon the window-sill.)

MRS. MCGREGOR took hold of the sack and felt it. She said she could feel six, but they must be OLD rabbits, because they were so hard and all different shapes.

"Not fit to eat; but the skins will do fine to line my old cloak."

"Line your old cloak?" shouted Mr. McGregor--"I shall sell them and buy myself baccy!"

"Rabbit tobacco! I shall skin them and cut off their heads."

MRS. MCGREGOR untied the sack and put her hand inside.

When she felt the vegetables she became very very angry. She said that Mr. McGregor had "done it a purpose."

AND Mr. McGregor was  
very angry too. One of  
the rotten marrows came flying  
through the kitchen window,  
and hit the youngest Flopsy  
Bunny.

It was rather hurt.

THEN Benjamin and Flopsy  
thought that it was time  
to go home.

SO Mr. McGregor did not  
get his tobacco, and Mrs.  
McGregor did not get her  
rabbit skins.

But next Christmas  
Thomasina Tittlemouse got a  
present of enough rabbit-wool  
to make herself a cloak and a  
hood, and a handsome muff  
and a pair of warm mittens.

THE END

IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
"SAMMY,"  
THE INTELLIGENT PINK-EYED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF  
A PERSECUTED (BUT IRREPRESSIBLE) RACE.  
AN AFFECTIONATE LITTLE FRIEND.  
AND MOST ACCOMPLISHED  
THIEF!

THE ROLY-POLY PUDDING

ONCE upon a time there was an old  
cat, called Mrs. Tabitha Twitchit,  
who was an anxious parent. She used to  
lose her kittens continually, and whenever  
they were lost they were always in mischief!

On baking day she determined to shut

them up in a cupboard.

She caught Moppet and Mittens, but she could not find Tom.

Mrs. Tabitha went up and down all over the house, mewing for Tom Kitten. She looked in the pantry under the staircase, and she searched the best spare bedroom that was all covered up with dust sheets. She went right upstairs and looked into the attics, but she could not find him anywhere.

It was an old, old house, full of cupboards and passages. Some of the walls were four feet thick, and there used to be queer noises inside them, as if there might be a little secret staircase. Certainly there were odd little jagged doorways in the wainscot, and things disappeared at night--especially cheese and bacon.

Mrs. Tabitha became more and more distracted, and mewed dreadfully.

While their mother was searching the house, Moppet and Mittens had got into mischief.

The cupboard door was not locked, so they pushed it open and came out.

They went straight to the dough which was set to rise in a pan before the fire.

They patted it with their little soft paws --"Shall we make dear little muffins?" said Mittens to Moppet.

But just at that moment somebody knocked at the front door, and Moppet jumped into the flour barrel in a fright.

Mittens ran away to the dairy, and hid in an empty jar on the stone shelf where the milk pans stand.

The visitor was a neighbor, Mrs. Ribby; she had called to borrow some yeast.

Mrs. Tabitha came downstairs mewling dreadfully--"Come in, Cousin Ribby, come in, and sit ye down! I'm in sad trouble, Cousin Ribby," said Tabitha, shedding tears. "I've lost my dear son Thomas; I'm afraid the rats have got him." She wiped her eyes with an apron.

"He's a bad kitten, Cousin Tabitha; he made a cat's cradle of my best bonnet last time I came to tea. Where have you looked for him?"

"All over the house! The rats are too many for me. What a thing it is to have an unruly family!" said Mrs. Tabitha Twitchit.

"I'm not afraid of rats; I will help you to find him; and whip him too! What is all that soot in the fender?"

"The chimney wants sweeping--Oh, dear me, Cousin Ribby--now Moppet and Mittens are gone!"

"They have both got out of the cupboard!"

Ribby and Tabitha set to work to search the house thoroughly again. They poked under the beds with Ribby's umbrella, and they rummaged in cupboards. They even fetched a candle, and looked inside a clothes chest in one of the attics. They could not find anything, but once they heard a door bang and somebody scuttered downstairs.

"Yes, it is infested with rats," said Tabitha tearfully, "I caught seven young ones out of one hole in the back kitchen, and we had them for dinner last Saturday. And once I saw the old father rat--an enormous old rat, Cousin Ribby. I was just going to jump upon him, when he showed his yellow teeth at me and whisked down the hole."

"The rats get upon my nerves, Cousin

Ribby," said Tabitha.

Ribby and Tabitha searched and searched. They both heard a curious roly-poly noise under the attic floor. But there was nothing to be seen.

They returned to the kitchen. "Here's one of your kittens at least," said Ribby, dragging Moppet out of the flour barrel.

They shook the flour off her and set her down on the kitchen floor. She seemed to be in a terrible fright.

"Oh! Mother, Mother," said Moppet, "there's been an old woman rat in the kitchen, and she's stolen some of the dough!"

The two cats ran to look at the dough pan. Sure enough there were marks of little scratching fingers, and a lump of dough was gone!

"Which way did she go, Moppet?"

But Moppet had been too much frightened to peep out of the barrel again.

Ribby and Tabitha took her with them to keep her safely in sight, while they went on with their search.

They went into the dairy.

The first thing they found was Mittens, hiding in an empty jar.

They tipped up the jar, and she scrambled out.

"Oh, Mother, Mother!" said Mittens--

"Oh! Mother, Mother, there has been an old man rat in the dairy--a dreadful 'normous big rat, Mother; and he's stolen a pat

of butter and the rolling-pin."

Ribby and Tabitha looked at one another.

"A rolling-pin and butter! Oh, my poor son Thomas!" exclaimed Tabitha, wringing her paws.

"A rolling-pin?" said Ribby. "Did we not hear a roly-poly noise in the attic when we were looking into that chest?"

Ribby and Tabitha rushed upstairs again. Sure enough the roly-poly noise was still going on quite distinctly under the attic floor.

"This is serious, Cousin Tabitha," said Ribby. "We must send for John Joiner at once, with a saw."

Now this is what had been happening to Tom Kitten, and it shows how very unwise it is to go up a chimney in a very old house, where a person does not know his way, and where there are enormous rats.

Tom Kitten did not want to be shut up in a cupboard. When he saw that his mother was going to bake, he determined to hide.

He looked about for a nice convenient place, and he fixed upon the chimney.

The fire had only just been lighted, and it was not hot; but there was a white choky smoke from the green sticks. Tom Kitten got upon the fender and looked up. It was a big old-fashioned fireplace.

The chimney itself was wide enough inside for a man to stand up and walk about. So there was plenty of room for a little Tom Cat.

He jumped right up into the fireplace, balancing himself upon the iron bar where the kettle hangs.

Tom Kitten took another big jump off the bar, and landed on a ledge high up inside the chimney, knocking down some soot into the fender.

Tom Kitten coughed and choked with the smoke; he could hear the sticks beginning to crackle and burn in the fireplace down below. He made up his mind to climb right to the top, and get out on the slates, and try to catch sparrows.

"I cannot go back. If I slipped I might fall in the fire and singe my beautiful tail and my little blue jacket."

The chimney was a very big old-fashioned one. It was built in the days when people burnt logs of wood upon the hearth.

The chimney stack stood up above the roof like a little stone tower, and the daylight shone down from the top, under the slanting slates that kept out the rain.

Tom Kitten was getting very frightened! He climbed up, and up, and up.

Then he waded sideways through inches of soot. He was like a little sweep himself.

It was most confusing in the dark. One flue seemed to lead into another.

There was less smoke, but Tom Kitten felt quite lost.

He scrambled up and up; but before he reached the chimney top he came to a place where somebody had loosened a stone in the wall. There were some mutton bones lying about--

"This seems funny," said Tom Kitten.  
"Who has been gnawing bones up here in the chimney? I wish I had never come!  
And what a funny smell! It is something

like mouse; only dreadfully strong. It makes me sneeze," said Tom Kitten.

He squeezed through the hole in the wall, and dragged himself along a most uncomfortably tight passage where there was scarcely any light.

He groped his way carefully for several yards; he was at the back of the skirting-board in the attic, where there is a little mark \* in the picture.

All at once he fell head over heels in the dark, down a hole, and landed on a heap of very dirty rags.

When Tom Kitten picked himself up and looked about him--he found himself in a place that he had never seen before, although he had lived all his life in the house.

It was a very small stuffy fusty room, with boards, and rafters, and cobwebs, and lath and plaster.

Opposite to him--as far away as he could sit--was an enormous rat.

"What do you mean by tumbling into my bed all covered with smuts?" said the rat, chattering his teeth.

"Please sir, the chimney wants sweeping," said poor Tom Kitten.

"Anna Maria! Anna Maria!" squeaked the rat. There was a pattering noise and an old woman rat poked her head round a rafter.

All in a minute she rushed upon Tom Kitten, and before he knew what was happening--

His coat was pulled off, and he was rolled up in a bundle, and tied with string in very hard knots.

Anna Maria did the tying. The old rat watched her and took snuff. When she had finished, they both sat staring at him with their mouths open.

"Anna Maria," said the old man rat (whose name was Samuel Whiskers),--  
"Anna Maria, make me a kitten dumpling roly-poly pudding for my dinner."

"It requires dough and a pat of butter, and a rolling-pin," said Anna Maria, considering Tom Kitten with her head on one side.

"No," said Samuel Whiskers, "make it properly, Anna Maria, with breadcrumbs."

"Nonsense! Butter and dough," replied Anna Maria.

The two rats consulted together for a few minutes and then went away.

Samuel Whiskers got through a hole in the wainscot, and went boldly down the front staircase to the dairy to get the butter. He did not meet anybody.

He made a second journey for the rolling-pin. He pushed it in front of him with his paws, like a brewer's man trundling a barrel.

He could hear Ribby and Tabitha talking, but they were busy lighting the candle to look into the chest.

They did not see him.

Anna Maria went down by way of the skirting-board and a window shutter to the kitchen to steal the dough.

She borrowed a small saucer, and scooped up the dough with her paws.

She did not observe Moppet.

While Tom Kitten was left alone under the floor of the attic, he wriggled about and tried to mew for help.

But his mouth was full of soot and cob-webs, and he was tied up in such very tight knots, he could not make anybody hear him.

Except a spider, which came out of a crack in the ceiling and examined the knots critically, from a safe distance.

It was a judge of knots because it had a habit of tying up unfortunate blue-bottles. It did not offer to assist him.

Tom Kitten wriggled and squirmed until he was quite exhausted.

Presently the rats came back and set to work to make him into a dumpling. First they smeared him with butter, and then they rolled him in the dough.

"Will not the string be very indigestible, Anna Maria?" inquired Samuel Whiskers.

Anna Maria said she thought that it was of no consequence; but she wished that Tom Kitten would hold his head still, as it disarranged the pastry. She laid hold of his ears.

Tom Kitten bit and spat, and mewed and wriggled; and the rolling-pin went roly-poly, roly; roly, poly, roly. The rats each held an end.

"His tail is sticking out! You did not fetch enough dough, Anna Maria."

"I fetched as much as I could carry," replied Anna Maria.

"I do not think"--said Samuel Whiskers, pausing to take a look at Tom Kitten--"I do NOT think it will be a good pudding. It

smells sooty."

Anna Maria was about to argue the point, when all at once there began to be other sounds up above--the rasping noise of a saw; and the noise of a little dog, scratching and yelping!

The rats dropped the rolling-pin, and listened attentively.

"We are discovered and interrupted, Anna Maria; let us collect our property,--and other people's,--and depart at once."

"I fear that we shall be obliged to leave this pudding."

"But I am persuaded that the knots would have proved indigestible, whatever you may urge to the contrary."

"Come away at once and help me to tie up some mutton bones in a counterpane," said Anna Maria. "I have got half a smoked ham hidden in the chimney."

So it happened that by the time John Joiner had got the plank up--there was nobody under the floor except the rolling-pin and Tom Kitten in a very dirty dumpling!

But there was a strong smell of rats; and John Joiner spent the rest of the morning sniffing and whining, and wagging his tail, and going round and round with his head in the hole like a gimlet.

Then he nailed the plank down again, and put his tools in his bag, and came downstairs.

The cat family had quite recovered. They invited him to stay to dinner.

The dumpling had been peeled off Tom Kitten, and made separately into a bag pudding, with currants in it to hide the smuts.

They had been obliged to put Tom Kitten into a hot bath to get the butter off.

John Joiner smelt the pudding; but he regretted that he had not time to stay to dinner, because he had just finished making a wheel-barrow for Miss Potter, and she had ordered two hen-coops.

And when I was going to the post late in the afternoon--I looked up the lane from the corner, and I saw Mr. Samuel Whiskers and his wife on the run, with big bundles on a little wheel-barrow, which looked very like mine.

They were just turning in at the gate to the barn of Farmer Potatoes.

Samuel Whiskers was puffing and out of breath. Anna Maria was still arguing in shrill tones.

She seemed to know her way, and she seemed to have a quantity of luggage.

I am sure \_I\_ never gave her leave to borrow my wheel-barrow!

They went into the barn, and hauled their parcels with a bit of string to the top of the haymow.

After that, there were no more rats for a long time at Tabitha Twitchit's.

As for Farmer Potatoes, he has been driven nearly distracted. There are rats, and rats, and rats in his barn! They eat up the chicken food, and steal the oats and bran, and make holes in the meal bags.

And they are all descended from Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Whiskers--children and grand-children and great great grand-children.

There is no end to them!

Moppet and Mittens have grown up into very good rat-catchers.

They go out rat-catching in the village, and they find plenty of employment. They charge so much a dozen, and earn their living very comfortably.

They hang up the rats' tails in a row on the barn door, to show how many they have caught--dozens and dozens of them.

But Tom Kitten has always been afraid of a rat; he never durst face anything that is bigger than--

A Mouse.

THE END

THE TALE OF MR. TOD

I HAVE made many books about well-behaved people. Now, for a change, I am going to make a story about two disagreeable people, called Tommy Brock and Mr. Tod. Nobody could call Mr. Tod "nice." The rabbits could not bear him; they could smell him half a mile off. He was of a wandering habit and he had foxey whiskers; they never knew where he would be next.

One day he was living in a stick-house in the coppice, causing terror to the family of old Mr. Benjamin Bouncer. Next day he moved into a pollard willow near the lake, frightening the wild ducks and the water rats.

In winter and early spring he might generally be found in an earth

amongst the rocks at the top of Bull Banks, under Oatmeal Crag.

He had half a dozen houses, but he was seldom at home.

The houses were not always empty when Mr. Tod moved OUT; because sometimes Tommy Brock moved IN; (without asking leave).

Tommy Brock was a short bristly fat waddling person with a grin; he grinned all over his face. He was not nice in his habits. He ate wasp nests and frogs and worms; and he waddled about by moonlight, digging things up.

His clothes were very dirty; and as he slept in the day-time, he always went to bed in his boots. And the bed which he went to bed in, was generally Mr. Tod's.

Now Tommy Brock did occasionally eat rabbit-pie; but it was only very little young ones occasionally, when other food was really scarce. He was friendly with old Mr. Bouncer; they agreed in disliking the wicked otters and Mr. Tod; they often talked over that painful subject.

Old Mr. Bouncer was stricken in years. He sat in the spring sunshine outside the burrow, in a muffler; smoking a pipe of rabbit tobacco.

He lived with his son Benjamin Bunny and his daughter-in-law Flopsy, who had a young family. Old Mr. Bouncer was in charge of the family that afternoon, because Benjamin and Flopsy had gone out.

The little rabbit-babies were just old enough to open their blue eyes and kick. They lay in a fluffy bed of rabbit wool and hay, in a shallow burrow, separate from the main

rabbit hole. To tell the truth--old Mr. Bouncer had forgotten them.

He sat in the sun, and conversed cordially with Tommy Brock, who was passing through the wood with a sack and a little spud which he used for digging, and some mole traps. He complained bitterly about the scarcity of pheasants' eggs, and accused Mr. Tod of poaching them. And the otters had cleared off all the frogs while he was asleep in winter--"I have not had a good square meal for a fortnight, I am living on pig-nuts. I shall have to turn vegetarian and eat my own tail!" said Tommy Brock.

It was not much of a joke, but it tickled old Mr. Bouncer; because Tommy Brock was so fat and stumpy and grinning.

So old Mr. Bouncer laughed; and pressed Tommy Brock to come inside, to taste a slice of seed-cake and "a glass of my daughter Flopsy's cowslip wine." Tommy Brock squeezed himself into the rabbit hole with alacrity.

Then old Mr. Bouncer smoked another pipe, and gave Tommy Brock a cabbage leaf cigar which was so very strong that it made Tommy Brock grin more than ever; and the smoke filled the burrow. Old Mr. Bouncer coughed and laughed; and Tommy Brock puffed and grinned.

And Mr. Bouncer laughed and coughed, and shut his eyes because of the cabbage smoke . . . . .

When Flopsy and Benjamin came back--old Mr. Bouncer woke up. Tommy Brock and all the young rabbit-babies had disappeared!

Mr. Bouncer would not confess

that he had admitted anybody into the rabbit hole. But the smell of badger was undeniable; and there were round heavy footmarks in the sand. He was in disgrace; Flopsy wrung her ears, and slapped him.

Benjamin Bunny set off at once after Tommy Brock.

There was not much difficulty in tracking him; he had left his footmark and gone slowly up the winding footpath through the wood.

Here he had rooted up the moss and wood sorrel. There he had dug quite a deep hole for dog danel; and had set a mole trap. A little stream crossed the way. Benjamin skipped lightly over dry-foot; the badger's heavy steps showed plainly in the mud.

The path led to a part of the thicket where the trees had been cleared; there were leafy oak stumps, and a sea of blue hyacinths--but the smell that made Benjamin stop, was not the smell of flowers!

Mr. Tod's stick house was before him and, for once, Mr. Tod was at home. There was not only a foxy flavour in proof of it--there was smoke coming out of the broken pail that served as a chimney.

Benjamin Bunny sat up, staring; his whiskers twitched. Inside the stick house somebody dropped a plate, and said something. Benjamin stamped his foot, and bolted.

He never stopped till he came to the other side of the wood. Apparently Tommy Brock had turned the same way. Upon the top of the wall, there were again the marks of badger; and some ravellings of a sack had caught on a briar.

Benjamin climbed over the wall,  
into a meadow. He found another  
mole trap newly set; he was still  
upon the track of Tommy Brock.  
It was getting late in the afternoon.  
Other rabbits were coming out to  
enjoy the evening air. One of them  
in a blue coat by himself, was busily  
hunting for dandelions.--"Cousin  
Peter! Peter Rabbit, Peter Rabbit!"  
shouted Benjamin Bunny.

The blue coated rabbit sat up  
with pricked ears--

"Whatever is the matter, Cousin  
Benjamin? Is it a cat? or John  
Stoat Ferret?"

"No, no, no! He's bagged my  
family--Tommy Brock--in a sack  
--have you seen him?"

"Tommy Brock? how many,  
Cousin Benjamin?"

"Seven, Cousin Peter, and all of  
them twins! Did he come this  
way? Please tell me quick!"

"Yes, yes; not ten minutes since  
. . . . he said they were caterpillars;  
I did think they were kicking rather  
hard, for caterpillars."

"Which way? which way has he  
gone, Cousin Peter?"

"He had a sack with something  
'live in it; I watched him set a  
mole trap. Let me use my mind,  
Cousin Benjamin; tell me from the  
beginning." Benjamin did so.

"My Uncle Bouncer has displayed  
a lamentable want of discretion for  
his years;" said Peter reflectively,  
"but there are two hopeful  
circumstances. Your family is alive and

kicking; and Tommy Brock has had refreshment. He will probably go to sleep, and keep them for breakfast." "Which way?" "Cousin Benjamin, compose yourself. I know very well which way. Because Mr. Tod was at home in the stick-house he has gone to Mr. Tod's other house, at the top of Bull Banks. I partly know, because he offered to leave any message at Sister Cottontail's; he said he would be passing." (Cottontail had married a black rabbit, and gone to live on the hill).

Peter hid his dandelions, and accompanied the afflicted parent, who was all of a twitter. They crossed several fields and began to climb the hill; the tracks of Tommy Brock were plainly to be seen. He seemed to have put down the sack every dozen yards, to rest.

"He must be very puffed; we are close behind him, by the scent. What a nasty person!" said Peter.

The sunshine was still warm and slanting on the hill pastures. Half way up, Cottontail was sitting in her doorway, with four or five half-grown little rabbits playing about her; one black and the others brown.

Cottontail had seen Tommy Brock passing in the distance. Asked whether her husband was at home she replied that Tommy Brock had rested twice while she watched him.

He had nodded, and pointed to the sack, and seemed doubled up with laughing.--"Come away, Peter; he will be cooking them; come quicker!" said Benjamin Bunny.

They climbed up and up;--"He was at home; I saw his black ears

peeping out of the hole." "They live too near the rocks to quarrel with their neighbours. Come on Cousin Benjamin!"

When they came near the wood at the top of Bull Banks, they went cautiously. The trees grew amongst heaped up rocks; and there, beneath a crag--Mr. Tod had made one of his homes. It was at the top of a steep bank; the rocks and bushes overhung it. The rabbits crept up carefully, listening and peeping.

This house was something between a cave, a prison, and a tumble-down pig-stye. There was a strong door, which was shut and locked.

The setting sun made the window panes glow like red flame; but the kitchen fire was not alight. It was neatly laid with dry sticks, as the rabbits could see, when they peeped through the window.

Benjamin sighed with relief.

But there were preparations upon the kitchen table which made him shudder. There was an immense empty pie-dish of blue willow pattern, and a large carving knife and fork, and a chopper.

At the other end of the table was a partly unfolded tablecloth, a plate, a tumbler, a knife and fork, salt-cellar, mustard and a chair--in short, preparations for one person's supper.

No person was to be seen, and no young rabbits. The kitchen was empty and silent; the clock had run down. Peter and Benjamin flattened their noses against the window, and stared into the dusk.

Then they scrambled round the

rocks to the other side of the house.  
It was damp and smelly, and over-  
grown with thorns and briars.

The rabbits shivered in their shoes.

"Oh my poor rabbit babies! What  
a dreadful place; I shall never see  
them again!" sighed Benjamin.

They crept up to the bedroom  
window. It was closed and bolted  
like the kitchen. But there were  
signs that this window had been  
recently open; the cobwebs were  
disturbed, and there were fresh dirty  
footmarks upon the window-sill.

The room inside was so dark,  
that at first they could make out  
nothing; but they could hear a noise  
--a slow deep regular snoring grunt.  
And as their eyes became accustomed  
to the darkness, they perceived  
that somebody was asleep  
on Mr. Tod's bed, curled up under  
the blanket.--"He has gone to bed  
in his boots," whispered Peter.

Benjamin, who was all of a twitter,  
pulled Peter off the window-sill.

Tommy Brock's snores continued,  
grunty and regular from Mr. Tod's  
bed. Nothing could be seen of the  
young family.

The sun had set; an owl began  
to hoot in the wood. There were  
many unpleasant things lying about,  
that had much better have been  
buried; rabbit bones and skulls, and  
chickens' legs and other horrors. It  
was a shocking place, and very dark.

They went back to the front of  
the house, and tried in every way  
to move the bolt of the kitchen  
window. They tried to push up a  
rusty nail between the window  
sashes; but it was of no use,

especially without a light.

They sat side by side outside the window, whispering and listening.

In half an hour the moon rose over the wood. It shone full and clear and cold, upon the house amongst the rocks, and in at the kitchen window. But alas, no little rabbit babies were to be seen!

The moonbeams twinkled on the carving knife and the pie dish, and made a path of brightness across the dirty floor.

The light showed a little door in a wall beside the kitchen fireplace-- a little iron door belonging to a brick oven, of that old-fashioned sort that used to be heated with faggots of wood.

And presently at the same moment Peter and Benjamin noticed that whenever they shook the window-- the little door opposite shook in answer. The young family were alive; shut up in the oven!

Benjamin was so excited that it was a mercy he did not awake Tommy Brock, whose snores continued solemnly in Mr. Tod's bed.

But there really was not very much comfort in the discovery. They could not open the window; and although the young family was alive--the little rabbits were quite incapable of letting themselves out; they were not old enough to crawl.

After much whispering, Peter and Benjamin decided to dig a tunnel. They began to burrow a yard or two lower down the bank. They hoped that they might be able to work between the large stones under the house; the kitchen floor was so dirty

that it was impossible to say whether it was made of earth or flags.

They dug and dug for hours. They could not tunnel straight on account of stones; but by the end of the night they were under the kitchen floor. Benjamin was on his back, scratching upwards. Peter's claws were worn down; he was outside the tunnel, shuffling sand away. He called out that it was morning--sunrise; and that the jays were making a noise down below in the woods.

Benjamin Bunny came out of the dark tunnel, shaking the sand from his ears; he cleaned his face with his paws. Every minute the sun shone warmer on the top of the hill. In the valley there was a sea of white mist, with golden tops of trees showing through.

Again from the fields down below in the mist there came the angry cry of a jay--followed by the sharp yelping bark of a fox!

Then those two rabbits lost their heads completely. They did the most foolish thing that they could have done. They rushed into their short new tunnel, and hid themselves at the top end of it, under Mr. Tod's kitchen floor.

Mr. Tod was coming up Bull Banks, and he was in the very worst of tempers. First he had been upset by breaking the plate. It was his own fault; but it was a china plate, the last of the dinner service that had belonged to his grandmother, old Vixen Tod. Then the midges had been very bad. And he had failed to catch a hen pheasant on her nest; and it had contained only five eggs, two of them addled. Mr.

Tod had had an unsatisfactory night.

As usual, when out of humour, he determined to move house. First he tried the pollard willow, but it was damp; and the otters had left a dead fish near it. Mr. Tod likes nobody's leavings but his own.

He made his way up the hill; his temper was not improved by noticing unmistakable marks of badger. No one else grubs up the moss so wantonly as Tommy Brock.

Mr. Tod slapped his stick upon the earth and fumed; he guessed where Tommy Brock had gone to. He was further annoyed by the jay bird which followed him persistently. It flew from tree to tree and scolded, warning every rabbit within hearing that either a cat or a fox was coming up the plantation. Once when it flew screaming over his head-- Mr. Tod snapped at it, and barked.

He approached his house very carefully, with a large rusty key. He sniffed and his whiskers bristled. The house was locked up, but Mr. Tod had his doubts whether it was empty. He turned the rusty key in the lock; the rabbits below could hear it. Mr. Tod opened the door cautiously and went in.

The sight that met Mr. Tod's eyes in Mr. Tod's kitchen made Mr. Tod furious. There was Mr. Tod's chair, and Mr. Tod's pie dish, and his knife and fork and mustard and salt cellar and his table-cloth that he had left folded up in the dresser--all set out for supper (or breakfast)--without doubt for that odious Tommy Brock.

There was a smell of fresh earth and dirty badger, which fortunately overpowered all smell of rabbit.

But what absorbed Mr. Tod's attention was a noise--a deep slow regular snoring grunting noise, coming from his own bed.

He peeped through the hinges of the half-open bedroom door. Then he turned and came out of the house in a hurry. His whiskers bristled and his coat-collar stood on end with rage.

For the next twenty minutes Mr. Tod kept creeping cautiously into the house, and retreating hurriedly out again. By degrees he ventured further in--right into the bedroom. When he was outside the house, he scratched up the earth with fury. But when he was inside--he did not like the look of Tommy Brock's teeth.

He was lying on his back with his mouth open, grinning from ear to ear. He snored peacefully and regularly; but one eye was not perfectly shut.

Mr. Tod came in and out of the bedroom. Twice he brought in his walking-stick, and once he brought in the coal-scuttle. But he thought better of it, and took them away.

When he came back after removing the coal-scuttle, Tommy Brock was lying a little more sideways; but he seemed even sounder asleep. He was an incurably indolent person; he was not in the least afraid of Mr. Tod; he was simply too lazy and comfortable to move.

Mr. Tod came back yet again into the bedroom with a clothes line. He stood a minute watching Tommy Brock and listening attentively to the snores. They were very loud indeed, but seemed quite natural.

Mr. Tod turned his back towards the bed, and undid the window. It creaked; he turned round with a jump. Tommy Brock, who had opened one eye--shut it hastily. The snores continued.

Mr. Tod's proceedings were peculiar, and rather uneasy, (because the bed was between the window and the door of the bedroom). He opened the window a little way, and pushed out the greater part of the clothes line on to the window sill. The rest of the line, with a hook at the end, remained in his hand.

Tommy Brock snored conscientiously. Mr. Tod stood and looked at him for a minute; then he left the room again.

Tommy Brock opened both eyes, and looked at the rope and grinned. There was a noise outside the window. Tommy Brock shut his eyes in a hurry.

Mr. Tod had gone out at the front door, and round to the back of the house. On the way, he stumbled over the rabbit burrow. If he had had any idea who was inside it, he would have pulled them out quickly.

His foot went through the tunnel nearly upon the top of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin, but fortunately he thought that it was some more of Tommy Brock's work.

He took up the coil of line from the sill, listened for a moment, and then tied the rope to a tree.

Tommy Brock watched him with one eye, through the window. He was puzzled.

Mr. Tod fetched a large heavy pailful of water from the spring, and staggered with it through the kitchen into his bedroom.

Tommy Brock snored industriously, with rather a snort.

Mr. Tod put down the pail beside the bed, took up the end of rope with the hook--hesitated, and looked at Tommy Brock. The snores were almost apoplectic; but the grin was not quite so big.

Mr. Tod gingerly mounted a chair by the head of the bedstead. His legs were dangerously near to Tommy Brock's teeth.

He reached up and put the end of rope, with the hook, over the head of the tester bed, where the curtains ought to hang.

(Mr. Tod's curtains were folded up, and put away, owing to the house being unoccupied. So was the counterpane. Tommy Brock was covered with a blanket only.)  
Mr. Tod standing on the unsteady chair looked down upon him attentively; he really was a first prize sound sleeper!

It seemed as though nothing would waken him--not even the flapping rope across the bed.

Mr. Tod descended safely from the chair, and endeavoured to get up again with the pail of water. He intended to hang it from the hook, dangling over the head of Tommy Brock, in order to make a sort of shower-bath, worked by a string, through the window.

But naturally being a thin-legged person (though vindictive and sandy

whiskered)--he was quite unable to lift the heavy weight to the level of the hook and rope. He very nearly overbalanced himself.

The snores became more and more apoplectic. One of Tommy Brock's hind legs twitched under the blanket, but still he slept on peacefully.

Mr. Tod and the pail descended from the chair without accident. After considerable thought, he emptied the water into a wash-basin and jug. The empty pail was not too heavy for him; he slung it up wobbling over the head of Tommy Brock.

Surely there never was such a sleeper! Mr. Tod got up and down, down and up on the chair.

As he could not lift the whole pailful of water at once, he fetched a milk jug, and ladled quarts of water into the pail by degrees. The pail got fuller and fuller, and swung like a pendulum. Occasionally a drop splashed over; but still Tommy Brock snored regularly and never moved,--except one eye.

At last Mr. Tod's preparations were complete. The pail was full of water; the rope was tightly strained over the top of the bed, and across the window sill to the tree outside.

"It will make a great mess in my bedroom; but I could never sleep in that bed again without a spring cleaning of some sort," said Mr. Tod.

Mr. Tod took a last look at the badger and softly left the room. He went out of the house, shutting the

front door. The rabbits heard his footsteps over the tunnel.

He ran round behind the house, intending to undo the rope in order to let fall the pailful of water upon Tommy Brock--

"I will wake him up with an unpleasant surprise," said Mr. Tod.

The moment he had gone, Tommy Brock got up in a hurry; he rolled Mr. Tod's dressing-gown into a bundle, put it into the bed beneath the pail of water instead of himself, and left the room also--grinning immensely.

He went into the kitchen, lighted the fire and boiled the kettle; for the moment he did not trouble himself to cook the baby rabbits.

When Mr. Tod got to the tree, he found that the weight and strain had dragged the knot so tight that it was past untying. He was obliged to gnaw it with his teeth. He chewed and gnawed for more than twenty minutes. At last the rope gave way with such a sudden jerk that it nearly pulled his teeth out, and quite knocked him over backwards.

Inside the house there was a great crash and splash, and the noise of a pail rolling over and over.

But no screams. Mr. Tod was mystified; he sat quite still, and listened attentively. Then he peeped in at the window. The water was dripping from the bed, the pail had rolled into a corner.

In the middle of the bed under the blanket, was a wet flattened SOMETHING--much dinged in, in the

middle where the pail had caught it  
(as it were across the tummy). Its  
head was covered by the wet blanket  
and it was NOT SNORING ANY LONGER.

There was nothing stirring, and  
no sound except the drip, drop,  
drop drip of water trickling from  
the mattress.

Mr. Tod watched it for half an  
hour; his eyes glistened.

Then he cut a caper, and became  
so bold that he even tapped at  
the window; but the bundle never  
moved.

Yes--there was no doubt about  
it--it had turned out even better  
than he had planned; the pail had  
hit poor old Tommy Brock, and  
killed him dead!

"I will bury that nasty person in  
the hole which he has dug. I will  
bring my bedding out, and dry it in  
the sun," said Mr. Tod.

"I will wash the tablecloth and  
spread it on the grass in the sun to  
bleach. And the blanket must be  
hung up in the wind; and the bed  
must be thoroughly disinfected, and  
aired with a warming-pan; and  
warmed with a hot-water bottle."

"I will get soft soap, and monkey  
soap, and all sorts of soap; and  
soda and scrubbing brushes; and  
persian powder; and carbolic to  
remove the smell. I must have a  
disinfecting. Perhaps I may have  
to burn sulphur."

He hurried round the house to  
get a shovel from the kitchen--  
"First I will arrange the hole--  
then I will drag out that person in  
the blanket . . ."

He opened the door. . . .

Tommy Brock was sitting at Mr. Tod's kitchen table, pouring out tea from Mr. Tod's tea-pot into Mr. Tod's tea-cup. He was quite dry himself and grinning; and he threw the cup of scalding tea all over Mr. Tod.

Then Mr. Tod rushed upon Tommy Brock, and Tommy Brock grappled with Mr. Tod amongst the broken crockery, and there was a terrific battle all over the kitchen. To the rabbits underneath it sounded as if the floor would give way at each crash of falling furniture.

They crept out of their tunnel, and hung about amongst the rocks and bushes, listening anxiously.

Inside the house the racket was fearful. The rabbit babies in the oven woke up trembling; perhaps it was fortunate they were shut up inside.

Everything was upset except the kitchen table.

And everything was broken, except the mantelpiece and the kitchen fender. The crockery was smashed to atoms.

The chairs were broken, and the window, and the clock fell with a crash, and there were handfuls of Mr. Tod's sandy whiskers.

The vases fell off the mantelpiece, the canisters fell off the shelf; the kettle fell off the hob. Tommy Brock put his foot in a jar of raspberry Jam.

And the boiling water out of the

kettle fell upon the tail of Mr. Tod.

When the kettle fell, Tommy Brock, who was still grinning, happened to be uppermost; and he rolled Mr. Tod over and over like a log, out at the door.

Then the snarling and worrying went on outside; and they rolled over the bank, and down hill, bumping over the rocks. There will never be any love lost between Tommy Brock and Mr. Tod.

As soon as the coast was clear Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny came out of the bushes--

"Now for it! Run in, Cousin Benjamin! Run in and get them while I watch at the door."

But Benjamin was frightened--

"Oh; oh! they are coming back!"

"No they are not."

"Yes they are!"

"What dreadful bad language! I think they have fallen down the stone quarry."

Still Benjamin hesitated, and Peter kept pushing him--

"Be quick, it's all right. Shut the oven door, Cousin Benjamin, so that he won't miss them."

Decidedly there were lively doings in Mr. Tod's kitchen!

At home in the rabbit hole, things had not been quite comfortable.

After quarrelling at supper, Flopsy and old Mr. Bouncer had

passed a sleepless night, and quarrelled again at breakfast. Old Mr. Bouncer could no longer deny that he had invited company into the rabbit hole; but he refused to reply to the questions and reproaches of Flopsy. The day passed heavily.

Old Mr. Bouncer, very sulky, was huddled up in a corner, barricaded with a chair. Flopsy had taken away his pipe and hidden the tobacco. She had been having a complete turn out and spring-cleaning, to relieve her feelings. She had just finished. Old Mr. Bouncer, behind his chair, was wondering anxiously what she would do next.

In Mr. Tod's kitchen, amongst the wreckage, Benjamin Bunny picked his way to the oven nervously, through a thick cloud of dust. He opened the oven door, felt inside, and found something warm and wriggling. He lifted it out carefully, and rejoined Peter Rabbit.

"I've got them! Can we get away? Shall we hide, Cousin Peter?"

Peter pricked his ears; distant sounds of fighting still echoed in the wood.

Five minutes afterwards two breathless rabbits came scuttering away down Bull Banks, half carrying half dragging a sack between them, bumpetty bump over the grass. They reached home safely and burst into the rabbit hole.

Great was old Mr. Bouncer's relief and Flopsy's joy when Peter and Benjamin arrived in triumph with the young family. The rabbit-babies were rather tumbled and very hungry; they were fed and

put to bed. They soon recovered.

A long new pipe and a fresh supply of rabbit tobacco was presented to Mr. Bouncer. He was rather upon his dignity; but he accepted.

Old Mr. Bouncer was forgiven, and they all had dinner. Then Peter and Benjamin told their story--but they had not waited long enough to be able to tell the end of the battle between Tommy Brock and Mr. Tod.

THE END

THE TALE OF  
MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE

for  
THE REAL LITTLE LUCIE  
OF NEULANDS

ONCE upon a time there was a little girl called Lucie, who lived at a farm called Little-town. She was a good little girl--only she was always losing her pocket-handkerchiefs!

One day little Lucie came into the farm-yard crying--oh, she did cry so! "I've lost my pocket-handkin! Three handkins and a pinny! Have YOU seen them, Tabby Kitten?"

THE Kitten went on washing her white paws; so Lucie asked a speckled hen--

"Sally Henny-penny, has YOU found three pocket-handkins?"

But the speckled hen ran  
into a barn, clucking--

"I go barefoot, barefoot,  
barefoot!"

AND then Lucie asked Cock  
Robin sitting on a twig.

Cock Robin looked sideways  
at Lucie with his bright black  
eye, and he flew over a stile  
and away.

Lucie climbed upon the stile  
and looked up at the hill behind  
Little-town--a hill that goes  
up--up--into the clouds as  
though it had no top!

And a great way up the hillside  
she thought she saw some  
white things spread upon the  
grass.

LUCIE scrambled up the  
hill as fast as her stout  
legs would carry her; she ran  
along a steep path-way--up  
and up--until Little-town was  
right away down below--she  
could have dropped a pebble  
down the chimney!

PRESENTLY she came to  
a spring, bubbling out  
from the hill-side.

Some one had stood a tin  
can upon a stone to catch the  
water--but the water was  
already running over, for the  
can was no bigger than an  
egg-cup! And where the sand  
upon the path was wet--there  
were foot-marks of a VERY  
small person.

Lucie ran on, and on.

THE path ended under a  
big rock. The grass was  
short and green, and there

were clothes-props cut from  
bracken stems, with lines of  
plaited rushes, and a heap of  
tiny clothes pins--but no  
pocket-handkerchiefs!

But there was something  
else--a door! straight into the  
hill; and inside it some one  
was singing--

"Lily-white and clean, oh!  
With little frills between, oh!  
Smooth and hot--red rusty spot  
Never here be seen, oh!"

LUCIE, knocked--once--  
twice, and interrupted  
the song. A little frightened  
voice called out "Who's that?"

Lucie opened the door: and  
what do you think there was  
inside the hill?--a nice clean  
kitchen with a flagged floor  
and wooden beams--just like  
any other farm kitchen. Only  
the ceiling was so low that  
Lucie's head nearly touched it;  
and the pots and pans were  
small, and so was everything  
there.

THERE was a nice hot  
singey smell; and at the  
table, with an iron in her hand  
stood a very stout short person  
staring anxiously at Lucie.

Her print gown was tucked  
up, and she was wearing a  
large apron over her striped  
petticoat. Her little black  
nose went snuffle, snuffle, snuffle,  
and her eyes went twinkle,  
twinkle; and underneath her  
cap--where Lucie had yellow  
curls--that little person had  
PRICKLES!

"WHO are you?" said  
Lucie. "Have you

seen my pocket-handkins?"

The little person made a bob-curtsey--"Oh, yes, if you please'm; my name is Mrs. Tiggy-winkle; oh, yes if you please'm, I'm an excellent clear-starcher!" And she took something out of a clothes-basket, and spread it on the ironing-blanket.

"WHAT'S that thing?"  
said Lucie--"that's  
not my pocket-handkin?"

"Oh no, if you please'm;  
that's a little scarlet waist-coat  
belonging to Cock Robin!"

And she ironed it and folded  
it, and put it on one side.

THEN she took something  
else off a clothes-horse--  
"That isn't my pinny?" said  
Lucie.

"Oh no, if you please'm;  
that's a damask table-cloth  
belonging to Jenny Wren;  
look how it's stained with  
currant wine! It's very bad  
to wash!" said Mrs. Tiggy-  
winkle.

MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE'S  
nose went snuffle, snuffle,  
snuffle, and her eyes went  
twinkle, twinkle; and she  
fetched another hot iron from  
the fire.

"THERE'S one of my  
pocket-handkins!" cried  
Lucie--"and there's my pinny!"

Mrs. Tiggy-winkle ironed it,  
and goffered it, and shook out  
the frills.

"Oh that IS lovely!" said

Lucie.

"AND what are those long yellow things with fingers like gloves?"

"Oh, that's a pair of stockings belonging to Sally Henny-penny--look how she's worn the heels out with scratching in the yard! She'll very soon go barefoot!" said Mrs. Tiggy-winkle.

"WHY, there's another handkersniff--but it isn't mine; it's red?"

"Oh no, if you please'm; that one belongs to old Mrs. Rabbit; and it DID so smell of onions! I've had to wash it separately, I can't get out the smell."

"There's another one of mine," said Lucie.

"WHAT are those funny little white things?"

"That's a pair of mittens belonging to Tabby Kitten; I only have to iron them; she washes them herself."

"There's my last pocket-handkin!" said Lucie.

"AND what are you dipping into the basin of starch?"

"They're little dicky shirt-fronts belonging to Tom Titmouse --most terrible particular!" said Mrs. Tiggy-winkle.

"Now I've finished my ironing; I'm going to air some clothes."

"WHAT are these dear soft fluffy things?" said Lucie.

"Oh those are wooly coats  
belonging to the little lambs  
at Skelghyl."

"Will their jackets take off?"  
asked Lucy.

"Oh yes, if you please'm;  
look at the sheep-mark on the  
shoulder. And here's one  
marked for Gatesgarth, and  
three that come from Little-town.  
They're ALWAYS marked  
at washing!" said Mrs. Tiggy-  
winkle.

AND she hung up all sorts  
and sizes of clothes--  
small brown coats of mice;  
and one velvety black mole-  
skin waist-coat; and a red tail-  
coat with no tail belonging to  
Squirrel Nutkin; and a very  
much shrunk blue jacket  
belonging to Peter Rabbit; and  
a petticoat, not marked, that  
had gone lost in the washing  
--and at last the basket was  
empty!

THEN Mrs. Tiggy-winkle  
made tea--a cup for herself  
and a cup for Lucie. They  
sat before the fire on a bench  
and looked sideways at one  
another. Mrs. Tiggy-winkle's  
hand, holding the tea-cup, was  
very very brown, and very very  
wrinkly with the soap-suds;  
and all through her gown and  
her cap, there were HAIR-PINS  
sticking wrong end out; so  
that Lucie didn't like to sit  
too near her.

WHEN they had finished  
tea, they tied up the  
clothes in bundles; and Lucie's  
pocket-handkerchiefs were  
folded up inside her clean  
pinny, and fastened with a  
silver safety-pin.

And then they made up the fire with turf, and came out and locked the door, and hid the key under the door-sill.

THEN away down the hill trotted Lucie and Mrs. Tiggy-winkle with the bundles of clothes!

All the way down the path little animals came out of the fern to meet them; the very first that they met were Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny!

AND she gave them their nice clean clothes; and all the little animals and birds were so very much obliged to dear Mrs. Tiggy-winkle.

SO that at the bottom of the hill when they came to the stile, there was nothing left to carry except Lucie's one little bundle.

LUCIE scrambled up the stile with the bundle in her hand; and then she turned to say "Good-night," and to thank the washer-woman-- But what a VERY odd thing! Mrs. Tiggy-winkle had not waited either for thanks or for the washing bill!

She was running running running up the hill--and where was her white frilled cap? and her shawl? and her gown--and her petticoat?

AND how small she had grown--and how brown --and covered with PRICKLES!

Why! Mrs. Tiggy-winkle was nothing but a HEDGEHOG.

\* \* \* \*

(Now some people say that little  
Lucie had been asleep upon the stile--  
but then how could she have found  
three clean pocket-handkins and a pinny,  
pinned with a silver safety-pin?

And besides--\_I\_ have seen that door  
into the back of the hill called Cat  
Bells--and besides \_I\_ am very well  
acquainted with dear Mrs. Tiggy-winkle!)

## THE TALE OF GINGER & PICKLES

ONCE upon a time there was a  
village shop. The name over  
the window was "Ginger and  
Pickles."

It was a little small shop just the  
right size for Dolls--Lucinda and  
Jane Doll-cook always bought their  
groceries at Ginger and Pickles.

The counter inside was a  
convenient height for rabbits. Ginger  
and Pickles sold red spotty pocket-  
handkerchiefs at a penny three  
farthings.

They also sold sugar, and snuff  
and galoshes.

In fact, although it was such a  
small shop it sold nearly everything  
--except a few things that you  
want in a hurry--like bootlaces,  
hair-pins and mutton chops.

Ginger and Pickles were the  
people who kept the shop. Ginger  
was a yellow tom-cat, and Pickles  
was a terrier.

The rabbits were always a little  
bit afraid of Pickles.

The shop was also patronized by

mice--only the mice were rather afraid of Ginger.

Ginger usually requested Pickles to serve them, because he said it made his mouth water.

"I cannot bear," said he, "to see them going out at the door carrying their little parcels."

"I have the same feeling about rats," replied Pickles, "but it would never do to eat our own customers; they would leave us and go to Tabitha Twitchit's."

"On the contrary, they would go nowhere," replied Ginger gloomily.

(Tabitha Twitchit kept the only other shop in the village. She did not give credit.)

Ginger and Pickles gave unlimited credit.

Now the meaning of "credit" is this--when a customer buys a bar of soap, instead of the customer pulling out a purse and paying for it--she says she will pay another time.

And Pickles makes a low bow and says, "With pleasure, madam," and it is written down in a book.

The customers come again and again, and buy quantities, in spite of being afraid of Ginger and Pickles.

But there is no money in what is called the "till."

The customers came in crowds

every day and bought quantities,  
especially the toffee customers.  
But there was always no money;  
they never paid for as much as a  
pennyworth of peppermints.

But the sales were enormous, ten  
times as large as Tabitha Twitchit's.

As there was always no money,  
Ginger and Pickles were obliged to  
eat their own goods.

Pickles ate biscuits and Ginger  
ate a dried haddock.

They ate them by candle-light  
after the shop was closed.

When it came to Jan. 1st there  
was still no money, and Pickles  
was unable to buy a dog licence.

"It is very unpleasant, I am  
afraid of the police," said Pickles.

"It is your own fault for being  
a terrier; \_I\_ do not require a licence,  
and neither does Kep, the Collie  
dog."

"It is very uncomfortable, I am  
afraid I shall be summoned. I  
have tried in vain to get a licence  
upon credit at the Post Office;"  
said Pickles. "The place is full of  
policemen. I met one as I was  
coming home."

"Let us send in the bill again to  
Samuel Whiskers, Ginger, he owes  
22/9 for bacon."

"I do not believe that he intends  
to pay at all," replied Ginger.

"And I feel sure that Anna

Maria pockets things-- Where are all the cream crackers?" "You have eaten them yourself," replied Ginger.

Ginger and Pickles retired into the back parlour.

They did accounts. They added up sums and sums, and sums.

"Samuel Whiskers has run up a bill as long as his tail; he has had an ounce and three-quarters of snuff since October."

"What is seven pounds of butter at  $\frac{1}{3}$ , and a stick of sealing wax and four matches?"

"Send in all the bills again to everybody 'with compts'" replied Ginger.

After a time they heard a noise in the shop, as if something had been pushed in at the door. They came out of the back parlour. There was an envelope lying on the counter, and a policeman writing in a note-book!

Pickles nearly had a fit, he barked and he barked and made little rushes.

"Bite him, Pickles! bite him!" spluttered Ginger behind a sugar-barrel, "he's only a German doll!"

The policeman went on writing in his notebook; twice he put his pencil in his mouth, and once he dipped it in the treacle.

Pickles barked till he was hoarse. But still the policeman took no notice. He had bead eyes, and his

helmet was sewed on with stitches.

At length on his last little rush  
--Pickles found that the shop was  
empty. The policeman had disappeared.

But the envelope remained.

"Do you think that he has gone  
to fetch a real live policeman? I  
am afraid it is a summons," said  
Pickles.

"No," replied Ginger, who had  
opened the envelope, "it is the  
rates and taxes, L 3 19 11 3/4 ."

"This is the last straw," said  
Pickles, "let us close the shop."

They put up the shutters, and  
left. But they have not removed  
from the neighbourhood. In fact  
some people wish they had gone  
further.

Ginger is living in the warren. I  
do not know what occupation he  
pursues; he looks stout and  
comfortable.

Pickles is at present a gamekeeper.

The closing of the shop caused  
great inconvenience. Tabitha  
Twitchit immediately raised the  
price of everything a half-penny;  
and she continued to refuse to give  
credit.

Of course there are the trades-  
men's carts--the butcher, the fishman  
and Timothy Baker.

But a person cannot live on "seed  
wigs" and sponge-cake and butter-  
buns--not even when the sponge-

cake is as good as Timothy's!

After a time Mr. John Dormouse and his daughter began to sell peppermints and candles.

But they did not keep "self-fitting sixes"; and it takes five mice to carry one seven inch candle.

Besides--the candles which they sell behave very strangely in warm weather.

And Miss Dormouse refused to take back the ends when they were brought back to her with complaints.

And when Mr. John Dormouse was complained to, he stayed in bed, and would say nothing but "very snug;" which is not the way to carry on a retail business.

So everybody was pleased when Sally Henny Penny sent out a printed poster to say that she was going to re-open the shop--  
"Henny's Opening Sale! Grand co-operative Jumble! Penny's penny prices! Come buy, come try, come buy!"

The poster really was most 'ticing.

There was a rush upon the opening day. The shop was crammed with customers, and there were crowds of mice upon the biscuit canisters.

Sally Henny Penny gets rather flustered when she tries to count out change, and she insists on being paid cash; but she is quite harmless.

And she has laid in a remarkable  
assortment of bargains.

There is something to please  
everybody.

THE END

## THE STORY OF MISS MOPPET

THIS is a Pussy called  
Miss Moppet, she thinks  
she has heard a mouse!

THIS is the Mouse peeping  
out behind the cupboard,  
and making fun of  
Miss Moppet. He is not  
afraid of a kitten.

THIS is Miss Moppet  
jumping just too late;  
she misses the Mouse and  
hits her own head.

SHE thinks it is a very  
hard cupboard!

THE Mouse watches Miss  
Moppet from the top of  
the cupboard.

MISS MOPPET ties up  
her head in a duster,  
and sits before the fire.

THE Mouse thinks she is  
looking very ill. He  
comes sliding down the bell-  
pull.

MISS MOPPET looks  
worse and worse. The  
Mouse comes a little nearer.

MISS MOPPET holds  
her poor head in her  
paws, and looks at him  
through a hole in the duster.  
The Mouse comes VERY close.

AND then all of a sudden  
--Miss Moppet jumps  
upon the Mouse!

AND because the Mouse  
has teased Miss Moppet  
--Miss Moppet thinks she  
will tease the Mouse; which  
is not at all nice of Miss  
Moppet.

SHE ties him up in the  
duster, and tosses it  
about like a ball.

BUT she forgot about that  
hole in the duster; and  
when she untied it--there  
was no Mouse!

HE has wriggled out and  
run away; and he is  
dancing a jig on the top of  
the cupboard!

THE END

THE TALE OF  
MR. JEREMY FISHER

FOR  
STEPHANIE  
FROM  
COUSIN B.

ONCE upon a time there  
was a frog called Mr.  
Jeremy Fisher; he lived in a  
little damp house amongst the  
buttercups at the edge of a  
pond.

THE water was all slippy-  
sloppy in the larder and  
in the back passage.

But Mr. Jeremy liked  
getting his feet wet; nobody ever  
scolded him, and he never  
caught a cold!

HE was quite pleased when  
he looked out and saw  
large drops of rain, splashing  
in the pond--

"I WILL get some worms  
and go fishing and catch  
a dish of minnows for my  
dinner," said Mr. Jeremy  
Fisher. "If I catch more than  
five fish, I will invite my  
friends Mr. Alderman Ptolemy  
Tortoise and Sir Isaac Newton.  
The Alderman, however, eats  
salad."

MR. JEREMY put on a  
macintosh, and a pair  
of shiny goloshes; he took his  
rod and basket, and set off  
with enormous hops to the  
place where he kept his boat.

THE boat was round and  
green, and very like the  
other lily-leaves. It was  
tied to a water-plant in  
the middle of the pond.

MR. JEREMY took a reed  
pole, and pushed the  
boat out into open water. "I  
know a good place for minnows,"  
said Mr. Jeremy  
Fisher.

MR. JEREMY stuck his  
pole into the mud and  
fastened his boat to it.

Then he settled himself  
cross-legged and arranged his  
fishing tackle. He had the  
dearest little red float. His

rod was a tough stalk of grass, his line was a fine long white horse-hair, and he tied a little wriggling worm at the end.

THE rain trickled down his back, and for nearly an hour he stared at the float.

"This is getting tiresome, I think I should like some lunch," said Mr. Jeremy Fisher.

HE punted back again amongst the water-plants, and took some lunch out of his basket.

"I will eat a butterfly sandwich, and wait till the shower is over," said Mr. Jeremy Fisher.

A GREAT big water-beetle came up underneath the lily leaf and tweaked the toe of one of his goloshes.

Mr. Jeremy crossed his legs up shorter, out of reach, and went on eating his sandwich.

ONCE or twice something moved about with a rustle and a splash amongst the rushes at the side of the pond.

"I trust that is not a rat," said Mr. Jeremy Fisher; "I think I had better get away from here."

MR. JEREMY shoved the boat out again a little way, and dropped in the bait. There was a bite almost directly; the float gave a tremendous bobbit!

"A minnow! a minnow! I

have him by the nose!" cried  
Mr. Jeremy Fisher, jerking  
up his rod.

BUT what a horrible  
surprise! Instead of a  
smooth fat minnow, Mr.  
Jeremy landed little Jack  
Sharp the stickleback, covered  
with spines!

THE stickleback floundered  
about the boat, pricking  
and snapping until he was  
quite out of breath. Then he  
jumped back into the water.

AND a shoal of other little  
fishes put their heads  
out, and laughed at Mr.  
Jeremy Fisher.

AND while Mr. Jeremy sat  
disconsolately on the  
edge of his boat--sucking his  
sore fingers and peering down  
into the water--a MUCH worse  
thing happened; a really  
FRIGHTFUL thing it would have  
been, if Mr. Jeremy had not  
been wearing a macintosh!

A GREAT big enormous  
trout came up--ker-  
pflop-p-p-p! with a splash--  
and it seized Mr. Jeremy with  
a snap, "Ow! Ow! Ow!"--  
and then it turned and dived  
down to the bottom of the  
pond!

BUT the trout was so displeased  
with the taste of  
the macintosh, that in less  
than half a minute it spat him  
out again; and the only thing  
it swallowed was Mr. Jeremy's  
goloshes.

MR. JEREMY bounced up  
to the surface of the  
water, like a cork and the  
bubbles out of a soda water

bottle; and he swam with  
all his might to the edge of  
the pond.

HE scrambled out on the  
first bank he came to,  
and he hopped home across  
the meadow with his  
macintosh all in tatters.

"WHAT a mercy that was  
not a pike!" said  
Mr. Jeremy Fisher. "I have  
lost my rod and basket; but  
it does not much matter, for I  
am sure I should never have  
dared to go fishing again!"

HE put some sticking  
plaster on his fingers,  
and his friends both came to  
dinner. He could not offer  
them fish, but he had something  
else in his larder.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON  
wore his black and gold  
waistcoat,

AND Mr. Alderman Ptolemy  
Tortoise brought a salad  
with him in a string bag.

AND instead of a nice dish  
of minnows--they had a  
roasted grasshopper with  
lady-bird sauce; which frogs  
consider a beautiful treat; but  
\_I\_ think it must have been  
nasty!

THE END

THE TALE OF  
TIMMY TIPTOES

FOR

MANY UNKNOWN LITTLE FRIENDS,  
INCLUDING MONICA

ONCE upon a time there was  
a little fat comfortable  
grey squirrel, called Timmy  
Tiptoes. He had a nest  
thatched with leaves in the  
top of a tall tree; and he  
had a little squirrel wife called  
Goody.

TIMMY TIPTOES sat out,  
enjoying the breeze; he  
whisked his tail and chuckled  
--"Little wife Goody, the nuts  
are ripe; we must lay up a  
store for winter and spring."  
Goody Tiptoes was busy  
pushing moss under the  
thatch--"The nest is so  
snug, we shall be sound asleep  
all winter." "Then we shall  
wake up all the thinner, when  
there is nothing to eat in  
spring-time," replied prudent  
Timothy.

WHEN Timmy and Goody  
Tiptoes came to the  
nut thicket, they found other  
squirrels were there already.

Timmy took off his jacket  
and hung it on a twig; they  
worked away quietly by themselves.

EVERY day they made  
several journeys and  
picked quantities of nuts.  
They carried them away in  
bags, and stored them in  
several hollow stumps near  
the tree where they had built  
their nest.

WHEN these stumps were  
full, they began to  
empty the bags into a hole  
high up a tree, that had belonged  
to a wood-pecker; the

nuts rattled down--down--  
down inside.

"How shall you ever get  
them out again? It is like a  
money-box!" said Goody.

"I shall be much thinner  
before spring-time, my love,"  
said Timmy Tiptoes, peeping  
into the hole.

THEY did collect quantities  
--because they did not  
lose them! Squirrels who bury  
their nuts in the ground lose  
more than half, because they  
cannot remember the place.

The most forgetful squirrel  
in the wood was called Silvertail.  
He began to dig, and  
he could not remember. And  
then he dug again and found  
some nuts that did not belong  
to him; and there was a fight.  
And other squirrels began to  
dig,--the whole wood was in  
commotion!

UNFORTUNATELY, just  
at this time a flock of  
little birds flew by, from  
bush to bush, searching for  
green caterpillars and spiders.  
There were several sorts of  
little birds, twittering different  
songs.

The first one sang--  
"Who's bin digging-up MY  
nuts? Who's-been-digging-  
up MY nuts?"

And another sang--"Little  
bita bread and-NO-cheese!  
Little bit-a-bread an'-NO-  
cheese!"

THE squirrels followed and  
listened. The first little  
bird flew into the bush where  
Timmy and Goody Tiptoes

were quietly tying up their bags, and it sang--"Who's-bin digging-up MY nuts? Who's been digging-up MY-nuts?"

Timmy Tiptoes went on with his work without replying; indeed, the little bird did not expect an answer. It was only singing its natural song, and it meant nothing at all.

BUT when the other squirrels heard that song, they rushed upon Timmy Tiptoes and cuffed and scratched him, and upset his bag of nuts. The innocent little bird which had caused all the mischief, flew away in a fright!

Timmy rolled over and over, and then turned tail and fled towards his nest, followed by a crowd of squirrels shouting --"Who's-been digging-up MY-nuts?"

THEY caught him and dragged him up the very same tree, where there was the little round hole, and they pushed him in. The hole was much too small for Timmy Tiptoes' figure. They squeezed him dreadfully, it was a wonder they did not break his ribs. "We will leave him here till he confesses," said Silvertail Squirrel, and he shouted into the hole--

"Who's-been-digging-up MY-nuts?"

TIMMY TIPTOES made no reply; he had tumbled down inside the tree, upon half a peck of nuts belonging to himself. He lay quite stunned and still.

GOODY TIPTOES picked  
up the nut bags and went  
home. She made a cup of  
tea for Timmy; but he didn't  
come and didn't come.

Goody Tiptoes passed a  
lonely and unhappy night.  
Next morning she ventured  
back to the nut-bushes to look  
for him; but the other unkind  
squirrels drove her away.

She wandered all over the  
wood, calling--

"Timmy Tiptoes! Timmy  
Tiptoes! Oh, where is Timmy  
Tiptoes?"

IN the meantime Timmy  
Tiptoes came to his senses.  
He found himself tucked up  
in a little moss bed, very much  
in the dark, feeling sore; it  
seemed to be under ground.  
Timmy coughed and groaned,  
because his ribs hurted him.  
There was a chirpy noise, and  
a small striped Chipmunk  
appeared with a night light,  
and hoped he felt better?

It was most kind to Timmy  
Tiptoes; it lent him its nightcap;  
and the house was full  
of provisions.

THE Chipmunk explained  
that it had rained nuts  
through the top of the tree  
--"Besides, I found a few  
buried!" It laughed and  
chuckled when it heard  
Timmy's story. While Timmy  
was confined to bed, it 'ticed  
him to eat quantities--"But  
how shall I ever get out  
through that hole unless I  
thin myself? My wife will be  
anxious!" "Just another nut  
--or two nuts; let me crack

them for you," said the Chipmunk.  
Timmy Tiptoes grew  
fatter and fatter!

NOW Goody Tiptoes had  
set to work again by  
herself. She did not put any  
more nuts into the woodpecker's  
hole, because she had  
always doubted how they  
could be got out again. She  
hid them under a tree root;  
they rattled down, down,  
down. Once when Goody  
emptied an extra big bagful,  
there was a decided squeak;  
and next time Goody brought  
another bagful, a little striped  
Chipmunk scrambled out in a  
hurry.

"IT is getting perfectly full-  
up down-stairs; the  
sitting-room is full, and they are  
rolling along the passage; and  
my husband, Chippy Hackee,  
has run away and left me.  
What is the explanation of  
these showers of nuts?"

"I am sure I beg your  
pardon; I did not not know that  
anybody lived here," said Mrs.  
Goody Tiptoes; "but where is  
Chippy Hackee? My husband,  
Timmy Tiptoes, has run away  
too." "I know where Chippy  
is; a little bird told me," said  
Mrs. Chippy Hackee.

SHE led the way to the woodpecker's  
tree, and they  
listened at the hole.

Down below there was a  
noise of nut crackers, and a  
fat squirrel voice and a thin  
squirrel voice were singing  
together--

"My little old man and I fell out,  
How shall we bring this matter about?  
Bring it about as well as you can,

And get you gone, you little old man!"

"You could squeeze in,  
through that little  
round hole," said Goody  
Tiptoes. "Yes, I could," said  
the Chipmunk, "but my  
husband, Chippy Hackee,  
bites!"

Down below there was a  
noise of cracking nuts and  
nibbling; and then the fat  
squirrel voice and the thin  
squirrel voice sang--

"For the diddlum day  
Day diddle dum di!  
Day diddle diddle dum day!"

THEN Goody peeped in at  
the hole, and called  
down--"Timmy Tiptoes! Oh  
fie, Timmy Tiptoes!" And  
Timmy replied, "Is that you,  
Goody Tiptoes? Why, certainly!"

He came up and kissed  
Goody through the hole; but  
he was so fat that he could  
not get out.

Chippy Hackee was not too  
fat, but he did not want to  
come; he stayed down below  
and chuckled.

AND so it went on for a  
fortnight; till a big wind  
blew off the top of the tree,  
and opened up the hole and let  
in the rain.

Then Timmy Tiptoes came  
out, and went home with an  
umbrella.

BUT Chippy Hackee  
continued to camp out for  
another week, although it was  
uncomfortable.

AT last a large bear came  
walking through the  
wood. Perhaps he also was  
looking for nuts; he seemed  
to be sniffing around.

CHIPPY HACKEE went  
home in a hurry!

AND when Chippy Hackee  
got home, he found he  
had caught a cold in his head;  
and he was more uncomfortable  
still.

And now Timmy and  
Goody Tiptoes keep their  
nut-store fastened up with a  
little padlock.

AND whenever that little  
bird sees the Chipmunks,  
he sings--"Who's-been-  
digging-up MY-nuts? Who's  
been digging-up MY-nuts?"  
But nobody ever answers!

THE END

THE PIE  
AND  
THE PATTY-PAN

Pussy-cat sits by the fire--how should she be fair?  
In walks the little dog--says "Pussy are you there?  
How do you do mistress Pussy? Mistress Pussy, how do you do?"  
"I thank you kindly, little dog, I fare as well as you!"  
Old Rhyme.

ONCE upon a time there was a  
Pussy-cat called Ribby, who  
invited a little dog called Duchess  
to tea.

"Come in good time, my dear Duchess," said Ribby's letter, "and we will have something so very nice. I am baking it in a pie-dish--a pie-dish with a pink rim. You never tasted anything so good! And YOU shall eat it all! \_I\_ will eat muffins, my dear Duchess!" wrote Ribby.

Duchess read the letter and wrote an answer:--"I will come with much pleasure at a quarter past four. But it is very strange. \_I\_ was just going to invite you to come here, to supper, my dear Ribby, to eat something MOST DELICIOUS."

"I will come very punctually, my dear Ribby," wrote Duchess; and then at the end she added--"I hope it isn't mouse?"

And then she thought that did not look quite polite; so she scratched out "isn't mouse" and changed it to "I hope it will be fine," and she gave her letter to the postman.

But she thought a great deal about Ribby's pie, and she read Ribby's letter over and over again.

"I am dreadfully afraid it WILL be mouse!" said Duchess to herself--"I really couldn't, COULDN'T eat mouse pie. And I shall have to eat it, because it is a party. And MY pie was going to be veal and ham. A pink and white pie-dish! and so is mine; just like Ribby's dishes; they were both bought at Tabitha Twitchit's."

Duchess went into her larder and took the pie off a shelf and looked at it.

"It is all ready to put into the oven. Such lovely pie-crust; and I put in a little tin patty-pan to hold up the crust; and I made a

hole in the middle with a fork to let out the steam--Oh I do wish I could eat my own pie, instead of a pie made of mouse!"

Duchess considered and considered and read Ribby's letter again--

"A pink and white pie-dish-and YOU shall eat it all. 'You' means me--then Ribby is not going to even taste the pie herself? A pink and white pie-dish! Ribby is sure to go out to buy the muffins. . . . Oh what a good idea! Why shouldn't I rush along and put my pie into Ribby's oven when Ribby isn't there?"

Duchess was quite delighted with her own cleverness!

Ribby in the meantime had received Duchess's answer, and as soon as she was sure that the little dog would come--she popped HER pie into the oven. There were two ovens, one above the other; some other knobs and handles were only ornamental and not intended to open. Ribby put the pie into the lower oven; the door was very stiff.

"The top oven bakes too quickly," said Ribby to herself. "It is a pie of the most delicate and tender mouse minced up with bacon. And I have taken out all the bones; because Duchess did nearly choke herself with a fish-bone last time I gave a party. She eats a little fast --rather big mouthfuls. But a most genteel and elegant little dog infinitely superior company to Cousin Tabitha Twitchit."

Ribby put on some coal and swept up the hearth. Then she went out with a can to the well, for water to fill up the kettle.

Then she began to set the room in order, for it was the sitting-room as well as the kitchen. She shook the mats out at the front-door and put them straight; the hearth-rug was a rabbit-skin. She dusted the clock and the ornaments on the mantelpiece, and she polished and rubbed the tables and chairs.

Then she spread a very clean white table-cloth, and set out her best china tea-set, which she took out of a wall-cupboard near the fireplace. The tea-cups were white with a pattern of pink roses; and the dinner-plates were white and blue.

When Ribby had laid the table she took a jug and a blue and white dish, and went out down the field to the farm, to fetch milk and butter.

When she came back, she peeped into the bottom oven; the pie looked very comfortable.

Ribby put on her shawl and bonnet and went out again with a basket, to the village shop to buy a packet of tea, a pound of lump sugar, and a pot of marmalade.

And just at the same time, Duchess came out of HER house, at the other end of the village.

Ribby met Duchess half-way down the street, also carrying a basket, covered with a cloth. They only bowed to one another; they did not speak, because they were going to have a party.

As soon as Duchess had got round the corner out of sight--she simply ran! Straight away to Ribby's house!

Ribby went into the shop and bought what she required, and came out, after a pleasant gossip with Cousin Tabitha Twitchit.

Cousin Tabitha was disdainful afterwards in conversation--

"A little DOG indeed! Just as if there were no CATS in Sawrey! And a PIE for afternoon tea! The very idea!" said Cousin Tabitha Twitchit.

Ribby went on to Timothy Baker's and bought the muffins. Then she went home.

There seemed to be a sort of scuffling noise in the back passage, as she was coming in at the front door.

"I trust that is not that Pie: the spoons are locked up, however," said Ribby.

But there was nobody there. Ribby opened the bottom oven door with some difficulty, and turned the pie. There began to be a pleasing smell of baked mouse!

Duchess in the meantime, had slipped out at the back door.

"It is a very odd thing that Ribby's pie was NOT in the oven when I put mine in! And I can't find it anywhere; I have looked all over the house. I put MY pie into a nice hot oven at the top. I could not turn any of the other handles; I think that they are all shams," said Duchess, "but I wish I could have removed the pie made of mouse! I cannot think what she has done with it? I heard Ribby coming and I had to run out by the back door!"

Duchess went home and brushed her beautiful black coat; and then she picked a bunch of flowers in her garden as a present for Ribby; and passed the time until the clock struck four.

Ribby--having assured herself by careful search that there was really no one hiding in the cupboard or in the larder--went upstairs to change her dress.

She put on a lilac silk gown, for the party, and an embroidered muslin apron and tippet.

"It is very strange," said Ribby, "I did not THINK I left that drawer pulled out; has somebody been trying on my mittens?"

She came downstairs again, and made the tea, and put the teapot on the hob. She peeped again into the BOTTOM oven, the pie had become a lovely brown, and it was steaming hot.

She sat down before the fire to wait for the little dog. "I am glad I used the BOTTOM oven," said Ribby, "the top one would certainly have been very much too hot. I wonder why that cupboard door was open? Can there really have been some one in the house?"

Very punctually at four o'clock, Duchess started to go to the party. She ran so fast through the village that she was too early, and she had to wait a little while in the lane that leads down to Ribby's house.

"I wonder if Ribby has taken MY pie out of the oven yet?" said Duchess, "and whatever can have

become of the other pie made of mouse?"

At a quarter past four to the minute, there came a most genteel little tap-tappity. "Is Mrs. Ribston at home?" inquired Duchess in the porch.

"Come in! and how do you do, my dear Duchess?" cried Ribby. "I hope I see you well?"

"Quite well, I thank you, and how do YOU do, my dear Ribby?" said Duchess. "I've brought you some flowers; what a delicious smell of pie!"

"Oh, what lovely flowers! Yes, it is mouse and bacon!"

"Do not talk about food, my dear Ribby," said Duchess; "what a lovely white tea-cloth! . . . Is it done to a turn? Is it still in the oven?"

"I think it wants another five minutes," said Ribby. "Just a shade longer; I will pour out the tea, while we wait. Do you take sugar, my dear Duchess?"

"Oh yes, please! my dear Ribby; and may I have a lump upon my nose?"

"With pleasure, my dear Duchess; how beautifully you beg! Oh, how sweetly pretty!"

Duchess sat up with the sugar on her nose and sniffed--

"How good that pie smells! I do love veal and ham--I mean to say mouse and bacon----"

She dropped the sugar in

confusion, and had to go hunting under the tea-table, so did not see which oven Ribby opened in order to get out the pie.

Ribby set the pie upon the table; there was a very savoury smell.

Duchess came out from under the table-cloth munching sugar, and sat up on a chair.

"I will first cut the pie for you; I am going to have muffin and marmalade," said Ribby.

"Do you really prefer muffin? Mind the patty-pan!"

"I beg your pardon?" said Ribby.

"May I pass you the marmalade?" said Duchess hurriedly.

The pie proved extremely toothsome, and the muffins light and hot. They disappeared rapidly, especially the pie!

"I think"--(thought the Duchess to herself)--"I THINK it would be wiser if I helped myself to pie; though Ribby did not seem to notice anything when she was cutting it. What very small fine pieces it has cooked into! I did not remember that I had minced it up so fine; I suppose this is a quicker oven than my own."

"How fast Duchess is eating!" thought Ribby to herself, as she buttered her fifth muffin.

The pie-dish was emptying rapidly! Duchess had had four helps already, and was fumbling

with the spoon.

"A little more bacon, my dear Duchess?" said Ribby.

"Thank you, my dear Ribby; I was only feeling for the patty-pan."

"The patty-pan? my dear Duchess?"

"The patty-pan that held up the pie-crust," said Duchess, blushing under her black coat.

"Oh, I didn't put one in, my dear Duchess," said Ribby; "I don't think that it is necessary in pies made of mouse."

Duchess fumbled with the spoon --"I can't find it!" she said anxiously.

"There isn't a patty-pan," said Ribby, looking perplexed.

"Yes, indeed, my dear Ribby; where can it have gone to?" said Duchess.

"There most certainly is not one, my dear Duchess. I disapprove of tin articles in puddings and pies. It is most undesirable--(especially when people swallow in lumps!)" she added in a lower voice.

Duchess looked very much alarmed, and continued to scoop the inside of the pie-dish.

"My Great-aunt Squintina (grandmother of Cousin Tabitha Twitchit)--died of a thimble in a Christmas plum-pudding. \_I\_ never put any article of metal in MY puddings or pies."

Duchess looked aghast, and tilted up the pie-dish.

"I have only four patty-pans, and they are all in the cupboard."

Duchess set up a howl.

"I shall die! I shall die! I have swallowed a patty-pan! Oh, my dear Ribby, I do feel so ill!"

"It is impossible, my dear Duchess; there was not a patty-pan."

Duchess moaned and whined and rocked herself about.

"Oh I feel so dreadful. I have swallowed a patty-pan!"

"There was NOTHING in the pie," said Ribby severely.

"Yes there WAS, my dear Ribby, I am sure I have swallowed it!"

"Let me prop you up with a pillow, my dear Duchess; where do you think you feel it?"

"Oh I do feel so ill ALL OVER me, my dear Ribby; I have swallowed a large tin patty-pan with a sharp scalloped edge!"

"Shall I run for the doctor? I will just lock up the spoons!"

"Oh yes, yes! fetch Dr. Maggotty, my dear Ribby: he is a Pie himself, he will certainly understand."

Ribby settled Duchess in an armchair before the fire, and went out and hurried to the village to look for the doctor.

She found him at the smithy.

He was occupied in putting rusty nails into a bottle of ink, which he

had obtained at the post office.

"Gammon? ha! HA!" said he,  
with his head on one side.

Ribby explained that her guest  
had swallowed a patty-pan.

"Spinach? ha! HA!" said he,  
and accompanied her with alacrity.

He hopped so fast that Ribby--  
had to run. It was most conspicuous.  
All the village could see that  
Ribby was fetching the doctor.

"I KNEW they would over-eat  
themselves!" said Cousin Tabitha  
Twitchit.

But while Ribby had been hunting  
for the doctor--a curious thing  
had happened to Duchess, who had  
been left by herself, sitting before  
the fire, sighing and groaning and  
feeling very unhappy.

"How COULD I have swallowed it!  
such a large thing as a patty-pan!"

She got up and went to the table,  
and felt inside the pie-dish again  
with a spoon.

"No; there is no patty-pan, and  
I put one in; and nobody has eaten  
pie except me, so I must have  
swallowed it!"

She sat down again, and stared  
mournfully at the grate. The fire  
crackled and danced, and something  
sizz-z-zled!

Duchess started! She opened the  
door of the TOP oven;--out came a  
rich steamy flavour of veal and  
ham, and there stood a fine brown  
pie,--and through a hole in the top  
of the pie-crust there was a glimpse

of a little tin patty-pan!

Duchess drew a long breath--

"Then I must have been eating  
MOUSE! . . . NO wonder I feel ill.  
. . . But perhaps I should feel worse  
if I had really swallowed a patty-  
pan!" Duchess reflected--"What  
a very awkward thing to have  
to explain to Ribby! I think  
I will put my pie in the back-yard  
and say nothing about it. When  
I go home, I will run round and  
take it away." She put it outside  
the back-door, and sat down again  
by the fire, and shut her eyes; when  
Ribby arrived with the doctor, she  
seemed fast asleep.

"Gammon, ha, HA?" said the  
doctor.

"I am feeling very much better,"  
said Duchess, waking up with a  
jump.

"I am truly glad to hear it!"  
He has brought you a pill, my dear  
Duchess!"

"I think I should feel QUITE well  
if he only felt my pulse," said  
Duchess, backing away from the  
magpie, who sidled up with something  
in his beak.

"It is only a bread pill, you had  
much better take it; drink a little  
milk, my dear Duchess!"

"Gammon? Gammon?" said  
the doctor, while Duchess coughed  
and choked.

"Don't say that again!" said  
Ribby, losing her temper--"Here,  
take this bread and jam, and get out  
into the yard!"

"Gammon  
and spinach!

ha ha HA!"  
shouted Dr.  
Maggotty  
triumphantly outside the back door.

"I am feeling very much better,  
my dear Ribby," said Duchess.  
"Do you not think that I had better  
go home before it gets dark?"

"Perhaps it might be wise, my  
dear Duchess. I will lend you a  
nice warm shawl, and you shall  
take my arm."

"I would not trouble you for  
worlds; I feel wonderfully better.  
One pill of Dr. Maggotty----"

"Indeed it is most admirable, if  
it has cured you of a patty-pan! I  
will call directly after breakfast to  
ask how you have slept."

Ribby and Duchess said good-  
bye affectionately, and Duchess  
started home. Half-way up the  
lane she stopped and looked back;  
Ribby had gone in and shut her  
door. Duchess slipped through the  
fence, and ran round to the back  
of Ribby's house, and peeped into  
the yard.

Upon the roof of the pig-stye sat  
Dr. Maggotty and three jackdaws.  
The jackdaws were eating pie-  
crust, and the magpie was drinking  
gravy out of a patty-pan.

"Gammon, ha, HA!" he shouted  
when he saw Duchess's little black  
nose peeping round the corner.

Duchess ran home feeling uncommonly  
silly!

When Ribby came out for a pailful  
of water to wash up the tea-  
things, she found a pink and white

pie-dish lying smashed in the middle of the yard. The patty-pan was under the pump, where Dr Maggotty had considerably left it.

Ribby stared with amazement--  
"Did you ever see the like! so there really WAS a patty-pan? . . . . But my patty-pans are all in the kitchen cupboard. Well I never did! . . . .  
Next time I want to give a party  
--I will invite Cousin Tabitha Twitchit!"

THE END

THE TALE OF  
JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK  
A FARMYARD TALE  
FOR  
RALPH AND BETSY

WHAT a funny sight it is  
to see a brood of  
ducklings with a hen!  
--Listen to the story of  
Jemima Puddle-duck, who was  
annoyed because the farmer's  
wife would not let her hatch  
her own eggs.

HER sister-in-law, Mrs.  
Rebeccah Puddle-duck,  
was perfectly willing to leave  
the hatching to some one else  
--"I have not the patience to  
sit on a nest for twenty-eight  
days; and no more have you,  
Jemima. You would let them  
go cold; you know you would!"

"I wish to hatch my own  
eggs; I will hatch them all  
by myself," quacked Jemima  
Puddle-duck.

SHE tried to hide her eggs;  
but they were always found  
and carried off.

Jemima Puddle-duck  
became quite desperate. She  
determined to make a nest  
right away from the farm.

SHE set off on a fine spring  
afternoon along the cart-  
road that leads over the hill.

She was wearing a shawl  
and a poke bonnet.

WHEN she reached the top  
of the hill, she saw a  
wood in the distance.

She thought that it looked  
a safe quiet spot.

JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK  
was not much in the habit  
of flying. She ran downhill a  
few yards flapping her shawl,  
and then she jumped off into  
the air.

SHE flew beautifully when  
she had got a good start.

She skimmed along over the  
tree-tops until she saw an open  
place in the middle of the wood,  
where the trees and brushwood  
had been cleared.

JEMIMA alighted rather  
heavily, and began to  
waddle about in search of a  
convenient dry nesting-place.  
She rather fancied a tree-stump  
amongst some tall fox-gloves.

But--seated upon the stump,  
she was startled to find an  
elegantly dressed gentleman  
reading a newspaper.

He had black prick ears and

sandy coloured whiskers.

"Quack?" said Jemima  
Puddle-duck, with her head  
and her bonnet on one side--  
"Quack?"

THE gentleman raised his  
eyes above his newspaper  
and looked curiously at  
Jemima--

"Madam, have you lost your  
way?" said he. He had a long  
bushy tail which he was sitting  
upon, as the stump was somewhat  
damp.

Jemima thought him mighty  
civil and handsome. She  
explained that she had not  
lost her way, but that she was  
trying to find a convenient  
dry nesting-place.

"AH! is that so? indeed!" said  
the gentleman with sandy  
whiskers, looking curiously at  
Jemima. He folded up the  
newspaper, and put it in his  
coat-tail pocket.

Jemima complained of the  
superfluous hen.

"Indeed! how interesting!  
I wish I could meet with that  
fowl. I would teach it to mind  
its own business!"

"BUT as to a nest--there is  
no difficulty: I have a  
sackful of feathers in my wood-  
shed. No, my dear madam,  
you will be in nobody's way.  
You may sit there as long as  
you like," said the bushy long-  
tailed gentleman.

He led the way to a very  
retired, dismal-looking house  
amongst the fox-gloves.

It was built of faggots and  
turf, and there were two broken  
pails, one on top of another,  
by way of a chimney.

"THIS is my summer  
residence; you would not  
find my earth--my winter  
house--so convenient," said  
the hospitable gentleman.

There was a tumble-down  
shed at the back of the house,  
made of old soap-boxes. The  
gentleman opened the door,  
and showed Jemima in.

THE shed was almost quite  
full of feathers--it was  
almost suffocating; but it was  
comfortable and very soft.

Jemima Puddle-duck was  
rather surprised to find such a  
vast quantity of feathers. But  
it was very comfortable; and  
she made a nest without any  
trouble at all.

WHEN she came out, the  
sandy whiskered gentleman  
was sitting on a log  
reading the newspaper--at  
least he had it spread out, but  
he was looking over the top  
of it.

He was so polite, that he  
seemed almost sorry to let  
Jemima go home for the night.  
He promised to take great care  
of her nest until she came back  
again next day.

He said he loved eggs and  
ducklings; he should be proud  
to see a fine nestful in his  
wood-shed.

JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK  
came every afternoon; she  
laid nine eggs in the nest.  
They were greeny white and

very large. The foxy gentleman admired them immensely. He used to turn them over and count them when Jemima was not there.

At last Jemima told him that she intended to begin to sit next day--"and I will bring a bag of corn with me, so that I need never leave my nest until the eggs are hatched. They might catch cold," said the conscientious Jemima.

"MADAM, I beg you not to trouble yourself with a bag; I will provide oats. But before you commence your tedious sitting, I intend to give you a treat. Let us have a dinner-party all to ourselves!

"May I ask you to bring up some herbs from the farm-garden to make a savoury omelette? Sage and thyme, and mint and two onions, and some parsley. I will provide lard for the stuff-lard for the omelette," said the hospitable gentleman with sandy whiskers.

JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK was a simpleton: not even the mention of sage and onions made her suspicious.

She went round the farm-garden, nibbling off snippets of all the different sorts of herbs that are used for stuffing roast duck.

AND she waddled into the kitchen, and got two onions out of a basket.

The collie-dog Kep met her coming out, "What are you doing with those onions? Where do you go every afternoon by yourself, Jemima

Puddle-duck?"

Jemima was rather in awe of the collie; she told him the whole story.

The collie listened, with his wise head on one side; he grinned when she described the polite gentleman with sandy whiskers.

HE asked several questions about the wood, and about the exact position of the house and shed.

Then he went out, and trotted down the village. He went to look for two fox-hound puppies who were out at walk with the butcher.

JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK went up the cart-road for the last time, on a sunny afternoon. She was rather burdened with bunches of herbs and two onions in a bag.

She flew over the wood, and alighted opposite the house of the bushy long-tailed gentleman.

HE was sitting on a log; he sniffed the air, and kept glancing uneasily round the wood. When Jemima alighted he quite jumped.

"Come into the house as soon as you have looked at your eggs. Give me the herbs for the omelette. Be sharp!"

He was rather abrupt. Jemima Puddle-duck had never heard him speak like that.

She felt surprised, and uncomfortable.

WHILE she was inside she heard pattering feet round the back of the shed. Some one with a black nose sniffed at the bottom of the door, and then locked it.

Jemima became much alarmed.

A MOMENT afterwards there were most awful noises--barking, baying, growls and howls, squealing and groans.

And nothing more was ever seen of that foxy-whiskered gentleman.

PRESENTLY Kep opened the door of the shed, and let out Jemima Puddle-duck.

Unfortunately the puppies rushed in and gobbled up all the eggs before he could stop them.

He had a bite on his ear and both the puppies were limping.

JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK was escorted home in tears on account of those eggs.

SHE laid some more in June, and she was permitted to keep them herself: but only four of them hatched.

Jemima Puddle-duck said that it was because of her nerves; but she had always been a bad sitter.

THE END

THE TALE OF  
PIGLING BLAND

FOR  
CECILY AND CHARLIE,  
A TALE OF  
THE CHRISTMAS FIG.

THE TALE OF PIGLING BLAND

ONCE upon a time there was an old pig called Aunt Pettitoes. She had eight of a family: four little girl pigs, called Cross-patch, Suck-suck, Yock-yock and Spot;

and four little boy pigs, called Alexander, Pigling Bland, Chin-chin and Stumpy. Stumpy had had an accident to his tail.

The eight little pigs had very fine appetites. "Yus, yus, yus! they eat and indeed they DO eat!" said Aunt Pettitoes, looking at her family with pride. Suddenly there were fearful squeals; Alexander had squeezed inside the hoops of the pig trough and stuck.

Aunt Pettitoes and I dragged him out by the hind legs.

Chin-chin was already in disgrace; it was washing day, and he had eaten a piece of soap. And presently in a basket of clean clothes, we found another dirty little pig. "Tchut, tut, tut! whichever is this?" grunted Aunt Pettitoes.

Now all the pig family are pink, or pink with black spots, but this pig child was smutty black all over; when it had been popped into a tub, it proved to be Yock-yock.

I went into the garden; there I

found Cross-patch and Suck-suck rooting up carrots. I whipped them myself and led them out by the ears. Cross-patch tried to bite me.

"Aunt Pettitoes, Aunt Pettitoes! you are a worthy person, but your family is not well brought up. Every one of them has been in mischief except Spot and Pigling Bland."

"Yus, yus!" sighed Aunt Pettitoes. "And they drink bucketfuls of milk; I shall have to get another cow! Good little Spot shall stay at home to do the housework; but the others must go. Four little boy pigs and four little girl pigs are too many altogether." "Yus, yus, yus," said Aunt Pettitoes, "there will be more to eat without them."

So Chin-chin and Suck-suck went away in a wheel-barrow, and Stumpy, Yock-yock and Cross-patch rode away in a cart.

And the other two little boy pigs, Pigling Bland and Alexander, went to market. We brushed their coats, we curled their tails and washed their little faces, and wished them good-bye in the yard.

Aunt Pettitoes wiped her eyes with a large pocket handkerchief, then she wiped Pigling Bland's nose and shed tears; then she wiped Alexander's nose and shed tears; then she passed the handkerchief to Spot. Aunt Pettitoes sighed and grunted, and addressed those little pigs as follows:

"Now Pigling Bland, son Pigling Bland, you must go to market. Take your brother Alexander by the hand. Mind your Sunday clothes, and remember to blow your nose"--

(Aunt Pettitoes passed round the handkerchief again)--"beware of traps, hen roosts, bacon and eggs; always walk upon your hind legs."  
Pigling Bland, who was a sedate little pig, looked solemnly at his mother, a tear trickled down his cheek.

Aunt Pettitoes turned to the other--"Now son Alexander take the hand"--"Wee, wee, wee!" giggled Alexander--"take the hand of your brother Pigling Bland, you must go to market. Mind--" "Wee, wee, wee!" interrupted Alexander again. "You put me out," said Aunt Pettitoes.

"Observe sign-posts and milestones; do not gobble herring bones--"  
"And remember," said I impressively, "if you once cross the county boundary you cannot come back.

Alexander, you are not attending. Here are two licences permitting two pigs to go to market in Lancashire. Attend, Alexander. I have had no end of trouble in getting these papers from the policeman."

Pigling Bland listened gravely; Alexander was hopelessly volatile.

I pinned the papers, for safety, inside their waistcoat pockets;

Aunt Pettitoes gave to each a little bundle, and eight conversation peppermints with appropriate moral sentiments in screws of paper. Then they started.

Pigling Bland and Alexander trotted along steadily for a mile; at least Pigling Bland did. Alexander made the road half as long again by skipping from side to side. He danced about and pinched his brother, singing--

"This pig went to market, this pig  
stayed at home,  
"This pig had a bit of meat--

let's see what they have given US  
for dinner, Pigling?"

Pigling Bland and Alexander  
sat down and untied their bundles.  
Alexander gobbled up his dinner  
in no time; he had already eaten  
all his own peppermints. "Give  
me one of yours, please, Pigling."

"But I wish to preserve them for  
emergencies," said Pigling Bland  
doubtfully. Alexander went into  
squeals of laughter. Then he  
pricked Pigling with the pin that  
had fastened his pig paper; and  
when Pigling slapped him he  
dropped the pin, and tried to take  
Pigling's pin, and the papers got  
mixed up. Pigling Bland reproved  
Alexander.

But presently they made it up  
again, and trotted away together,  
singing--

"Tom, Tom, the piper's son, stole a pig  
and away he ran!  
"But all the tune that he could play,  
was 'Over the hills and far away!'"

"What's that, young sirs? Stole  
a pig? Where are your licences?"  
said the policeman. They had  
nearly run against him round a  
corner. Pigling Bland pulled out his  
paper; Alexander, after fumbling,  
handed over something scrumply--

"To 2 1/2 oz. conversation sweeties  
at three farthings"--"What's this?  
This ain't a licence." Alexander's  
nose lengthened visibly, he had lost  
it. "I had one, indeed I had, Mr.

Policeman!"

"It's not likely they let you start without. I am passing the farm. You may walk with me." "Can I come back too?" inquired Pigling Bland. "I see no reason, young sir; your paper is all right." Pigling Bland did not like going on alone, and it was beginning to rain. But it is unwise to argue with the police; he gave his brother a peppermint, and watched him out of sight.

To conclude the adventures of Alexander--the policeman sauntered up to the house about tea time, followed by a damp subdued little pig. I disposed of Alexander in the neighbourhood; he did fairly well when he had settled down.

Pigling Bland went on alone dejectedly; he came to cross-roads and a sign-post--"To Market Town, 5 miles," "Over the Hills, 4 miles," "To Pettitoes Farm, 3 miles."

Pigling Bland was shocked, there was little hope of sleeping in Market Town, and to-morrow was the hiring fair; it was deplorable to think how much time had been wasted by the frivolity of Alexander.

He glanced wistfully along the road towards the hills, and then set off walking obediently the other way, buttoning up his coat against the rain. He had never wanted to go; and the idea of standing all by himself in a crowded market, to be stared at, pushed, and hired by some big strange farmer was very disagreeable--

"I wish I could have a little garden and grow potatoes," said Pigling Bland.

He put his cold hand in his pocket and felt his paper, he put his other hand in his other pocket and felt another paper--Alexander's! Pigling squealed; then ran back frantically, hoping to overtake Alexander and the policeman.

He took a wrong turn--several wrong turns, and was quite lost.

It grew dark, the wind whistled, the trees creaked and groaned.

Pigling Bland became frightened and cried "Wee, wee, wee! I can't find my way home!"

After an hour's wandering he got out of the wood; the moon shone through the clouds, and Pigling Bland saw a country that was new to him.

The road crossed a moor; below was a wide valley with a river twinkling in the moonlight, and beyond, in misty distance, lay the hills.

He saw a small wooden hut, made his way to it, and crept inside--"I am afraid it IS a hen house, but what can I do?" said Pigling Bland, wet and cold and quite tired out.

"Bacon and eggs, bacon and eggs!" clucked a hen on a perch.

"Trap, trap, trap! cackle, cackle, cackle!" scolded the disturbed cockerel. "To market, to market! jiggetty jig!" clucked a broody white hen roosting next to him. Pigling Bland, much alarmed, determined to leave at daybreak. In the meantime, he and the hens fell asleep.

In less than an hour they were all awakened. The owner, Mr. Peter Thomas Piperson, came with a lantern and a hamper to catch six fowls to take to market in the morning.

He grabbed the white hen roosting next to the cock; then his eye fell upon Pigling Bland, squeezed up in a corner. He made a singular remark--"Hallo, here's another!"--seized Pigling by the scruff of the neck, and dropped him into the hamper. Then he dropped in five more dirty, kicking, cackling hens upon the top of Pigling Bland.

The hamper containing six fowls and a young pig was no light weight; it was taken down hill, unsteadily, with jerks. Pigling, although nearly scratched to pieces, contrived to hide the papers and peppermints inside his clothes.

At last the hamper was bumped down upon a kitchen floor, the lid was opened, and Pigling was lifted out. He looked up, blinking, and saw an offensively ugly elderly man, grinning from ear to ear.

"This one's come of himself, whatever," said Mr. Piperson, turning Pigling's pockets inside out. He pushed the hamper into a corner, threw a sack over it to keep the hens quiet, put a pot on the fire, and unlaced his boots.

Pigling Bland drew forward a cobby stool, and sat on the edge of it, shyly warming his hands. Mr. Piperson pulled off a boot and threw it against the wainscot at the further end of the kitchen. There was a smothered noise--"Shut up!" said Mr. Piperson. Pigling Bland warmed his hands,

and eyed him.

Mr. Piperson pulled off the other boot and flung it after the first, there was again a curious noise-- "Be quiet, will ye?" said Mr. Piperson. Pigling Bland sat on the very edge of the cobby stool.

Mr. Piperson fetched meal from a chest and made porridge. It seemed to Pigling that something at the further end of the kitchen was taking a suppressed interest in the cooking, but he was too hungry to be troubled by noises.

Mr. Piperson poured out three platefuls: for himself, for Pigling, and a third--after glaring at Pigling --he put away with much scuffling, and locked up. Pigling Bland ate his supper discreetly.

After supper Mr. Piperson consulted an almanac, and felt Pigling's ribs; it was too late in the season for curing bacon, and he grudged his meal. Besides, the hens had seen this pig.

He looked at the small remains of a flitch, and then looked undecidedly at Pigling. "You may sleep on the rug," said Mr. Peter Thomas Piperson.

Pigling Bland slept like a top. In the morning Mr. Piperson made more porridge; the weather was warmer. He looked to see how much meal was left in the chest, and seemed dissatisfied--"You'll likely be moving on again?" said he to Pigling Bland.

Before Pigling could reply, a neighbour, who was giving Mr. Piperson and the hens a lift,

whistled from the gate. Mr. Piperson hurried out with the hamper, enjoining Pigling to shut the door behind him and not meddle with nought; or "I'll come back and skin ye!" said Mr. Piperson.

It crossed Pigling's mind that if HE had asked for a lift, too, he might still have been in time for market.

But he distrusted Peter Thomas.

After finishing breakfast at his leisure, Pigling had a look round the cottage; everything was locked up. He found some potato peelings in a bucket in the back kitchen. Pigling ate the peel, and washed up the porridge plates in the bucket. He sang while he worked--

"Tom with his pipe made such a noise,  
He called up all the girls and boys--  
"And they all ran to hear him play  
"Over the hills and far away!"

Suddenly a little smothered voice chimed in--

"Over the hills and a great way off,  
The wind shall blow my top knot off!"

Pigling Bland put down a plate which he was wiping, and listened.

After a long pause, Pigling went on tip-toe and peeped round the door into the front kitchen. There was nobody there.

After another pause, Pigling approached the door of the locked cupboard, and snuffed at the key-hole. It was quite quiet.

After another long pause, Pigling pushed a peppermint under the door. It was sucked in immediately.

In the course of the day Pigling pushed in all the remaining six peppermints.

When Mr. Piperson returned, he found Pigling sitting before the fire; he had brushed up the hearth and put on the pot to boil; the meal was not get-at-able.

Mr. Piperson was very affable; he slapped Pigling on the back, made lots of porridge and forgot to lock the meal chest. He did lock the cupboard door; but without properly shutting it. He went to bed early, and told Pigling upon no account to disturb him next day before twelve o'clock.

Pigling Bland sat by the fire, eating his supper.

All at once at his elbow, a little voice spoke--"My name is Pig-wig. Make me more porridge, please!" Pigling Bland jumped, and looked round.

A perfectly lovely little black Berkshire pig stood smiling beside him. She had twinkly little screwed up eyes, a double chin, and a short turned up nose.

She pointed at Pigling's plate; he hastily gave it to her, and fled to the meal chest. "How did you come here?" asked Pigling Bland.

"Stolen," replied Pig-wig, with her mouth full. Pigling helped himself to meal without scruple. "What for?" "Bacon, hams," replied Pig-wig cheerfully. "Why on earth don't you run away?"

exclaimed the horrified Pigling.

"I shall after supper," said Pig-wig decidedly.

Pigling Bland made more porridge and watched her shyly.

She finished a second plate, got up, and looked about her, as though she were going to start.

"You can't go in the dark," said Pigling Bland.

Pig-wig looked anxious.

"Do you know your way by daylight?"

"I know we can see this little white house from the hills across the river. Which way are YOU going, Mr. Pig?"

"To market--I have two pig papers. I might take you to the bridge; if you have no objection," said Pigling much confused and sitting on the edge of his cobby stool. Pig-wig's gratitude was such and she asked so many questions that it became embarrassing to Pigling Bland.

He was obliged to shut his eyes and pretend to sleep. She became quiet, and there was a smell of peppermint.

"I thought you had eaten them," said Pigling, waking suddenly.

"Only the corners," replied Pig-wig, studying the sentiments with much interest by the firelight.

"I wish you wouldn't; he might smell them through the ceiling," said the alarmed Pigling.

Pig-wig put back the sticky

peppermints into her pocket; "Sing something," she demanded.

"I am sorry . . . I have tooth-ache," said Pigling much dismayed.

"Then I will sing," replied Pig-wig.  
"You will not mind if I say iddy tidditty? I have forgotten some of the words."

Pigling Bland made no objection; he sat with his eyes half shut, and watched her.

She wagged her head and rocked about, clapping time and singing in a sweet little grunty voice--

"A funny old mother pig lived in a  
stye, and three little piggies had she;  
"(Ti idditty idditty) umph, umph,  
umph! and the little pigs said, wee, wee!"

She sang successfully through three or four verses, only at every verse her head nodded a little lower, and her little twinkly eyes closed up.

"Those three little piggies grew peaky  
and lean, and lean they might very  
well be;  
"For somehow they couldn't say umph,  
umph, umph! and they wouldn't  
say wee, wee, wee!  
"For somehow they couldn't say--

Pig-wig's head bobbed lower and lower, until she rolled over, a little round ball, fast asleep on the hearth-rug.

Pigling Bland, on tip-toe, covered her up with an antimacassar.

He was afraid to go to sleep himself; for the rest of the night he sat listening to the chirping of the

crickets and to the snores of Mr. Piperson overhead.

Early in the morning, between dark and daylight, Pigling tied up his little bundle and woke up Pig-wig. She was excited and half-frightened. "But it's dark! How can we find our way?"

"The cock has crowed; we must start before the hens come out; they might shout to Mr. Piperson."

Pig-wig sat down again, and commenced to cry.

"Come away Pig-wig; we can see when we get used to it. Come! I can hear them clucking!"

Pigling had never said shuh! to a hen in his life, being peaceable; also he remembered the hamper.

He opened the house door quietly and shut it after them. There was no garden; the neighbourhood of Mr. Piperson's was all scratched up by fowls. They slipped away hand in hand across an untidy field to the road.

The sun rose while they were crossing the moor, a dazzle of light over the tops of the hills. The sunshine crept down the slopes into the peaceful green valleys, where little white cottages nestled in gardens and orchards.

"That's Westmorland," said Pig-wig. She dropped Pigling's hand and commenced to dance, singing--

"Tom, Tom, the piper's son, stole a pig  
and away he ran!"

"But all the tune that he could play,  
was 'Over the hills and far away!'"

"Come, Pig-wig, we must get to  
the bridge before folks are stirring."  
"Why do you want to go to market,  
Pigling?" inquired Pig-wig presently.  
"I don't want; I want to  
grow potatoes." "Have a peppermint?"  
said Pig-wig. Pigling  
Bland refused quite crossly. "Does  
your poor toothy hurt?" inquired  
Pig-wig. Pigling Bland grunted.

Pig-wig ate the peppermint  
herself and followed the opposite side  
of the road. "Pig-wig! keep under  
the wall, there's a man ploughing."  
Pig-wig crossed over, they hurried  
down hill towards the county boundary.

Suddenly Pigling stopped; he  
heard wheels.

Slowly jogging up the road below  
them came a tradesman's cart. The  
reins flapped on the horse's back,  
the grocer was reading a newspaper.

"Take that peppermint out of  
your mouth, Pig-wig, we may have  
to run. Don't say one word. Leave  
it to me. And in sight of the bridge!"  
said poor Pigling, nearly crying.  
He began to walk frightfully lame,  
holding Pig-wig's arm.

The grocer, intent upon his news-  
paper, might have passed them, if  
his horse had not shied and snorted.  
He pulled the cart crossways, and  
held down his whip. "Hallo!  
Where are YOU going to?"--Pigling  
Bland stared at him vacantly.

"Are you deaf? Are you going  
to market?" Pigling nodded slowly.

"I thought as much. It was yesterday. Show me your licence?"

Pigling stared at the off hind shoe of the grocer's horse which had picked up a stone.

The grocer flicked his whip--  
"Papers? Pig licence?" Pigling fumbled in all his pockets, and handed up the papers. The grocer read them, but still seemed dissatisfied.

"This here pig is a young lady; is her name Alexander?" Pig-wig opened her mouth and shut it again; Pigling coughed asthmatically.

The grocer ran his finger down the advertisement column of his newspaper--"Lost, stolen or strayed, 10s. reward." He looked suspiciously at Pig-wig. Then he stood up in the trap, and whistled for the ploughman.

"You wait here while I drive on and speak to him," said the grocer, gathering up the reins. He knew that pigs are slippery; but surely, such a VERY lame pig could never run!

"Not yet, Pig-wig, he will look back." The grocer did so; he saw the two pigs stock-still in the middle of the road. Then he looked over at his horse's heels; it was lame also; the stone took some time to knock out, after he got to the ploughman.

"Now, Pig-wig, NOW!" said Pigling Bland.

Never did any pigs run as these pigs ran! They raced and squealed and pelted down the long white hill towards the bridge. Little fat Pig-wig's petticoats fluttered, and her

feet went pitter, patter, pitter, as she bounded and jumped.

They ran, and they ran, and they ran down the hill, and across a short cut on level green turf at the bottom, between pebble beds and rushes.

They came to the river, they came to the bridge--they crossed it hand in hand-- then over the hills and far away she danced with Pigling Bland!

THE END

THE TALE OF  
TWO BAD MICE

FOR  
W. M. L. W.  
THE LITTLE GIRL  
WHO HAD THE DOLL HOUSE

ONCE upon a time there was a very beautiful doll's house; it was red brick with white windows, and it had real muslin curtains and a front door and a chimney.

IT belonged to two Dolls called Lucinda and Jane; at least it belonged to Lucinda, but she never ordered meals.

Jane was the Cook; but she never did any cooking, because the dinner had been bought ready-made, in a box full of shavings.

THERE were two red lobsters, and a ham, a fish,

a pudding, and some pears and oranges.

They would not come off the plates, but they were extremely beautiful.

ONE morning Lucinda and Jane had gone out for a drive in the doll's perambulator. There was no one in the nursery, and it was very quiet. Presently there was a little scuffling, scratching noise in a corner near the fireplace, where there was a hole under the skirting-board.

Tom Thumb put out his head for a moment, and then popped it in again.

Tom Thumb was a mouse.

A MINUTE afterwards Hunca Munca, his wife, put her head out, too; and when she saw that there was no one in the nursery, she ventured out on the oilcloth under the coal-box.

THE doll's house stood at the other side of the fireplace. Tom Thumb and Hunca Munca went cautiously across the hearth-rug. They pushed the front door--it was not fast.

TOM THUMB and Hunca Munca went up-stairs and peeped into the dining-room. Then they squeaked with joy!

Such a lovely dinner was laid out upon the table! There were tin spoons, and lead knives and forks, and two dolly-chairs --all SO convenient!

TOM THUMB set to work

at once to carve the ham.  
It was a beautiful shiny yellow,  
streaked with red.

The knife crumpled up and  
hurt him; he put his finger in  
his mouth.

"It is not boiled enough; it  
is hard. You have a try,  
Hunca Munca."

HUNCA MUNCA stood  
up in her chair, and  
chopped at the ham with  
another lead knife.

"It's as hard as the hams  
at the cheesemonger's," said  
Hunca Munca.

THE ham broke off the  
plate with a jerk, and  
rolled under the table.

"Let it alone," said Tom  
Thumb; "give me some fish,  
Hunca Munca!"

HUNCA MUNCA tried  
every tin spoon in turn;  
the fish was glued to the dish.

Then Tom Thumb lost his  
temper. He put the ham in  
the middle of the floor, and hit  
it with the tongs and with  
the shovel--bang, bang, smash,  
smash!

The ham flew all into pieces,  
for underneath the shiny paint  
it was made of nothing but  
plaster!

THEN there was no end to  
the rage and disappointment  
of Tom Thumb and Hunca  
Munca. They broke up  
the pudding, the lobsters,  
the pears, and the oranges.

As the fish would not come

off the plate, they put it into the red-hot crinkly paper fire in the kitchen; but it would not burn either.

TOM THUMB went up the kitchen chimney and looked out at the top--there was no soot.

WHILE Tom Thumb was up the chimney, Hunca Munca had another disappointment. She found some tiny canisters upon the dresser, labeled "Rice," "Coffee" "Sago"; but when she turned them upside down there was nothing inside except red and blue beads.

THEN those mice set to work to do all the mischief they could--especially Tom Thumb! He took Jane's clothes out of the chest of drawers in her bedroom, and he threw them out of the top-floor window.

But Hunca Munca had a frugal mind. After pulling half the feathers out of Lucinda's bolster, she remembered that she herself was in want of a feather-bed.

WITH Tom Thumb's assistance she carried the bolster down-stairs and across the hearth-rug. It was difficult to squeeze the bolster into the mouse-hole; but they managed it somehow.

THEN Hunca Munca went back and fetched a chair, a bookcase, a bird-cage, and several small odds and ends. The bookcase and the bird-cage refused to go into the mouse-hole.

HUNCA MUNCA left

them behind the coal-box, and went to fetch a cradle.

HUNCA MUNCA was just returning with another chair, when suddenly there was a noise of talking outside upon the landing. The mice rushed back to their hole, and the dolls came into the nursery.

WHAT a sight met the eyes of Jane and Lucinda!

Lucinda sat upon the upset kitchen stove and stared, and Jane leaned against the kitchen dresser and smiled; but neither of them made any remark.

THE bookcase and the bird-cage were rescued from under the coal-box; but Hunca Munca has got the cradle and some of Lucinda's clothes.

SHE also has some useful pots and pans, and several other things.

THE little girl that the doll's house belonged to said: "I will get a doll dressed like a policeman!"

BUT the nurse said: "I will set a mouse-trap!"

SO that is the story of the two Bad Mice. But they were not so very, very naughty after all, because Tom Thumb paid for everything he broke.

He found a crooked sixpence under the hearth-rug; and upon Christmas Eve he and Hunca Munca stuffed it into one of the stockings of Lucinda and Jane.

AND very early every morning  
--before anybody is  
awake--Hunca Munca comes  
with her dust-pan and her  
broom to sweep the Dollies'  
house!

THE END

End of The Project Gutenberg Etext of A Collection of Beatrix Potter Stories  
by Beatrix Potter

of The Project Gutenberg Etext of A Collection of Beatrix Potter Stories  
by Beatrix Potter

did so; he saw  
the two pigs stock-still in the  
middle of the road. Then he looked  
over at his horse's heels; it was  
lame also; the stone took some  
time to knock out, after he got to  
the ploughman.

"Now, Pig-wig, NOW!" said

Pigling Bland.

Never did any pigs run as these  
pigs ran! They raced and squealed  
and pelted down the long white hill  
towards the bridge. Little fat Pig-

wig's petticoats fluttered, and her  
feet went pitter, patter, pitter, as she  
bounded and jumped.

They ran, and they ran, and they  
ran down the hill, and across a short  
cut on level green turf at the bottom,  
between pebble beds and rushes.

They came to the river, they  
came to the bridge--they crossed  
it hand in hand--  
then over the hills and far away  
she danced with Pigling Bland!

THE END

THE TALE OF  
TWO BAD MICE

FOR

W. M. L. W.

THE LITTLE GIRL

WHO HAD THE DOLL HOUSE

ONCE upon a time there

was a very beautiful

doll's house; it was red brick

with white windows, and it had

real muslin curtains and a

front door and a chimney.

IT belonged to two Dolls

called Lucinda and Jane;

at least it belonged to Lucinda,

but she never ordered meals.

Jane was the Cook; but she

never did any cooking, because

the dinner had been bought

ready-made, in a box full of

shavings.

THERE were two red lobsters,

and a ham, a fish,  
a pudding, and some pears and  
oranges.

They would not come off the  
plates, but they were extremely  
beautiful.

ONE morning Lucinda and  
Jane had gone out for  
a drive in the doll's perambulator.

There was no one in the  
nursery, and it was very quiet.

Presently there was a little  
scuffling, scratching noise in a  
corner near the fireplace, where  
there was a hole under the  
skirting-board.

Tom Thumb put out his  
head for a moment, and then  
popped it in again.

Tom Thumb was a mouse.

A MINUTE afterwards

Hunca Munca, his wife,  
put her head out, too; and  
when she saw that there was  
no one in the nursery, she  
ventured out on the oilcloth  
under the coal-box.

THE doll's house stood at  
the other side of the  
fireplace. Tom Thumb and  
Hunca Munca went cautiously  
across the hearth-rug. They  
pushed the front door--it was  
not fast.

TOM THUMB and Hunca  
Munca went up-stairs  
and peeped into the dining-  
room. Then they squeaked  
with joy!

Such a lovely dinner was laid  
out upon the table! There were  
tin spoons, and lead knives  
and forks, and two dolly-chairs  
--all SO convenient!

TOM THUMB set to work

at once to carve the ham.

It was a beautiful shiny yellow,

streaked with red.

The knife crumpled up and

hurt him; he put his finger in

his mouth.

"It is not boiled enough; it

is hard. You have a try,

Hunca Munca."

HUNCA MUNCA stood

up in her chair, and

chopped at the ham with

another lead knife.

"It's as hard as the hams

at the cheesemonger's," said

Hunca Munca.

THE ham broke off the

plate with a jerk, and

rolled under the table.

"Let it alone," said Tom

Thumb; "give me some fish,

Hunca Munca!"

HUNCA MUNCA tried

every tin spoon in turn;

the fish was glued to the dish.

Then Tom Thumb lost his

temper. He put the ham in

the middle of the floor, and hit

it with the tongs and with

the shovel--bang, bang, smash,

smash!

The ham flew all into pieces,

for underneath the shiny paint

it was made of nothing but

plaster!

THEN there was no end to

the rage and disappointment

of Tom Thumb and Hunca

Munca. They broke up

the pudding, the lobsters,

the pears, and the oranges.

As the fish would not come  
off the plate, they put it into  
the red-hot crinkly paper fire  
in the kitchen; but it would  
not burn either.

TOM THUMB went up the  
kitchen chimney and  
looked out at the top--there  
was no soot.

WHILE Tom Thumb was  
up the chimney, Hunca  
Munca had another  
disappointment. She found some  
tiny canisters upon the dresser,  
labeled "Rice," "Coffee"  
"Sago"; but when she turned  
them upside down there was  
nothing inside except red and  
blue beads.

THEN those mice set to  
work to do all the mischief  
they could--especially  
Tom Thumb! He took Jane's

clothes out of the chest of

drawers in her bedroom, and

he threw them out of the top-

floor wi