

# LITTLE FOLKS

## The Wreck of the Fast Express.

The train left Milk Pail station  
A little after four  
And choo-chooed out at frightful  
speed  
Across the kitchen floor.  
It swerved and curved and tooted  
And rattled up and down;  
The engineer then waved his hand  
And stopped at Stove Leg town.  
They backed to Wood Box corner  
For passengers, and then  
They got a new conductor  
And scooted off again.  
The train was overloaded;  
It puffed and tugged and roared  
And backed and reared the steep  
ascent  
Of mother's ironing board.  
It turned, but something happen-  
ed!  
The brakeman gave a yell;  
'Get off the track! Get off the  
track!'   
Then rang the dinner bell.  
But headlong dashed the engine,  
On, on across the mat,  
Down underneath the cradle  
And struck the gingham cat!  
You never heard such racket  
As followed in the crash,  
I only know the baby waked  
And things went all to smash.  
—'Child's Hour.'

## The Dream Clock.

(By Margaret Erskine, in 'The Child's Hour.'

Leo simply wouldn't go to sleep, though Nurse coaxed, scolded, told her stories of all the things that would happen (really dreadful things) to naughty little girls who won't go to sleep when their nurses want them to; told her all about the 'House that Jack Built,' that 'Taffy was a Welshman,' and finally wound up with 'Hickory, dickory, dickory dock, see the mouse run up the clock'; but Leo was as wide awake at the end of it all as she had been at the beginning.

It was no fun she said, in answer to Nurse's scoldings, to go to sleep all by yourself, the other girls all had little sisters and brothers to go to sleep with them, and she hadn't

and she would never, never, go to sleep again till Nurse went out and bought her a little brother or sister, so there!

'You are a very naughty little girl, Miss Lenore,' was all Nurse's answer to this last request. 'And I am going to turn down the light



and leave you alone and if you don't want to go to sleep you needn't; but to-morrow the little black dog 'Crossiness' will be riding on your back all day long, and you won't like that,' and Nurse turned the light low, and walked out of the nursery leaving the door only a tiny bit open.

By this time Leo's eyes were beginning to feel very full of dust, and her eyelids would keep playing peek-a-boo with the light; so she sat up very straight in bed and seized each side of her cot as tight, as tight as her little hands could grasp, for she thought just as long as she held on to something tight she wouldn't be able to fall asleep then; for she had told Nurse she wouldn't go to sleep, and she wouldn't, no, not for anything.

Perhaps, if Nurse had told her some really, truly new stories, she might have; but she was so tired of 'Old Mother Hubbard' and the rest of Nurse's stories, and Leo gave a great big sigh.

'Tick, tock, tick, tock!' sounded loudly outside the door.

'Why, how funny,' thought Leo. 'That sounds just like the old clock at the foot of the stairs. I wonder if—why, yes!' The door was very slowly opening, wider and wider. Leo leaned well over the side of her cot, both eyes eagerly fixed on the door.

'Tick, tock, tick tock!' The door opened very wide and into the room ran the old grandfather clock that Leo remembered seeing, all her short life, standing quietly at the foot of the stairs ticking the minutes away.

'Why, Leo,' cried the clock, when it reached the foot of her cot, 'not asleep yet, how is that? It is long after seven o'clock, quite time all good little girls were sound asleep.'

'Well, clock,' answered Leo, 'I told Nurse I would never, never go to sleep again till she got me a little sister or brother to go to sleep with, and she never got me one yet. So you see, I can't go to sleep, 'cause I said I wouldn't. Can I?' 'Oh, ho!' laughed the clock. Did you ever hear a clock laugh? Well, whenever you hear a clock going 'tick, tick, tick,' as fast as it can, and then a long drawn 't-o-c-k,' as if it had a very bad cold, that is the clock laughing. So,

'Oh, ho!' laughed the clock, 'that is the reason, is it? Well, do you know, Leo, I don't believe Nurse cares a bit whether you go to sleep or not. You see she will be coming up to bed soon and she will be sure to go to sleep as fast as she can and it won't be much fun to be the only one awake, will it?' 'N-o,' said Leo doubtfully, 'not much.'

'That's right,' said the clock cheerfully, 'you are a very wise little girl. Now I will tell you what we will do. 'We'll run a race. I'll put my hands over my face so, and the seconds I'll 'tick' and the minutes I'll 'tock,' and