

THE PAGE AND THE KING

One day, King Frederick rang the bell to call his page to do some duty. He rang again, but no one came. Stepping into the room where the page should be, he found him fast asleep on a sofa, and a letter by his side.

The king took the letter and read it. It contained the thanks of a mother to her son for sending her so much of his wages to support her, and also her prayer that God would bless him and help him to do his duty well. Softly the king stepped back into his room, took a roll of money and put it into the page's pocket with the letter.

Again he rang the bell, so loudly that the page awoke and quickly came to him.

"You sleep soundly, boy," said the king.

The page did not know what reply to make. Feeling the weight in his pocket, he took it out and saw that it was a roll of money. Looking at the king, he burst into tears without saying a word.

"What is the matter?" asked the king.

"What has happened to you?"