

## The Legend of Count Robert the Fearless

"THEY'VE taken all I own," groaned the count; "not a thing is left."

Indeed they had, for, what with having led too merry a life during the last few years, the count had spent all of his fortune and had come upon hard times. All the splendid furnishings of his castle were sold to pay the numerous debts.

The desire to live gone with the vanishing of the last portion of his

safety when I saw you disappear 'neath the waters."

"Oh, you're not intruding, sir. I, you know, am Queen of the Water Sprites. Would you not like to see my palace?"

Count Robert would be pleased, indeed, especially in the company of such a charming guide.

So he was escorted through the magnificent castle, where he dined sumptuously in the great banquet hall with the mermaids, curious little mermen



SAVED FROM DEATH.

wealth. Count Robert resolved to drown himself that very night.

When the moon was at its full he loosened his skiff as it lay at its moorings and paddled toward the middle of the river. The water was too shallow near the bank, and if he were to die he wished, at least, to do it as he had lived, in the most comfortable and elegant style possible.

Count Robert ceased paddling. A deep sigh escaped him as he thought of the jolly life he had once led; but then, reflecting on the emptiness of present existence, he rose in desperation to cast himself into the water—when, chancing to look at the massive rock rising from the river nearby, he beheld a beautiful maiden.

Now, the count was very courteous, especially to ladies, and he certainly couldn't do such an ungentlemanly act as drown himself before the eyes of this beauty. In fact, he didn't feel half as much like ending his life as he had the moment before.

And when the beautiful maiden, after smiling sweetly upon him, glided into the water, what could the gallant count do but plunge to her rescue?

Down he traveled until he stood on the river's bottom. To his astonishment the bewitching lady stood right before him, still smiling and seemingly not in the least need of rescue.

"I beg your pardon, lady," said the count, with a sweeping bow; "my presence is due to my recent alarm for your

When he

queen the r

on the river

gave him all

Count Robert,

would return after

make her his bride. A

ate adieu, stout mermen bore him to

shore.

But now that Count Robert was again

very wealthy he quickly forgot his

promise to the queen, and straightway

began to court the baron's daughter.

A day was finally appointed for their

wedding. All the city flocked to see the

ceremony.

Just as they were about to be married

it grew dark as night, so that the

church had to be lighted. Then came

peal after peal of terrible thunder.

The door opened. In ran a fisherman.

"Fly for your lives!" he cried, "the

river has overflowed its banks!"

Hardly were the words out of his

mouth before there was a mighty rush

of water that engulfed people, church

and all. Upon the crest of the first

wave rode the angry Queen of the

Water Sprites. She was revenged, and

Count Robert was drowned after all.

### Good Friday.

"Now, boys," asked the patient teacher, "can any of you tell me something of Good Friday?"

"Yes, ma'am. He was the feller that done the housework for Robinson Crusoe."

## Ching Loo's Washing Day

CHING LOO'S washing day came once every twenty-four hours, for Ching Loo, you know, owned a laundry.

When Ching Loo came to this country some years ago he meant to stay a long, long time until he became immensely wealthy. Then he would go back to China, settle down, build a fine house, and be respected by all his neighbors.

most American boys and girls, and wouldn't sit still a moment. When Ching Loo wished them to study the Chinese books he had brought all the way from China they would throw them aside in a few minutes, tiring of reading.

One day the clothesline in Ching Loo's yard broke in the middle. This gave him an idea. Calling the two little Loos,



MAKING THE CHILDREN STUDY.

Ching Loo wished to make money fast, but for all that he was so fond of Mrs. Ching Loo that he felt obliged to bring her along, although he knew it would cost more to live. We find him at last doing a fine business in one of our great cities.

As the little Loos grew up they weren't at all like good Chinese children. They were just as restless as

he tied their long queues together and then made them sit facing in opposite directions. On their hair he hung the laundry to dry.

They had to sit very still lest they disturb the clothes. Soon becoming tired of doing nothing, they begged for books. Ching Loo's plan worked so well that the little Loos soon grew to be quite studious and learned.

### GLASSES TO PROTECT COW'S EYES.

"There are cows that wear glasses in my country," said a Russian. "I once saw a herd of 40,000 cows with glasses on. It was on the steppes, the great Russian prairies. Our steppes for six months in the year are covered with snow, but during a part of the time delicate, fresh grass tips protrude from that white and dazzling mantle. The cows then are turned out to feed on the new grass, but if their eyes are unprotected the dazzle of sunshine on the snow gives them snow blindness. Thousands of cows suffered horribly, and hundreds died of snow blindness until a rude, cheap kind of spectacles made of leather and smoked glass, was

invented and put with great success on the Russian market."

### A POLICE FORCE OF WIDOWS.

The Ghent Communal Council have a proposal before them to include women in the police force. According to the scheme the policewomen will not wear a uniform. They will be recruited from women between the ages of forty and fifty, and they must be widows or spinsters. It is intended to try the experiment with a dozen women.

Bookkeepers for ice companies make a lot of cold calculations.

MOST OF THIS PAGE IS MISSING