

left was now so short that only a tall man could reach it.

One day, when the judges met in the market-place, they were shocked to see the state of the bell-rope. "This will never do," they said. "If a child were wronged, he could not ring the bell to let us know."

They gave orders that a new rope should be bought; but, strange to say, there was not a rope in all the town.

Then they sent a man to the city beyond the mountains to buy a rope, and they all looked about for something that could be used until it came.

"This will do," said a man in the crowd. He held in his hand a long grape-vine with the leaves still upon it. "This will do for a rope."

He climbed up and fastened the slender vine to the bell. It was so long that it trailed on the ground, as the rope had done.

"Yes, that will do," said the judges. "Let it be as it is. Even a little child can now ring the bell quite easily."