

All the people would laugh at him, and he groaned as he thought of it. Then seeing a red silk handkerchief, he tied it down closely all around his head, and got into his bed again.

After a while the king's valet knocked at his door, and entering, found His Majesty with a red silk handkerchief tied all over his head.

"Will Your Majesty be dressed now?" asked the valet. "Shall I remove the handkerchief?"

"No-o-o!" thundered the king; "leave the handkerchief alone. It is to be the fashion to wear them all around the head."

So all the men in the kingdom began to wear red silk handkerchiefs tied all around their heads like the king. But soon the king's hair began to grow, and the red silk handkerchief rounded out like a red balloon. At last the king sent for a barber, and taking him up into one of the highest towers, pulled off the handkerchief and said, "Cut my hair." The barber could hardly keep from laughing, the king looked so funny, and said to himself, "Oh, the king has ass's ears!" but the king looked so fierce, he quickly cut his hair close to his head, and when he was finished, rushed out through the tower door, where he was seized by the king's soldiers and put in prison. And every time the king's hair grew long another barber was sent for to cut it, and was after-