

# Some Stories for the Little Folks.

## Fan Fan, the Fairy

For several months the peasants along the edge of the Black Forest had been frightened every few days by strange cries from the woods. Sometimes the cries were uttered almost at their doors, and the trembling people could hear the rustle of something moving about outside. No man dared even look out of a window to see what strange creature it might be, but all had an idea it was a goblin.

There were woodcutters among the peasants, and they had to go into the woods every day, but they did it with fear for their lives. They would be working away when they would suddenly a great snarling and growling from the nearest brush heap or perhaps they would be resting for a moment when a terrible cry would come at last, that no one dared enter the forest, and as soon as the sun went down every door and window was made fast. In their fear of the goblin the people sent word to the king and asked him for fifty soldiers to hunt down and destroy the thing.

"This is a pretty state of affairs," replied the king, when he had received the message. "The goblin may be very fierce, but my soldiers will soon hunt him out of the forest. Let fifty of my own bodyguard march at once."

The soldiers marched away that same day, and by night they had come to the forest. The peasants welcomed them with shouts of gladness, and it was believed that the goblin at once would take to flight. This was not the case, however. Before midnight came there was such a roaring in the thickets that the soldiers ran away in a panic, and most of the people ran with them. The king was wroth when this news came to him.

"Are my soldiers children and cowards to run from a strange noise in the forest?" he demanded. "Who are this goblin, and what was the thing like?"

"It was a great beast with six legs and with teeth a foot long," replied one of the soldiers.

"It was a big bird with a long tail and eyes as big as saucers," cried a second.

"Well," said the king, "I will send a hundred soldiers this time, and no matter whether this goblin is a beast or a bird you must capture it. If you do not every one of you shall be flogged and put into jail!"

The hundred soldiers marched away at it was the same as before. As night came on there was such a roaring in the forest that the bravest man became afraid and ran away. The king did not keep his word to punish them, as he began to have doubts, and he was about to send out five hundred men this time when he was told that a little girl named Fan-Fan had seen the goblin.

"I ordered her to be brought into my presence, and when she stood before him he asked:

"Well, child, what do you want of me?"

"If you please, sir, I came about the goblin in the Black Forest," she replied.

"What do you know of it?"

"I am Fan-Fan, the Fairy, sir, and I can do what you soldiers have failed to do. If there is a goblin in the forest I can capture him."

"What nonsense!" laughed the king. "When a hundred men run away surely you could do nothing."

"I should like to try, oh, king," said Fan-Fan. "Let me go to the forest alone before you send out more soldiers."

The king did not believe that she could accomplish anything, but he granted her request, and promised that if she captured the goblin he would make a princess of her. The king had gone abroad, and when Fan-Fan started for the forest she was cheered and applauded, and every one hoped she would earn the reward. She reached the forest before dark and entered it, and the people who waited about to see what would happen to her heard the same noises as before and were terrified.

They were saying that the fairy had been destroyed, when she came out of the woods leading an animal by the ear.

"It was nothing like a lion, tiger or anything like a bird. It was a mouse, who had escaped from his home and been wandering around. I have brave of my soldiers to run after a mouse!" shouted the king when he heard the news. "I shall go to my word, however, and let Fan-Fan shall be made a princess. She is braver than any man in my army."

"Thank you, oh, king," replied Fan-Fan, as she made a low bow. "I prefer to be a fairy, and I will now bid you good-day and be gone."

And before the king could say more she appeared on the back of the donkey, waved her hand to the people and was out of sight in a moment.

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And received large stock of carriages, horses and other game at Bonanza Market.

## The Squirrel and the Farmer

The farmer had been trying for half an hour to get a shot at the black squirrel with his old rifle, when the sprightly little animal came half-way down the tree and said:

"You are only wasting your time, my old friend. It would take a much better shot than you are to send a bullet even near enough to scare me. Why don't you go and shoot at a goose?"

"I guess you are too cute for me," said the farmer, as he sat down on a nearby log.

"Yes, you might as well give it up. I cannot only hide away from you in the treetop, but there's a hollow limb up there in which I have my nest. I came down, however, to have a little talk with you. Do you know that I was of great benefit to you last summer?"

"How?" asked the farmer.

"By eating as many as a hundred crows' eggs. I like the eggs of all kinds of birds, but particularly those of crows. They are large and easy to get at, and I have a feast whenever I come across a nest. I also broke up the nests of three chicken hawks last year by eating the eggs, and I think you ought to treat me well instead of hunting me with a gun."

"I didn't know you liked birds' eggs."

"Well, I do, and I also eat many grubs that prey upon your crops. Now let me tell you something about myself. I have four toes on my forepaws and five on the hind ones, and my hind legs are considerably the longest. This is to enable me to make long jumps from limb to limb. I can jump much further through the air than the rabbit can jump on the ground. Perhaps you've seen me make my way from tree to tree?"

"Yes, I have, and you don't fall," said the farmer.

"A squirrel hardly ever misses his jump, but if he does and falls to the ground he is not much hurt. He always strikes with his feet spread out and breaks the shock. As to my teeth, they are better than those of any dog. There is no nut in the forest that I cannot eat my way into, and were I to bite your hand you would be crippled for weeks. I once turned on a dog who had seized my tail and gave him such a bite on the jaw that he ran away yelping."

"You must be a fighter."

"I know how to take care of myself, but I am not as good a fighter as the red squirrel. There are black, gray and red squirrels, you know, and the red is the best fighter. He has a hot temper, like a red-headed boy, and he will even fight the coon or possum. I have seen a red squirrel get the better of an owl who wanted to eat him, and he is not very much afraid of a dog. The gray squirrel, however, is a great coward. I have known him to be driven from a tree by three or four blackbirds."

"I have read that you store up bushels and bushels of food for the winter," said the farmer.

"That is an old woman's story," laughed the squirrel. "In the fall when nuts are plentiful, we store up a few, but nothing like bushels or even quarts. We are out in the winter, as well as other times, and we can always find food at hand and don't have to leave our warm nests. It is true that I eat a few ears of your corn in the course of the year, but I make good the loss in a great many other ways. The red squirrel does the same, but the grays do you the most damage. They visit a cornfield by the hundreds sometimes and will pull down or destroy two or three acres. The black squirrel will make his home in one place for years unless driven away, but the gray never stays beyond a few months. He is a good deal like a tramp—always wanting to move on and get somewhere else."

"I'd like your tail to put on my cap," said the farmer as he raised his gun.

"Well, you won't get it!" chuckled the squirrel as he whisked it about. "I wouldn't look half as pretty if I lost my tail, and you can just as well stick a feather in your cap. My tail goes with my skin when I am dead."

"Let me tell you that squirrel skins are made into rugs, robes and overcoats without being dyed, but a furrier will dye them and prepare them so that they look like mink. Many a boa and cape worn by a young lady are only squirrel skins, though they call them by other names. Two skins would make you a nice pair of gloves, but you won't get mine all the same. I need it for myself."

"We'll see about that!" chuckled the farmer as he aimed his gun and fired.

"Ah there you there!" cried the squirrel as he ran up the tree on the other side and peered over a limb.

"Say, now, you'd better do as I told you—go shoot an old goose! If she won't hold still while you shoot, tie her up by the leg."

A Canning Fox

When I was a boy I owned a fox, a handsome red fellow, with his nose

and tip of his tail black. My uncle had caught him in a trap after losing a good many hens and chickens.

However, he did not prove to be much of a pet. We could not tame him. He would snap at us and spring the length of his chain and I learned, after getting one bite from his sharp teeth, to let him alone. He had a house in the yard and was confined within certain boundaries by a long chain.

One day father missed one of the chickens. He told me to look around and see if I could find any trace of it. But I could not. A few days after another was gone.

"We can't lay it to the fox," said father.

"Isn't there any way for the chickens to get to the fox?" asked mother.

"They can't get over or through that fence. You know they haven't troubled your four garden since it was built," father answered.

But another chicken disappeared. Father set a trap and one night he watched with a gun, but the puzzle remained.

"What are all these dead snouts in the grass?" I asked one morning. I had been feeding the fox and I could not recollect having seen them before. Father examined them attentively. Here and there near the fox's house were yellow places where the grass had died.

"I believe it is the fox," he said at last. He looked at the fox, who seemed to be watching us narrowly.

"Don't touch them," said father. "But stay at home from school to-day and watch the fox. Remain quietly where he cannot see you and I think I can promise you a surprise."

The chickens had been shut up for several days. Unknown to me, father let them out after I began watching. Then he went to his work.

I stretched myself under a tree to watch the fox, but nothing occurred till near noon. The fox had been lying on the ground under his house, his nose at the entrance. Now he got up and coming out as far as his chain would allow, again lay down, half closing his eyes. I looked around. A chicken was walking along by the fence, sticking its bill through the various openings. At last it came to a place where the pickets were further apart and by dint of squeezing, it got into the yard.

It picked here and there and at last approached the fox. The moment it was within reach he snatched it. I rushed forward, but was too late to save the chicken. Just then father came up from the field and after hearing my story he dug up the yellow places in the grass.

Under every spot were feathers where the fox had hidden them after eating the chickens.

The fox was shot and I have a rug made from his skin.

## Fortune for a Nurse.

Chicago, Ill., October 18.—Made rich by the will of a wealthy St. Louis man and sought for from one end of the country to the other, Miss Eva Martin, a pretty Chicago nurse, is just now the center of a mystery that is occupying the minds of a score of detectives and a firm of St. Louis lawyers. Fifty thousand dollars is said to have been left to Miss Martin by the will of the St. Louis man, whose identity has so far been kept a strict secret.

A year ago Miss Martin, who is a graduate nurse of the woman's hospital, Thirty-second and Rhodes avenue, watched over the rich St. Louis man when he was desperately ill. After long days and nights the patient recovered, and as he thanked Miss Martin for her care he also told her he would never forget her. Miss Martin left St. Louis and came to Chicago. She went at once to the hospital. After leaving the hospital all trace of her was lost.

The entire case has been kept as quiet as possible, and even the firm of St. Louis lawyers who has charge of the case has succeeded in keeping its name from the public. The only known person who appears to hold the key to the mystery of the identity of the St. Louis man is W. J. Birge of the Canada-Atlantic transportation company, 463 Water St., Chicago, and he declines to talk.

## Liquor Dealers

Washington, Oct. 18.—The commissioner of internal revenue has ruled that wholesale liquor dealers can not receive for sale packages of distilled spirits from a person who is neither a rectifier, distiller nor wholesale liquor dealer, without violating section 3319 revised statutes. But that person can, without sending the packages of spirits to them, make them his agents for their sale, and on his doing so, they can dispose of the spirits by means of a bill of sale delivered to the purchaser at their place of business, where they hold the requisite special tax stamp, and the person taking such bill of sale can receive the package of spirits at any other place from the owner of them, and the latter not thereby become involved in special tax liability as a wholesale liquor dealer.

## Transcontinental Chain

El Paso, Tex., Oct. 18.—A high official of the Texas and Pacific railway announces that the recent purchase by that company of the Min-

## WATER SUPPLY.

I shall secure all data, surveys and opinions upon the question of adequate water supply for mining purposes and lay the whole matter before the government and parliament with a view of having some practical method of supplying the same to those engaged in the mining industry at the least possible cost, adopted as early a date as possible. — James Hamilton Ross.

eral Wells line means a transcontinental connection for the Texas and Pacific from New Orleans to San Francisco. The Mineral Wells line will be extended to Trinidad, Colo., to connect there with the Atlantic and Pacific. Trains will be forwarded over the Atlantic and Pacific to Salt Lake City, where connection will be made with the Oregon Shore Line to the Pacific coast.

## Victory for Americans

London, Oct. 18.—The war office has officially recognized the American invasion. The Columbian fireproofing company of Pittsburgh, Pa., has just been awarded the contract for the new building for the army medical department at Woolwich, to cost £3000.

This is said to be the first time that a contract for government work has been awarded by the war office to an American firm of contractors. There was keen competition among British firms to secure the work, but the tender of the Columbian fireproofing company was the lowest.

The Columbian fireproofing company, which was established in London four years ago by American capitalists for the purpose of introducing patent fireproof floors, has now entered the structural steel business and is erecting buildings in various parts of London.

## Block Signal System

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 18.—Provision has been made by the board of directors for the Illinois Central road to install a block signal system between East Cairo and Fulton, a distance of about sixty-two miles. It is understood that the company will, as fast as possible, block the system from Chicago to New Orleans, and so arrange the stations that trains can be run without the usual train orders, as is done now on the Chicago division of the Burlington road. In this undertaking the company's telephone system, which is rapidly being extended to cover the system, will be utilized to its fullest extent.

In the province of Padua the price of wine is unprecedently low owing to the enormous overproduction. In some districts the guests in the osterias, or inns, pay by the hour for the wine consumed. Wine is rarely sold for money, but usually bartered for milk, maize and fowls.

## THE ROSS PLATFORM

Whereas, in the opinion of this convention, the continued prosperity of the Yukon territory depends chiefly on the efforts of individual miners and prospectors, whose work is conducted under most difficult conditions, and the stability of the business of the country will be insured by furnishing regular employment to workmen; therefore, be it

Resolved, That every effort should be made by the government to secure, and such changes adopted as would secure the ends desired. That this convention most strongly recommends:

1. Reduction of fees for miners' licenses and for recording and renewing claims.
2. The abolition of payment of commutation for assessment work, and compelling the performance of assessment work upon the claim itself, or upon the claims as grouped.
3. The adoption of such regulations as will encourage the working of low grade ground and the development of quartz mining.
4. The amendment of the mining regulations in such way as to provide a mode by which, upon satisfying reasonable conditions holders of mining claims may obtain crown grants of the same.

GOVERNMENT AID FOR SMELTER.

Whereas, Large copper deposits are proven to exist in the vicinity of Whitehorse, and the work already done on the same has demonstrated their immense value; and

Whereas, In order to secure the working of such property, the establishment of a smelter is necessary, and the establishment of such smelter would create large employment for workmen, and create a market for the coal known to exist in the territory, and lead to the large development of the southern portion of the district; therefore,

Resolved, That this convention recommend the encouragement by the Dominion government of the establishment of such smelter, by such aid in the way of bonus, or otherwise, as may be deemed best.

TEST MILL AND ASSAY OFFICE.

Resolved, That the interests of this territory demand the establishment of a quartz test mill by the government for the free testing of ore in order to encourage and develop quartz mining and the establishment of an assay office, to be conducted by the government in connection with the government mint.

CANCEL TREADGOLD CONCESSION.

Whereas, The supply of water and power to the mines on the creeks is one of the most serious questions of the day in the Yukon territory; and

Whereas, In the opinion of the convention, the matter of such supply on fair and reasonable terms should

best be dealt with by the government itself, and should not be left to private individuals; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the government be requested immediately to make careful examination and obtain reports upon the subject with a view of cancelling forthwith the Treadgold concession, and undertaking such supply as a national enterprise.

OTHERS HELD BY FRAUD.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this convention many of the concessions now held were obtained by fraud and imposition; that it is in the interest of this territory that such concessions should be annulled, and to that end that inquiry should be set on foot to ascertain the circumstances of such fraud and imposition, and action taken by the attorney general of Canada in the premises.

MINING MACHINERY DUTY FREE.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this convention it would greatly tend to assist in the working and development of mines in the territory, to permit the importation of mining machinery of a class not manufactured in Canada, free from all customs duty.

WHOLLY ELECTIVE COUNCIL.

That the convention views with satisfaction the increase of the number of elective members of the Yukon council, and urgently recommends that the membership of the council be made wholly elective, without delay; and further, that all matters of a purely local character be committed to the council for deliberation and determination.

AGAINST UNNECESSARY CONCESSIONS.

Resolved, That a policy should be adopted which would prevent the obtaining of concessions for hydraulic mining, except in places where the dirt is of such low grade that it could not profitably be worked by other methods; and that before any hydraulic lease should issue, notice should be given by the applicant by publication in the newspapers of his intention of applying for such lease, so as to enable protests to be entered against the granting of the same; and that the owners of hydraulic concessions already granted should be compelled to carry out the strict terms of their leases, and that in default of their so doing, their leases should be cancelled.

Complete Recovery.

Washington, Oct. 18.—President Roosevelt today, for the first time in several weeks, went horseback riding. He was accompanied by his daughter Ethel and was absent from the White House for a couple of hours. It is stated that his injured leg has ceased to give him any trouble.

Miners Strike.

Parsons, Kan., Oct. 18.—The general agent, superintendent of mines and other officials connected with the production of coal for the Katy road were summoned to the St. Louis headquarters last night for consultation regarding the miners' strike at the Katy's mines, located at Mineral, Kan. The 700 men who walked out on Thursday morning because the company was not paying the mine engineers according to the union scale are still out, and insist on their demands being complied with.

## MUST BE WORKED

I shall advocate the adoption of regulations compelling the actual working of claims. — James Hamilton Ross.

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