

## Professor and the Wonderful Egg

"You are rather hasty," it said to the Professor. "By dinner-time I may be bigger than you think."

"All the better," said the Professor, "all the more to eat."

If a bird could smile, you would have said that the little Great Auk Chick smiled at these words. And all the while it grew and grew and grew and grew till by the middle of the day it was as big as an ostrich.

And now, you say, it stopped growing, the Professor killed and ate it, and that is the end of the story.

Not at all, for if you can believe the story told me by the Great Auk itself, it was not the Professor who dined upon the little Great Auk Chick, but it was the little Great Auk Chick that dined on the Professor. By the afternoon it had a mouth as big as that of a rhinoceros. By dinner-time it was as big as a whale.

"Good-bye," said the little Great Auk Chick to the Professor.

"Good-bye," said the Professor who was trembling all over.

"Shall I give your love to your wife," said the little Great Auk Chick.

"Please, yes!" whispered the Professor with his heart in his mouth.

His heart was in his mouth, and in the next moment his whole body was in the mouth of the little Great Auk Chick. Down, down he went, till he thought the throat would never end. And that was the result of coming down late for breakfast."

"Ha, ha," laughed Old King Cole, who, to tell the truth sometimes came down late for breakfast himself, "a very true story and worthy of my daughter. What do you say, Mrs Cole?"

The Old Woman who lived in a Shoe took off her spectacles and rubbed them and smiled.

"I don't think," she said, "it is time just now to think of breakfast; it is time rather to go to bed, so Shoo! Shoo!" and off she went again chasing the children from