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art. Of course he didn't succeed all at once, and many failures found their way into the waste-paper basket, but the best of them were kept by his parents, who were naturally very proud of their little boy. When he came home from a circus, he would cut out the animals he had seen. If a story was read to him, he would make pictures for it out of paper.

Try it and see what you can do, but don't blame the scissors for your failures, for those used by the Gibson boy were blunt and had square ends, for his mother was afraid he might hurt himself with a sharp pair. We can't all become famous artists, but paper-cutting is a splendid thing to make us notice the forms of objects, and besides, it is great fun.



What the Two Owls Were Saying.

AN Eastern king, who lived in great extravagance, almost ruined his country by the heavy taxation of his people. Thousands of his subjects became destitute and their villages fell to ruin. Yet none dared tell the king what was happening, for he was a tyrant, and would have sent so daring a man to prison or the scaffold.

In the king's forest lived an old woodcutter, who was very grieved at the state of the country. His heart was sad for the poor people so terribly oppressed, and for a long time he turned the matter over in his mind, trying to think of some plan by which he could approach the king and make him see the error of his ways.

One day the monarch was out riding in the forest, when the party passed close by one of the ruined villages. In a tree beneath which the king rode two owls sat hooting to one another, and, seeing the woodcutter, the king called him to his side and asked what the birds were saying. This was the old man's opportunity.

"Sire," said he, "if I tell you, will you promise not to punish me?"

"Certainly!" replied the king.

"Well," said the old man, "one of these owls has a son, and the other a daughter, and they are trying to arrange a marriage. The question they are discussing so vigorously is that of the wedding dowry. The owl who has a daughter is willing to give her one hundred ruined villages, but the owl with the son says that is not enough. And at this moment the owl with a daughter is promising to increase the dowry to a thousand ruined villages if your Majesty goes on reigning for another six months."

The king was silent for the rest of the journey, and when he reached his palace once more he called all the wisest counsellors around him and told them he had that day learned a lesson he would never forget, so that henceforth he intended to rule wisely and well, to remit most of the taxation, and to make his people's prosperity his very first concern.



The Elf-Man.

I MET a little elf-man once,
Down where the lilies blow;
I asked him why he was so small,
And why he didn't grow.

He slightly frowned, and with his eye
He looked me through and through.
"I'm quite as big for me," said he,
"As you are big for you."



The Foolish Bear.

A BEAR who was walking near a beehive was stung on the nose by a bee, and this made him so angry that he decided to have a great revenge upon all the family of bees.

He therefore went up to the hive and with a blow of his paw knocked it over on the ground, feeling very pleased that he had thus paid out the bees for the slight injury that one of their number had done to him.

But his pleasure was very short-lived, for the whole of the bees in the hive flew out, and, surrounding the bear, stung him again and again, until his face and body had swollen in an alarming manner, and he wished he had never been so foolish as to disturb the hive. It is always silly to lose your temper.

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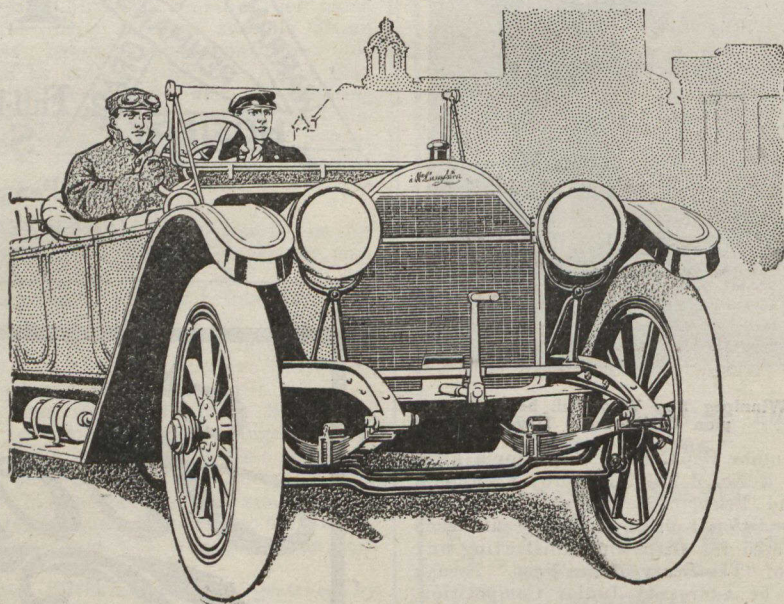
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