



By Adeline M. Givens

GRACE, quick! The way is clear!"

The Duke of Lorraine sprang from his couch and looked wild about, for he had been awakened out of a heavy sleep fraught with disturbing dreams. His eyes fell on the figure of Henri, his faithful follower, standing in the gloom. It was that and spoken.

"Here is the disguise, your Grace," whispered Henri. "The Duchess is ready and awaits your grace. Hasten, my lord!"

The Duke did hasten, as well he might, for just then Nantess was a very unhealthy spot—as far as he was concerned—and a chance to escape might not come again. In fact, the Duke had been dabbling in politics—every unwise thing for a duke to do—and here he was in a pretty mess, with the French King down on him and himself a captive in the town of Nantess.

"I will carry your Grace's elope," whispered the clever follower. "Come!"

It was a good thing that the Duke of Lorraine had a follower whose wits did not leave him in a crisis, for what with his hands trembling and his fingers fumbling and his not knowing just how to put on his disguise, the poor Duke never could have escaped without help. Henri was cool and steady though and soon the Duke disappeared in peasant's attire, croak noisily out of the castle in his stocking feet. Hiding in the courtyard was the Duchess.

"They slipped on their wooden shoes," the Duke shouldered a hod which Henri handed him, while the Duchess balanced a basket of rubbish on her proud head.

Dawn was painting the sky with faint tints as the humble-looking pair hurried through the streets of Nantess. "Pray, sir!" called a shrill, little voice. "Thou hast dropped something!"

The Duke of Lorraine turned his head anxiously and his eyes fell upon grinning youngsters.

"Ha, ha!" cried the boy. "Thou art the first April fish caught this first day of April in my net! Ha, ha, ha! April fish! April fish!"

In France they have April fish, instead of April fools, and there is great

rivalry to see who can catch the most "fish," at the same time everyone must watch out for baited hooks himself. And although all this happened a great long time ago April fishing was very popular even then.

"Alas!" sighed the Duke to his lady. "It is indeed a day for fools. Let us hope our journey be not a sleeveless errand." By which he meant "a wild goose chase."

The Duke, poor fellow, always got very blue and down-in-the-mouth when things went wrong.

They soon reached the city gates but already the dawn had deepened in the east and it was almost day.

"Keep thy head turned away," said the Duke to his companion. "Else thy fair face will give us away."

At the city gate stood two guards looking rather sleepy after their long vigil. Would they suspect the shabby pair hurrying out at that early hour?

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The shabby couple made no reply but shuffled on in their clumsy wooden shoes.

"Horses await us in yon wood," murmured the Duke. "Oh that we were there!"

The wood seemed far away indeed to the anxious eyes turned toward it. The Duchess, unused to walking, or to any exercise, for that matter, especially while carrying a basket of rubbish on her head, could scarcely shuffle along in her great heavy shoes. She sighed and set her lips in a firm line.

Just then they met a peasant woman and a child on the road. As the little one looked up the Duchess smiled at him. Was there ever a peasant woman with such a smile? The child stared a moment then he pointed and cried:

"Oh, see the pretty lady!"

His mother gave the Duchess a nibble today or caught you shall bet!"

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THE JUNIOR COOK

Cinnamon Toast

Cut six thin slices of bread. Measure out one-half teaspoon of cinnamon.

And two teaspoons granulated sugar.

Mix sugar and cinnamon. Toast the bread on one side.

Spread the un-toasted side with butter and sprinkle with the sugar mixture.

Toast the buttered and sugared side. Serve at once.

Fine to eat after school or to make a surprise for mother when she has a caller to tea.

hope, the Duke muttering bitterly: "A sleeveless errand, a sleeveless errand. Like Noah's dove fly on a sleeveless errand."

Meanwhile the good peasant woman and her son reached the city gates. They were both plump and very much out of breath, especially the little boy who had never been run so fast before in his life.

"What ho!" cried the guard.

"Oh, sir!" panted the good woman. "We have seen the Duke of Lorraine and his lady upon the road disguised as poor, honest folk."

"Indeed!" roared the guard. "Ha, ha, ha! Very good indeed! I saw them also and bade them god-speed."

But they trudged on, hoping against

mother coming into the room, "what is all this confusion?"

"Nothin' tall," said Tom. "I just April Fooled her, that's all."

"Who ever started April Fooling, anyhow, mother?" asked Betty, "all things must have a beginning, what was the beginning of All Fools' Day?"

"There is really no very good explanation for the origin of this merry custom," began mother seating herself near the water of the gaily of this day was first set aside by Noah when he sent the Dove from the Ark on a 'fool's errand'—to find a green leaf before the waters of the flood had gone down. Once upon a time the first of April was New Year's Day, and great honor was then accorded to the day, but in the year 1564, the New Year was changed to January first, and the poor first of April was left with but a pretense or a burlesque of its former festivities. Some persons think, therefore, that because the first of April

was fooled out of its New Year celebrations and gaieties, it must be allowed some mock celebration instead. So, in France, the First of April was celebrated as the Feast of Fools and on that day fun and riot filled the streets of Paris. A king of the Fools was chosen and crowned, and for one day in the year at least the people forgot their troubles and went about joking fun at their neighbors and endeavoring to have a jolly good time. But there are still more reasons given for observing April Fool's Day. The Hindoo festival of Huli is celebrated every year on the 11st of March in much the same way as that in which we observe April Fool's Day. On that day the joker can joke to his heart's content without fearing the stern grip of the law. It is thought that perhaps the Crusaders in the Dark Ages learned something of the gaiety of this Hindoo holiday and introduced it into Europe, and that we celebrate the festival of Huli one day after our Hindoo cousins."

"Hello, April fish!" called one of the guards jocosely. "Mind where you

all about, and from the humans that can't walk through the woods without making more noise than a tree falling down, but they all are very much mistaken. Why, we have lots of fun, and lots of spare time, and we have regular playgrounds in open places in the woods, where we gather on moonlight nights and frolic and play, like so many children. We play leap-frog, we run races, and play hide-and-seek, back over his eyes.

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A MERRY CUSTOM

HERE'S a 'phone message for you, Betty," called Tom as he came home from school on the first of April. "Some lady called up and said for you to call Woods 2438 and ask for Lizzie Bear."

"But I don't know any Lizzie Bear," protested Betty, going to the 'phone to call the number. Tom stood by to hear the conversation.

"Hello," said Betty. "Is that Woods 2438? I would like to speak to Lizzie Bear, please."

"We've no Lizzie Bear here," laughed a rough voice, "this is the Zoo, Miss, and the only bears we have are polar and grizzly."

"The Zoo," echoed Betty weakly. "April Fool," cried Tom and ran to hide.

"Children, children," exclaimed their

mother coming into the room, "what is all this confusion?"

"Nothin' tall," said Tom. "I just April Fooled her, that's all."

"Who ever started April Fooling, anyhow, mother?" asked Betty, "all things must have a beginning, what was the beginning of All Fools' Day?"

"There is really no very good explanation for the origin of this merry custom," began mother seating herself near the water of the gaily of this day was first set aside by Noah when he sent the Dove from the Ark on a 'fool's errand'—to find a green leaf before the waters of the flood had gone down. Once upon a time the first of April was New Year's Day, and great honor was then accorded to the day, but in the year 1564, the New Year was changed to January first, and the poor first of April was left with but a pretense or a burlesque of its former festivities. Some persons think, therefore, that because the first of April

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