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When Betty Lost Her Way

A Tale for the Children

Betty at first thought she was still dreaming. She had cried herself to sleep among the ferns under an oak tree, but the sound of music had awakened her.

She wiped the tears from her eyes with her pinafore, so that she could see more clearly. The moon had risen, white and large behind the great pines in the middle of the wood, and there, in the moonshine, was a band of little grey mice, dancing and singing round the stump of a tree.

On the tree stump stood a funny elf with a solemn face, playing music on a big fiddle, and three pretty fairies sat on the grass, watching the dancers.

Betty crept nearer and nearer, until she was able to hear that the mice were singing:

All the corn is a golden brown.

Harvest home. Get the harvest home. Apple and nut are tumbling down As we sing harvest home.

Hurry up, farmer, and cut the wheat.

Harvest home. Get the harvest home. Thresh out the grain for us to eat, As we sing harvest home.

"Corn," says the farmer, "is my consarn." Harvest home. Get the harvest home. But the wise little mouse knows the way to the barn.

As we sing harvest home.

Then a mouse saw Betty, and gave a shriek, and away scuttled all the dancers. But the tallest of the fairies—a beautiful lady with lovely lilac wings and long flowing lilac robes—called the mice around her, and looked sternly at the little girl.

"How dare you disturb my mice when they are holding their harvest festival!" she cried. "How is it you are not in bed, Betty, when all the world is fast asleep?"

"Please, fairy, it's my birthday," said Betty, beginning to cry. "We were having a party at the farm and some of the children were late. Daddy went to fetch them, and I—and I—"

"She went to meet her father, and lost her way in the wood," said the elf. "I was watching her. Instead of going round by the road, she took the shortcut, and cut short the party. Ha! Ha! Ha!"

"Never mind, Betty," said the fairy queen, taking the little girl in her arms. "You shall have a special birthday party here in the woods. Play the dance to fairyland, Grimalkin."

Looking more solemn than ever, the elf put his chin on the top of his big fiddle, and waved his bow three times in the air, and began to play a swift, merry dance. There was a rustle of wings, and for a moment the moon was hid by lovely fairy forms. Then down they flew to the tree stump and clustered round their queen.

"Prepare a birthday feast for Betty of Westernmain farm," cried the fairy queen. "She is five years old to-day and has lost herself in our woods."

Away went all the fairies, and the little mice began to dance with joy. Holding each others front paws, they circled round Betty, singing in their wee, shrill voices:

Pretty little Betty is kind and sweet, Pretty little Betty will do no harm To the tiny grey mice with nimble feet That live with her on her father's farm

"Do they really?" said Betty.

"Yes," said the fairy queen. "But there are only thirty-two of them, so they don't take much of your father's corn."

By this time the banquet had been prepared, and a rich and glorious banquet it was—hundreds of new sorts of cakes, and puddings and tarts, and sweets of every kind. Everything was served up on gold plates and a bright winged fairy brought Betty a golden goblet, and poured out a delicious fairy drink for her. Rows of tables, on which were placed all manner of exquisite fruit, were set on the grass, and a band of goblins played lilting tunes during the feast.

The fairy queen sat on the throne at the head of the largest table, with Betty on her right hand. The little mice ran in and out underneath the tables, and everybody, of course, made a lot of crumbs for them.

At last the feast was over and the dancing began. The fairy queen took

Betty as partner, and it was wonderful how quickly the little girl learnt all the steps of the wild and maddening fairy dances. Round and round they whirled on the greensward. Suddenly a cock crowed in Westernmain farm, on the northern side of the wood.

"Quick, we have not a moment to lose," cried the fairy queen, touching Betty with a little wand.

Betty swayed and fell asleep in the fairy queen's arms. When she woke up, she found herself lying, with her clothes on, in her own little bed on the farm. Her father and mother, who had been searching for her all night, still think she managed to find her own way home.

PREDICTS THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Rector of Hamilton Church Says the Lord May Return During the Year 1914

Hamilton, Jan. 5.—In St. George's church last night the Rev. Canon F. E. Howitt, the rector, declared the second coming of Christ to be close at hand, "while there is no scriptural warrant to prove it, the year 1914 would seem to be the possible date for the Lord's return," the rector said. Many godly men believe this including Evan Roberts, Rev. Luce, of Gloucester, and Lord Radstock.

"Everywhere this impression seems to prevail. When Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed the Lord revealed the fact to Godly people; similarly, the fact was revealed before Jerusalem was destroyed. Before Christ came to earth it was revealed and indications are now that the Lord will soon return to earth for the second time.

One reason that the speaker assigned was that there was more sin and sickness in the world now than ever before.

TEMPERANCE FORCES WIN IN FIFTEEN ONTARIO TOWNS

Five Gave Straight Majorities— Means Reduction of Seventeen Licenses

Toronto, Ont., Jan. 5.—Returns received at the Dominion Alliance headquarters tonight show that the temperance forces have won fifteen townships, wiping out seventeen liquor licenses. In nineteen places the required three-fifths majority was not secured.

In five there were straight majorities against local option. In all fourteen repeal contests for local option was sustained.

Local option was carried in the following places: Brampton, Meaford, Grant Valley, Kemptville, Albermarle, Lanark, Bastard and Burgess, Lancaster, Marmora and Lake, Puslinch, Ross and Tay townships.

It was defeated in the following places: Arnprior, Aylmer, Barrie, Brockville, Napanee, Tilsonberg, Wiarton, Paris, Marmora, Burlington, Delhi, Woodbridge, Floss township, Mara, Seaborough, Coburg, Salte Ste Marie, Richmond and Alnwick.

It was defeated by straight majorities in the following: Morrisburg, Springfield, Bodley, Georgian and Kimley.

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