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#### THE

# Runaway Lovers

AND THE

Humorous Pranks of Other Very

# QUEER PEOPLE

WITH

MANY VIEWS FROM REAL LIFE

Both Stories and Pictures

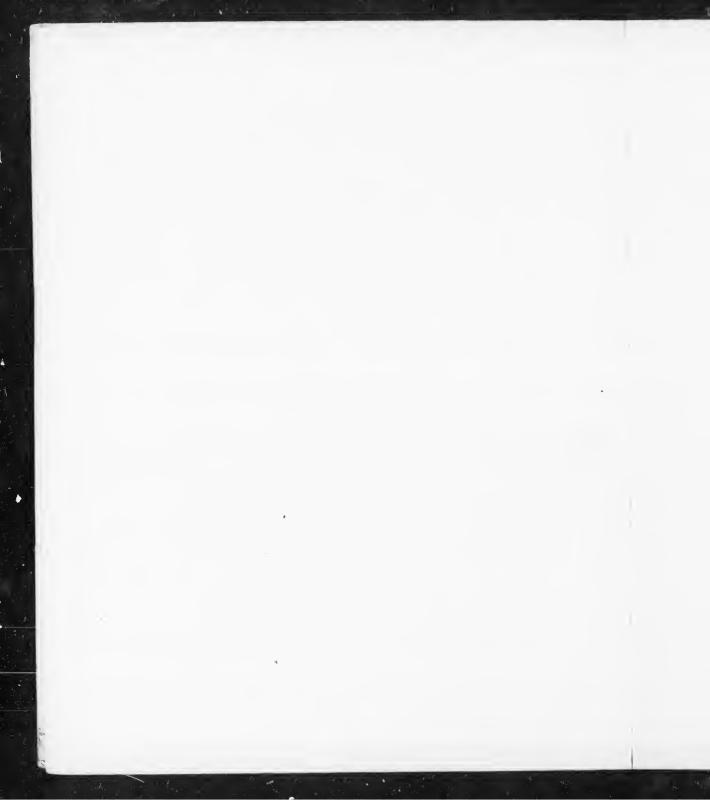
# BY PALMER COX

Author of The Brownies

HUBBARD PUBLISHING CO.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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#### THE RUNAWAY LOVERS.

PON their way, through country green,
A loving pair may now be seen,
The steed is fleet whereon they ride,
He knows the section, far and wide,

The woods that frown, the streams that flow The mountains steep and valleys low. He knows where fallen timbers lie Across the creek, now foaming high.

He knows where branching cedars grow And hide the path that winds below. No knight of ancient chivalry E'er rode a surer steed than he.

No spavined foot, no foundered knee,
But sound as apple on the tree.

The meadows wide they quickly cross,
The pastures bare, the banks of moss,
The rocks and woods they leave behind
For *Union* now is in their mind.
"A strange affinity," you cry;
"I think the same as you, and sigh.

But who can fathom love affairs, Or who account for ill-matched pairs?"

Enough, a blessing we'll bestow, And watch them as away they go. No angry kindred need pursue, Nor alter wills, or mischief brew. The loss of friends or rich estate
Will not make her forsake her mate;
Nor threats of punishment or pain
Cause him to turn or draw the rein;
So those who may object or rave
May calm their minds and language save.



The wondering crowds may shut the door,
And close the blind and sash once more;
The gossip ring may leave the fire
And to the bed again retire,
For miles will shortly intervene
And hearts be joined at Gretna Green.

#### A BACK-YARD PARTY.

NE evening bright there was a sight

That should recorded be.

All gazed in wonder—well they might—

Such funny things to see.

A neighbor's yard is smooth and hard, And through the block extends, And there, came lively rats and mice, With town and country friends.

It may have been a weading scene They celebrated there,

A birthday party, or *soiree*, Enjoyed in open air.





But this is plain, whatever train

Had brought the rogues that way,
From loft and lane and bins of grain,
A jovial troop were they.

The household cat, so sleek and fat, Is by the servants fed,
And only leaves the rug or mat
To find her cream and bread.

So nought was there to harm or scare
The lively groups below
That danced and played in light and shade,
Or rambled to and fro.



No slaves were they to fashion's sway,
With all its outs and ins:
For some wore gauze or summer straws,
While others dressed in skins.



Beside the gate, upon a crate

That once held earthen ware,

An old musician, throned in state,

Gave many a pleasing air.

He scraped and paw'd and chopped and saw'd,

But never seemed to tire

Though oft his bow would run as though
To set the strings on fire;
While at his side, in pomp and pride,
A knowing mouse was stalled,
And while the sets he sharply eyed,
The mazy dance he called:

"To partners bow the first, and now To those on either side, Across and back, the lady swing, Now balance all!" he cried.

Twas charming fun to see them run, And curtsey, bow, and wheel,
Or slip and slide and trip and glide
Through some plantation reel.

The smallest mouse about the house,

And most destructive rat,
Danced half an hour
with grace and power—
An Irish jig at that;

Upon a pan the dance began,
And round the yard they pass'd,
But dancing still for life, until
The rat gave out at last.

The Highland fling and pigeon-wing,
The polka and quadrille;

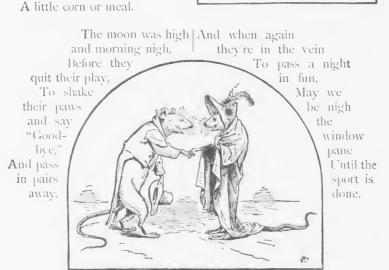


The waltz and schottish everything— Was found upon the bill.

The latest dance
that came from France,
From Germany or Spain,
The most delightful hop or prance,
Their programme did contain.

And people who could gain a viewOf either jig or reelWould hardly grudge the lively crew





#### THE FAIRIES' GIFT.



HEN the Kidderminster Fairies
heard the rumor going round,
How the young and favor'd Forester,
who guarded game and ground,
Was to wed the Florist's daughter,
one as good as she was fair,



They resolved to make a wedding-gift befitting such a pair. Soon the golden day of promise came, which saw the couple wed, When the solemn vows were spoken and the Parson's blessing said.

Lo! that night the from the East, From the North and to some land the



Fairies gathered and from the West; South they hastened youth possess'd.

Over mountains, through the fields

over rivers, and forests green,

Still they mustered by the hundred, at the summons of the Queen. Every trade was represented, all the occupations through, From the man who planned a building to the one who pegged a shoe, And they set to work in earnest, throwing jackets all aside. To erect a stately mansion for the husband and his bride.

Twas a mighty undertaking,
of such magnitude indeed,
Nothing else but Fairy workmen
could with such a task succeed.
There they bustled without resting,
as though life itself was bet,
Till their little hands were blistered



and their garments wringing wet,

How they sawed, and bored, and "boosted up" the timbers, through
the night,

How they hammered, hammered, hammered, to get done  $er\varepsilon$ morning light;

For the Fairies who from labor by the dapple dawn are chased, While their work is yet unfinished, are forevermore disgraced.



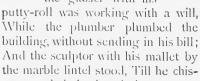
Oh, what harmony existed! Not an oath or harsh expres-



Not a breath was wasted there, sion fell like poison on the air.

Here the blacksmith and his helper made the solid anvil sound While they forged the bolts and braces that secured the structure round. There the mason with his trowal kept the hod-men moving spry, Till the massive chimney tower'd twenty cubits to the sky, And the painters followed after with their ladders and their pails

Spreading paint upon the finish ere the joiner drove his nails. Even cobblers with their pincers, and their awls and pegs of wood, Were assisting in the enterprise by pegging as they could. There the glazier with his



eled the inscription:

A REWARD FOR BEING GOOD.

When no article was wanting for the comfort of the pair, From the scraper at the entrance to the rods upon the stair, Then the wizened little millionaires, possessed of wealth untold,

Into treasure-vaults and coffers many rich donations roll'd; And before the East was purpled by the arrows of the sun All the Fairies had departed, for the edifical was done.

So that couple took possession,

and in all the country round There was none enjoyed such riches, or such happiness profound. There they lived for years in comfort, and then followed next of kin, Till a dozen generations in succession lived therein. Many walls since then have tumbled, in the dust lie stones and lime, But that mansion, built by Fairies, still defies the teeth of Time. Winds may howl around its gable, snow may settle on its roof, Rain may patter, hail may batter, but it towers weather-proof. Gone are not the days of Fairies,

In the moonlight they assemble
to perform their wonders still.
So be careful, oh, be cautious,
what you say, or think, or do,
For the Fairies may be waiting
to creet a house for you.

#### A NIGHT ALARM.

OW what's the hubbub? what's the go?

There's something in the well below;

I hear it

splashing round.

It's not a frog, a hen, or cat,
But something larger yet than that;
It weighs an
hundred
pound.

It sinks at times, but rises still,
Then splashes, like a water-mill,
And makes a
grunting
sound.

Come bring a lantern, bring a line, For something's in this well of mine, And something stout and big.

Now hold the light and let us see
The object plainly; mercy me!

It's widow

Murphys

pig!



#### KING CAULIFLOWER.



OLD Cauliflower was a king

who ruled o'er land and sea;

He took a penny from the till

of his great treasury,

And with the money in his hand,

he ran about the town,

To make a purchase of a pint of pea-nuts roasted brown.



The king was not, as monarchs go, decidedly severe,
But, in financial matters, he, perhaps, was rather near.
He haggled with old women at the corner of the square,
Then found a dark Italian, who did stammer and did stare.
The monarch overawed him, with his flowing ermine gown,

His gold-enameled sceptre, and his diamond-studded crown; So he took the proffered penny, at a sacrifice, no doubt, And, afraid of royal anger, the pea-nuts measured out. And when he brought them to his room it was the king's intent,

To eat the pea-nuts in the bed before to sleep he went.

To this the queen objection made, and very well she might,

For he was well along in years, and late it was at night;

Then said the crabbed Cauliflower: "Am I not a king?

And may I not do what 1 please, and swallow anything?

O, have a care, my queenly dame, my wish is law, you know,

And, if I do but say the word, your saucy head may go!"



Then quick the fearless queen replied: "Go, frighten slave or fool, But I would have you understand that here 'tis I who rule; So take your pea-nuts somewhere else, and may they cost you dear, For, were you fifty times a king, you'll not be munching here!'. Then, out upon the steps of stone, in silence sat his grace, And ate the pint of roasted nuts before he left the place.



Around the opening blossoms stand, With ready weapons in your hand; And deal your blows on every head, That ventures high a bush or bed. The pecvish bands you must engage

Are nothing slow a war to wage;

They'll shower dangers thick and fast,

And test your mettle to the last.

Beware the emmet's poison breath,

And beetles' arms that hug to death.

And in the 1 ht, I composed well,

Beware the bee, an hornet fell,

I or swift and victous thrusts they deal,

That soon can make the stongest reel."



According to her strict command, With ready weapons, stood the band, Around the flowers, and hurled the thieves, By thousands, from the trembling leaves.

As day advanced, and up the sky

The sun was rolling, hot and high;

The insects, thick and thicker flew,

And fiercer still the battle grew.

The hornets fell with broken stings,
With crippled legs and tattered wings;
The beetles tumbled round the beds,
With aching backs and dizzy heads;

While emmets, maddened by the blows,
Attacked, alike, their friends and foes;
And thus, unceasing, raged the fight,
Till closed around the shades of night.

Then baffled bees fled in dismay, The hornets dragged themselves away;

The beetles crept to mossy walls, the ants retired to earthen halls,



And then the bat of evening rese, To guard the flowers through swell repose.

### LISTENING TO THE ROOSTER CROW.

HOUGH the night be dark or clear, Or the ground be white with snow; Still I love to listen here To the Rooster's lusty crow.

> "Oh, the thrush may chant her hymn, With a voice so sweet and rare; Or the robin from the limb, Fill with melody the air.

"Oh, the nightingale may cheer, And the lark its powers show; But more pleasing to mine car, Is the Rooster's rousing crow.

"Ah, 'tis lucky for the rogue That the barn is boarded tight; And the button on the door Is above my reach, to-night.

"Or, from there amongst the hens, I would haul him with a flurry;





Would escort him in a hurry.

"So let skies be dark or bright, Let the snow conceal the crest,

Of the hill, or mountain height, And the blizzard do its best.



While I have a heart to beat,
And a foot to come and go,
Here I'll listen in my seat
To the Rooster's lusty crow."

#### THE ELEPHANT AND DONKEY



The latter said, with manners kind, "Here one alone can footing find, So let us choose the safest scheme And singly cross the brawling stream. You're nearest to the shore you see And should, I think, give way to me. When I have cross'd the dangerous place Then you can soon resume your pace."

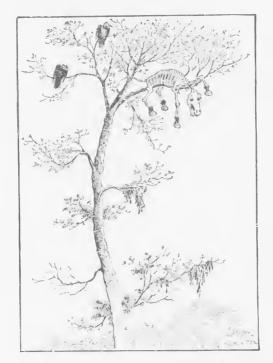
"Not so," the Donkey quick replied,
Who, blinded by his silly pride,
Mistook the traveler's civil air
For evidence of craven fear;
And thus went on with haughty tone,
"My time is precious as your own,
And here I'll stand throughout the day
Upon my rights, let come what may."

Now, angered at conceit so great, The Elephant cut short debate



He gazed a moment in surprise, And cried, with fire in his eyes,

"Then mark how soon your foolish pride Will bring reward:" He made a stride, And reaching out his trunk, he gave The Donkey such an upward wave,



High over head, through air he passed, Until some branches held him fast; And people passing by may see His bones, still hanging in the tree.

#### DIVIDING THE GAME.

WO foxes sly, of sharpest sight,

Set out to hunt one summer night,

Across the hills, around the swales,

And through the barnyard's gates and rails,

They traveled free, and traveled far, Beneath the light of moon and star.



And then, as dawn of morning came, It found the rogues dividing game. One fox had bagged a rooster stout That seven years, or thereabout, Had sat above the rattling horn Of stabled cows, and hailed the morn.

One caught a duck of Russian line, Of heavy build and feather fine, And both at once, with even leap, Had nabbed a snipe while fast asleep.

No easy job it seemed to be, Between the two, to halve the three. One claimed the rooster, one the duck, But still the snipe was there to pluck. And each one thought it was but fair To add the dodger to his share. So there they sat, till day was ripe, Disputing who should have the snipe,



Each quoting Law to back his claim, Like lawyers in pursuit of game. At last, a hunter passing by Upon the robbers set his eye, And with his double barrel true, Soon rid the country of the two.



## THE TURKEY IN DANGER.

While turkeys roosted on a fence,

A fox approached with care



And soon
within
her basket
lay
The largest
gobbler
there.

Then,
as
the Christmas
times
were nigh,
The fox
went
off
in
glee;

Her youngster trotting by her side, The smallest one of three. It made with her that early start

To exercise and run,

To take some lessons in the art,

And learn how work was done.

"You're growing old," the youngster said,
"I saw you limp, to-day;
But when you're hunting game, I see,
You've not forgot the way."

"Tis true," she said, "of late I've had Rheumatics in my toe; But I'll not take the second place To any fox I know.

There may be some with quicker ear, With sharper sight another;
But there's not one can bag a fowl As nicely as your mother.

"I've often heard your father say,
When I was young and free,
He never saw a fox could clear
A panel fence like me.





"I think I see him sit and smile Upon me, sweet and fond, When he observed how quick I could Of goslings strip the pond.

"He said I far excelled himself,

Though he was widely famed,

And by the farmers, far and near,

For many years was blamed.

He died at last, while breaking fast,,
Behind you rocky hill,
It makes me sad to think your dad,
Mistook that awful pill.

May palsy shake the guilty hand,
That did the dose provide;
Which turned him almost inside out,
Ere I could reach his side.

Oh, never touch
To aught,
Until its nature,
You rightly

I've seen more Than I can Where rash advance, Brought sorrow

> There's not an However But suffering crea-Regret some

O, child of mine, And shun the Beware of guns, But with in-



your nose, my dear, however grand, full and clear, understand.

trouble in my day now explain, or games of chance, in their train.

hour passes by, plans are laid, tures, low and high, move they've made.

avoid the trap, tempting pill; that never snap tent to kill.

Nor blindly be enticed astray,
By pleasures s<sub>i</sub> and around;
To be the sport, if not the prey,
Of every yelping hound."

"I'll bear your counsel in my mind,"

The baby fox replied;

"And think of thee whene'er I see,

Temptations at my side."

"That's good," the smiling dame remarked, "Advice is vain indeed,

Unless the soil whereon it falls, Is mellow for the seed."

That's fine discourse," the turkey thought,

As there he lay in fear;

"Had I with caution thus been taught,

I hardly would be here.

A fool was I, to sit and doze, Upon an orchard fence; Within the reach of every nose That cared to drag me thence.

But, if from here I ever rise,
Which I will scarcely do;
The chance I'll prize, to be more wise,
And start in life ancw.

The tallest post the farm can boast,
Will not my wishes meet;
But, in the tree, each night I'll be,
And there myself secrete.

I'll trust to neither kith nor kin,

Nor on the dog rely;

And should I roost upon a spire,

I'll keep one open eye."

Thus, while they moved upon their way, To gain the forest green,





They reached a place where cedar rails

Were laid along between.

To mount a fence has never been

An easy thing to do,



When those who climb convey a load,

That must be rising, too.

But, nothing daunted by the sight,

She, step by step, arose;

At times employing elbow joints,

As well as all her toes.

But as she reached the topmost rail,
And paused, her breath to win,
The turkey, taken with a cramp,
Began to lurch within.

The fowl was not arranged with care,
According to its mind;
The head was down, the heels in air,
The tail was left behind.

The balance lost in such a place, Was not so quickly found; So down went basket, fox and fowl, All rolling on the ground.

The fox was first upon her feet,

But then, what could she do?

The basket opened to the fence,

The turkey first was through.

Away they go, now high, now low, The ditch and logs they cross; The turkey missed his spreading tail, But fear made up the loss. He had sprained an ankle-joint
When from the fence she rolled;
And now, although she strained a point,
Against her speed it told.

The highest rail the youngster found From which the chase to view,



And cried, "Alas! 'tis gaining ground— I'm dreadful hungry, too."

> Twas heel and toe, and grab and go, Around the rocks and trees;

And lucky was that fowl to know His feathers pulled with ease.

Their coming out at "clutches stout"

Still left him free to run;

Had they been rooted fast, no doubt,

His gobbling days were done.

The turkey, when the barn was nigh,

Though out of wind, and weak,

Now summoned all his strength to fly,

And reached the highest peak.

His rise was not Of birds of But grace or style When safety

It bore him from
And from the
And left him lookUpon his

the graceful flight eagle breed; is valued light lies in speed.

the reaching paw, shining teeth, ing down in awe, foe beneath.

The fox one moment viewed the fowl,
Then turned her from the scene
And never ran so mad a rogue
Through field or forest green.

But never since that time of fear,
At least so runs the tale,
Has man or beast that turkey found
Asleep upon a rail.



