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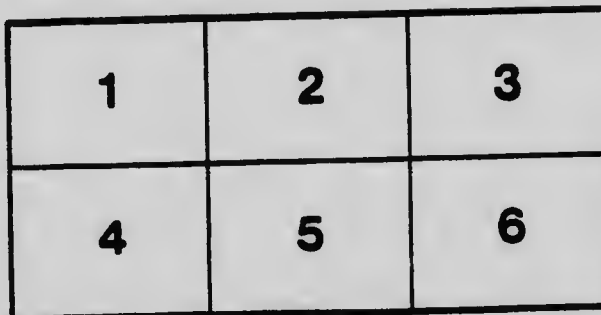
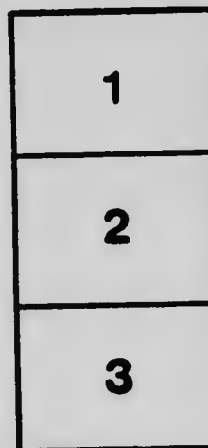
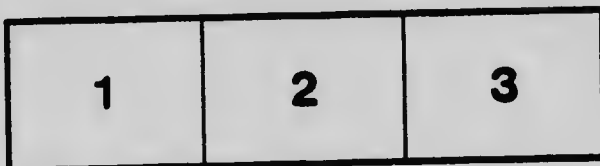
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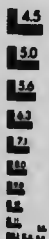
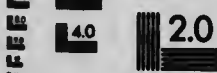
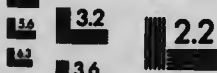
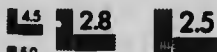
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# FAIRY STORIES FROM THE ESKIMOS.

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## THE WEAKLING TURNED STRONG.

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**T**HOUGH Kasagu\* was only a quite little boy, his life was a hard one. He lived in the house of his stepmother, his father and mother both being dead. It was not long since he had lost them; indeed, his father had died less than a year ago, and until then his stepmother had been forced to treat him without much harshness, though at no time could her behaviour to him be called kind.

2. But now that his father was no longer there to protect him, poor little Kasagu had a terrible time. He was never allowed to enter the living-room of the house, where it was warm, and where also there was a ledge all the way round to sit or sleep on.

3. It was his lot to spend his days, and also his nights, with the dogs in the passage, or tunnel, which led from the cold world without to the warmth and comfort of the living-room.

4. The dogs were all the company he had,

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\* Pronounce *ka-d'-sa-goo-d* as in "father"; *a* as in "sofa"; *oo* as in "book."

and most of his food was scraps picked from the meals that were thrown to them. In the mornings, when the men were rousing the dogs with their whips, they would often hit poor Kasagu as well as the dogs; and they only laughed when he cried out, "Na-ah! Na-ah!"

5. Little Kasagu could not run out into the snow and play with the other children, because he had no boots. Without the warm snow-boots that the people of this land wear, his feet would soon have become frost-bitten in the intense cold. Often he had asked his stepmother to give him a pair of boots; but she always said, "No, you are not worth it yet. You must work harder, before you can have any boots."

6. For, although he was ill-treated, and so badly fed that he was but a puny creature for his age, he had to work hard all day long at cleaning the boots of the others, and also at sewing the leather to make footwear for the rest of the household. It was work to which there seemed no end.

7. But at length there came a day when his stepmother said he might have a pair of boots, if he would work hard at helping to make them.

8. You may imagine with what eager hands Kasagu worked and worked, until the happy day when the boots were ready for wear. Then his stepmother, who, by this time, really seemed to

have become sorry for him, gave him also a little spear, of which he felt very proud indeed.

9. "Never shall I be so unhappy again," he thought, "for now I shall be able to go out and play with the other children and shall be one with them."

10. But, in thinking this, Kasagu was greatly mistaken; for no sooner had he made his way out, proudly wearing the new boots, to the place where the other children were at play, than they began to laugh at and mock him. When he tried to run away, they chased and very soon caught him; for he was not strong enough to run as fast as they could.

11. They rolled him in the snow, filling his clothes and new boots with it, until he was so cold and miserable that he began to cry; and then he ran back to the passage-way, to the company of the dogs, which were kinder to him than the children who should have been his playmates.

12. One day, he made up his mind that, instead of making another attempt to play with these ill-disposed children, he would go off by himself to the mountains and see what was there.

13. Once, long ago, when he had cried because he was not strong and sturdy like his stepbrothers and sisters, his stepmother had told him that if he climbed to the crest of the small mountain that stood between the two great ones, and called

aloud, "Lord of Strength, come forth and make me strong!" he would grow as sturdy as the other young people of the village.

14. He had never forgotten this; and so now he set off, intending to climb to the summit of the mountain, and try if the spell of those words would bring him any good luck.

15. It was a long, weary climb, some part of the way through blinding snow and against a piercing, bitter wind. Then the cold grew even keener; but the force of the wind was lessened, and his greatest trouble was to find foothold on the slippery, frost-bound rocks.

16. At length the crest was reached; and weary, but full of triumph, Kasagu raised his arms to the skies, and cried, "Lord of Strength, come forth and make me strong!"

17. Having uttered the spell, he waited; but all remained still and silent amid the mountains, and he feared that what his stepmother had told him was naught but a fable.

18. Very sadly, therefore, he now turned to descend the mountain; but, ere he had taken a dozen steps downward, he heard a rustling and the thud of heavy snowfalls. Turning again, he saw a huge animal in the shape of a wolf, although three times the size of any wolf he had ever seen; and it was coming towards him.

19. At this sight, all the tales he had ever heard of the dreadful great beasts of the moun-





Turning again, he saw a huge animal in the shape of a wolf.—Page 4.

tain, came crowding into his mind. "Oh dear! Why did I ever come?" he cried, and started to run away as fast as his thin little legs would carry him.

20. But the great beast came after him with gigantic leaps and bounds, and very soon had overtaken him. Kasagu tried to dodge; but his pursuer twisted its long tail around his body, and threw him to the ground.

21. Half-dead with fright, the boy shut his eyes and waited for the moment when the beast should kill him; but that moment did not come. Instead, he heard a kind of rustling, as if faded leaves or dead twigs were falling from the branches of trees, though, in truth, there were no trees upon the barren mountain.

22. Finding the blow did not fall, he ventured, at length, to open his eyes and look around. Then he saw that a number of little bones, shaped, as he thought, rather like tiny toys, were falling away from his own body, though without his feeling any pain, and it was these which had made the rustling sound.

23. Thinking the wolf was going to kill him thus, by squeezing his bones out of his body, he cried out in fear. But the great beast said, "No need hast thou, child, to be afraid. These are not thine own true bones which are falling from thee; they are but bones which have grown around thy body, and so have stayed thy growth

and caused thee to remain small and weak as a little child."

24. By this time, Kasagu had scrambled to his feet; and, in spite of the kind way in which the wolf spoke to him, he was trying to make off. But again the wolf wound its tail around him, and threw him to the ground; and then again came the rustling of falling bones, though less in number than before.

25. Then the wolf set him upon his feet, and turned his face in the direction of the east, saying, "Now go thy way home; but if thou wouldst be made strong, come again to me each day that I may do this to thee, for I am the Lord of Strength upon whom thou didst call. But, above all things, I charge thee that thou tell no one of what has been done to thee."

26. Kasagu started to run; and, as he did so, he felt that running was not nearly so hard a labour as it had been, and that he could run faster and longer than ever before. This made him happy.

27. When he came within sight of the homestead, the girls, who were minding the babies strapped upon their backs, saw him and cried, "See, there is Kasagu! Let us pelt him with mud."

28. As he came up with them, they pelted him with snow and mud until he was wet through and very dirty; then they beat him with

their hands, laughing meantime that they should so get the better of him, although they were but girls, and also had the babies to carry.

29. Kasagu felt so much stronger that he would have liked to turn and strike back. But he remembered the words of the wolf, that he must tell no one of what had been done to him; so he ran from them and crept back to his corner in the passage-way, among the dogs, where he was very soon fast asleep.

30. When he awoke the next morning, he wondered if it had all been a dream; but when he began to move, his limbs felt so much stronger and lighter that he knew his visit to the great wolf of the mountain must have been real.

31. As soon as he could do so without being seen by his stepmother, he again set forth and climbed to the summit of the mountain. This time the journey did not take nearly as long.

32. His heart beat fast, as he sent his call echoing through the vast stretches of the mountains. "Lord of Strength," he shouted, "hear me and come at my call!"

33. A few moments of silence followed; then, leaping and bounding just as before, the great beast came rushing upon him, and, having wound its tail about his body, threw him to the ground.

34. Then came the rustle of the falling bones. Three times was this repeated, before the wolf set him upon his feet, bidding him go home, but

also telling him to return again the next day. So Kasagu ran blithely homeward; and, as he went, he sang for joy at the strange new strength which he could now feel coming to his limbs.

35. Thus for twenty-one days Kasagu made the journey to the mountain, never missing a single day. On each occasion he called upon the Lord of Strength, who came at his call; and for twenty days the great wolf worked the cure upon him, sending him away each day a little stronger than he had come.

36. But on the twenty-first day there was a difference in what the wolf did. Instead of treating Kasagu as before, it said, "Push that rock down into the valley below!"

37. The rock to which the great beast pointed, stood on the extreme edge of a high cliff, and was so huge that, the strength of an ordinary man would not have been enough to move it; but Kasagu put forth the mighty strength that was now in him, and sent the rock whirling and crashing down.

38. "Thou need'st come to me to more," said the wolf, having witnessed this feat; "for now art thou stronger than the strongest man that was yet upon earth." And Kasagu went leaping and bounding down the mountain-side, rejoicing in the mighty power that the Lord of Strength had given him, although in stature he remained the same.

39. Even now he told his family nothing of his visits to the giant wolf of the mountain, but pretended to be the same puny, weakly creature as before. What is stranger still, he never turned upon the children, when they teased or struck him; but, at such times, he slunk back in silence to his home among the dogs.

40. In this way the days passed, until once again it was winter. The sea was frozen, so that there was no chance of hunting for seals; nor could any reindeer be caught, for they had fled to where the cold was less intense.

41. During these winter months, it fared hard with the Eskimo families dwelling in that part of the land. Food of any kind was by no means easy to come at, and every day it grew more scarce. The men were very silent, as they went about their work; for in their hearts was a great fear that they might not be able to feed their little children, who even now were often crying with cold and hunger.

42. Then one day came a great and sudden change. In place of the sullen quietness were heard the shouting of men and the barking of dogs. Some of the men came running into the village to tell the news. Three huge bears had been seen climbing an iceberg but a little way from the village. If only they could be caught, there would be food in plenty for many a day to come.

43. Every man ran for his spear, for the village folk decided to surround the iceberg and wait until the bears came down from the top.

44. When he heard the news, up jumped Kasagu and cried to his stepmother, "Mother, let me have your boots, so that I may go and have a look at the bears!" For, by this time, his own boots were much too small for him.

45. At first his stepmother refused; but after he had long begged and prayed that she would let him have them, she threw the boots at him, crying, "Take the boots, then. But mind that, in return for them, you bring me one of the bear-skins for my couch and another for my coverlet; else, for many a day to come, shall your bones be sore from the beating I'll give you."

46. "Never fear, mother, the skins shall be yours," cried Kasagu gaily, as he tugged at the boots to get them on. Then, without waiting to fetch his spear, he rushed to the foot of the iceberg.

47. It was high, and the sides were steep, with scarce any foothold for the first part of the way up. But with a run and a jump Kasagu surmounted the smooth lower side, and reached a ledge where cracks and crevices made plenty of foothold. There he seized hold on any jutting portion of ice that would help him in his ascent.

48. At last the top was reached, and he found himself face to face with the three bears. At

such close quarters they looked even huger than at first sight; but the lad's heart did not fail him.

49. Growling fiercely, the nearest of the bears lifted its paw, and was about to fell the daring intruder, as it seemed certain, with a single blow.

50. But Kasagu did not wait for the blow. With his naked hands he seized the bear by its forepaws, and flung it with such force upon the iceberg that it was killed outright. Then he cast the carcass down to the crowd below, who were eagerly watching all that went on; and, in doing this, he called out to them, "See! Here is my first catch. Skin it, and divide the flesh among you."

51. But now the second bear, which was even larger than the first, was making for the brave boy; and fierce anger blazed from its eyes that its mate should thus have been slain. It stood up on its hind legs, towering high above the lad, so that the crowd of onlookers expected, moment by moment, to see him struck down and killed by the creature's mighty paws.

52. But Kasagu showed not the least sign of flurry or alarm. Springing to one side to avoid the blow, he seized this second bear by the paw nearest to him, threw the gigantic creature to the ground, and then killed it by hurling a great mass of ice at its head.

53. He rolled this carcass also over the side of the iceberg, crying to the men amongst whom



it fell, "This fellow has behaved shamefully to me, and would have killed me. Skin the carcass, and divide the meat among you; but save the skin for me, as I have already promised it to my stepmother."

54. Then he turned and slew the third bear as well. But the carcass of this one he bade the men carry whole to the house of his stepmother; for, as he said, "Our household also needs meat. And the skin of this one, too, have I promised to my stepmother in payment for the loan of her boots."

55. The men, after what they had just seen, dared not say him nay; but, obeying his word, a number of them carried the carcass of this, the biggest of the three bears, and laid it before the entrance of the passage-way into the house where Kasagu dwelt.

56. At his bidding they skinned this bear for him, as well as the other; and then, with a skin in either hand, Kasagu entered the living-room of the house. "Stepmother," he said, "here are the two bearskins I said I would bring"; and he laid them upon the floor at her feet.

57. Then he seated himself upon the ledge in the warmest corner of the living-room, where it was always deemed fitting that only the owner of the house should sit.

58. But there was not one among his people who had the courage to try turning him out, and

sending him back to his former place among the dogs. Why, not to speak of turning him out, they had not even so much spirit as to say a word, but seated themselves some way off, and waited for what should come next!

59. "Bring me food, and let it be of the best," ordered Kasagu, as if he were born to the manner of a lord, and had always been used to sending people about his bidding.

60. The women ran hither and thither, almost falling over each other in their hurry to serve him, lest he should turn in anger upon them. But it was long before he was content.

61. At night, the warmest place upon the ledge was left for him to sleep upon; and, in short, from that day forth, he was the ruler of those folk, even the men coming to him for orders as to what should be done. Thus it was that, from being the drudge and butt of all, he rose, by a single day's deeds, to be their lord and master.

62. Yet even this did not satisfy Kasagu. He could not forget the angry words and cruel treatment that hitherto had been his portion since his father died. No one had been kind to him—except, indeed, one of the girls, who, not being so very strong herself, knew what it was to suffer pain and weariness, and so had felt sorry for him.

63. She had not dared, indeed, to take his

part in that former time, when the others teased or abused him; but, meeting him alone afterwards, she always gave him a smile and a few friendly words.

64. Now that he was in power, Kasagu still thought of this girl, who, he noticed, stood apart, and did not cringe before him in fear, as the others were doing.

65. Accordingly, he sought her out where she sat, one day, in a far corner of the living-room. "Mattu," he said, "you were kind, when all the rest were cruel. Will you marry me now, and live together with me in this house?"

66. "Yes, I am willing," was the reply. "But will the others allow us? Surely they will torment us all the time, and make our lives a burden as before."

67. "Never mind about the others!" was Kasagu's answer. "They will not be here. I intend to put them all out, and send them away, as soon as it is light in the morning."

68. And the very next day he was as good as his word, driving them all away to find fresh homes where they could. Men, women, and children fled before him—in fact, the whole of the household save two of the lads whom he kept to help him with the seal-hunting and the fishing, and two young girls to be of service to Mattu in the duties of the house.

69. Then Kasagu was happy as a king. He

became skilled in the use of a *kayak*\* (which is an Eskimo canoe, made of skins), and in spear-  
ing the fish as they rose to the surface of the  
water. He was a mighty hunter of bears as  
well; indeed, with his great strength, there was  
little he could not do, and he loved the doing of  
it all.

70. For, as you can well understand, after  
having been so weak and puny in his earlier  
days, he was proud of being strong and able to  
do all that he wished; and, in the pride of his  
heart and the joy of his strength, he roamed  
over the country, visiting many towns and villages.

71. In each he challenged the strongest man  
to wrestle with him; but never did he find one  
whom he could not overcome with ease, so that,  
when he was seen approaching, the cry would  
go up, "Here comes the strong man!" Then all  
would flock to see this wonderful man whom  
none could overthrow.

72. Stories of his great strength, and of the  
surprising things he had done, were told all over  
that country; and so for many years the name  
of Kasagu was another name for strength and  
greatness.

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\* Pronounce *ki'-ak-i* as in "mine"; *k* as in "at." A *kayak* is about sixteen feet long, completely  
covered over except for the opening amidships, where the single paddler has his seat.

## SAVED BY A SEAL.

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**I**N a certain Eskimo village, there once lived an old man who was so surly and grumpy that everybody feared and disliked him.

2. He hated the children, because they were happy, and he was miserable. When they were at play, he would sometimes steal up behind and cuff their heads or box their ears, just for the sake of making them cry instead of laugh.

3. He grumbled at the women and everything they did for him. He always spoke such bitter words to the men, that, after a while, he was left entirely to himself, and had no one to speak to and no one to care for him.

4. One morning this old man was standing upon the ice, watching some holes which could be seen dotted about here and there over its smooth surface. These were the breathing holes of the seals; for, as I should tell you, a seal must come to the surface now and again for fresh air.

5. The cross old fellow had his spear in his hand, ready to thrust at the first seal which should show its head above the ice; and he was keeping very, very quiet, lest he should frighten the seals away.

6. Now, on the shore near by, upon a ledge

between two great rocks, a group of little girls was at play. Each little girl carried a baby in the hood of her fur coat—a little brother or sister, whom she had been told to mind, while the mother was busy with the work in the house.

7. But this did not seem in any way to hinder the children in their games. They laughed and sang, and leapt from rock to rock, and chased each other, as if they carried no burden at all. Busy with their play, they scarcely took notice of the old man standing so still upon the ice before them; nor had he given any thought to them.

8. He, too, was busy; for a fine, large seal had just popped up its head above the ice, through a hole only a few feet from where he stood. Very slowly and quietly the old man bent forward, the spear poised in his hand, and ready for the blow. The seal was puffing and snorting, as it filled its lungs with the keen fresh air, and had no idea that an enemy was so near.

9. The old man was delighted, for once in his life. Here was indeed a prize. "The finest I have seen for many a long day, and all ready to my hand!" thought the seal-hunter, as he shot the spear forth.

10. But, at that very moment, the children in their play gave a loud shout, which caused the seal to turn its head towards the shore. Then, seeing an enemy close by, it dived quick as a flash of lightning, down into the icy water, and

swam swiftly away to tell its friends that it was not safe to venture near the shore, as there were enemies about.

11. In his rage that the prize should have been lost to him in this manner, the old man threw his spear away; and, turning to where the children were at play, he cried, "Ye mountain gods, close up yonder cleft in the rocks, that those tiresome children may be made prisoners and so interfere with my sport no more!"

12. The Great Man of the Mountains heard and answered the old man's cry. There was a clap of thunder, so loud that it made the earth tremble and rocks fall from their places, and the cleft between the two great rocks was very nearly closed together, only a small space being left at the top. In this way the children were shut into a great cavern underneath, lighted only from the narrow opening above.

13. As you hardly need telling, no laughter was heard from the children now. In a terrible fright they ran round and round, trying to find some way by which they might escape.

14. They sought to climb up to that little opening above, through which they could see a tiny patch of the sky; but the walls of the cavern were too steep, and there was no foothold by which they might mount. When but a few steps up, down they would come again, sliding and slithering to the bottom.

15. Poor girls! They were at their wits' end to know what to do. The babies in their charge were beginning to cry with hunger, but they had no food to give them. The girls tried to soothe them with the song that every baby of the land knows so well, and which begins,

When mother has finished soling the boots, she will  
come to thee!

But, at the mention of their mothers, the poor little babies only cried still more.

16. At last, tired out with their crying, one by one the babies fell asleep; and then the girls slept too. A sad little party they were, with tear-stained cheeks; and sobs, every now and again, broke from one or the other as they slept.

17. Thus the night passed. At dawn one of the elder girls was aroused from sleep by a rustling sound within the cave. Opening her eyes, she saw a flock of white-winged gulls, that circled round and round the little group of sleeping children. Each bird in turn flew down and around; then, alighting on the floor of the cavern, it placed on a certain spot something which it held in its beak, though what it was the girl could not see from where she lay. Having done this, each bird, in its turn, flew up and away through the opening at the top of the cave.

18. As soon as the last of the gulls had flown away, the girl who had been watching sprang up and ran to the spot where she had seen the



birds alight; then she laughed for very joy, and ran back to her comrades.

“Wake! Wake!” she cried. “The gulls have taken pity on us and brought us food.”

19. Her words awakened the other girls, who jumped up in a moment; and, leaving their charges asleep upon the floor of the cavern, they ran to look. They, too, clapped their hands for joy, and laughed and shouted; for on the ground in the centre of the cave was laid a pile of tiny fishes.

20. And around the pile of fish were little heaps of grain; also, around and beyond the little heaps of grain, the girls saw a number of shells, in each of which was fresh water to quench their thirst.

21. First, the babies were fed, a meal of crushed grain and water being made for them, and little pieces of the fish given them to suck, and also water to drink. This done, and the babies having fallen to sleep again, the girls made a hearty meal themselves; and, for a time, all were merry and gay again.

22. But, when the meal was over and there was but very little of the food left, there came the troubling thought, “This is only one meal, but we are still prisoners. Suppose the gulls should not bring us any more!”

23. However, at dawn the next day, again came the gulls, each with food or with a shell

of water in its beak, as before, so that on this day also the children fared well.

24. But on the third day there was a heavy storm.. The wind was so strong that no bird could face it; so the little prisoners had to be content with the leavings of the day before.

25. All day long they sat and listened to the roaring of the wind and the booming of the waves, as they dashed against the cavern.

26. Towards the end of that day, one by one they fell asleep; and when they next awoke, all was still and silent around them. "Hurrah! the storm is over," exclaimed the girl who first awakened.

27. "Is it?" yawned a second, sitting up and rubbing the sleepiness out of her eyes. Then suddenly she cried, "See, the cave has opened. We are free!"

28. With one accord they ran to the edge of the rock; and then they saw that, though the storm had burst the rocks asunder again, they were prisoners still. For below, instead of the sandy shore on which they had so often played, now heaved the water of the sea, which had spread inland and was nearly on a level with the ledge of rock forming the floor of their cavern.

29. By now the sea was fairly calm; but great blocks of ice were floating and bobbing up and down on the surface, as far as eye could see.

30. "There is no escape for us," said one of the

girls. "We cannot swim through such a sea as that."

"And no boat would dare put out, with all that ice afloat, even if anyone saw us," replied another, sadly.

31. So, as there was nothing else to be done, they sat at the edge of what had been the cavern floor, and watched the blocks of ice tossing with the waves. They were all feeling sad and very hungry, and several of the babies were crying lustily, when suddenly they were startled by the sound of a voice, though there was no one to be seen.

32. "Come now, what's all this noise about?" said the voice.

The children looked around them in all directions, but could not make out where the voice came from. At length, one of the girls, pointing to a rock just above the level of the water, cried, "See! Can it have been that seal?"

33. The others looked where she pointed; and, so nearly were the rock and the seal of the same colour, it was not strange that, until then, they had failed to notice the huge creature that was gazing up at them with almost human eyes of wonder. And, sure enough, it was the seal that had been talking to them!

34. "Well, what's the matter?" the seal enquired again, when he found that they had at last seen him.



“Come now, what’s all this noise about?” said the voice.—Page 23.

"We're cold and very hungry, and we want to go home to our mothers," said one of the girls, finding it hard to speak because of the sobs that kept rising in her throat.

35. "So that's it, is it?" remarked the seal, which had, on the other hand, quite a flow of language. "I should have thought you were quite well off here; but there's no accounting for tastes. I owe you children much, for it was your shouts which warned me, and so saved me from being speared by that grumpy old man who lives in your village; so if you will trust yourselves to me, I will take you safely home, two at a time."

36. At first the girls were afraid to venture upon a sea so strewn with ice blocks; but when they considered that, as soon as the tide rose again, the rocky ledge on which they were, would surely be flooded, since it was now open to the sea, they made up their minds to try.

37. Two girls at a time, each with the baby tied firmly upon her back, climbed from the ledge on to the back of the seal. When he flopped into the water, it was all they could do, at first, to hold on; but once he began to swim, it was not so bad, and they even had time to notice the clever way in which he swam in and out among the tumbling and tossing masses of ice.

38. In a very little while he had landed them all safely on the shore. Without further loss of

time, the children made their way to the village. Much to their surprise, no one was to be seen in the lanes around the huts. Where, then, could every one be?

39. Greatly wondering what this might mean, they hurried to the chief homestead of the village, where it was usual for the people to gather for any great event. And there they saw their mothers, and sisters, and a few of the older boys, the fathers and the rest of the boys being out hunting.

40. All the women were weeping and wailing; and, as the girls peeped in at the door, they caught the words, "Our daughters are gone! They have been killed in the fury of the storm! Our babies all are dead!"

41. Then the girls ran forward into the homestead; and they called out to their mothers, saying, "Here we are, safe and sound, and here are your babies too, alive and well, but very, very hungry."

42. How great was the rejoicing that then followed in the village! The hungry children were fed and petted, and all went merrily once again.

43. But when the girls told the story of how the old man had called down upon them the anger of the mountain gods, their mothers ran out and drove that ill-disposed person from the village.

44. And never again did he dare to show himself in that place; for, had he done so, the mothers would have risen against him in their wrath, and, as likely as not, have made an end of him.

## STRANGE STORY OF TWO ORPHANS.

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**S**ALICK and Arnara\* were alone in a snow-covered world. Not only were they alone, but they were prisoners in an empty house; their last scrap of food had been eaten, and still they could find no way by which they could escape into the open air.

2. The brother and sister were orphans, their father and mother both having died of fever a few months before. Since their death the two children had been living with a man and woman who were their neighbours; but, by this time, these people had grown tired of having two extra mouths to feed.

3. The frost was beginning to break, and many other signs showed that spring was on the way; so, when the people of the village packed up their goods and set off on their summer travels, this man and woman also made up their bundles, and strapped them upon their backs.

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\* Pronounce *dr'-na-ra*—*d* as in "father"; *e* as in "sofa."

4. Then they gave the children a little food; and, telling them they would return before the full of the moon, they set off with the others. But first they rolled a great stone up against the opening of the hut—a stone much too heavy for the children to move—so as to ensure that the orphans should not follow them on their journey.

5. For two or three days Salick and Arnara were happy enough; indeed, they were rather glad to be free of the woman, for she had nagged at them from morning to night, and made them work hard all day long. But when, at sunset on the third day, there was still no sign of the return of their guardians, they began to think that, after all, it might not be such fun to be left quite to themselves.

6. By this time, the food which had been left for them was all gone, the water jar nearly empty, and the oil in the lamp so low that they knew it could not burn much longer. Yet the great stone that blocked up the doorway could not be moved by so much as an inch, even though they put all their force against it.

7. "What are we to do? We shall starve to death, unless they soon come back," said Salick, who was the younger of the two.

8. But his sister was more hopeful. "We are not going to die," she said. "Somehow or other we *will* escape. See! We will make up a heap of the fish-bones; and I will stand upon it, and



try to bore a hole through the roof, big enough, at any rate, for us to crawl through."

9. The two children set to work; and, in the middle of the room, they made a pile of all the fish-bones and rubbish they could scrape together.

10. Having climbed upon it, Arnara found that, by stretching upwards, she could just reach the little hole in the roof which let out the smoke, when a fire was lit within.

11. With a sharp, strong fish-bone she began to cut all round this hole, so as to make it larger. It was hard work; for all the time she had to reach well above her head, and the mud, of which the roof was made, was caked fast and close.

12. At length, however, the hole was big enough to enable the children to creep through. Arnara climbed out first, and then hauled Salick up, and through the hole; for, being smaller, he did not find it so easy as his sister to reach the roof from the mound they had made. But, after a good struggle, he stood safely beside her; and they were now free, but alone in a land where the snow was only just beginning to melt.

13. Around them lay the huts of the village; but there was no sound coming from them, nor any sign of movement. The people had all packed up, and set off on their long march in search of summer quarters.

14. But things did not seem so bad, now they

were free. Food was their first thought. They ran from hut to hut, and gathered together any scraps of food that had been left behind. Outside one of the huts they found the head of a small seal, on the flesh of which they made quite a good meal.

15. When the last piece was eaten, and they were feeling how nice it was to be hungry no longer, Arnara picked up the skin of the seal's head.

"Salick," she said, "do you remember the magic seal-song our mother used to sing to us, when she was alive?"

16. "Yes, indeed," replied Salick, "and I remember the storm-song too. She said it would always raise a storm, if sung when the wind was blowing from the land."

17. "I remember that one too, but not so well as the seal-song. I am going to try and make the magic spell work for you," said Arnara. "Listen, and watch!"

18. Then she spread the skin on the ground before her, and began to rub it up and down, chanting some magic words the while, just as she had heard her mother sing them.

19. And, as she rubbed and sang, the skin grew larger beneath her hands. Still she kept on rubbing and singing, until her arms ached and her cheeks were red with the effort she was putting into the work.

20. All at once she ceased. "Salick, come here," she called; and when Salick came, she wrapped the skin around him, but it reached only to his knees.

21. Again she laid it upon the ground, and again she rubbed and sang; and every moment it grew larger beneath her touch. "Salick, come here," she called again; and when, this time, she wrapped her brother in it, she found that it covered him as if, indeed, it had been his own skin.

22. "Surely now you are a young seal!" she cried, in delight. "Come, try the water, and let me see if you can swim and dive like the seal." Then, leading her brother to the edge of the water, she sang, "Seal are you now. Cast yourself into the water! Dive to the depths below!"

23. And, while she sang, Salick plunged into the sea and dived as only a seal can dive, and swam as only a seal can swim. Then he returned to his sister, who stood upon the shore; and she took the skin from him, saying, "Now are you a seal in very truth; but that is enough for to-day. To-morrow you shall go again into the water."

24. The next day was fine and calm; so Arnara again put the skin upon her brother, and once more he became as a seal and played in the water. He dived for fish and soon caught a goodly pile, which he laid at his sister's feet. They need never be short of food now.



'While she sang, Salick plunged into the sea.'—Page 31.

25. And so the days passed into weeks, and the weeks into months, and the children were well and happy.

"I wish we had a boat," said Arnara, one day. "Then we could go out fishing together. I find it dull and the hours long, staying here while you are away in the water, for the greater part of the day, as a seal."

26. Salick thought for a moment, and at length he said, "I will get you a boat, sister." With these words, he put on his seal's skin; and then, plunging into the water, he swam away out of sight.

27. He swam until he was tired, then made for the shore, several miles from the spot whence he had started. From behind a rock, he watched some men putting out their boats to go a-fishing; for they were eager to make the most of such a fine day.

28. One by one they put off from the shore. Salick, taking note of the boat which he liked the best, followed close behind; and when this boat was well out at sea, he rose to the surface and began to sing the magic storm-song, just as he had heard his mother sing it.

29. Then, all of a sudden, a gale arose and began to blow across the sea. The waves lashed the little boat until it rocked to and fro, and the water poured over its sides. The fisherman in it turned and tried to make for the shore; but

the gale was stronger than he, and soon blew him still farther out to sea.

30. At length came a wave, bigger than all those that had gone before. It overturned the boat, and the fisherman was seen no more. Then up to the boat swam Salick; for the storm did not hinder him, now that he was a seal. With one flipper he caught hold of the upturned boat, and towed it back to the place on the shore where he knew his sister would be waiting for him.

"Here is your boat, sister," he said. "Tomorrow we will go fishing in it."

31. Many a happy day the brother and sister spent in the boat, and many were the fish they caught, so that, while the summer lasted, life was pleasant, and food plentiful.

32. But all good things have a way of coming to an end; and so it was with these two, when summer faded into autumn, and autumn, in its turn, gave place to the bitter winter, when the sea was frozen and there was naught to be seen on land or sea save snow and ice.

33. No fishing could be done then, and the brother and sister soon came to the end of their little store of food. They were always hungry now, and it looked as if they must soon die of want.

34. They had made a house for themselves out of the ruins of one of last winter's houses, in the village where they had lived then. But

they had no lamp, for their store of oil was gone. And this meant they had no fire either; for such things as matches were unknown in that land at the time of this story.

35. One day they were sitting huddled together, to try and keep some warmth in them, and they were talking sadly of their fate, when a sound outside made them start to their feet. In this silent winter world they often heard no sound for weeks together, save the sighing of the wind, or the screaming of the gulls as they flew overhead.

36. "What can it be?" cried Arnara; and together they crawled through the little passage which led from their house to the white world outside.

37. But when they came forth from the passage, they saw a sight which drove all their sad thoughts from their minds. Just outside the entrance to the hut lay a pile of fishes, little and big. But there was no sign of anyone who could have put them there.

38. However, Salick and Arnara were too hungry to stop to think about that. Seizing the fish with cries of joy, they ran into the house, and, sitting down, were soon making a good meal. The fish had to be eaten raw, for they had no fire on which to cook it; but this did not matter to children who were almost starving.

39. It was not until they had eaten enough

to satisfy their hunger, that they remembered how cold they were; but now they began to shiver again. Indeed, it was only by cuddling up close to each other that they were able to keep life in themselves.

40. "I would that we had a fire, for we are like to die of cold!" said Arnara, sadly.

But, even as she spoke, there entered in at the passage-way a strange little old woman, so wrapped up in furs that you could hardly see her face.

41. Upon her back she carried what looked like a bundle, only that it glowed and burned with a fierce red light. In a few minutes she had placed this in the rough stove that stood in the middle of the room. "There is fire to warm you," she said, "and it is a fire that will never go out;" after which words, she turned away.

42. Gladly the two children ran to the warmth and brightness. It was a great comfort to feel the heat warming their numbed limbs. Life was indeed becoming better now. Who could this kind old woman be?

43. With these thoughts, they turned to thank her for bringing them the fire. But they found she was no longer there, though how she could have gone without their noticing, they were at a loss to make out; for they were sitting with their faces towards the only entrance to the hut.



44. But though they could not tell her how thankful they felt for her kindness, they would never forget what they owed her for the warmth and the brightness of the wonderful fire which needed no tending and never went out.

45. The next day a new surprise awaited them; for by the pile of fish stood a smaller pile of grain, so that they were able to bake cakes with the flour which they made by crushing the grain between two stones.

46. And each day it was the same. Fish and grain were brought them, quite enough for the day's food; but by whom they had not the least idea.

"Let us watch to-morrow, and see who it is brings these gifts to us," said Salick, after some days had passed in this manner.

"Yes, we will; for then we can let them know how grateful we are," replied Arnara.

47. So, before it was light the next morning, they crept out of the hut and hid themselves behind a pile of snow near by. For some time nobody came and nothing happened; and it was so cold, waiting in the snow, that the young people had almost made up their minds to return to the bright fire within the hut, when they heard "Flop! Flop!" And what should they then set eyes upon, but a great seal, that came flopping over the rocks, and, strange to say, carried a silvery burden upon its back?

48. On and on it came, never pausing until it reached their hut; then it shot its burden upon the hard frozen snow just outside, and flopped back again towards the shore.

"So that is our kind friend!" said Arnara. "Let us go and gather up the fish, before the wolves come along and help themselves."

49. "Hush! Wait a moment," whispered Salick; for now there was a whirring sound in the air above them. Looking up, they saw a long, long line of tiny grey birds flying overhead; and each of these, as it flew above the hut, dropped a grain of corn by the side of the pile of fish.

50. So long was the line of birds, that it seemed to the watching children that they would never pass. But it takes many grains of corn to make a cake; and as each bird brought only one grain, it took many birds to make a little pile.

51. "So the birds, too, are our friends," said Salick. "Of course, they would not understand if we said 'Thank you.' And yet I wish there was some way by which we might let them know how glad we are."

52. "I expect they know without being told," replied Arnara. "Otherwise, how could they have known that we were in need of food? But come now, and help me to gather up the good things; and I will soon make a meal ready."

53. All that winter the children were fed by the seal and the birds, and so they did not suffer

hunger or cold. But they were often lonely; for it is not good that people should live so much alone as these two were doing.

54. But with the summer their lonely way of living came to an end; for one day some hunters, passing by, saw the children and heard their story.

“You must not stay here all by yourselves for another winter, when perhaps the birds and the seal will have forgotten you,” they said; and so they carried them off to the village from which they had come.

55. One of the huntsmen, who had no children of his own, took them with him to his own house and told his wife the story of how he had found them living in a deserted village.

56. His wife, who had always longed to have children to brighten the home, welcomed them gladly. And then began the happiest time of their lives for Arnara and Salick, who stayed with the huntsman and his wife until they were grown up, and ready to go to homes of their own.

## THE MAN IN THE MOON.

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**M**ANY and many a night had Kanak stood on the top of the hill behind the village, and gazed up at the moon. Often had he watched it rise from behind the dim mountains so far away, and slowly ascend until it reigned (as one might say) the queen of the skies, dimming the light of the stars with its silver glory. Often, again, had he watched it sinking to rest, and giving place to the more powerful light of the sun.

2. Times without number had he wished he might find a way to reach the moon, so that he could explore its surface, and see for himself if it were indeed a world like to the one he lived upon. Of this he dreamed and dreamed, until it became the one great longing of his life.

3. One night, when the moon was full, Kanak was, as usual, gazing upon its beauty, when his foot slipped; and, from the little hill upon which he stood, he fell into a drift of snow, so deep that he could not free himself from it.

4. For a while he struggled hard; but at last, finding it useless, he lay still. He was almost covered by the snow into which he had fallen, but was just able to gaze upon the brilliance of

the moon which was shining full upon him. He could not remember that, ever before, it had looked so bright as it did this night.

5. Then, as he still gazed, his head began to whirl; and it seemed to Kanak that he was lifted up from the snowdrift in which he lay, and that, upon a light, billowy cloud, he was being carried up and away into the skies.

6. Everything seemed to be floating around him; and at length, dazed by the swiftness of his passage through the air, he lost his senses and all was a blank.

7. When he awoke, it was to find himself lying upon a snow-covered slope in front of a great building, which arose like some wondrous mansion seen in the misty world of dreams. Kanak looked around. Instead of brown, leafless trees and weather-worn rocks, amidst the snows in his own country, everything he saw here was in tints of blue and grey and silver; and shining rays of silvery light made the place appear more bright, and pure, and beautiful, than anything Kanak had ever seen before.

8. Kanak knew then that his wish had been fulfilled, and that he was, in fact, lying upon the surface of the moon. Then he began to feel afraid, for it was all so strange and still. He tried to rise; but he could not move his limbs, for they were frozen with the cold.

9. For a while he lay and gazed at the

wonders of this moon-world which he had so often longed to see, and yet, having come to it, he only felt afraid, and wished that he might be back in his own snug little hut. Then, coming forth from the house before him, he saw emerge the figure of a man, though much taller than any man he had ever seen.

10. For a while this lofty figure stood still, looking all round as if in search of something, and then advanced towards where Kanak lay. He now saw that it was indeed a man, but clothed in blue garments that were more like the grey blue mist of evening than clothes as we know them.

11. The stranger's first act was to help Kanak to rise; for he was too weak, and stiff, and cold, after his long journey through the icy air, to be able to help himself. When he was on his feet, the man half led, half carried him into the house.

12. There were no fires and no lights within; yet it was warm, and with the warmth of a sunny summer's day, not with the heat of fire or stove. Kanak gave a hasty glance around. All within was blue and silver, relieved with the pale yellow of the daffodil, and restful greens; but nowhere was there any touch of glowing pink, or flaming red or orange, to lend a vivid colour to the scene.

13. The Man in the Moon (for the man who had come to Kanak's rescue was no other than

he) led the young man to a couch, and bade him lie down upon it; then he breathed upon him, and so eased the pain of his limbs, that, in a very little while, this wanderer from the earth was again in perfect health.

14. Now that he was feeling well and strong once more, Kanak begun to look about him with interest.

"Yes," said the Man in the Moon, in answer to Kanak's look of enquiry, "this is indeed the Land of the Moon. It is very seldom that anyone comes from your world to this. Give me your hand, and I will take you where you can see the world from which you have come."

15. With these words, the Man in the Moon took Kanak by the hand, and, having led him to where there was a great hole in the floor, he bade him kneel down and look.

16. Full of wonder Kanak knelt down; and, looking through the hole, he saw, stretched far, far beneath him, the earth which he had left. "Have I come all that way?" he asked.

17. "Yes," replied the Man in the Moon. "Since you wished for it so much, it has been granted to you to pay us a visit. One of our snow-cloud carriers was sent to fetch you; but you cannot return that way. When you depart, it must be through this tunnel; but the time for your going is not yet, for there is much that you may see and learn before then, if you so wish."



• 'Kanak knelt down ; and saw, stretched far, far beneath him, the earth.'—Page 43.



18. "Indeed I do wish to see and learn as much as you will allow," replied Kanak.

Then the Man in the Moon said to him, "For a while, my friend, I must leave you. But I will return shortly; and, in the meantime, you may amuse yourself by comparing the things here with those in your own world. You are safe enough, if you will just bear one little thing in mind; and that is, *not to laugh*, or evil will come to you.

19. "When I am gone, my women will do all they can to make you laugh; and should you do so, they will kill you, for that is the rule of our land. If you feel that you are going to laugh, and cannot help it, rub your knee with the nail of your little finger; and then the desire even so much as to smile will pass away."

20. No sooner had the Man in the Moon left him, than two women came into the hall and began to caper and dance in such an absurd manner, that Kanak almost burst out laughing. But, just in time, he rubbed his knee quickly with the nail of his little finger.

21. As he did this, the women started back in surprise and alarm; then, through the hole in the floor, they sprang into space, and Kanak saw them no more. After them came a troop of boys and girls who sang, danced, and capered, seeming quite hurt that Kanak showed no desire to laugh.

22. At last they gave it up in despair and left him alone; and then Kanak went round the great hall, looking eagerly at the many strange things it contained.

23. By and by he went back to the hole in the floor; and, kneeling down, he gazed and gazed at the world from which he had come. It was so strange to be able to look at it from such a great distance. He was still there when the Man in the Moon returned.

24. "Ah!" he said, "so you are looking at your own world. It is time they had some more snow there. I will show you how we send it, for all the snow comes from here. Stay where you are and watch."

25. He went to the far end of the hall, where stood a great pipe; and he began to blow hard through this. Kanak, watching through the hole in the floor, saw great snow-flakes begin to fall through the air.

26. At first they fell but slowly, then thicker and faster, until the sky was full of them; and so they floated gently down through the great space, until they came upon the earth, and covered it up from the sight of Kanak.

27. Then the Man in the Moon came up to him and laid his hand upon his shoulder. "It is time for you to leave us now," he said. "But don't be afraid, for no harm will come to you." And then, before Kanak had any idea of what

he was going to do, the man pushed him through the hole in the floor and sent him whirling into space.

28. In a very few moments, the swiftness of his passage through the air caused Kanak to lose his senses, so that he knew nothing of his long journey. When at last he awoke, he found himself lying upon a pile of newly fallen snow, on the summit of that very hill from which he had tumbled into the snow-drift!

29. For a few minutes he could hardly make out where he was, or what he had been doing; but presently, when he saw the great moon shining down upon him, he recalled to mind how, but a little while since, he had been walking upon its surface, and remembered all that had happened to him there.

30. So he arose and walked quickly back to the village where he lived; for he was eager to tell the people of his visit to the moon. "Come with me," he cried to his neighbours, "and I will tell you about things of which you can never even have dreamed"; after which he led the way to the great room where all the meetings of the village people took place.

31. As you can well imagine, they listened to his story with open mouths. At first they could not believe he was speaking the truth; but as he went on, relating one marvel after another, they knew that his story must be true, for no

one who had not been in the Land of the Moon, could have even thought of such wondrous things.

32. "Surely," they said, one to another, "this man, who has seen and learned so much that we knew nothing of, should be ruler among us!" So they chose him to be the *Angekok*\* of the village, that is, the wise man and ruler to whom all go for advice, and who judges those who have broken the laws, and settles any disputes which are brought before him.

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\* Pronounce *ang'-gè-kòk*—*a* as in "at"; *è* as in "met"; *ò* as in "not." Among Eskimos the *Angekok* corresponds to the "Medicine-Man" of North-American Indians.

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#### EDITOR'S NOTE.

In any collection of folk-stories, however small and unpretentious, the authenticity of the matter is a point of considerable moment. Accordingly, this booklet has been carefully based on the researches of one of the most widely-recognized authorities on the Eskimo people, and all things pertaining to them—namely, Dr. Henry Rink.

HENRIK JOHAN RINK was born at Copenhagen in 1819. He devoted himself to the study of natural science, and was one of the scientific staff on board the Danish frigate *Galathea*, in a voyage of circumnavigation (1845-47), his department being mineralogy. In 1848 he began exploring North Greenland, and, during the years that followed, went on no less than thirty-eight of these exploratory journeys. From 1857 to 1871, he held the appointment of Inspector of South Greenland. Dr. Rink wrote extensively on Greenland and the Eskimos. His *Grønland, geographisk og statistisk beskrivelse* appeared at Copenhagen, 1852-57 (in English translation, under the title of *Danish Greenland, its People and its Products*, 1877). The work with which we are particularly concerned in the present connection, is his *Eskimoiske Eventyr og Sagn* (Copenhagen, 1866), entitled in the English translation (1875) *Tales and Traditions of the Eskimo*; this consists of a hundred and fifty stories taken down from the oral narration of about fifty different people in various parts of Greenland. Another work of Dr. Rink's, *The Eskimo Tribes, their Distribution and Characteristics*, appeared in English, both at Copenhagen and London, in 1887; and it may also be mentioned that he contributed the articles on Greenland and on the Eskimos (the latter illustrated by himself) to that inestimable treasury of knowledge, *Chambers's Encyclopædia*. Dr. Rink died on the 15th December, 1893, at Christiania.—W. H. W.

