

HOW THE TREASURE WAS STOLEN

A HINDU and his wife who had saved a big sum of money kept it in an earthen pot among the rafters of their hut. They considered this spot quite safe, for by day one of them was always in the hut, and by night they slept on the floor immediately under the pot, and the least movement among the rafters would shake down upon them a shower of straw from the thatch and wake them.

A clever thief, however, got to know about the treasure, and worked out a plan to obtain it. One dark night, taking a monkey with him, he managed to climb into the rafters before the couple were properly awake. The falling straw, however, roused the woman, and she awakened her husband.

The husband was about to get up, but the thief, who had heard what had passed, gave the monkey's tail a sharp twist, which set it squealing loudly. Thereupon the man lay down again, saying to his wife, "It's only a monkey up on the roof."

While the monkey was squealing, the thief tied a piece of string around the neck of the jar, ready to lower it when the opportunity should occur.

At last the thief, thinking the time ready for his plan, began lowering the pot a little nearer to the doorway than the spot where the couple slept. This operation caused a good deal of straw to fall, and soon the woman was wide awake again. She roused her husband, but at this moment the thief gave the monkey's tail another twist, and threw it down upon the bed.

There was a fearful squealing and a good deal of confusion. The husband

THE SPY AMONG THE OWLS

SOME crows were once at war with a few owls and they were having the worst of it. In the daylight they could never find the owls, who hid themselves in nooks and corners among the eaves. But at night, the owls, who could see well in the dark, would swoop down upon the home of the crows and kill many of them.

Matters became so serious at last that the crows had a conference, and one old bird proposed a plan by which they could beat the owls. He told his comrades to pluck out most of his feathers, leaving only a few in his wings so that he could fly.

This having been done, he went off to the owls, told them that the crows had cruelly ill-treated him, and that he had come to help the owls defeat the crows.

"Take no notice of this traitor," said a wise old owl. "He who is false to his friends will be false to his foes."

But the other owls would not listen. They allowed the crow to live among them and to learn all their secrets.

At last the crow, whose feathers had grown out again, thought that the time had come for action. Telling the owls that he was going to the crows' home to learn their secrets, he flew off.

The crow went back to his friends and told them all the secrets of the owls—where they hid in the daytime, and how they could not see then. Then he led the crows in the daylight against their enemies, the owls. The owls were routed out of their hiding-places, and, because they could not see well in the daylight, they were totally defeated.

seized the monkey, and was bitten on the hand. During the disturbance the thief ran off with the treasure.