

LITTLE STORIES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE

HENNY-PENNY GOES TO TELL THE KING

ONE FINE DAY Henny-Penny was picking up corn in the old farmyard, when all at once something fell plop! on her head.

It was only a grain of corn, as Henny-Penny would have seen if she had stopped to look. But she didn't.

"Mercy on me!" cried Henny-Penny. "The sky's a-falling! I must go and tell the king."

And off she started that very minute. She went on and on, and on and on, till she met Cocky-Locky.

"Where are you going to, Henny-Penny?" asked Cocky-Locky, speaking very politely and making her a fine bow.

"I'm going to tell the king the sky's a-falling," said Henny-Penny.

"May I go with you, Henny-Penny?" asked Cocky-Locky.

"Certainly! Certainly!" said Henny-Penny.

And on they went, and on and on, till they met Ducky-Wucky.

"Where are you going to, Henny-Penny and Cocky-Locky?" asked Ducky-Wucky.

"We're going to tell the king the sky's a-falling," said Henny-Penny and Cocky-Locky.

"May I go with you, Henny-Penny and Cocky-Locky?" asked Ducky-Wucky.

"Certainly! Certainly!" said Henny-Penny and Cocky-Locky.

And on they went, and on and on, till they met Goosey-Poosey.

"Where are you going to, Henny-

Penny, Cocky-Locky, and Ducky-Wucky?" asked Goosey-Poosey.

"We're going to tell the king the sky's a-falling," said Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, and Ducky-Wucky.

"May I go with you, Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, and Ducky-Wucky?" said Goosey-Poosey.

"Certainly! Certainly!" said Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, and Ducky-Wucky.

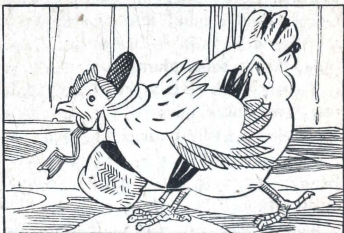
And on they went, and on and on, till they met Turkey-Lurkey.

"Where are you going to, Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, and Goosey-Poosey?" asked Turkey-Lurkey.

"We're going to tell the king the sky's a-falling," said Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, and Goosey-Poosey.

"May I go with you, Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, and Goosey-Poosey?" asked Turkey-Lurkey.

"Certainly! Certainly!" said Henny-



I must go and tell the king

Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, and Goosey-Poosey.

And on they went, and on and on, till they met Foxy-Woxy.

"Where are you going to, Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, Goosey-Poosey, and Turkey-Lurkey?" said Foxy-Woxy.

"We're going to tell the king the sky's a-falling," said Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, Goosey-Poosey, and Turkey-Lurkey.

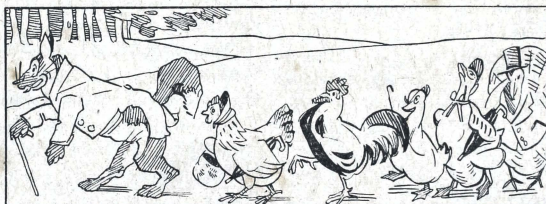
"May I go with you, Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, Goosey-

the side of a tree. Foxy-Woxy ran inside. No wonder he knew the way, for the passage led to his cave!

"Come along! Come along!" he cried. "Follow me! One at a time, if you please. The path is very narrow."

Turkey-Lurkey bent his proud head, and in he went. Snap! Off went his head, and plop! went his body on the floor of the cave.

The next minute in went Goosey-Poosey. Snap! Off went her head, and plop! went her body on the floor of the cave.



And on they went, and on and on, till they came to a narrow passage.

Poosey, and Turkey-Lurkey?" asked Foxy-Woxy.

"Certainly! Certainly!" said Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, Goosey-Poosey, and Turkey-Lurkey.

"You are going a very long way round," said Foxy-Woxy. He was very sly, was that Foxy-Woxy. "I will show you a near way to the Palace—a very near way—if you will allow me," he said.

"Thank you! Thank you!" said Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, Goosey-Poosey, and Turkey-Lurkey.

And on they went, and on and on, till they came to a narrow passage by

The next minute in went Ducky-Wucky. Snap! Off went his head, and plop! went his body on the floor of the cave.

The next minute in went Cocky-Locky. Snap! Off went his head, and plop! went his body on the floor of the cave.

"Henny-Penny! Come along, Henny-Penny!" cried Foxy-Woxy.

But Henny-Penny had peeped over his shoulder, and saw—all that was left of poor Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Wucky, Goosey-Poosey, and Turkey-Lurkey.

"You cruel monster!" she cried. And,

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THE PRINCE'S HEIR

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seen before.

It was, indeed, a remarkable sight, and the people applauded loudly.

Anak was standing near the throne, and, at the call of the Prince, he stepped forward. But there was no retinue of followers behind him, and he held nothing in his hands except what appeared to be a little, insignificant piece of glass.

There was the sound of a short laugh here and there, at which the good Prince frowned, for he liked this dark, long-limbed peasant, whom he now feared had failed.

"Well, Anak, have you found the task impossible?" he said kindly.

"O Prince, I have for you the key which tells that, though the earth may be covered with abundant beauty, and the sea swarm with the marvels of life, yet without the white light of sky they cannot exist. The light of the sky holds the marvellous paints to which they must all come for their colors; while their beauty passes away, that of the light of the sky is everlasting, always renewing both earth and sea."

At the Prince's puzzled look Anak held up the piece of glass in his hand. It was a triangular, wedge-shaped

HENNY-PENNY

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backing out of the hole, she ran off home as fast as her trembling legs would carry her.

And that is how it was the king never knew the sky was falling.—*Reprinted by Permission.*

object. Then he placed it in a ray of sunlight which fell on to the white steps of the throne.

Immediately on the steps there were the most marvellous shades of blue and green, of yellow and violet and red, and every imaginable color. A great cry of amazement went up, for no one in those days had ever heard of the spectrum or a spectroscope, and no one knew anything about the wonderful rays of broken light.

Then the Prince came down the steps and held his white robe in the wonderful colors of the rainbow. He took Anak by the hand.

"My heir—your future Prince," he cried to the people.

And the people shouted with delight. From their own number had been chosen their future ruler, for had he not proved himself to be the wisest man in the land?

CHASED BY A LION

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ran with all his might. The boy spurred his pony on. Luckily they did not have to cross the grassy land. If they had come into the high prairie grass they would have been lost. The grass would have hindered the short legs of the pony.

The pony made for an opening in the corral fence, and in a few moments pony and rider were within the enclosure. The tall thorn bushes and branches, which made the fence, kept the wild animals out. The boy sprang from his pony and threw thorn branches into the opening. Then with his rifle in hand he awaited the appearance of the lion.

But the lion did not appear, although the boy knew the animal was somewhere near. He kept his rifle ready for instant firing should the beast attempt to penetrate the fence. Fortunately the corral was not very large, and the thorn fence was high enough to prevent wild animals from jumping over. The natives had been very careful in selecting this place in which to keep cattle during the night safe from attacks of wild beasts.

The boy knew that the lion was lurking outside of the enclosure but could not

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