

## THE CLEVER GOBLIN

*A Halloween Playlet in One Act*



*The Goblins are showing the Bad Witch a new trick.*

### CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES

FIVE CHILDREN	CLEVER GOBLIN
BAD WITCH	CAT
THREE GOOD WITCHES	CHILD
FIVE GOBLINS	

The Five Children and the Child wear their usual clothes. The Witches and Goblins wear conventional Halloween costumes. The Bad Witch wears a cape and a tall hat. The Cat wears a suit of black cloth.

### THE SETTING

The properties needed are a broom; a kettle and a spoon; something to set the kettle on; something to suggest fire under the kettle (if possible, an electric light bulb and red paper); and a pumpkin or a large squash. The scene is laid in a forest, early in the evening of Halloween. In the background is the home of the Bad Witch. In front of the house

is a fire, over which a kettle has been placed.

### THE PLAY

*(As the curtain is drawn back, the stage is shown deserted. Then the Five Children tiptoe in, looking about them fearfully.)*

FIRST CHILD: Here it is! This is her house!

SECOND CHILD: Are you sure?

FIRST CHILD: Of course!

THIRD CHILD: Do you suppose she's at home?

FOURTH CHILD: Knock on the door and see.

THIRD CHILD: Oh, no, not I. She's a bad old witch!

FIRST CHILD: She's the only bad witch left in all the world.

FIFTH CHILD: I wonder what's in that kettle. *(Goes over to the kettle and is*

about to dip in a finger to taste.)

THIRD CHILD: Oh, don't touch it!

FIFTH CHILD: I want just a little taste!  
(Puts out hand again.)

(The Bad Witch, from inside the house, gives a horrid laugh. The children clutch one another in fear.)

THIRD CHILD: Oh, let's get away from this awful place!

ALL: Yes, let's. (They hurry off the stage.)

(The Bad Witch comes out of her house, followed by her black cat. She stands watching the retreating children, chuckling. Then she turns to her kettle.)

BAD WITCH (picking up the spoon): Now to finish my broth. (She stirs and chants.)

Tonight, tonight is Halloween;  
Strange the sights that will be seen!  
Within this broth I place a charm  
To wreak much havoc and cause alarm.  
And that is why I mumble and toil,  
Stir, stir, bubble, and boil. (Pauses to listen.)

Hark! Hark! Who comes this way?  
(The Three Good Witches come in.)

FIRST WITCH: Come, sister. Leave that kettle of evil charms. We are going to have some Halloween fun. Come with us.

BAD WITCH: What do I want with fun? The more harm I can do, the better.

SECOND WITCH: If you would only come with us good witches just once, you'd never want to be bad again. Won't you try it?

ALL: Yes, do try it!

BAD WITCH: Ha! Ha! I'm the only bad witch left in the world. I want to be bad. Leave me, sisters. I must finish my broth.

THIRD WITCH: Then, if we can't per-

suaude you, good-by.

BAD WITCH (impatiently): Goodby, sisters, good-by. (The good witches go out.) Little do they know where my evil power is stored. But I'll never tell them. Not I! It is woven into my hat. My precious hat! If I were to lose my hat, my power would vanish. But I do not fear. I never take this hat off my head. Why, I even sleep in it. (Stirs broth, and tastes.) I need more hot pepper. (Goes into the house.)

CAT (lying by the fire, pretending to be asleep): Oh, ho, so that's it! She thought I was fast asleep, but I heard every word. Her power is in her hat.

BAD WITCH (She has returned with the hot pepper, which she stirs into the broth. The Cat pretends to be asleep.) Mumble and toil, mumble and toil, Stir, stir, bubble and boil.

(Enter Five Goblins and Clever Goblin.)

GOBLINS: Good evening, Bad Witch.

BAD WITCH: Ha! Ha! And how are all the good little goblins?

CLEVER GOBLIN (politely): Very well, thank you.

BAD WITCH: And why do you honor me with a visit?

CLEVER GOBLIN: We wondered whether you have an extra broom that we might borrow.

BAD WITCH (chuckling): I have just the thing for you, just the thing. I'll go and get it. (Goes into the house.)

CLEVER GOBLIN: Search everywhere. See if you can find where the Bad Witch's evil power is hidden.

FIRST GOBLIN (after searching a little while): I can't find a thing. Where else shall we look?

SECOND GOBLIN: Maybe she keeps it  
(Please turn to page 396.)



## CLEVER GOBLIN

*(Continued from page 396)*

as fast as he can.

SECOND GOBLIN: He's trying to throw it into the river.

THIRD GOBLIN: She's overtaking him. Oh, we'll suffer for this!

FOURTH GOBLIN: No, she tripped and fell. Hurrah! He's thrown the hat into the river!

FIRST GOBLIN: Let's go and meet him. *(They run from the stage.)*

CAT: Meow! Meow! Now I'll never have to scratch anybody again. I'm so glad. I want to be a good black cat.

BAD WITCH *(entering)*: Oh, dear! My hat is gone. Now I'll have to be a good witch after all.

CAT: Meow! Meow!

BAD WITCH: Someone is coming. *(Child enters crying.)* What's the matter?

CHILD: This is Halloween, and I haven't any lantern to carry, or costume to wear.

BAD WITCH: Let me see! Here's an extra lantern, and here's a witch's dress to wear.

CHILD: Oh, thank you. *(Goes out with the lantern and the costume.)*

BAD WITCH: Well, well, that was nice. Maybe it will be fun being a good witch, after all.

CAT: Meow! Meow!

## FIRST ASSEMBLY

*(Continued from page 387)*

the upper house. Together, they formed the Philippine Legislature.

Let us now tell the story of the inauguration of the first Philippine Assembly. This significant event took place at the Manila Grand Opera House on Wednesday, October 16, 1907 at nine o'clock in the morning. The first persons to take their seats in the Grand Opera House were the provincial governors; they were followed by the assemblymen. Many high officials were also present including Secretary of War Taft, a former governor-

BAD WITCH: Now I must empty this kettle of broth, and make some delicious coconut candy. Let me see! Who will help me eat it?

WITCHES *(running in)*: We will!

GOBLINS *(running in)*: We will!

CHILDREN *(entering timidly)*: Did we hear someone say something about candy?

BAD WITCH *(who is no longer a bad witch, but is now a Good Witch)*: Yes, and you all shall have a share.

ALL: Hurrah for Halloween!

—From *The Instructor*.

general, Governor-General Smith, and the members of the Philippine Commission. Governor-General Smith started the ceremonies by reviewing the events which led to the organization of the Assembly. Secretary Taft delivered the inaugural address. The ceremonies ended at noon.

At five o'clock the assemblymen held their first meeting in the Marble Hall of the Ayuntamiento in the Walled City. After the roll had been called, the members proceeded to the election of the speaker. Manuel L. Quezon nominated Sergio Osmeña of Cebu whose election was declared unanimous.

The first Philippine Assembly will go down in Philippine history as the first Filipino legislative body under the American flag. Its creation marked a forward step in the march of the Filipinos towards self-government, a wise policy laid down by President McKinley of the United States. This popular body of brilliant men served as a strong foundation of our present Commonwealth government. Let us then remember the day when the Filipinos started to make laws for themselves—October 16, 1907.