



MANY years ago in the island of Siquijor there lived in its mountains a strange person. He was known among the people of the place by the name of Awog. He had the powers of a magician, but he was a very good and kind man. Thieves were very much afraid of him. He was their enemy. But the honest people of the mountains loved him, because he protected their carabaos, goats, chickens, coconuts, and other things from robbers. Many stories were told about Awog.

There was once a man who climbed a coconut tree to steal the nuts. After getting as many coconuts as he could carry, he came down and started to run away with them. But he found that his legs became very weak and heavy. Much to his surprise, his feet could only take him round and round the tree. Something seemed to hold him right at the trunk of the coconut tree. He could not explain why he could not move away at all. He put down his load of nuts, and started to run. But alas! his efforts proved useless. He went on jogging around the tree until he got tired and fell weakly to the ground. Morning came. The owner of the tree passed by and saw the thief lying down on the ground with a cluster of coconuts at his side. Everybody who heard about the happening knew that the great

An Old Legend

A W O G

By T. P. Alvarico

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THE GREAT
MOUNTAIN GOD
AWOG
PUNISHED
ALL EVILDOERS
IN THE ISLAND OF
SIQUIJOR

man Awog had come unseen to help the farmer.

At another time a daring band of thieves entered a house and stole all the valuable things they could find there. The occupants of the house were then attending a fiesta in a neighboring town. As they passed out through the back door with the things they had stolen, the robbers felt happy. But the great man Awog was displeased with this bad deed. At the foot of the stairway, the robbers, became weak and helpless. They found themselves running round and round the house as if they were tied to it by an invisible rope. At last the people came and caught the bad men. Awog had done another good work.

(Please turn to page 77)



At once he ran to the door towards the guards, slapping each one as he passed by. Each guard, thinking that the fellow near him did the mischief, lost no time in returning the blow. Thus started a free-for-all and the garden was in commotion while Felipe sped his way towards Menia's castle. Nobody saw him. He was invisible. He ran up the steps and was soon in Menia's room. On the table lay the tiny box. He snatched it and ran back to his room. Then he got the stone from his mouth and put it in his pocket. He was visible again. Then he went to the Count's room and gave him the box.

The Count smiled and said. "I have been waiting for a long time and now you are here. I am very happy."

"Cosco," he said addressing the queer-looking servant, "send for my daughter and tell all the

people to assemble in the garden."

When Menia came, the Count took her and Felipe to the garden. There he told his people that he was already old and could no longer carry on the work of a ruler.

"Here is my successor," he added presenting Felipe. "He has proven himself to be brave, strong, honest, and trustworthy. Love him as you love me for he will make you happy."

Then and there Felipe and Menia were married amidst the shouts of joy of all their subjects.

Not long after that, the Count died and Felipe became the ruler of the city.

However, he had not forgotten to send for his foster father and mother; and when they came, he gave them a house and furnished them with everything that they needed.

Awog

(Continued from page 62)

Some old people today are fond of telling the strange story of the man who bravely tried to steal eggs from a back yard. When he started to run away with the eggs, he was surprised to find that he could not even reach the fence. Every time he would move a few steps forward, he found himself back to the place where he stole the eggs. Soon he became hungry. He took three eggs from the bag under his arms and ate them. An hour later he felt an unpleasant movement in his stomach. He had pains all over his body. He became sick and dizzy. Then something tickled his throat. All at once, three chicks came out of his mouth. That was the punishment he received from Awog.

What Do You Know About Nature? (Cont. from page 72)

not always wet with water, tangle lumber lasts for a long time. But when this wood is placed outdoors or is put on the ground it does not last long.

Tangle is a kind of timber very often used for making tables, chairs, and other pieces of furniture. It is easily colored with any kind of stain. Do you know what stain is? Stain is the color carpenters put in a piece of wood. It is different from paint because paint covers the surface of the wood. Stain does not cover the surface at all. It simply sinks into the wood and gives it a natural color. For instance, if we want tangle chairs to look yellow, we put a yellow stain on the tangle.

In the United States there is a kind of timber called mahogany. Tangle looks like mahogany. This is the reason that tangle is called Philippine mahogany.

Tangle lumber is usually large and long. You do not find many cracks and other defects in this

kind of lumber. It is easy to work with ordinary tools, such as knife, saw, plane, and chisel. It is easy to carve. Its grain shows the figure of a ribbon which we can see clearly when we divide the lumber. The holes or pores of the wood are quite fine. Tangle is quite shiny when made into boards. It is not heavy.

The Philippines has exported to the United States much tangle timber. Many American makers of furniture use it instead of mahogany. For this reason, in many places in the United States merchants are not allowed to call tangle by the name of Philippine mahogany.

Learning To Use New Expressions

(Learning from page 72)

(Answers)

drive . . . into
drive away
drive
drive

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