

The Golden Goose

By Georgene Faulkner, the Story Lady

Dear Miss Faulkner: I have read a lot of the stories you have written, and I like them, and I like to read them. Here is my request: when my turn comes, may I have the story of the "Golden Goose"? With love from, RUTH ECKERT YOUNG, 135 Brinkerhoff avenue, Mansfield, O.

THERE was once a man who had three sons. The two eldest thought they were very clever, and the youngest they despised and scorned and called "Simpleton."

One day the eldest son was going out into the forest to cut wood, and before he started his mother gave him a nice sweet cake and a bottle of wine. He met a little old gray-haired man.

"Good day," said the old man. "Will you please give me a bite of your cake and a drop of your wine?"

But the young man answered, "Indeed, I will not. If I give you my cake and wine I will not have enough for myself."

The little old man looked sadly after him, but the young man went on his way, and soon was chopping down a tree. "Chop! chop! chop!" went his ax, when suddenly he made a false stroke and cut his arm so badly that he was obliged to go home and have it bound up. Now, this was no accident, for it was his punishment from the little old man.

The second son then went to the forest to cut wood, and like the eldest son his mother gave him a sweet cake and a bottle of wine. He soon met the little old man, who asked him for a piece of cake and a drop of wine, and the second son answered the poor man as rudely as his brother had done: "If I give you any I shall have less for myself; so be off with you." He was soon punished, for just as he was cutting down a tree he cut his leg and had to be carried home.

Then Simpleton said, "Father, let me go out and cut the wood."

"Your brothers have only come to harm," answered the father: "you know nothing about it, so you had better not go." However, he begged and begged so hard that at last his father said, "Very well, go then if you must."

His mother was so vexed with him she gave him a cake mixed with water and baked in ashes and a bottle of sour beer.

When he reached the forest he met the little old man, who greeted him and said, "Please give me a bite of your cake and a drop of your wine; I am so very hungry and thirsty." Simpleton answered, "I am very sorry I have only cake baked in the ashes and some sour beer to offer you, but if you would like this fare we will sit down and eat it together." But when they were seated and Simpleton opened his cake, lo! it was changed into a nice sweet cake and the sour beer was turned into good wine.

After they had finished their luncheon the old man said, "Because you have such a good heart and were willing to share with me I will give you good luck. There stands an old tree; cut it down, and you will find something at the roots." The old man then disappeared, and Simpleton began to chop the tree. "Chop! chop! chop!" and when it fell to the ground, lo and behold! there, sitting among the roots, was a goose, and its feathers were of pure gold.

He took the goose under his arm and went on to an inn,

where he spent the night. Now, the landlord of this inn had three daughters, and when they saw this wonderful goose they were curious to find out if it really had golden feathers. The eldest said to herself, "I will pull out one of the feathers and see." But the instant she touched the bird she could not remove her hand, and so she could not get away.

Soon after, the second sister came up, anxious to pluck one of the golden feathers, but as soon as she touched her sister she found herself stuck fast also. Lastly, the third sister came up with the same desire, but as soon as she touched her sisters she had to hang on to them.

The next morning Simpleton took the goose under his arm, and without looking at the three girls he went on his way. They had to keep running on behind, dodging this way and that as he happened to turn from right to left. As they were passing through a field they met the parson. "For shame! You bold girls!" he cried. "Why do you run after that young man? Go back home at once!" Then he took hold of the hand of the youngest girl to pull her away, but no sooner had he touched her than he found himself held fast.

Not long after they met the sexton, who looked very much surprised to see the parson running along after the three girls, so he called out in amazement, "Hello, your reverence! Where are you going so fast? Have you forgotten the christening we are to have today?" And the sexton seized the parson's coat, only to find he was stuck fast.

They traveled on and on until by and by they came to a town where a king ruled whose only daughter was so sad and solemn that she had never been known to laugh; hence the king had proclaimed that whoever could make the princess laugh should have her for a wife. When Simpleton heard this he took his goose and all the flowers before the princess, and when she saw these seven people running, one behind the other, after the golden goose she burst out laughing, and she laughed and laughed, long and loud.

Simpleton then said to the king, "I have caused your daughter to laugh, and therefore I claim her as my bride."

"No, indeed," answered the king, for he was not willing to have his daughter marry the simple youth, "you cannot marry my daughter unless you find a man who can drink up all the wine in my cellar."

Simpleton went back to the forest and there he found a man with a very sad face.

"Alas!" groaned the man, "I am so thirsty. I cannot find enough wine to relieve my thirst."

"Well, now I can help you," said Simpleton joyfully.

He led him to the king's cellar, and the man drank till all the wine was gone. Then Simpleton demanded his bride, but the king was angry that such a wretched fellow should marry his daughter that he made new conditions. "You cannot marry my daughter," he said, "until you find a man who can eat up a mountain of bread."

Simpleton went back to the forest and there he found a man with a miserable look on his face, buckling his belt very tightly around his waist.

"O, I am so hungry!" groaned the man. "I have eaten a whole ovenful of bread, but still I am so hungry that I have to tighten my belt, or I shall die of hunger."

"Get up and come with me," said Simpleton. "I can give



you enough to eat." And he took the man to the king's courtyard, where all the flour in the kingdom had been baked into a huge mountain of bread. The man sat down and ate and ate until the mountain of bread had disappeared.

Then Simpleton, for the third time, demanded his bride, but the king said, "If you will bring me a ship that can sail on the land as well as on the water you shall have my daughter."

Simpleton went back to the forest, and there sat the little old gray-haired man with whom he had divided his luncheon. "Well," said the old man, "I have eaten and drunk for you, and now I will give you your ship, for you were kind and merciful to me when I was in want." Then he gave Simpleton the ship that could sail on land as well as on the water, and when the king saw it he could no longer refuse to give his daughter to the Simpleton.

(Retold from "Grimm's Fairy Tales.")



As I was going up Primrose Hill,
Primrose Hill was dirty;
There I met a pretty Miss,
And she dropped me a curtsy.
Little Miss, pretty Miss,
Blessings light upon you;
If I had half a crown a day,
I'd spend it all upon you.

The Mother Goose Parade

THE CHICAGO SUNDAY TRIBUNE.

These Nursery Borders may be cut out and preserved in scrapbooks; they are delightful "cut outs" for children who find pleasure in the use of scissors. Or they may be pasted in one long, unbroken strip about the wall borders of the nursery.

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