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THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.

When Irish Norah, the nurse, offered to repeat some of the old familiar stories the children rebelled; but when she was permitted to repeat one of them the children Norah had a warm place in the hearts of the children, and her fame as a story-teller had reached other nurseries, so that her audience sometimes numbered five or six. But until this fateful day she had always told new stories-Irish fairy stories and stories that she made up as she went along. She never repeated a tale, except by request, and so in time her stock and her imagination were both pretty well exhausted. Then it was she turned to the old books for additional material.

"I'll tell ye," she said, with her delicious brogue, that always added to the interest of the stories, "iv Th' Shleepin' Beauty."

"Oh. no!" cried Carl: "that's old, and mamma has read it to us."

"But ye niver hear-rd me tell it," suggested Norah. "Tis not th' sa ame thing whin it's r-read an' whin it's told, an' I'm all out iv new shtories. Ye've had a new shtory ivery da ay since ye was old enough to listen, an' there's niver a wan lift."

"Let her tell it, Carl," urged Ethel. "Perhaps there will be something new in it after

So it happened that when Mr. Merrill passed the door of the children's play-room he heard Norah telling the story of The Sleeping Beauty to his two children (for that was the extent of the audience on this occasion), and he stopped to listen. Then he went softly down-stairs and called his wife, and they quietly took possession of an adjoining room. That is how Norah's version acquired local fame, which later frequently resulted in an audience of which she was in ignorance, but which nevertheless was interested and appreciative.

"Wanst upon a time," began Norah; and then she interrupted herself to say, "ye'll notice that iverything happens wanst upon a time in th' shtories; 'tis a date iv gr-reat importance in th' fairy wor-rld. Well, wanst upon a time there was a king an' a queen-'

"What was the king's name?" asked Carl, who always insisted upon details.

Norah, good-naturedly. "In th' fairy times kings was so common ye'd shtumble over thim in th' shtreet, an' no wan iver thought iv givin' thim pa-ames. If ye met wan iv thim ye'd just drop on wan knee an' say, 'Ye er Highness!' or 'Good luck to ye, O king!' 'T'w'u'd be a waste iv time to be r-runnin' to th' directh'ry ivery minute f'r to see what king it was. Now, don't ye be botherin' me any more."

This matter being disposed of Norah continued the story.

"Th' king an' th' queen had no childher, an' it made thim sa-ad. A woman without a ha ave, an' a king without a childher is in a ter'ble bad wa-ay, bein' worried be th' thought that th' crown may go out iv th' fam'ly an' not be a good fit. So whin a fr-rog came to th' queen, an' says, 'Ye have a daughter comin' to ye afther a bit,' they both iv thim became happy an' continted."

"Wasn't it a stork?" asked Ethel, doubt-

Nora looked troubled, but only for a

"'Tis th' shtork that brings th' ba-aby," she explained, "but I think 'tis th' fr-rog that brings th' news iv it. Annyhow, 'twas so this time, an' th' fr-rog knew what he was ta-alkin' about, f'r a princess was bo-orn an' christened, an' siven fairy godmothers show- an' I'm thinkin' they missed a lot iv th ed up at th' christenin', with wan over that wasn't invited. Oh, my! but he was a gr-reat king! I niver knew th' like iv it in all hisgodmother do f'r anny ord'nary princess. an' die;' an' thin up jumps wan iv th' other fairies, she bein' so mad her wings is flappin', 'I'll give her wan kiss.' ' and she cries, 'Tis a sha-ame to put so ha-arsh a pinalty on th' ba-aby! I cha-ange th' sintence from death to shleep. An' 'tis me decree,' she says, 'that she must wa-ake in a shtory. So he kissed her, an' she woke up whin she's kissed be a prince. An' so 'twas all fixed. Ye see, 'twas th' r-rule iv th' th' fairy wor-rld that th' wan that had th' looked at hersilf in th' gla-ass, an' she says, last wor-rd was th' wan that had her own wa-ay, an' there do be women that think things is r'run be th' same r-rule now. Well, th' king was that worried that he had all the shpindles bur-rued, only he f'rgot wan iv

"Why did he forget it?" inquired Carl. "Why did he f'rget it?" repeated Norah. "Don't ye see, he had to f'rget it?" If he didn't there w'u'dn't be anny shtory to be

"Why, of course?" put in Ethel. "That's

very simple, Carl." "Well," Norah continued, "iv coorse Emerald Street, - Woodstock, N. B. shpindle, like ivery gir-rl-an' boy, toofinds what isn't intinded f'r thim, an' she pricked her ha-and an' wint to shleep. Thin

th' good fairy, thinkin' iv how shlow th' time w'u'd pass while waitin' f'r her to wake up, puts th' king an' queen an' ivery wan in th' castle to shleep, so they w'u'nd't be worryin'. An' they all shlept a hundred

"A hundred years!" repeated Carl, thought. wanted more. Patient, devoted and original, fully. "Who ruled the country while the king was sleeping?"

"No wan," answered Norah, calmly. "It didn't need anny r-rulin' ".

"I thought every country had to be ruled," insisted Carl.

"Not a shtory book counthry," asserted "But couldn't the doctors wake them up?"

asked Ethel. "No wan knew they were shleepin'," ex-

plained Norah, confidently. "I should think the milkman or the grocer's boy would have found it out," suggested Ethel.

"It's mighty funny," put in Carl, "that a king shouldn't be missed."

"There's a lot iv them that w'u'dn't be missed," said Norah. "Ye'd miss a shoeblack before ye w'u'd some kings."

"If we should all go to sleep for a long time, some one would find it out," argued the boy.

"Iv coorse," admitted Norah; an' that proves it."

"Proves what?"

rd th' shtory.

to sleep."

"Proves that ye're not a king," said Norah, triumphantly. "'Tis all as plain as the da-ay. Th' fact that ye'd be found, not bein' a king, proves that if ye were a king no wan w'u'd iver come near ye. What's th' use iv bein' a king if ye can't shleep as long as ye wa-ant without iver bein' called?"

"I never thought of that," answered Carl. "Go on, Norah."

"Whin th' time was up," continued Norah. "a fine prince came prancin' through th' forest, an' he was surprised to see th' castle. "'What's this?' he says, niver havin' hear-

"'Hush!' says th' people iv th' forest; 'th' king's been shleepin' f'r a cintury'.

"Th lazy ma-an,' says th' prince. "Tis time he was called or he'll be shtarvin' to death."

"'Ye can't wake him,' says th' people; 'no wan can do it.'

"'Nonsinse, said th' prince, he bein' a "How d'ye sup-pose I know?" retorted | br-right lad. 'Ye can wake anny wan be ticklin' th' sole iv his foot.'

"'Tw'u'd not be etiquette,' says th' people, 'f'r to tickle a king.'" "That isn't in the book mamma read."

said Ethel. "No, admitted Norah, blandly, "but it

sh'u'd be." "Norah is right," asserted Carl. "I alwas thought something was left out of the

"Well," said Norah, "th' prince, bein' well brought up, w'u'dn't do annything that wasn't etiquette, so he niver bothered th' king, but just wint wanderin' through the childher hasn't th' occupation she sh'u'd palace, takin' in th' strange sights. Oh, my! he saw some queer things! Th' cook had been pluckin' a chicken whin th' two iv thim wint

> "The chicken was dead when she was plucking it, wasn't it?" asked Ethel. "Iv coorse," replied Noroh.

"Then I don't see how it could go to sleep should think it would just spoil."

"Tis ivident," said Norah, in a tone of gentle reproof, "that ye niver were in th fairy counthry. Th' chicken was dead an' shleepin', an' th' prince, not bein' hungry, wint on till he came to th' room where th princess was: 'I'll have her f'r a wife,' he says at wanst, f'r that's th' wa-ay they did things in thim da-ays. There was no courtin' gr-reat inj'ymint iv life; but annyhow a la-ad didn't have to go callin' ivery night to find out if a gir-rl was th' r-right wan f'r him. th'ry, f'r 'tis customary to ma-ake wan fairy | 'Twas all settled th' minute he clapped his eyes on her. So th' prince says, 'I'll have Well, whin th' time came f'r given' the good her f'r a wife; but th' throuble was to get her wishes th' fairy that wasn't invited says, 'I without carryin' her away on his shoulder wish ye may prick ye-er ha-and on a shpindle, like a bag iv meal. 'I must have her,' he says, 'so I'll go f'r a ca-art; but first,' he says,

"But that wasn't etiquette," suggested

"A kiss," said Norah, "is always etiquette up, an' thin ivery wan woke up, an' ye niver saw such astonished people. Th' queen 'Dear me! how provokin'! Me clo'es are all out iv shtyle!' an' th' king says, 'Bless ye, me childhern!' an' th' princess says, 'So ye've come at last, have ye? I'm gla-ad ye're such a fine han'some la-ad, but ye're shlow. Tis. not ivery gir-rl w'u'd wait so long f'r ye.' An' thin they were married an' lived happily iver aftherward."

"Does everybody live happily ever afterward when they are married?" asked Ethel, after a thoughtful pause.

"In th' fairy counthry," answered Norah, guardedly. "I wish there were princes like that now,"

sighed the girl. whin th' princess was old enough to be chasin' about be herself she found th' chasin' about be herself she found th' chasin' about be herself she found the chasin' about t "Tw'u'd be a fine thing," returned mornin' about th' time th' risin' bell r rings.

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