

LITTLE DELIGHTS

# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK



Jack thought to the Bean-Stalk he'd take  
a last trip—  
Get some few things more, then give the  
Giant the slip:  
He went in disguise, and returned the  
next day  
With the Giant's fine Harp, he'd now run  
away.

McLOUGHLIN BROS N.Y.



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## JACK and the BEANSTALK.



JACK BEGINNING HIS PERILOUS JOURNEY.

THERE lived, a great many years ago, in a country village, a long way from London, a widow and her son Jack. The last of the poor widow's money was just spent, and she was now forced to sell her cow, to keep herself and son from starvation. Jack induced his mother to let him take the cow

## JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.

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THE GIANT ASLEEP—JACK CARRIES OFF THE HEN.

the next Wednesday, to a town about three miles off, where there would be a large cattle market.

As Jack was going along a butcher met him, and soon persuaded him to sell the cow for a hatful of beans, of various pretty colors, which Jack had very much admired. The bar



gain was soon struck, and Jack hurried home, thinking to surprise his mother with his clever management. But Jack's mother was very angry, and in her vexation took the beans away from him and threw them into the garden.

The next morning Jack got up very early, and, on looking out of his bed-room window, saw, to his amazement, that an uncommon kind of tree must have grown up during the night close by the side of the house. He dressed himself as quickly as possible and went into the garden, where he found that some of the beans his mother had thrown away the night before had taken root, and sprung up so marvellously that the top of the plant was quite out of sight. The stalks were very thick, and had grown so as to form a sort of ladder, which Jack found firm and safe, and which he at once determined to mount.

It was a long time before his mother would allow him to climb the beanstalk, but at last she consented, and he began his perilous journey.

Jack climbed and climbed for several hours, and at last, worn out with hunger and fatigue, reached the top of the beanstalk. He now found himself in a desolate and barren country, where not a trace of any grass, trees, houses, or people could be seen. Jack's heart misgave him, and he sat down for some time on a stone, thinking of his mother, and fearing to die of hunger.

After a little while he roused himself and looked about. Presently he saw coming towards him a beautiful fairy, who inquired in the mildest tones how he came there, and to whom he related how he had climbed the beanstalk. The fairy directed him to a long road, at the end of which was the castle of a giant, who had robbed Jack's father of all his treasures. She told Jack to take all he could from the castle, as all it contained belonged, by right, to his mother.

Jack journeyed on, and by nightfall reached the giant's castle. The giant's wife took him in, gave him a hearty

meal, and hid him in the oven, which was of an immense size.

Poor Jack quaked with fear when, through a peep-hole, he saw what a monster the giant was. The giant soon came in, and after grumbling furiously, called for his favorite hen, and amused himself by telling her to lay; and every time he said "Lay," the hen laid an egg of pure gold.

In an hour or so the giant fell into a sound sleep, and snored away so loudly that it sounded like thunder. Now was Jack's chance. So he snatched up the hen, and ran away from the castle as fast as his legs would carry him.

Jack's mother was delighted when he showed her the hen that laid eggs of gold, which they could sell to supply their future wants. In about another month Jack thoroughly disguised himself, and paid another visit to the castle, where, after much difficulty, he contrived to coax the giant's wife to admit him.

The giant soon came home, and began to abuse his wife fearfully, because his supper was not quite ready. In a few minutes, however, it was placed before him, and was quickly devoured. After supper the giant ordered his wife to bring him either his harp or his bags of money, for amusement. She brought him his money bags, and for more than an hour he sat counting over his glittering piles of gold and silver. By-and-by, he fell into a sound sleep, and Jack crept out of his hiding-place, and ran off with two of the bags full of gold.

For more than six months Jack remained quietly at home, lest his recent exploits should prevent the giant's wife from admitting him to the castle. One fine day, however, the fairy reminded him of his promise to take away from the giant as much of the stolen property as he could, and so he was forced to again disguise himself, and mount the beanstalk for the third time. The giant's wife did not know Jack. She complained bitterly of the rough usage she had received in con-





THE GIANT COUNTING HIS MONEY.

sequence of two little boys having run away with her husband's hen and money bags: but Jack begged for shelter, and was hidden in the copper.

After a bit the giant came into the room, had his supper, and drank his wine, and then ordered his enchanted harp to be



THE GIANT WITH HIS ENCHANTED HARP.

brought for his amusement. The harp, without being touched, played the most delightful melodies ever heard. It was only necessary to say, "Play," and at once most beautiful and soothing music filled the chamber, and floated all over the castle.



The harp seemed to Jack the most valuable of all the giant's treasures, and so impatient was he to obtain possession of it, that as soon as the giant had fallen asleep, he jumped out of his hiding-place and snatched it up. But the harp was enchanted, and sang out loudly, "Master! master! master!" all the time Jack was carrying it; and just as the castle gate swung on its hinges, the giant heard the cry, and found that his harp was gone. Without a moment's delay he rushed after Jack, and once or twice nearly caught him. Jack had now reached the beanstalk, the giant close upon his heels. But Jack was accustomed to his ladder, and managed to reach the bottom before the giant was half way down. The moment Jack got to the ground he called out for a hatchet, and with it set bravely to work to cut away the beanstalks. In less than five minutes all the stalks save one had given away, and now one more stroke and the last was severed. The beanstalk swayed once or twice, and the next instant the giant, with a tremendous crash, fell to the earth stone dead.

Jack's mother now told him the story of the cruel murder of his father by this same giant, and how he had taken away her property and left her almost a beggar. The fairy, too, appeared, and explained to Jack's mother that her son had gone to the giant's castle at her express command, and that what he had brought back was but a portion of the widow's former wealth, which would still be always sufficient to keep them both in plenty and comfort.

