

THE KITTEN PILGRIMS

OR

Great Battles and Grand Victories

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CHAPTER IV.

RHINOCEROS SULKYFACE.

THEIR way they took by brake and brook,
Till they met with a fearsome beast—
RHINOCEROS SULKYFACE—deep in the dumps,
And seventy tons at least.
They fought him for most of a day and a night,
But budged him never a bit,
Till Fun put the wight in a curious plight,
And tumbled him into a pit.

CHORUS { Oh-o-o-o ! what hornéd monsters they did fight
 } While travelling through the land !

Well, as we have said, Monkey Fun was allowed to walk with them and invited to sleep in the camp that night.

“For you know,” said Dick to Trusty, during a private talk, “it is impossible that such a queer pleasant little fellow as that can be one of the foes we have to kill ;” but Trusty only smiled, and said nothing.

“I won’t help you to kill him, whether he be friend or foe,” said Flimsy, “for I’m very

fond of him already ;" saying which she ran to the Monkey, put her arm round his waist, and walked along with him.

Nevertheless, they had not a very pleasant time of it in the camp that night, for their visitor was always getting up, and jerking about, and saying or doing ridiculous things.



DICK KICKING FUN.

At first they laughed, but afterwards, when they grew sleepy, they became angry. At last Dick jumped up, and gave the Monkey such a kick as sent him flying far away over the bushes—for the creature was very light, though troublesome. After that they slept well.

"I wish, brother," cried Flimsy, with an angry mew, "that you would mind how you walk, and not let these twigs come back in my face so. One of them hit me right on the nose just now."

"How can I help it, Flim?" replied Dick,



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sharply; "twigs will fly back in spite of me. You'd better walk in front."

Flimsy did so, but one of the twigs that her shoulder pushed aside flew back and hit Dick on the eye.

"There! You're as bad as I am," he cried with a savage fuff.

"How can *I* help it, Dick?" replied Flim, sharply, for a thorn pierced her foot at the moment. "Twigs will fly back, you know, in spite of me."

"You had better walk further apart till we get clear of the bushes," suggested Trusty.



IN DISGRACE.

The kittens did so, and walked on in sulky silence, for they were scratched all over and very hot, besides being much shaken by frequent stumbles.

Now, Monkey Fun, thinking this a good time to present himself, came forward with a

sly look ; but, to his surprise, Flimsy—the gentle innocent Flimsy—gave him a scratch on the nose ! Dick also hit him a slap on the cheek, and Trusty gave him a kick as he fell back to his proper place in rear, where he remained in disgrace.

Towards the middle of the day the whole party felt very much exhausted.

“ We’d better stop for dinner,” said Trusty.

“ Humph ! ” replied Dick.

As for Flimsy, she would not speak at all !

At that moment they lifted up their eyes and beheld a hideous monster with an awful horn on its nose and a horrible expression on its ugly countenance. Dick sat down, astonished and helpless. Poor Flimsy gave a shriek, turned round and fled, and Trusty showed all his teeth to the very backmost grinders as he growled, “ RHINOCEROS SULKYFACE.”

There was no need to tell the kittens that this was one of the monsters. Dick at once attacked him with sword and spear, but could do nothing, he was so huge, and his hide so hard. Poor Flimsy had not run far when she thought of her Mother’s warning—never to run,

but always to face the foe,—so she came back, ashamed and trembling, and sat down on a stone while Dick fought and Trusty looked on. You see, it was not Trusty's duty to fight. His business was to encourage the pilgrims to fight their own battles, and to help them a little when very hard pressed, but not to fight *for* them.

“I *can't* stick him!” said Dick, in desperation, after a number of furious efforts; “the spear *won't* go in, and nothing seems to move him. He does not even care to attack us. Shall we try to put him into the big hole at the edge of which he is sitting?”

The others agreed to try. They ran against the brute; they tickled him behind the ears and in the nose; they walloped him with sticks; and Flimsy stuck needles and pins into him—all without effect. He only looked sulkily at them out of his little wicked eyes. After fighting for nearly a day and a night they sat down exhausted, and said, “What shall we do next?”

“You had better let me try,” said Monkey Fun, coming humbly forward.

"Try, then, you pert little thing!" said Dick.

The Monkey at once leaped into the hole near which the monster sat, and began to dig away the earth from below him. After a time, Fun came out of the hole, cut a caper in front of **SULKYFACE**, and gave a peculiar shriek, which forced him to give a momentary smile in spite of himself.

"Now, it's almost ready," whispered the Monkey to Dick; "when I give that shriek again, you charge him with your spear."

The Monkey went down to dig away some more earth. Soon he uttered the comical cry. The Rhinoceros burst suddenly into a fit of laughter. His fat sides shook. The earth below him trembled. Dick charged him with all his might.

"Well done, Dick! Don't be alarmed, Flim!" cried Trusty.

The ground gave way, and down went Sulkyface into the hole, almost carrying Monkey Fun along with him.

The splash that he made was something awful to hear, but it was much more dreadful

to behold. He did not take long to die.



THE END OF SULKYFACE.

Monkey Fun's shriek had gone straight to his heart, where it met the point of Dick's spear, so that he was killed outright even before he had time to be smothered in mud and water. This was the end of SULKYFACE.