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for Little Children, by Edith Francis Foster**

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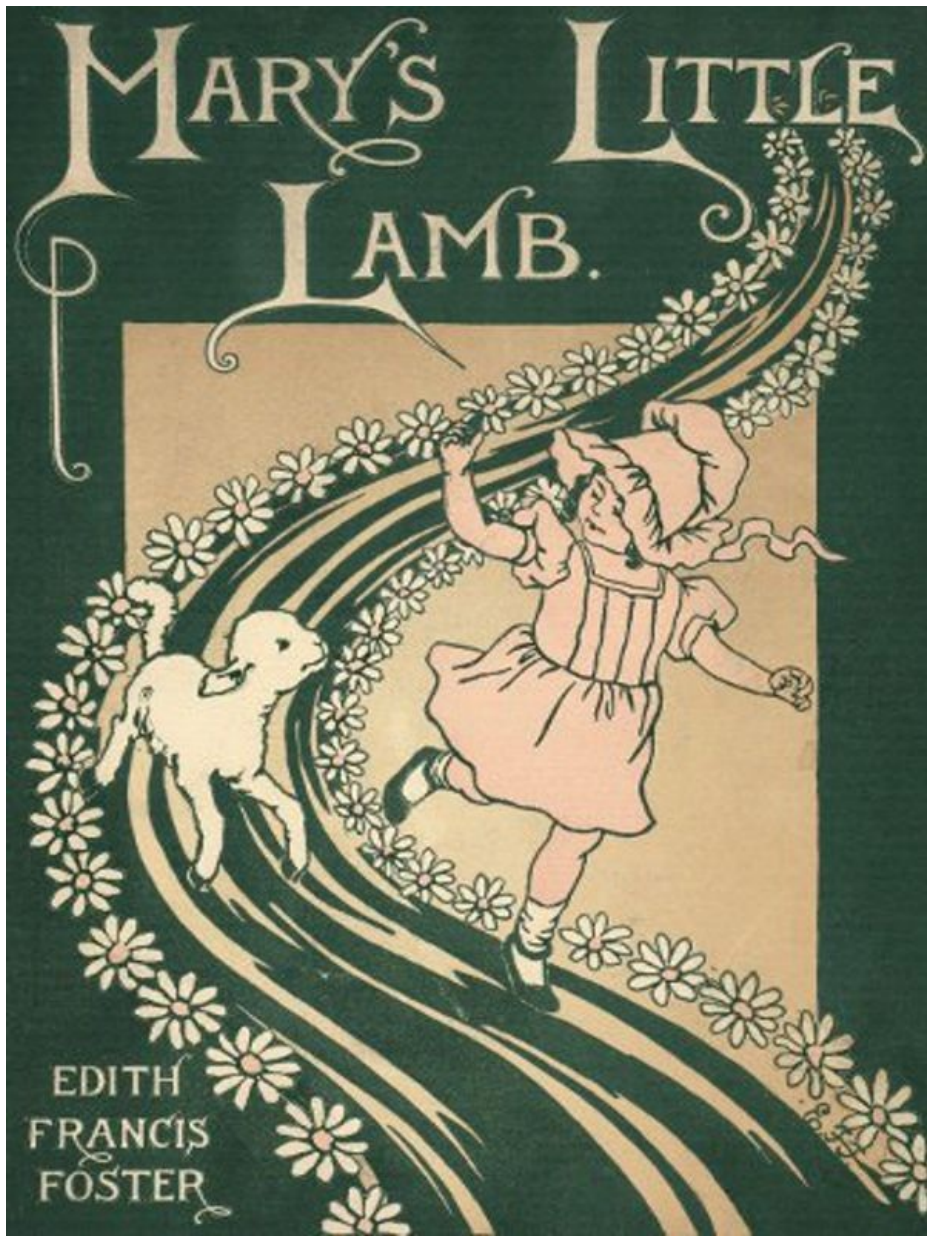
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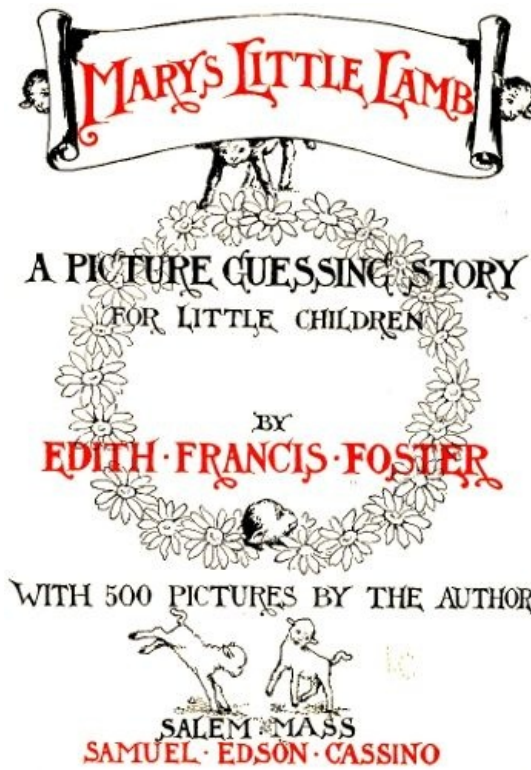
1

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2



3



## MARY'S LITTLE LAMB

5

### CONTENTS

FRONTISPIECE	
DEDICATION	
HOW MARY FOUND HIM	<a href="#">9</a>
HOW THEY WASHED HIM	<a href="#">15</a>
HOW THEY FED HIM	<a href="#">21</a>
HOW HE WENT TO SCHOOL	<a href="#">27</a>
HOW HE WOULDN'T JUMP	<a href="#">33</a>
HOW LITTLE MARY SPUN	<a href="#">39</a>

HOW HE WENT BOATING	<a href="#">45</a>
HOW DOLLABELLA TOOK A RIDE	<a href="#">51</a>
HOW BOSSY BUNTED HIM	<a href="#">57</a>
HOW THEY PLAYED HIDE-AND-SEEK	<a href="#">63</a>
HOW HE SAVED MARY!	<a href="#">69</a>
HOW HE WON A PRIZE	<a href="#">75</a>

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6

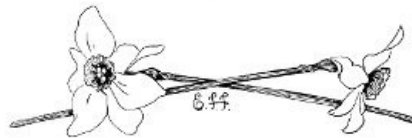
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7

TO  
LITTLE AUNT HANNAH  
(ON HER  
NINETY FIRST BIRTHDAY.)

















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9







## I.



When little Mary Moffett's mother asked her to go up to the Clover Farm for some fresh , Mary felt a little sorry, for she was very busy making her  a , but she laid down her  and  and , tied on her pink , and set off up the hill, with her little  on her . As she was coming home she heard a queer little patter, patter, behind her. She looked back and saw something white!  felt a wee bit afraid, and began to run but her  struck a  and down she tumbled on her ! Before she could get up something soft and woolly was rubbing gently against her , saying "Ba-a-a!" "Oh you darling lamb!" cried







Mary, hugging it—and the little  snuggled close, and said "Ba-a-a! Take me home with you, little Mary."  was astonished. "Whose lamb is


13











it?" she asked. "Oh Mother, I think it's just a wild lamb! Mayn't I keep it?" begged . But Mother said she must ask Farmer Clover if it was one of his , first. So back they went,

and found Farmer Clover mending his  and Mary asked him. But there were two big tears in her  —she did so want that dear —and the kind



old  saw them. "Well, yes," he said, "that's my lamb—but it's an extra one, that I haven't any room for. If I knew anybody who would be willing to take it and treat it well—"




"Oh, Mr. Clover!" cried , her eyes dancing, now, and her  dancing, too. "*I'd* be willing! *I'd* treat it well! May *I* have it?" So Mary and the little  went dancing home together. And kind old  watched them and laughed till his  danced in his , and his  danced on his .

15







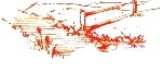
















II.

"Mother! Mother!" cried little Mary, running into the . "Mr. Clover says he doesn't need this —it's extra—and I may have it for my very own!" Yes, now it was Mary's little lamb—and how they loved each other! They went together everywhere—in the 













and the , and over to Grandfathers, to play with little Aunt Hannah. Mary's Aunt Hannah was only three years older than  herself and they played together all the time. The two little  thought the  was beautiful, but it was not very clean. "I don't want a dirty, dusty little lamb," said Mary; "I want a nice, clean, white lamb." "Then we must wash it." said little . "Father washes all his  in the  every spring." Out by the  stood the  with the



big wooden  where the  drank. The  was full of water, standing in the . Mary leaned over the edge and dipped her . "It's nice and warm," she said. "Now, dear little  jump right in!" But the lamb wouldn't jump—so Mary and little Aunt Hannah lifted him, and dropped him into the . Then they rubbed him with  and squeezed his  with their . The poor little lamb didn't like it,





and kept trying to get out—till, as  tried to hold him her  slipped and in she fell,  first! Oh, how she screamed! And  screamed, too, and the  cried "Ba-a-a!" as loud as he could. Little Aunt Hannah's mother came running from the  fished them out of the water, and carried them into her  one under each . There she rubbed them dry, wrapped them both in  and set them by the , to get warm.

21








### MARY'S LITTLE LAMB.

23








### III.


















Mary's lamb was too young to eat , as old  do. He wanted milk, but he did not know how to drink from a . He was just a baby sheep, you see. So Mary's  found an old tin  and filled it with warm new milk. Then








she tied a  over the , and  held it while the little  sucked up every drop of the milk. Three times a day they filled the , and he drank it all, while Mary tilted it

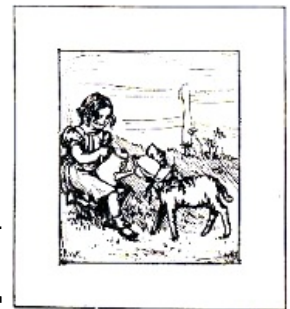














up for him. One day  and little  went up Clover  to pick  for their mothers to put in . They took their luncheon in the berry-, and each had a tin  to pick into. Mary's  went too, and of course he would want his luncheon, so  carried the old  in a . When the  and  were full of , they started home. Along the roadside grew white ,

25



and they made a  for the lamb's . Then Mary said "The  shines so, he must be hot. He shall wear my ." So they tied it snugly over his .



Then they sat under a  to finish their luncheon, and afterward Mary gave the  the rest of his milk. Two  came past, in a low , and they laughed to see the little lamb drinking from the teapot. Mary did not notice that one  held up a little black leather  and pointed it at her. But next week a flat, square  came from the postoffice marked "For the Little Girl and Lamb who live near Clover Hill."  cut the  with her , and unfolded the —and what did she find inside it? A beautiful photograph of herself, feeding her  by the roadside!

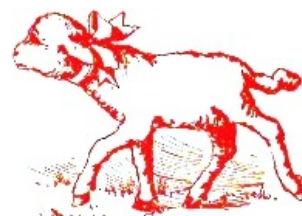













## MARY'S LITTLE LAMB.

29







### IV.









Mary didn't like to go to school and leave her lamb at home. She knew he would not be happy all alone; and how could she study her  and do sums on her , without her dear little woolly  close beside her? But schooltime came, and she had to start. If she had looked back, she would have seen the  trotting along behind, all so pretty, with a blue  on his . He loved to follow little Mary, and he didn't know  mustn't go to school. Before he caught up with her, the  rang, the  all ran in, and the  was shut; but he stood on the door-  
 and heard them singing. Then the











arithmetic class began, and the  said: "Mary, if you had three , and gave one  to Hannah, how many would you have left?" Mary was not thinking of . "Four," she said, "but please



teacher, did you know I had a ?" and the lamb heard her voice and called "Baa!" outside the , as loud as he could. "Why, there he is!" cried . "He must go home," said the teacher;

and she opened the  to send him away. But the little  came right in, and ran to , so glad to see her again! "Oh, please let him stay!" said she: "I am sure he will be good!" But



all the other  laughed—it was so funny to see a lamb in school—and the  had to turn him out. But the  would not go home. He wanted to stay near Mary; So he waited on the  and every time he heard her voice he cried "Ba-a-a!" At last the  said  must take him home; so she put away her , and the little  jumped and danced, he was so happy, as they ran home together.












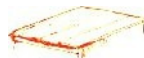








## MARY'S LITTLE LAMB.

35










### V.



All the week the little lamb had to stay at home while Mary went to ; but on Saturday they had such good times! First,  had her tasks to do. She wiped all the  and  and , dusted the  and made her own . Then she went out to play. The nicest place to "play house" was the  of a  by the . Mary and little Aunt Hannah climbed up by the , with their  and  but the  couldn't climb. They tried to carry him, but he was too heavy—and he kicked, too. So they took him up on the  in the  and

















dropped him out of a  onto the . Then they all had a good time playing "party", with some caraway  and a little  of milk. But at noon, when Mary's Mother blew the dinner- , the lamb couldn't get down! They couldn't lift him up to the , and he was afraid to jump to the ground. Little Aunt Hannah stood on the ,

37



but could not reach him. Then they brought out armfuls of  and made a big soft  and  stood on the  and tried to push him off into the ; but he wouldn't budge. "Come to dinner, children," called



Mary's . "It is getting cold." "Oh dear!" said little Mary, almost crying. "He'll have to stay up here and starve! But he's had three , anyway." At last  big brother came out to find them. He laughed when he saw the  and the  but he went for a , and very quickly brought the little  safely down to the ground. Then they all went in and had their dinner together.

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39

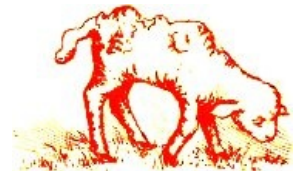






## MARY'S LITTLE LAMB.



41











### VI.



"When my lamb is big enough" said Mary to little Aunt Hannah, "my father will shear him with the , like the old  and Mother will teach me to spin, and knit the wool; and so my little lamb will give me my  and .

"Let's shear him now." said . "I can teach you to knit." "Well." said Mary. "He is very little—but we will only take a little of his .

So she got the , and they cut some wool from his . But they found it must first be spun into —and they didn't know how: so they went to ask Mary's .

She laughed at the poor little  with the big bare spots in his pretty white . "If you are in such a hurry for  and ,

"she said, "we will



begin them at once. First, you must learn to 43

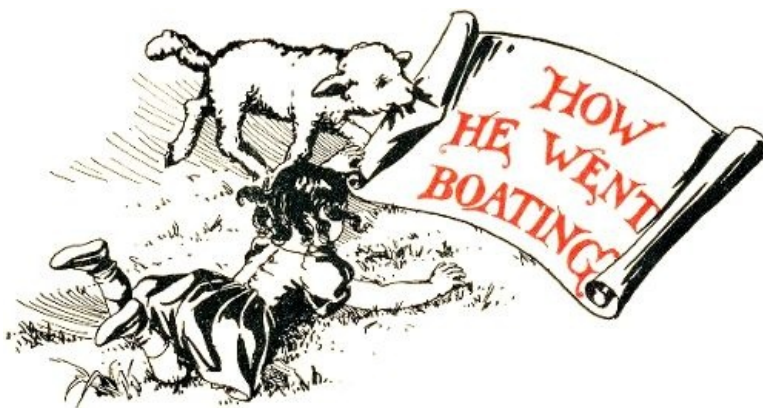


spin." So she brought out the big and some tiny soft of wool and showed her how to spin the rolls into . Mary liked to walk backward and forward, and twirl

the great with a ; but her yarn was all uneven, and kept snarling and breaking. Soon she grew tired—and cross, too, and then the snarled worse than ever. As last






gave the a great whirl, as hard as she could, and ran off to the . There she hid in the and cried, until the little found her and rubbed his against her . Then she stopped crying to laugh, his ragged looked so funny! Pretty soon she went back to the and said she was sorry for being cross. Then gave her a nice of yarn and some and taught her to knit a .

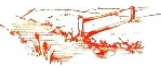






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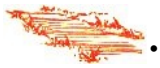

When the time really came to wash and shear the , Mary's  said the lamb wasn't big enough to spare any more —but he did get washed in the











. Mary and little Aunt Hannah went down in the meadow to gather cowslips—not for the pretty  but to boil in a  for dinner. They took off their  and  and splashed about in the wet



, filling their  with . They picked some tall blue  too, and pulled sweet-flag to eat. To get the sweet , they had to cross a little  over the brook. The  followed them, but he stepped on a loose , and it tipped him off into the water! It wasn't deep enough to be over his ,









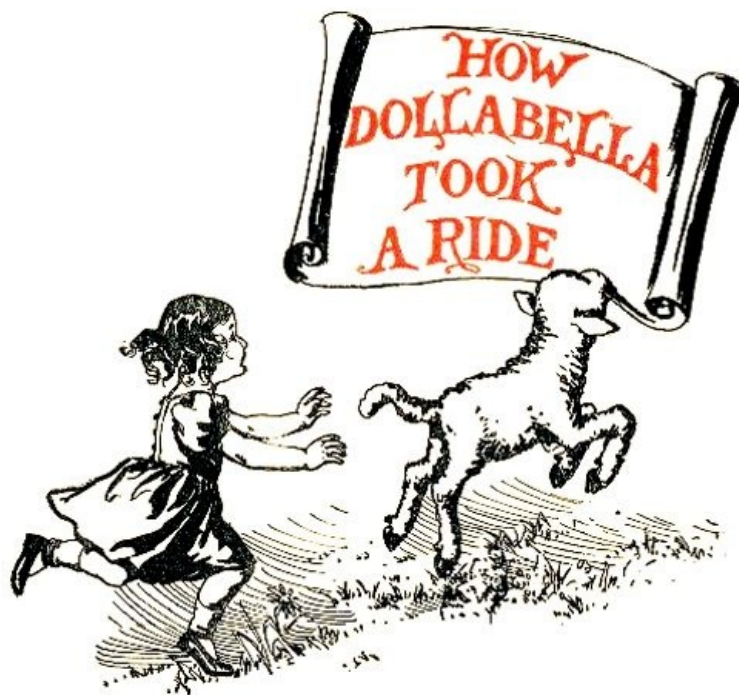
but he waded the wrong way and scrambled out on a little  in the middle of the . They couldn't coax him to wade ashore;—he didn't like water, and would only shake his  and say "Ba-a-a! No-o-o!" "We must

build a  for him" said . "No," said  "we will get the boat. The  keep it at the mill." They followed the brook up to the  and untied the . There were no , but they found a long  and pushed it along to the . The little  was very glad to jump in with them. But they





could not push the  ashore, for the water ran too fast. So they floated along, dipping their  in the water, and watching the little  swimming below, till they ran into a  across the brook. Then they climbed ashore and went back for their  and . "Oh, you funny lamb!" said Mary, "What good times you do make us have!"



51




MARY'S LITTLE LAMB.
















**VIII.**



53









Dollabella, Mary's biggest doll, had had the measles, but she was getting better. "When people get better" said ,








"they always go to ride." So she tried to give her  a ride on the 's back, but he danced up and down and she fell off. Then Mary took a  and tied her on, so when the  danced again he couldn't shake  off. He didn't like that, so he thought he would run away from her, and off he went! The  was shut, but he squeezed through a gap in the , and tore Dollabella's  on a . Mary squeezed through the gap, too, and her  caught on the , and tore a great big three-cornered . The  ran across a field and jumped over a  into the  and Mary ran after him, laughing.










55



Dollabella's  fell off her , and so did Mary's . The  of the  caught her  and tangled them and almost pulled the  from the lamb's back. At last they came out into a  field and saw Farmer Clover



at work with his . "Hello!" said he. "Who's running away—you or your lamb?" "Oh, we aren't running away," said , all out of breath. "We are just giving my  a ride. She is sick!" "Well, that's a pretty fast ride for anybody that's sick!" said . "Now I am going to the , to get

a  of molasses. Don't you want to ride home in my ?" Mary and the  were tired, and glad to have a ride—and I think the poor sick  must have been just as glad. But when they got home  had to take a  and  out of her  and mend her  and Dollabella's too.

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57


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MARY'S LITTLE LAMB.
















IX.






59






As the lamb grew big and strong he got very frisky, too. He found out that when he ran at things with his hard little  down and bunted them, the things would fall down. He thought that was funny, so he bunted

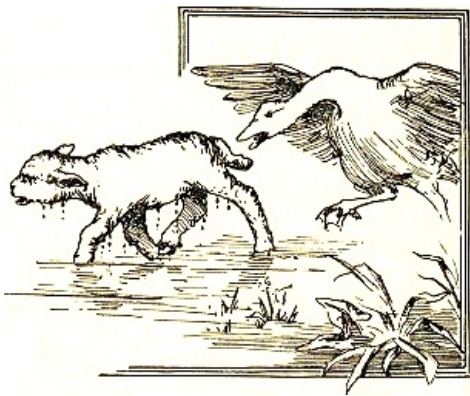











everything. In the  he bunted over  and the  and , and nobody dared set a  or  on the floor. Outdoors, he ran at the  and , to see them flutter and scream. Once he bunted little Aunt Hannah's  — but she didn't fall down; she stood up and cuffed him with her , and scratched him! But  fell down when he bunted her, and so did , although they were bigger than the . One night he ran at Mary's father, bringing in the , and spilled all the milk over his . Then Mary's



 said if the  didn't stop bunting he must be tied up. So  tried to teach him better, but he didn't understand it was naughty, and kept right on bunting. At last one day, he

bunted the  which was tied to the  by a long . Now Bossy liked to bunt, too; so when the  ran at her she put her  down and ran at him! And she was the biggest, so it was the little



 himself that fell down that time! First he flew right over the  and fell on his ,—then he rolled over and over into the duck-. All the  began to flap their  and quack, and the big gray  hissed at him and chased him. The poor naughty little  was so frightened that he ran to , all wet and muddy,



and hid his  in her . After that, he didn't bunt things any more!

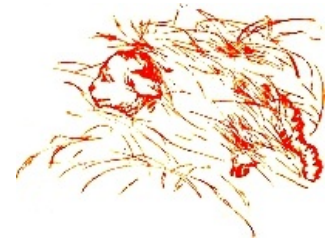


63
















### MARY'S LITTLE LAMB.








### X.



65





One day Mary and her lamb were playing in the . He would lie still as a  while she buried him in the , but when she clapped her  he jumped up and ran to her like a . Then  began to pull out  from the mow, and made a deep hole where they could both creep in out of sight. After supper they played hide-and-peek with . So many nice hiding-places—under the -bushes, behind the rain-, and around the  by the . At last  remembered her hole in the  and crept in, with the 










which followed her everywhere. Then they waited, keeping very still, till by and by  grew sleepy—for it was almost -time. She laid her  on the 's soft neck, as they cuddled down together in their , and before they knew it they were fast asleep!








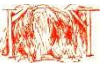
67



 hunted and hunted, till she thought  must have gone in the , to play a trick on her; so she went into her own  a little vexed.

-time came and her  came to the  to call Mary in. "I guess she's gone home with Hannah," said , as he came from the  with his . The  often slept



together, and Mary's mother didn't hear the "I guess," so she only said "It is naughty to go without telling me. She mustn't again." So nobody knew where  was, all night! But next morning she didn't come home—she was not at 's—and how frightened everybody was! They hunted everywhere, and at last started to drive to the neighbor's . The noise of the  and of the  trampling on the  waked Mary—and how astonished everybody was, when she and the  came creeping out of the !

69






















## MARY'S LITTLE LAMB.

71



### XI.



Once little Mary and her lamb really did get lost—and something dreadful almost happened! They had been picking  in the  up Clover , and couldn't find the way out. The  was setting, and  thought of  and ! She was tired and hungry, too. She was eating  from her , and crying, and the , who would not eat  and wanted his milk in the old  was crying, too—"Ba-a-a!"—when a big, tall  with a  in his  broke through the bushes behind them. He sat down on a  and stared at them, looking so white and scared that  felt sorry for him. "Did a  chase you?" she asked. "Oh no," said he, "It's only I'm so glad you are alive!" He didn't dare tell her he had mistaken her little brown  bobbing among the



73





🌸, for a 🦅, and raised his 🔪 to shoot it when he saw a little white 🐾 bobbing beside it and stopped to look closer! So her little 🧒 had saved Mary's life

—but she never knew it. "Now how came you up here?" the boy asked. "Are you lost?" "Oh no," said 🧒, winking away the 🥲, and smiling; "We aren't exactly lost—only we can't just find




























our 🏠. And we want our supper, too." "You shall have it!" said the 🧒. "You are little Mary—I know your 🏠—and I'm going to carry you there, quicker than a 🐎 can trot!" So he took 🧒 in one 🦶 and the 🐾 in the other, and the 🔪 he left hidden in the 🌿 under a 🌸. Then he quickly found the 🌿 (it was close by, after all,) and in ten minutes they were safe home again; and Mary's 🧒 thanked the big 🧒 and gave them all some supper.


















## XII.


















Now Mary and the big  with the  became great friends. He used to bring her  in his ; once he took her out in his  to gather ; and he promised to take her to the County Fair. Early on that day he came for her with his  and . Mary was all ready, in her new , with  on her . "Where is the  says he mustn't go," said Mary sadly, "so I shut him up in the ". "Oh but he must go!" cried the . "He's entered—they expect him."  didn't understand that, but she was very glad to take her dear  with her. They walked about the Fair grounds and saw the  and  and  and  in the ; and visited the  where the  and  were, in their . And



everywhere that  went the  kept close beside her; and all the  looked at them and smiled. At last the  said, "Now we are going into the  so we will leave our  in this nice little  beside all the other  to wait for us." They looked at the  and  and the  and  in the . Then they



found Marys  and  and had dinner together; and afterward they saw the  race, and the  go up, and heard the  play. It was a long time before they went for the . Some  were looking at him, and just as Mary ran up they fastened a blue  on his . "Oh, thank you! How pretty!" she said. "Hurrah!" cried the . "Our  has won first prize! That means he's the best  in town!" "Of course!" said little . "He's the best  in the whole !"



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