

**QUEER STORIES
FOR BOYS
AND GIRLS**

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Queer Stories for Boys and Girls by Edward Eggleston

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EDWARD EGGLESTON

**QUEER STORIES
FOR BOYS
AND GIRLS**

Queer Stories

For Boys and Girls

BY

EDWARD EGGLESTON

AUTHOR OF "THE HOUSING SCHOOLMASTERS," "THE HUSKIER SCHOOL-BOY," ETC.

6/13-20
The
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Congress
Acquired
1900

NEW YORK

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1896

PREFACE.

THE stories here reprinted include nearly all of those which I have written for children in a vein that entitles them to rank as "QUEER STORIES," that is, stories not entirely realistic in their setting but appealing to the fancy, which is so marked a trait of the minds of boys and girls. "Bobby and the Key-hole" appeared eight or nine years ago in *St. Nicholas*, and has never before been printed in book form. The others were written earlier for juvenile periodicals of wide repute in their time—periodicals that have now gone the way of almost all young people's magazines, to the land of forgetfulness. Although I recall with pleasure the fact that these little tales enjoyed a considerable popularity when they first appeared, I might just as well as not have called them "The Unlucky Stories." In two or three forms some of the stories that form this collection have appeared in book

covers in years past, but always to meet with disaster that was no fault of theirs. Two little books that contained a part of the stories herein reprinted were burned up—plates, cuts and all—in the Chicago fire of 1871. Another book, with some of these stories in it, was issued by a publisher in Boston, who almost immediately failed, leaving the plates in pawn. These fell into the hands of a man who issued a surreptitious edition, and then into the possession of another, to whom at length I was forced to pay a round sum for the plates, in order to extricate my unfortunate tales from the hands of freebooters. This is therefore the first fair and square issue in book form that these stories have had. For this they have been revised by the author, and printed from plates wholly new by the liberality of the present publisher.

E. E.

OWLS' NEST, Lake George, 1884.

CONTENTS.

QUEER STORIES.

	PAGE
BOBBY AND THE KEY-HOLE, A HOOSIER FAIRY TALE, .	3
MR. BLAKE'S WALKING-STICK,	23
THE CHAIRS IN COUNCIL,	60
WHAT THE TEA-KETTLE SAID,	67
CROOKED JACK,	72
THE FUNNY LITTLE OLD WOMAN,	77
WIDOW WIGGINS' WONDERFUL CAT,	83

CHICKEN LITTLE STORIES.

SIMON AND THE GARULY,	91
THE JOBLIES,	101
THE PICKANINNY,	111
THE GREAT PANJANDRUM HIMSELF,	120

STORIES TOLD ON A CELLAR-DOOR.

THE STORY OF A FLUTTER-WHEEL,	137
THE WOOD-CHOPPER'S CHILDREN,	143
THE BOUND BOY,	149

	PAGE
THE PROFLIGATE PRINCE,	155
THE YOUNG SOAP-BOILER,	160
THE SHOEMAKER'S SECRET,	168

MODERN FABLES.

FLAT TAIL THE BEAVER,	177
THE MOCKING-BIRD'S SINGING-SCHOOL,	181
THE BOBOLINK AND THE OWL,	185

Queer Stories.

