

CHAMBERS'S
COMPLETE TALES FOR INFANTS



Tire and Begin Again



LONDON: 58 Soho Square, W.

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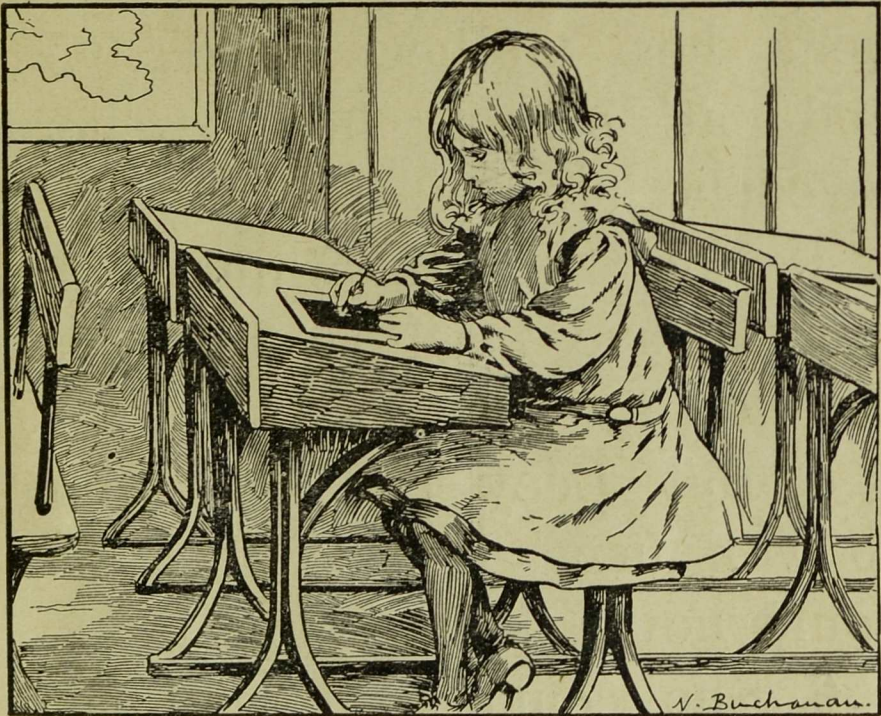
EDINBURGH: 339 High Street

Primary Class - Riverview School

Glem

Glem Pearce

TIRE AND BEGIN AGAIN.



1. LUCY.

1. Lucy was a sweet little girl of seven. She had blue eyes, soft golden hair, and a mouth like a rose-bud.

2. 'Kiss-me-quick,' her father used to call her; and he kissed her many and many a time.

3. She was loved by all who knew her. Her father loved her; her mother loved her; and at school her teachers loved her, too.

4. You would think she might have been as happy as the day was long.

5. But Lucy had one thing to vex her. It was this—she could never do her sums!

6. She could read well, and her spelling was very good. She wrote as neatly as any one could wish, and she got a prize for sewing the first year she went to school.

7. But she did not like sums at all, and always seemed to get them wrong.

8. It was very sad. Her teacher was quite vexed about it, and so was her mother.

9. As for Lucy, she just said to herself that sums were nasty, and, by-and-by, she did not even try to get them right.

2. KEPT IN.

1. One day, a little after four, Lucy sat all alone in the class-room at school.

2. The other children had gone home, for their lessons were over for the day. But Lucy had done her sums so badly, that the teacher said she must stay in, and work them again.

3. It was a warm day in June; the birds sang, and the sun shone in the sky.

4. A bee buzzed in at the open window, and then flew out in a hurry, as if to say: 'Oh, dear me! why did I come in here? I would much rather be outside!'

5. Lucy was of the same mind as the bee. But, alas! she could not fly out of the window, as it had done. She only wished she could!

6. How hot it was! Lucy took up her pencil, and drew a fine lady on her slate. She put a fan in her hand, and six buttons on each of her boots.

7. But that did not help the

little girl to do her sums any faster. And when she rubbed the lady out again, her slate was quite dim.

8. Lucy gave a big, big yawn. 'Two and two are four, and six are nine,' she said. Then she yawned once more, and laid her head down on the desk, to rest it.

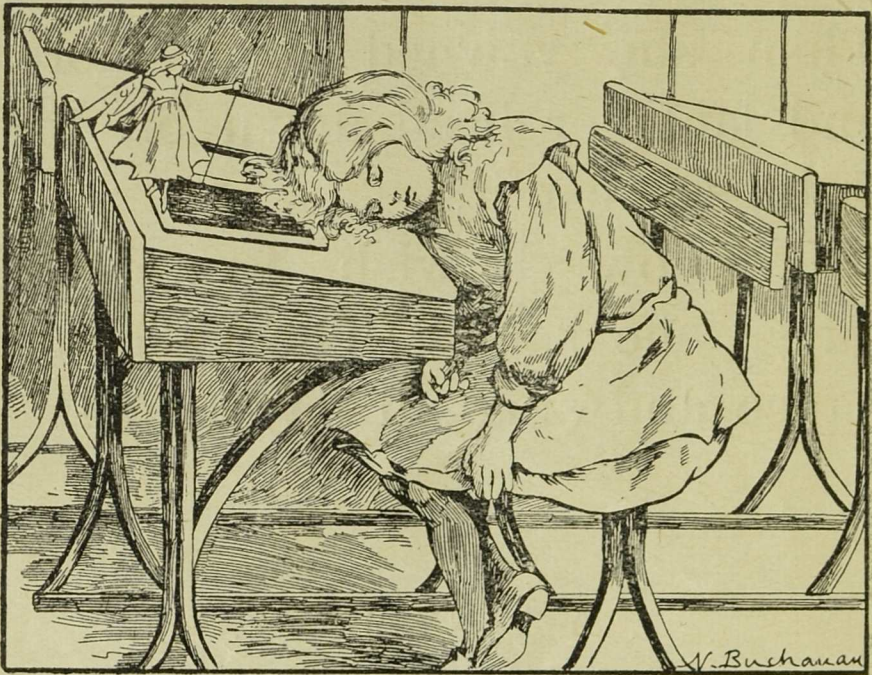
9. 'How I wish I were a fairy,' she said. 'Then I could dance and sing all day long!'

3. A TINY LADY.

1. Lucy had no sooner said these words, than she heard a soft rustle by her side. When she looked up, she found such

a tiny lady standing on the rim of her slate!

2. She was hardly as big as Lucy's new doll. In her hand she held a snow-white wand, and a silver star shone in her



hair. Folded at the back of her neck was a dear little pair of wings.

3. 'Good-afternoon, Lucy,' said this little lady. 'Why do you look so sad?'

4. 'I cannot do my sums,' said Lucy, and she hung her head for shame.

5. 'That is odd,' said the lady, looking at her with sharp eyes, 'for you seem a clever girl. Are you sure you try your best?'

6. 'I don't know,' said Lucy, with a frown; 'I hate sums.'

7. 'But you like dancing, do you not?' asked the other. 'But I know you do, for I heard you say so. Would you be happy, if you could dance and sing all day long?'

8. 'Oh, that would be

lovely!' cried Lucy, clapping her hands.

9. The little lady smiled. 'Come along then, my child; you shall have your wish!'

4. A FAIRY GIRL.

1. But now Lucy was just a tiny bit afraid. 'Where are we going?' she asked.

2. 'To the school of the fairies,' said her new friend. 'Make haste, or we shall be late!' And she spread out her pretty wings.

3. But Lucy shook her head. 'Thank you very much,' she said; 'but I cannot fly like you, so I think I must stay at home.'

4. 'By no means!' said the fairy. Standing on tip-toe, she touched the little girl with her wand; and lo! Lucy became as small as herself, with a pretty pair of wings just like her own.

5. Now indeed the little girl was full of joy. She flapped her wings to and fro, feeling just like a bird. 'Ha, ha!' she said to herself, 'this is better than working a nasty sum!'

6. The fairy took her by the hand, and she found herself flying out of the window, as the busy bee had done.

7. Away they flew, across the play-ground, and over the master's garden.

8. Some lovely pinks and

roses were growing there, and Lucy would have liked to stop and pick a bunch of them. But her new friend seemed in a very great hurry, and did not give her time.

9. They crossed the road, far above the carts and horses, and flew over fields and rivers, until they came at last to a deep green wood.

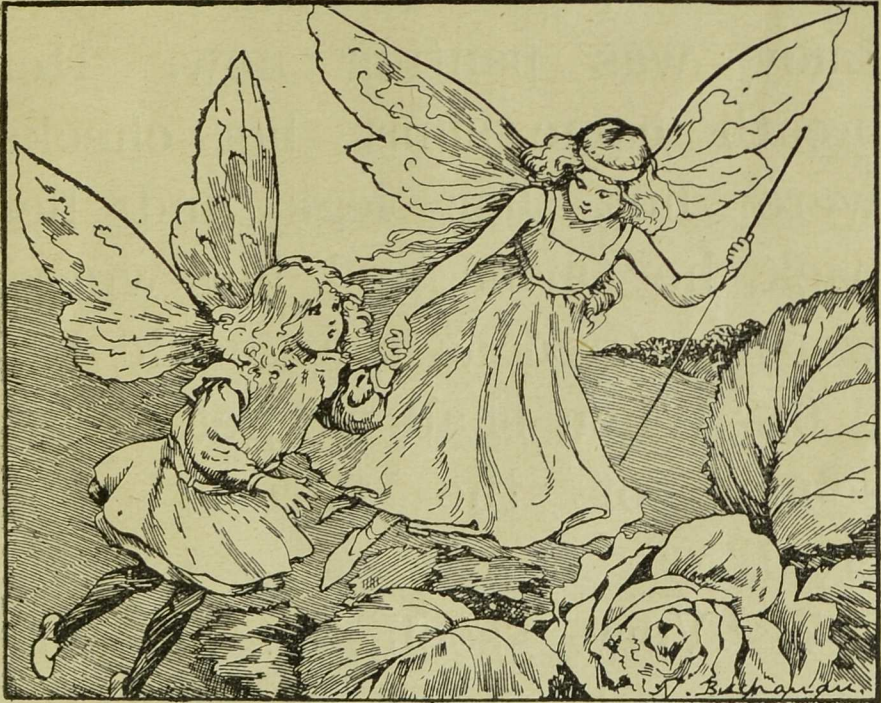
5. FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.

1. For a time Lucy was as happy as a queen! It seemed so gay to go sailing like a bird over the waving trees.

2. But after a while her wings began to flap more

slowly. She was not used to flying, you see.

3. 'Oh, dear me!' she cried, 'I am so tired; I can't go any



farther. Kind fairy, let me rest, I pray!'

4. But the fairy shook her head. 'There is no such word as can't,' was her reply. 'Tire

and begin again, is the fairies' plan.' As she said this, she clasped Lucy's hand more closely than ever.

5. On and on they went. Lucy was panting now. Her breath came short, her cheeks were hot, her legs and her back, her arms and her wings, were as tired as they could be.

6. 'When shall we get to the school of the fairies?' she cried.

7. 'Very soon,' said her friend; 'do you not hear the school bell ringing?' Just then, Lucy seemed to hear the faint tinkle of a bell.

8. 'What is the name of the school?' she asked.

9. 'Mushroom Hall,' said the fairy. 'Madam Tiny is the mistress, and she teaches nothing but singing and dancing. So now you will have your wish.'

10. 'And are there no sums to do at all?' asked Lucy, with wide-open eyes.

11. 'Never a sum,' said the fairy. Just then, they came to a sweet green dell, and Lucy was told that this was the school of the fairies.

6. MUSHROOM HALL.

1. Oh, how glad the little girl was to fold her wings, and be at rest. She sank down

among the daisies, too tired to speak or think. But by-and-by she felt better, and began to look about her.

2. Mushroom Hall was a very large school. There were so many pupils, you could not have counted them.

3. Each fairy pupil sat on a mushroom stool, with hands neatly folded on her lap; and all stared so hard at Lucy that she felt quite shy.

4. The school bell was ringing still. It was a blue-bell, waving in the wind. 'Tinkle—tinkle—ting—ting!' it seemed to say.

5. Madam Tiny sat on a larger mushroom in front of

her class. She was a very brisk little fairy, with eyes as sharp as needles. In her hand she held a snow-white wand.

6. 'Ah, Swift-wings,' she said, looking at Lucy's friend, 'whom have we here?'

7. 'A new pupil, if it please you, madam,' the fairy made reply. 'She does not like sums, and wishes rather to dance and sing all day long. So I have brought her to you.'

8. 'Quite right!' said Madam Tiny. 'Take your place in the class, my child.'

9. She waved her wand as she spoke, and, all at once, there grew out of the ground a fresh mushroom stool. It was

pure white on the top, and was lined below with brown silk tucks.

10. Sitting down on this stool, Lucy took her place in the school of the fairies.

7. THE FAIRIES AT SCHOOL.

1. And now the bell stopped ringing. 'Ah!' said Madam Tiny, 'it is time for our dancing lesson. Strike up the music!'

2. A swarm of bees at once began their bag-pipe drone. A robin in a tree sang with merry notes, and a frog croaked in the pond. He thought his song was the sweetest of all.

3. Then the fairies sprang

from their seats, took Lucy by the hand, and began to dance. They made a great fairy ring;



and Madam Tiny stood in the middle, waving her wand.

4. At first they went quite slowly, and as Lucy was no longer tired, she was quite glad, and thought it great fun.

5. 'Heel and toe,
Round we go!"
sang the fairies.

'Heel and toe,
Round we go!'
sang Lucy too.

6. But, after a while, the fairies began to dance much faster. They went so fast that Lucy's head reeled. All the trees seemed to spin like tops, and the very sky looked as if it were dancing too.

7. 'Oh, dear me!' cried Lucy; 'stop, stop, kind fairies! I am tired. I can't dance any more.'

8. 'Tire and begin again,' said Madam Tiny, with a frown. 'There is no such word as "can't" in fairyland.'

8. THE OLD SCHOOL AGAIN.

1. 'Heel and toe,
Round we go!'

sang the fairies, dancing faster than ever.

2. 'Chirp, chirp, chee!' piped the robin.

'Whirr-r-r!' droned the bees.

'Croak!' said the frog from the pond.

3. But Lucy sang no more; she had no breath left. Still the dance went on, till she was ready to fall to the ground.

4. At last poor Lucy burst into tears. 'I just hate dancing,' she sobbed. 'Oh, how I wish I were back in school doing my sum!'

5. And then, she never could tell how it came about, she found herself seated again in the class-room, with her slate in front of her.

6. Madam Tiny was nowhere to be seen, nor Swift-wings, nor the dancing fairies. There was not a single mushroom stool in sight, just the old maps, and desks, and forms.

7. She looked at her slate. The sum was still half done, and one of the lines was wrong.

8. 'Tire and begin again!' said Lucy with a smile, and before long every line in the sum was right.

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