

AUNT MAJOR'S TOY BOOKS.

PRICE SIXPENCE EACH.

# PUCK & PEASBLOSSOM IN LONDON



LONDON:

ROUTLEDGE, WARNE, & ROUTLEDGE.





Puck and Peasblossom among the Pictures.

Now, Puck and Peasblossom had heard much about the sights of London ; so they made up their minds to go and see these sights, and promised to tell the Fairies all about them on their return. I will tell you what they saw :— First of all, they went to a fine place where pictures of all kinds were shown. It was called the National Gallery. Here there were fine paintings—hundreds upon hundreds of them. Some were pictures of trees, and fields, and villages, and ships ; and some were hung so near the ceiling that Master Puck got on a bench, and looked at them through a double spy-glass. And he was delighted to find a likeness of himself there, and one of Peasblossom too.









The Fairies in the Tower.

Then Puck and Peasblossom went to see the Tower. This is a very great, old, strong building, near the River Thames. The Kings of England used sometimes to live there, long, long ago; and it was also sometimes used as a prison. Here the two Fairies saw the Queen's crown and sceptre, all glittering with pearls, and rubies, and diamonds, and emeralds. They also found many helmets and breastplates of iron, and swords and shields, which people used in battle in old times. There was a figure on horseback of Elizabeth, a Queen of England, who lived hundreds of years ago. And one very sad thing they saw—an axe or hatchet, with which poor prisoners' heads used to be cut off; but I am glad to say such things are not done now.









The Zoological Gardens.

Then they went to a very fine place called the Zoological Gardens. In these gardens wild animals of all kinds are kept in cages. There are birds, and beasts, and fishes. They saw lions, and tigers, and elephants, and foxes, and eagles, parrots, ostriches, and a great many more. Some of these creatures looked very fierce, as if they would have hurt the people if they could have got at them. The two Fairies were delighted with the monkeys, which played all manner of droll tricks in their cages, running up and down, and fighting for nuts and apples. At last they came to a deep pit, with a pole in the middle. • In this pit was a big bear, who climbed up the pole, and so frightened Puck, that he tumbled off a post on which he had climbed to look.





At the British Museum.

You may be sure our two Fairies did not forget to pay a visit to the British Museum. This is a great building, full of things beautiful and instructive to see. There are stuffed animals of all kinds—many thousands of them—birds, and beasts, and fishes. In the picture, you see Puck standing on the shell of a great tortoise, looking with wonder at one of these fishes. On the wall are tortoises, and a stuffed ox stands near the door. Besides these creatures, they saw here a great many beautiful statues, most of which had been made many hundreds of years ago, by two famous nations called the Romans and Greeks. In other rooms were pieces of metal of all kinds, in glass cases—gold and silver, copper, iron, tin, lead, and very many more.









The Wax-work Exhibition.

Here you may see them at a show of another kind. They went to see the Wax-work Exhibition in Baker Street, Here they found figures of a great many kings and queens and other great persons. These figures were formed with faces and hands of wax, like dolls; but they were so well made that they looked as if they were alive. Our own Royal Family were there—the good Queen Victoria sitting with her youngest child in her arms; round her stood her eldest son, the Prince of Wales; the Duke of Cambridge, the Queen's cousin; her younger son, Prince Alfred, and several others. Little Puck thought these figures were alive, so natural were they; and he ran and offered a rose to the Queen, at which Peasblossom laughed.









The Crystal Palace at Sydenham.

But a greater treat than all was the visit our two Fairies paid to the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, near London, just before they quitted that great city. The Crystal Palace is a great building, made entirely of glass windows, with iron frames; and, on a sunny day, its glass roof sparkles like diamonds and gold. The inside of this palace is laid out like a beautiful garden, full of trees, and flowers, and shrubs. There are also parrots and other birds of gay plumage kept there in cages. Besides all this, many fine statues may be seen; and a band of music often plays, to delight the visitors. Little Puck climbed up into a flower-basket, to have a good look round him; and he sat there for a long time, watching the ladies and gentlemen.









Puck describes what he has seen in London.

One evening there was a meeting of the Fairies out in the fields. It was spring time, and the meadows were full of daisies, and primroses, and violets, and many other sweet flowers. And Titania, the Queen of the Fairies, was there, with the King Oberon, her husband. Then Puck, that clever little Fairy, told all that he and Peasblossom had seen in the Great City; and all the Fairies listened with much interest, you may be sure. And he said:—"We found that we could not go anywhere in that great city without seeing things by which we learned something new and wonderful; and even children, who chose to take pains, learned useful lessons for life from the sights they saw." And in bidding my little friends good-bye, I hope they will remember this.



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