

[The Donkey that did not Drown]

Did you ev-er hear of the don-key that went in-to the sea with the lit-tle cart?

Tell me, Mam-ma, how it was that the don-key did so.

Well, my dear, this was the way.

A la-dy drove the cart down to the beach. She had six chil-dren with her. Three lit-tle ones sat in the cart by her side. Three big-ger girls ran be-fore the cart. When they came to the beach, the lady and the chil-dren got out. The la-dy wish-ed the don-key to bathe its legs in the sea, to make it strong and clean. But the don-key did not like to go near the sea. So the la-dy bound a brown shawl o-ver its eyes, and she bade the big girls lead it close to the waves.

Sud-den-ly a big wave rush-ed on to the land. The girls start-ed back to a-void the wave , and they let go the don-key's rein. The don-key was a-larm-ed by the noise the girls made, and it went in-to the sea, not know-ing where it was go-ing, be-cause it was not a-ble to see.

The girls ran scream-ing to the la-dy, cry-ing out, "The don-key is in the sea!"

There it was, go-ing fur-ther and fur-ther in-to the sea, drag- ging the cart a-long, till the cart was hid-den by the bil-lows. The don-key sank low-er and low-er ev-e-ry mo-ment, till no part of it was seen but the ears; for the brown shawl was o-ver its nose and mouth.

Now the chil-dren be-gan to bawl and to bel-low! But no one hal-loo-ed so loud as the lit-tle boy of four. His name was Mer-ty. He fear-ed that the don-key was drown-ed. No boat was near that day, but there were boats far a-way. Two fish-er-men were in a boat far a-way. They said, "We hear howls and shrieks on the shore. Per-haps a boy or girl is drown-ing. Let us go and save him."

So they row-ed hard, and they soon came to the poor don-key, and saw its ears peep-ing out of the sea. The don-key was just go-ing to sink when they lift-ed it up by its jaws, and seiz-ed the bri-dle and drag-ged it a-long. The chil-dren on the shore shout-ed a-loud for joy. The don-key with the cart came safe to land. The poor crea-ture was weak, and drip-ping wet. The fish- er-men un- bound its eyes, and said to the la-dy, "We can-not think how this thing came to be o-ver its eyes." The la-dy said she wish-ed she had not bound up its eyes, and she gave the shillings in her purse to the fish-er-men who had sa-ved her don-key.