The little land

WHEN at home alone I sit

And I’m very tired of it,

I have just to shut my eyes

To go sailing through the skies –

To go sailing far away

To the pleasant Land of Play;

To the fairy-land afar

Where the Little People are;

Where the clover-tops are trees,

And the rain-pools are the seas,

And the leaves like little ships

Sail about on tiny trips;

And above the daisy tree

Through the grasses,

High o’erhead the Bumble Bee

Hums and passes.

In that forest to and fro

I can wander, I can go;

See the spider and the fly,

And the ants go marching by

Carrying parcels with their feet

Down the green and grassy street.

I can in the sorrel sit

Wheretheladybirdalit.

I can climb the jointed grass

And on high

See the greater swallows pass

In the sky,

And the round sun rolling by

Heeding no such things as I.

Through that forest I can pass

Till, as in a looking-glass,

Humming fly and daisy tree

And my tiny self I see,

Painted very clear and neat

On the rain-pool at my feet.

Should a leaflet come to land

Drifting near to where I stand,

Straight I’ll board that tiny boat

Round the rain-pool sea to float.

Little thoughtful creatures sit

On the grassy coasts of it;

Little things with lovely eyes

See me sailing with surprise.

Some are clad in armour green –

(These have sure to battle been!) –

Some are pied with ev’ry hue,

Black and crimson, gold and blue;

Some have wings and swift are gone

But they all look kindly on.

When my eyes I once again

Open, and see all things plain:

High bare walls, great bare floor;

Great big knobs on drawer and door

Great big people perched on chairs,

Stitching tucks and mending tears,

Each a hill that I could climb,

And talking nonsense all the time –

O dear me,

That I could be

A sailor on the rain-pool sea,

A climber in the clover tree,

And just come back, a sleepy-head,

Late at night to go to bed.

Over in the meadow налугу

Over in the meadow, in the sand and the sun, На лугу, на песке на солнце,

Lived an old mother toadie and her little toadie one. Жила взрослая мама-жаба и ее лягушонок один.

«Wink!» said the mother; «I wink!» said the one, «Мигай!» — сказала мама; «Я мигаю!» — ответил тот,

So they winked and they blinked in the sand and the sun. Так они мигали и моргали в песке на солнце.

Over in the meadow, where the stream runs blue, Налугу, гдетечётголубойручей,

Lived an old mother fish and her little fishes — two. Жила взрослая мама-рыба и ее детки-рыбки — двое.

«Swim!» said the mother; «We swim!» said the two, «Плавайте!» — сказаламама; «Мыплаваем!» — ответилиоба,

So they swam and they leaped where the stream runs blue. Так они плавали и плескались, где течёт голубой ручей.

Over in the meadow, in a hole in a tree, Налугу, надереве в дупле,

Lived an old mother bluebird and her little birdies — three. Жила взрослая мама-синичка и ее птенчики — трое.

«Sing!» said the mother; «We sing!» said the three, «Пойте!» — сказаламама; «Мыпоем!» — ответилитетрое,

So they sang and were glad in a hole in the tree. Так они пели и радовались на дереве в дупле.

All night, all day Всюночь, весьдень

All night, all day Всюночь, весьдень

Angels watching over me, my Lord. Ангелы приглядывают за мной, мой Бог.

All night, all day Всюночь, весьдень

Angels watching over me. Ангелыприглядываютзамной.

When at night I go to sleep, Когданочью я засыпаю,

Angels watching over me, my Lord. Ангелы приглядывают за мной, мой Бог.

Pray the Lord my soul to keep, Просят у Богамоюдушусберечь,

Angels watching over me. Ангелыприглядываютзамной.

Under the spreading chestnut tree Подширокимкаштановымдеревом

Under the spreading chestnut tree, Подширокимкаштановымдеревом,

There we sit both you and me. Сидим мы двое ты и я.

Oh, how happy we would be О, каксчастливымыбудем

Under the spreading chestnut tree. Подширокимкаштановымдеревом.

A cruel Lion lived in the forest. Every day, He killed and ate a lot of animals. The other animals were afraid the Lion would kill them all.

The animals told the Lion, "Let’s make a deal. If you promise to eat only one animal each day, then one of us will come to you every day. Then you don’t have to hunt and kill us."

The plan sounded well thought-out to the Lion, so he agreed, but he also said, "If you don’t come every day, I promise to kill all of you the next day!"

Each day after that, one animal went to the Lion so that the Lion could eat it. Then, all the other animals were safe.

Finally, it was the Rabbit’s turn to go to the Lion. The Rabbit went very slowly that day, so the Lion was angry when the Rabbit finally arrived. The Lion angrily asked the Rabbit, "Why are you late?"

"I was hiding from another Lion in the forest. That Lion said he was the king, so I was afraid."

The Lion told the Rabbit, "I am the only king here! Take me to that other lion, and I will kill him."

The Rabbit replied, "I will be happy to show you where he lives."

The Rabbit led the Lion to an old well in the middle of the forest. The well was very deep with water at the bottom. The Rabbit told the Lion, "Look in there. The lion lives at the bottom."

When the Lion looked in the well, he could see his own face in the water. He thought that was the other lion. Without waiting another moment, the Lion jumped into the well to attack the other lion. He never came out.

All of the other animals in the forest were very pleased with the Rabbit’s clever trick.