THE HISTORY OF CINDERELLA.

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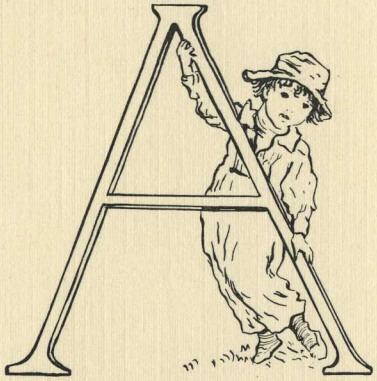

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CINDERELLA.

A gentleman who chanc'd to lose his wife,
One daughter had, and lov'd her as his life;
Thinking it might their comfort much increase,
Married a widow, who destroy'd his peace.

She, too, had daughters, both swell'd up
with pride,
Who hatred to his child could never hide.
Sore griev'd to find his fondest hopes
betray'd,
He sicken'd, died, and in his grave was
laid.
Left to their mercy, she was doom'd to bear
The roughest treatment, with the coarsest
fare.

Thinking on parents who were now no
more,
She heard a woman knocking at the door
Who prov'd a Fairy, chronicles relate,
Who interest took in Cinderella's fate.
Bent nearly double, she seem'd old and
weak,
And said, 'A little warmth I come to
seek;

Dear, dry your tears, your fortune I'll
advance,
This night at court you'll with your sisters
dance.
Run, fetch a pumpkin—that a coach I'll
make,
And for a coachman a fat rat I'll take.
Six nimble mice as footmen spruce shall
jump,
And lizards six I'll turn to horses plump:

Your rags I'll quick convert to garments
fine,
And in your dress make costly diamonds
shine ;
To crown the whole, that you at court
may pass,
Here's curious slippers made of shining
glass.

One thing observe—if after twelve you
stay,
All these fine things from you will pass
away.'
With heart quite light, to court she went
her way—
Danced with the prince, the gayest of the
gay.

The clock struck twelve—she left the
joyous throng,
But dropp'd her slipper as she flew along.
Next day a herald was sent round to find
Whose foot would fit the slipper left behind.
'Twas all in vain that both their sisters tried
Then let me try,' poor Cinderella cried.

Her foot slipp'd in with ease—the girls looked blue,
When from her pocket she its fellow drew.
Soon this poor orphan shone the prince's bride,—
A queen she reign'd, and was her country's pride.

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LIST OF BOOKS IN THIS SERIES.

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