

LITTLE GOLDEN HAIR



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BATCHELOR, ANNE
LITTLE...
1904



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Yellow Doublee
from her loving
Nunna.

Nov 1907 -

Little Golden Hair

By the same Author.

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LITTLE
GOLDEN HAIR

AND
THE THREE BEARS

BY
ANNE BATCHELOR

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1904

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Little Golden Hair and the Three Bears



I.

Golden Hair lay fast asleep in her little bed. One by one the stars shut their eyes, the birds began to sing, and presently the bright sun rose, looked through the window, and

woke Golden Hair, for Granny had quite forgotten to draw the green curtain to keep out his shining face.

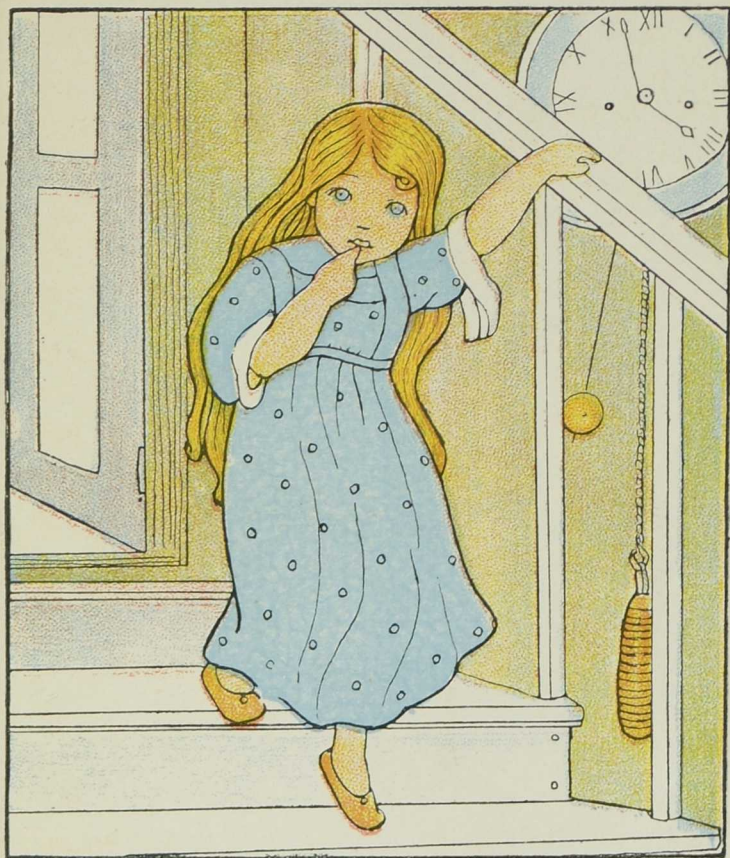
“Oh!” said Golden Hair, “how lovely it looks outside. What fun it would be to dress all by myself and go out.”

II.

Up she got very quietly, so as not to wake Granny, dressed herself in her little blue gown, brushed her hair very smooth, opened the door ever so softly, and stole down the stairs on tiptoes.

Everything was quite still, only the clock went Tick - tock ! Tick - tock !

Golden Hair was just a
wee bit frightened, the
clock seemed to say
Better-not! Better-not!



III.

But Golden Hair thought of the shining sun outside, and all the pretty flowers and the butterflies, so she put on her bonnet and pinafore, opened the front door, and away she went over the pink daisies as fast as she could run.



IV.

Soon she came to the little green gate that led into the wood. Golden Hair stopped there a minute, for Granny had told her of bears and all sorts of strange creatures that lived in the wood. "Just this once," said Golden Hair, as she lifted the latch. "I will only

go a very little way. I wonder what a bear is like; I should rather like to see one."

"Tweet-tweet," said the robin sitting on the gate, "I think you would rather not." But Golden Hair didn't quite understand Robin language, and, singing to herself, she ran into the wood.



V.

Soon Golden Hair came to an open space, and there she saw some little rabbits washing themselves. "Good morning," said Golden Hair, "you seem very busy!" "Yes, we are getting ready for bed," said the bunnies. "How funny!" said Golden Hair,

“why, I have only just got up!”

“Well, if you ask me,” said one cheeky little rabbit, “you ought to be in bed now. We don’t like people to get up so early.”



VI.

But Golden Hair did not stay to listen to the bunnies ; a beautiful butterfly came flitting along, and away she went after it, to see if she could catch it.

“ Butterfly, butterfly, born in a bower,” sang Golden Hair as she tripped along ; but the butterfly was not to be caught so easily, and

by-and-by it flew right
away into the blue sky.
By this time Golden Hair
was in the middle of the
wood.





VII.

Presently she saw a dear little thatched cottage, with the smoke curling out of the chimney.

“Oh! what a nice little house,” said Golden Hair; “I will go and see who lives in it, perhaps they will give me something to eat, for I am so hungry.”

VIII.

Golden Hair stepped up to the door, and knocked, but there was no answer. Tap—Tap—Tap—she went again, but still no one came to open the door.





IX.

Then she peeped into the key-hole, but there was no one inside. At last she opened the door and looked in, and there on the table stood three basins of porridge, all smoking hot, and three chairs set by the table, all ready for someone to sit on.

X.

“Oh,” said Golden Hair, “I should like to taste the porridge, it does smell so very good! I wonder if anyone would mind very much; I don’t think they would!”

First she tried the large basin of porridge, and that was too hot! Then she tried the middle sized basin

of porridge, and that was too cold ! Then she tried the little basin of porridge, and that was just right, so she ate it all, every bit.



XI.

Then Golden Hair thought she would like to rest a little, so first she tried the big chair, but that was too hard ! Then she tried the middle sized chair, and that was too soft ! Then down she sat in the little chair, that was just right, and she sat so long that the bottom

went right through. "Oh dear, oh dear," said Golden Hair, "what shall I do?" But there was no one to scold her; so seeing nothing else to amuse her, she wandered upstairs.



XII.

Up she went, and there was the very nicest bedroom in the wide wide world, with three beds in it. A large large bed, a middle sized bed, and a wee wee bed. First Golden Hair tried the large bed, but oh dear, the bolster was too high ! Then she tried the middle

sized bed, but the pillow was too soft! Then she tried the wee bed, and that was so much like her own, that before she knew what she was doing, she fell fast asleep.





XIII.

Now really, children, this little house belonged to Three Bears—a great big bear, a middle sized bear, and a wee wee bear.

Now the Bears had poured out their porridge and put some honey and milk on it, and had gone out for a walk while it cooled. Soon they

thought they would return home. Stump! stump! stump! down the path they came, and into their house they went.

XIV.

Now the Bears took their bibs out of the table-drawer and put them on, and were just going to take their porridge, when the big Bear said in a gruff, gruff voice :

“ SOMEBODY HAS BEEN TO MY PORRIDGE, AND LEFT THE SPOON STICKING UP IN IT ! ”

Then the middle sized Bear said:

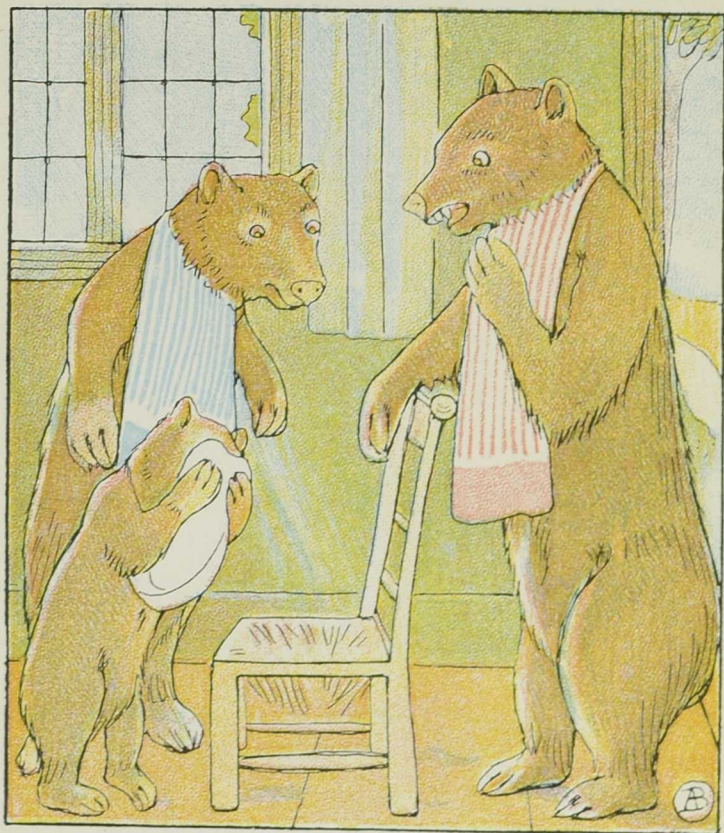
“And somebody has been to my porridge, and my spoon’s quite sticky!”

And the wee wee Bear said in such a squeaky voice:

“Somebody has been to my porridge, and eaten it all up!”

And down the little Bear’s cheek rolled a large tear.





XV.

“Oh,” said the big Bear,
with a gasp:

“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN
SITTING ON MY CHAIR, AND
PUSHED IT OUT OF PLACE!”

And the middle sized
Bear said:

*“Somebody has been
sitting on my chair, and
pushed it in too far!”*

And the wee wee Bear
said in a squeaky voice :

*“Somebody has been sitting on
my chair, and sat the bottom
through !”*

XVI.

“This will never do,” said the big Bear in a gruff voice, “we must search the premises.” They hunted everywhere, but no one could they find. At last upstairs all three went. Stump! stump! stump!





XVII.

“Oh,” said the big Bear:

“SOMEBODY HAS BEEN TO MY BED, AND LEFT THE BOLSTER CROOKED!”

And the middle sized Bear said:

“Somebody has been in my bed, and my pillow is upside down!”

And the wee wee Bear
said :

*“Somebody has been lying in my
bed—and here she is!”*



XVIII.

In her sleep Golden Hair heard the gruff voice of the big Bear, and it sounded like thunder rumbling, and the middle sized Bear's voice sounded just like the wind moaning in the trees, but the shrill squeaky voice of the wee wee Bear woke Golden Hair right up, and before the Bears could

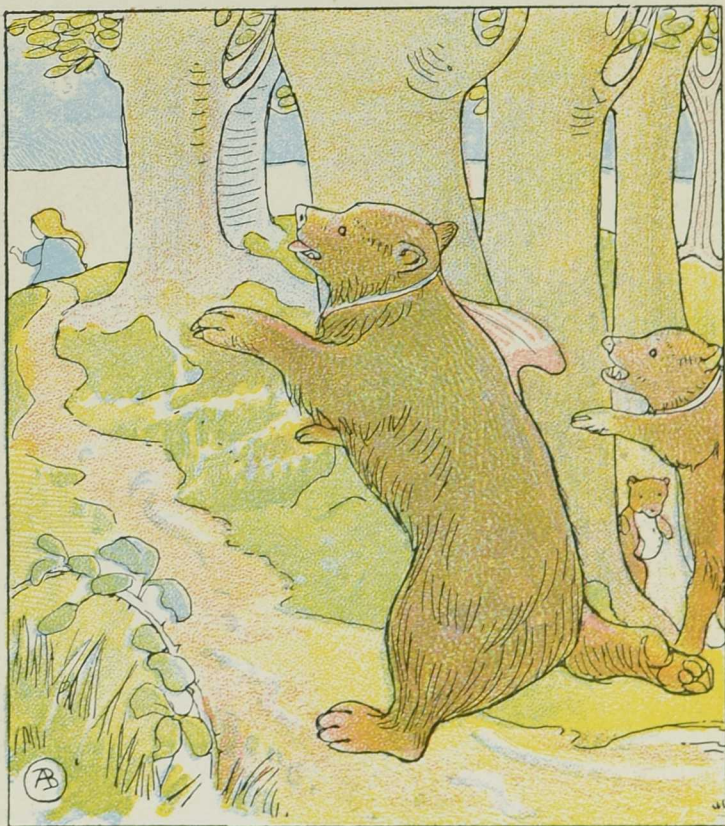
say "Jack Robinson!" she jumped out of the window.

Fortunately for Golden Hair, she landed on the top of a hay-rick.

XIX.

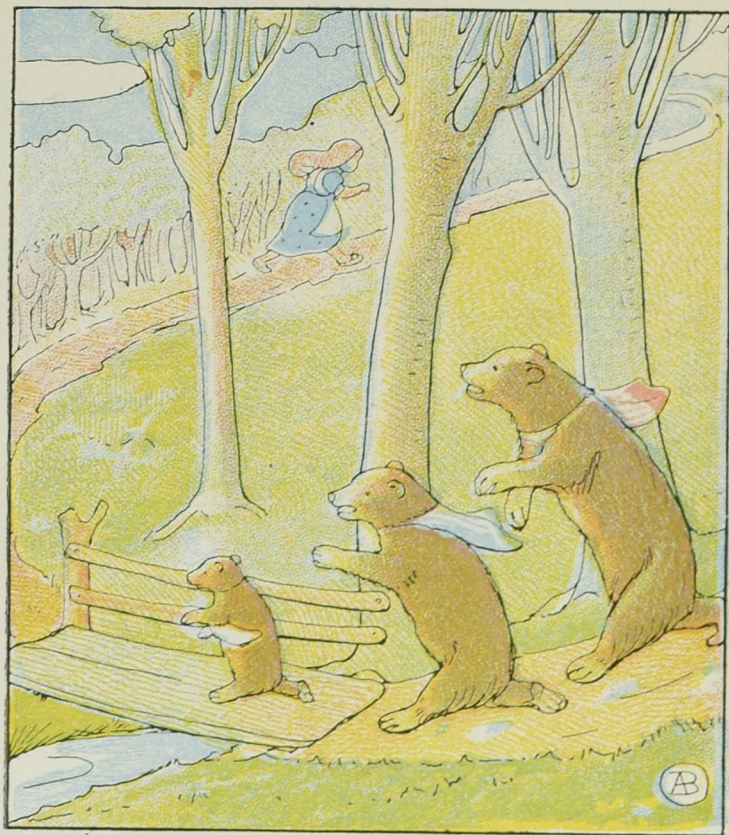
Down over the side
scrambled Golden Hair,
and across the Bears'
meadow she went as fast
as her legs could carry
her.





XX.

Now, children, the Bears couldn't get out of the window very well, they were too big and clumsy, and by the time they had got down stairs Golden Hair had made a good start. Down the path they hurried after her into the wood.



XXI.

Faster and faster ran Golden Hair, and faster and faster went the Bears. Down over a steep steep path, and up the other side, but still Golden Hair kept well in front.

XXII.

At last they reached the brow of the next hill, and Golden Hair was far far away in the distance. "Oh," said the Bears all together, as they sat down panting under a large beech tree, "we had better go home, we shall never catch her. She really flies like a bird."



XXIII.

So after they had rested they started home again, and the big Bear promised the wee wee Bear half of his porridge.

Then they had a good laugh together, for they found they had quite forgotten to take off their bibs.





XXIV.

But Golden Hair went running on and on, afraid even to look behind her. At last, quite tired out, she sank on the grass, just to rest a minute. It was where she had stopped in the morning to talk to the bunnies, and the same naughty little rabbit came popping along tweaking

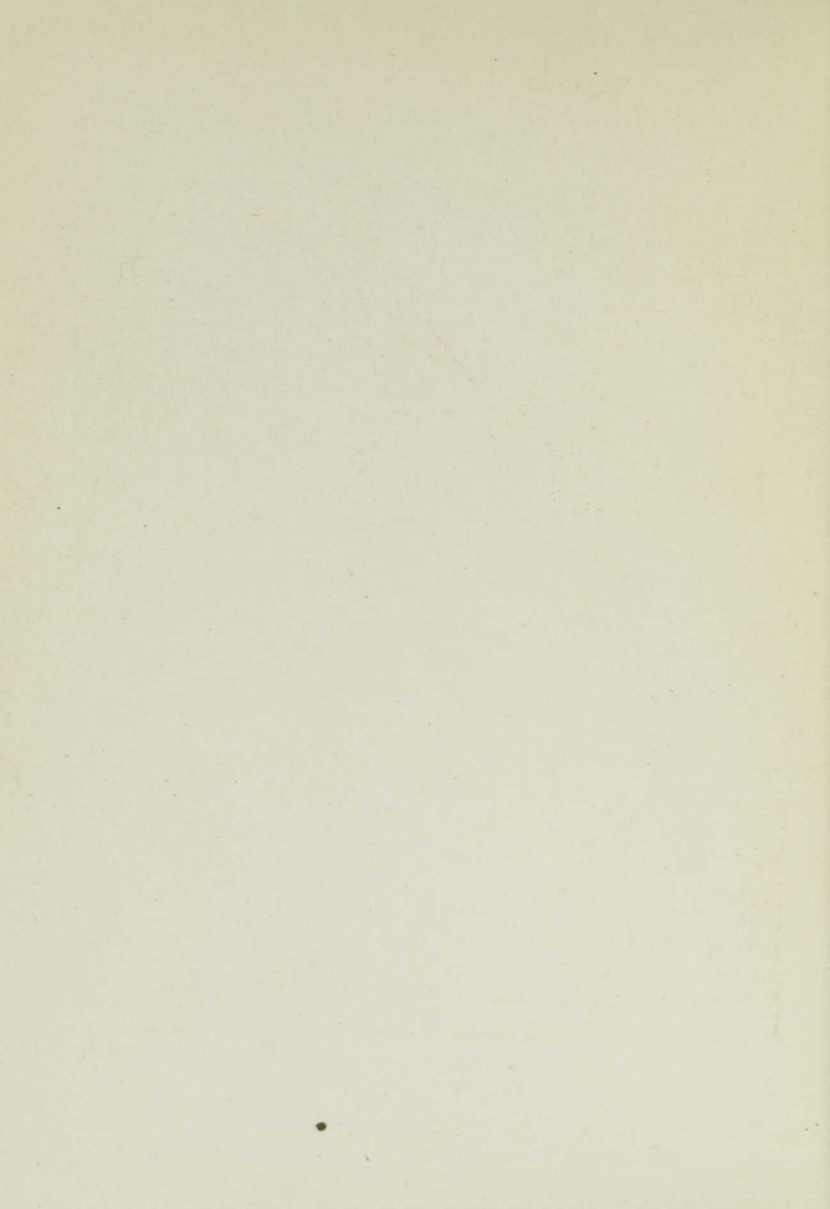
its ears, and called out in
a shrill voice,

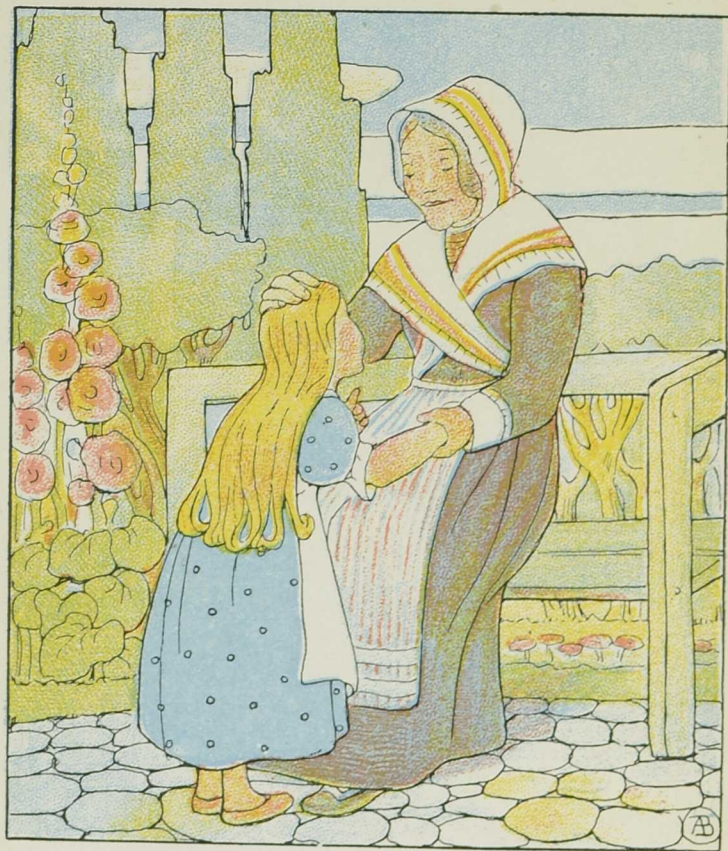
“I told you so.” Which
we all know is a very tire-
some thing to hear.

XXV.

Then Golden Hair got up and ran home quickly, and there she saw her Granny in the garden snipping off the dead roses. "Oh Granny, Granny, the bears have chased me; I have lost my bonnet, I have lost my sash, and I am so tired and so hungry."





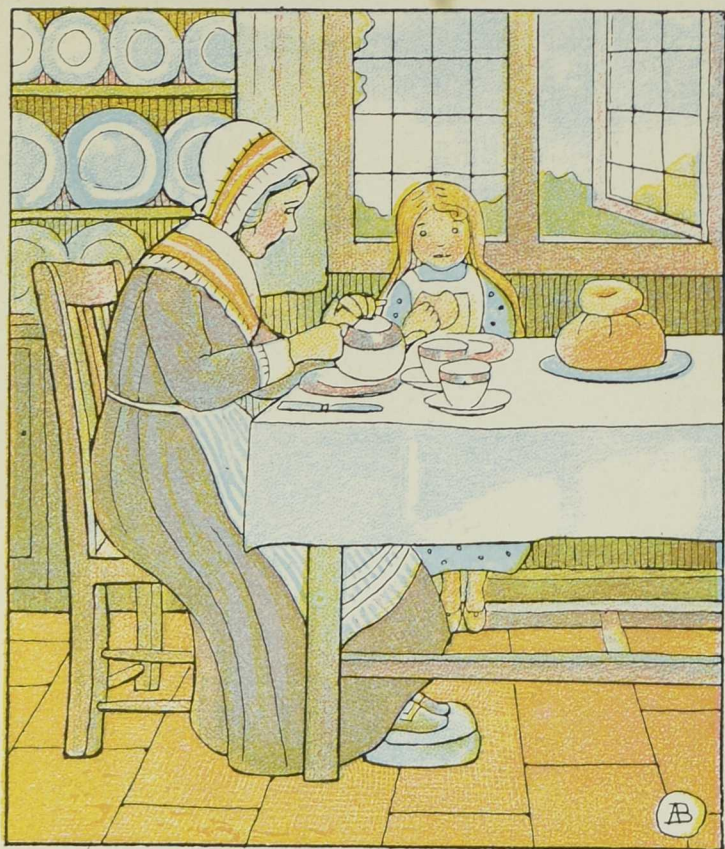


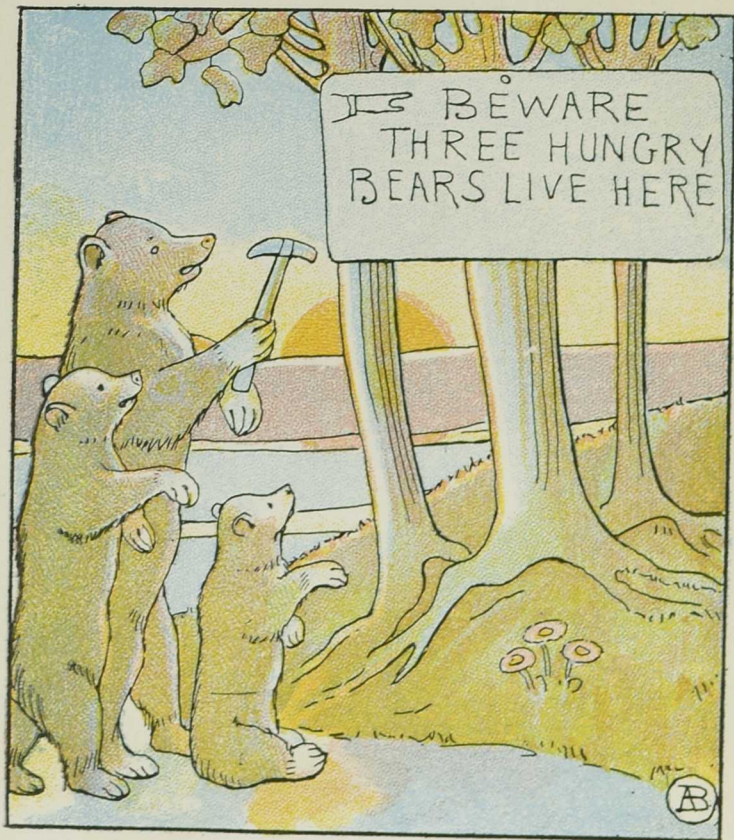
XXVI.

Then Granny sat down on the garden seat, and Golden Hair told her all her troubles, and how she had eaten the little Bear's breakfast and slept in the little Bear's bed; and Granny couldn't help smiling to hear Golden Hair's strange story.

XXVII.

Now I daresay, children, you think that Golden Hair should have been well scolded and sent to bed. But Granny thought her little girl had been punished enough already. So she kissed her, and told her she must never, never run away again. Then Granny and Golden Hair went in to have a second breakfast.





XXVIII.

As for the Bears, they agreed to put up the following notice:—"Beware! Three Hungry Bears live here."

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