

STRANGE ADVENTURES OF BESSIE BUSYBODY



1—WELL, 'I JES' got a heap to tell you about my narrow escape from being eaten by the Mongolian Man-eater. You see, we didn't know whose land we were passing, but it didn't make much difference, as we had no stop and get water for the submarine boat anyhow.



2—WE SAW A BIG Chinese giant flying a kite as big as a house, so I went ashore and asked him if we could get some water for our boat. My, but he was an ugly looking monster! As soon as I got near enough to see how frightful he was I wanted to run back to the ship.



3—BUT MR. GIANT 'jes' snatched me up and slammed me into a bamboo cage that was chock full of little kids. And they were squealin' and yellin' and yellin' for their mamas, and I soon found out they had all been captured by the Mongolian Man-eater, who was very fond of children, especially when he could eat 'em.



4—WELL, THE 'GIANT' went on trying to fly his kite, but 'it wouldn't fly right, 'cause it didn't have tail enough. So he pulled it down and looked around for something heavy to weight the tail down. Well, ain't you wouldn't believe it, but guess what he did!



5—HE 'JES' OPENED that cage and took every little kid, 'cept me, out of it and tied 'em in a string to the tail of the kite. Then he started the kite up again and it sailed beautifully, with all those poor little boys and girls screamin' like mad!



6—BUT IT WOULD NOT go very high, because he didn't have string enough, so he tied Mr. Kite to a stake and started off for more string. Then I saw my chance to make one last desperate effort to escape, and grabbed one of those poor little children.



7—I SNATCHED up a knife the giant had been using and cut off a piece of the heavy cord. With this I tied myself to the kite string. 'Jes' then the giant looked around and saw I was up to some mischief. So he came running back, shouting frightful Chinese swear words at me!



8—AN' 'JES' AS HE was about to catch me, flash! I cut the cord and up shot the kite, Bessie Busybody and all, leaving the Mongolian Man-eater, giving a perfect imitation of a wild man!



9—WELL, IT WAS a thrilling ride through the air, I can tell you! And when I dared look down, I saw the captain on the Bessie B, which was tearing through the water after us. We did not go very high, for the weight was too heavy on the kite, and as soon as the breeze let up a bit we dropped down until I struck the water. It was not long then until the kite was fastened to the boat and all the kids were hauled safely aboard!