

CINDERELLA

AND

THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.

POOOR Cinderella had to light the fires and do all the work of the house, while her two sisters-in-law took their pleasure. One night they went to a ball at the King's palace, and after she had helped them to dress in their fine clothes, Cinderella sat down to cry. A little old woman came in and said, "I am a fairy, and you shall go to the ball, for you are a good girl." The old woman told her to go into the garden and fetch a pumpkin, and behind the pumpkin were two shining green lizards. When she came back six rats came out of a hole in the floor. Then the fairy waved her crutch stick over them all and turned the pumpkin into a fine coach, the two lizards into green coated footmen, and the six rats into beautiful horses. After this she gave Cinderella a rich dress, and a pair of charming little glass slippers which just fitted her. "Mind you don't stay after the clock strikes twelve," said the old fairy, "or all these things will change again." Cinderella went to the ball where nobody knew her, though everybody admired her beauty, and the young Prince fell in love with her. While she was talking the clock began to strike twelve, and she was obliged to run away so fast that she left one of her slippers on the steps of the palace. The next day the Prince sent everywhere to find the owner of the little glass slipper, but it would fit nobody but Cinderella, and so the Prince himself came to see her. They were married soon after, and the good, gentle girl became a kind and beautiful Queen.