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the peasant would fall into bad repute with the minister and the other folk of the parish. Cunning as the peasant ordinarily was, this time he could not find out how to act. He spoke about it to his pig-boy, who was the more cunning of the two.

»I will help you!« said the boy; and taking a large bag, he went out to the hill of the mountain goblin; he knocked, and was let in. Then he said that he came to invite him to the christening. The mountain goblin accepted the invitation, and promised to come.

»I must give a christening-present, I suppose; mustn't I?«

»They usually do,« said the boy, and opened the bag. The imp poured money into it.

»Is that sufficient?« The boy lifted the bag.

»Most people give as much!« Then all the money in the large money kettle was poured into the bag.

»Nobody gives more – most less.«

»Let me know, now,« said the mountain goblin, »the great guests you are expecting.«

»Three priests and one bishop,« said the boy.

»That is fine; but such gentlemen look only for eating and drinking, – they don't care about me. Who else comes!« – »Mother Mary is expected!« – »Hm, hm! but I think there will always be a little place for me behind the stove! Well, and then?«

»Well, then comes »our Lord«.« – »Hm, hm, hm! that was mighty! but such highly distinguished guests usually come late and go away early. I shall therefore, while they are in, slink away a little. What sort of music shall you have?«

»Drum-music!« said the boy; »our Father has ordered a [474] heavy thundering, after which we shall dance! drum-music it shall be.«

»O, is it not dreadful!« cried the mountain goblin. »Thank your master for the invitation, but I would rather stay at home. Did he not know, then, that thundering and drum are to me, and my whole race, a horror? Once, in my younger days, going out to take a walk, the thunder began to drum, and I got one of the drumsticks over my thigh-bone so that it cracked. I will not have more of that kind of music! Give my thanks and my greetings.«

And the boy took the bag on his back, and brought his master the great riches, and the imp's friendly greetings.

We have many legends of this sort, but those we have told ought to be enough for to-day!