



The PRINCE and the PAUPER



by Mark Twain

Chapter I. The Birth of the Prince and the Pauper

In the ancient city of London, on a certain autumn day in the second quarter of the sixteenth century, a boy was born to a poor family of the name of Canty, who did not want him. On the same day another English child was born to a rich family of the name of Tudor, who did want him. All England wanted him too. England had so longed for him, and hoped for him, and prayed God for him, that, now that he was really come, the people went nearly mad for joy. Mere acquaintances hugged and kissed each other and cried. Everybody took a holiday, and high and



low, rich and poor, feasted and danced and sang, and got very mellow; and they kept this up for days and nights together. By day, London was a sight to see, with banners waving from every balcony and housetop, and splendid pageants marching along. By night, it was again a sight to see, with its great bonfires at every corner, and its troops of revellers making merry around them. There was no talk in all England but of the new baby, Edward Tudor, Prince of Wales, who lay lapped in



silks and satins, unconscious of all this fuss, and not knowing that great lords and ladies were tending him and watching over him—and not caring, either. But there was no talk about the other baby, Tom Canty, lapped in his poor rags, except among the family of paupers whom he had just come to trouble with his presence.

Vocabulary Matching

Find the correct meaning of each word and write the letter in the blank.

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| ___ pauper | A. large fire for a celebration |
| ___ mere | B. wrapped |
| ___ acquaintances | C. poor person |
| ___ mellow | D. not knowing or unaware |
| ___ pageants | E. extreme activity |
| ___ bonfires | F. mild and relaxed |
| ___ revellers | G. public entertainment; parades and shows |
| ___ lapped | H. people who are celebrating |
| ___ unconscious | I. someone known but not closely |
| ___ fuss | J. nothing more than |

Quick Quiz

1. What was the name of the prince?

2. What was the name of the poor boy?

3. What country are the boys born in?

4. Why did the country celebrate?
