

Fortune and the Poor Man

One day a ragged man was creeping along from house to house. He carried an old wallet in his hand and was asking at every door for money to buy something to eat. As he was grumbling at his misfortune, he kept wondering why it was that folks who had so much money were never satisfied and were always wanting more.

·I know of one man,· said he, ·who was a good businessman, and he worked very hard and made himself wondrously rich a long time ago. Had he been wise, this man would have used his fortune to take care of himself and his family. What did he do instead? He wanted more money. He always wanted more money. He built ships and sent them to sea to trade with foreign lands. He thought he would get mountains of gold. He wanted to be the richest man in the world.·