The Legend of the Trojan horse
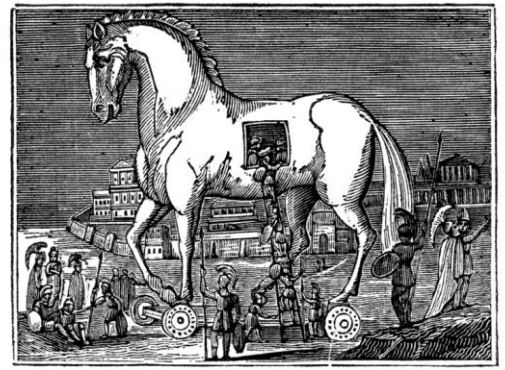

Trojans Deceived.

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there was an ancient city named Troy. Troy was on the coast of Asia, across the sea from the Greek city-state of Sparta. In those days people used to build walls around their city to help protect them with a gate. In times of war, the gates could be closed and locked to stop intruders from getting inside.

The walls around Troy were very high and very strong. According to the legend of the Trojan Horse, for ten long years the Greeks had been trying to get over the wall around the city of Troy. But the Greeks could not get over the wall. And the Trojans could not drive the Greeks away. Year after year they fought. And year after year neither side won.

One day, a Greek general, Odysseus had a tricky idea. "Let's pretend to sail away", he suggested. "We'll leave a gift for Troy, a gift to announce the end of the war, a wooden a horse with 30 men hidden inside. At night, these men can sneak out and open the gate of Troy!" That was the way things were done back then. When you admitted defeat, you supplied a gift. It made sense to leave a gift of art. The Greek were famous for their art.

The Greeks thought it was a brilliant idea. They had their best artists build the horse and it was magnificent. When it was ready, the Greeks brought the wooden horse close to the gates of Troy and pretended to sail away. The Trojan archers at the top of the wall saw the Greeks leaving and they could not believe their eyes. Were the Greeks giving up at last? The Trojans dragged the horse inside their city and closed the gates.

Some people wanted to burn the horse. But the Trojan people said "No! it is too beautiful. We will keep it forever as a reminder of our victory". The Greeks counted on that reaction. The Trojans were famous for bragging. Sure enough, that's exactly what happened.

That night, while the Trojan people slept soundly, exhausted from their celebrations, the 30 Greek men hidden inside the wooden horse climbed out and opened the gates of Troy and let the Greek army inside to invade Troy. The Greeks won and that was the end of war between the clever Greeks and the Trojans!