

COTCHFORD FARM,  
HARTFIELD,  
SUSSEX.

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Dear Mr. Montgomery,

The chronology of the  
Autobiography is, of course, more accurate  
than that of any magazine story you may  
have read, and the Ottoman incident  
happened after the publication of Push.  
The truth (if this ever interests anybody)  
of the genesis of the stories is as follows:

Owing, I suppose, to the  
success of When the Sun Was Very Young, I  
was asked for a child's story. I wasn't keen to write one, but  
my wife suggested that I could use  
one of the stories I had told our child  
at bed-time. She had never heard  
these, or she wouldn't have suggested  
it. A bed-time story for a child is  
merely an excuse for postponing sleep,  
and these were just a progression  
from the conventional Drum or  
what-not to another, with intermittent  
warnings that the next one would really

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be the last. However, I did remember  
that among these formers, and about  
proposals of the final "Coat-nights"  
Pork and a balloon had once made  
a fairly rational appearance. So  
I turned this into the asked-for  
story... and, when more were  
sought for other editions, kept Pork,  
introducing the <sup>remaining</sup> ~~other~~ animals, abandoned  
balloons, and became strictly realistic.

Yours sincerely

H. G. Wells