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**Description:** You can read about Hollis's career in both colonial Africa and in the Caribbean at [Wikipedia](#).

There was once upon a time an ostrich, which, having laid some eggs, hatched them, and reared the chicks.

One day a lion came, and took the chicks away, and hid them. The mother bird followed the thief, and demanded her young ones, but the lion refused to give them up, and drove her away. She appealed to the counsellors, but they were afraid of the lion, and decided that the chicks were his. The ostrich then went to call a meeting of all the animals.

When she arrived at the place where the mongoose lived, he told her to go and dig a hole under an ant-hill with two exits. This she did, and then collected all the animals at this spot. Like the counsellors, however, they feared the lion, and said the chicks were his. When it came to the mongoose's turn to be asked, he cried out, "We have never seen hairs beget feathers. Think what you are saying. The chicks are the ostrich's." And having said that, he jumped down the hole under the ant-hill, and escaped at the other end.

The lion jumped after him, and not knowing of the second exit, waited for him to come out of the hole by which he had entered. As time wore on, the lion became hungry, but he still kept watch, for he thought that if he went to search for food the mongoose would get away. At length he died, and the ostrich recovered her chicks.