

The Project Gutenberg eBook of London Town

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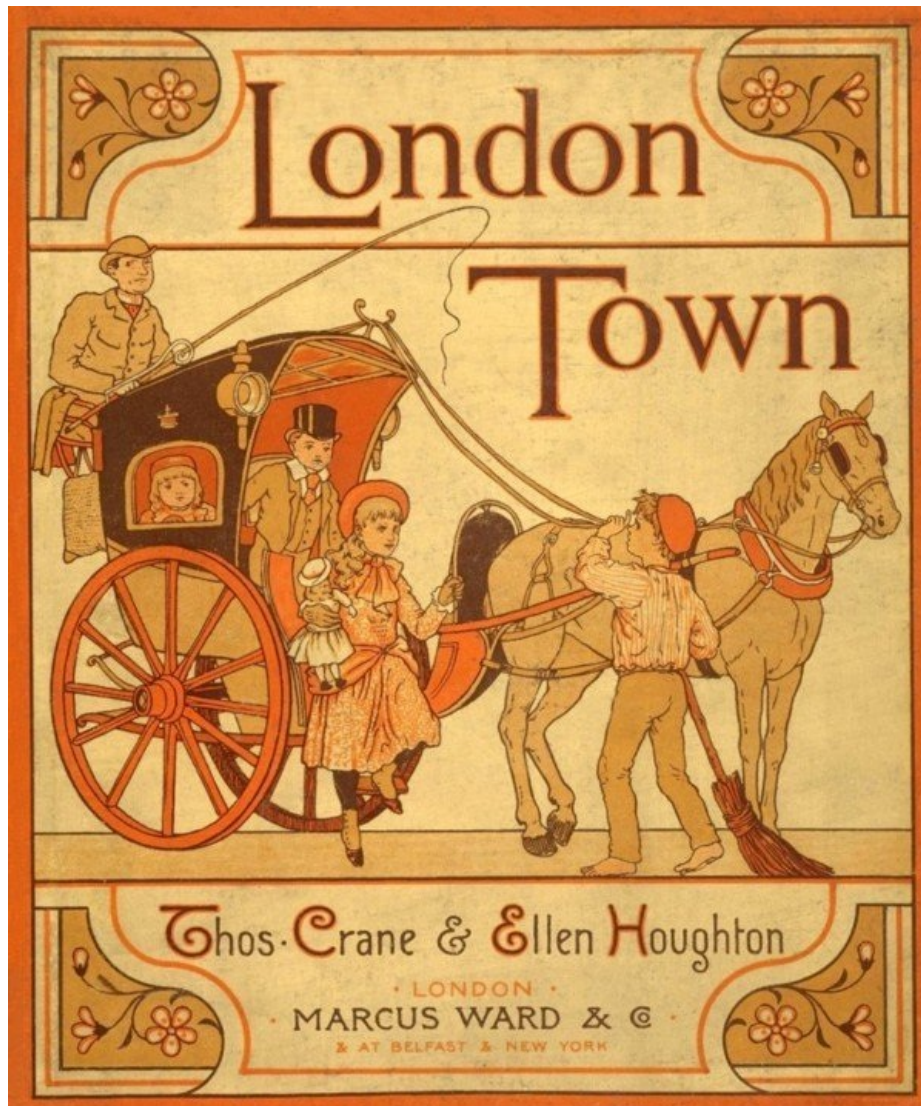
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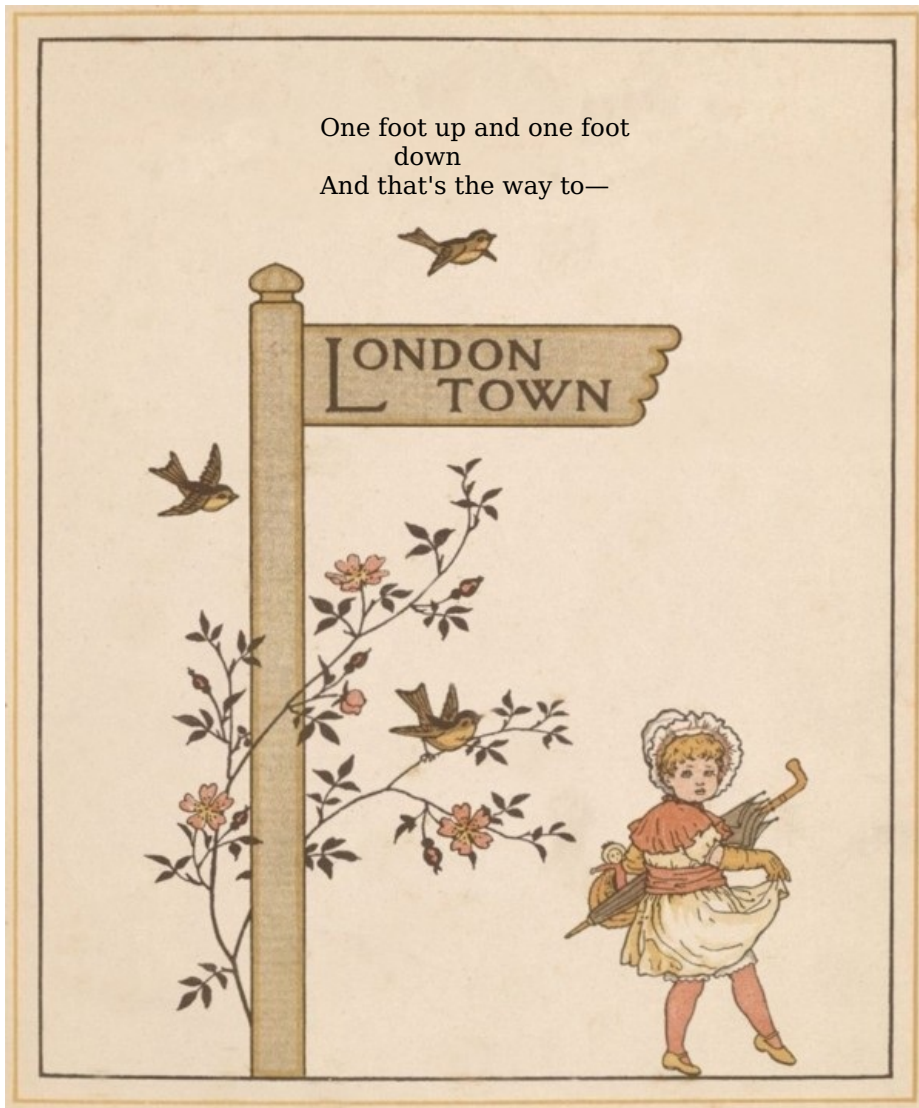
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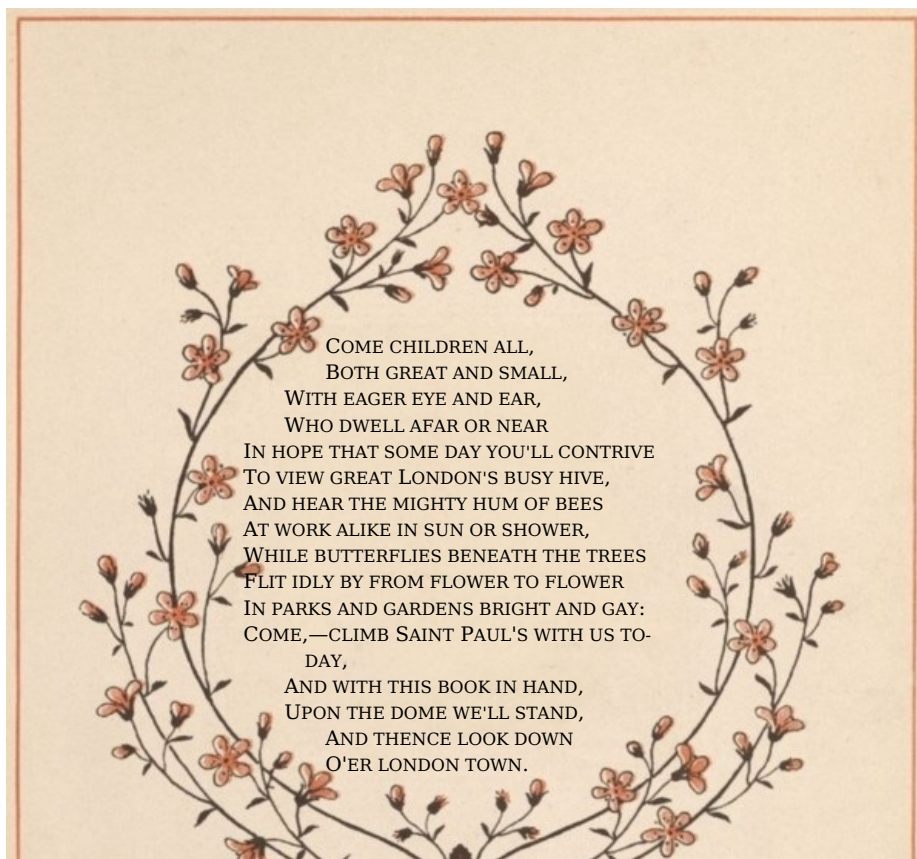


One foot up and one foot
down
And that's the way to—





[03]



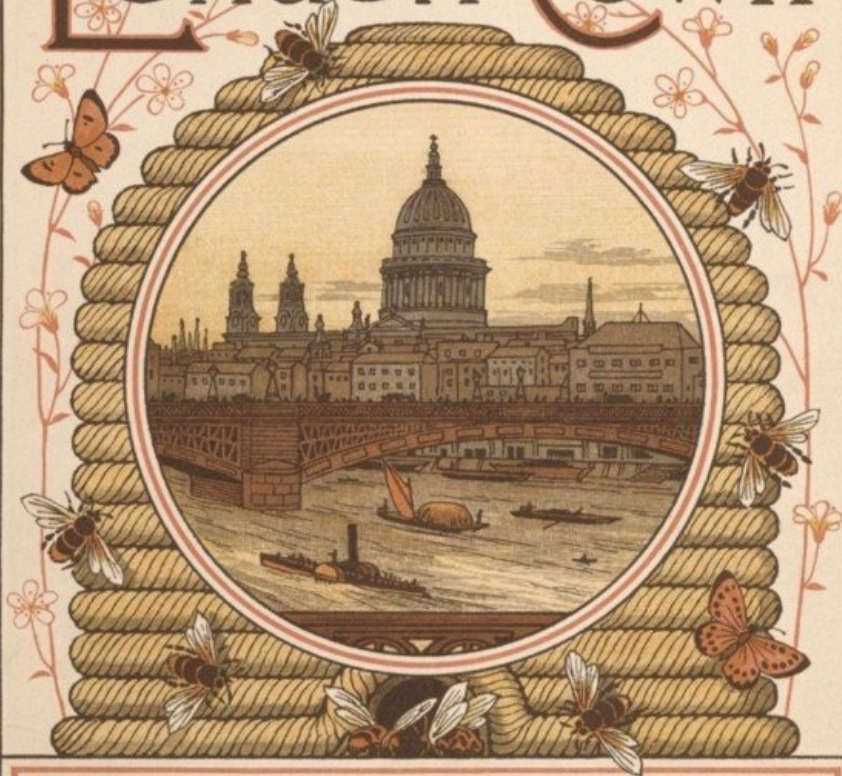


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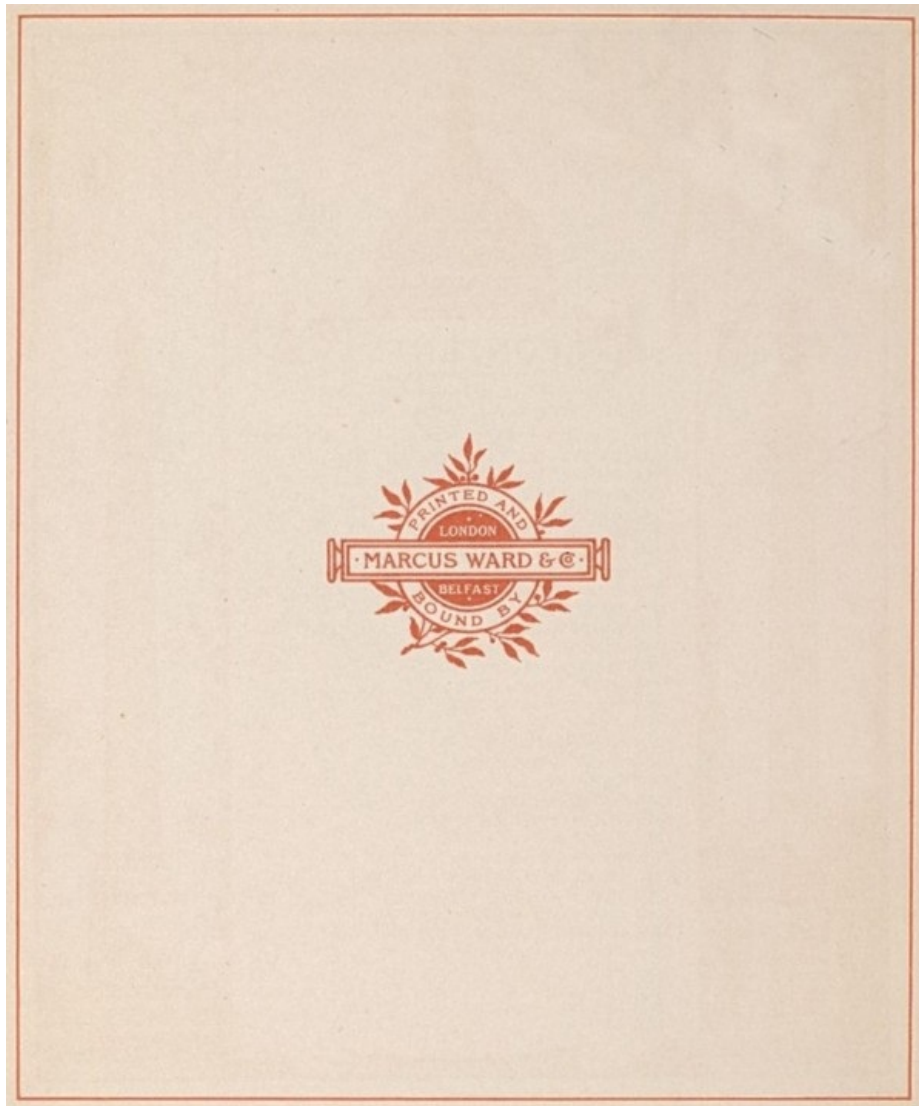
London Town



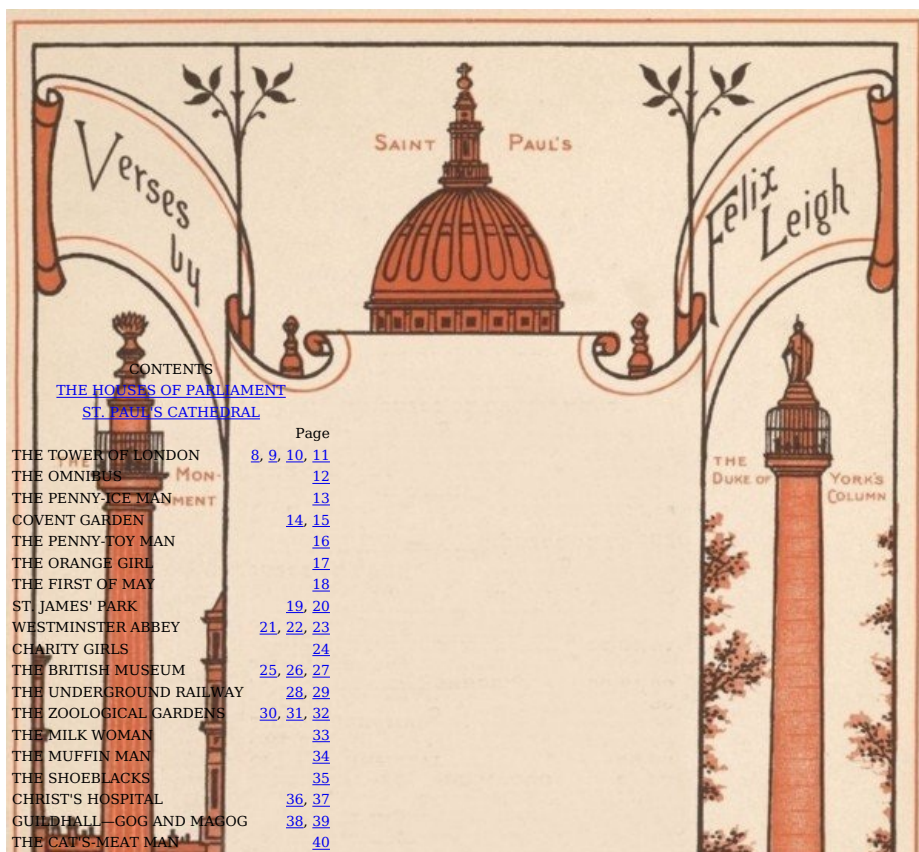
Designed and Illustrated by
Thos. Crane & Ellen Houghton

LONDON

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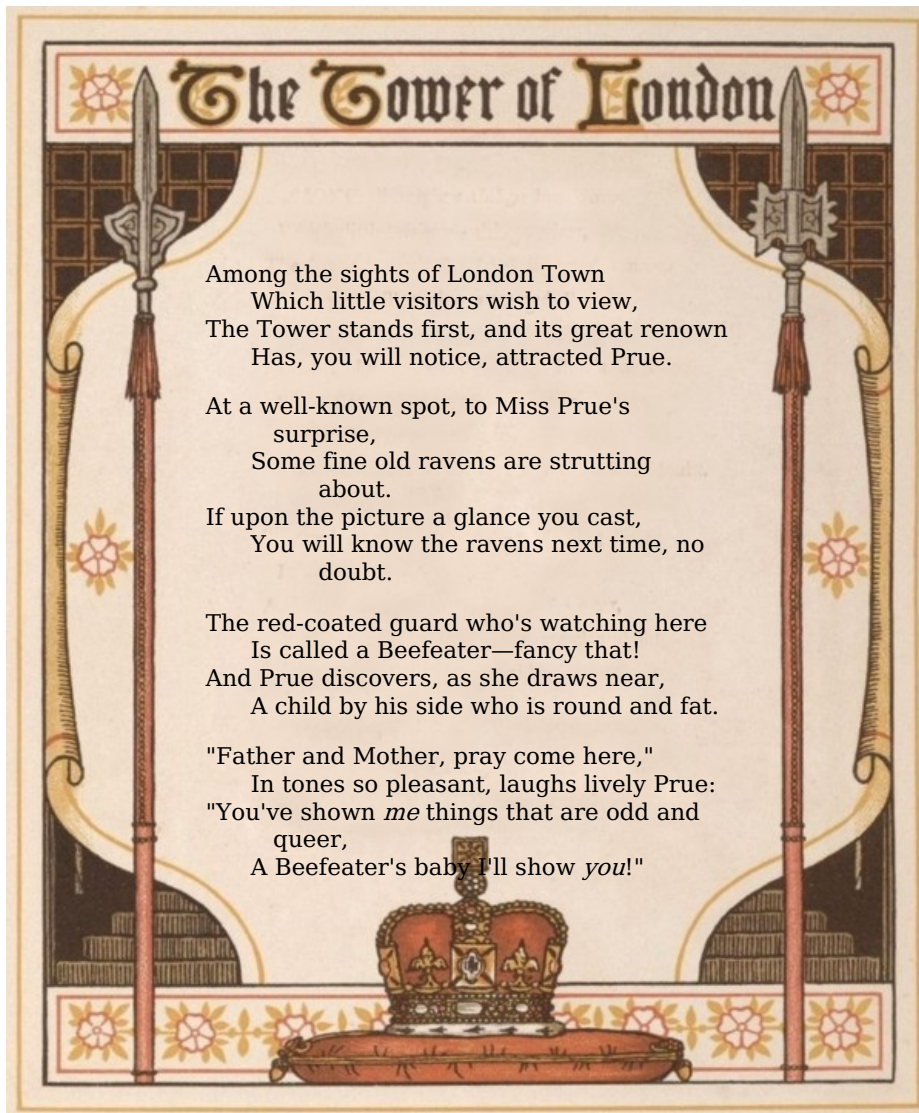


[07]



| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| THE NIGHT WATCH | 41 |
| THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL | 42, 43 |
| THE FLOWER WOMAN | 44 |
| CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE | 45 |
| THE CHESTNUT WOMAN | 46 |
| THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER | 47 |
| THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | 48 |
| THE HAPPY FAMILY | 49 |
| THE CROSSING SWEEPER | 50 |
| PUNCH AND JUDY | 51 |
| THE LOWTHER ARCADE | 52, 53 |
| THE DUSTMAN IS COMING | 54, 55 |
| GOOD BYE | |

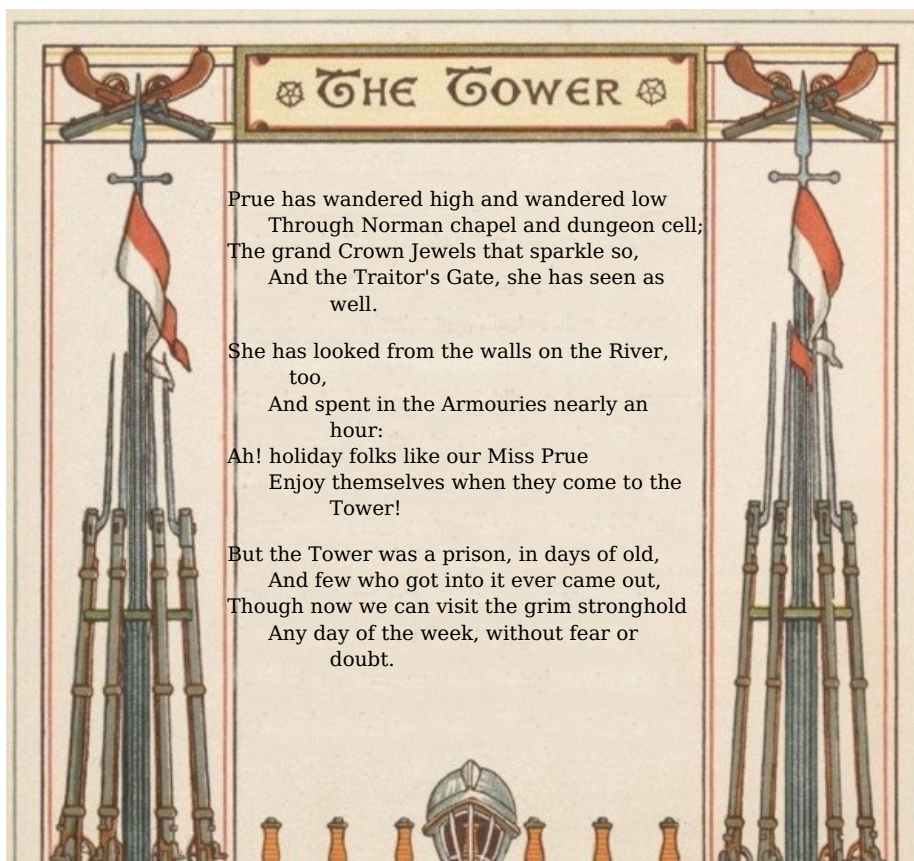
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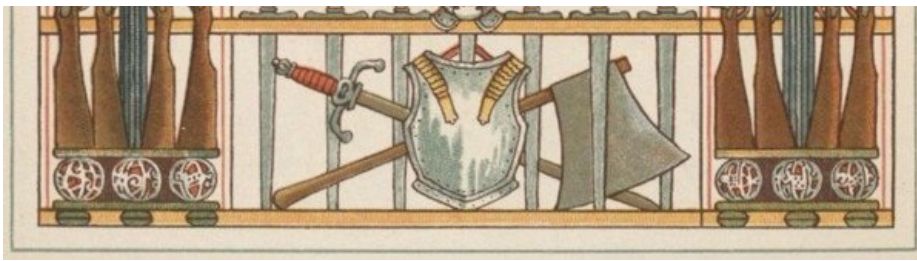


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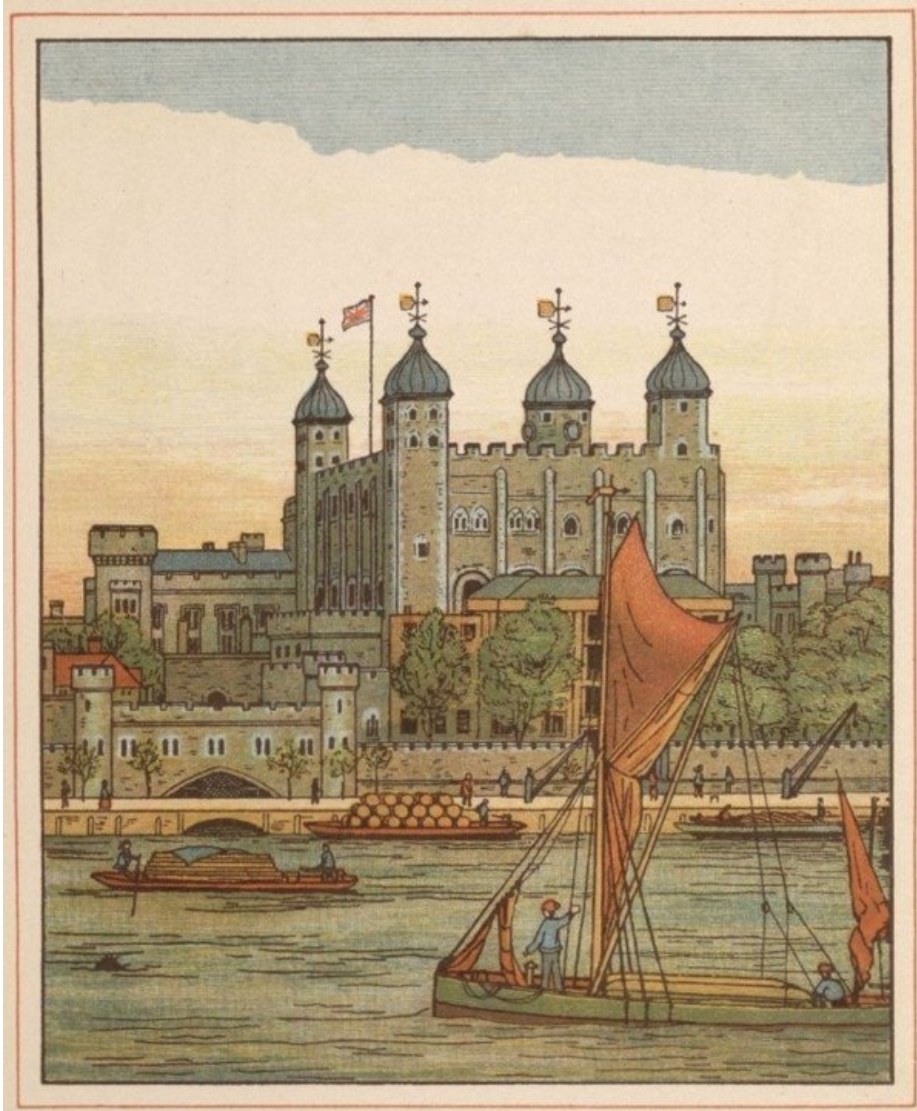


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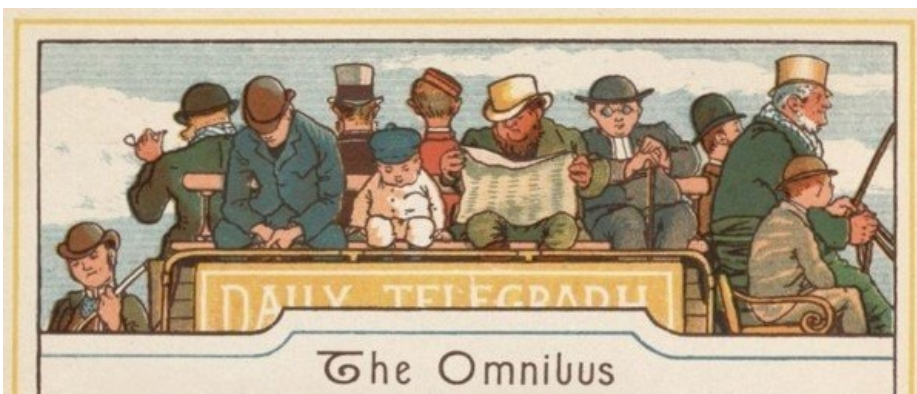




[11]



[12]



Every day along the streets of mighty London Town
Nine hundred omnibuses rumble up and down.
When you're tired of walking, call "Hi! Conductor, stop!"
And he'll give you such a jolly ride, for twopence, on the
top.

Sometimes by the 'bus's side small boys will run a mile,
Turning round just like the wheels, and hungry all the
while:—

"We've not had any breakfast,—won't you toss us down a
brown?"—

That's what they call a penny in the streets of London
Town.



[13]

The Penny-Ice Man

In summer when the sun is high,
And children's lips are parched and
dry,

An ice is just the thing to try.

So this young man who comes, 'tis
plain,

From Saffron Hill or Leather Lane,
A store of pence will quickly gain.

"A lemon ice for me," says Fred;
Cries Sue, "No, have a cream
instead."

"A raspberry!" shouts Newsboy Ned.

"What fun! Although we're now in
June,

It feels"—says Ned—"this
afternoon,
Like eating winter with a spoon!"



[14]



This is Covent Garden,
What a lively scene!
Here are flowers so pretty,
There are leaves so
green.
These are busy buyers,
Busy sellers those,
Selling, buying, selling,
Everything that grows.

Fruits and lovely blossoms
Hither come each day,
Fresh from *other* gardens
Many miles away.
Cabbages potatoes,
Pears and apples too,
Grapes, and pines, and
peaches,
All are here on view.

So the air is scented
With the pleasant fruits,
With the bright-hued
nosegays,
And the springing roots.
For the little street-boys,
Walking up and down,
It's almost like the country
Brought to London
Town.



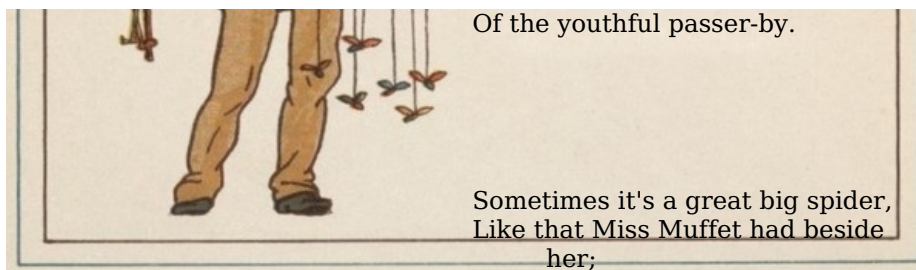
[16]

The Penny-Toy Man

"Toys! toys! Penny Toys!
Toys for girls, and toys for
boys!
Toys for dots who scarce can
crawl,
Toys for youngsters stout and
tall,
Toys for prince and peasant
too,
Toys, my dears, for all of you!
Toys for girls and toys for boys!
Toys! toys! Penny Toys!"



That is how the toyman talks,
As through London Town he
walks;
Bawling out his toyman's song,
While he slowly moves along,
On the pavement with a tray
Which is filled, from day to day,
With new toys to catch the eye



Of the youthful passer-by.

Sometimes it's a great big spider,
Like that Miss Muffet had beside
her;

Sometimes it's a bat that flies,
Or a baby doll that cries;
Sometimes it's a frog that leaps,
Or a crocodile that creeps:
But whatever toy is shown,
For a penny it's your own.

[17]

The Orange Girl

Orange-girl Kitty
Here you may see.
That she is pretty
All will agree.
"Three for a penny!"
That is her cry;
No wonder many
Hasten to buy.

Orange-girl Kitty
Roams to and fro;
All through the city
She's known high and
low.
When the sun's shining,
When the rain falls,
Never repining,—
"Fine fruit!" Kitty calls.

Orange-girl Kitty's
Mother, we're
told,
Everyone pities—
So feeble and old.
Poor mother's living
Kitty obtains,
Cheerfully giving
Her all that she
gains.

[18]

The First of May

Chimney Sweeps' Day, Blackbird is gay,

Here he is singing, you see, in the "May."
He has feathers as black as a chimney sweep's
coat,
So on Chimney Sweeps' Day he must pipe a glad
note.



Jack-in-the-Green from door to door
Capers along with his followers four.
As May Day mummers are seldom
seen,

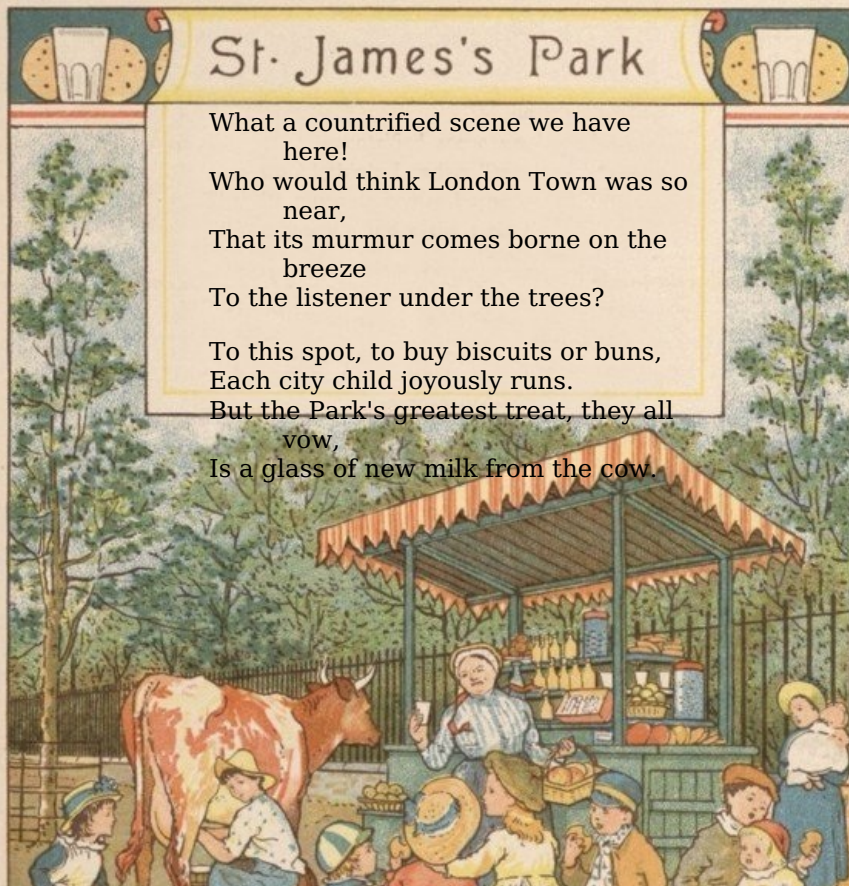
Let us all give a copper to Jack-in-the-
Green.

[19]

St. James's Park

What a countrified scene we have
here!
Who would think London Town was so
near,
That its murmur comes borne on the
breeze
To the listener under the trees?

To this spot, to buy biscuits or buns,
Each city child joyously runs.
But the Park's greatest treat, they all
vow,
Is a glass of new milk from the cow.





[20]

Cried the drake to the ducks, "Here's a boy with a
bun,
Come, make haste! we shall have quite a feast!"
"Would you mind," said a swan, "if we shared in the
fun?"
"O dear no!" said he; "not in the least!"
It was surely through fear, not politeness at all,
That the drake made so civil a speech,
For that one penny bun, after all, was so small,
There was hardly a mouthful for each!

From the ducks and the swans on the lake, to next
page—

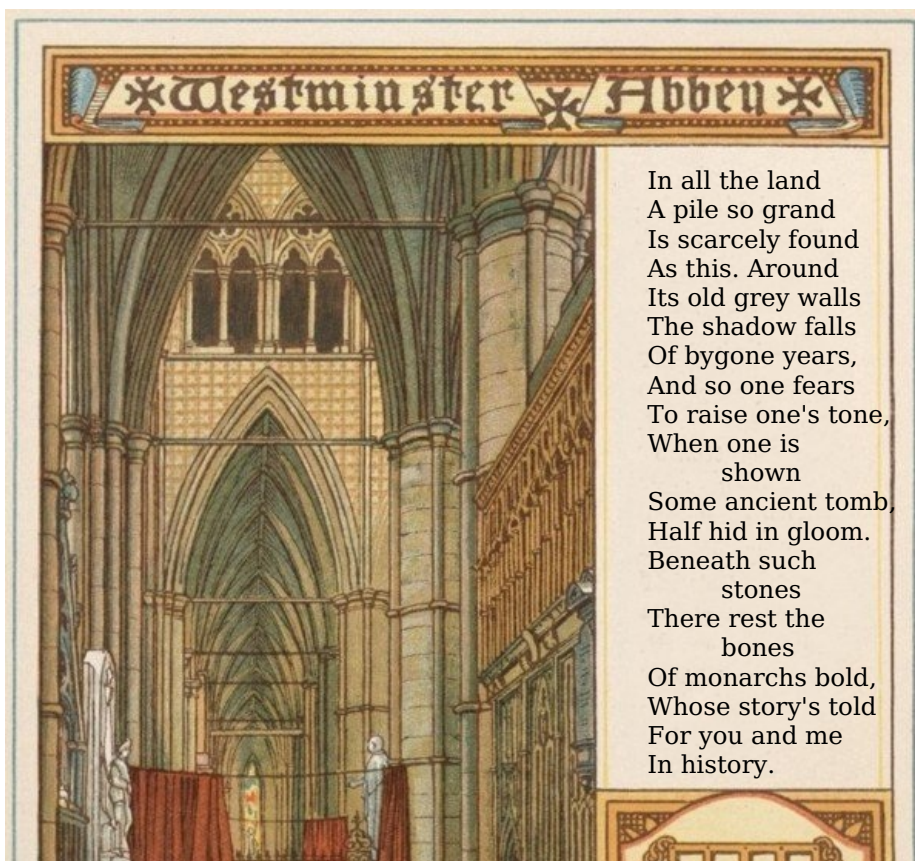
A much quieter scene—you may pass:
Though Westminster Cloisters are hoary with age,
Yet green is their velvety grass,
And cheerily bright are their gables and peaks,
As they glow in the westering sun:
'Tis some house in the Cloisters yon schoolboy
seeks—
Don't you wonder, now, which is the one?



[21]



[22]





[23]

* Westminster * Abbey *

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>From kings of men We wander; then We're quickly brought To kings of thought, For poets lie Interred hard by. Here, too, repose The bones of those Who fought the foe Long, long ago. Brave knights were they; And in the fray They kept from shame The English name,</p> | <p>And proved in fight Great Britain's might. Where they are laid Their rest is made As sweet as prayer By music rare: Over their head The sleeping dead Can daily hear The anthem clear Floating along Like angel's song, Until it dies Like angel's sighs.</p> |
|---|--|

[24]

On the way to the British Museum

Not far from the British Museum there stands
 An apple stall, painted bright green,
 Whence a penny may buy from the stall-keeper's hands
 Three apples, all rosy and clean.

Now the girls of St. George's great Charity School
 Very often are passing that way,
 For their governors wise make this very good rule—
 They must go for a walk every day.

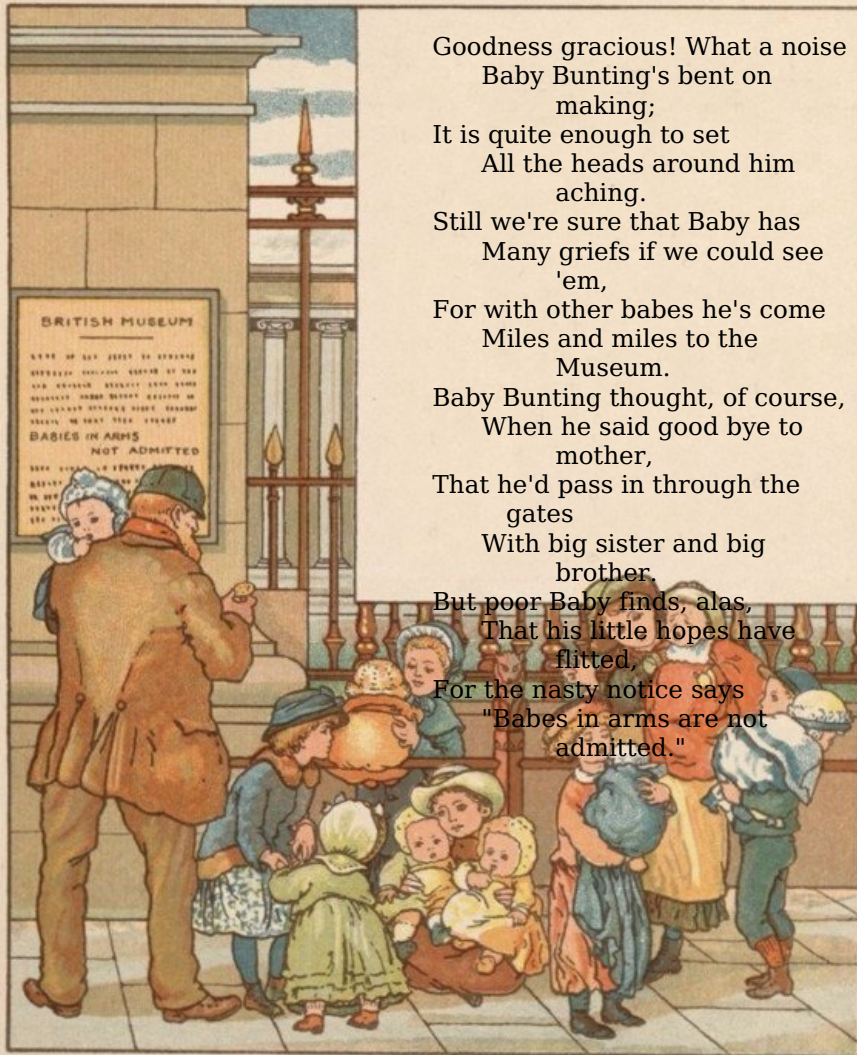
How wistful the glances they cast as they pass,
How they long for an apple to eat;
But their pockets are quite without pennies, alas!
To purchase so dainty a treat.

These maidens have cheeks that are rosy
and sweet
As the choicest of fruit on the stall,
And the very next time that we meet in this
street,
I'll buy apples enough for them all.



[25]

Goodness gracious! What a noise
Baby Bunting's bent on
making;
It is quite enough to set
All the heads around him
aching.
Still we're sure that Baby has
Many griefs if we could see
'em,
For with other babes he's come
Miles and miles to the
Museum.
Baby Bunting thought, of course,
When he said good bye to
mother,
That he'd pass in through the
gates
With big sister and big
brother.
But poor Baby finds, alas,
That his little hopes have
flitted,
For the nasty notice says
"Babes in arms are not
admitted."



[26]



[27]





[28]

The Underground Railway

Who is this in the Weighing Chair?
Why, little Dot, I do declare!
Three stone five! "So much as that?"
Calls out Miss Dot; "then I *must* be fat!"

Wonderful trains! From morn till night,
Clattering through tunnels without
daylight,
Hither and thither they run, up and
down,
Beneath the streets of London Town.

On this and the opposite page you see
Dot's mother, and brother, and sisters
three.
They wait for an underground train to
come
And carry them swiftly back to their
home.

Many prefer these trains instead
Of the cabs and "Busses" overhead,
For they run much faster than horses
can.
Miss Dot's papa is a busy man,

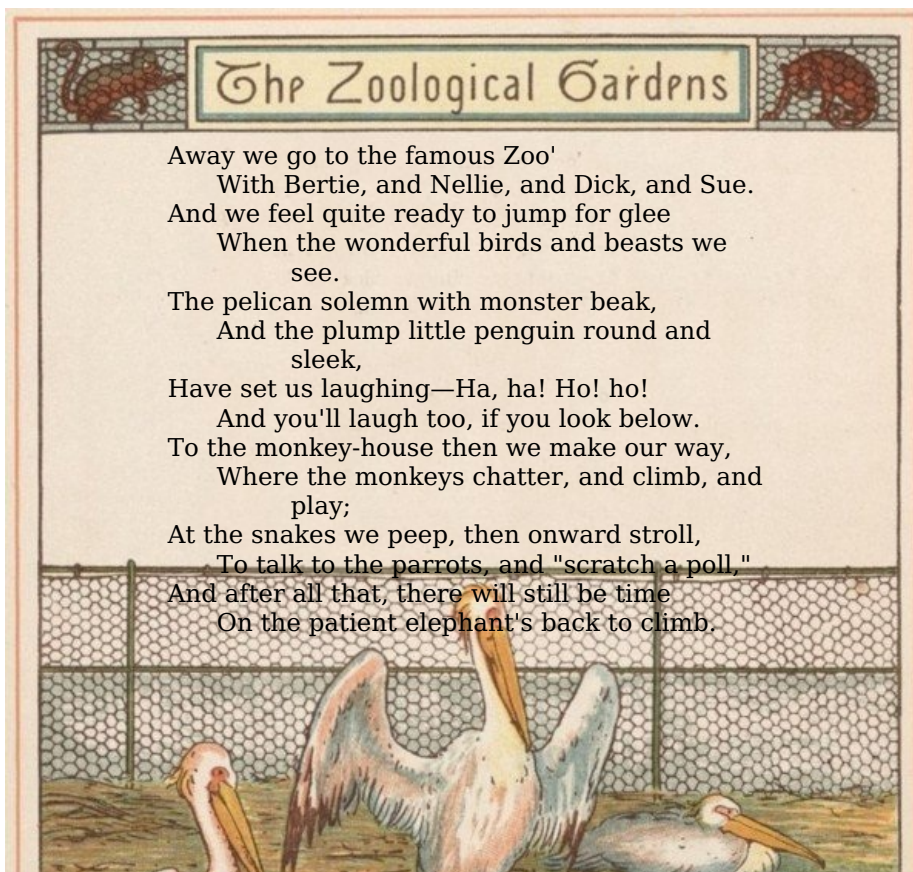
And goes to the City every day
By the "Underground,"—the quickest way:
And One Hundred Millions of people, 'tis
found,
Are carried each year by the
"Underground."

An illustration showing a man in a blue coat and cap leaning over a wooden weighing scale. A young child in a white dress and bonnet sits in a green upholstered chair on the scale. A woman in a brown coat and hat stands to the right, looking on. The scene is set in a simple room with a plain floor and wall.

[29]

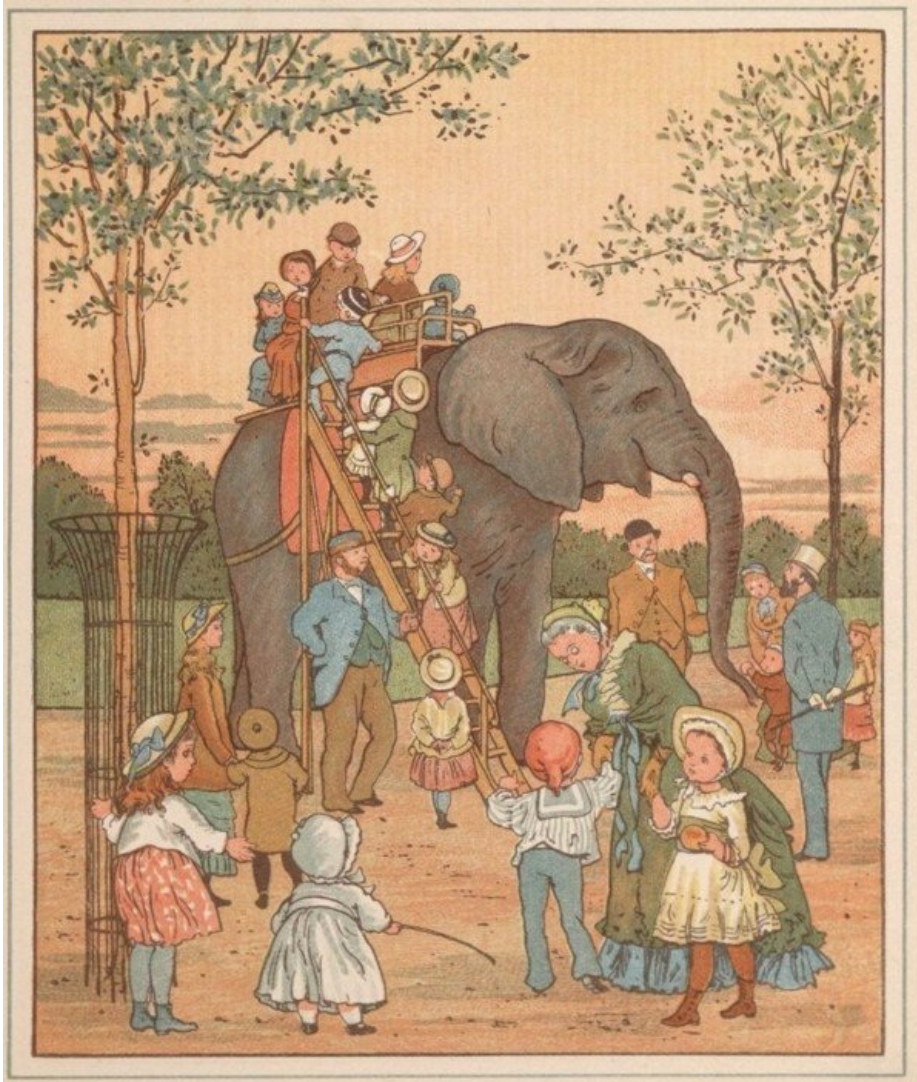


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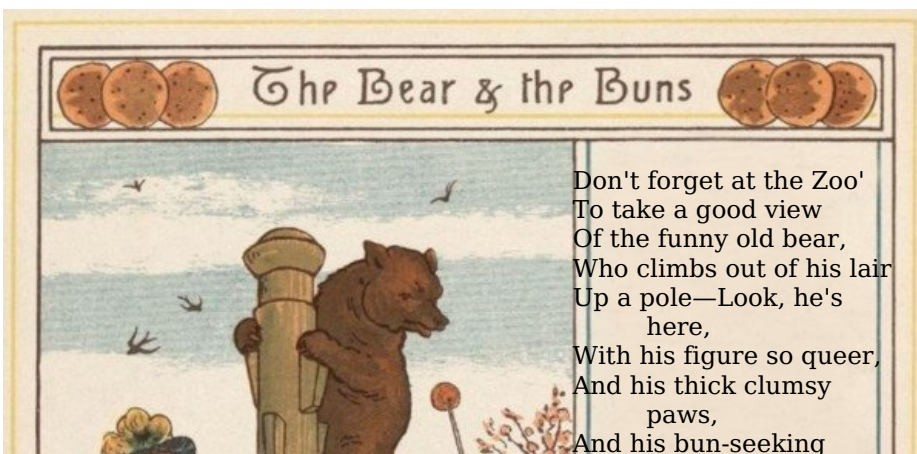


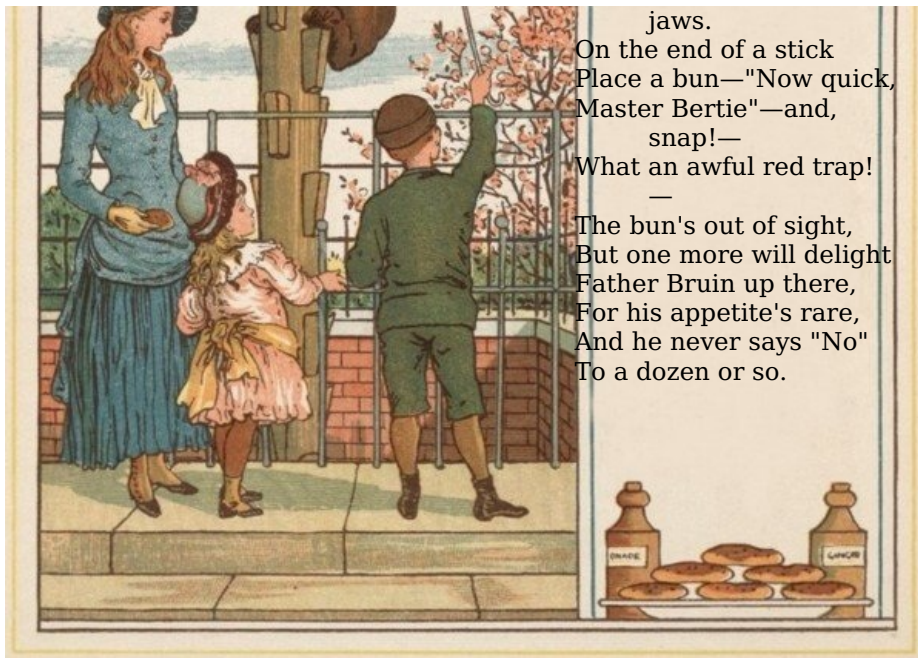


[31]



[32]





jaws.
 On the end of a stick
 Place a bun—"Now quick,
 Master Bertie"—and,
 snap!—
 What an awful red trap!
 —
 The bun's out of sight,
 But one more will delight
 Father Bruin up there,
 For his appetite's rare,
 And he never says "No"
 To a dozen or so.

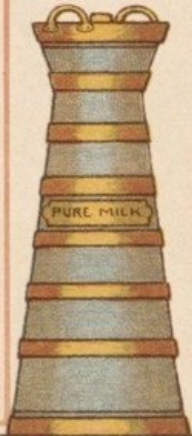
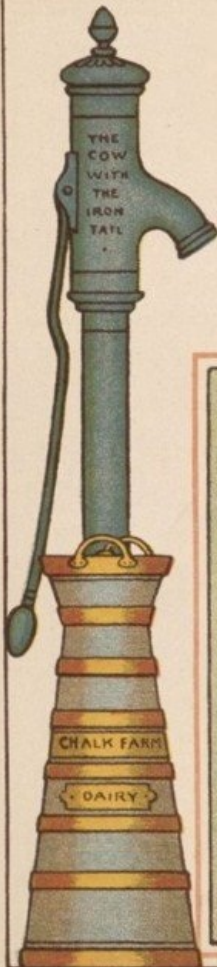
[33]



The Milk Woman

"Milk o! Milk o!"
 Each morn she cries,
 And little sleepers
 Ope their eyes,
 And wonder if pure milk is sold
 By Betty here, for they've been
 told
 That London milk
 (How people talk!)
 Is only water
 Mixed with chalk!

MILK O!



[34]



[35]



They were once "Street Arabs," hungry, ill-clad,
And in very sore danger of going to the bad;
But now!—one might think that their fortunes were
made,
They're so proud to belong to the Shoebblack
Brigade.

[36]

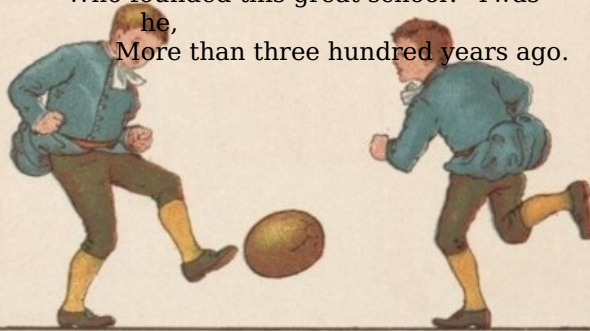
The Blue-Coat Boys

If you should pass through Newgate
Street,
Bareheaded boys with coats of blue,
Among the crowd you're sure to meet—
And all with yellow stockings too.

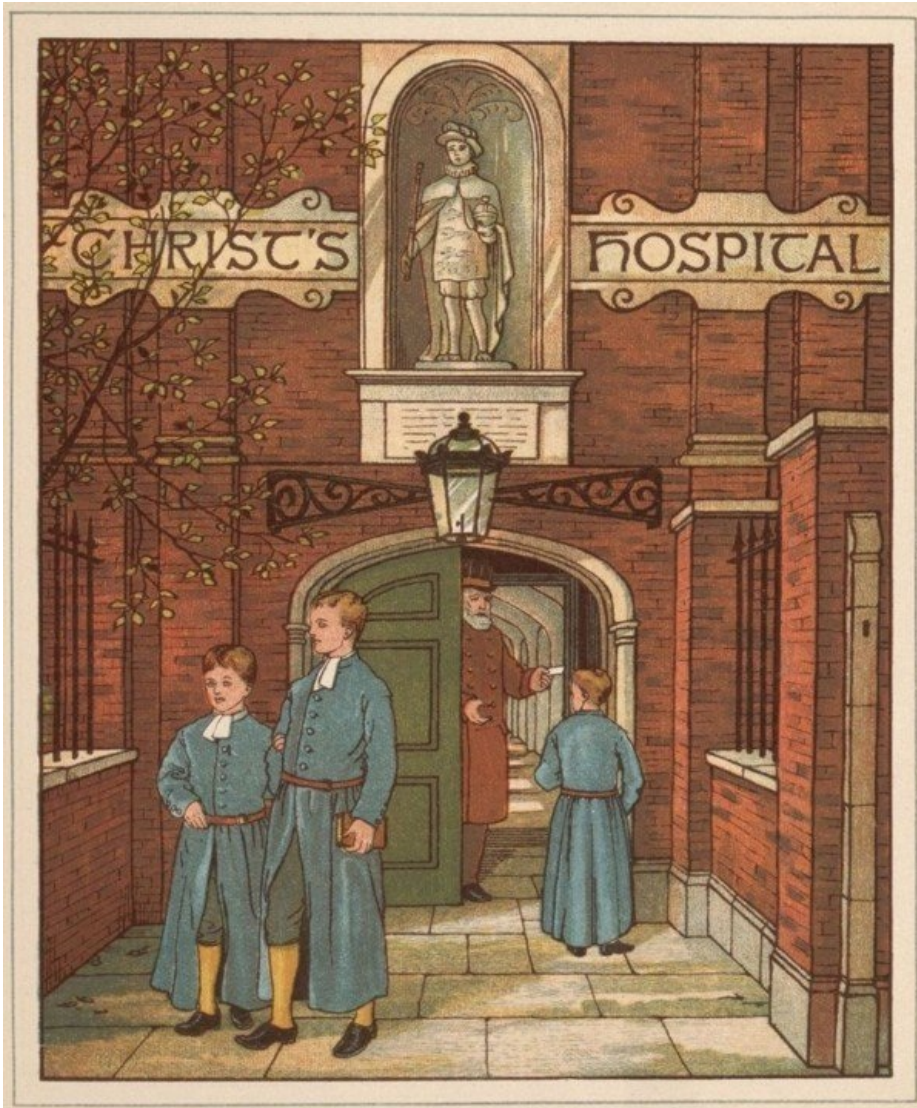
Their coats are long as well as blue,
And when at football they do play,
They find them rather heavy too,
So tuck them up out of the way.

In Christchurch passage will be found
The entrance to the School; and
though
It looks so quiet, all around
We hear the crowd go to and fro.

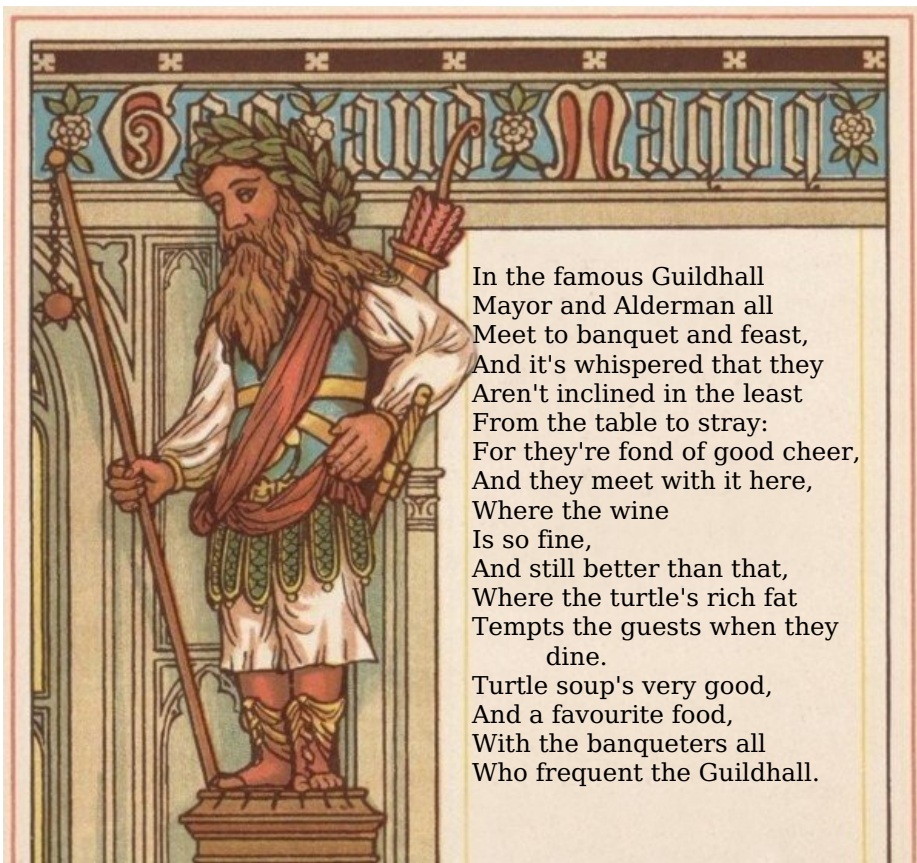
Above the doorway there you see
The Boy King's statue:—Would you
know
Who founded this great school? 'Twas
he,
More than three hundred years ago.



[37]



[38]



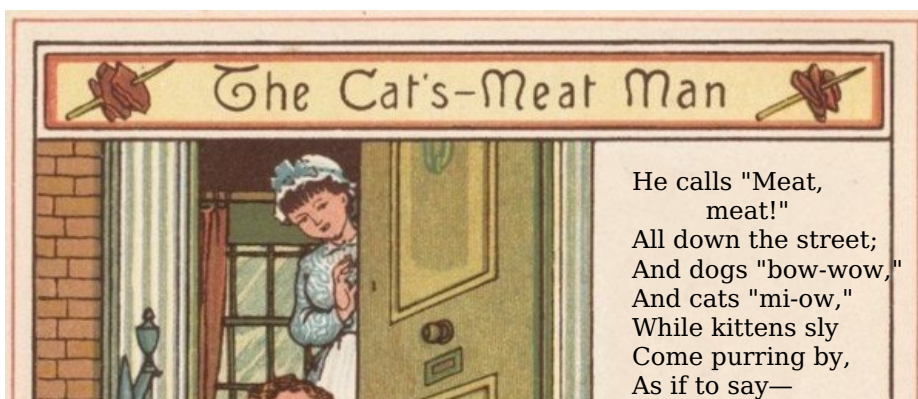
In the famous Guildhall
Mayor and Alderman all
Meet to banquet and feast,
And it's whispered that they
Aren't inclined in the least
From the table to stray:
For they're fond of good cheer,
And they meet with it here,
Where the wine
Is so fine,
And still better than that,
Where the turtle's rich fat
Tempt's the guests when they
dine.
Turtle soup's very good,
And a favourite food,
With the banqueters all
Who frequent the Guildhall.



[39]

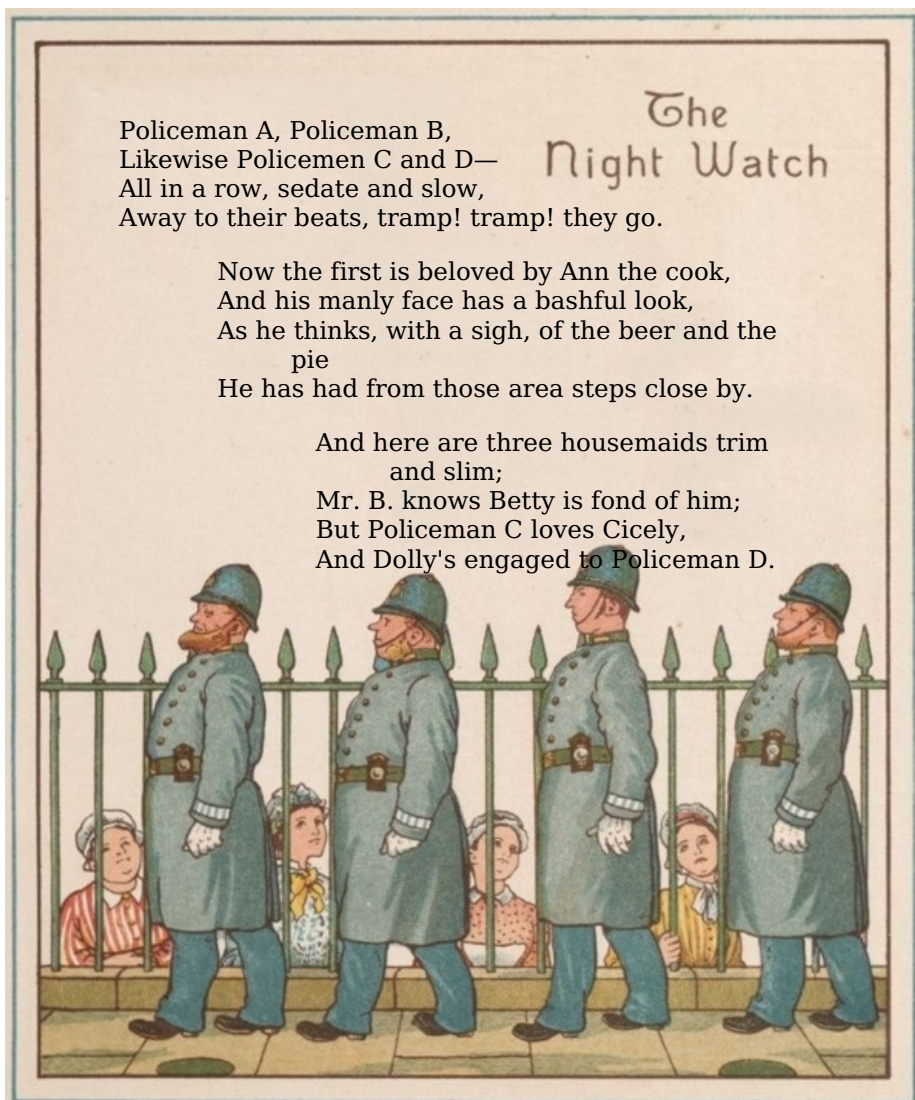


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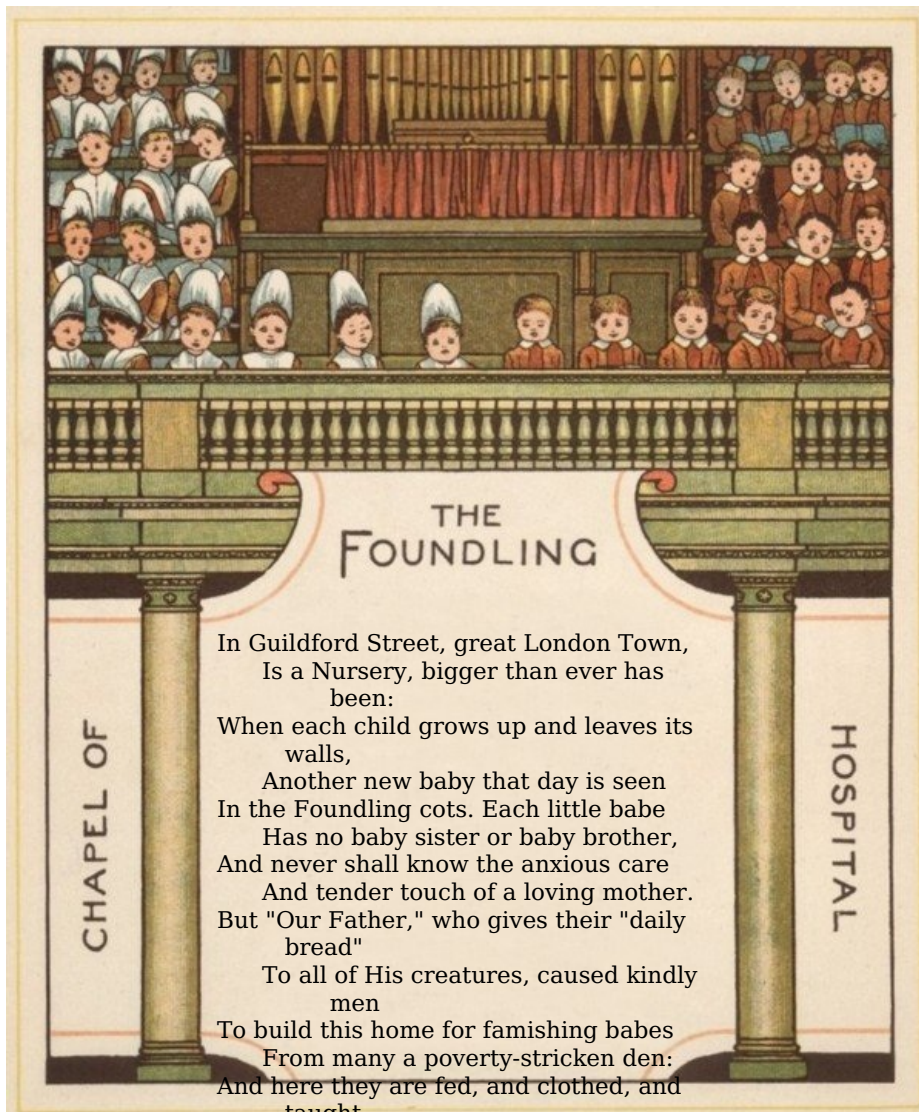




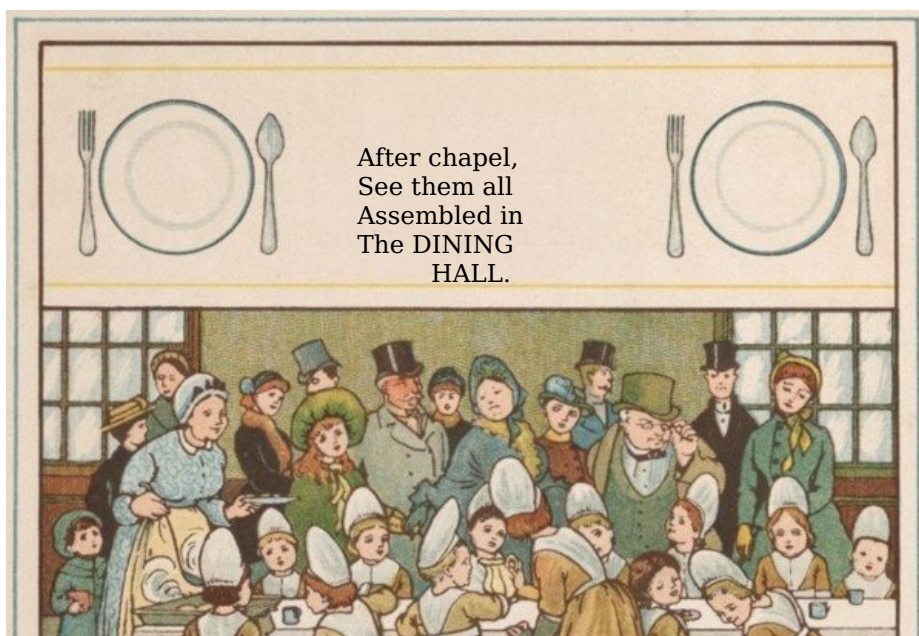
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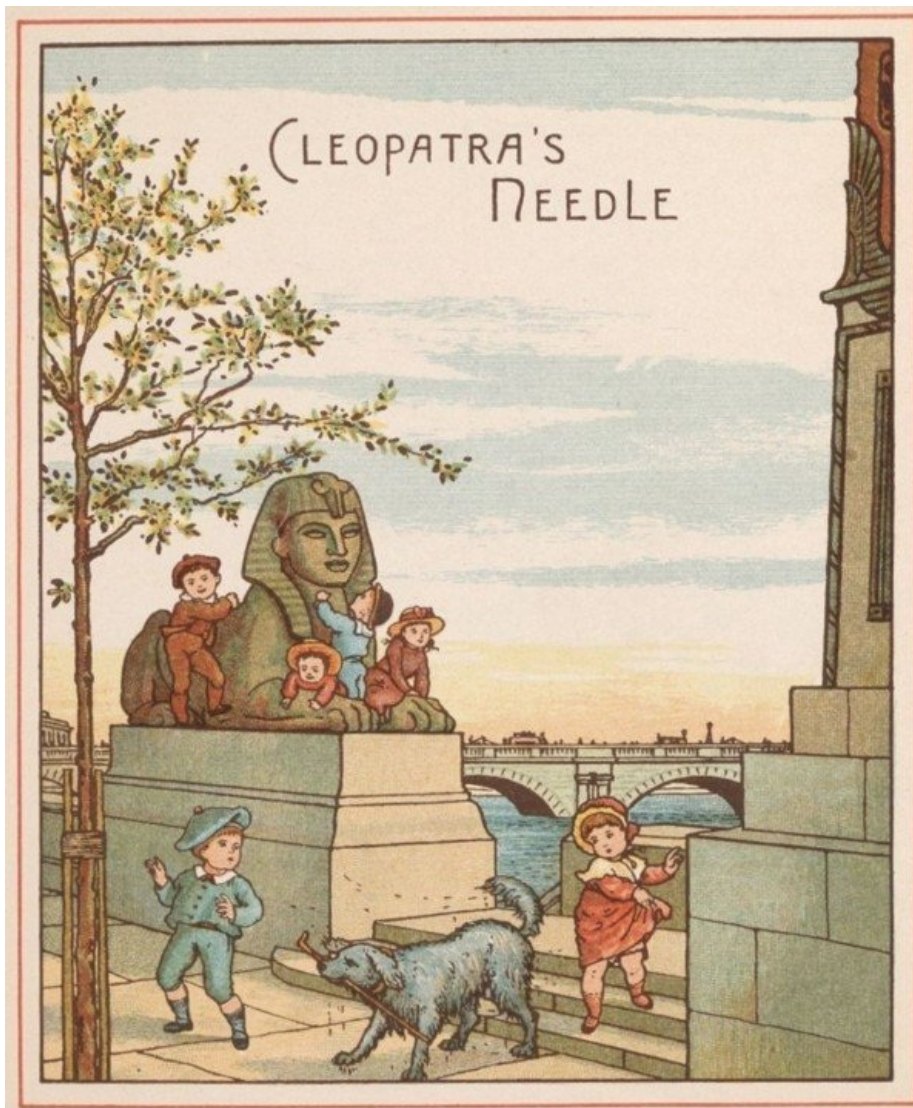


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>The bugle sounds E'er grace is sung,— Then fork and spoon And lip and tongue</p> |  | <p>Clatter, chatter, — Such a noise! Oh! such happy Girls and boys.</p> |
|---|---|---|

[44]

| The Flower Woman | Cleopatra's Needle |
|---|---|
| <p>"Flowers sweet and fair, Sir, Flowers that any Princess might wear, Sir— A bunch for a penny!" Many a bunch Must the flower-woman sell, To buy food for herself, And her children as well.</p> | <p>Upon the broad Embankment You'll find a curious sight,— The children play around it From morning until night; And crowds of grown-up people Come here to see it too, 'Tis Cleopatra's Needle Folks gather thus to view.</p> |
|  | <p>In Mother's pretty work-box There's no such needle shown; This needle, brought from Egypt, Is nothing but a stone. How silently it watches Old Thames go gliding by! "You're very old," the River says, "But not so old as I."</p> <p>Think you it longs for Egypt, This wondrous solemn stone, That stands and gazes at us Each day so sad and lone? Ah yes! when London's sleeping, If monuments can dream, It longs for Egypt's palm-trees, And Nile's slow murmuring stream.</p> |

[45]



[46]

The Chestnut Woman

"All hot! all hot! come buy!
 Ten a penny is the price,
 And if you my chestnuts try,
 You'll declare they're very
 nice.
 See how brightly burns my fire!
 Hear the chestnuts hiss and
 crack!
 Better nuts you can't desire
 Than these beauties, big and
 black.

"All hot!—if you are cold,
 Have a pennyworth of heat,
 Something nice and warm to hold,
 Something nice and warm to eat.
 Munch your chestnuts up, and then,
 If your toes want warming too,
 Say, 'I'll have another ten,
 Just to warm me through and
 through."

The illustration shows a woman wearing a blue headscarf, a green shawl, and a brown dress with a white apron. She is leaning over a tray of chestnuts, offering one to a young child. Another child is standing next to them, also looking at the chestnuts. The scene is set outdoors.

So the cheerful chestnut dame
 To each chilly passer calls,
 As she roasts above the flame
 Fine round nuts like floury balls.
 Hungry children soon draw near,
 If a penny they have got,
 And with warmth and food to cheer,
 They become "all hot! all hot!"



[47]

The 5th of November

The fifth of November they bid you remember,
 These bright little boys with the funny old Guy.
 In his chair up and down he'll be borne through the town,
 Then burned in a bonfire he'll be by-and-by.

All those who remember the fifth of
 November
 Some money will give to the boys with the
 Guy.
 If all gave a penny, I wonder how many
 Wheels, crackers, and squibs they'd be able to
 buy?

[48]

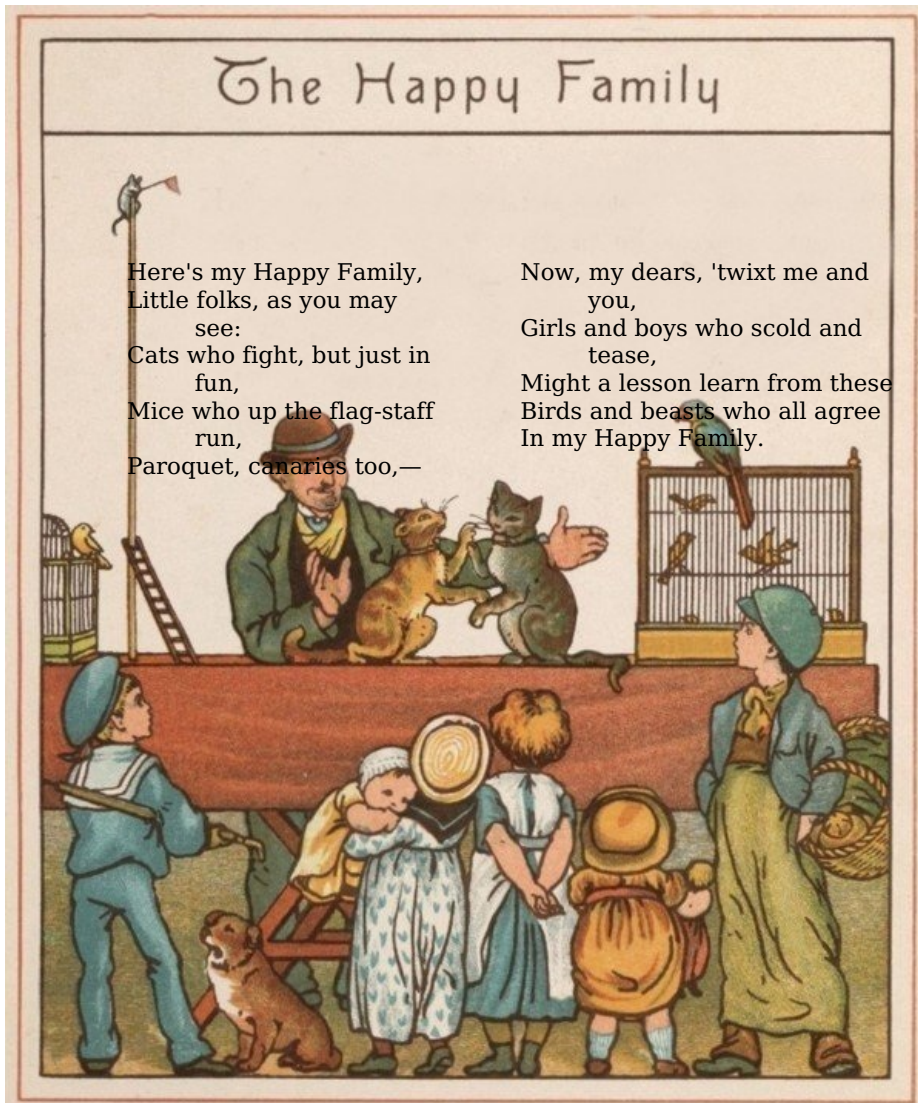
In the Children's Hospital

Little sick Tommy,
 What trouble he's had—
 had—
 Medicine and blisters!
 His cough was so bad!

Now he is better:
 He soon will be well.



[49]

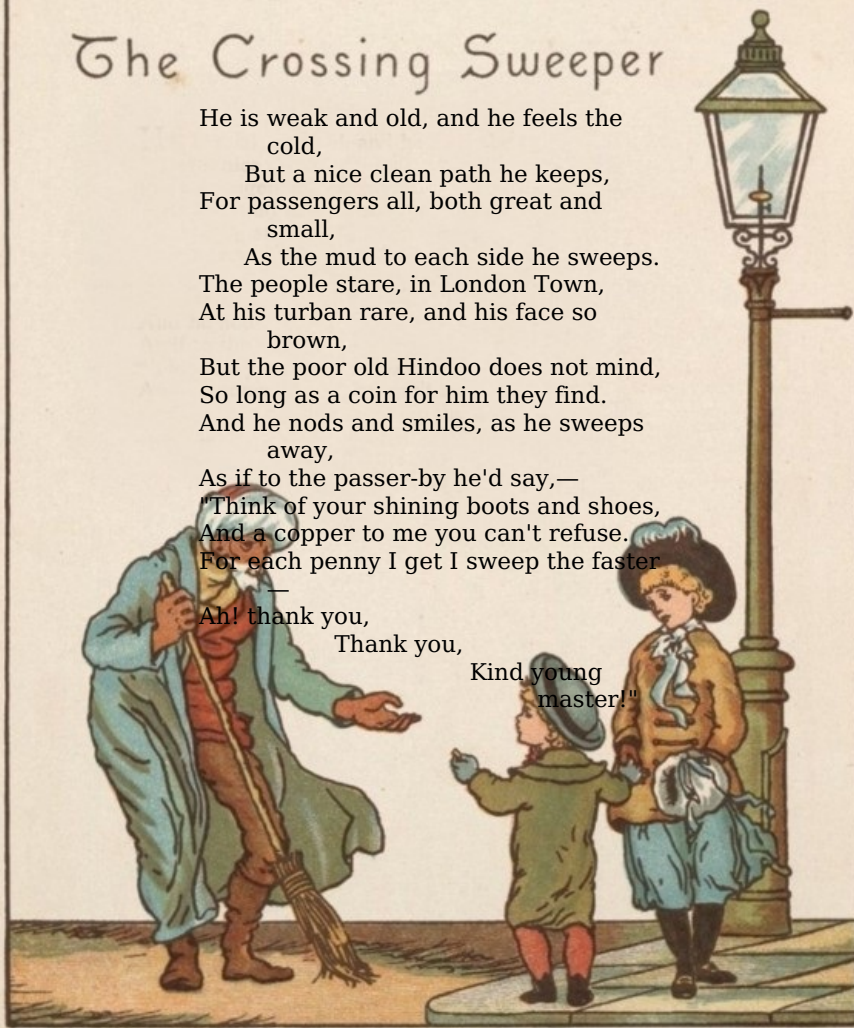


[50]

The Crossing Sweeper

He is weak and old, and he feels the cold,
But a nice clean path he keeps,
For passengers all, both great and small,
As the mud to each side he sweeps.
The people stare, in London Town,
At his turban rare, and his face so brown,
But the poor old Hindoo does not mind,
So long as a coin for him they find.
And he nods and smiles, as he sweeps away,
As if to the passer-by he'd say,—
"Think of your shining boots and shoes,
And a copper to me you can't refuse.
For each penny I get I sweep the faster

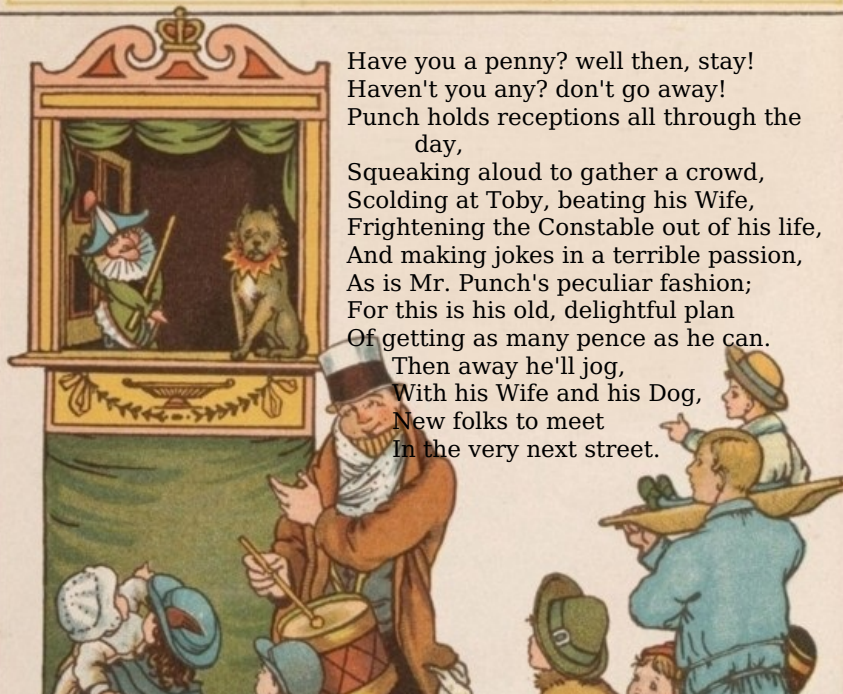
—
Ah! thank you,
Thank you,
Kind young master!"



[51]

PUNCH · AND · JUDY

Have you a penny? well then, stay!
Haven't you any? don't go away!
Punch holds receptions all through the day,
Squeaking aloud to gather a crowd,
Scolding at Toby, beating his Wife,
Frightening the Constable out of his life,
And making jokes in a terrible passion,
As is Mr. Punch's peculiar fashion;
For this is his old, delightful plan
Of getting as many pence as he can.
Then away he'll jog,
With his Wife and his Dog,
New folks to meet
In the very next street.





[52]

The Lowther Arcade

Tell me, rosy little boy,
Listen, little maiden, too,
Do you love a fine new toy?
Yes, you say, of course you do.
Then your thought to Mother tell,
And she'll take her little maid,
And her little boy as well,
To this wonderful Arcade.

Active apes that climb up sticks,
Swords and guns and trumpets
bright,
Wooden horses, wooden bricks,
Big fat lambs with fleeces white,
Dolls that smile and dolls that cry,
Soldiers ready for parade,
All are here for you to buy,
In this wonderful Arcade.

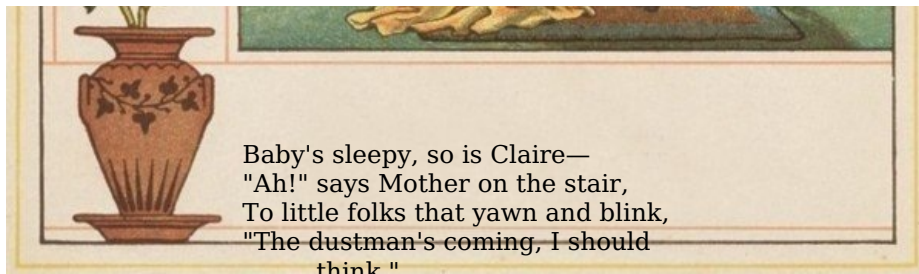
Toys are hanging up on strings,
Toys are laid in tempting rows,
And each shop with pretty things
Is so crammed it overflows.
Little girls and little boys
Oft are puzzled, we're afraid,
Which to choose of all the toys
In this wonderful Arcade.

[53]



[54]





Baby's sleepy, so is Claire—
"Ah!" says Mother on the stair,
To little folks that yawn and blink,
"The dustman's coming, I should
think."

[55]



[56]



*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK LONDON TOWN ***

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