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# MERRY WORDS FOR MERRY CHILDREN.



**Published by  
W. Hagelberg, London & New York.**

**Printed by  
W. Hagelberg, Berlin.**

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MERRY WORDS FOR  
MERRY  
CHILDREN.

By  
A HOATSON



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**JIM'S DREAM.**

*JIM'S DREAM.*

**J**IM was a boy who was fond of clowns,  
And thought they were excellent fun ;  
He talked so much of them and their ways,  
That one night he dreamed he was one.

He dreamed he was feeding five fat geese  
On boiled skate-pencils and rice :  
He said it was wholesome food for geese,  
But they said, " More wholesome than nice."

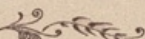
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**H**E dreamed that he set two geese to dance,  
While he took a fiddle and played.  
He said, "You look pretty and gay, my dears."  
"We feel very tired," they said.

"What, tired!" he said, "with that nice pink sash,  
And that waistcoat of vivid blue?"

Then he tried to teach them the way to sing—  
A thing geese never can do. 

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While he took a fiddle and played.  
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“And that waistcoat of vivid blue?”  
Then he tried to teach them the way to sing—  
A thing geese never can do.



**H**E made them try to stand on their heads  
And wave their feet in the air,  
Although they said the pain in their necks  
Was more than a goose could bear.

He said that it didn't hurt his back—  
He liked it, for his part;  
And all the geese declared he had  
A most unfeeling heart.



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And all the geese declared he had  
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**H**E knocked the bottom out of the pot  
That had held the pencil-stew,  
And held it in the air while five  
Reluctant geese jumped through.

They said they burned their wings and feet  
With the sides of the smoking pot.  
He laughed, "Oh, nonsense! Now, my dears,  
"We'll try something really hot."

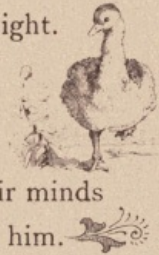
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"We'll try something really hot."



**S**o he made a terrified goose jump through  
A hoop all blazing aight,  
While all the rest of the geese stood round  
And screamed with all their might.

And he was just about to try  
To teach them how to swim,  
When all the geese made up their minds  
They'd have some games with him.

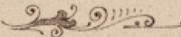


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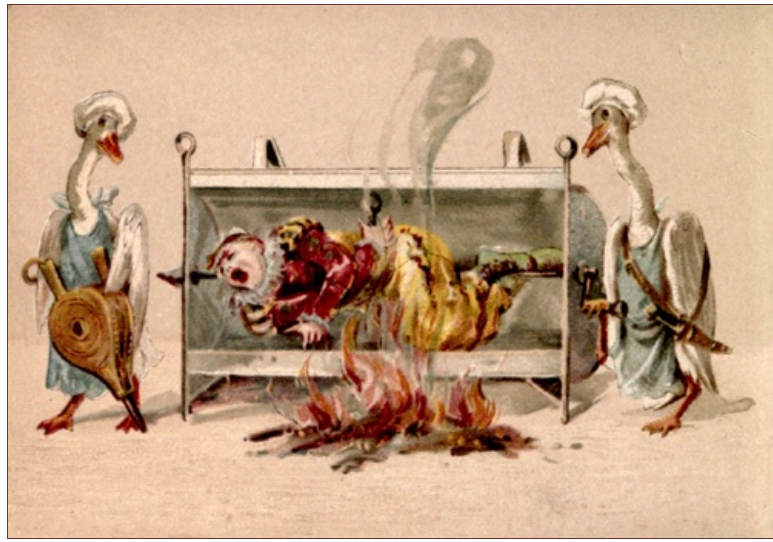


**T**HEY put him on a spit, to roast  
Before a blazing fire ;  
And one fat goose with bellows blew,  
To make the flame go higher.

He woke up shrieking with fear and pain,  
And, as he cuddled down  
Between the sheets, he vowed he'd never  
Become a cruel clown. 

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Become a cruel clown.



---

## THE RACE.

### *THE RACE.*

**H**AS anyone heard of the wonderful race  
Of the frogs and the greyhounds, the rabbits and cats?  
They rode it on bicycles, sixteen in all,  
And the umpires were pugs, with cigars and high hats.  
And the number of each kind of racer was four—  
Four frogs dressed in green, four rabbits in brown,  
Four greyhounds well brushed and with spotless shirt-  
fronts,  
Four pussies with tails hanging gracefully down.

---

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Four frogs dressed in green, four rabbits



in brown,  
Four greyhounds well brushed and with  
spotless shirt-fronts,  
Four pussies with tails hanging gracefully  
down.



*The frogs came up first, with their legs straddled wide.*

**T**HE four solemn puggies inspected them all  
And weighed them as gravely as if they were dead.  
“The rabbits must carry the dinners for all;  
It’s a fair handicap, as they’re quickest,” they said.  
  
(I’ve heard that the rabbits were angry at this;  
And I think that it’s true, for they never were seen  
Any more by the umpires, although the cats say  
They frequently meet them at night on the green.)

---

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Any more by the umpires, although the cats  
say

They frequently meet them at night on the  
green.)



*Then up came the greyhounds*

**A**ND now they are ready, and "Go!" cried the first  
Of the four solemn pugs as he lit his cigar.

"I shall act for the rabbits; you choose from the rest,  
And carefully watch who first passes the bar."

"The cats shall be mine," says the fourth with a wag  
Of his tightly curled tail as he sat on the grass.

"I speak for the frogs," said the third, "for I'm sure  
They're cunning enough to let nobody pass."

**A**ND now they are ready, and "Go!" cried  
the first

Of the four solemn pugs as he lit his cigar.

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They're cunning enough to let nobody  
pass."



*The rabbits rode off with the food to the woods*

**S**O the greyhounds are mine, then," says pug  
Number Two,

And he put his blue spectacles on, and he sighed,  
"I know they'll not win, though they'll all do their best,  
For nobody ever has taught them to ride."

The frogs came up first, with their legs straddled wide  
On the bicycle handles, their arms folded tight;  
Their umpire, the third little pug, gave a shout,  
And pushed his hat back in his joy at the sight.

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And pushed his hat back in his joy at the  
sight.



*The pussies were last*

**W**HEN up came the greyhounds, and pug Number  
Two,

Though dissatisfied, felt that he could not ask more.  
“But where are the rabbits?” said One with a groan.  
“And what has become of my pussies?” whined Four.

Well, the pussies were last, for they would not begin  
With the others, but stayed to catch mice and to play;  
And the rabbits rode off with the food to the woods,  
So nobody got any dinner that day.

THEN up came the greyhounds, and pug  
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