

# The Project Gutenberg eBook of The Rubáiyát of a Bachelor, by Helen Rowland

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**Author:** Helen Rowland

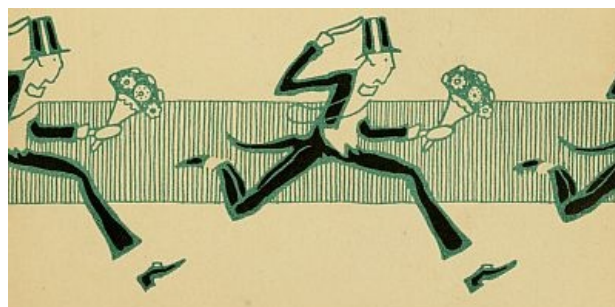
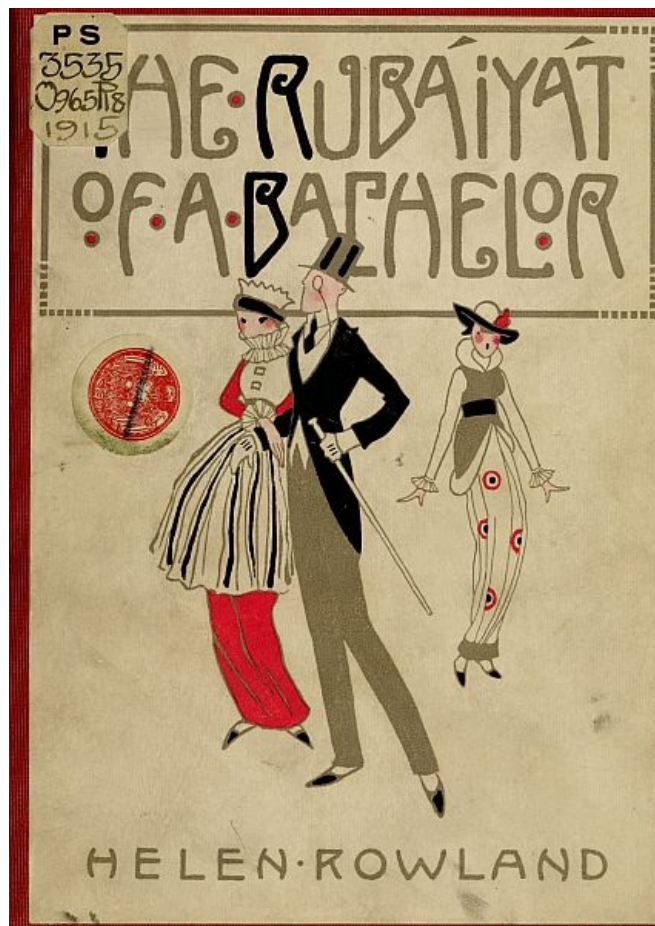
**Illustrator:** Harold Speakman

**Release Date:** March 2, 2010 [EBook #31467]

**Language:** English

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\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE RUBÁIYÁT OF A BACHELOR \*\*\*



# THE RUBÁIYÁT OF F. A. BACHELOR

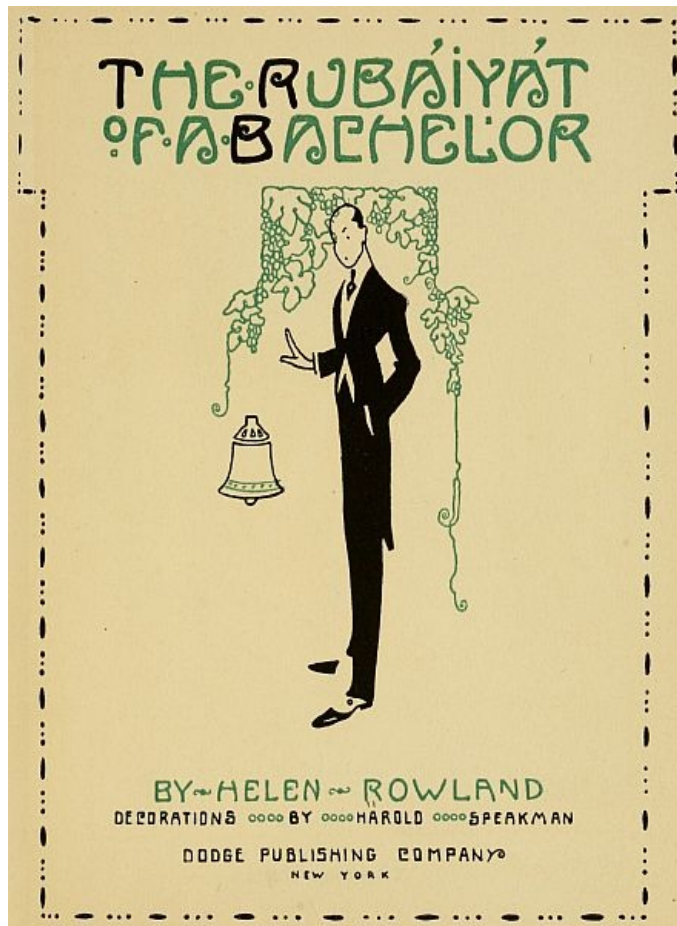


**PROMISED TO PAY A WOMAN'S BILLS FOR  
LIFE.**

[2]

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[3]



# THE RUBÁIYÁT OF A BACHELOR

BY HELEN ROWLAND

DECORATIONS ··· BY ··· HAROLD ··· SPEAKMAN

DODGE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
NEW YORK

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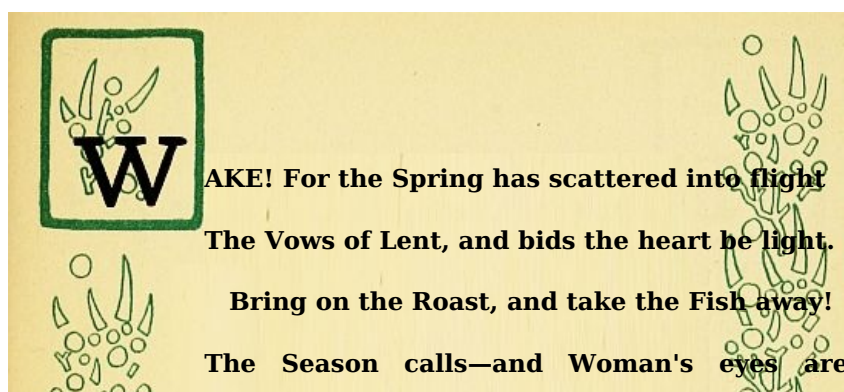
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[4]

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TO  
MY HUSBAND  
WILLIAM HILL-BRERETON  
THIS LITTLE BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY  
DEDICATED

[5]

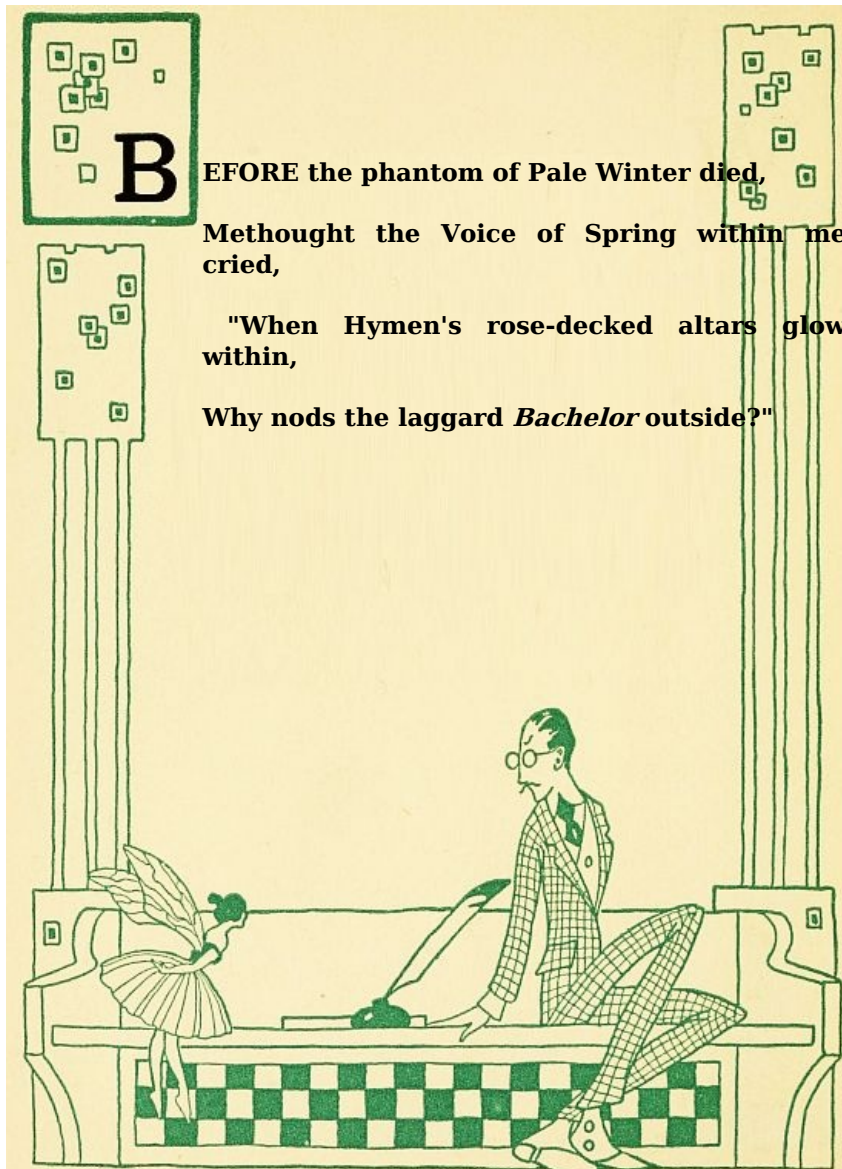


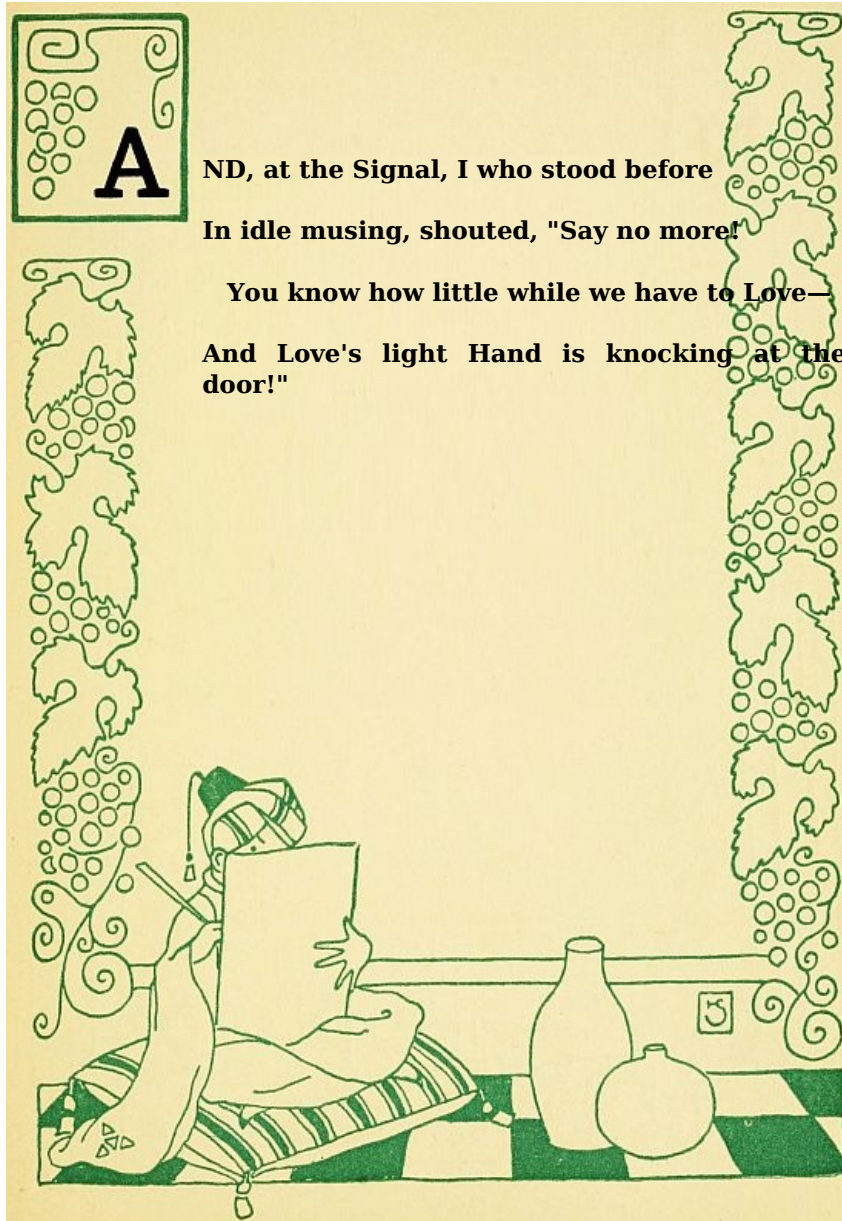
[7]

**bright!**



[8]

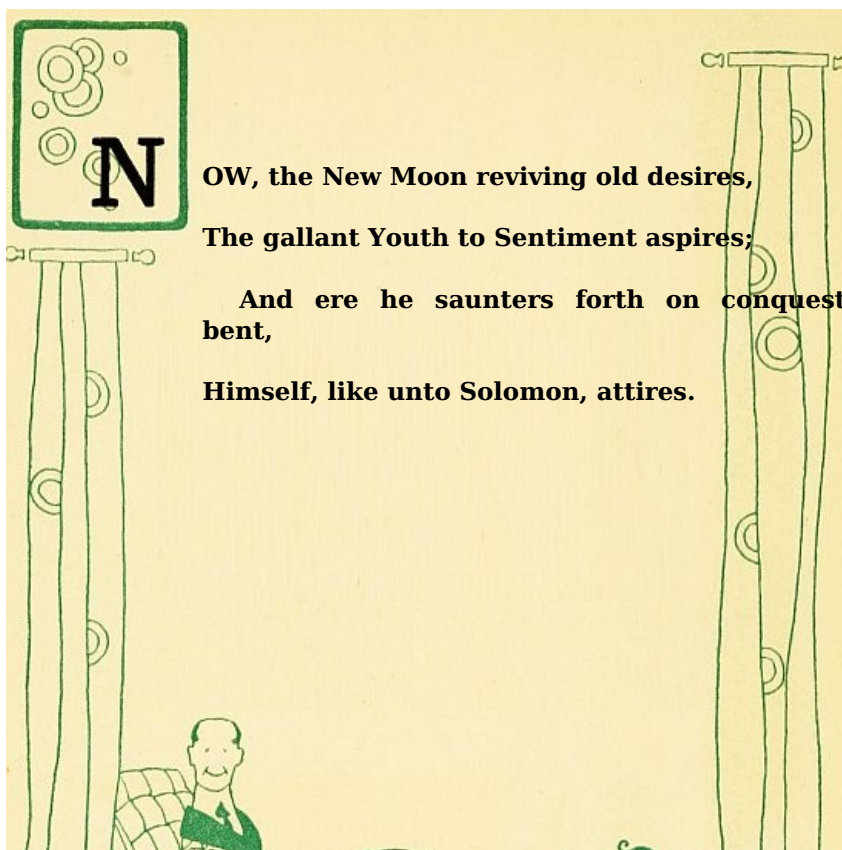




**A**

**ND, at the Signal, I who stood before  
In idle musing, shouted, "Say no more!"**

**You know how little while we have to Love—  
And Love's light Hand is knocking at the  
door!"**

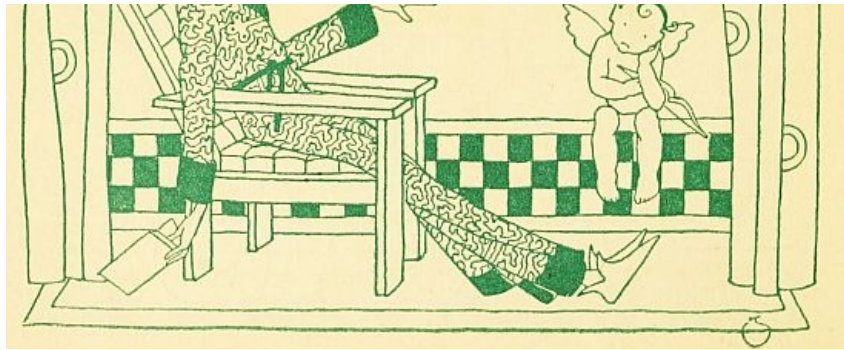


**N**

**OW, the New Moon reviving old desires,  
The gallant Youth to Sentiment aspires;**

**And ere he saunters forth on conquest  
bent,**

**Himself, like unto Solomon, attires.**





[11]



HIS WINTER GARMENTS HUNG—WHERE,  
NO ONE KNOWS!

[13]





H

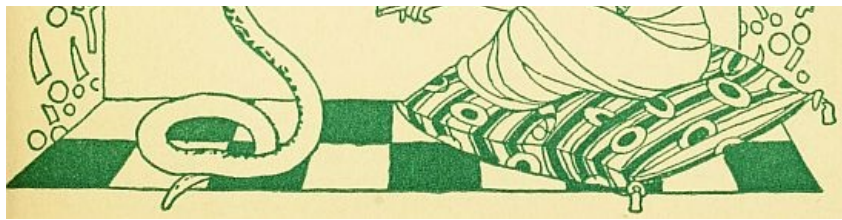
**OW blithely through the smiling throng he goes,**

**His Winter garments hung— where, no one knows!**

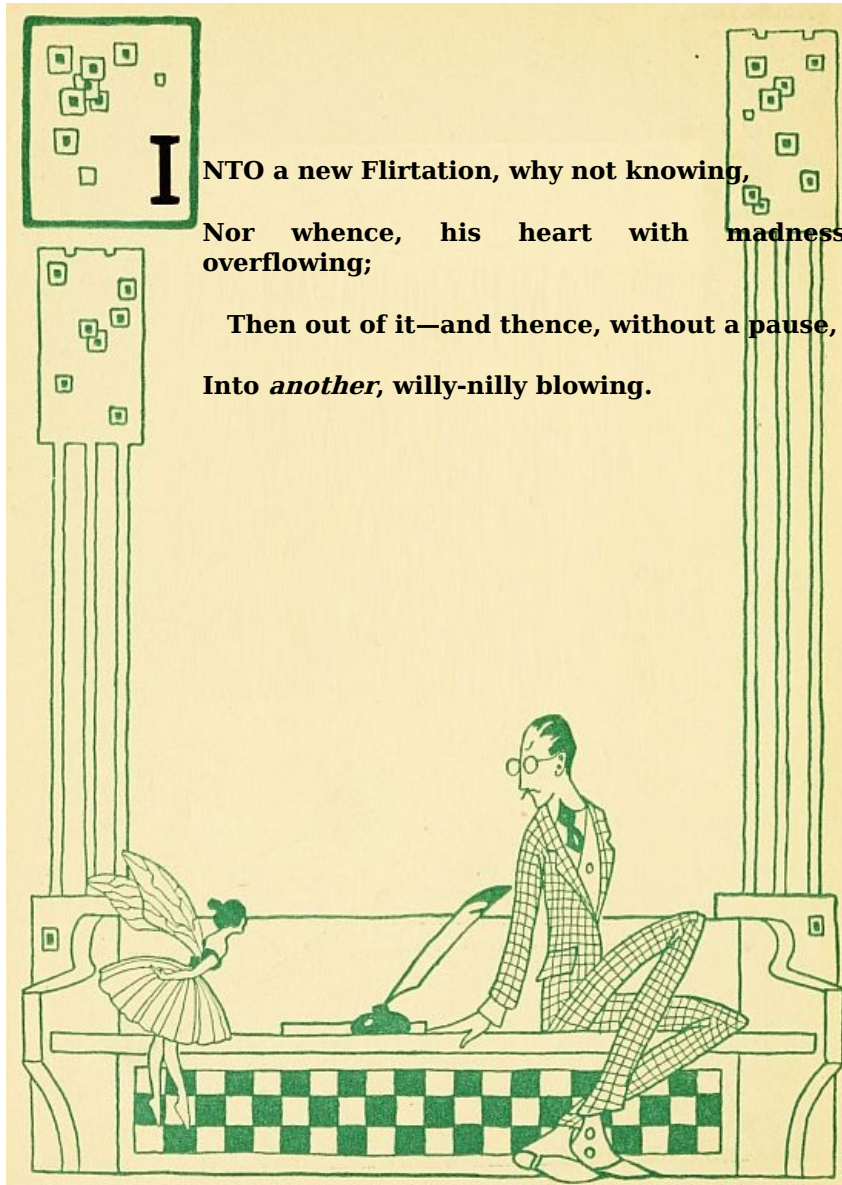
**A Symphony in radiant scarfs and hose,**

**Wrought t'inspire a maiden's "Ah's!" and "Oh's!"**



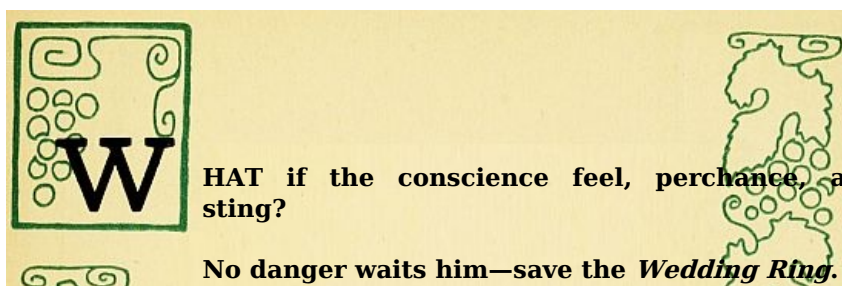


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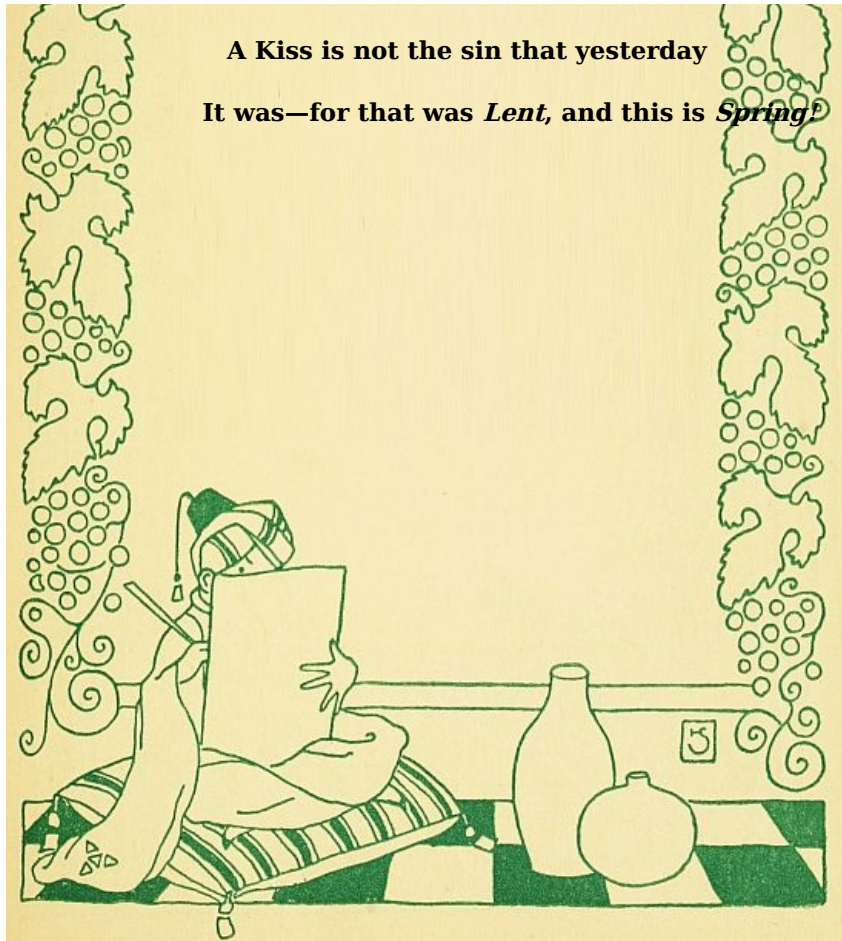
**I** **N**T**O** a new Flirtation, why not knowing,  
Nor whence, his heart with madness  
overflowing;  
Then out of it—and thence, without a pause,  
Into *another*, willy-nilly blowing.

[15]

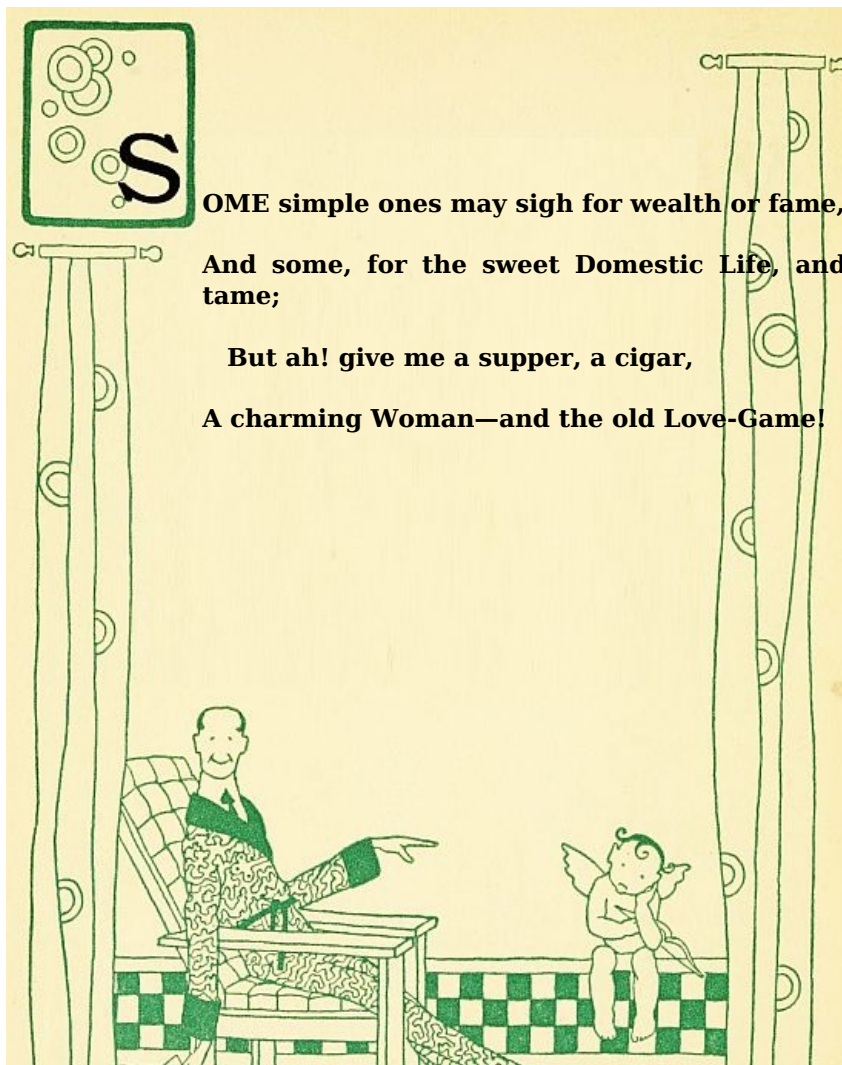


**W****H**A**T** if the conscience feel, perchance, a  
sting?  
No danger waits him—save the *Wedding Ring*.

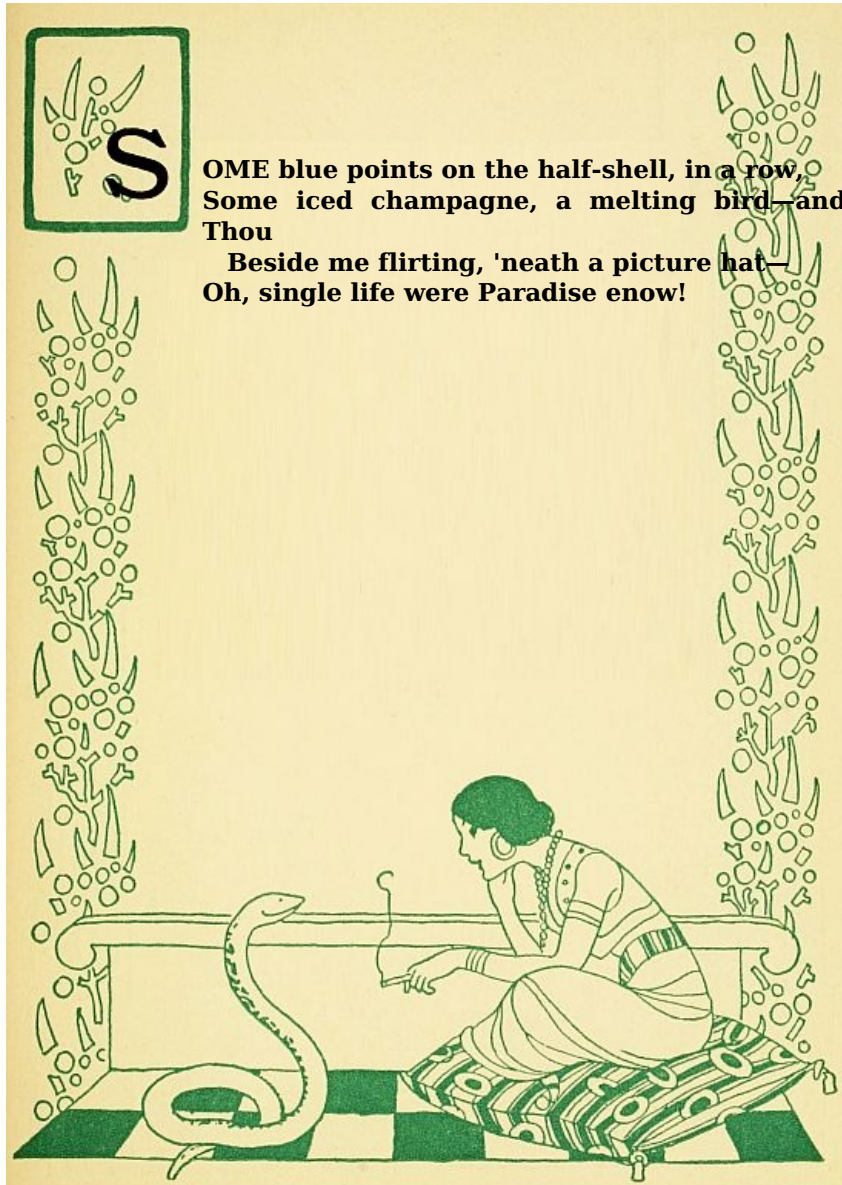
**A Kiss is not the sin that yesterday  
It was—for that was *Lent*, and this is *Spring!***



[16]

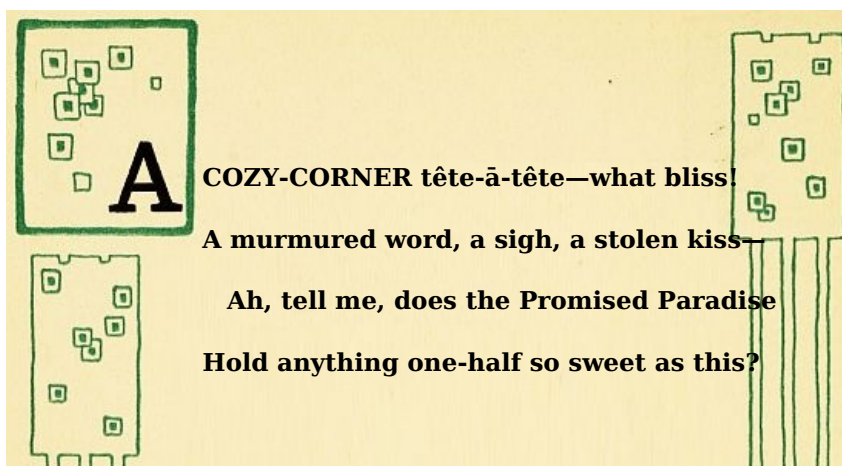






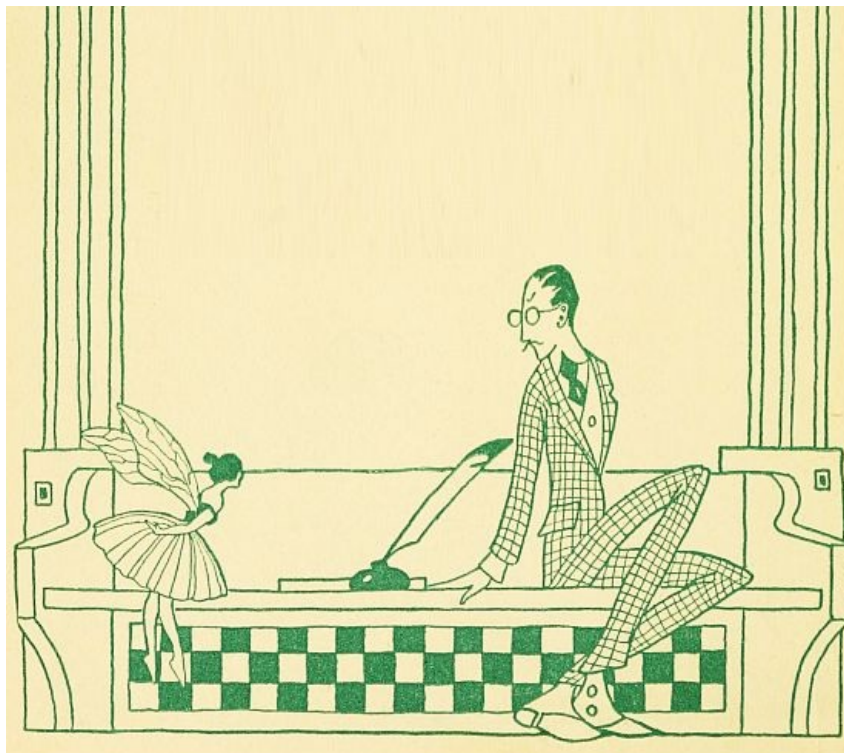
**S**

**SOME blue points on the half-shell, in a row,  
Some iced champagne, a melting bird—and  
Thou  
Beside me flirting, 'neath a picture hat—  
Oh, single life were Paradise enow!**

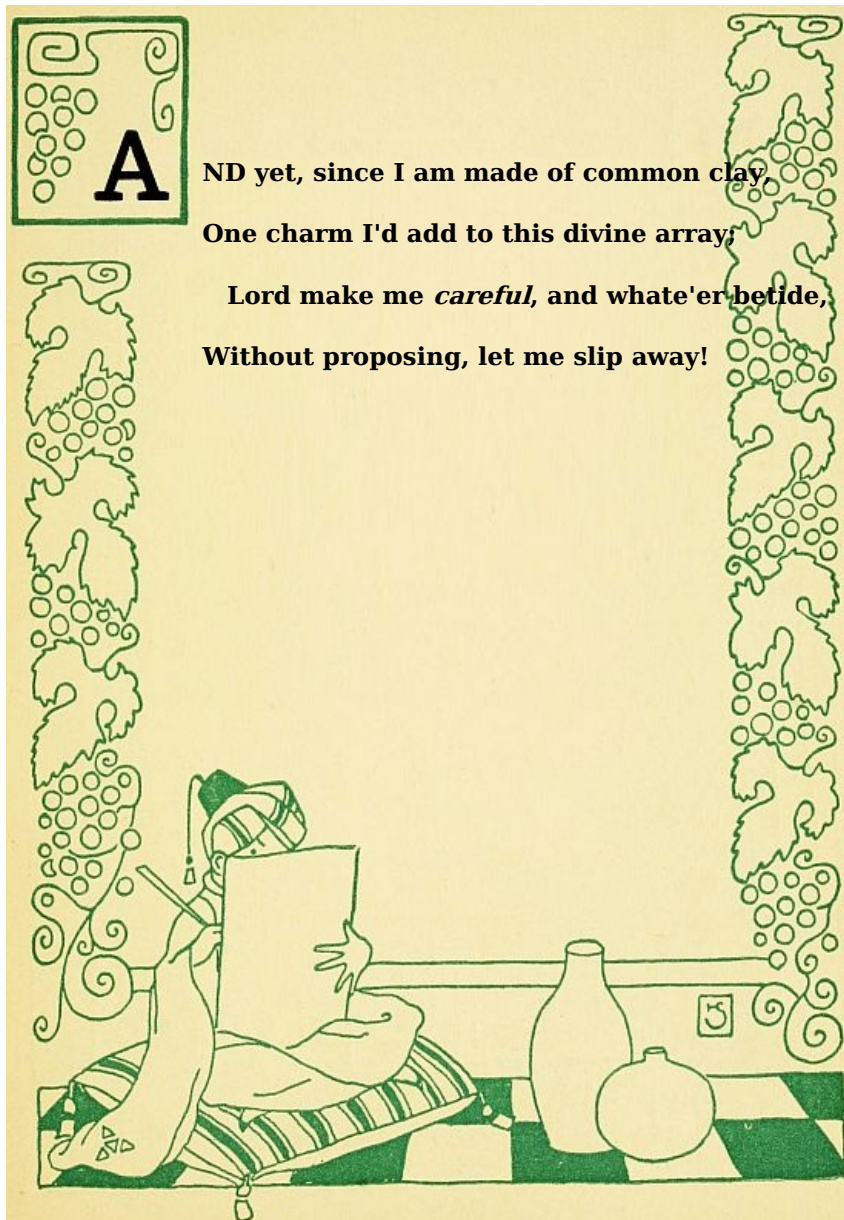


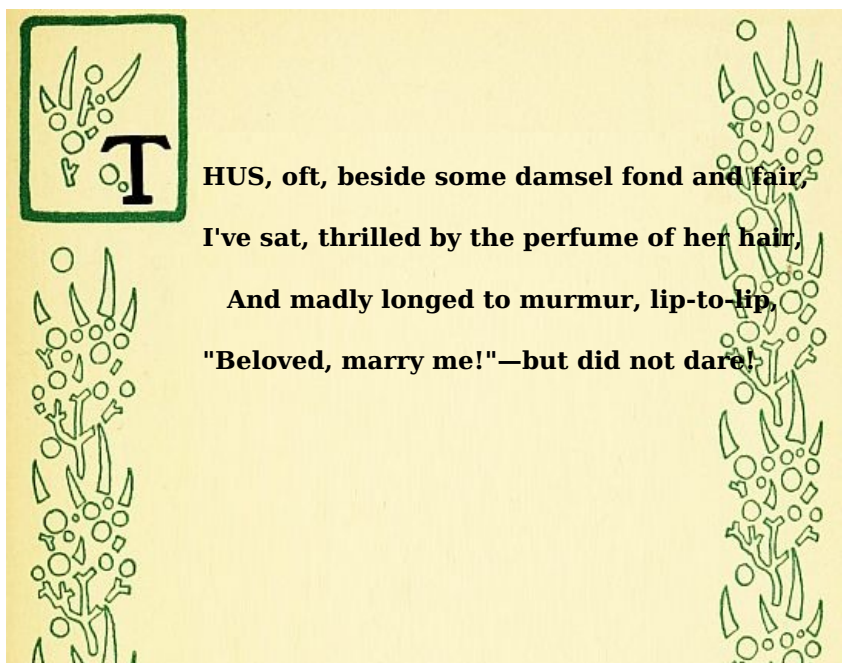
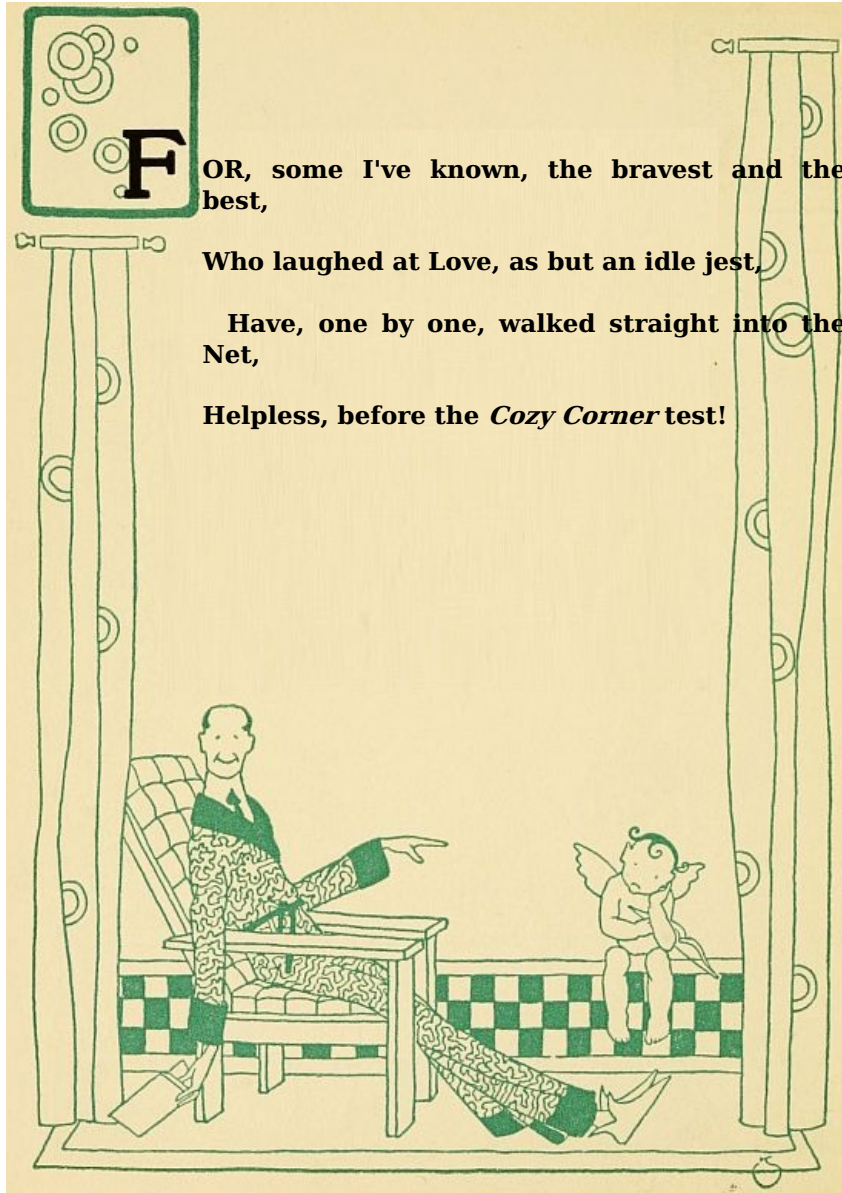
**A**

**COZY-CORNER tête-à-tête—what bliss!  
A murmured word, a sigh, a stolen kiss—  
Ah, tell me, does the Promised Paradise  
Hold anything one-half so sweet as this?**



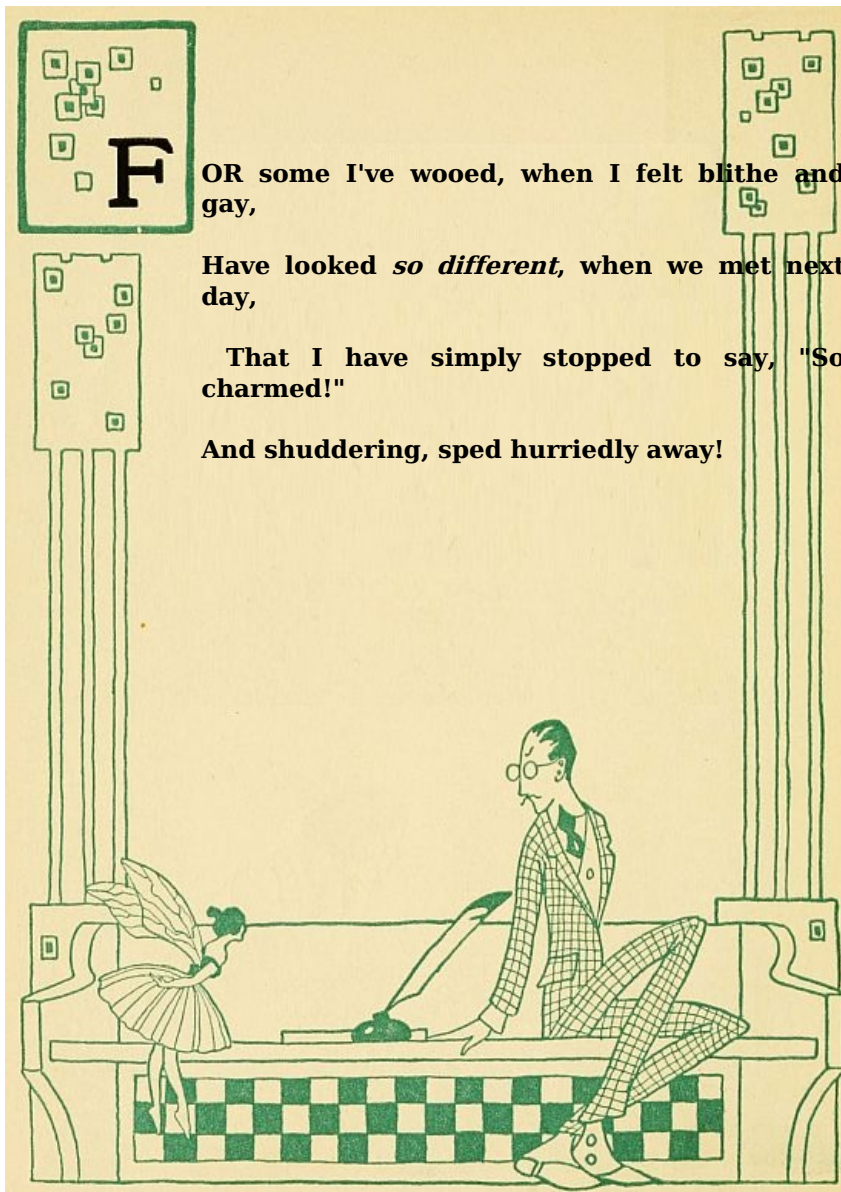
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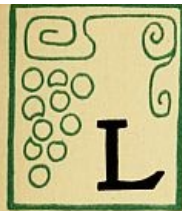




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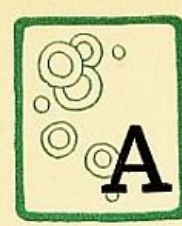
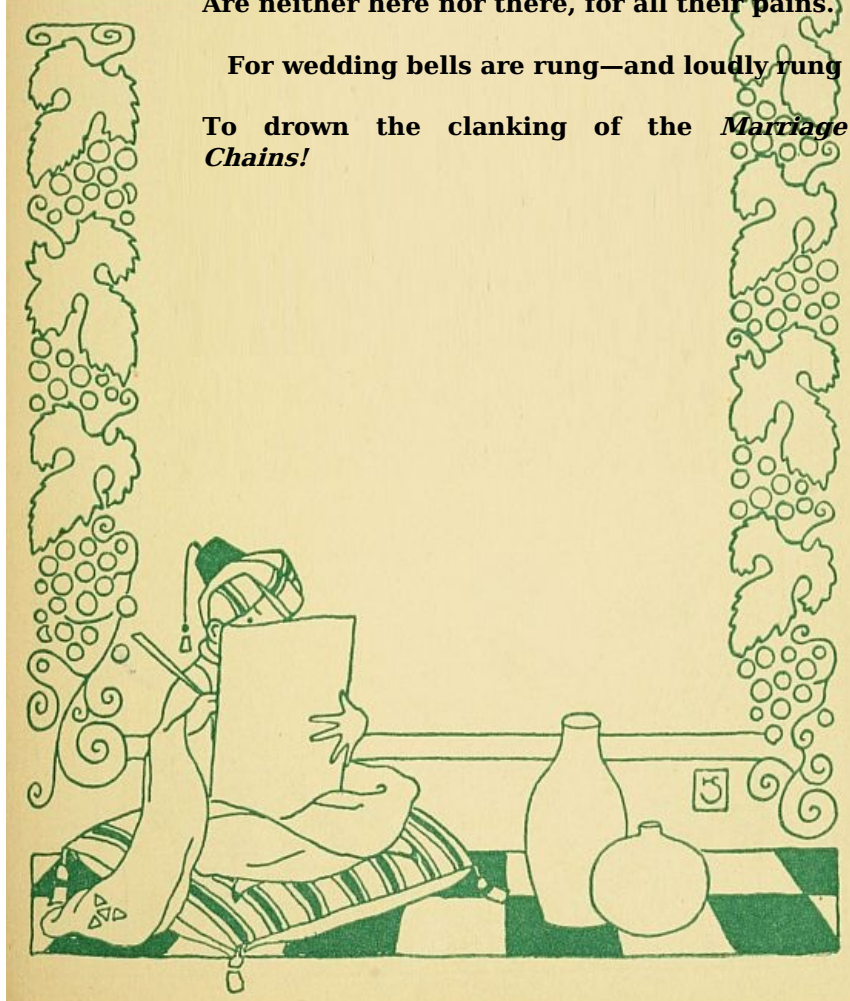


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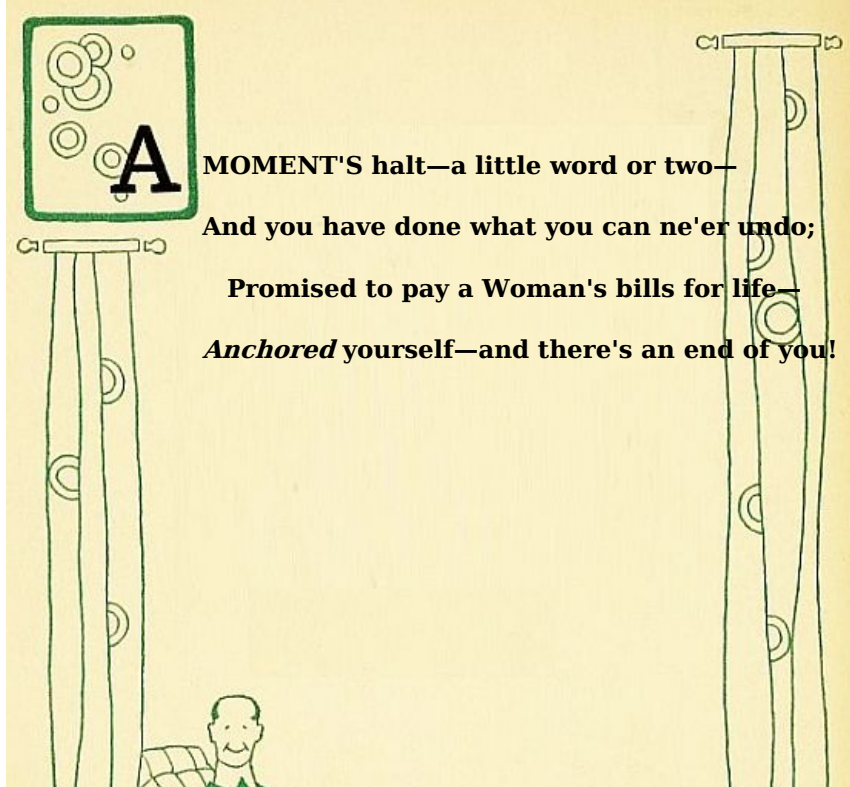
**LOOK** to the Married Men! Alas, their gains  
Are neither here nor there, for all their pains.

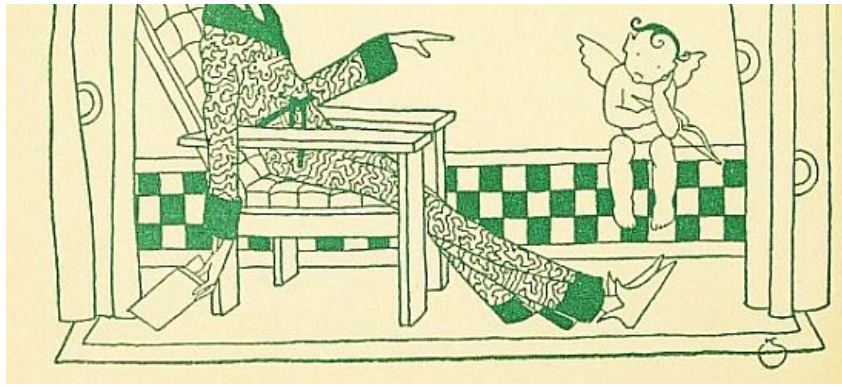
For wedding bells are rung—and loudly rung  
To drown the clanking of the *Marriage*  
*Chains!*



**MOMENT'S** halt—a little word or two—  
And you have done what you can ne'er undo;

Promised to pay a Woman's bills for life—  
*Anchored* yourself—and there's an end of you!



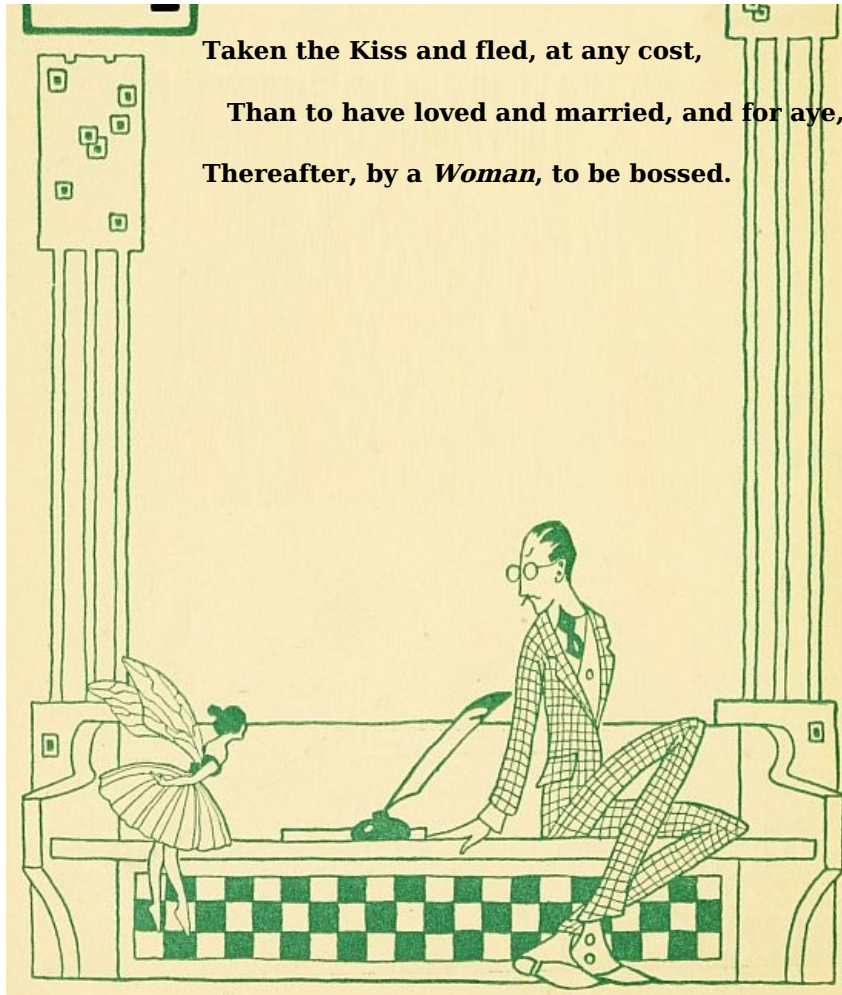
A black and white line drawing of a woman in a sari sitting on a bench. A snake is coiled on the floor in front of her. The scene is framed by a decorative border of leaves and circles. In the top left corner, there is a small square box containing a stylized leaf design and a large letter 'A'.

**A**ND we, who now make merry at the gloom  
Of those who thus have gone to meet their  
doom—  
May we, ourselves, not some day follow suit,  
Ourselves to be the Butt of jests—for whom?

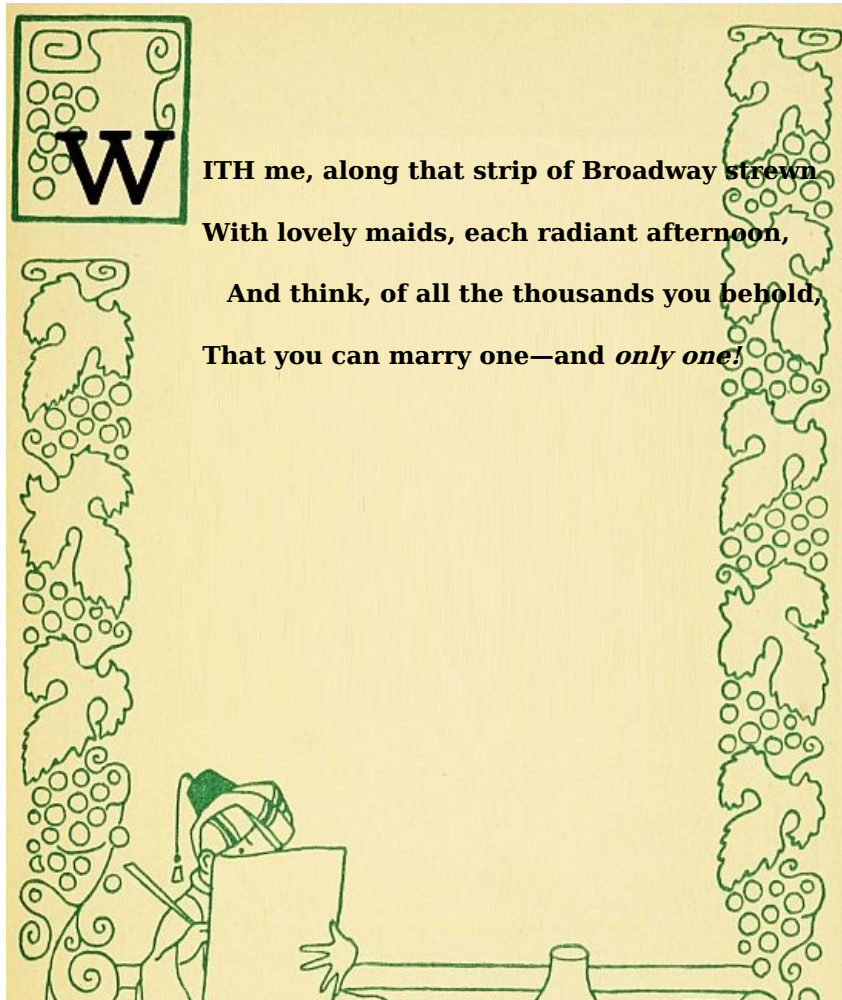
A decorative border consisting of a series of small squares. A large letter 'I' is positioned at the bottom left of the border.

**I**NDEED, 'tis better to have loved and lost—

**Taken the Kiss and fled, at any cost,  
Than to have loved and married, and for aye,  
Thereafter, by a *Woman*, to be bossed.**



[27]

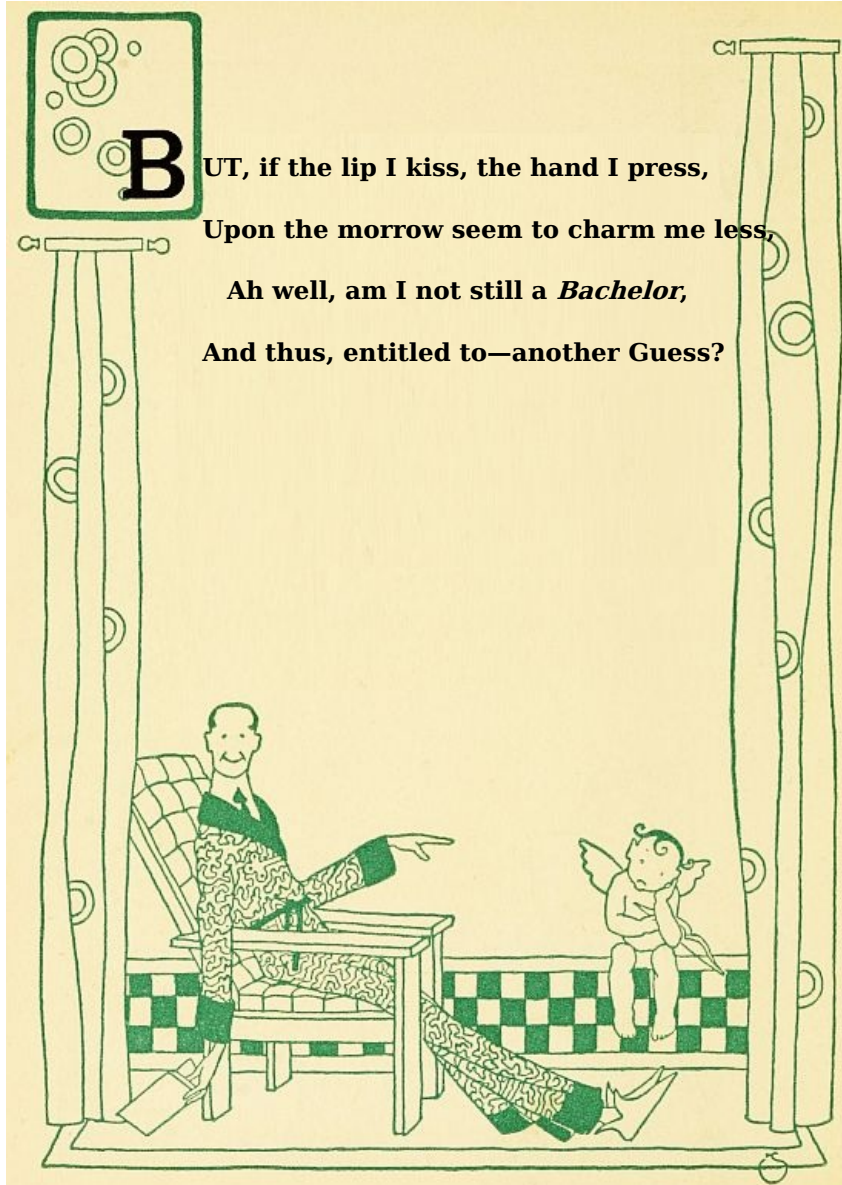


**W**

**ITH me, along that strip of Broadway strewn  
With lovely maids, each radiant afternoon,  
And think, of all the thousands you behold,  
That you can marry one—and *only one!***



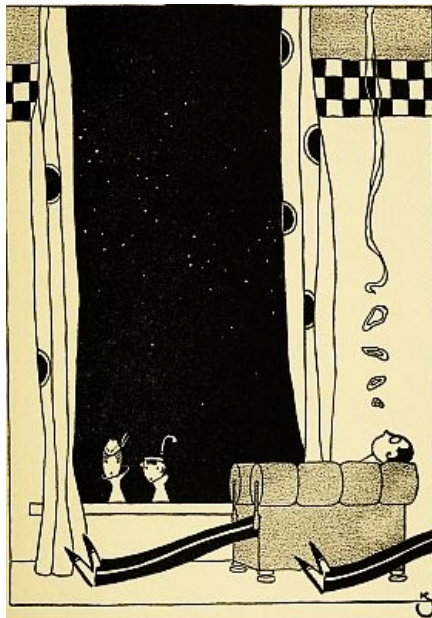
[28]



**B**UT, if the lip I kiss, the hand I press,  
Upon the morrow seem to charm me less,  
Ah well, am I not still a *Bachelor*,  
And thus, entitled to—another Guess?

[29]





SOME FOR THE COMFORTS OF A CLUB  
MAY SIGH.

[31]



**SOME for the comforts of a club may sigh,  
 And some for a hermit's lonely life. Not I!  
 Give me a cozy hearthside, and a Girl  
 Always "at home" when *I* chance by!**

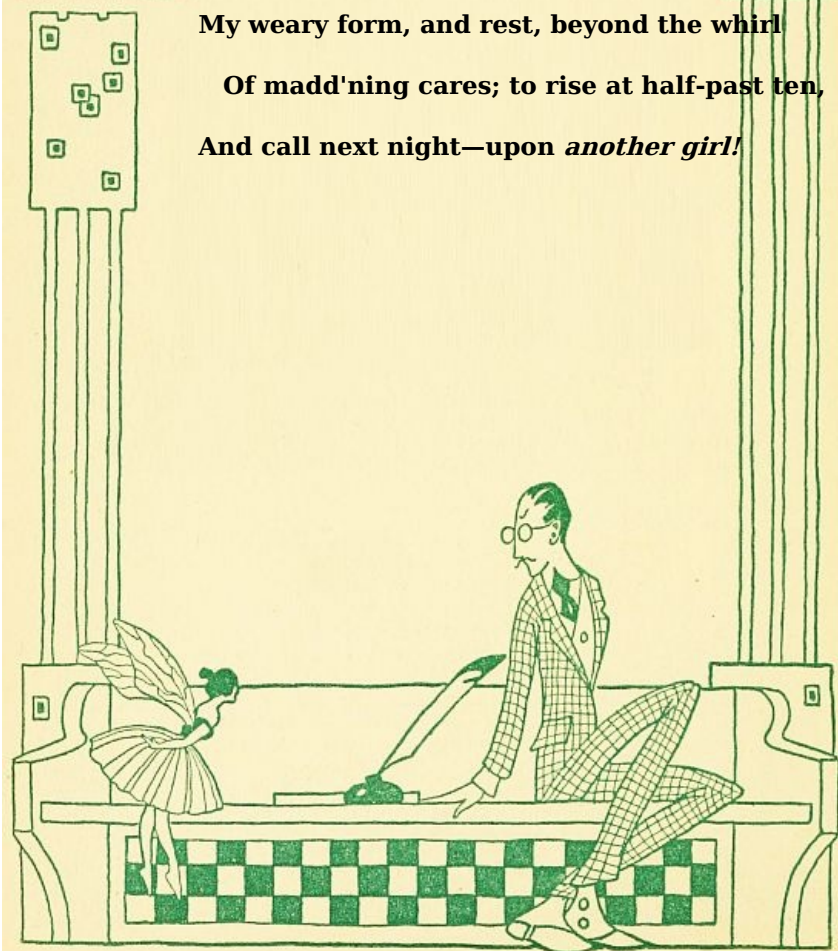


[32]



**H**

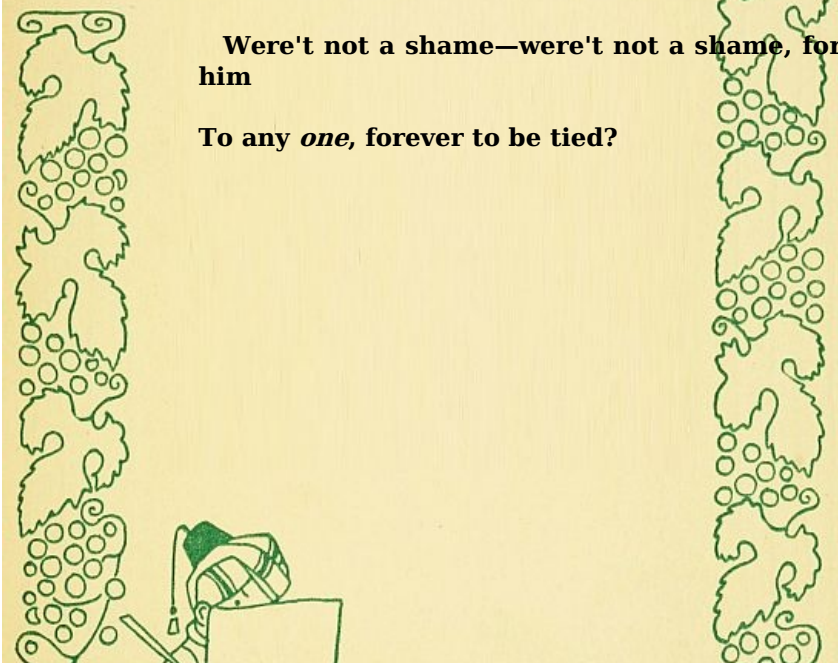
ER cushioned chair a spot where I may curl  
My weary form, and rest, beyond the whirl  
Of madd'ning cares; to rise at half-past ten,  
And call next night—upon *another girl!*

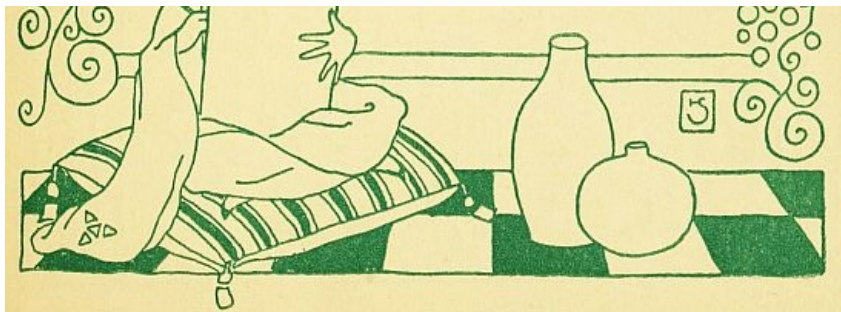


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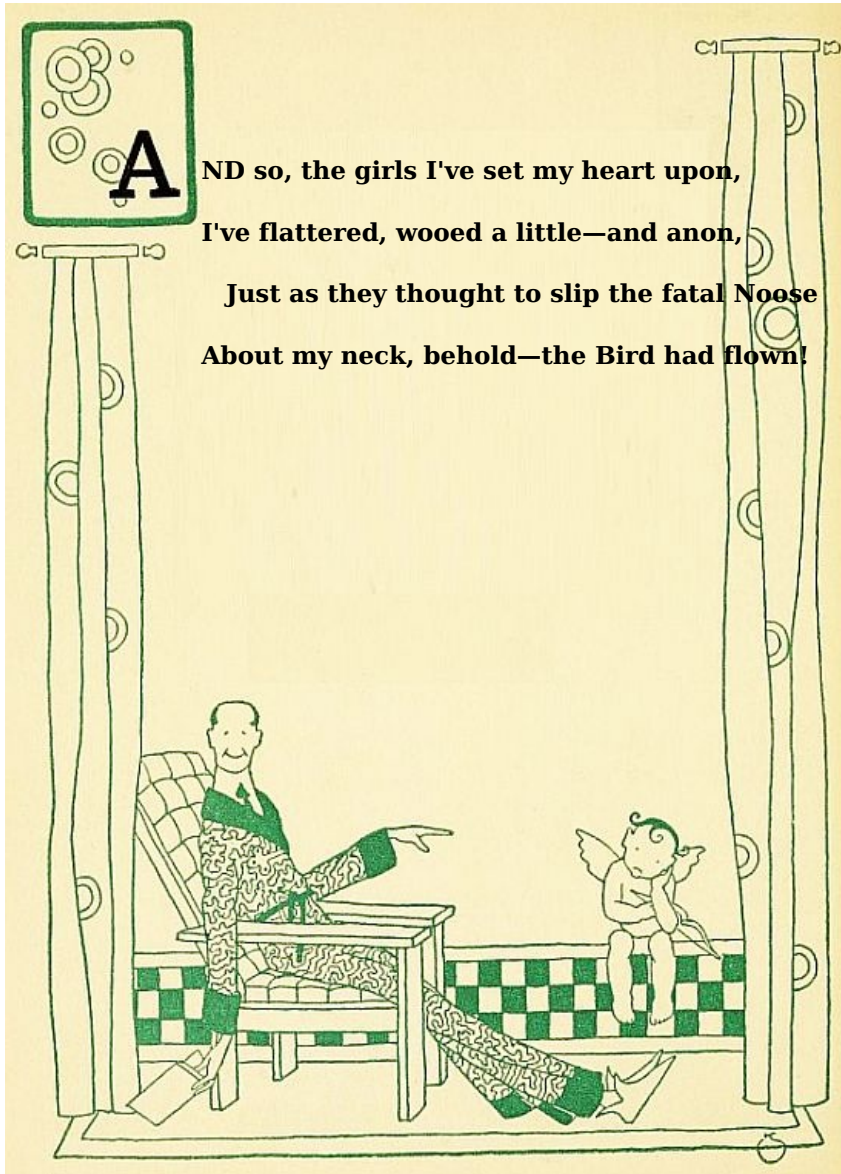
**W**

HY, if a man can thus, at ease, abide  
Each evening by a different damsel's side,  
Were't not a shame—were't not a shame, for  
him  
To any *one*, forever to be tied?

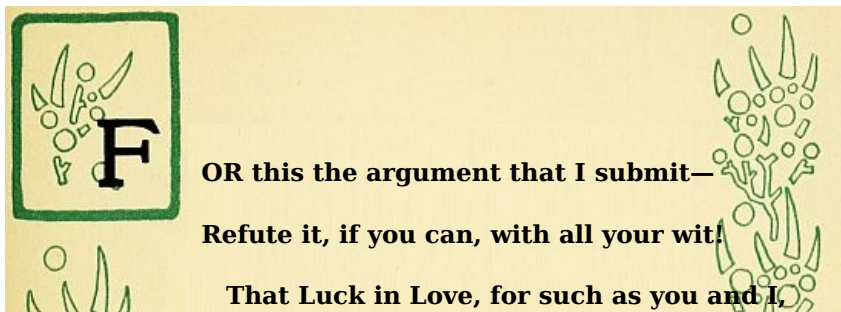




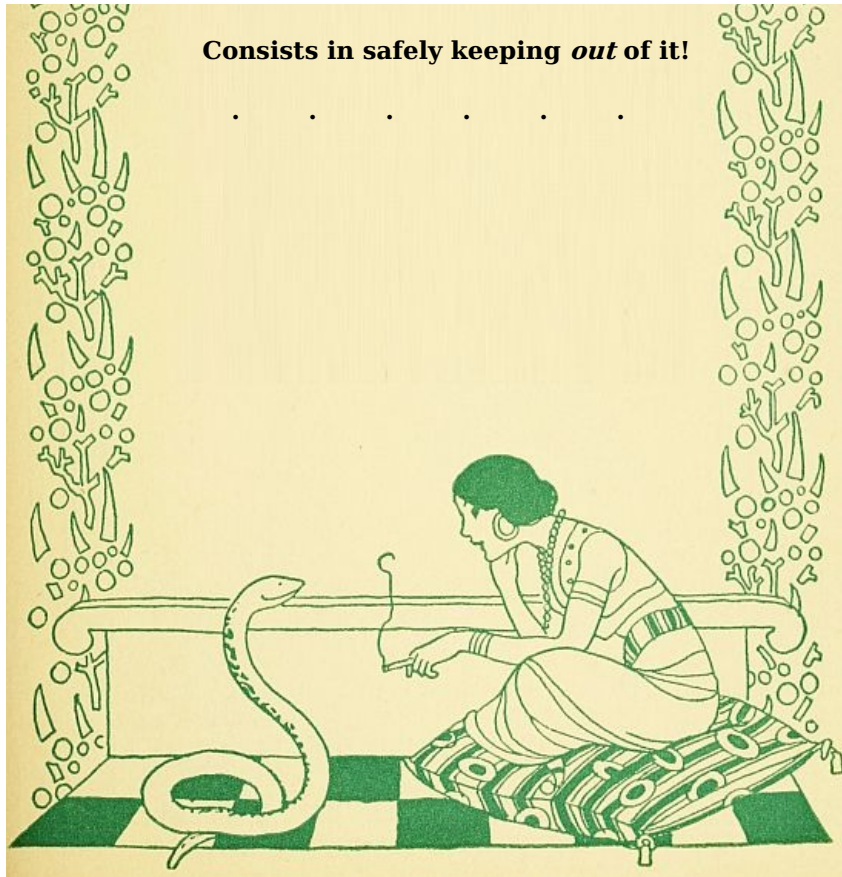
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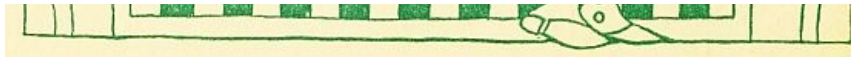
[35]



Consists in safely keeping *out* of it!



**T**HIS morn, I've quaffed at least a quart or more  
Of water—yet am thirsty as before;  
And that dark taste still lingers in the mouth  
With which, last night, I reformation swore.

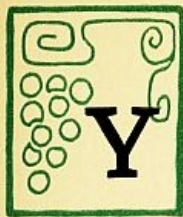


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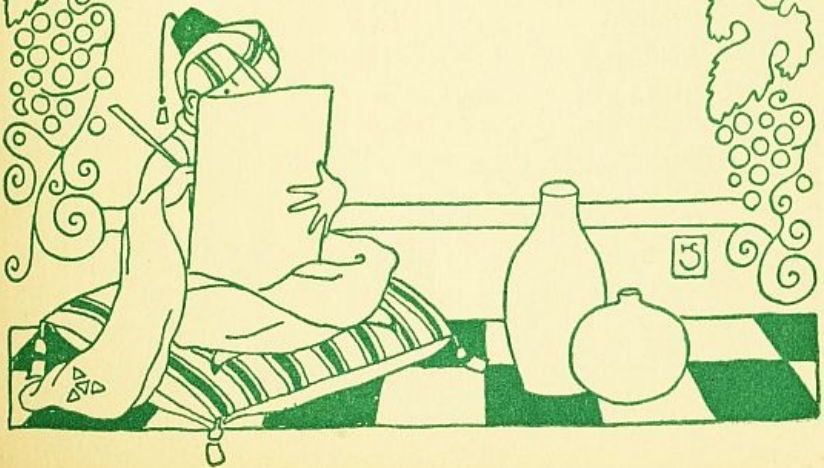


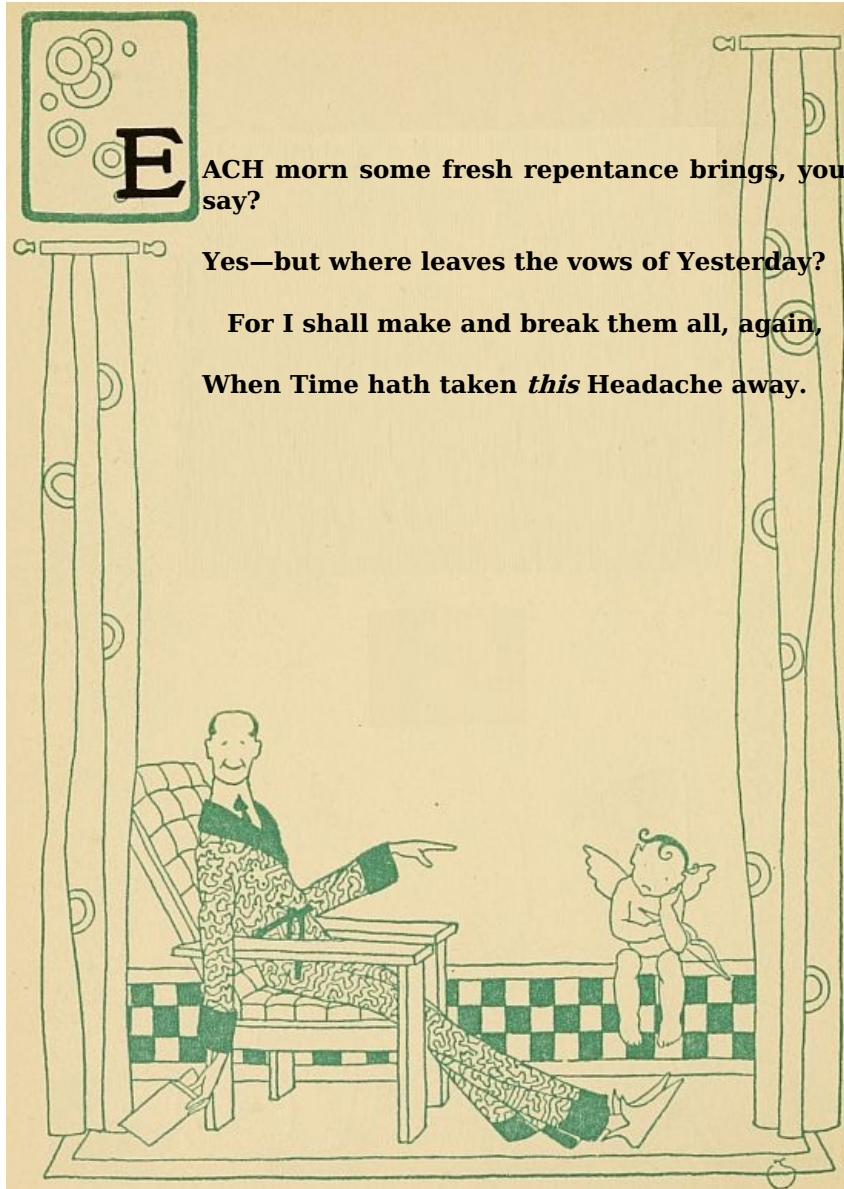
SOME ANGEL, WITH A SAVING DRINK.

[39]



**Y**ET, when some Angel, with a saving drink  
Of iced Nepenthe comes, I shall not shrink;  
But, having drunk of it, shall feel again  
As good and noble as before, I think.

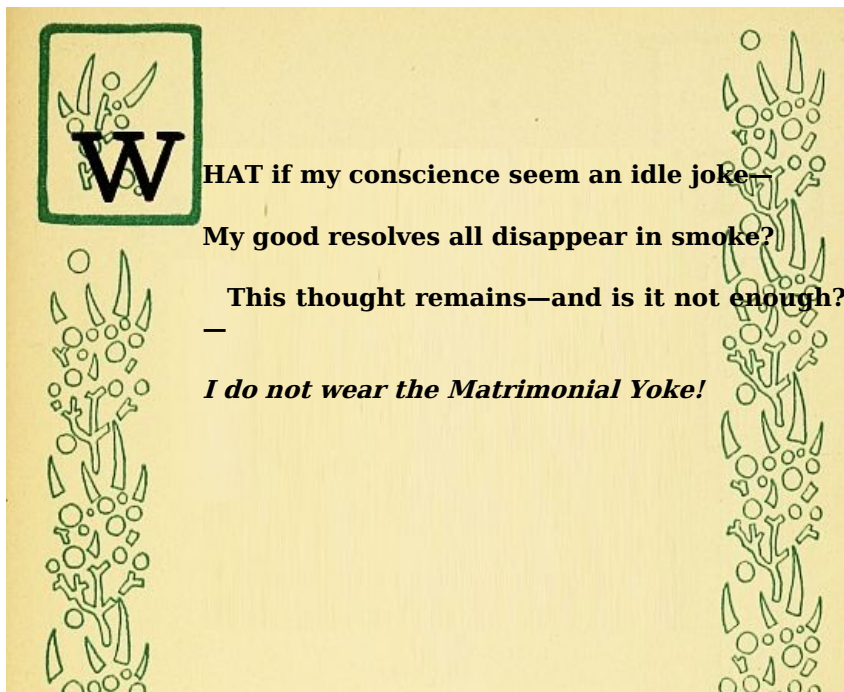




**E**ACH morn some fresh repentance brings, you say?

Yes—but where leaves the vows of Yesterday?

For I shall make and break them all, again,  
When Time hath taken *this* Headache away.



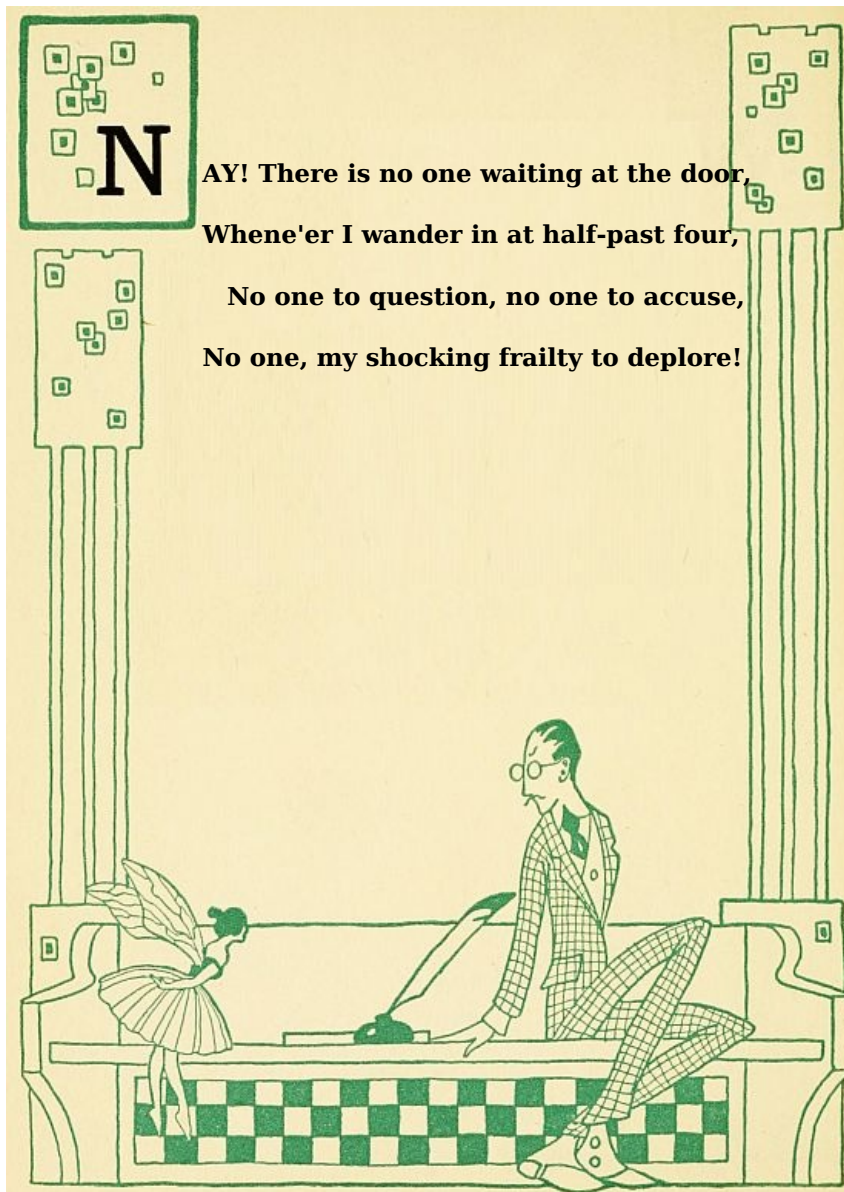
**W**HAT if my conscience seem an idle joke—  
My good resolves all disappear in smoke?

This thought remains—and is it not enough?

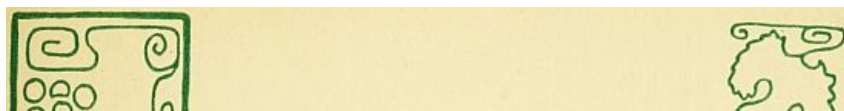
—  
*I do not wear the Matrimonial Yoke!*

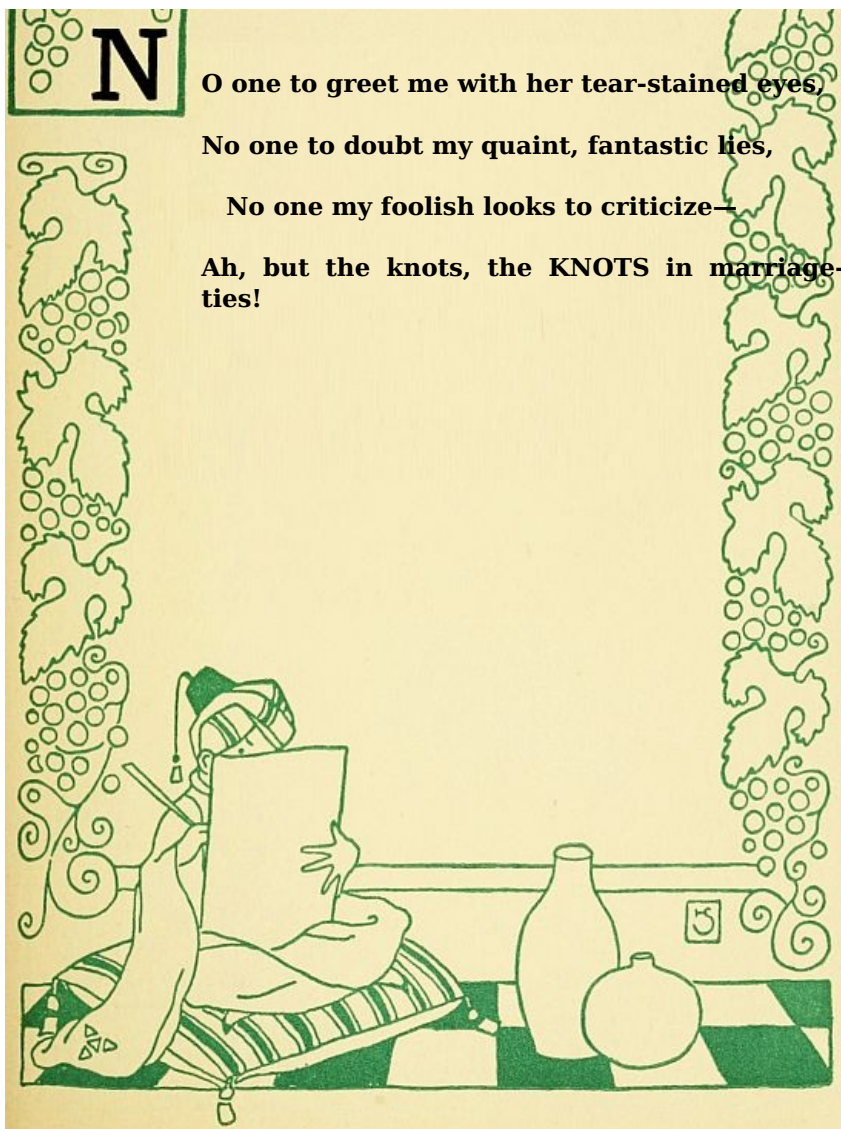


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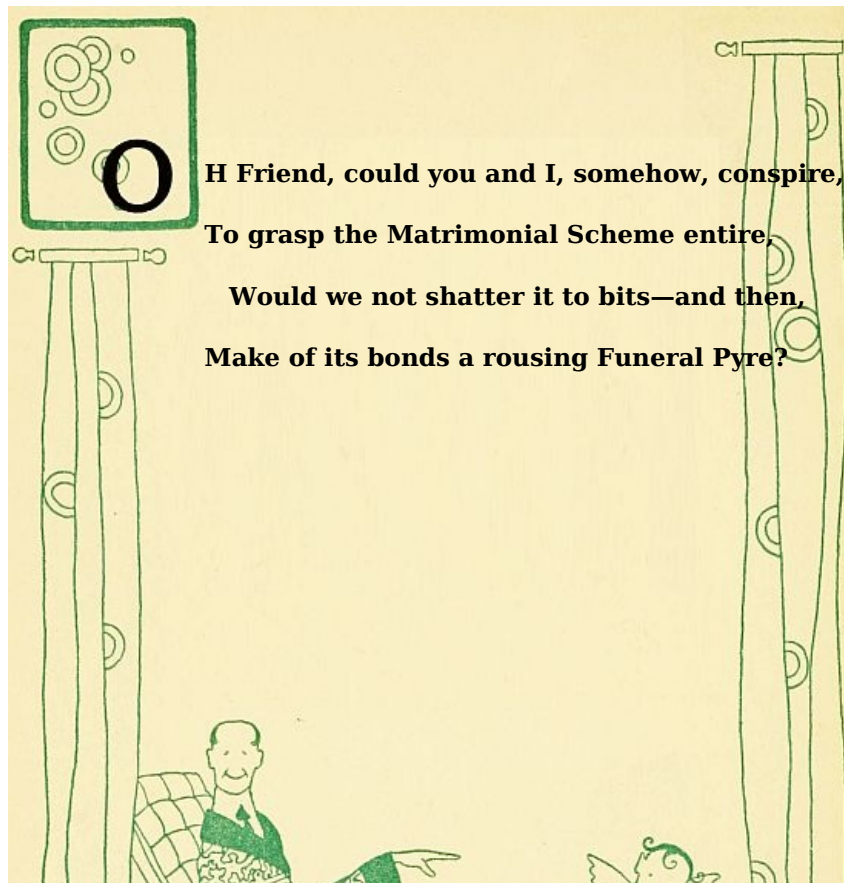


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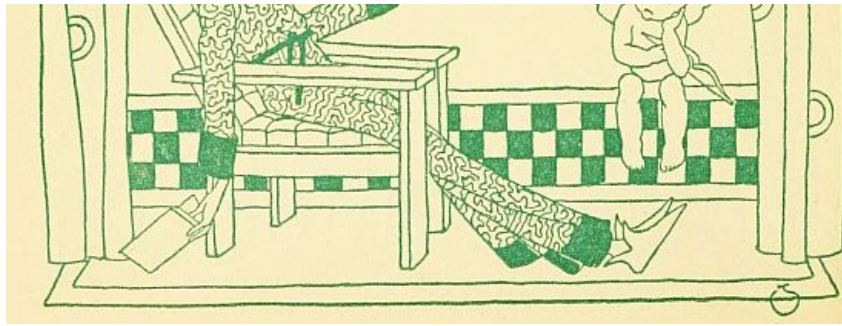




[44]







**M**YSELF, when young, did eagerly frequent  
The weddings of my friends on Bondage bent;  
But evermore thanked Fate, when I escaped  
Scot-free, by that same door wherein I went.

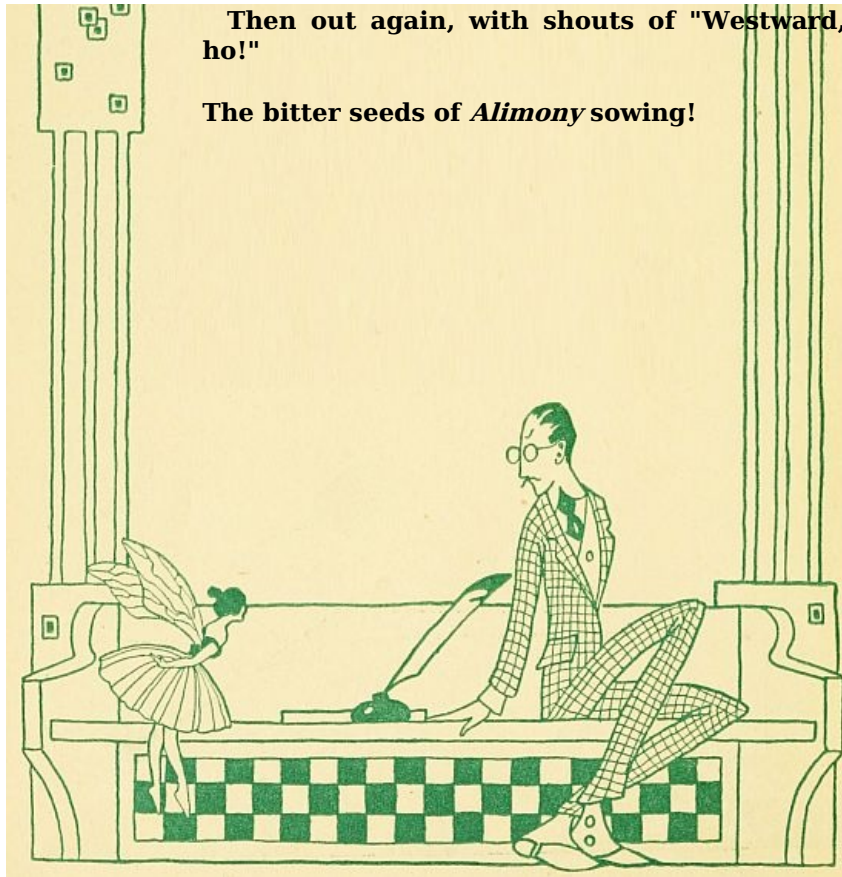
A line drawing of a woman in a sari sitting on a bench. She is looking down at a snake that is coiled on the floor in front of her. The background is decorated with vertical borders of floral and geometric patterns.

**I**NTO the fatal compact, why not knowing,  
I've seen them go, nor dream where they were  
going;

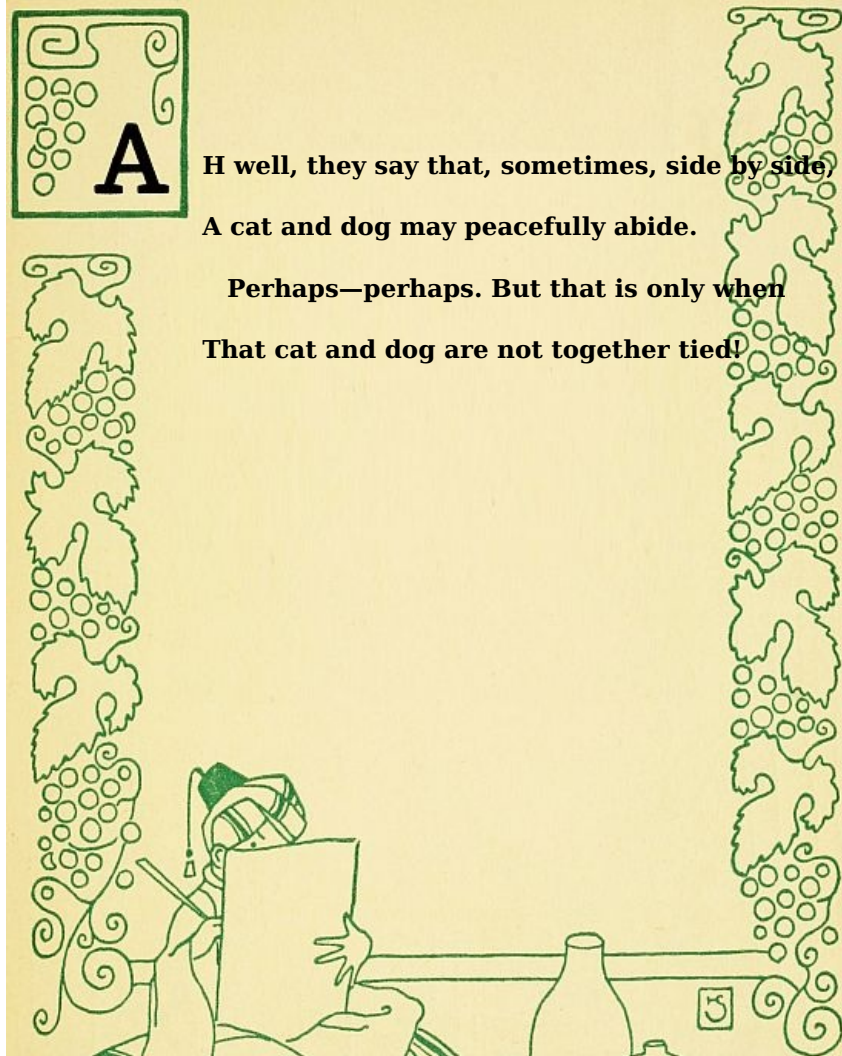
A line drawing of a wall with several small squares scattered across it. The drawing is partially cut off on the left and right sides.

Then out again, with shouts of "Westward,  
ho!"

The bitter seeds of *Alimony* sowing!



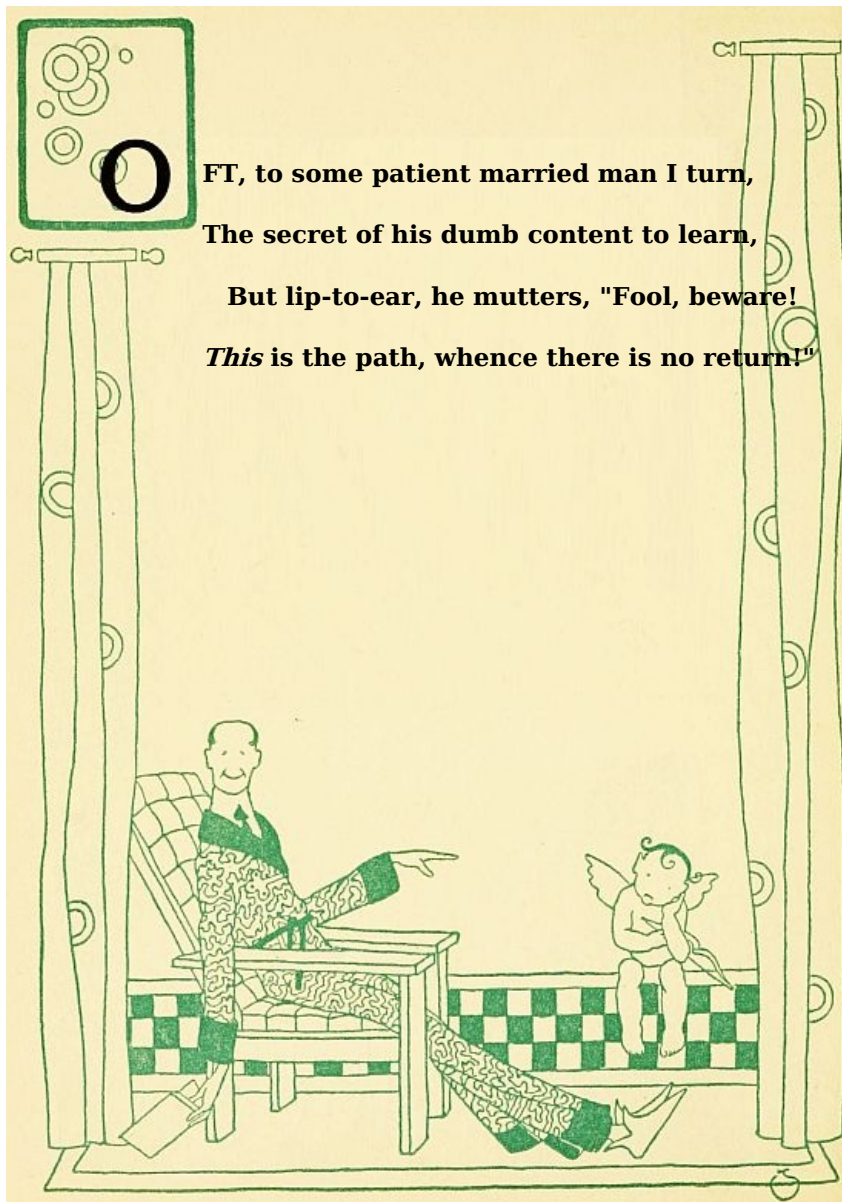
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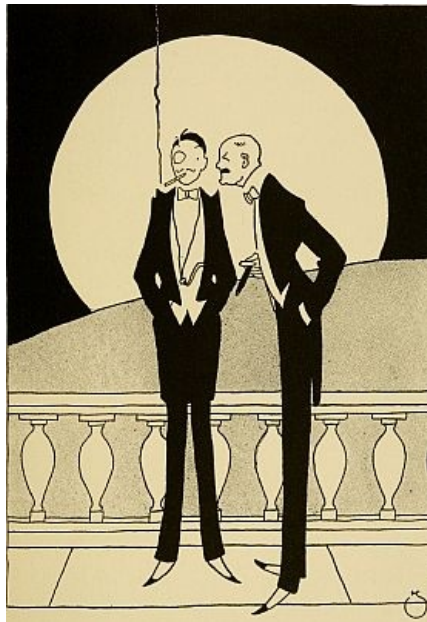


**A**

H well, they say that, sometimes, side by side,  
A cat and dog may peacefully abide.


Perhaps—perhaps. But that is only when  
That cat and dog are not together tied!






BUT, LIP-TO-EAR, HE MUTTERS, "FOOL,  
BEWARE!"


[51]



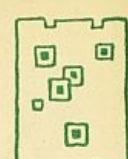
**O** H, threats of Hell, and hopes of Paradise!  
One thing is certain—when a Husband dies,  
No wife shall greet him *there* with "Where's"  
or  
"Why's"  
Nor mock with laughter his most subtle lies!

An illustration of a woman in a sari sitting on a bench. She is looking down at a snake that is coiled around the bench. The snake is looking up at her. The background is a light yellow color with a decorative border of floral and geometric patterns.

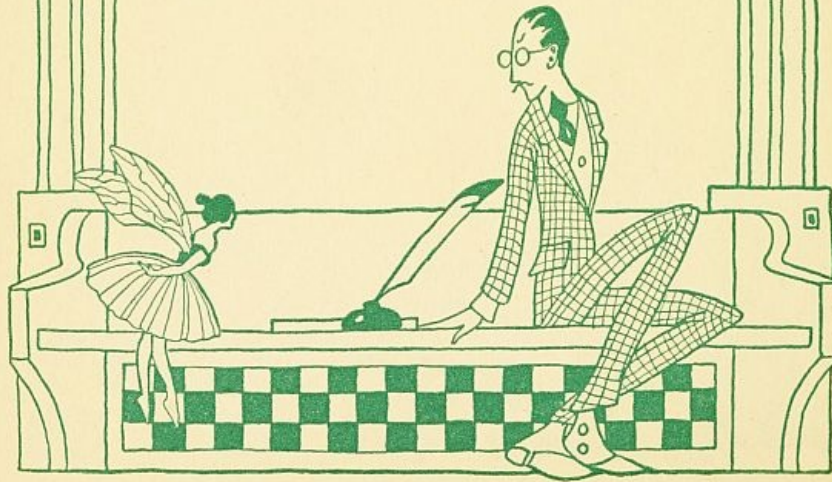
[52]



**N**



**O matter whether up or down he goes,  
He neither cares nor questions, I suppose;  
Since Death can hold no bitterness for him,  
Because—because—Oh well, he knows, HE  
KNOWS!**



[53]



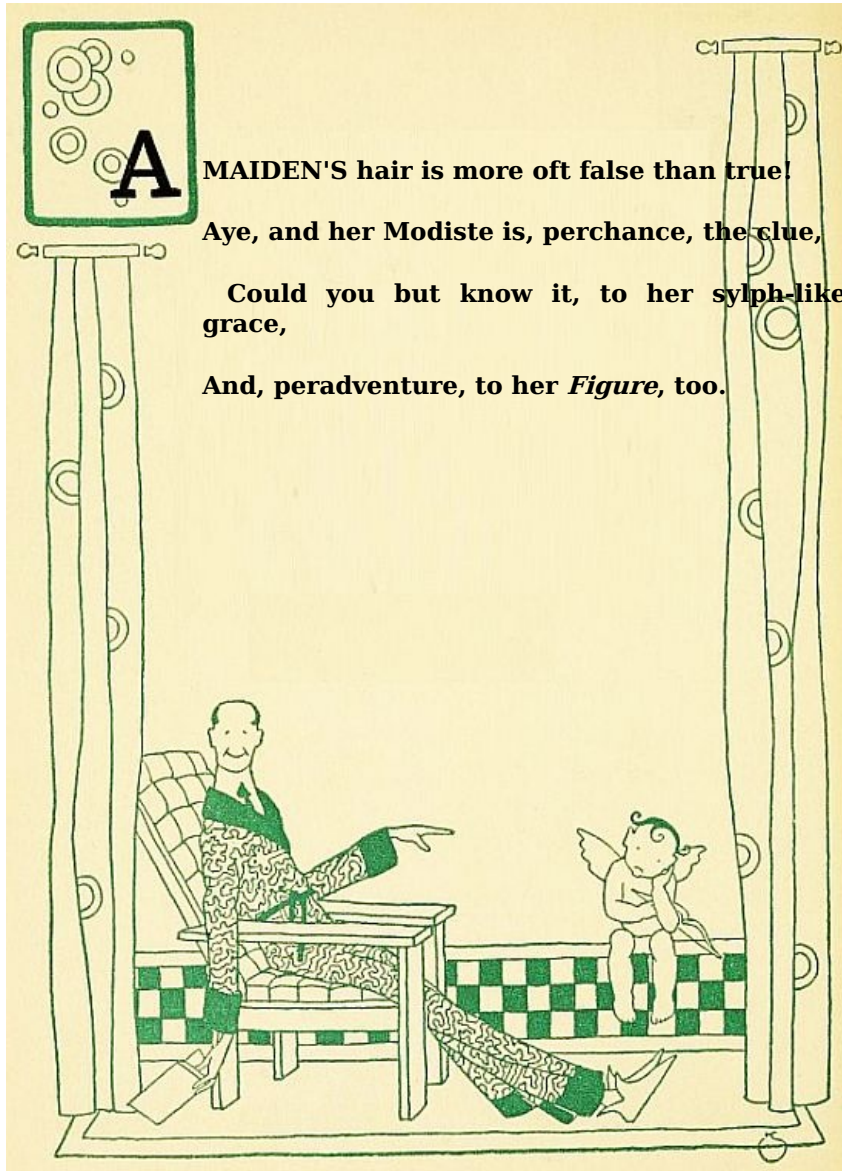
**WOULD you the spangle of existence spend  
In Matrimony? Slow about, my Friend!**

**A maiden's hair is more oft false than true,  
And on the chemist may her blush depend.**

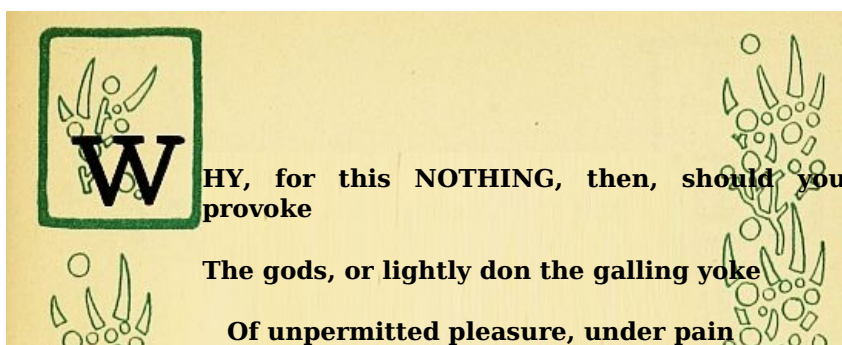




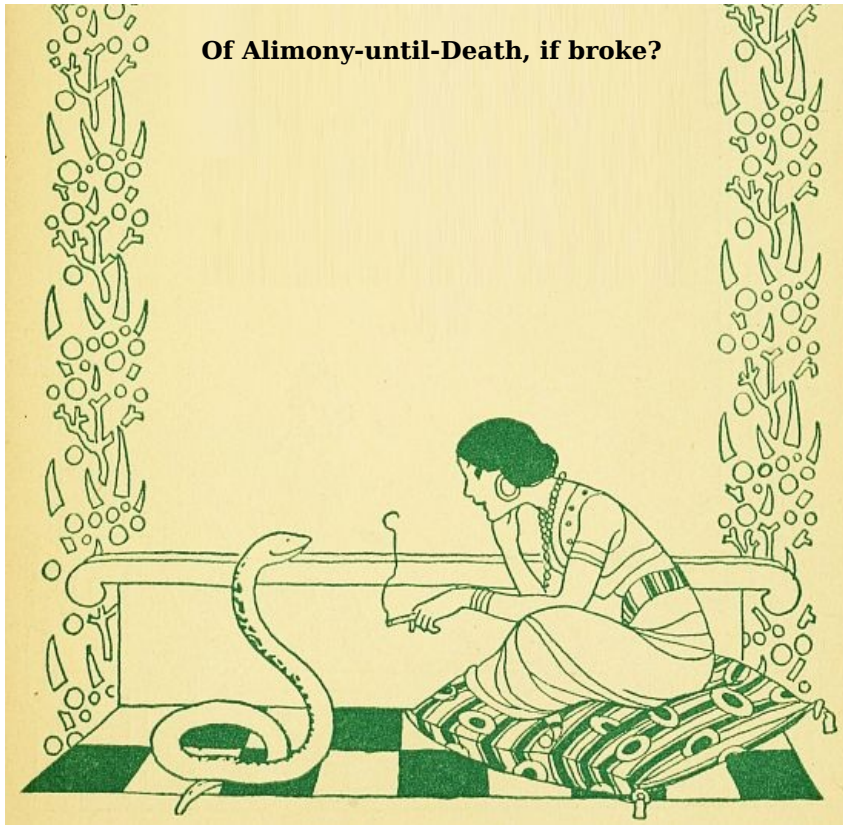
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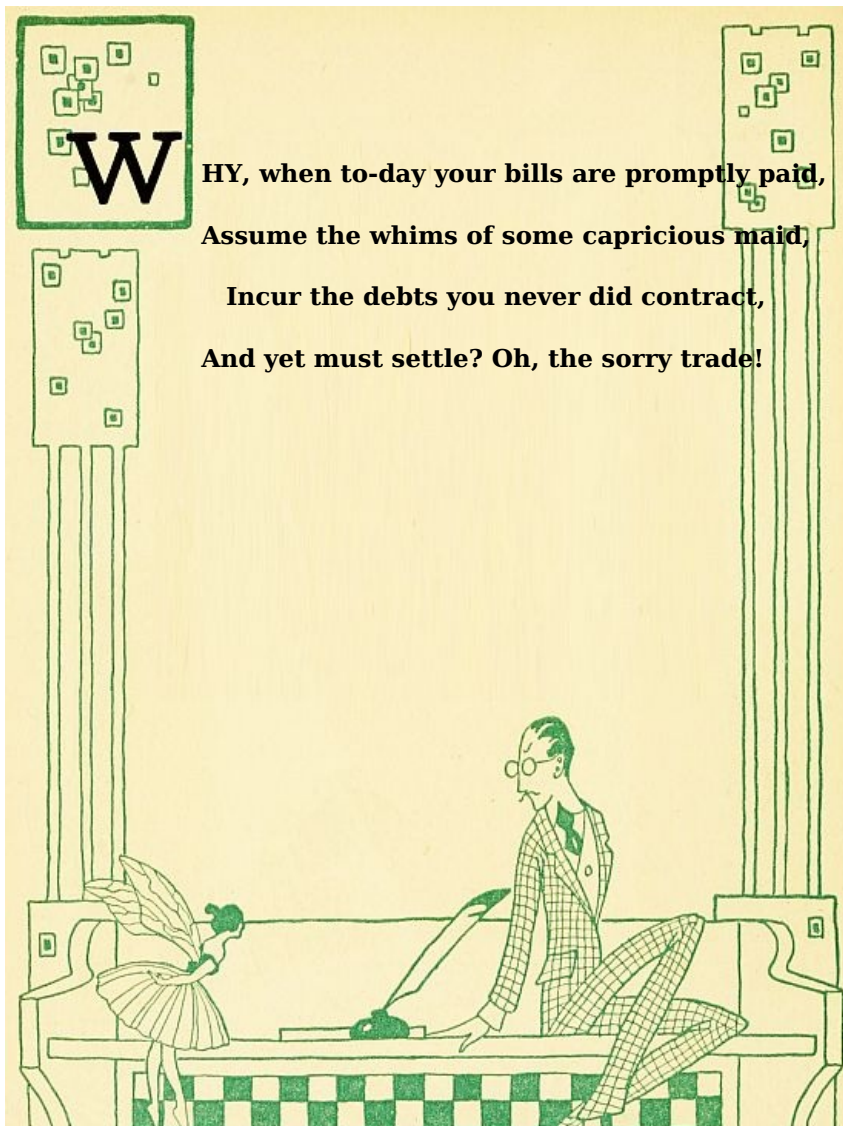
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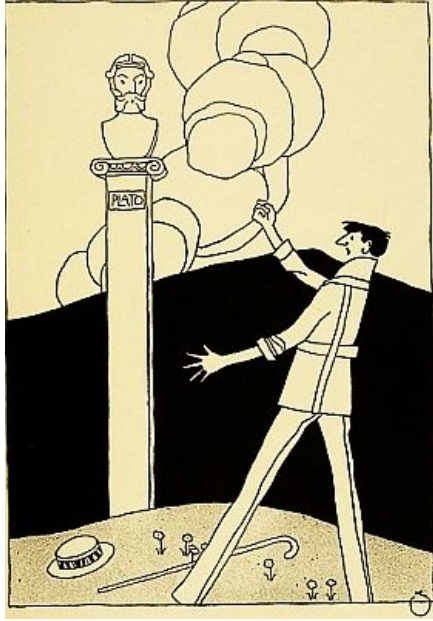


**Of Alimony-until-Death, if broke?**

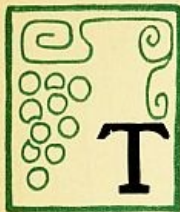


[56]





I SWORE—BUT WAS I SOBER WHEN I  
SWORE?

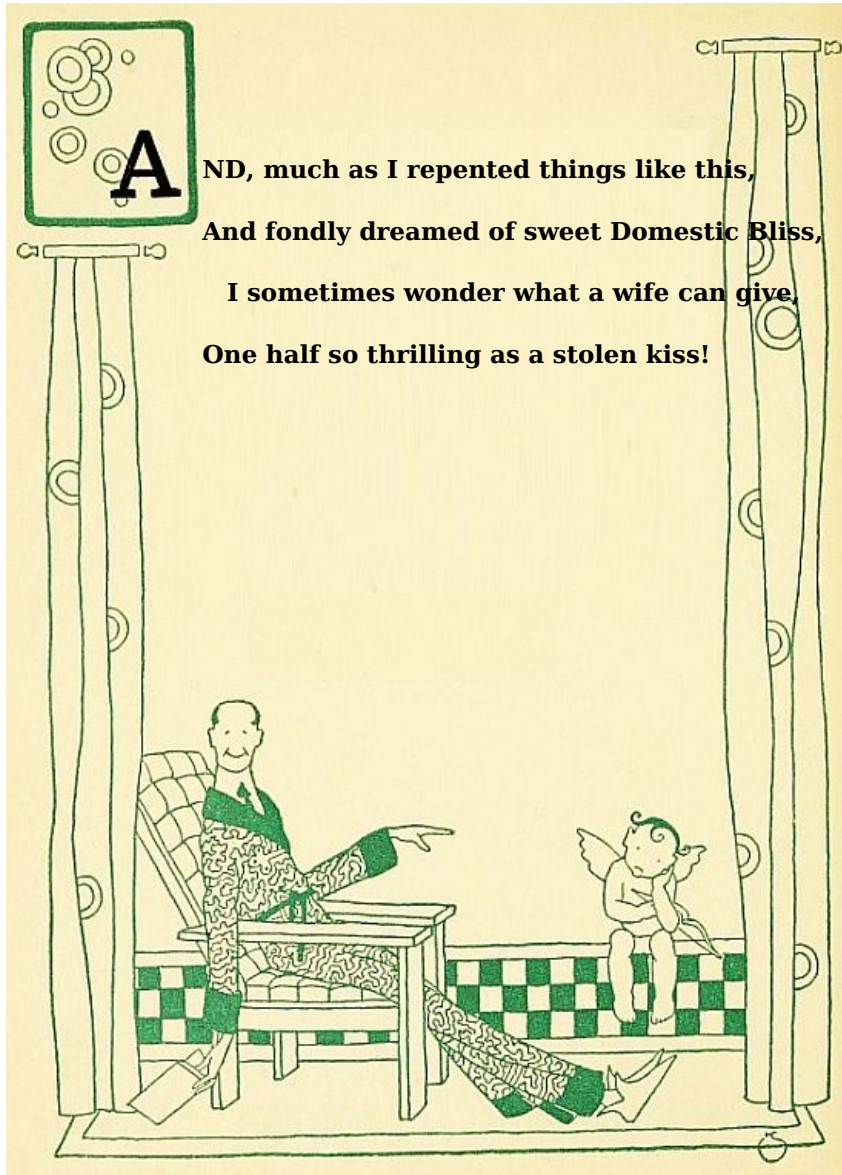


O "settle down and marry," oft of yore  
I swore—but was I sober when I swore?

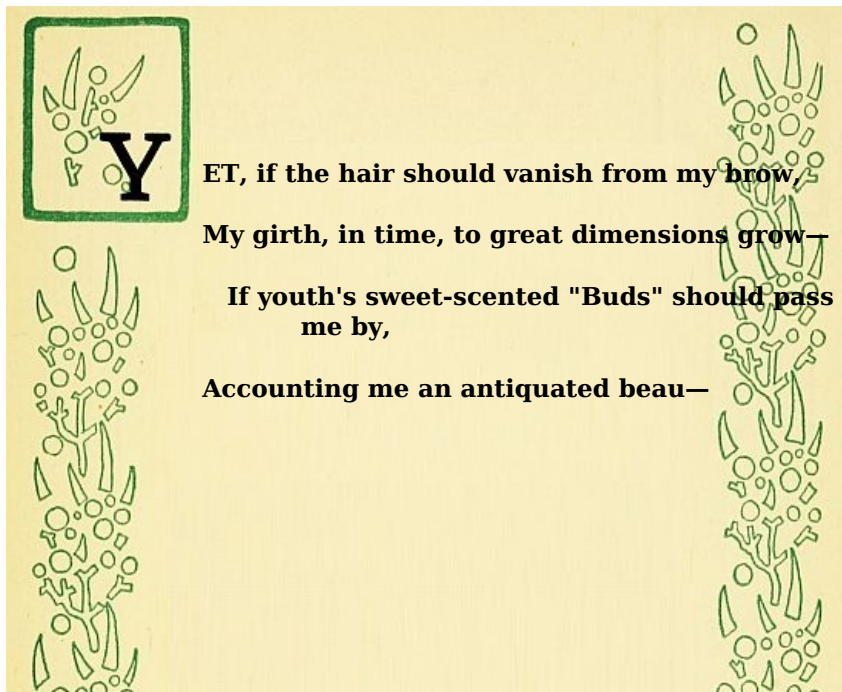
And then there came another girl—and I  
Turned gaily to the old Love-Game, once  
more.







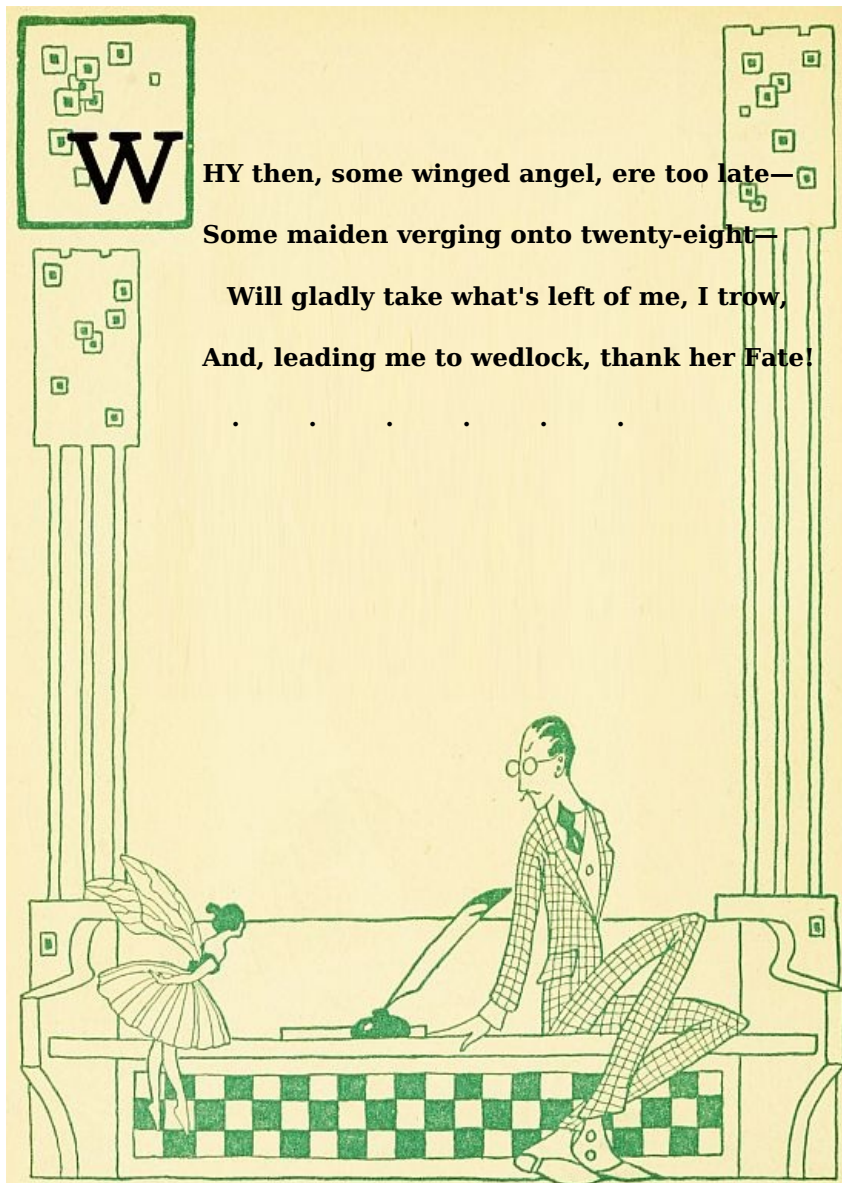
**AND, much as I repented things like this,  
 And fondly dreamed of sweet Domestic Bliss,  
 I sometimes wonder what a wife can give,  
 One half so thrilling as a stolen kiss!**



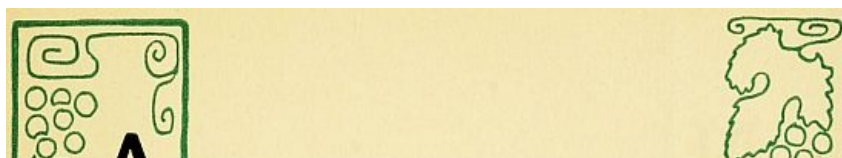
**YET, if the hair should vanish from my brow,  
 My girth, in time, to great dimensions grow—  
 If youth's sweet-scented "Buds" should pass  
 me by,  
 Accounting me an antiquated beau—**



[62]



[63]



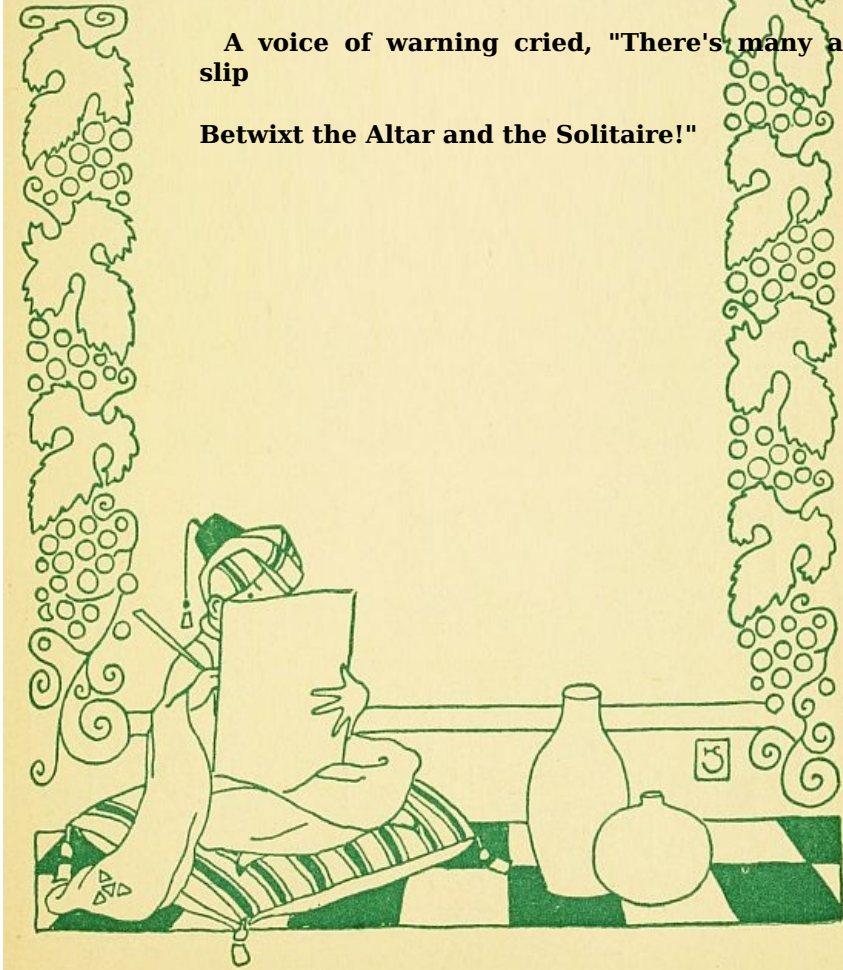
**A**

LAS, for those who may to-day prepare

The wedding trousseau for the morrow's wear,

A voice of warning cried, "There's many a slip

Betwixt the Altar and the Solitaire!"



[64]

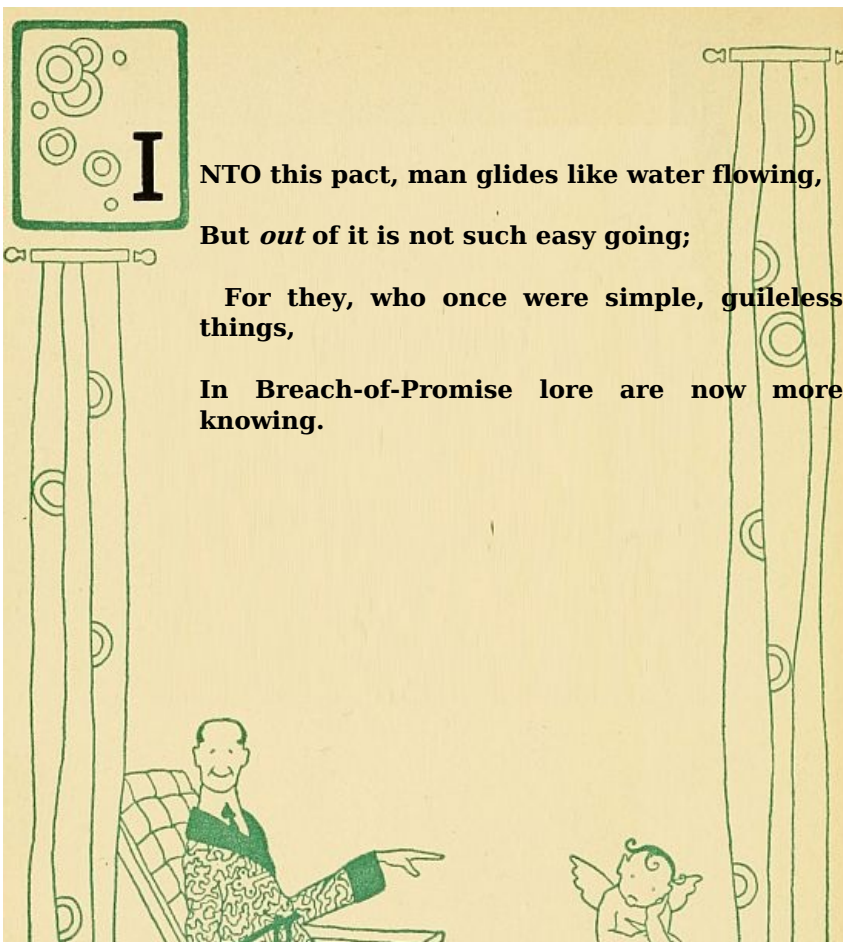
**I**

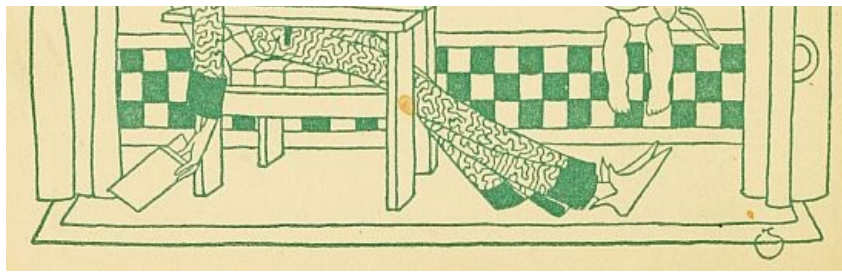
NTO this pact, man glides like water flowing,

But *out* of it is not such easy going;

For they, who once were simple, guileless things,

In Breach-of-Promise lore are now more knowing.





[65]

**WHAT! WOULD YOU CAST A LOVING  
WOMAN HENCE?**

W

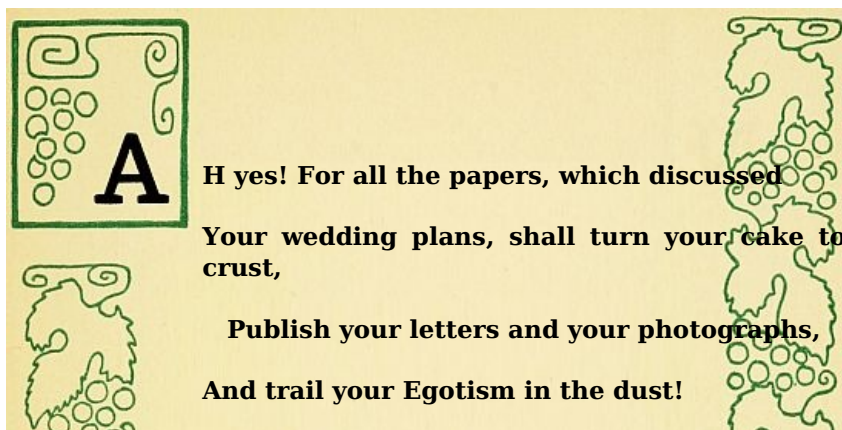
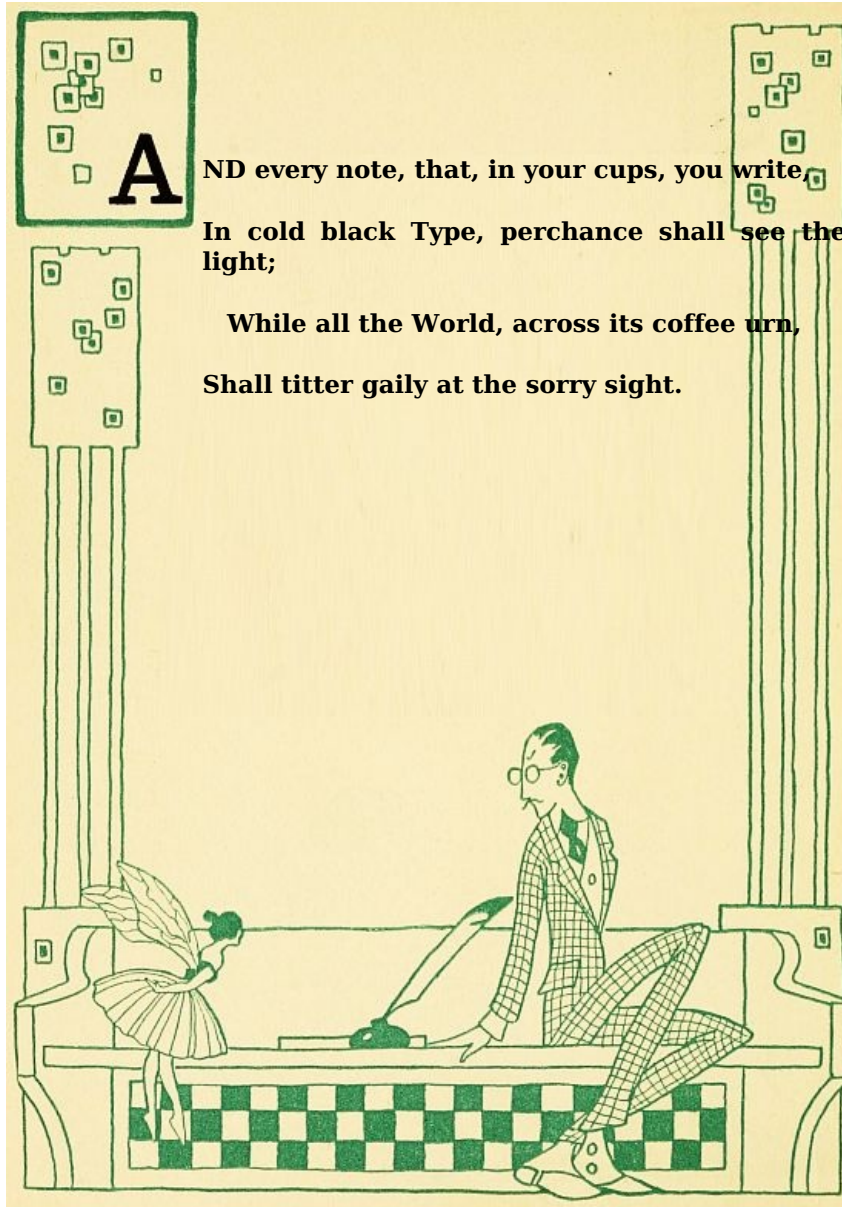
**HAT! Would you cast a loving Woman hence?**

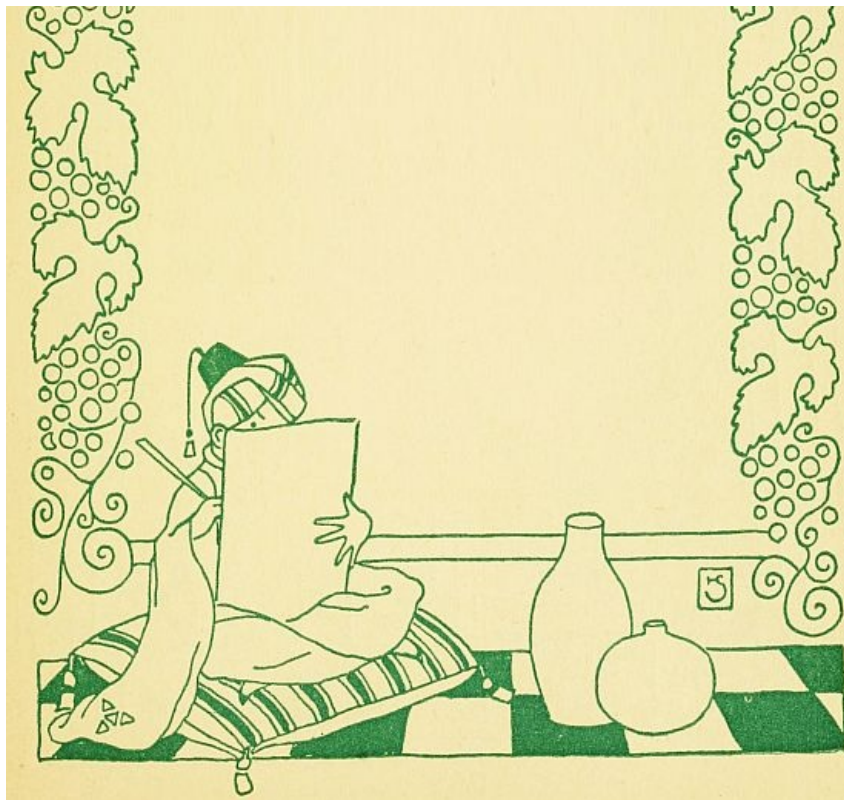
**Thou, Fickle One, prepare for penitence!**

**Full many a golden ducat shall you pay,**

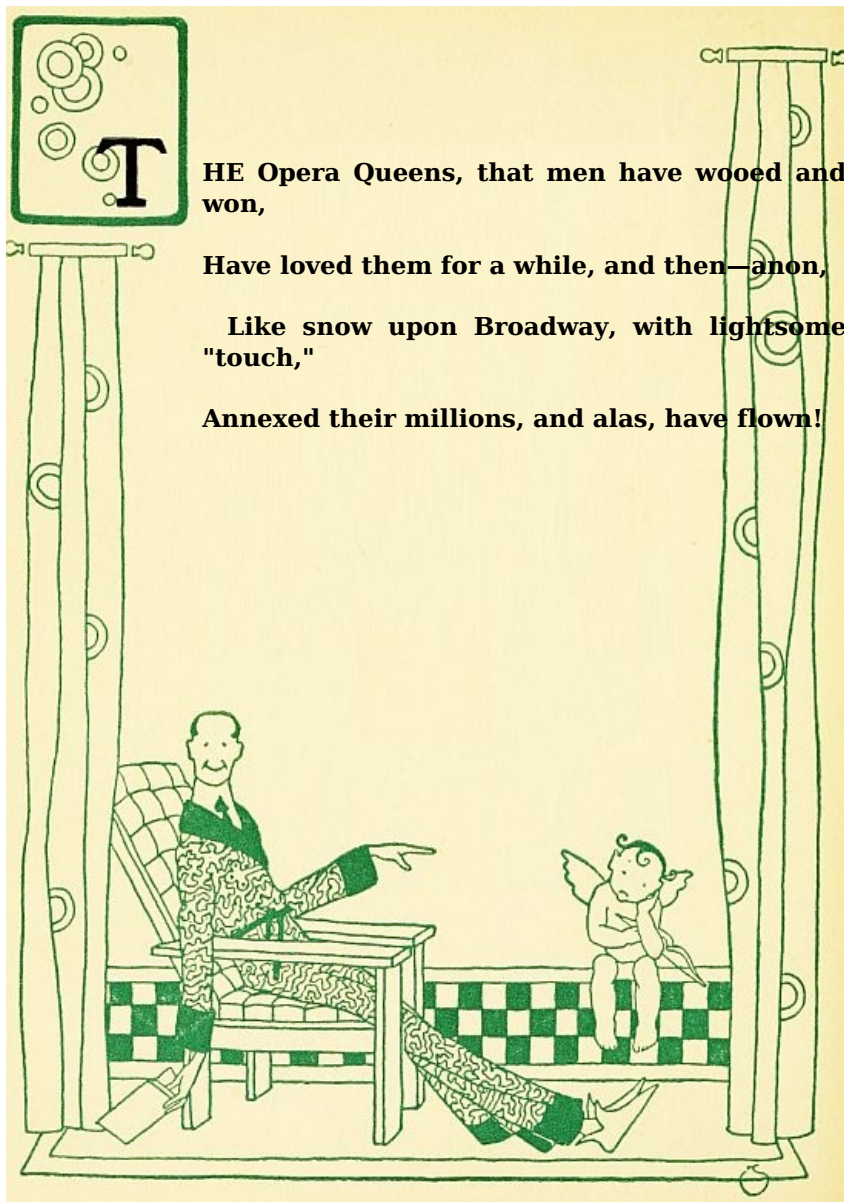
**To drown the memory of such insolence.**

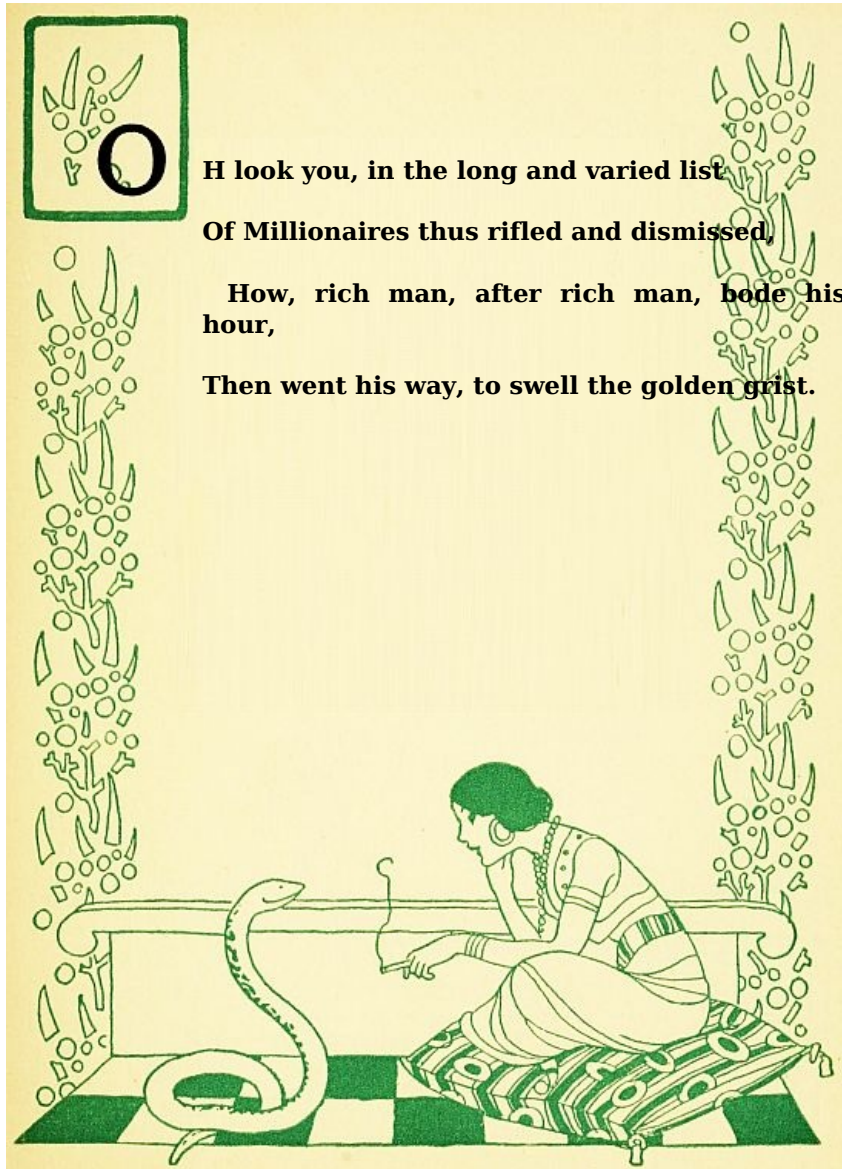
[67]





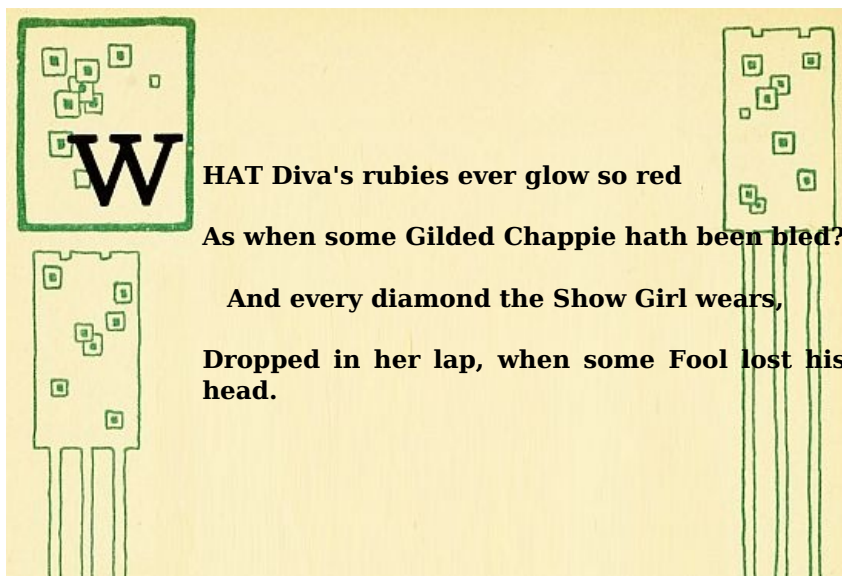
[70]





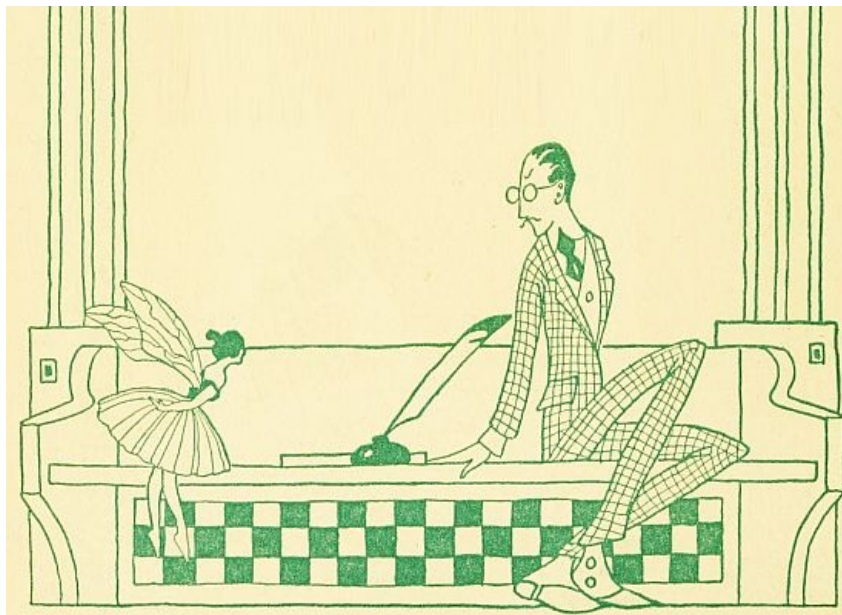
**O**

**H** look you, in the long and varied list  
**O**f Millionaires thus rifled and dismissed,  
**H**ow, rich man, after rich man, bode his  
**h**our,  
**T**hen went his way, to swell the golden grist.

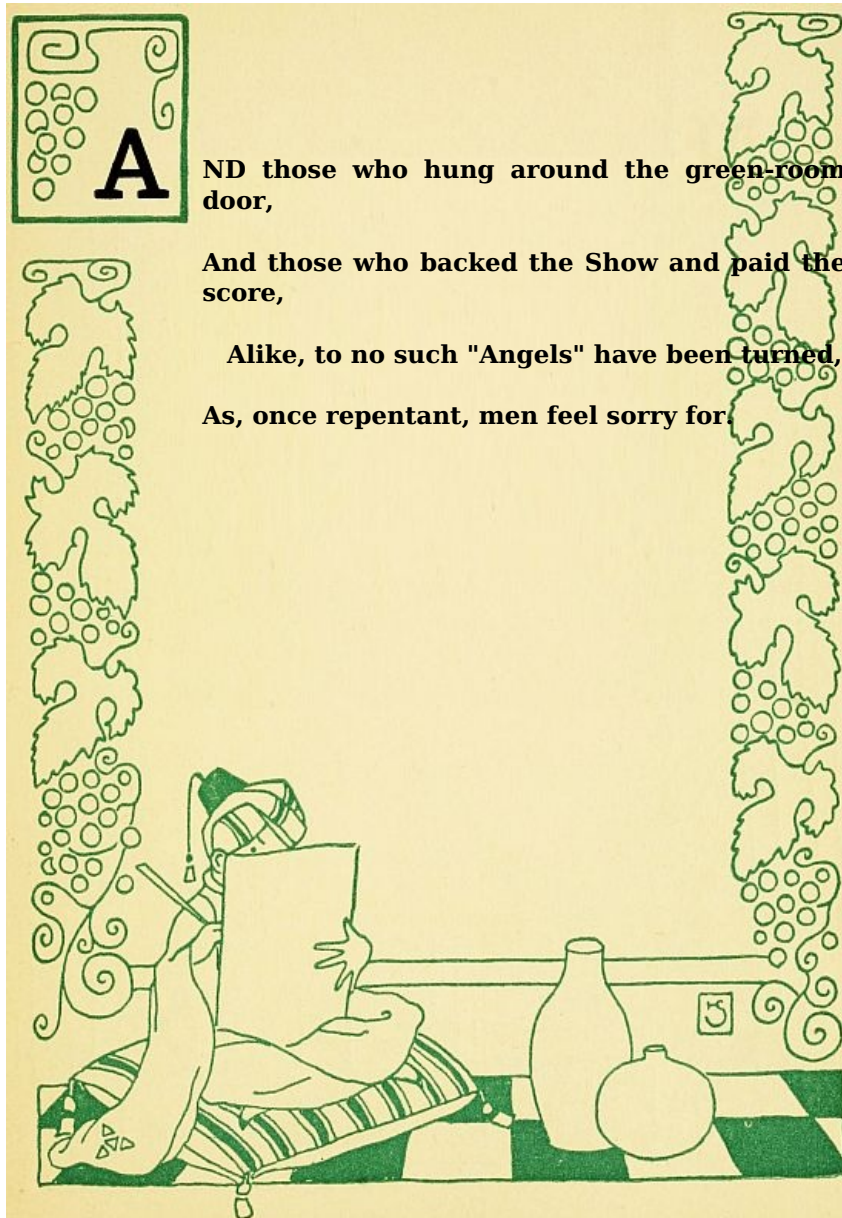


**W**

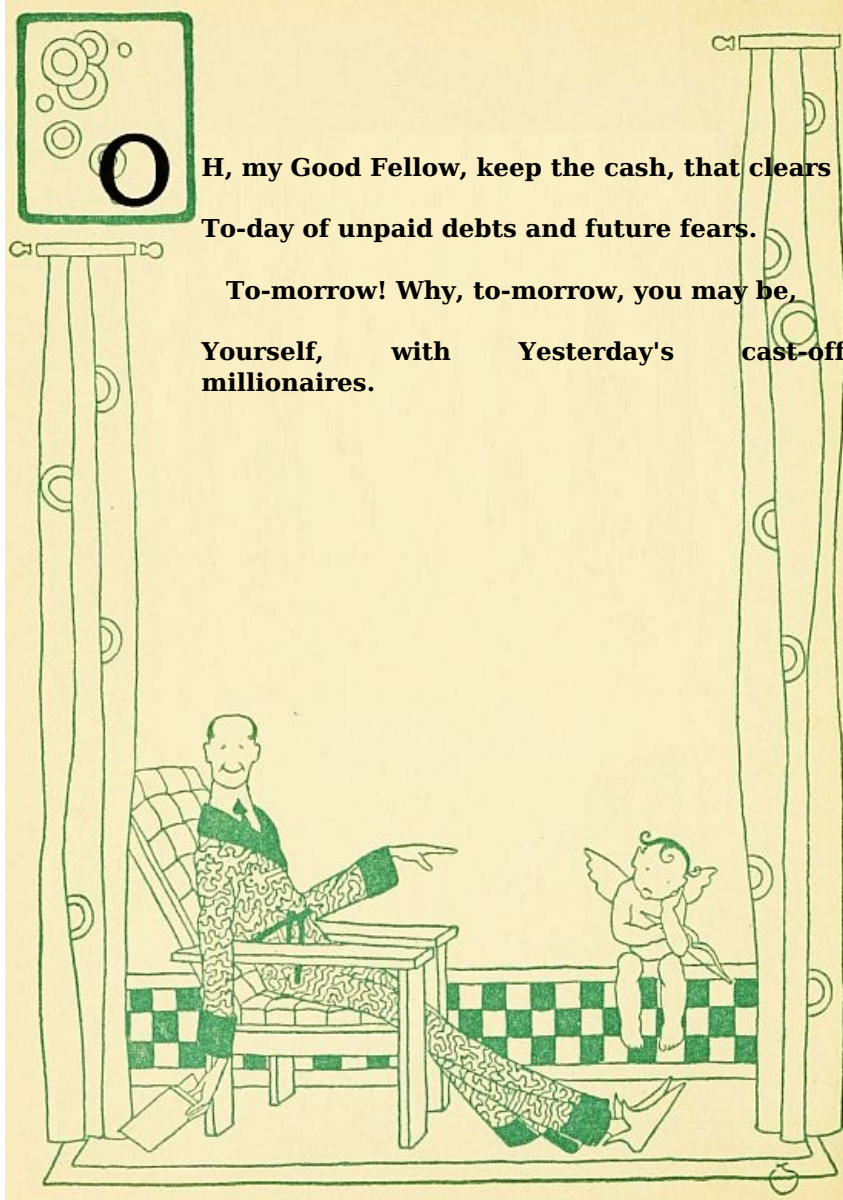
**W**HAT Diva's rubies ever glow so red  
**A**s when some Gilded Chappie hath been bled?  
**A**nd every diamond the Show Girl wears,  
**D**ropped in her lap, when some Fool lost his  
**h**ead.



[73]



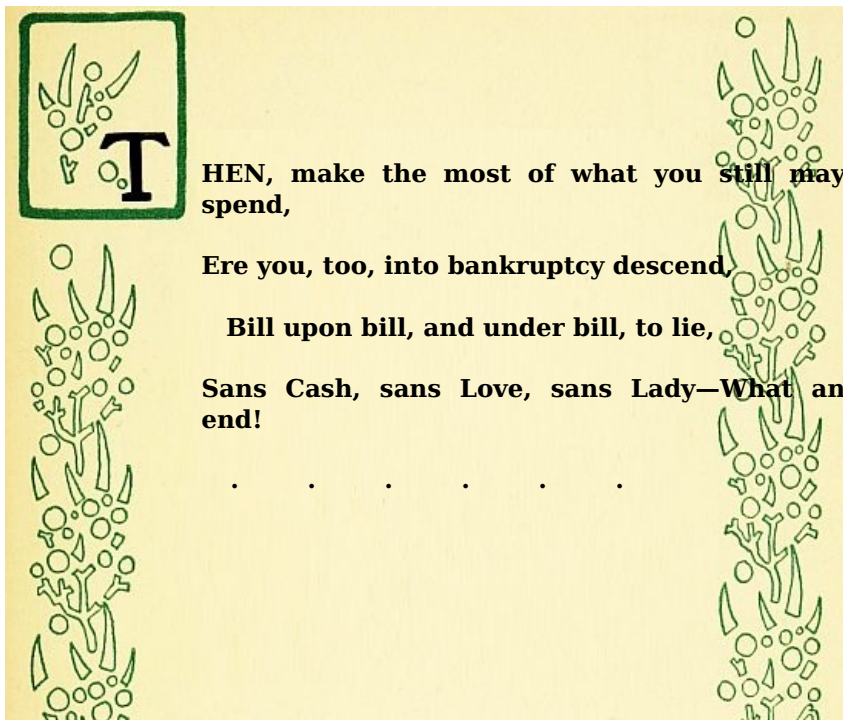




**O**

**H, my Good Fellow, keep the cash, that clears  
To-day of unpaid debts and future fears.**

**To-morrow! Why, to-morrow, you may be,  
Yourself, with Yesterday's cast-off  
millionaires.**



**T**

**HEN, make the most of what you still may  
spend,**

**Ere you, too, into bankruptcy descend,**

**Bill upon bill, and under bill, to lie,**

**Sans Cash, sans Love, sans Lady—What an  
end!**

. . . . .



[76]

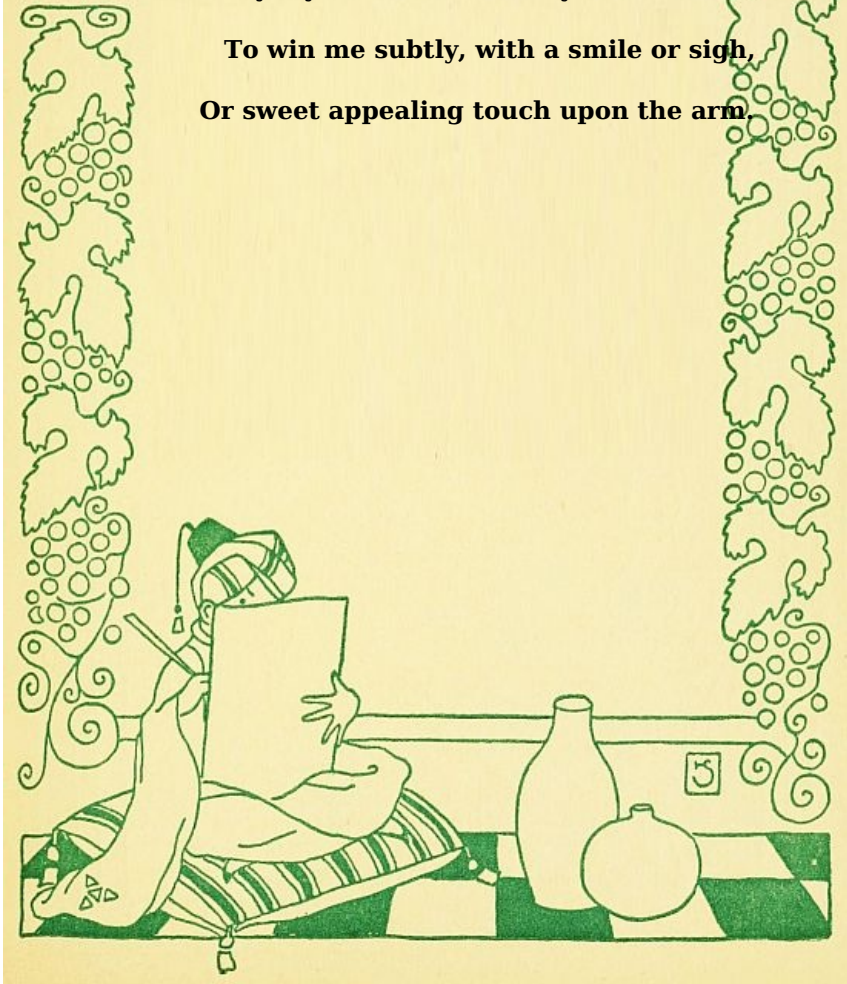
**W**ASTE not your evenings in the vain pursuit  
Of this or that girl. Bittersweet the fruit!  
Better be jocund with them, one and all,  
And loving *many*, thus your love dilute.

[77]



**S**

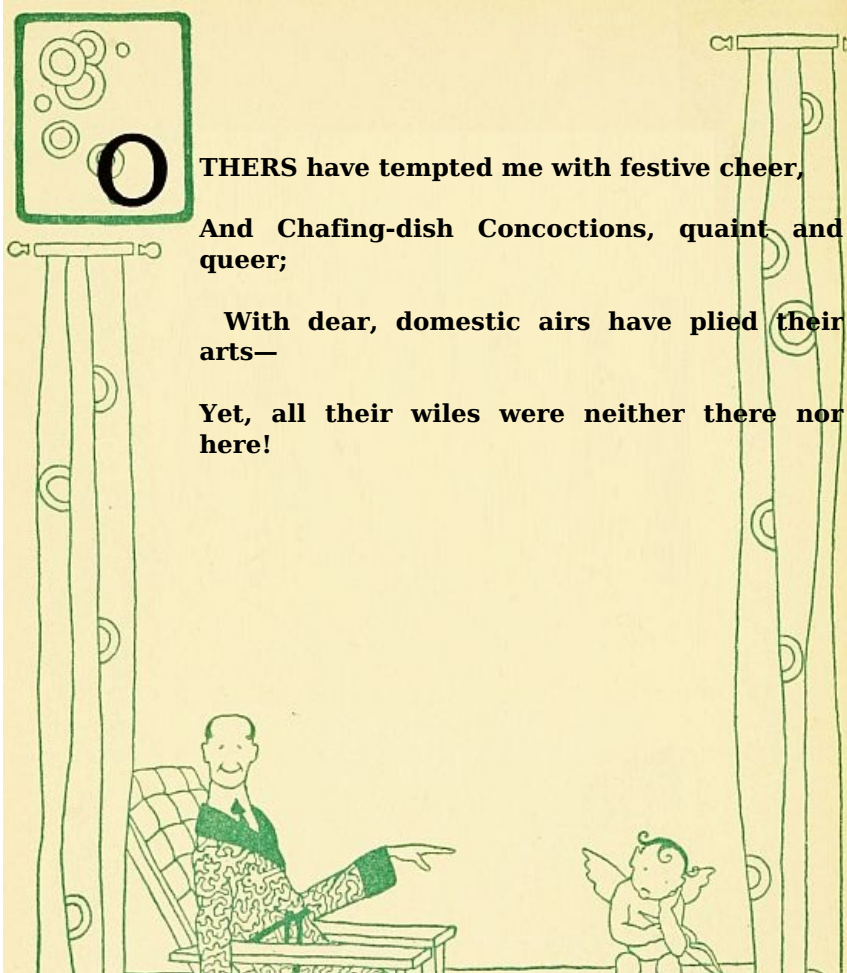
**OME, with vivacity have sought to charm  
Away my fears, and still my soul's alarm;  
To win me subtly, with a smile or sigh,  
Or sweet appealing touch upon the arm.**

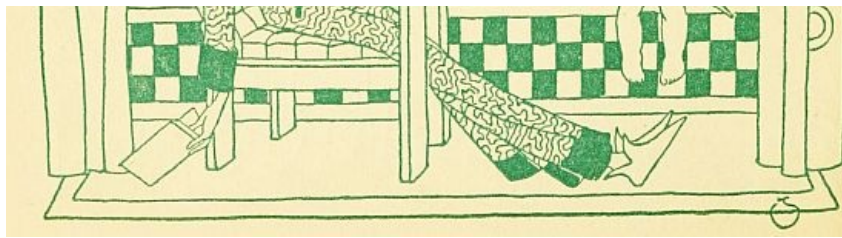


[78]

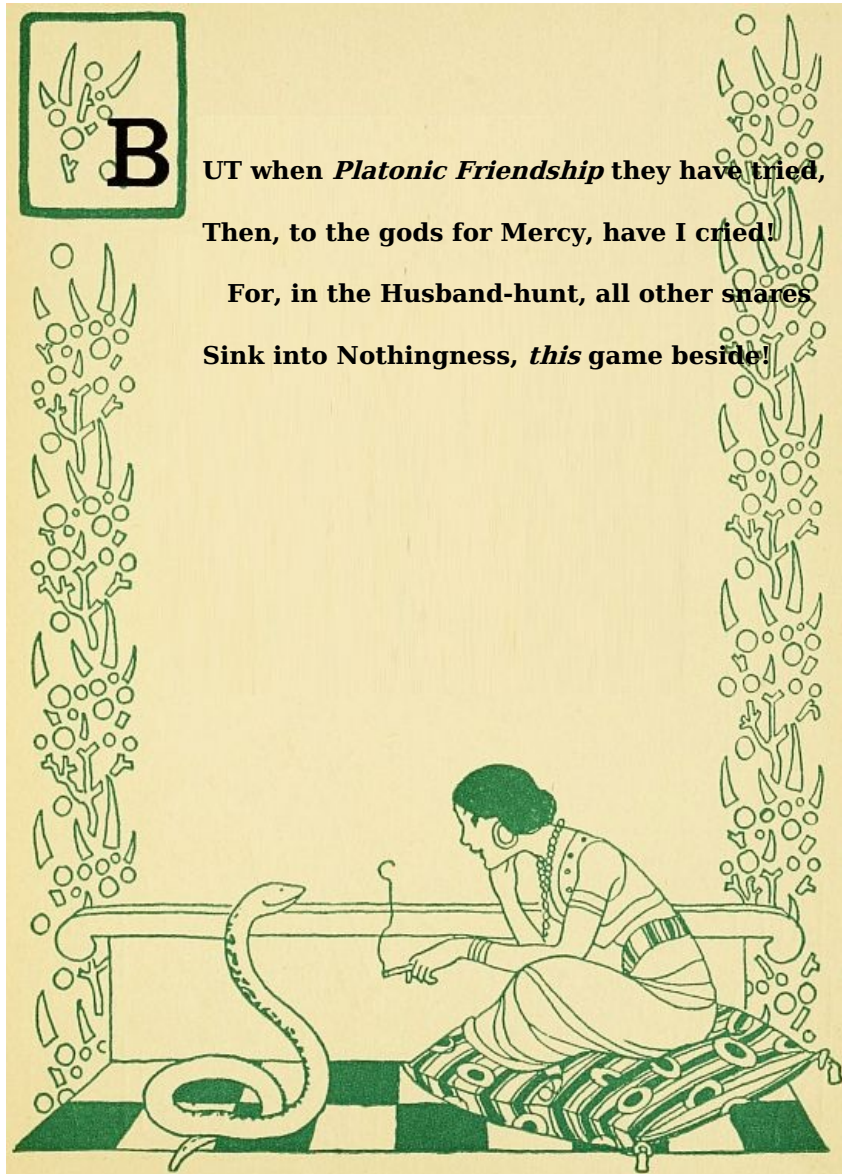
**O**

**THERS have tempted me with festive cheer,  
And Chafing-dish Concoctions, quaint and  
queer;  
With dear, domestic airs have plied their  
arts—  
Yet, all their wiles were neither there nor  
here!**



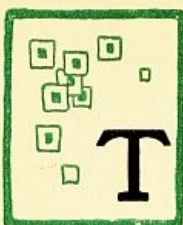
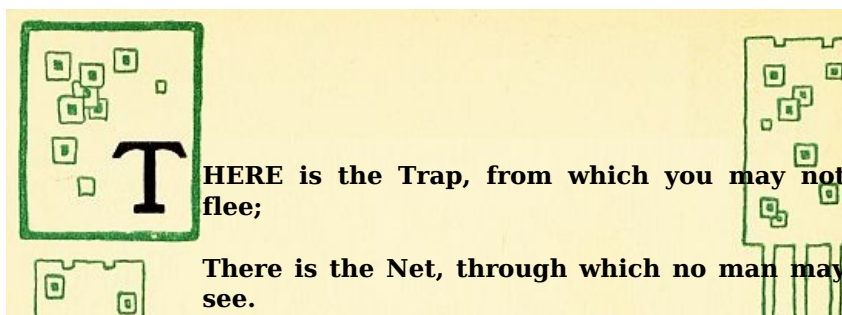


[79]



**B**UT when *Platonic Friendship* they have tried,  
Then, to the gods for Mercy, have I cried!  
For, in the Husband-hunt, all other snares  
Sink into Nothingness, *this* game beside!

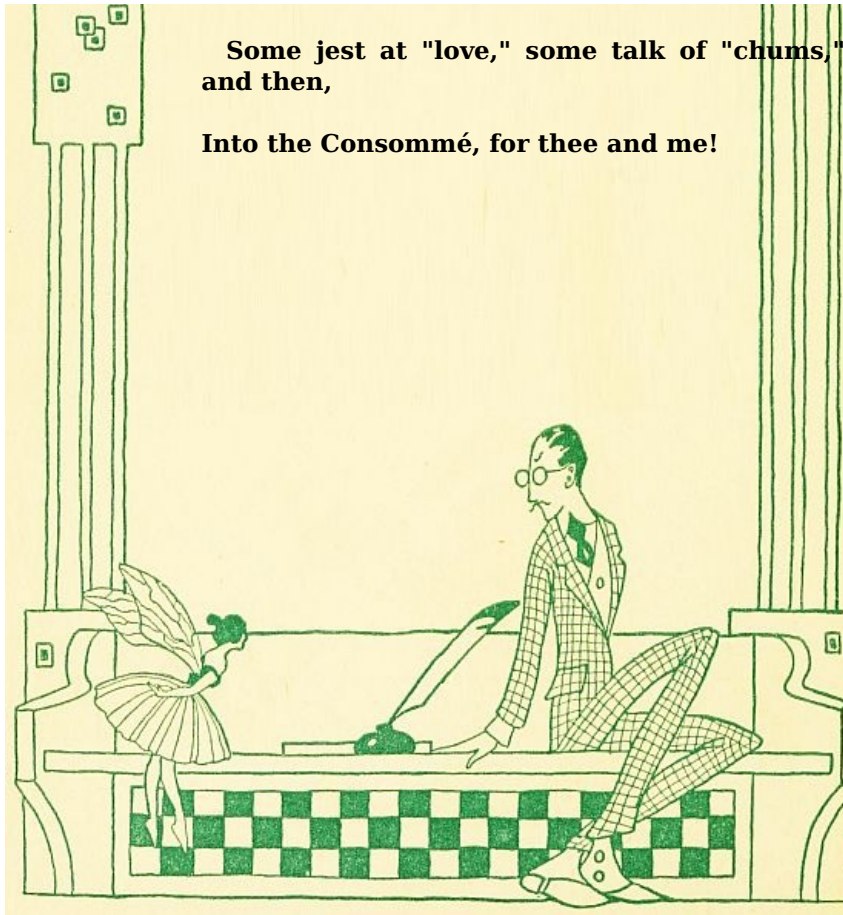
[80]



**T**HERE is the Trap, from which you may not  
flee;  
There is the Net, through which no man may  
see.

Some jest at "love," some talk of "chums,"  
and then,

Into the Consommé, for thee and me!

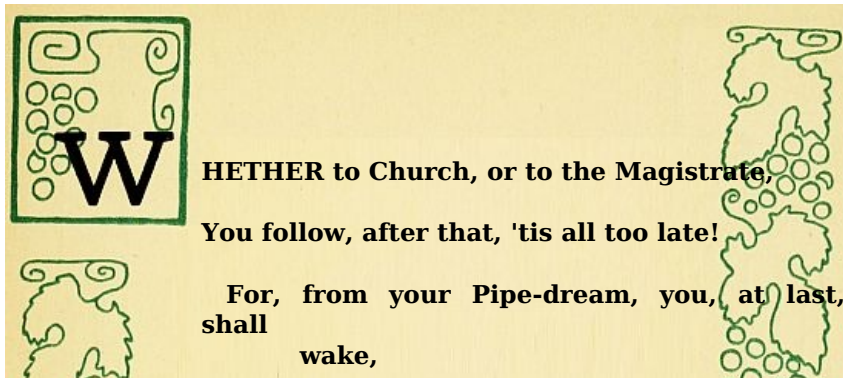


[81]



THERE IS THE TRAP, FROM WHICH YOU  
MAY NOT FLEE.

[83]

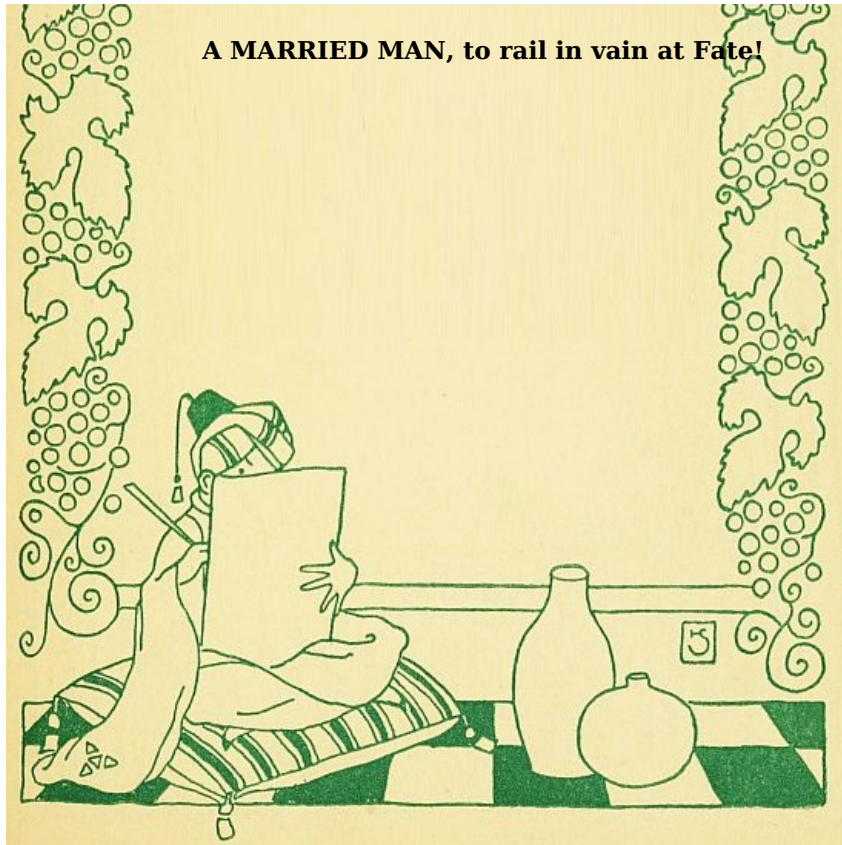


**W**HETHER to Church, or to the Magistrate,

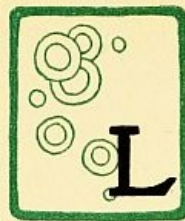
You follow, after that, 'tis all too late!

For, from your Pipe-dream, you, at last,  
shall  
wake,

**A MARRIED MAN, to rail in vain at Fate!**



[84]



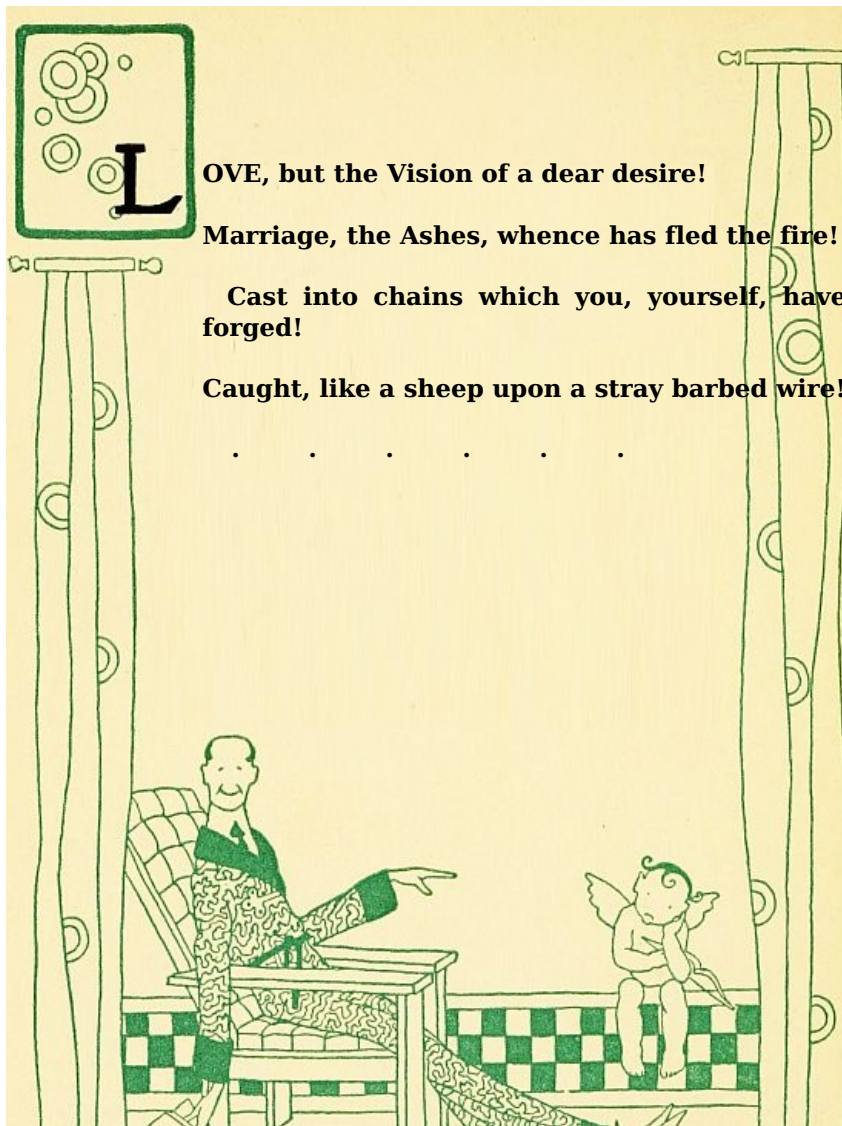
**LOVE, but the Vision of a dear desire!**

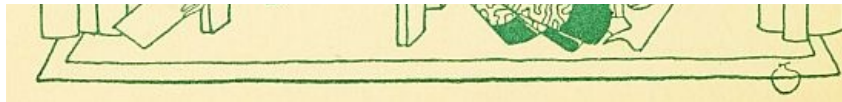
**Marriage, the Ashes, whence has fled the fire!**

**Cast into chains which you, yourself, have  
forged!**

**Caught, like a sheep upon a stray barbed wire!**

. . . . .



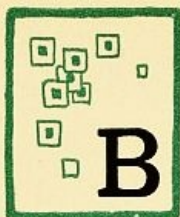
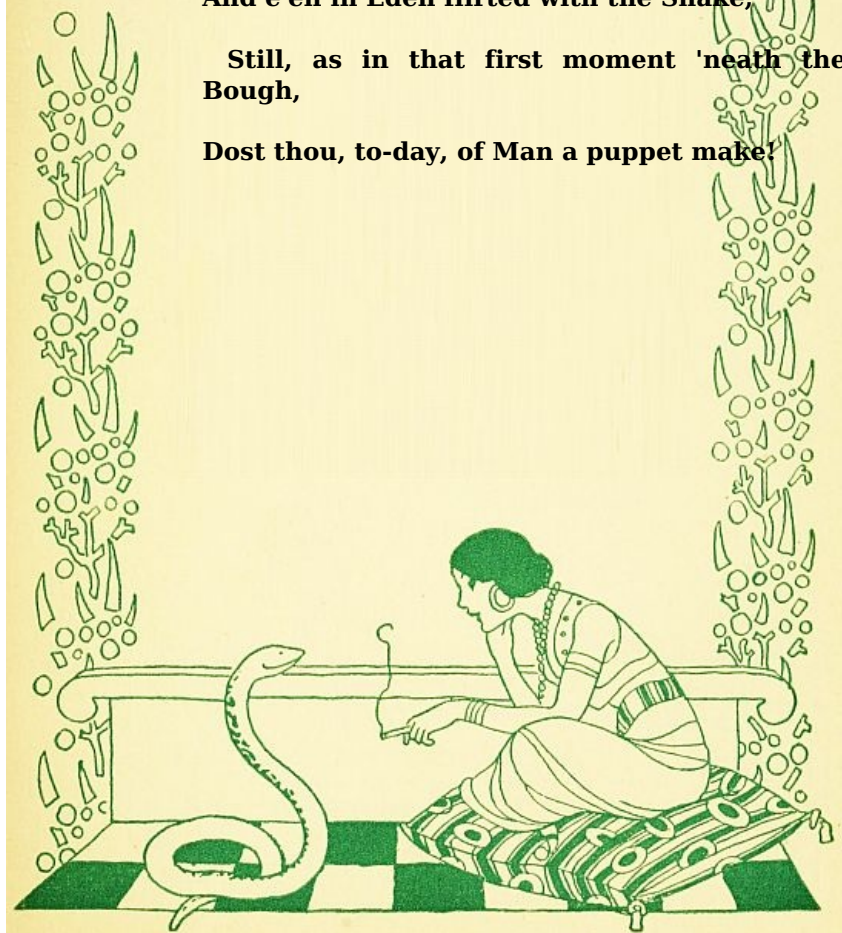


**O**

**H Thou, who first the Apple Tree didst shake,  
And e'en in Eden flirted with the Snake,**

**Still, as in that first moment 'neath the  
Bough,**

**Dost thou, to-day, of Man a puppet make?**

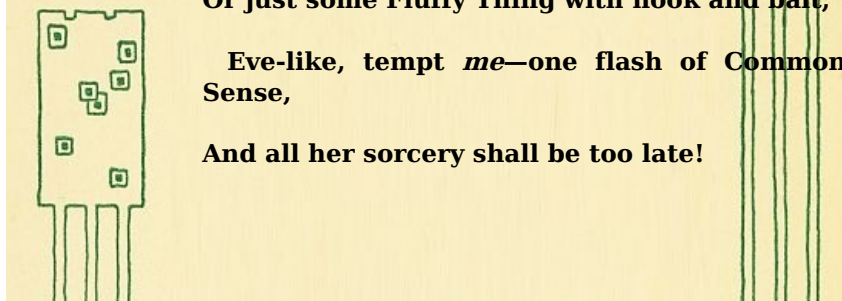


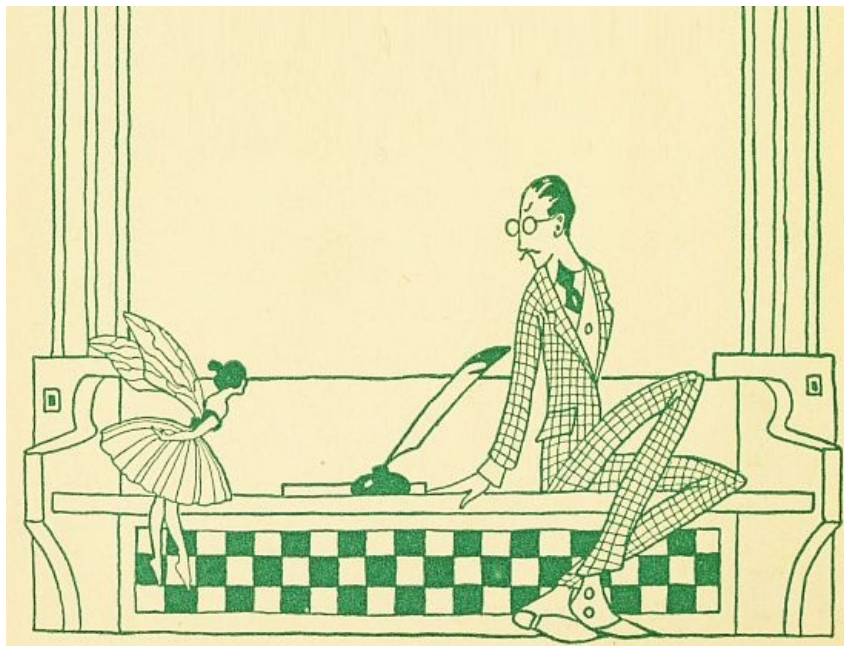
**B**

**UT this I know—whether the one True Mate,  
Or just some Fluffy Thing with hook and bait,**

**Eve-like, tempt *me*—one flash of Common  
Sense,**

**And all her sorcery shall be too late!**

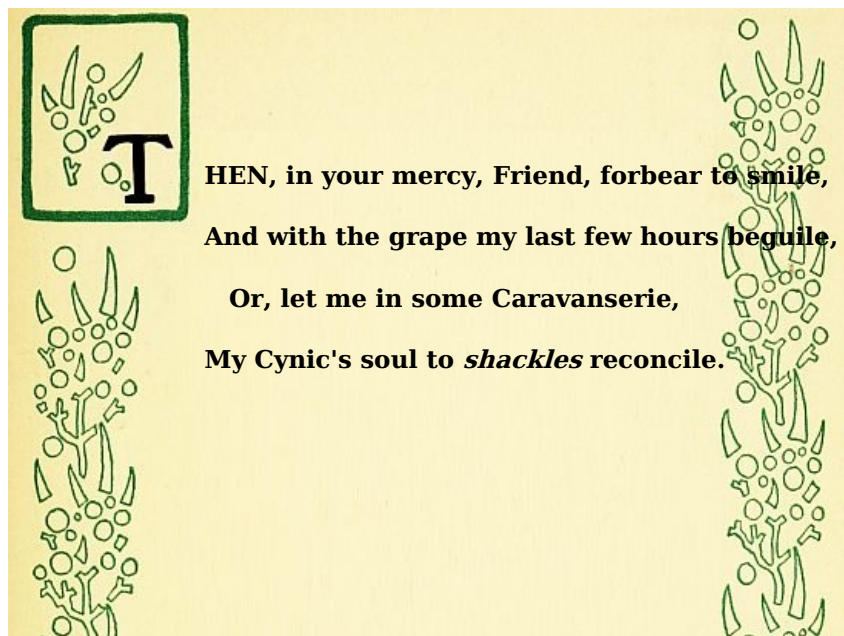
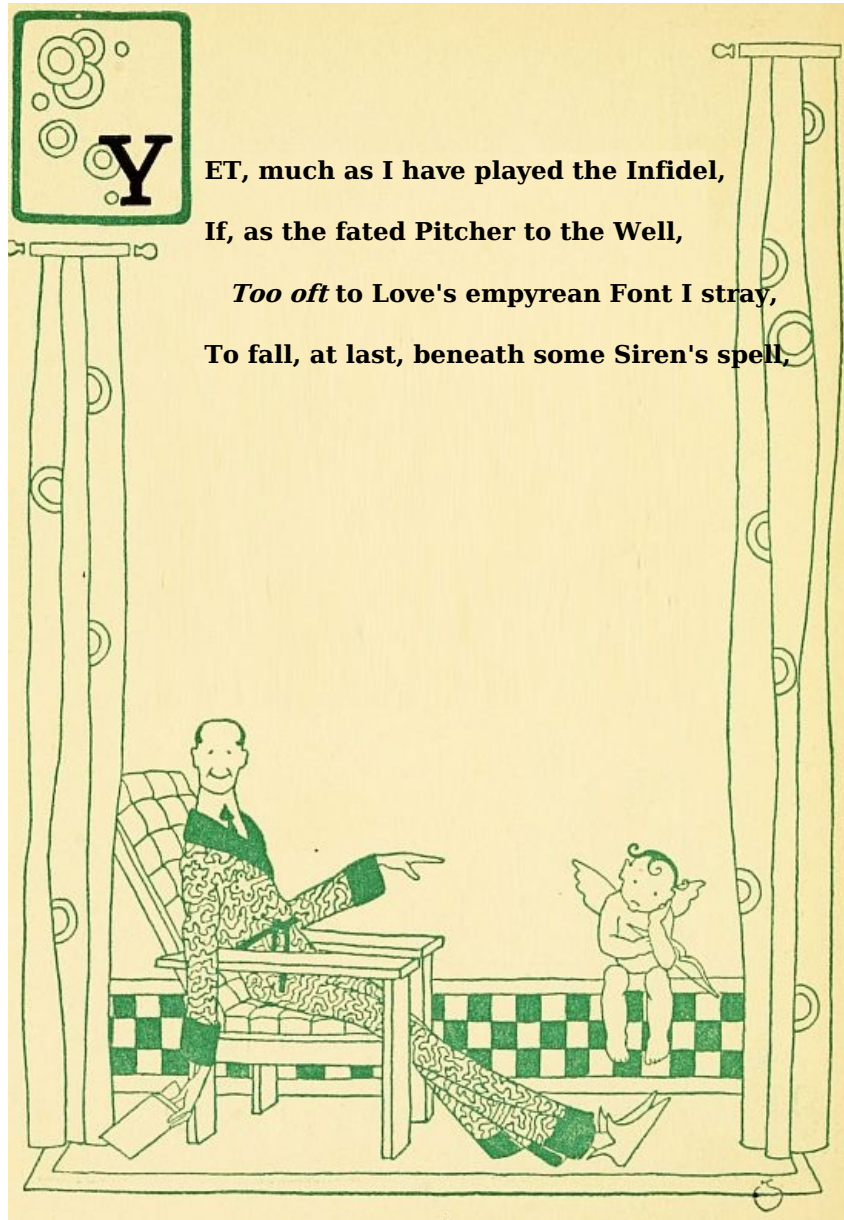




[87]

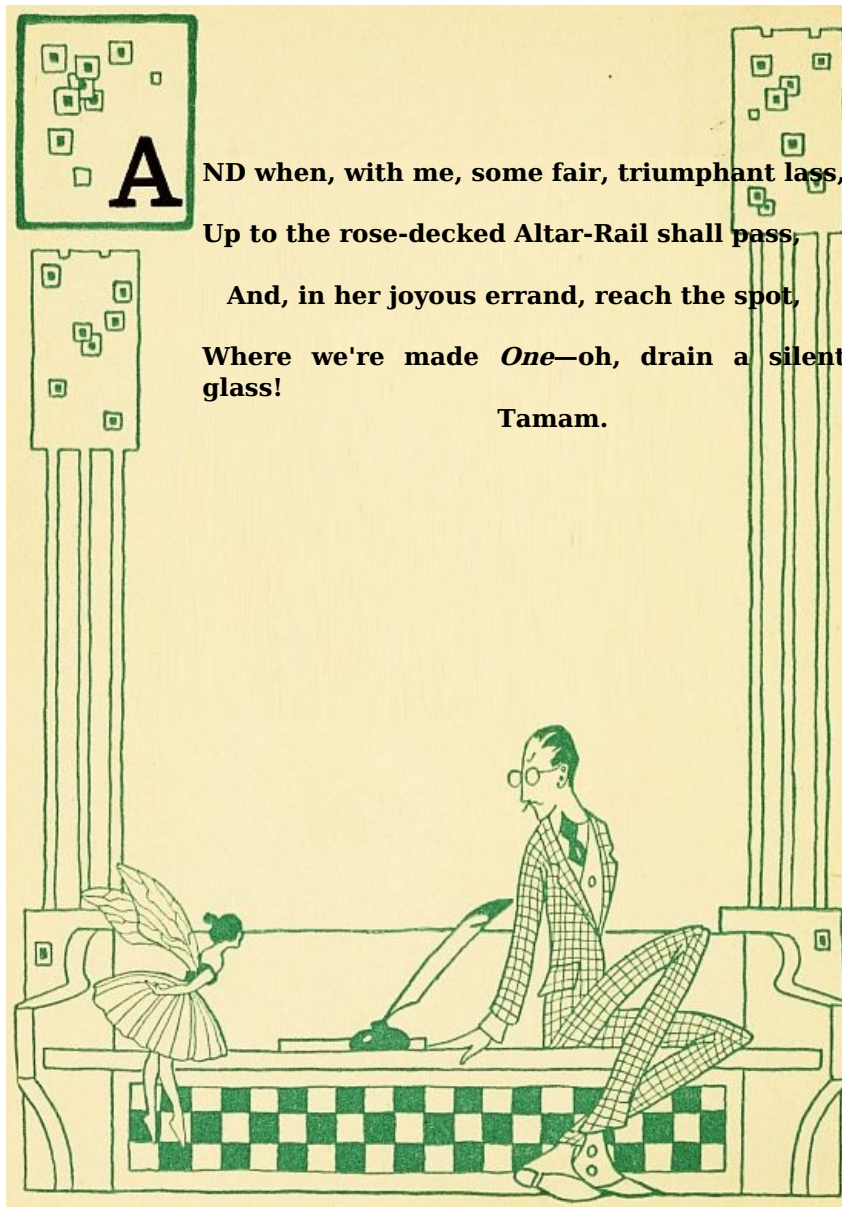
**T**HEN, let her never look for me, again;  
For, once escaped, how many moons shall wane,  
And wax and wane full oft, while still she looks  
Down that same street—but ah, for ME, in vain!



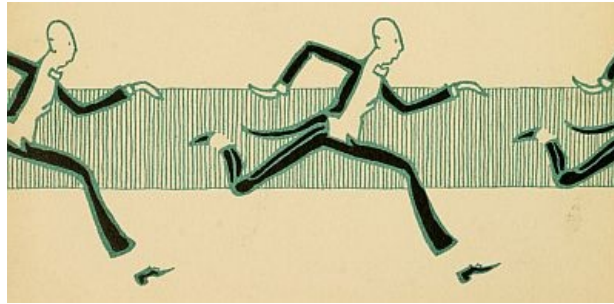
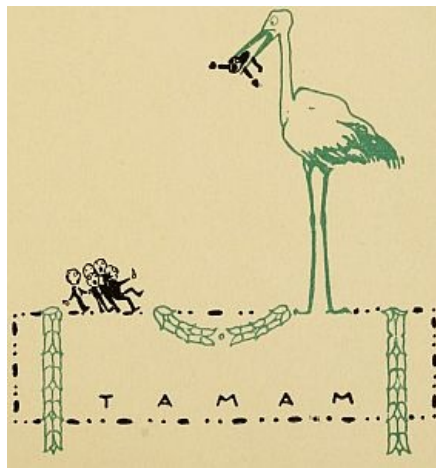




[90]



[91]



### Transcriber's Notes

Page 48, closing quotation mark removed. Original read ("Fool, beware!")

Page 67, "loveing" changed to "loving" (cast a loving Woman)

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