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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK RED RIDING HOOD ***



RED RIDING HOOD



*There was a lonely cabin
Within a dark, old wood,
And in it, with her mother
There dwelt Red Riding Hood.*



*The tall old trees above them
Their winter fire supplied
When Autumn's flaming sunsets
From their red leaves had died.*



*The rippling brook, their
water
From far off mountains
brought;
And prattled of their summits*

In icy statues wrought.



*For them, the squirrels
hoarded*

*Their nuts in hollow trees;
And pounds of sweetest honey
Were made them by the bees;*



*To gather these together
Was work enough to do;
Little Red Riding Hood thought
so,
An so, no doubt, would you.*



*Blushing beneath her fingers
Looked up the berries red;
The flowers seemed to know her
And listened for her tread.*





*For she was good and loving
And beautiful as good,
With daily acts of kindness,
Little Red Riding Hood.*



*Afar off, in the forest,
There lived her grandam old;
And she was poor and needy,
And often sick and cold.*

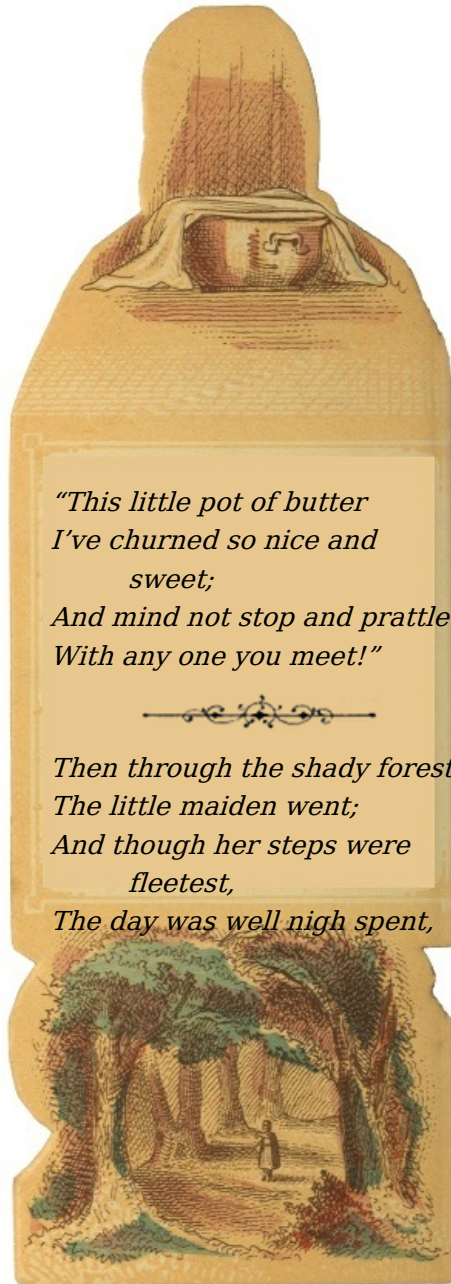


*And once a week, her
grandchild
Would walk the lonely wood,
And carry little bundles
Of faggots and of food.*



*One morn the mother started
The maid upon her way,
And said, "now you must carry
To grandmamma to day."*





*"This little pot of butter
I've churned so nice and
sweet;
And mind not stop and prattle
With any one you meet!"*



*Then through the shady forest
The little maiden went;
And though her steps were
fleetest,
The day was well nigh spent,*

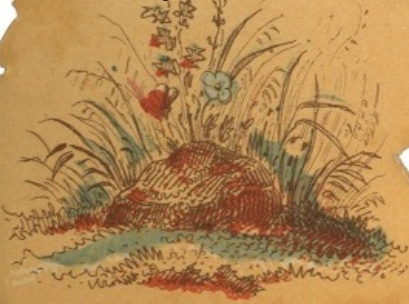


When nearby through her

*journey,
An old, gaunt Wolf she spied,
Who wagged his tail, and
humbly
Came walking by her side;*



*And said, "my little maiden,
How very fair you are!
You really look quite
handsome!
Where do you walk so far?"*



*Forgetful of her mother,
She stopped and told him
where;
Then said the Wolf, so
cunning,
"What is it that you bear?"*



*Forgetful of her mother,
She stood and told him what;
"Tis butter, for my grandma,
Packed nicely in this pot."*





*Then said the Wolf, "good by
dear;
Perhaps we'll meet again!"
Then swiftly on he hastened,
Swiftly through dale and glen,*



*And running reached before her
The cabin grey and old;
Her grandmamma was absent—
He quickly did infold*

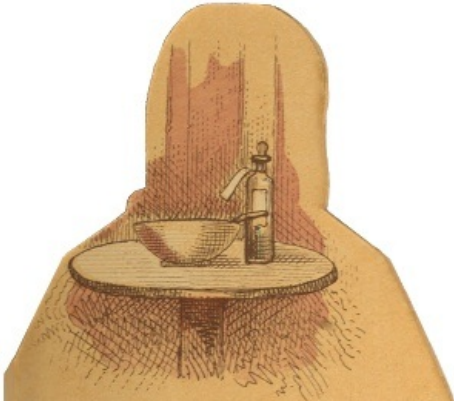


*Himself in cap and night
gown
Then quickly on the bed,
Closely upon the pillow
He laid his grizzly head.*



*Red Riding Hood soon
entered;
"O, grandmamma, see here!"*

*A little pot of butter!"
Where is my grandma dear?*



*"Here," said the Wolf, well
feigning,
Her grandma's voice, so weak;
"I'm here, so sick my darling,
That I can scarcely speak!"*



*"Take off your clothes my
darling,
Upon the bed come lie;
When you are here beside me
I'll be better by and by!"*



*Red Riding Hood obeyed her
And got upon the bed;
"O grandmamma how altered
You are!" she quickly said*



*"O what GREAT EYES my
grandma!
They never looked so before—"
"That's to see you the better
my darling,
The larger, to see you more!"*



*"What a GREAT NOSE my
grandma
It never looked so before!"
"That's to smell you better, my
darling;
The larger to smell you more!"*



*"And what GREAT HANDS my
grandma
They never looked so before!"
"That's to hold you tight my
darling
And to hug you more and more!"*





*"What a GREAT MOUTH my
grandma!
As large as your tin cup!"
"That's to open wide my beauty
And then to eat you up!"*



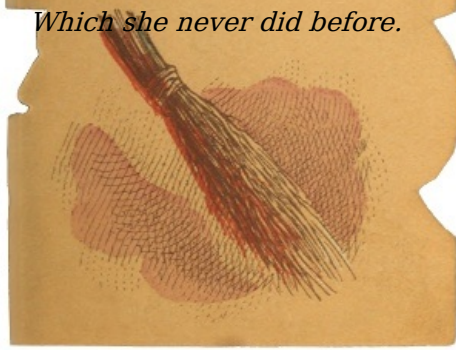
*Then he opened his great mouth
wider
To eat her like a bird
But at that dreadful moment
A hunter's gun was heard*



*The Wolf fell dead and bleeding
—
Then grandma hastened in—
For she had seen the peril
The danger that had been!*

*Red Riding Hood wept sadly
And sorrowed more and more,
That she'd disobeyed her
mother—*

Which she never did before.



*And she thought with fear &
trembling
Of the death that came so near!
And she said the fright had
taught her
To mind her mother dear.*

*Then listen, all ye children,
And mind your mother's word!
For the great WOLF, men call
EVIL*

Is prowling round unheard!





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