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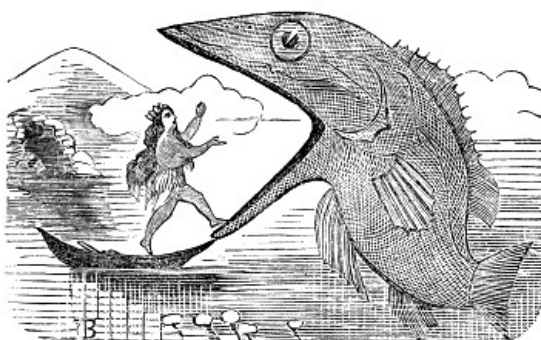
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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE SAN FRANCISCO FAIRY: A TALE OF EARLY TIMES ***

THE SAN FRANCISCO FAIRY.

A Tale of Early Times



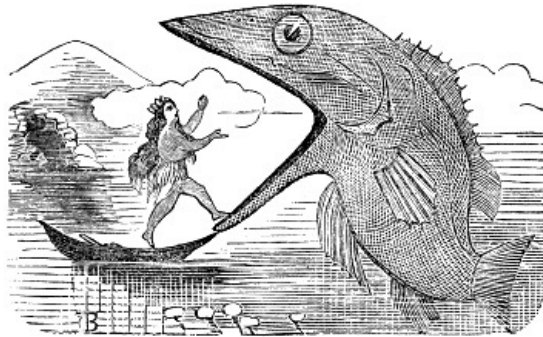
Down came the Fish's lower jaw upon her light canoe,
And he asked her if that ladder would answer for her
shoe—;
Then tripping up it lightly, she spied a splendid seat,
With wampum it was covered—her lover's it would
beat.

SAN FRANCISCO:
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D. E. Appleton & Co., 508 and 510 Montgomery Street,
GENERAL AGENTS

1868

THE SAN FRANCISCO FAIRY.

A Tale of Early Times



At such a sight she fainted, yet still she did not fall,
But straightway told her sorrows, she told him of them
all.

The Fish he wagged his little fin, and shook his
pointed nose,
And said, "My darling Maiden, into my mouth you
goes!"

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PREFACE

This little Tale is founded upon the well-known tradition, prevalent among the old inhabitants, that where the Golden Gate now is was once dammed up by a rock or rocks, and the whole Valley was a great inland sea with its entrance to the Ocean down near Monterey. The writer has seen, on Ohio Street, in this City, (which in 1850 was quite an elevated spot of ground,) the black sedimentary earth, at least two feet thick, which abounds in greater or less degree throughout the Valley, and which readily accounts for the wonderful fertility of the soil.

San Francisco, December, 1868.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1868, by Chas. P. Kimball, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Northern District of California.

THE SAN FRANCISCO FAIRY

LONG years ago, ere Spaniards lived on California
soil,
An Indian of the Digger tribe was resting from his toil;
He lived beside an inland sea, or lake, so wondrous
large
No one could look from shore to shore—a day's sail for
a barge.

This Indian was a happy dog, of threescore years and
eight,
Of children he had half a score, also an aged mate;
His youngest was Li-Lamboni, a petit laughing cit—
Who kept the Wigwam happy by her fund of ready wit.

A blooming maid of twenty, perhaps of two years
more,
Her lovers might be counted at wholesale by the
score;
But there was one—a comely lad—a Chieftain's only
son,
This one alone of all the crowd her youthful love had
won.



So tall, so straight, so beautiful, an eye like diamonds
bright,
Not one could beat him in the chase, by night or broad
daylight;
And when upon the war-path with the braves he
started out,
The death-song of his enemies would plainly mark his
route.

But, ah, alas! the wampum to make him all her own.
She did not have the needful, for she had poorly
grown;
And often on the placid Lake, within her log canoe.
She pondered long and deeply on just what she should
do.

One day, when very sad indeed, a long way out from
shore,
She sighed—she felt just then more sad than e'er she
felt before;
Just then a Fish of monstrous size jumped from the
water out.
And, balanc'd nicely on his tail, asked what she was
about.

At such a sight she fainted, yet still she did not fall,
But straightway told her sorrows, she told him of them

all,
The Fish he wagged his little fin, and shook his
pointed nose,
And said, "My darling Maiden, into my mouth you
goes!"



Now, who would think a maiden of two and twenty
years,
Would step into a fish's mouth without the slightest
fears!
But so great was her desire her object to attain,
That she treated anything like fear with feelings of
d disdain.

Down came the Fish's lower jaw upon her light canoe,
He asked her if that ladder would answer for her shoe;
Then tripping up it lightly, she spied a splendid seat,
With wampum it was cover'd—her lover's it would
beat.

Back came that self same lower jaw, without the
slightest jar,
No one could treat her better, not e'en her dear Papa;
The Fish he told her plainly to his Mistress she must
go,
She was a lovely Fairy, and she lived right down
below.

He said that she was very kind, and beautiful, and
great.
And dwelt within her watery home in rich and royal
state.
That she wanted Li-Lamboni her dominions all to
know.
So she sent her dear Fish Monster, to bring her down
below.

Scarcely was she seated in the regal wampum chair.
Thinking of the Fairy Queen, when she was almost
there;
And soon her fine Fish Monster drew down his under
jaw
A Sea-Lion from ocean deep held out his ugly paw.

She tripped down quite gracefully and took the Lion's
paw,
But I really cannot tell you all the riches that she saw:
On her right, there was a Grotto with gates of solid
gold,
Guarded by a Devil Fish—to meet him would be bold.
On her left, a Fairy Palace, its walls of silver bright,

Its windows set with diamonds, which shone both day
and night;
Its doors were made of jasper, its steps of onyx fine—
A worker up of cameo would think he'd found a mine.

The Lion touched her lightly, and she took his shaggy
arm.
She felt while she was with him he'd shield her from
all harm;
They tripped nimbly up the steps—he touched a little
slide,
And almost in an instant the door was open'd wide.

A Water-Lily met them and passed her through the
hall,—
So rich I'd fain describe it, but can't do so at all;—
Then to the audience chamber, with all things bright
and airy,
There, right upon a golden throne, sat San Francisco
Fairy.

A lovely figure, tall and straight, in elegant attire,
Looking for all the world like gold refined by fire;
She greeted Li-Lamboni in an off-hand, easy style.
Was tickled that she came, and would have her stay
awhile.

With a motion of her hand for Li-Lamboni to draw
near,
She spoke unto the Lily to bring for her a chair.
When seated near the throne, what should the Fairy
do
But wave again her hand, and up through the floor
they flew!

Here was a room of wampum, the ceiling, walls, the
floor
And furniture were lined with it, as also was the door.
Says the Fairy to Li-Lamboni, "This wampum's all your
own;
You see it's only lining, and you can easy take it down.

You can pack it in a compass small, and show it to
your Pa,
Who never saw the like before, nor neither did your
Ma;
And also when your chosen Fish shall take you to the
air,
When stepping down the ladder you can take the
wampum chair.

You wonder why I do this? I'll make it all quite plain:
Once, while running as a rabbit, you saved me from all
harm;
The coyotes and the wolves had nearly run me dead.
When you threw them off the scent and took me to
your bed.

And since that time I've look'd for you that action to
repay,
But no good chance e'er offered till I heard you cry to-
day.
We shortly move away from here—this Lake is to be
drained—
For out quite near the Farallones another home we've
gained.

The water will be drained away—a City here will rise,
Here will be marts of commerce, and wealth which
men do prize;
Here'll be temples of the living God, and of Heathen
idols, too,
Showing how Christians worship, and what Barbarians
do.

This City great for me they'll name, the world will

know it well,
And when it will stop growing, no one, I'm sure, can
tell;
No London can to it compare, or Canton, I am sure,
For while the World does stand this City will endure.

And when at home you're settled and your Chieftain
calls on you,
Just lay these out quite nicely and give him a good
view;
If that don't melt his stony heart and bring him to his
knees,
Cast him quickly from your heart, and marry whom
you please."

Then at a word the wampum came quickly from the
wall,
And from the door and ceiling, and soon she had it all;
No Indian maiden e'er so rich as Li-Lamboni that day,
And she thought that with the Fairy she could no
longer stay.

Then the Fairy waved her little wand and they passed
down below,
When the Maiden, having kissed her, said that she
must go;
And through the hall the Lily was again her pleasant
guide,
And without the slightest effort the door swung open
wide.

And right beyond the portal stood her Lion, as before,
Waiting very patiently her exit through the door;
Then he bent his ugly paw with the manners of a beau,
She put her hand within it, and down the steps did go.

She found her old Fish Monster with everything all
right,
Down came his handy under jaw,—she mounted to the
height;
And scarcely was she seated in that splendid wampum
chair.
When they were on the water and she breathed the
nice fresh air.

Again came down that lower jaw upon her light canoe,
With the chair upon her arm she bade the Fish adieu;
And seizing quick the paddle, she drove the boat
along,
And she really felt so happy she burst into a song.

Right to her father's Wigwam she quickly brought her
prize.
Who fitted up for her own use one of much larger size;
The wampum used for lining—the chair in center
stood,
Her Chieftain soon did see it, and said 'twas very
good.

'Twas amazing how his love increas'd while gazing on
her wealth.
For soon he quite forgot himself, and seized a kiss by
stealth;
And no one now more anxious the marriage to fulfil.
Indeed so much excitement he really was quite ill.

Her heart was warm—she pitied him, and soon
became his wife,
And they travel'd on together through this world of
strife;
The wealth she brought along with her unto her lord
and master,
Was greater in comparison than that of J. J. Astor.

Their married life ran smoothly, and to them a babe
was born.

But Li-Lamboni oft wonder'd if her Fairy friend was
gone.
One day while at her Wigwam door, the baby in her
arms,
The earth began to tremble and it filled her with
alarms.

Anon it trembled more and more, and then a sudden
shock,
As she looked out towards the Ocean she saw the Elfin
Rock,
'Twas lifted from its base, and was swinging towards
the sea,
And this immense lake of water from its bondage now
was free.

Then she saw her old Fish Monster swimming
gracefully along,
Although the water flowed with a tide both full and
strong;
He raised himself upon his tail, as he had done before,
And dropping down his under jaw as one would drop a
door.

There sat the graceful Fairy, brought fully into view,
And she waved her tiny finger to bid her friend adieu:
"We're going to Farrallone Isles there to build a home,
And if you need our help again you have out there to
come."

Then up again that lower jaw went snugly into place,
And having cut a caper with the Sea-Lion ran a race,
Who had the Lily on his back to take a pleasant ride,
They moved along quite rapidly, both swimming with
the tide.

Li-Lamboni felt sad to bid her friend good-bye.
She sank right down upon the floor and ended with a
cry;
But with them passed the waters, leaving only our fine
Bay,
On which rises San Francisco as we see it here to-day.



*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE SAN FRANCISCO FAIRY: A TALE OF EARLY TIMES ***

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