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Illustrator: Joseph E. Southall

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\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE STORY OF BLUE-BEARD \*\*\*



# THE STORY OF BLUE BEARD

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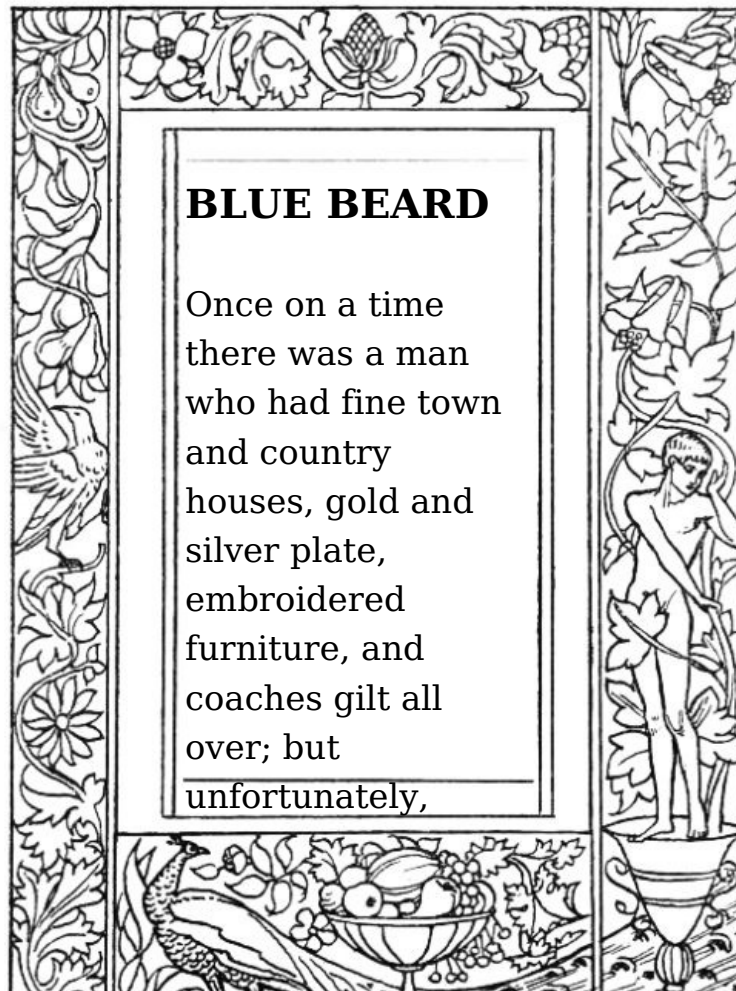


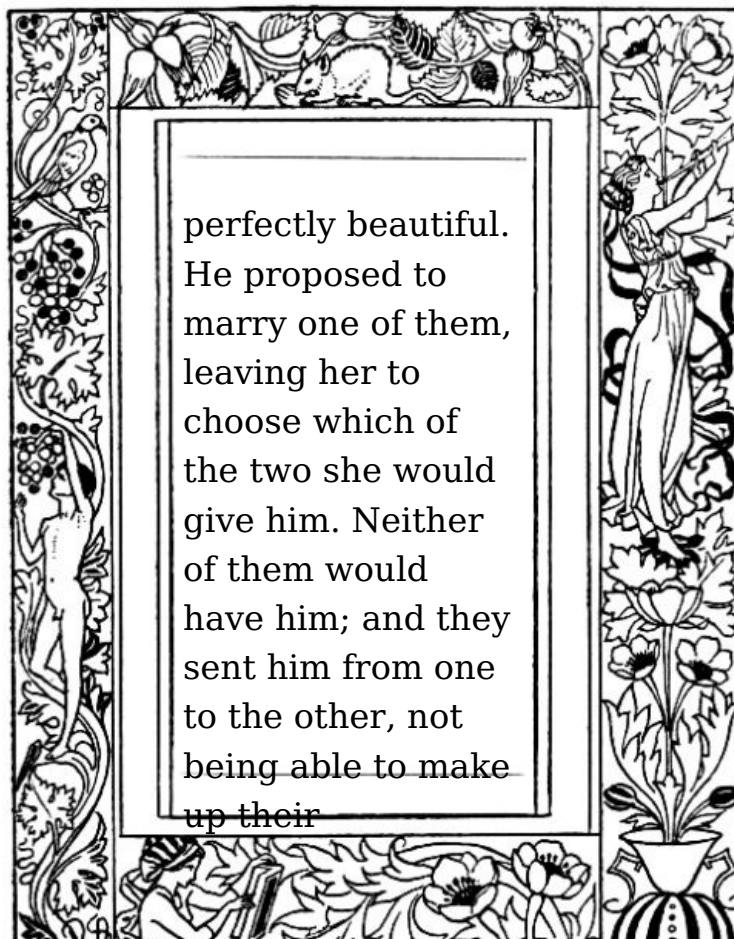
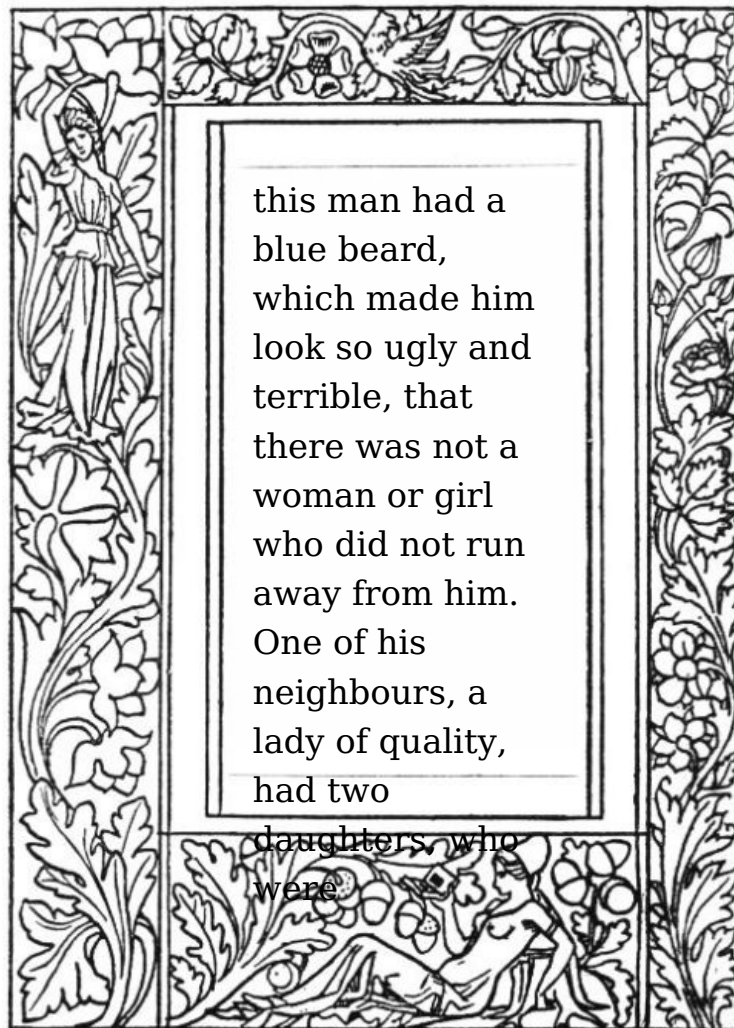
The: Story: of : Blue-Beard  
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with pictures and orna-  
-ments by Joseph  
E. Southall.

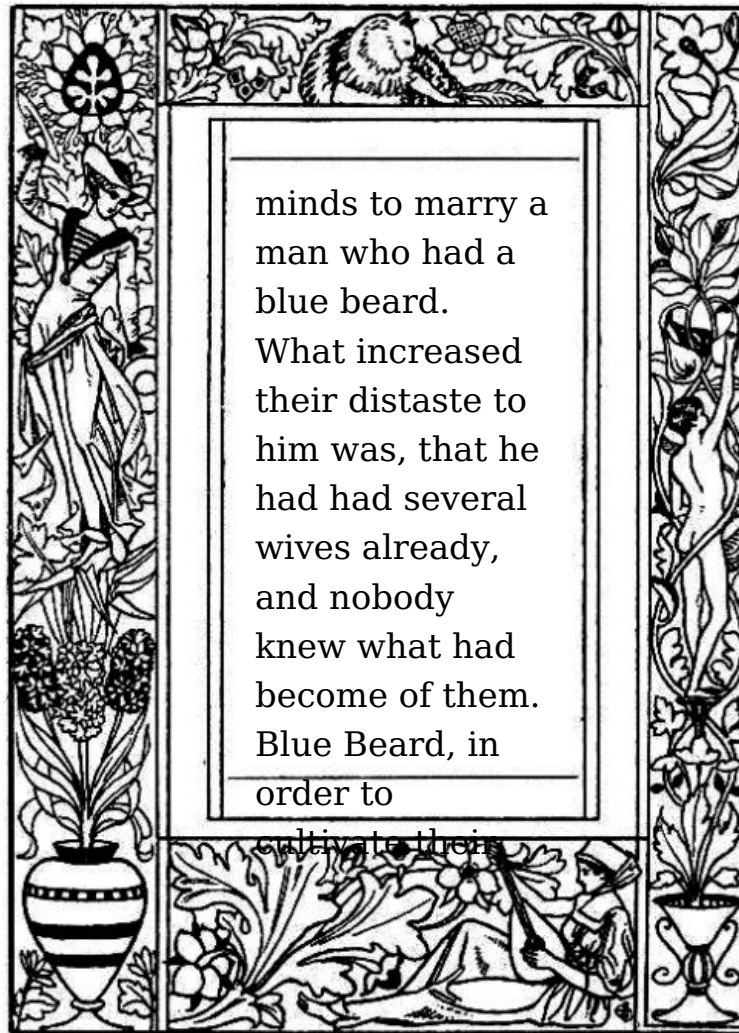


London-Lawrence  
: and Bullen:  
Chicago Stone  
& Kimball  
1895  
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[Pg 5]



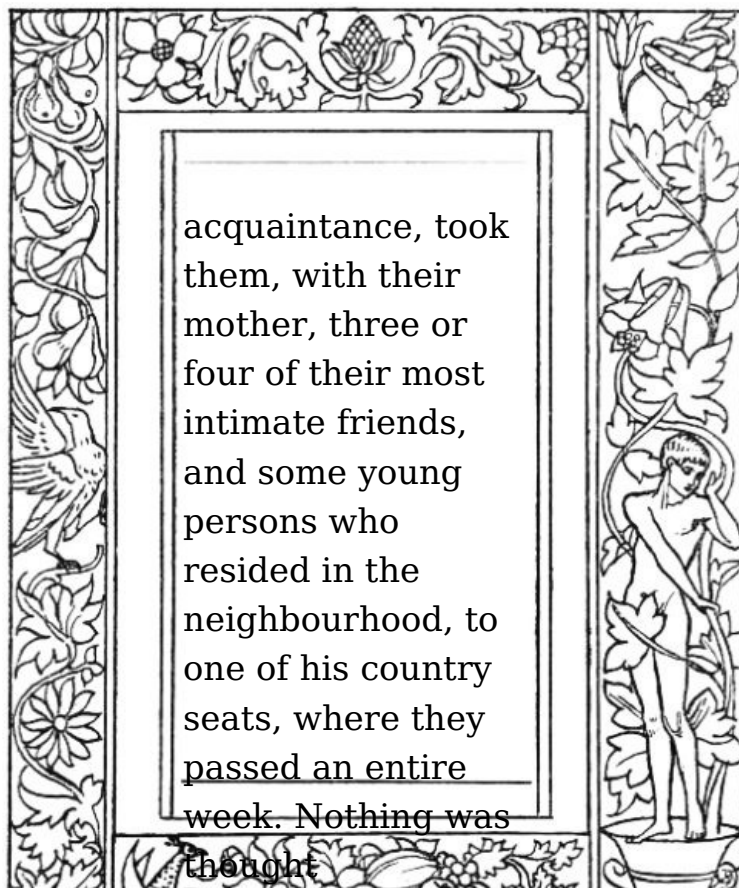




minds to marry a man who had a blue beard.

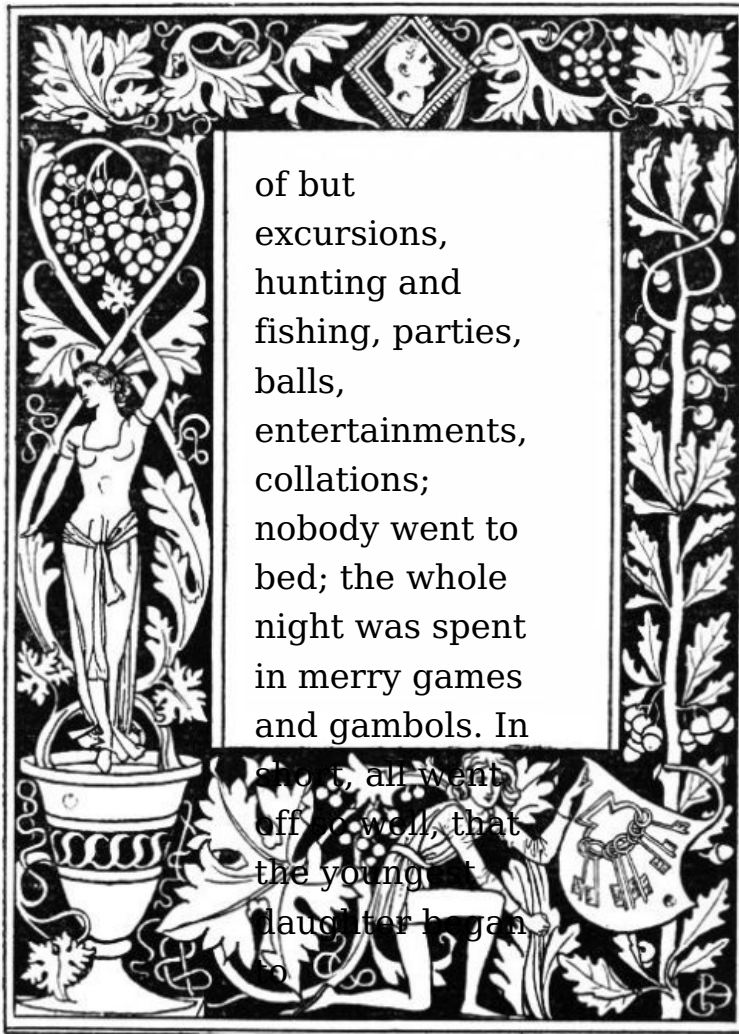
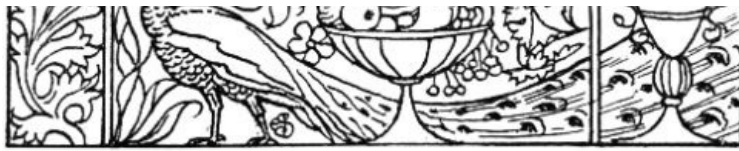
What increased their distaste to him was, that he had had several wives already, and nobody knew what had become of them. Blue Beard, in order to

cultivate their



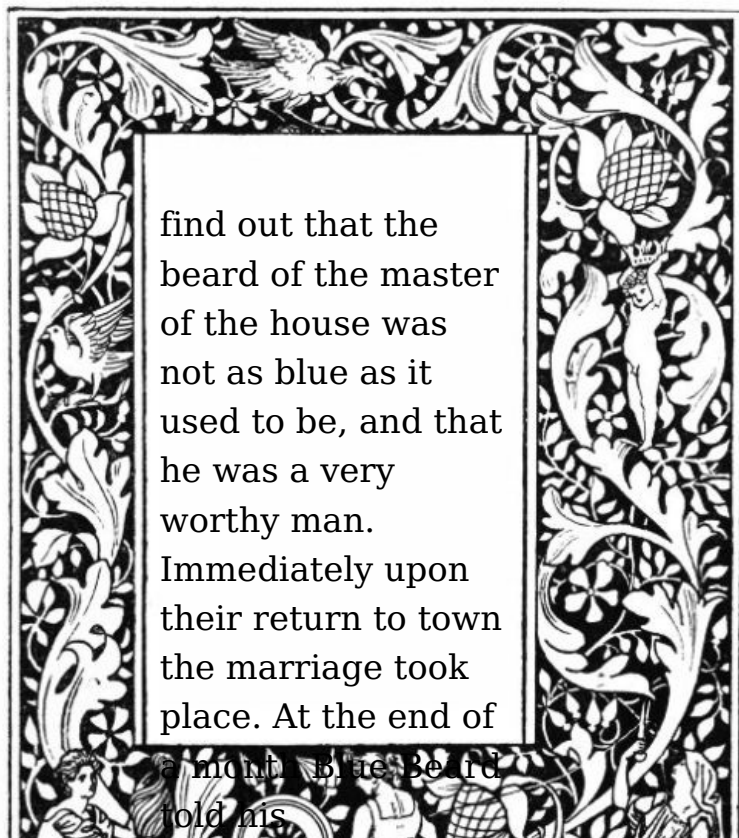
acquaintance, took them, with their mother, three or four of their most intimate friends, and some young persons who resided in the neighbourhood, to one of his country seats, where they passed an entire week. Nothing was

thought



of but  
excursions,  
hunting and  
fishing, parties,  
balls,  
entertainments,  
collations;  
nobody went to  
bed; the whole  
night was spent  
in merry games  
and gambols. In

shot, all went  
off so well, that  
the young  
laughter began



find out that the  
beard of the master  
of the house was  
not as blue as it  
used to be, and that  
he was a very  
worthy man.

Immediately upon  
their return to town  
the marriage took  
place. At the end of

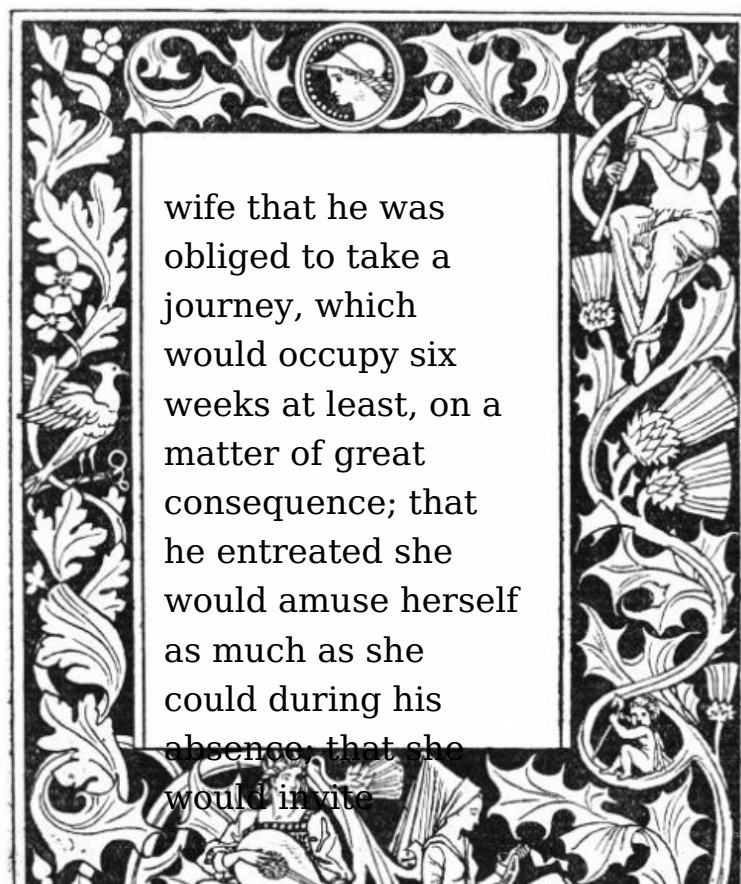
a month Blue-Beard  
told his

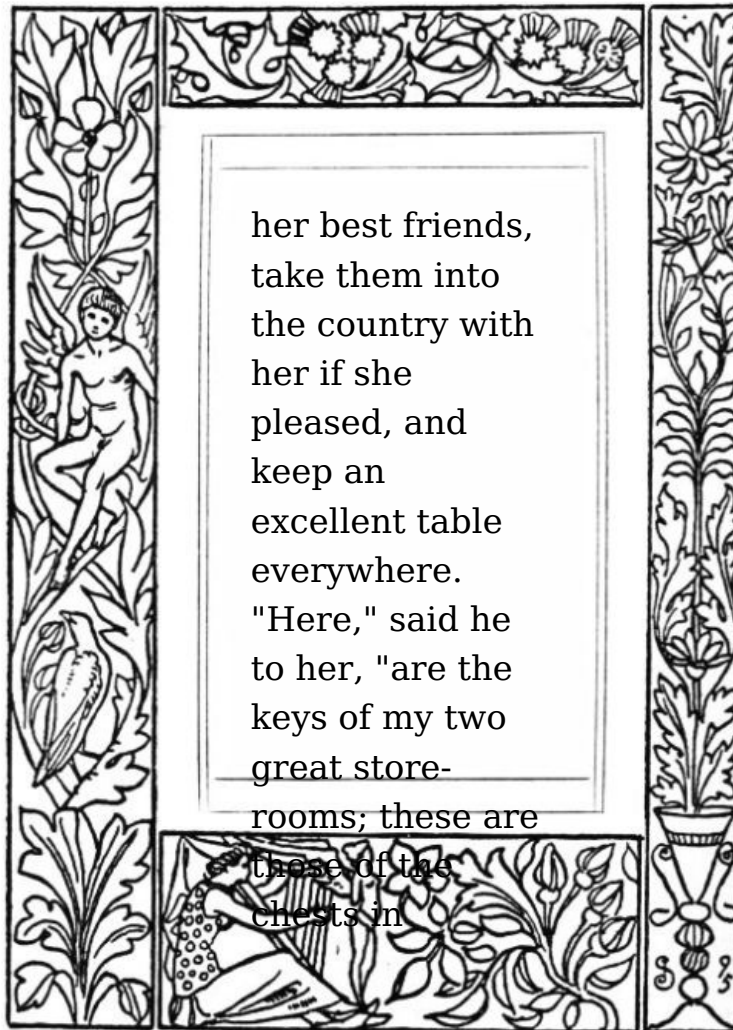


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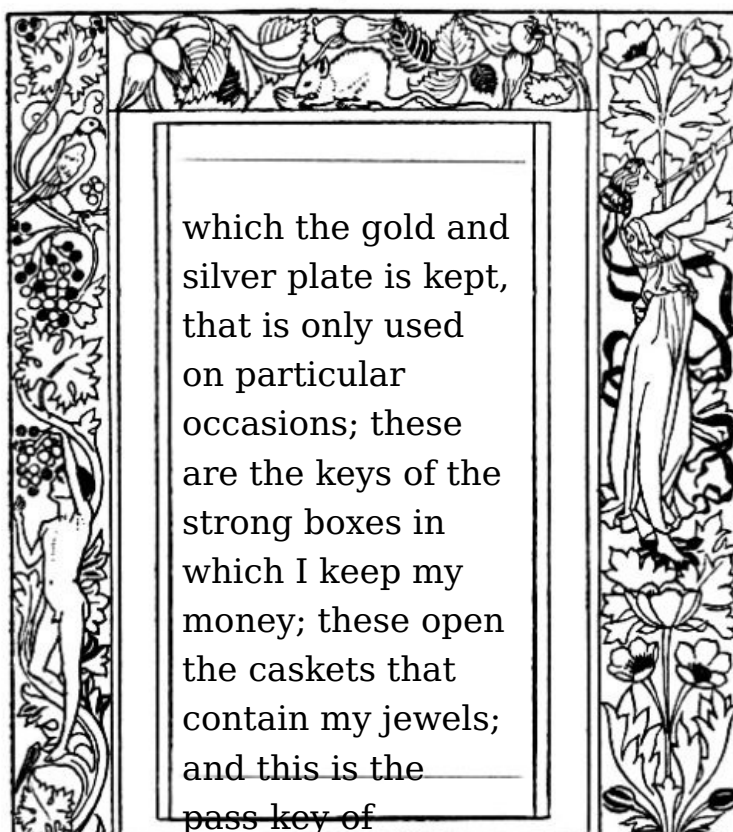


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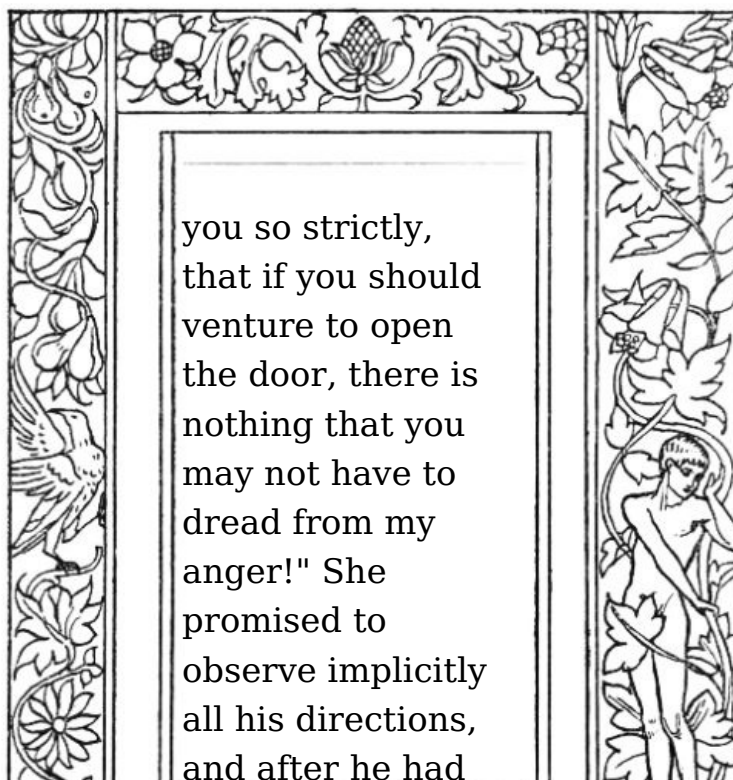
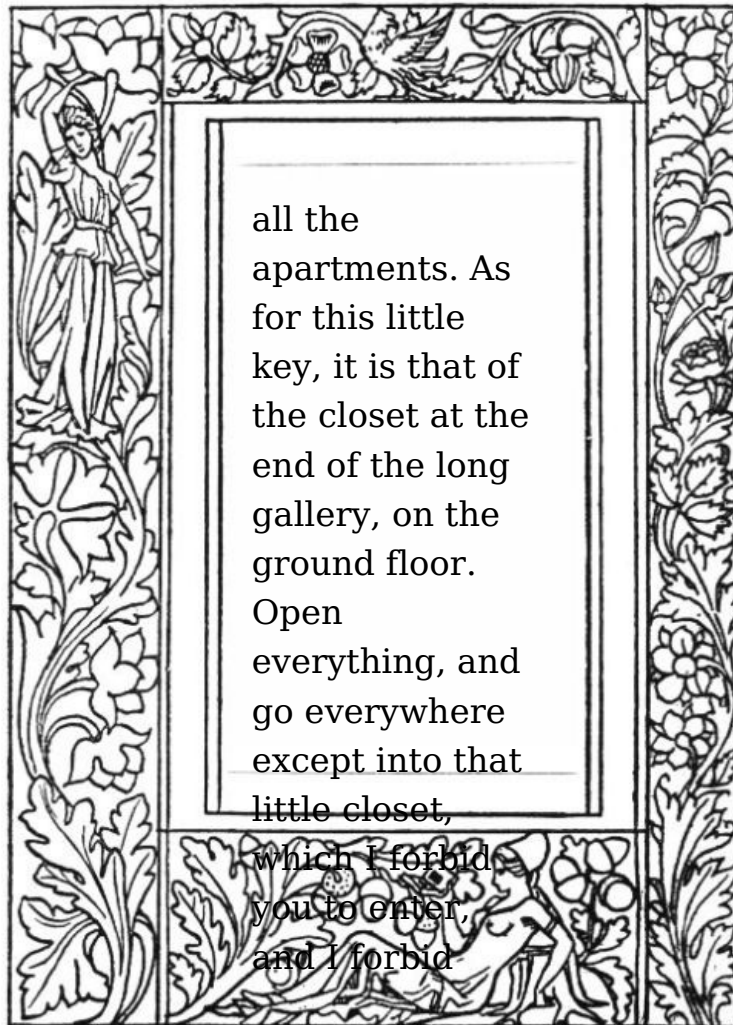




her best friends,  
take them into  
the country with  
her if she  
pleased, and  
keep an  
excellent table  
everywhere.  
"Here," said he  
to her, "are the  
keys of my two  
great store-  
rooms; these are  
these of the  
chests in



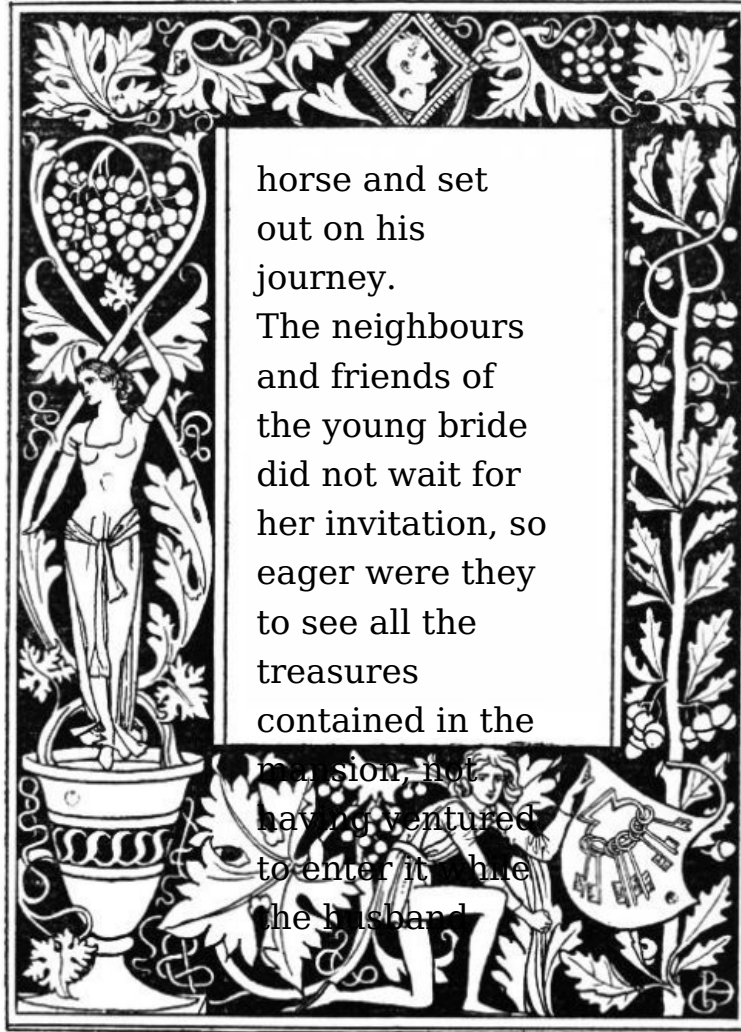
which the gold and  
silver plate is kept,  
that is only used  
on particular  
occasions; these  
are the keys of the  
strong boxes in  
which I keep my  
money; these open  
the caskets that  
contain my jewels;  
and this is the  
pass key of



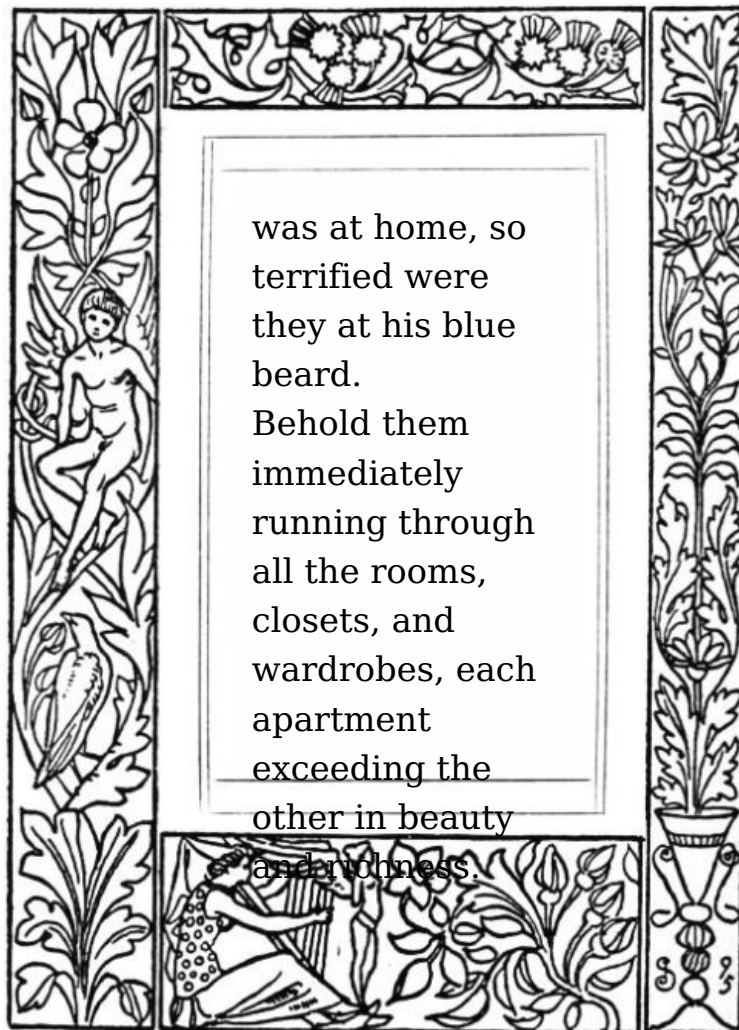




embraced her, he  
got on to his



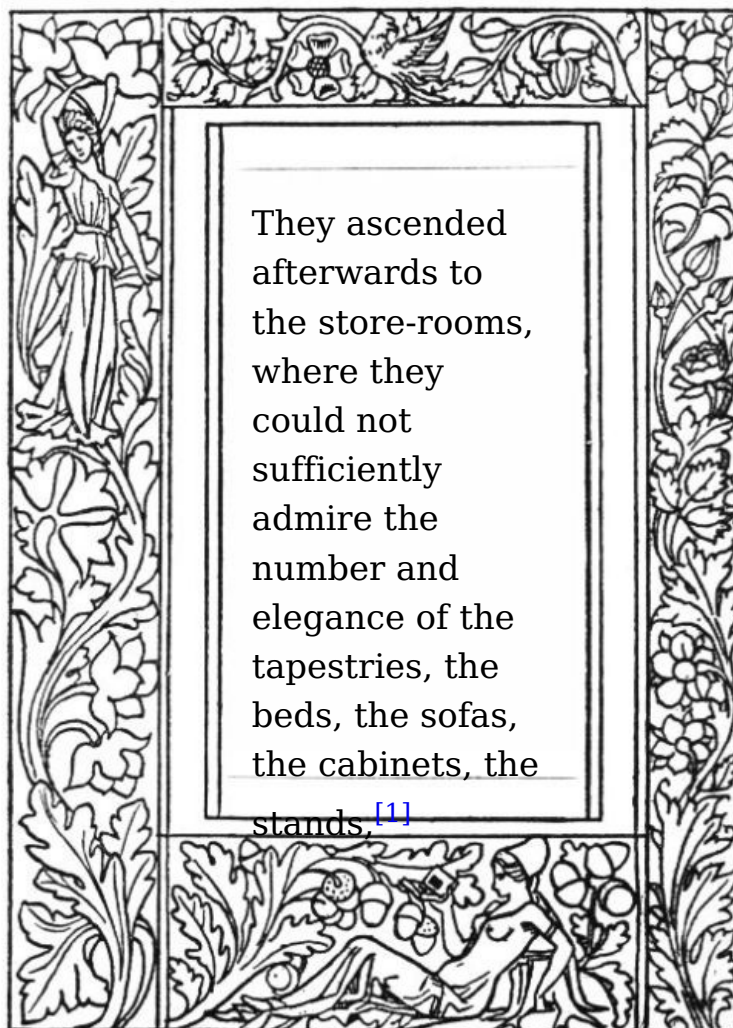
horse and set  
out on his  
journey.  
The neighbours  
and friends of  
the young bride  
did not wait for  
her invitation, so  
eager were they  
to see all the  
treasures  
contained in the  
mansion, not  
having ventured  
to enter it, while  
the husband



was at home, so terrified were they at his blue beard. Behold them immediately running through all the rooms, closets, and wardrobes, each apartment exceeding the other in beauty and richness.

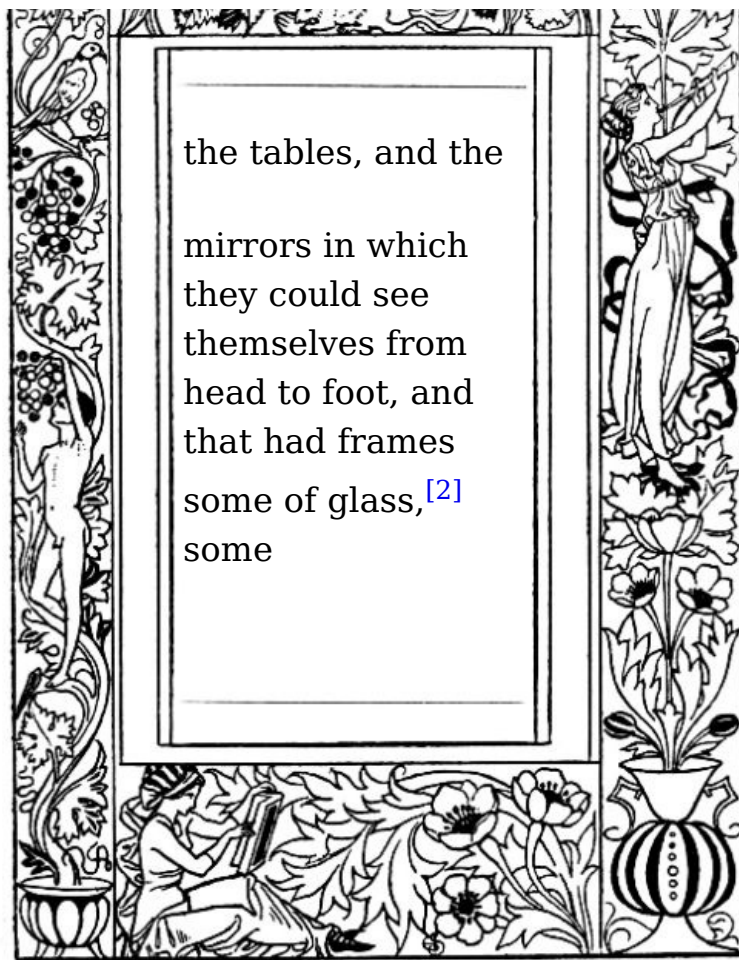


[Pg 22]

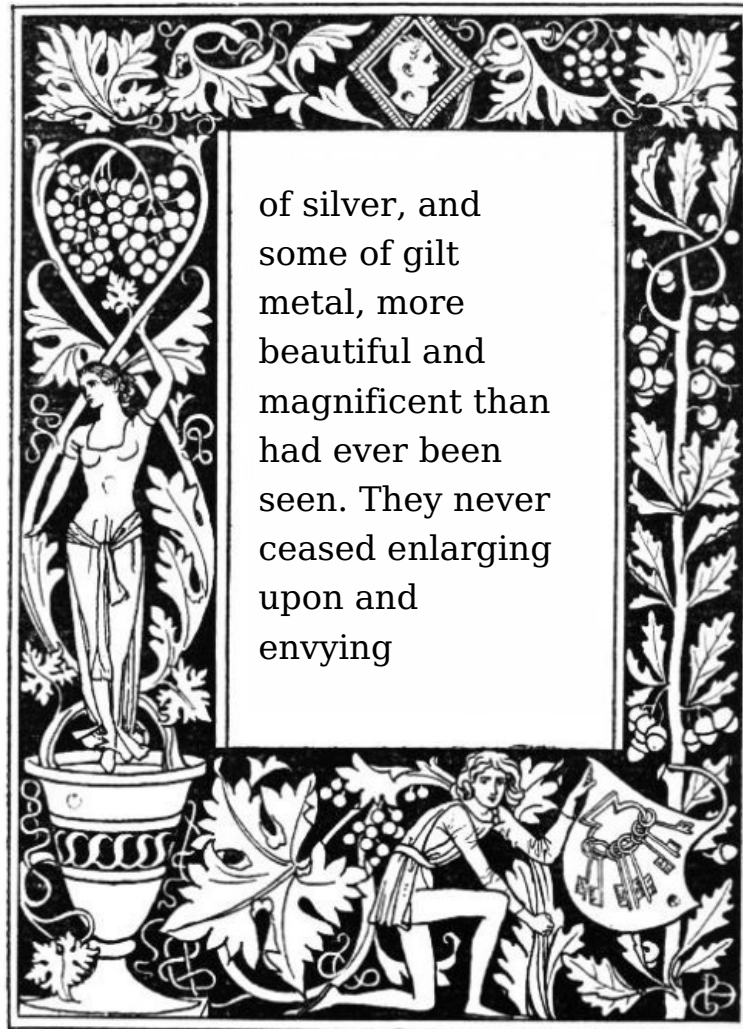


[Pg 23]

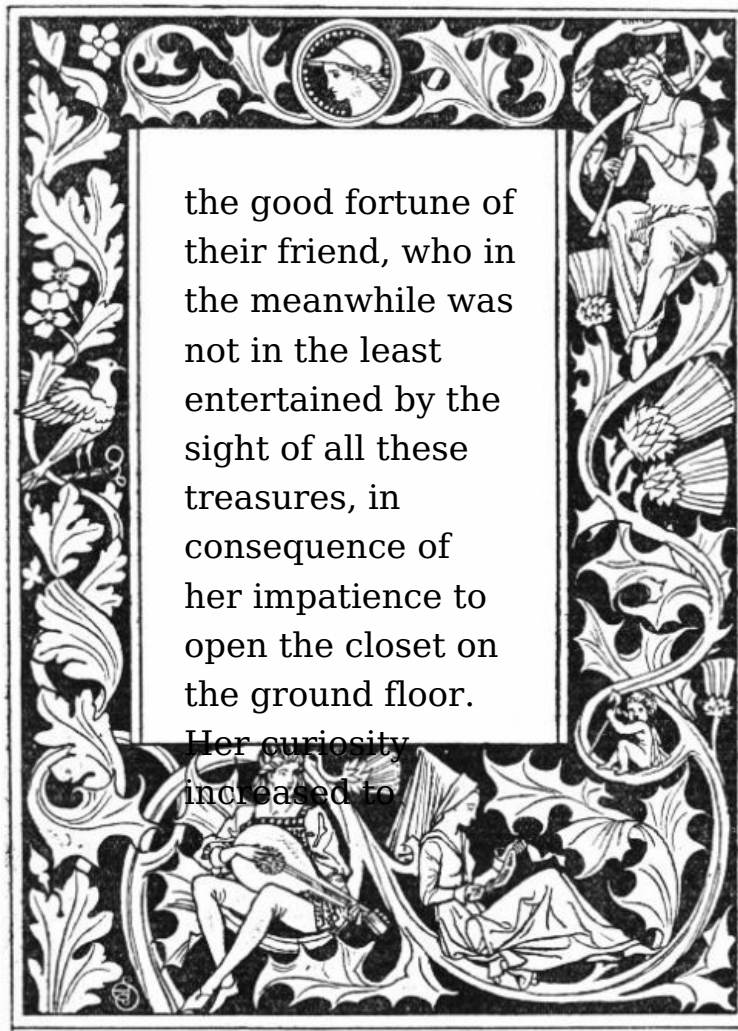




the tables, and the  
mirrors in which  
they could see  
themselves from  
head to foot, and  
that had frames  
some of glass,<sup>[2]</sup>  
some

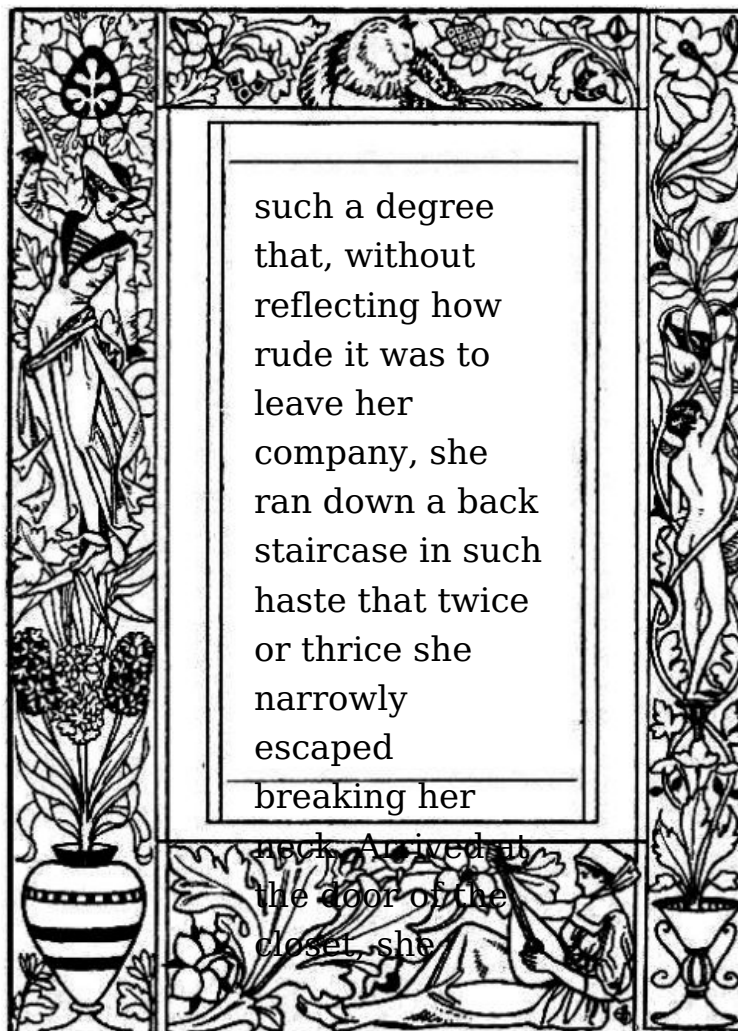


of silver, and  
some of gilt  
metal, more  
beautiful and  
magnificent than  
had ever been  
seen. They never  
ceased enlarging  
upon and  
envying



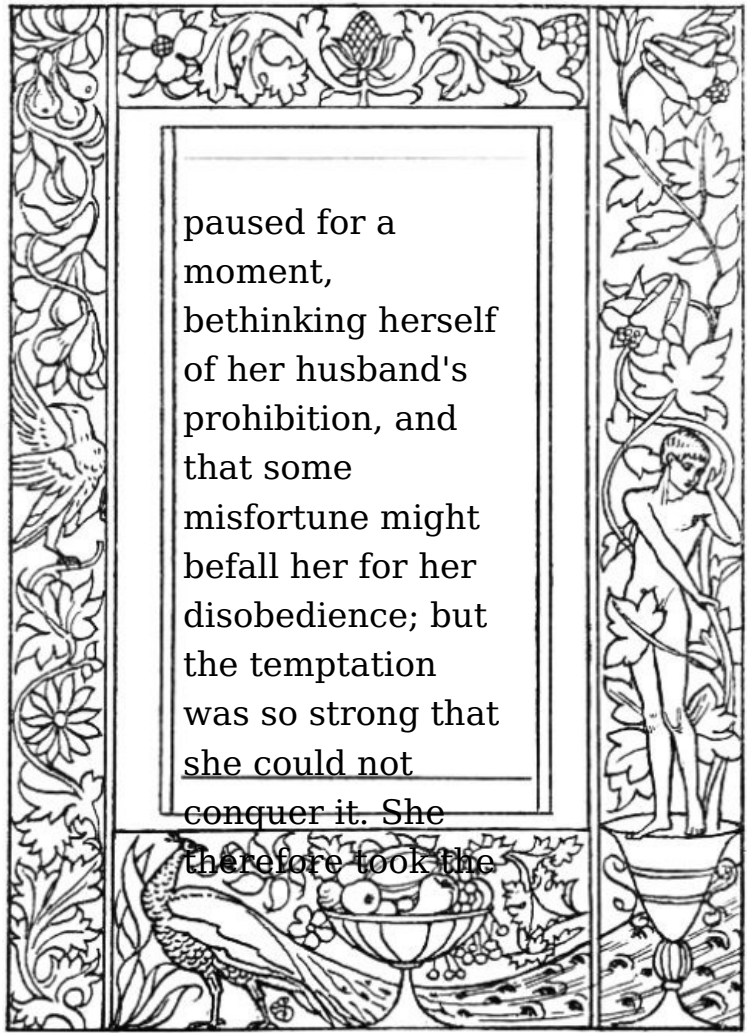
the good fortune of their friend, who in the meanwhile was not in the least entertained by the sight of all these treasures, in consequence of her impatience to open the closet on the ground floor.

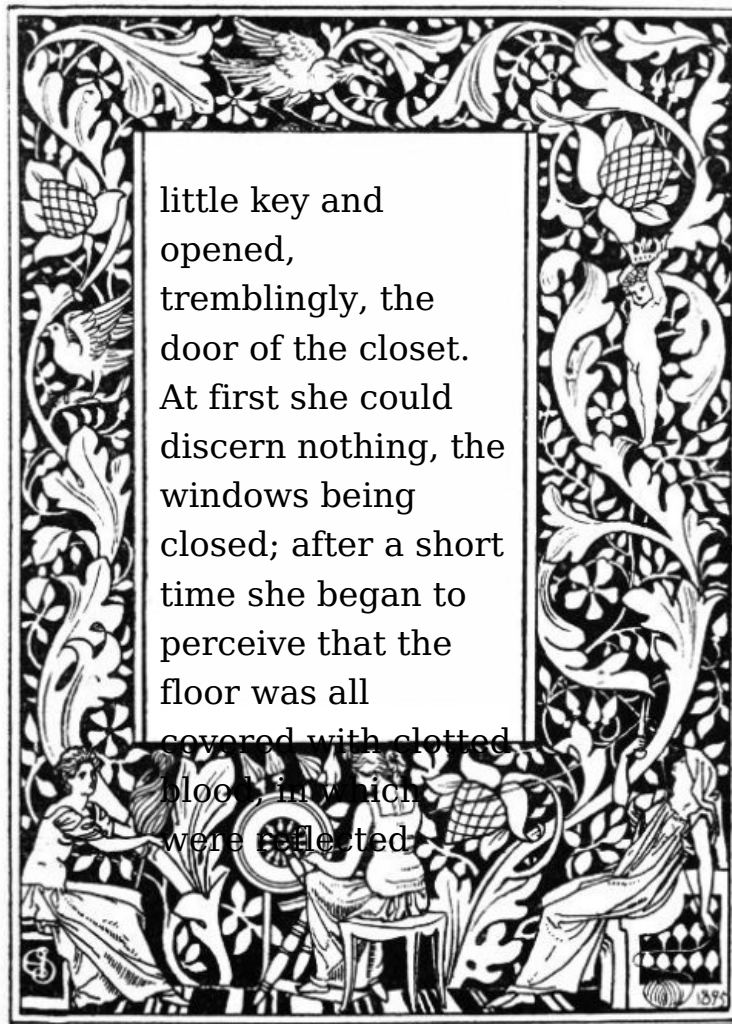
Her curiosity increased to



such a degree that, without reflecting how rude it was to leave her company, she ran down a back staircase in such haste that twice or thrice she narrowly escaped breaking her

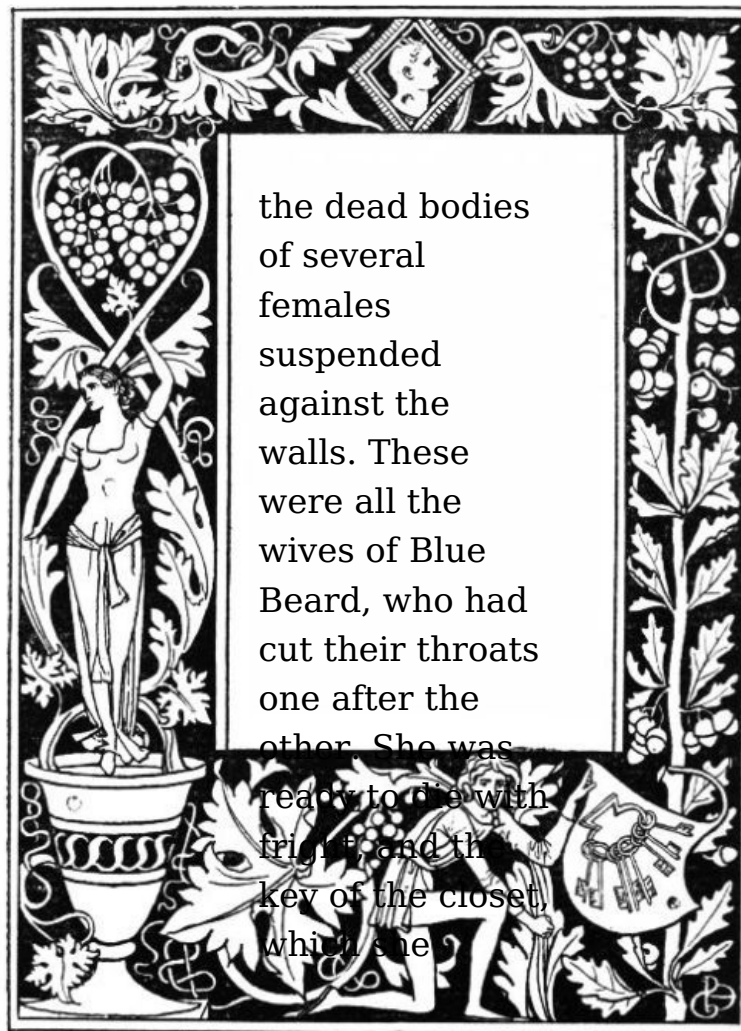
neck. Arrived at the door of the closet, she



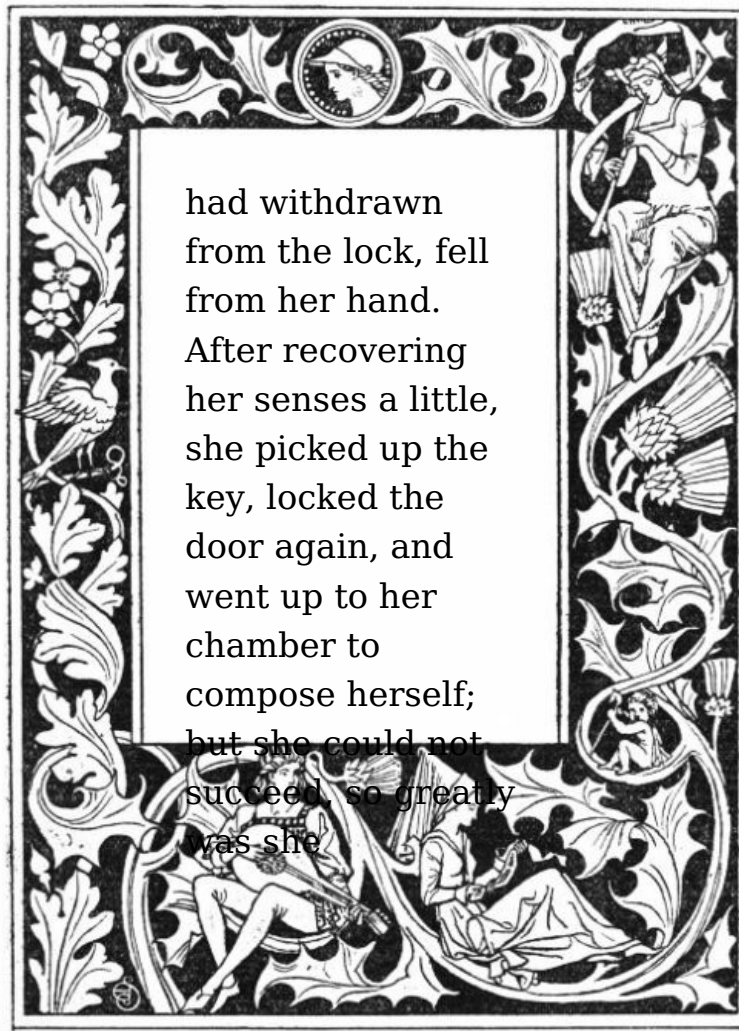


little key and  
opened,  
tremblingly, the  
door of the closet.  
At first she could  
discern nothing, the  
windows being  
closed; after a short  
time she began to  
perceive that the  
floor was all  
covered with clotted  
blood, in which  
were reflected

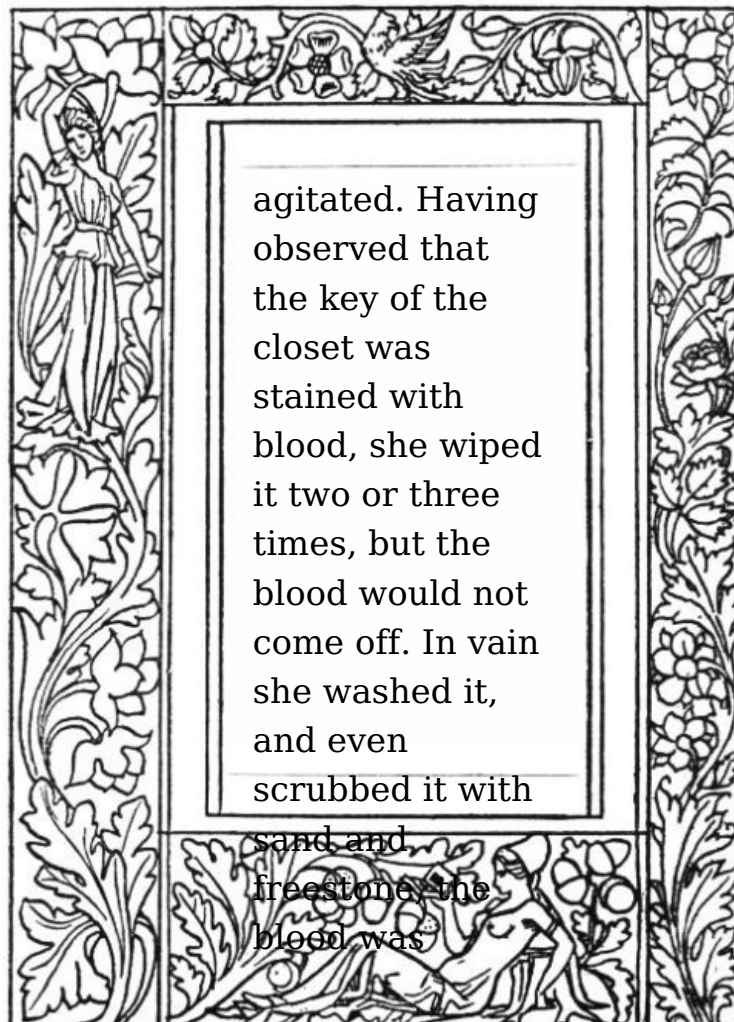
[Pg 30]



the dead bodies  
of several  
females  
suspended  
against the  
walls. These  
were all the  
wives of Blue  
Beard, who had  
cut their throats  
one after the  
other. She was  
ready to die with  
fright, and the  
key of the closet,  
which she



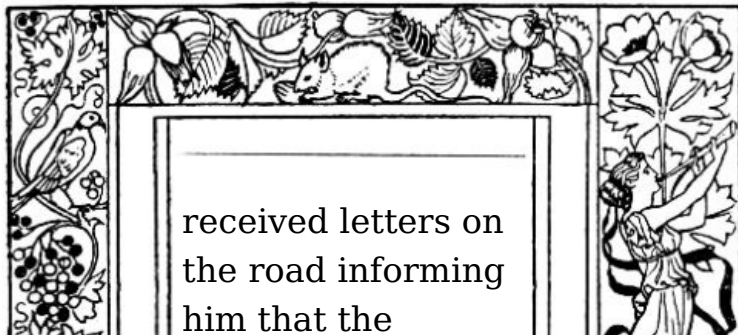
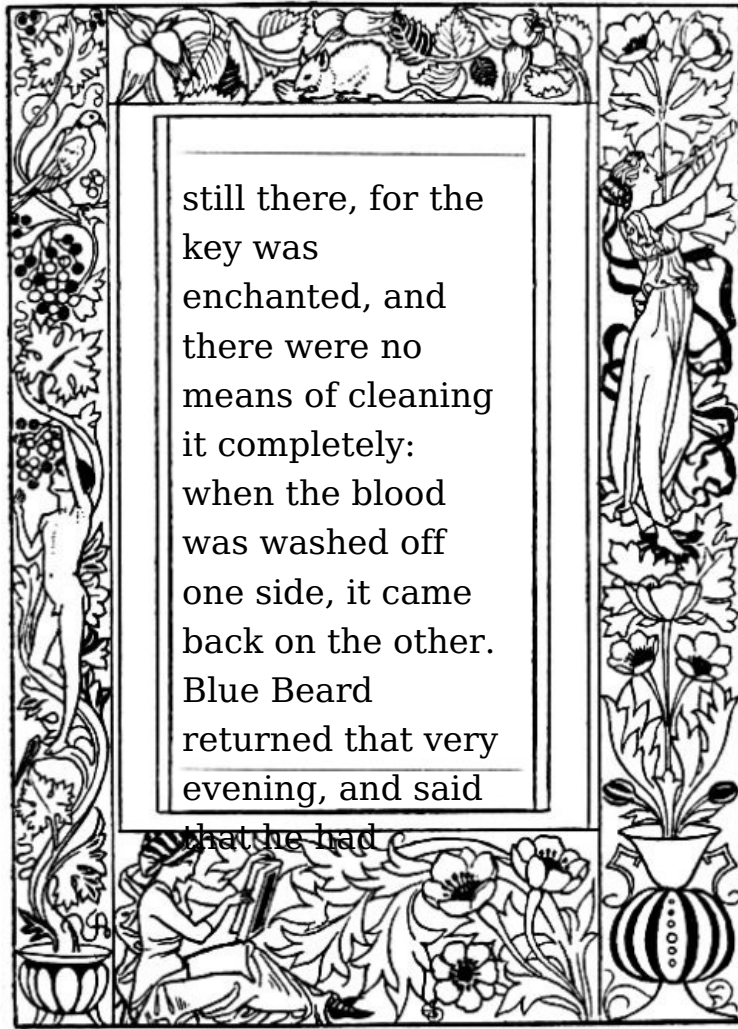
had withdrawn  
 from the lock, fell  
 from her hand.  
 After recovering  
 her senses a little,  
 she picked up the  
 key, locked the  
 door again, and  
 went up to her  
 chamber to  
 compose herself;  
 but she could not  
 succeed, so greatly  
 was she

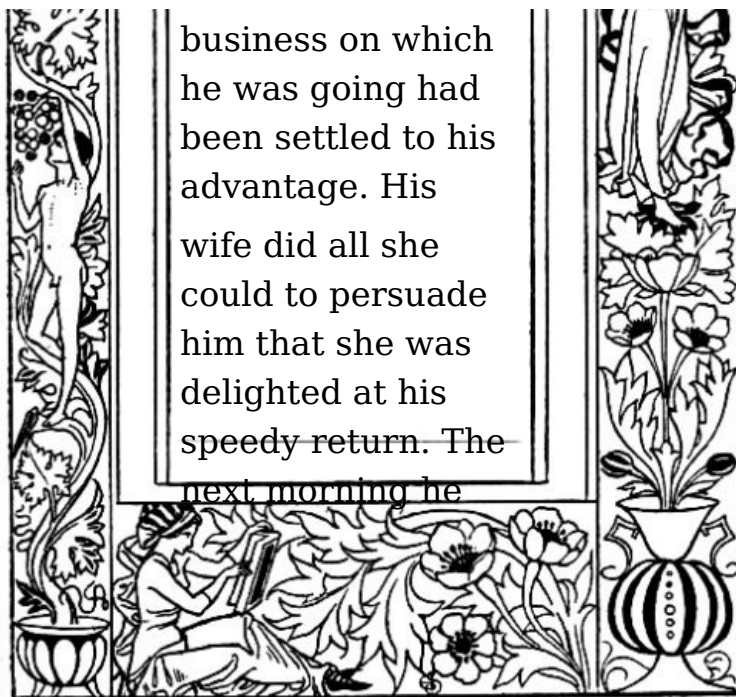


agitated. Having  
 observed that  
 the key of the  
 closet was  
 stained with  
 blood, she wiped  
 it two or three  
 times, but the  
 blood would not  
 come off. In vain  
 she washed it,  
 and even  
 scrubbed it with

sand and  
 freestone, the  
 blood was

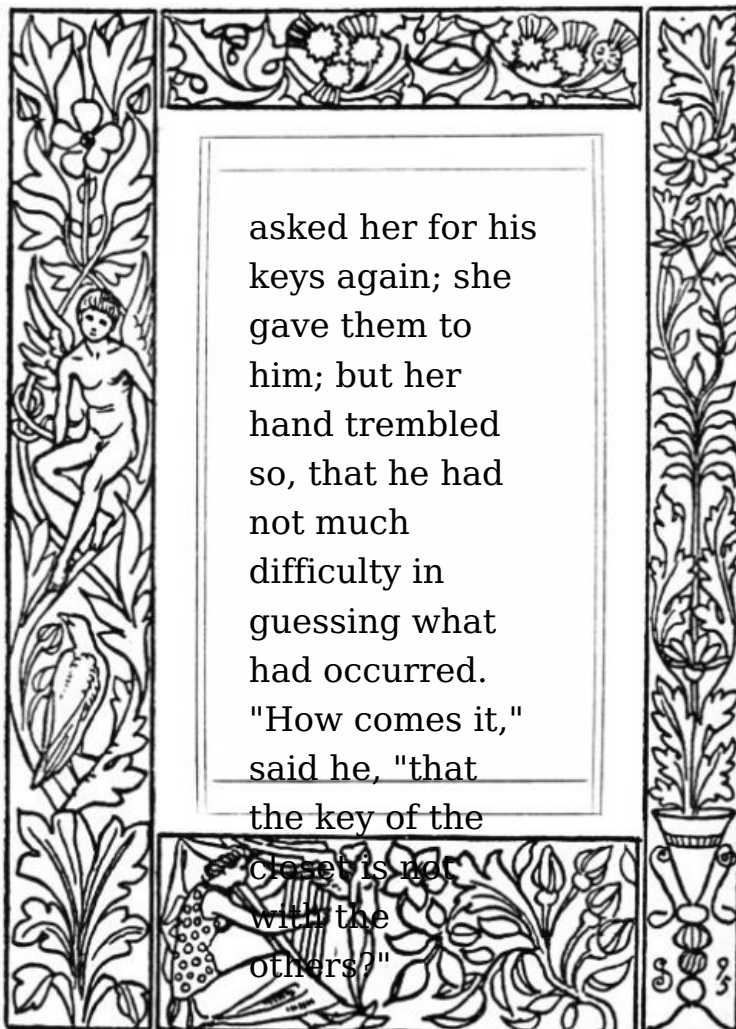






business on which he was going had been settled to his advantage. His wife did all she could to persuade him that she was delighted at his speedy return. The next morning he

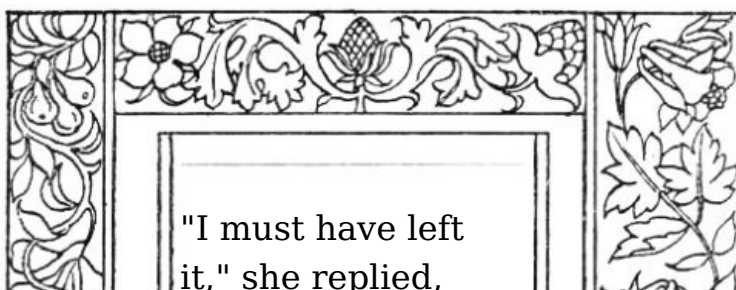
[Pg 36]



asked her for his keys again; she gave them to him; but her hand trembled so, that he had not much difficulty in guessing what had occurred. "How comes it," said he, "that the key of the

closet is not with the others?"

[Pg 37]

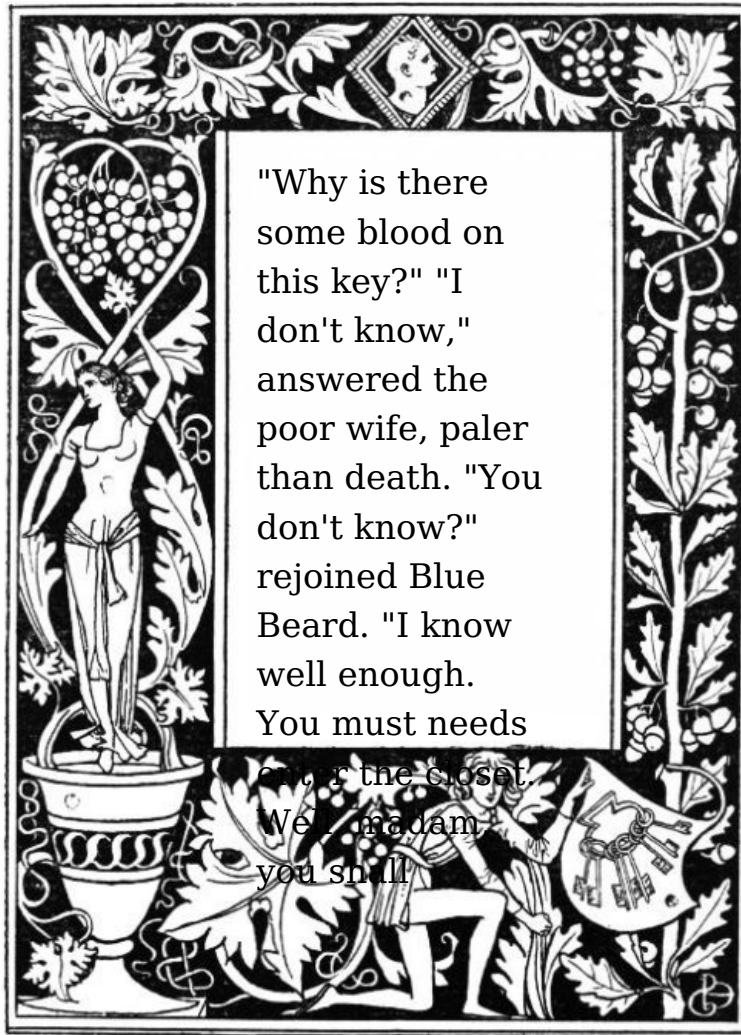


"I must have left it," she replied,



"up-stairs on my table." "Fail not," said Blue Beard, "to give it me presently." After several excuses, she was compelled to produce the key. Blue Beard having examined

it, said to his wife



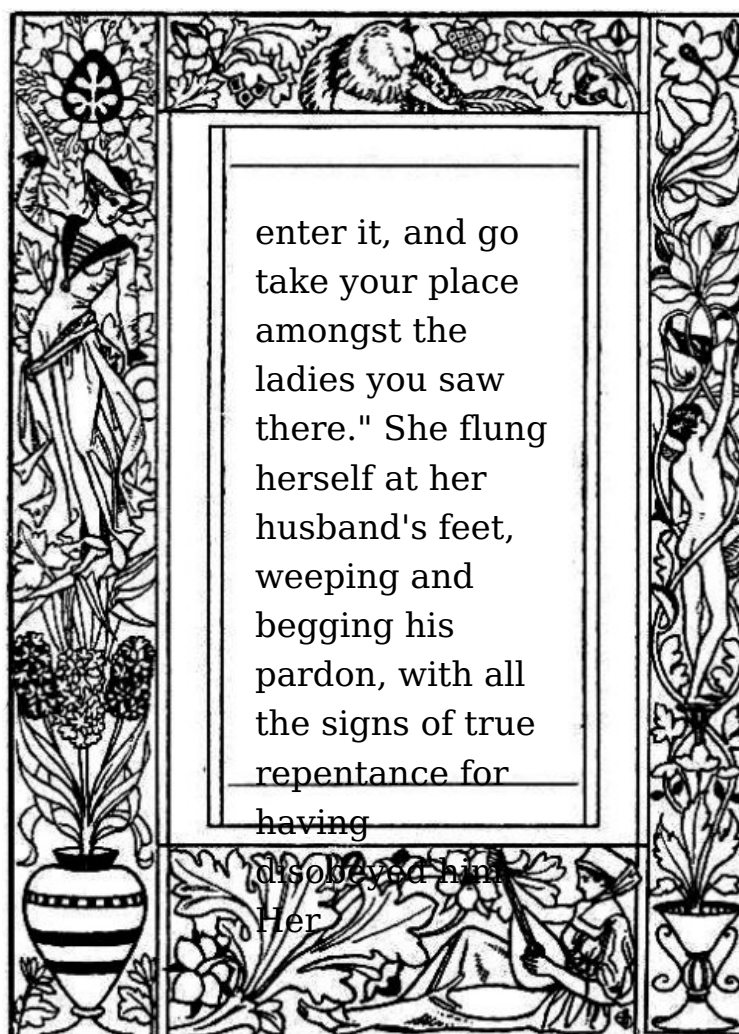
"Why is there some blood on this key?" "I don't know," answered the poor wife, paler than death. "You don't know?" rejoined Blue Beard. "I know well enough. You must needs

open the closet.

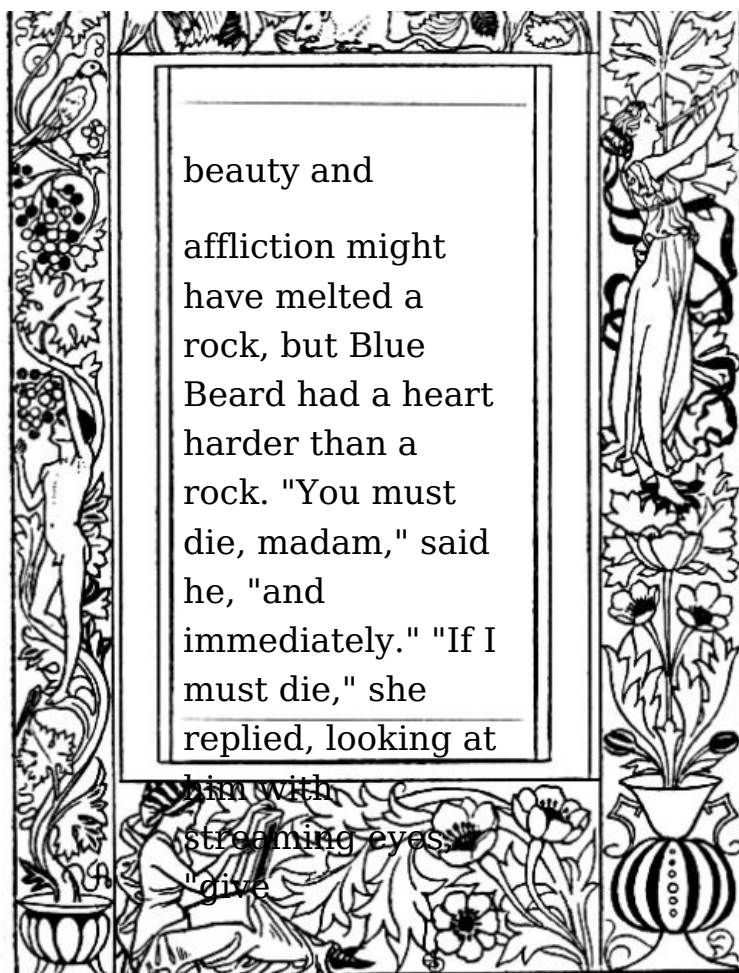
Well, madam, you shall



[Pg 40]

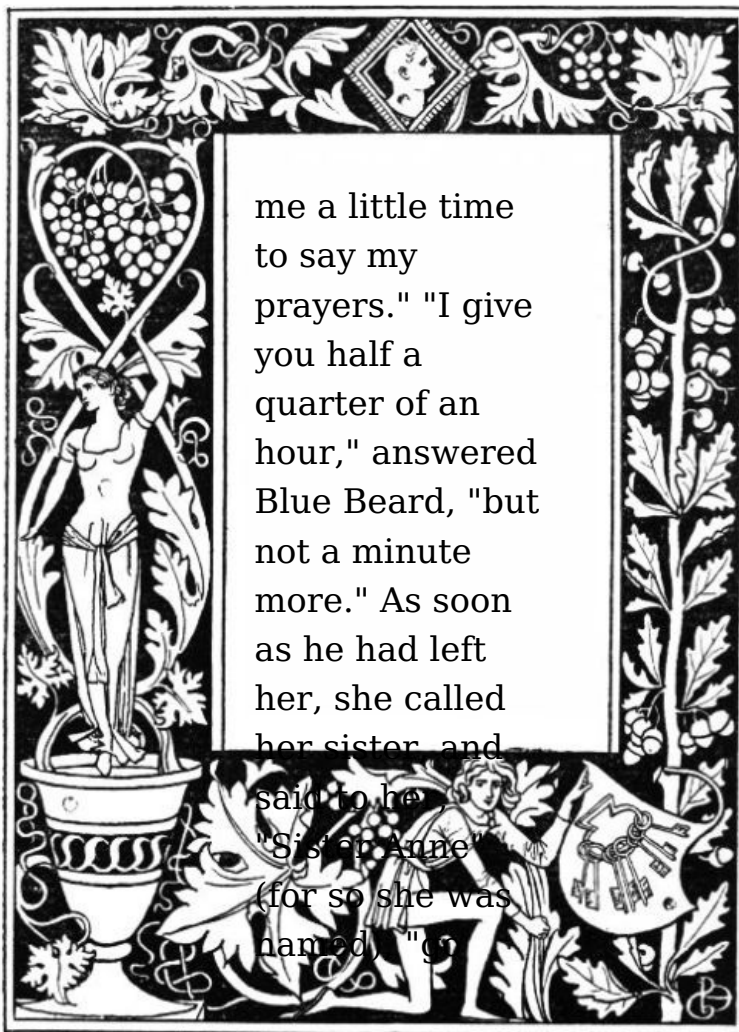


[Pg 41]

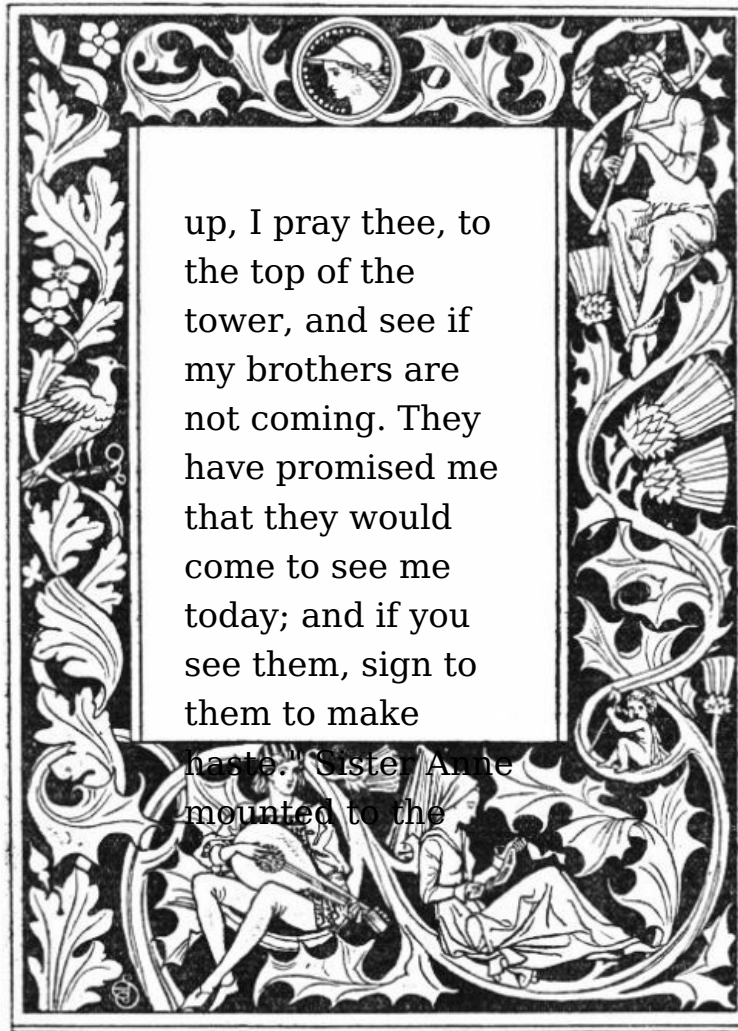


beauty and  
affliction might  
have melted a  
rock, but Blue  
Beard had a heart  
harder than a  
rock. "You must  
die, madam," said  
he, "and  
immediately." "If I  
must die," she  
replied, looking at

him with  
streaming eyes,  
"give

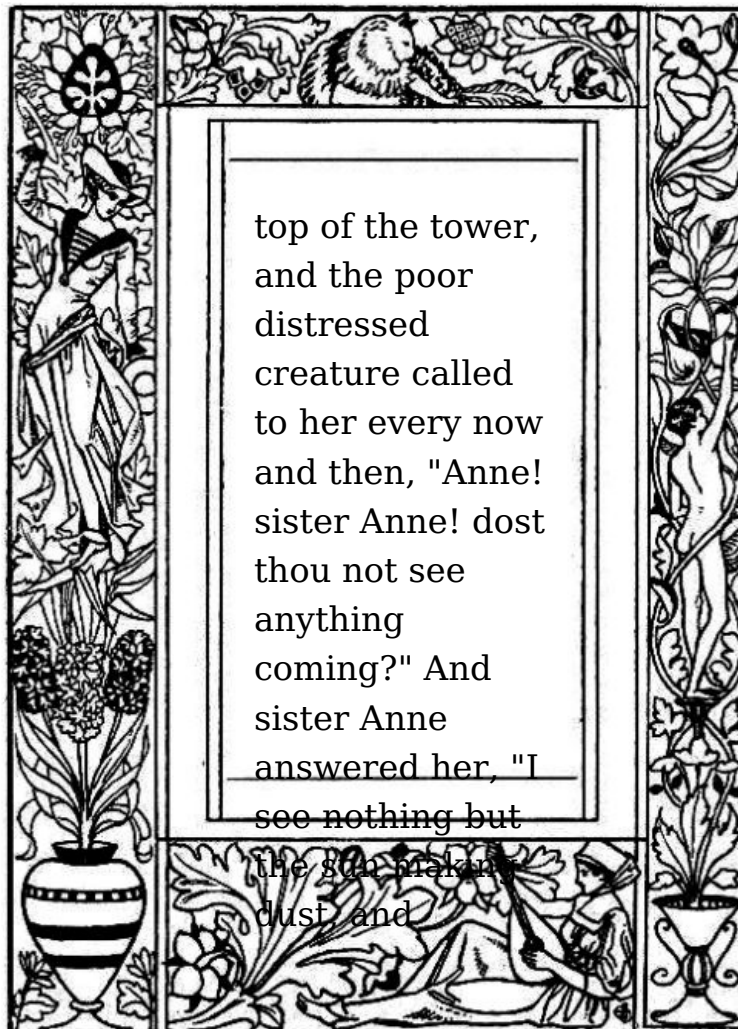


me a little time  
to say my  
prayers." "I give  
you half a  
quarter of an  
hour," answered  
Blue Beard, "but  
not a minute  
more." As soon  
as he had left  
her, she called  
her sister, and  
said to her  
"Sister Anne"  
(for so she was  
named). "G



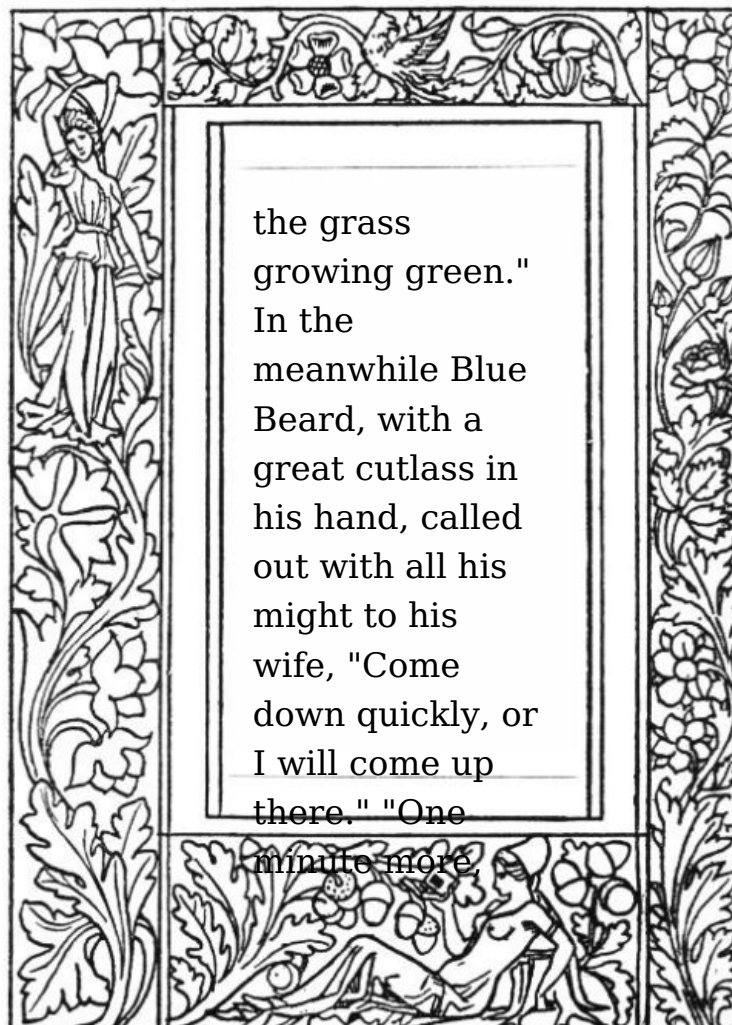
up, I pray thee, to  
 the top of the  
 tower, and see if  
 my brothers are  
 not coming. They  
 have promised me  
 that they would  
 come to see me  
 today; and if you  
 see them, sign to  
 them to make

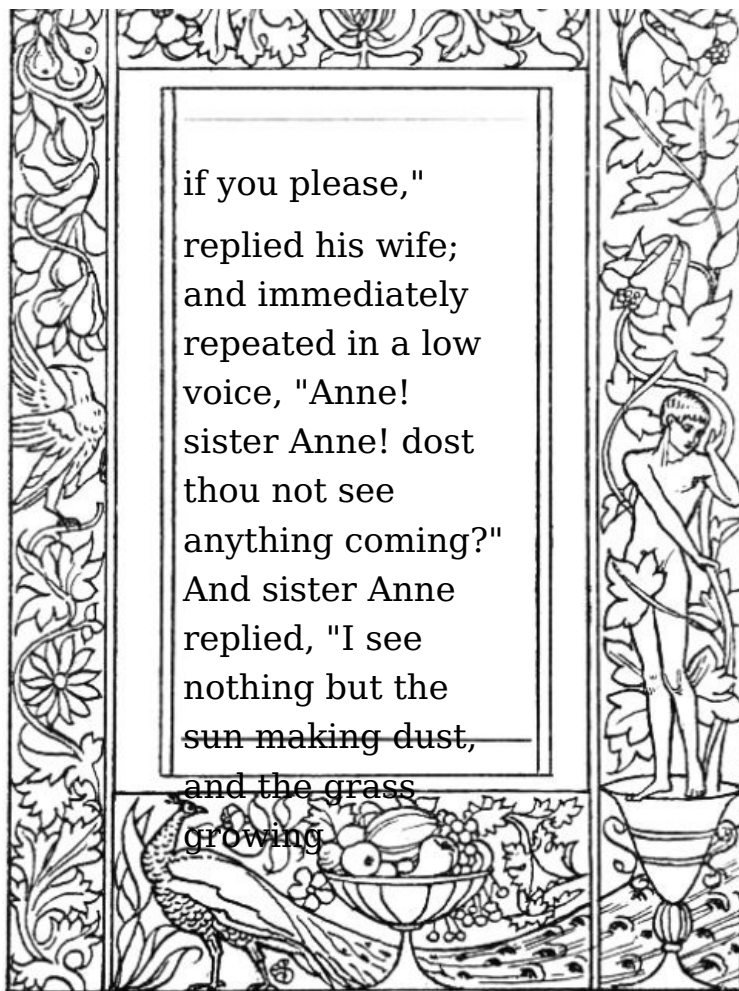
nasty." Sister Anne  
 mounted to the



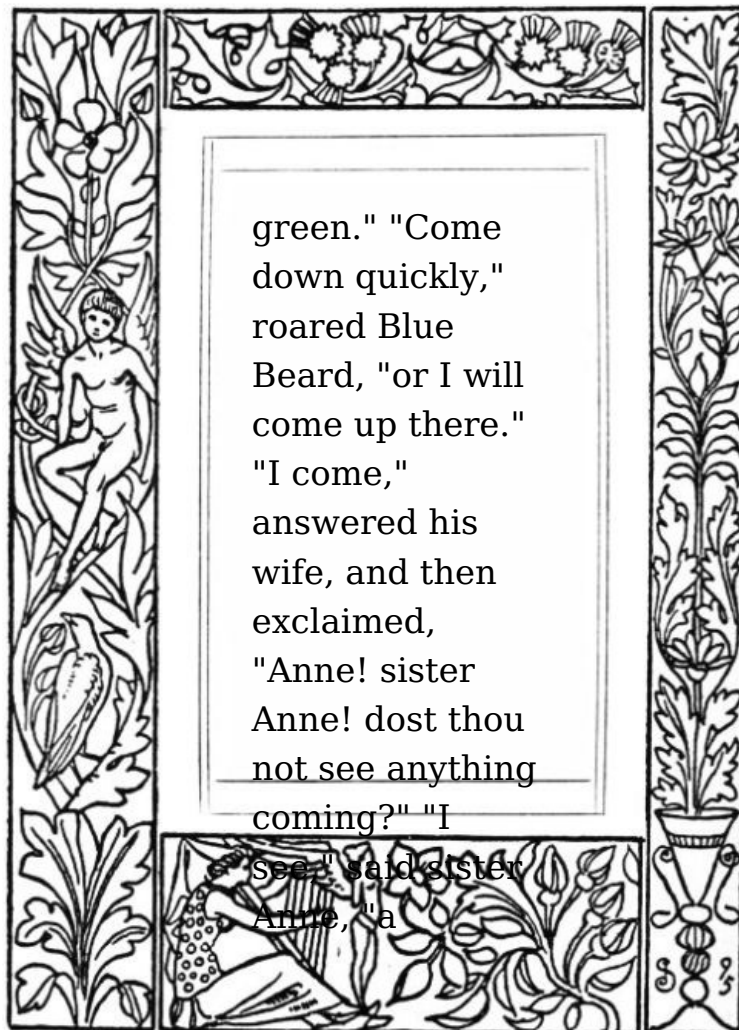
top of the tower,  
 and the poor  
 distressed  
 creature called  
 to her every now  
 and then, "Anne!  
 sister Anne! dost  
 thou not see  
 anything  
 coming?" And  
 sister Anne  
 answered her, "I  
 see nothing but

the sun, moon,  
 dust, and





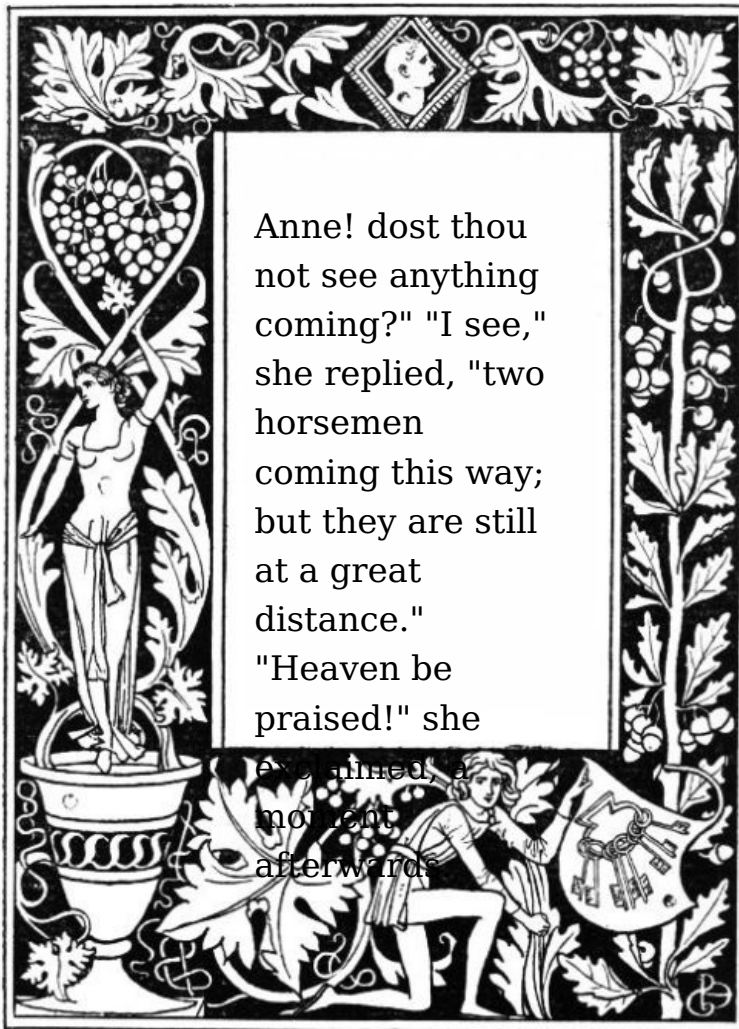
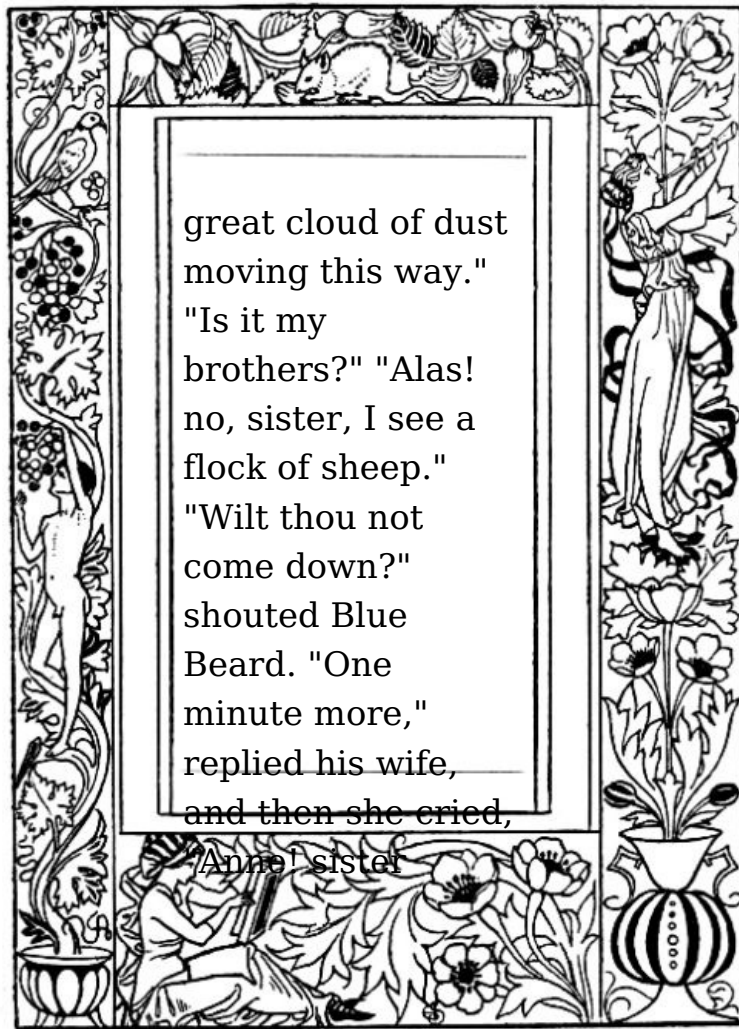
if you please,"  
replied his wife;  
and immediately  
repeated in a low  
voice, "Anne!  
sister Anne! dost  
thou not see  
anything coming?"  
And sister Anne  
replied, "I see  
nothing but the  
sun making dust,  
and the grass  
growing

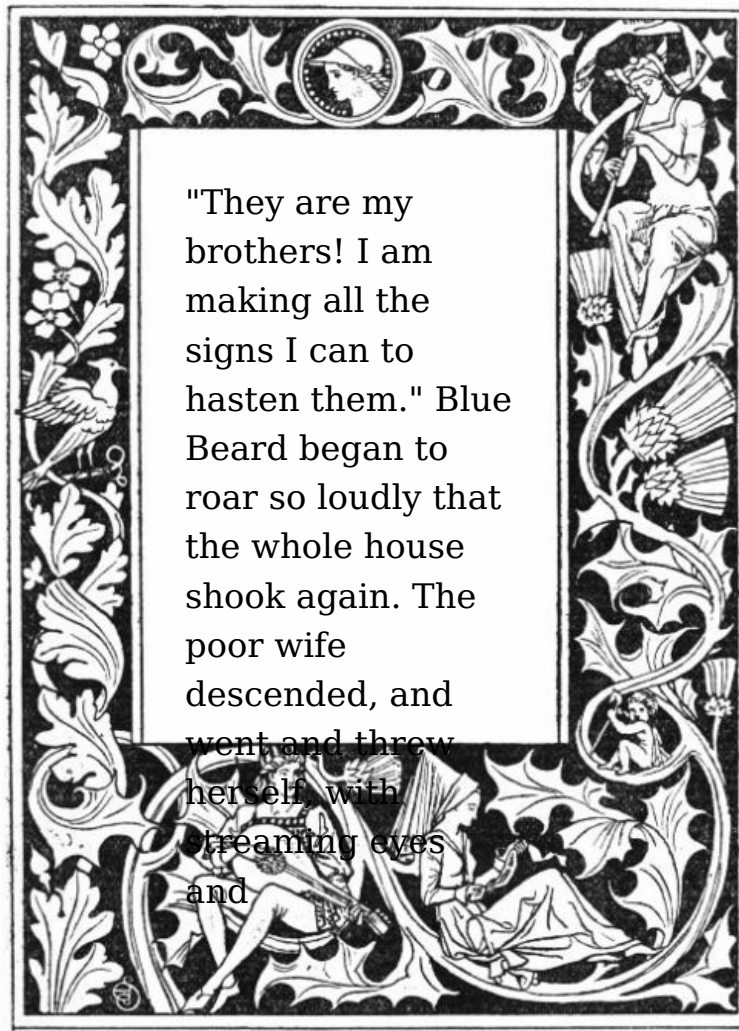


green." "Come  
down quickly,"  
roared Blue  
Beard, "or I will  
come up there."  
"I come,"  
answered his  
wife, and then  
exclaimed,  
"Anne! sister  
Anne! dost thou  
not see anything  
coming?" "I

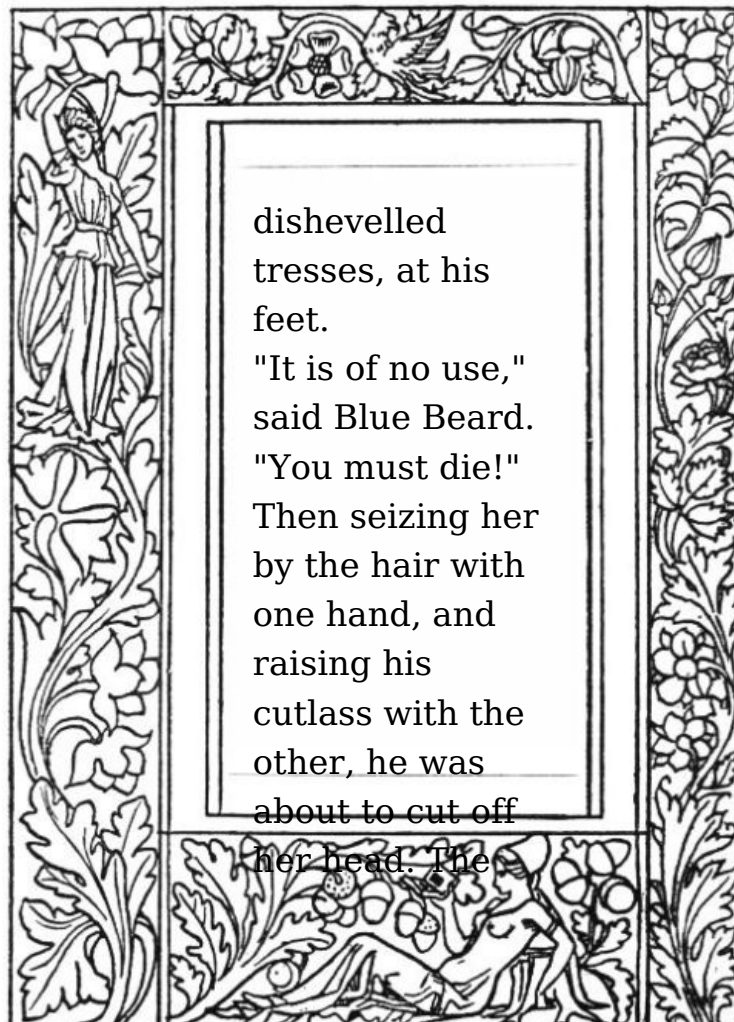
see," said sister  
Anne, "a



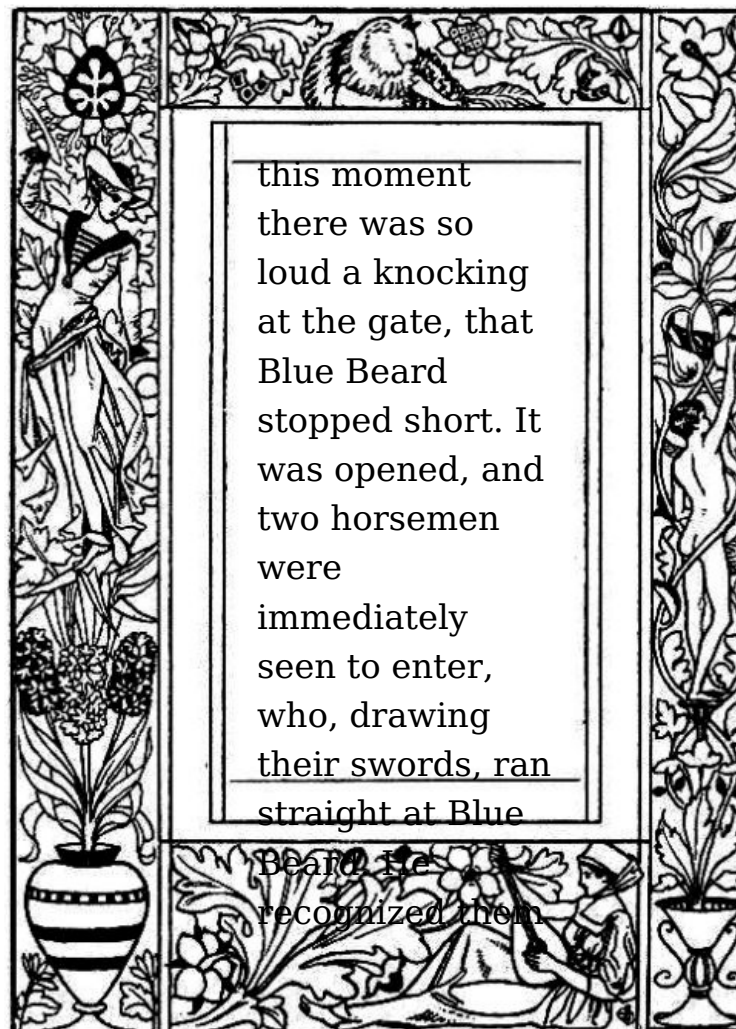
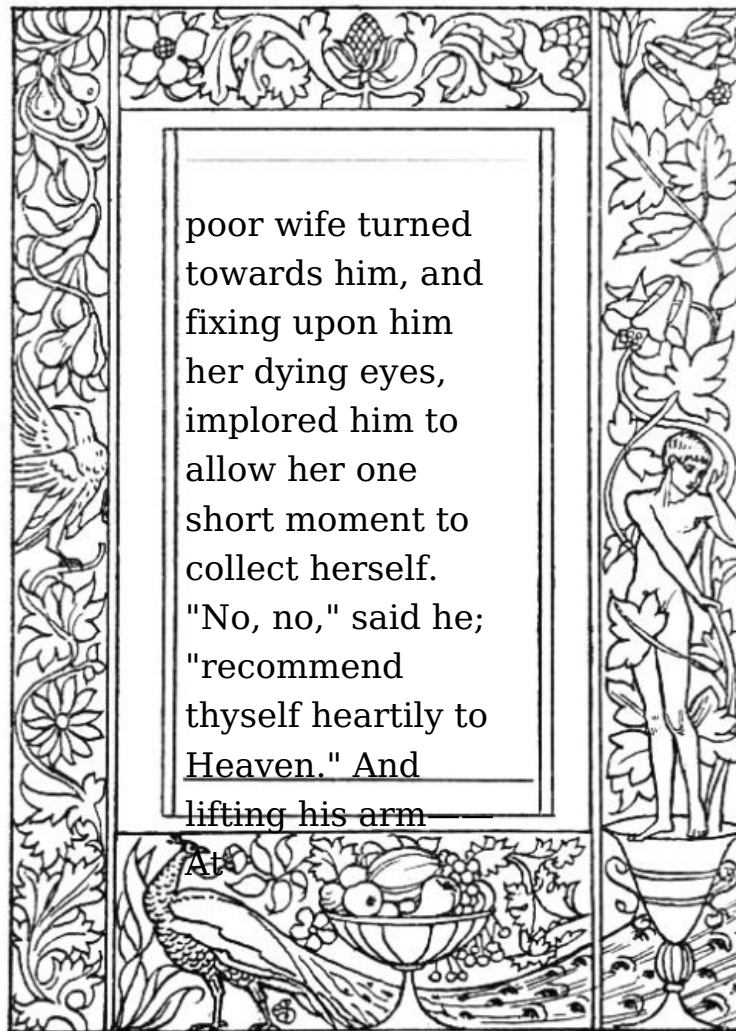


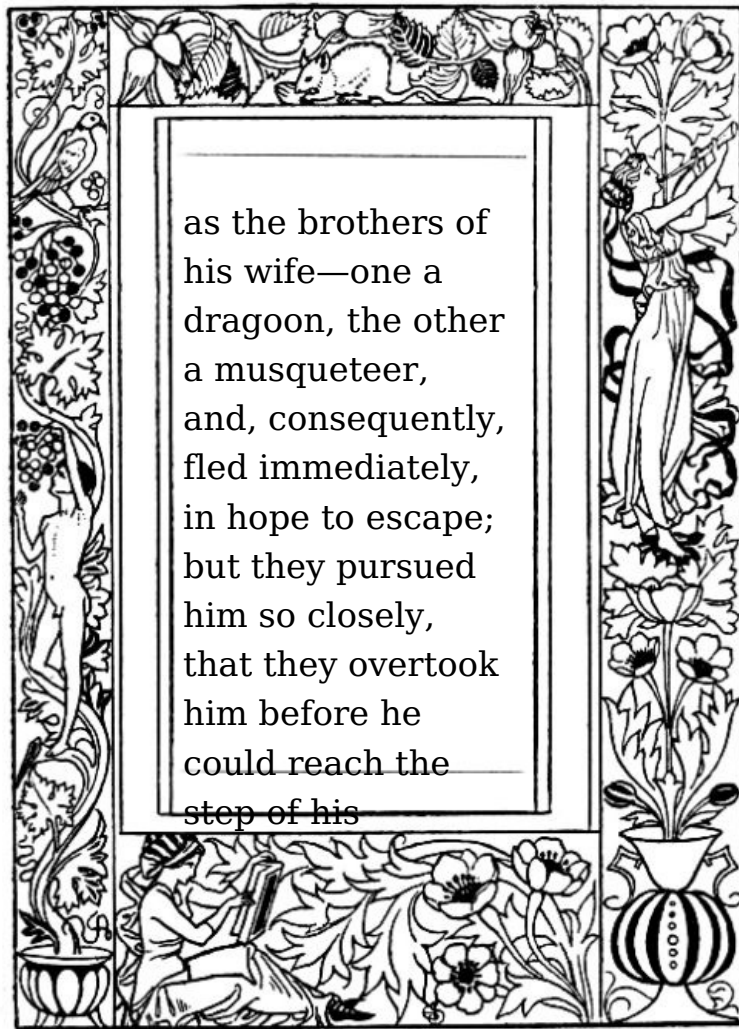


"They are my brothers! I am making all the signs I can to hasten them." Blue Beard began to roar so loudly that the whole house shook again. The poor wife descended, and went and threw herself with streaming eyes and

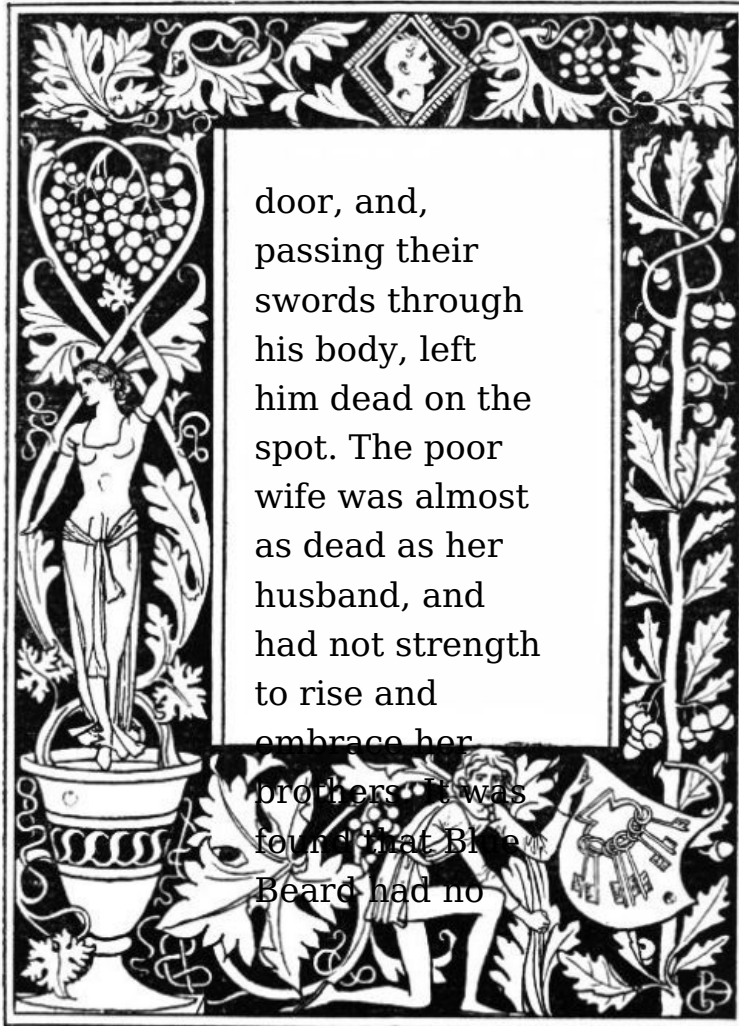


dishevelled tresses, at his feet.  
 "It is of no use," said Blue Beard.  
 "You must die!"  
 Then seizing her by the hair with one hand, and raising his cutlass with the other, he was about to cut off her head. The





as the brothers of his wife—one a dragoon, the other a musqueteer, and, consequently, fled immediately, in hope to escape; but they pursued him so closely, that they overtook him before he could reach the step of his



door, and, passing their swords through his body, left him dead on the spot. The poor wife was almost as dead as her husband, and had not strength to rise and embrace her brothers. It was found that Blue Beard had no

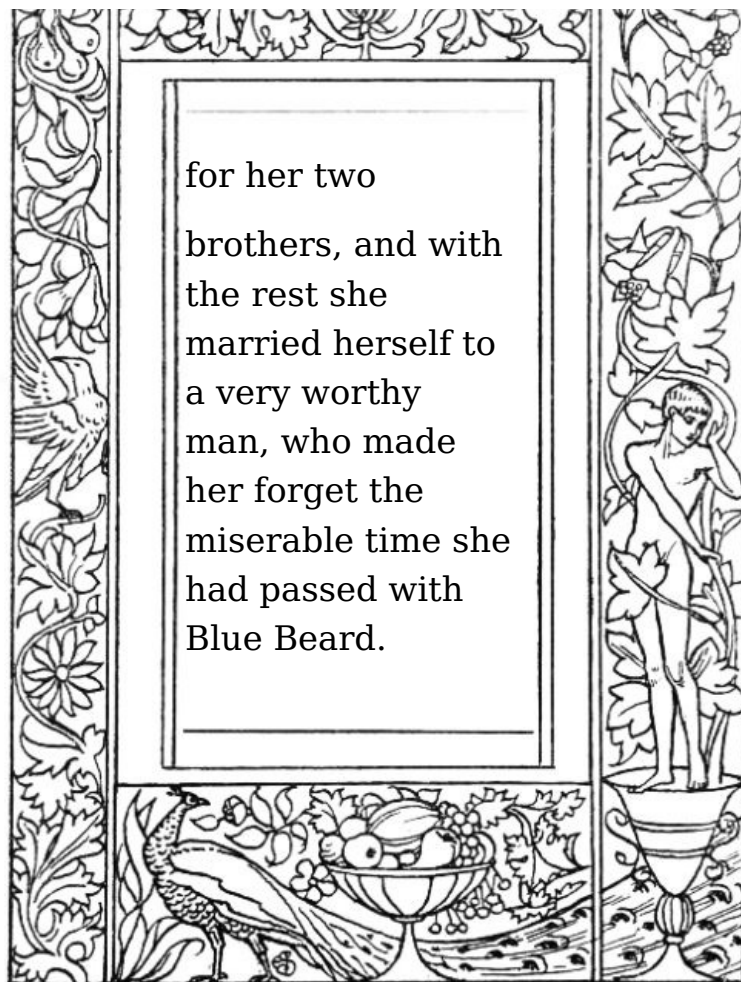


 A decorative border with floral and geometric patterns surrounds the text. The border is composed of several vertical panels. The left panel features a seated female figure. The right panel features a vase with flowers. The top and bottom panels feature various floral and geometric motifs.
 

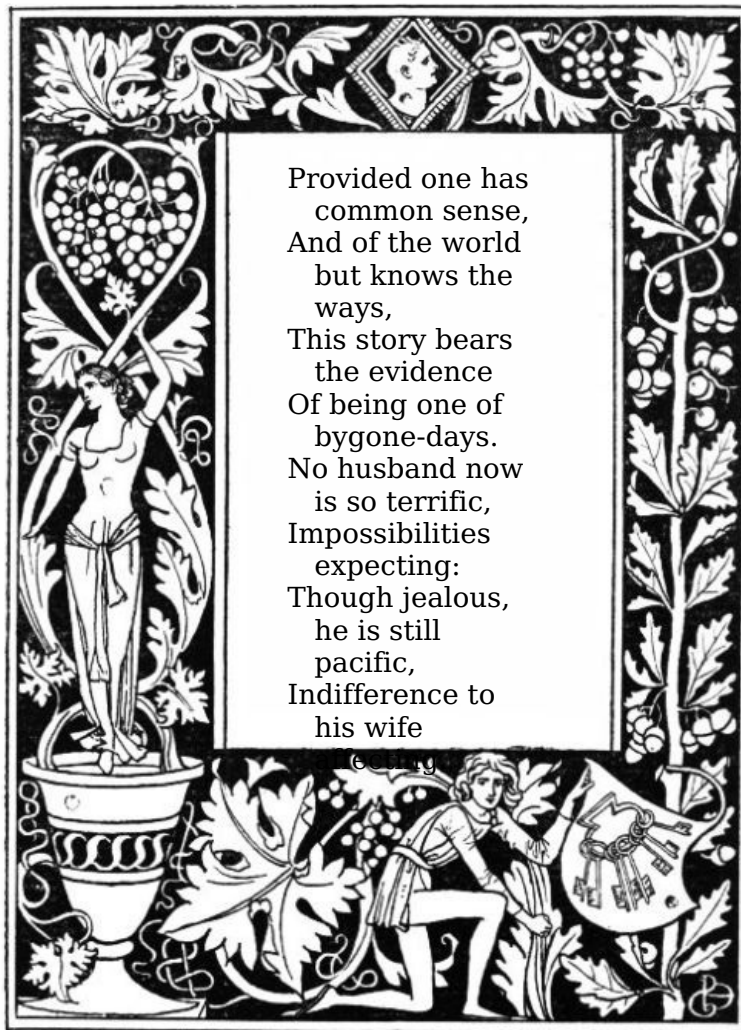
heirs, and so his widow remained possessed of all his property. She employed part of it in marrying her sister Anne to a young gentleman who had long loved her; another part, in buying

captains' commissions

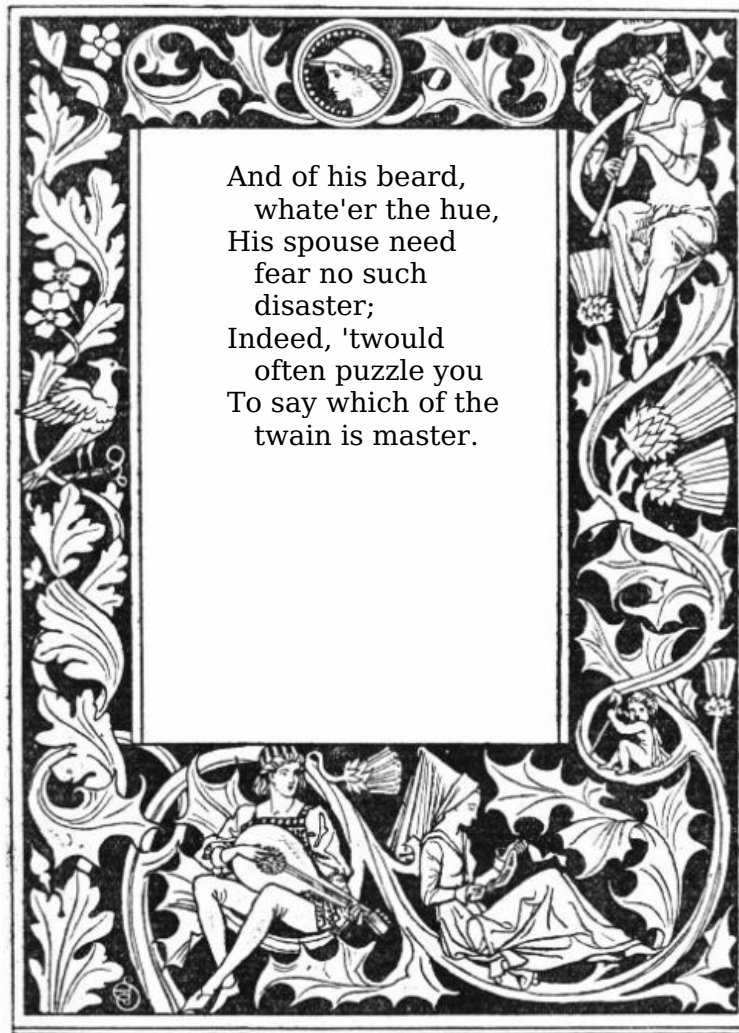




for her two  
brothers, and with  
the rest she  
married herself to  
a very worthy  
man, who made  
her forget the  
miserable time she  
had passed with  
Blue Beard.



Provided one has  
common sense,  
And of the world  
but knows the  
ways,  
This story bears  
the evidence  
Of being one of  
bygone-days.  
No husband now  
is so terrific,  
Impossibilities  
expecting:  
Though jealous,  
he is still  
pacific,  
Indifference to  
his wife




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RICHARD CLAY & SONS, LIMITED,  
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FOOTNOTES:

- [1] Gueridons, *i. e.* stands to place lights or china upon. The word is now used to signify any small round table with one foot; but the old-fashioned stand, which was higher than a table, and its top not bigger than a dessert-plate, is occasionally to be met with.

\*\*\* END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE STORY OF BLUE-BEARD \*\*\*

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