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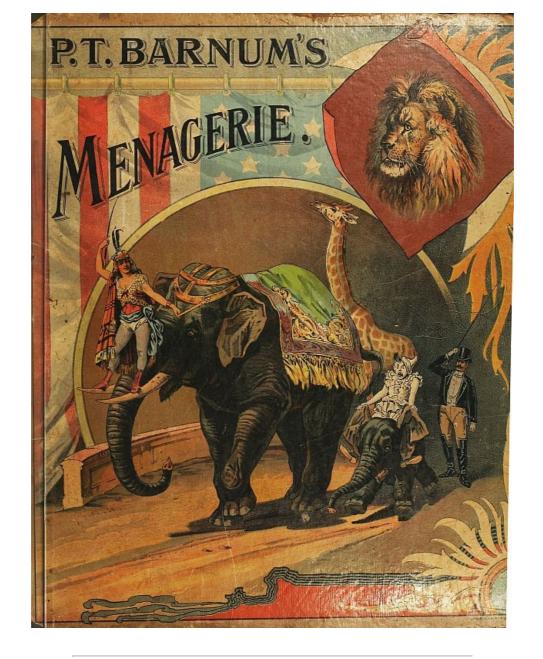
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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK P. T. BARNUM'S MENAGERIE ***

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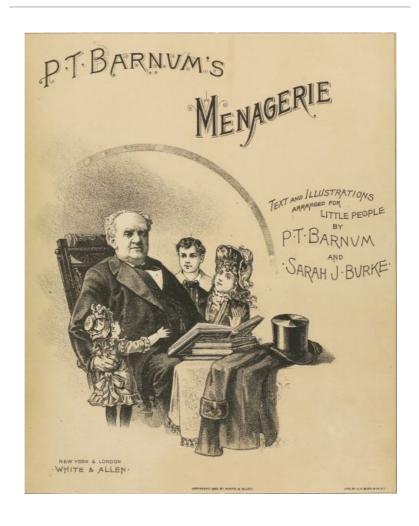
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P. T. BARNUM'S MENAGERIE

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P.T. BARNUM'S MENAGERIE

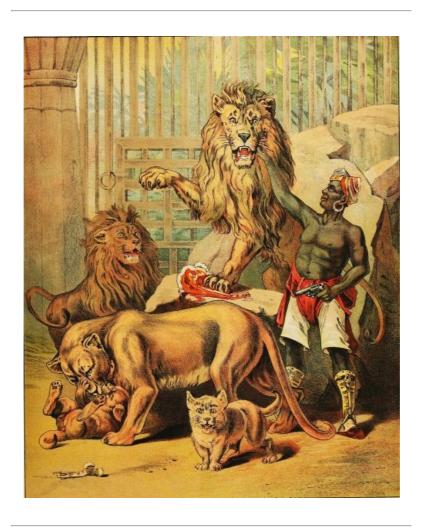
Text and Illustrations
ARRANGED FOR
LITTLE PEOPLE
BY
P·T·BARNUM

AND

SARAH J.BURKE

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WITH THE ANIMALS.

Y dear children, unless you have been fortunate enough to be taken to the menagerie by some grown-up friend, somebody who would patiently answer all your questions, and tell you all about the bewitchingly horrible animals in the cages, and into whose arms you might run when they growled and looked fierce, I do not think you can know the joy of Tom, Trixie and Gay as they entered the menagerie with Mr. Barnum.

Trixie hugged his right arm tight, as usual, Gay kept fast hold of his left hand, while Tom was so anxious to miss no part of the show that he did not know that he was walking so clumsily as to put Mr. Barnum's toes in danger; and, notwithstanding they were such old chums, I fancy he was more than once tempted to say to the boy, "Tom, you are as awkward as a grizzly bear!"

At the sight of the zebra, Gay laughed aloud. "He is knitted all in stripes—he is made of

garters!" she said; and she thought the gnu looked like a wild bull "in front," but when he turned round she said he was a horse.

And oh! you should have heard the buffalo snort at Gay! "He wants to make a meal of baby," said Tom, but the truth was a man had been teasing him with a cane, and when a buffalo is angry, he is not a very pleasant play-fellow.

"I mean to hunt the buffalo, out West, when I am a man," said Tom.

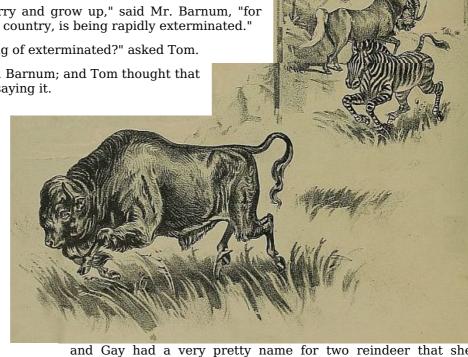
"Then you must hurry and grow up," said Mr. Barnum, "for the animal, in our own country, is being rapidly exterminated."

"What is the meaning of exterminated?" asked Tom.

"Killed off," said Mr. Barnum; and Tom thought that a much better way of saying it.

"Does a buffalo grow up out of a buffalo bug?" asked Gay. Then they all laughed at her till she pouted, and Trixie thought, must remember to tell that to mama."

The reindeer, the antelope, and the moose were all somewhat alike -"cousins," the children called them;

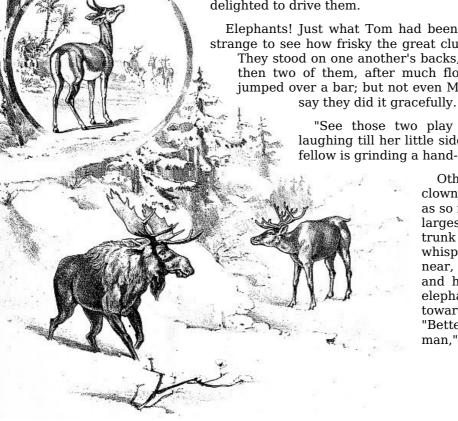


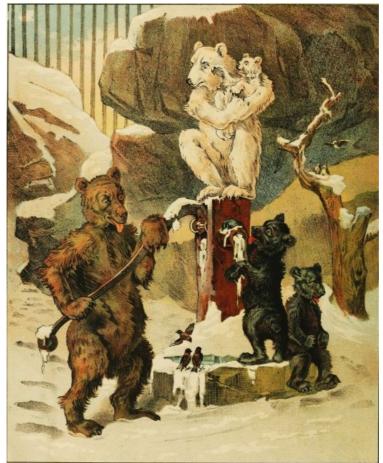
and Gay had a very pretty name for two reindeer that she thought especially beautiful—she said they were "Santa Claus's ponies;" and I am sure that even Santa Claus would have been delighted to drive them.

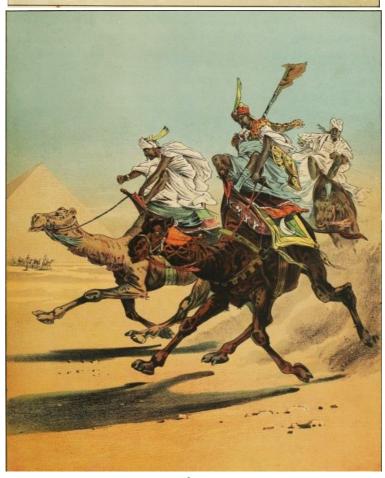
Elephants! Just what Tom had been longing for, and it was strange to see how frisky the great clumsy creatures could be. They stood on one another's backs, they tried to waltz, and then two of them, after much floundering and capering, jumped over a bar; but not even Mr. Barnum himself could

> "See those two play see-saw!" cried Trixie, laughing till her little sides shook, "and that little fellow is grinding a hand-organ!"

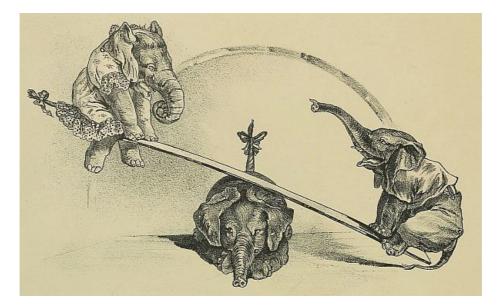
> > Others, dressed like clowns, were as full of tricks as so many monkeys. The very largest elephant thrust his trunk forward, and Tom whispered to a boy who stood near, "You pull his front tail, and hear him roar!" But the elephant rolled his eyes toward Tom as if to say, "Better try it yourself, young man," and Tom moved back.







b;





"Mr. Barnum and I remember Jumbo," said he.

"Who was Jumbo?" asked Trixie.

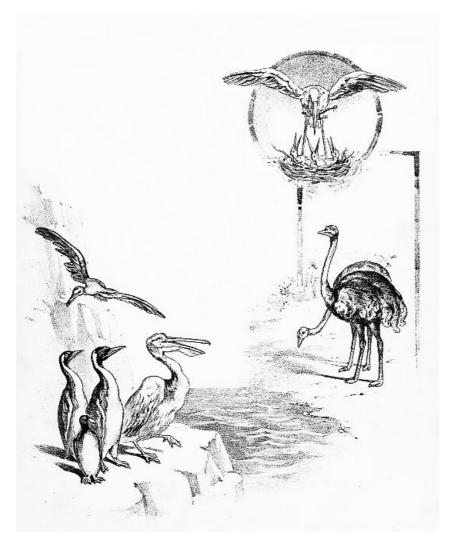
"Oh, a tremendous elephant, as big as six of these rolled into one! He went to Canada, and there a locomotive smashed into his brain, and he turned over and died. But first he wrapped his trunk around the baby elephant and flung him safe off the track."

"Good Jumbo!" said Gay with a smile; but there were tears in Trixie's eyes.

"Yes, baby; and that's the way we would jump for you in any danger," added Tom.

Gay smiled sweetly again, but Trixie squeezed her old friend's hand so hard that he bent down and kissed her, saying, "But there *is* no danger, Toodles!"

The children were now quite ready to leave the elephants to look at the ostriches and the storks. I think that Trixie expected to see the ostriches wholly covered with long, dangling feathers, such as those she wore on her hat; and she was a little disappointed. The storks were old friends of hers, because mama had a screen at home, upon which storks were embroidered; and some of these birds, like those on the screen, were resting upon one foot.



Tom was very much interested in the sea birds,—the albatross, the penguin, and the auk, but there was such a crowd around their cage that he came away grumbling.

"Never mind, Tom," said Mr. Barnum: "come and see the fisherman that carries his basket under his chin!"

Tom did not understand this joke at first, but Mr. Barnum explained that he meant the pelican, which has a pouch under its beak in which it carries home the fish to feed its young.

"Look out, Trixie!" cried Tom, when they saw the whale. "He swallowed a man once."

"Did this very whale swallow a man?" asked Trixie, solemnly; "and did you know the man?"

"Well, no—not exactly; but I knew of him."

"What was his name?"

"Jonah."

"O, Tom Van Tassel! That was as much as fifty years ago, and Jonah was a bible man. The whale looks kind and I'm not afraid of him," and Trixie went up very close. "But what makes him so floppy? I should think the whalebones in him would stiffen him."

And then Mr. Barnum explained that what we call whalebone is something that grows in the mouth of a whale, and is used as a strainer, to separate the water from the food.

They thought the shark a mean-looking creature, and they were surprised to learn that it turns on its back to bite.



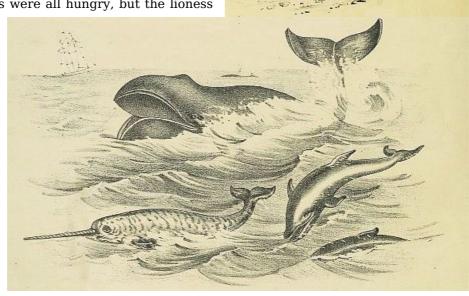
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"I'm tired of fish—let us find something furious!" said Tom; so they started toward the lion's cage. The great, grand king of them all was taking his afternoon rest, and he opened his eyes and looked at them once, as if to say, "Behold and admire! I am the King of Beasts, and you are only little human Yankees! I had these bars put up to keep off the crowd. Kings must be neither pushed nor hustled." Then he waved his paw with a flourish which meant, "Begone!" and Mr. Barnum, seeing the roar coming, said, "Come on, Toodles."

But Tom staid, and he was glad that he did so. The keeper of the lions entered the cage, and the excitement began. The poor beasts were all hungry, but the lioness

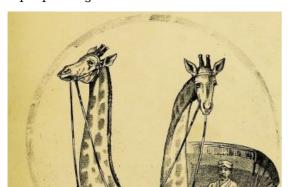
and the little cubs were fed first; and when King Lion seemed ready to tear the bars down in his fury, the keeper fired off a pistol, and the angry creature leaped into the air. I think even his own little baby cubs were afraid of him. When he grew quieter, he, too, was fed, and Tom ran to tell Trixie all about it.

"I am glad I did not stay," she said, "and I have had a very good time, myself. I have



been looking at the giraffes in harness, and I do think they make such funny looking horses. They look very much like ostriches—in the neck," she added, and Mr. Barnum laughed.

The giraffe is so tall that it can take its food from high trees, and it very seldom stoops to eat. But when a piece of sugar was put on the ground, the temptation was so great that it bent its head down between its fore feet, placed near together, and gobbled with a half-glide. Oh, how the people laughed at its awkwardness.



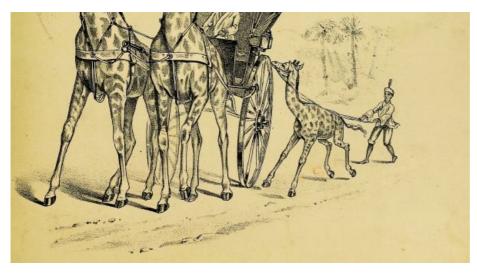
"What would mama say if we ate like that, Trixie?" said Tom.

"You could'nt do it," said the boy who had refused to pull the elephants "front tail."

Far off, in one corner, the children saw something which they thought, at first, was a dog, but as they came closer, it sat up like a monkey.

"That is a baboon," said Mr. Barnum. "It is so cross that I don't believe it has a friend in the world; while the bright-looking baby ourang-outang there, is always sure of a petting. That gray old grandfather

ourang-outang, however, can be very ugly; but we must always be patient with old people," said he, smiling.

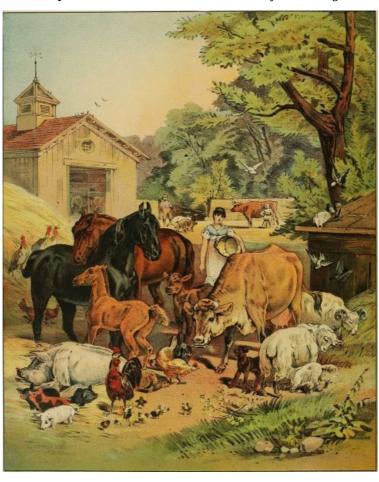


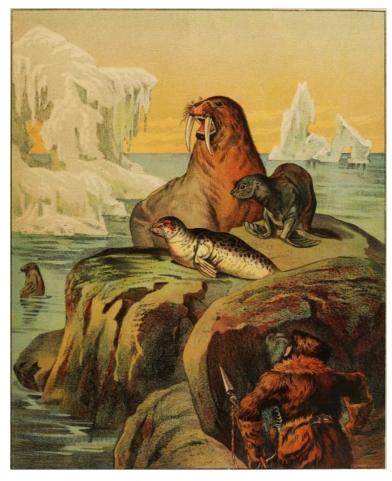
The Happy Family, they all declared, was less exciting, but quite as interesting, as the lions' cage. They had enjoyed seeing monkeys alone, but a monkey isn't half a monkey until you see him with other animals. Two solemn, old owls sat perched in one corner, and, when a monkey flung an orange into the face of one of them, the other wouldn't even wink. A funny old gray fellow

put his paw through the bars and pulled off Tom's cap, and it was only by the offer of a handful of nuts that the owner got it back.

Another took a guinea-pig in her lap, and rocked it as if it were her baby; but the sly chance of pulling a rabbit's ear was too much for mother monkey, so she was off again, tossing a nut at a squirrel as she passed.

White mice, little and pink-eyed, nibbled and squeaked, while the friendly cats lapped their milk close by; and even the parrots seemed to love the monkeys—a thing never heard of before.





But how could they all fail to be happy together, living as they did, in a menagerie! Oh! how the boys and girls envied them, feeling that they would almost be willing to give up quarreling with their dear brothers and sisters to enjoy such a life!

"Trixie," cried Tom, when they had wandered away from the Happy Family, "come and see this queer big pin-cushion!"

"What is it?" she asked, starting back.

"A porcupine," said Tom, laughing loudly. He had startled the strange animal, which, fearing some danger near, had rolled itself into a ball, and thrust out the quills with which it protects itself.

"Would you like to pet and smooth it, Gay?" asked Mr. Barnum.

"O, Gay! you are a funny baby," said Trixie, laughing, and speaking as though she, herself, were quite an elderly person.

"Do you want to see the kangaroo do the high running jump?" Tom asked. But the kangaroo refused to jump for them. Mr. Barnum then told them how, like the opossum, the mother carries her babies snugly tucked in her pocket.

"We haven't seen any bears yet," said Trixie.

"No, but you shall see them, Toodles," said Mr. Barnum. "Who ever heard of a menagerie without its bears? And here they are!"

Up on their hind legs they stood, waiting a minute till the music began, and then, at the first note of the fiddle, off they went—slowly at first, then faster and faster, until really they were almost graceful! Even the baby bears danced! But a grey old grizzly sat gossiping with a polar bear in a corner, while they too watched the dancing, like old ladies at a ball. Afterward, at a sign from the master, the same old grizzly took the fiddle himself, and played for the young people's dancing. Then the bears marched up and down, singly and in pairs, "cooling off," Tom said.

Trixie heard a lady say to her friend, "The *camels* are coming!" and then they both laughed, but Trixie could not see why. Sure enough, the camels *were* coming, and racing camels are even

more awkward than dancing bears.

"Their backs are all broken," said Gay.

"No," said Tom, "they were born all humps and bumps—they are camels."

"Oh, yes!" said Gay. "I know—mama has got a shawl made out of one."

"And," added Tom, "he can drink enough at one time to last him a hundred years."

"Don't stretch it, sir," said Mr. Barnum, shaking his head at the boy; but Tom went on—"and he will carry you across the desert quicker than lightning!"

The snakes, and especially the boaconstrictor, made Gay shiver, and she refused to look at them after the first glance. But the others enjoyed seeing them.



"Nothing that is quiet frightens me," said Trixie, "and I love to see the snakes twist and wriggle."

"I like the big green frogs," said Gay—"Ker-chong! ker-chong!" She had learned the whole frog language in an instant!

Then she straggled away with Tom, to listen to wonderful stories about the beaver, and how he builds his curious log hut; "But," added Tom, "his roof always leaks."

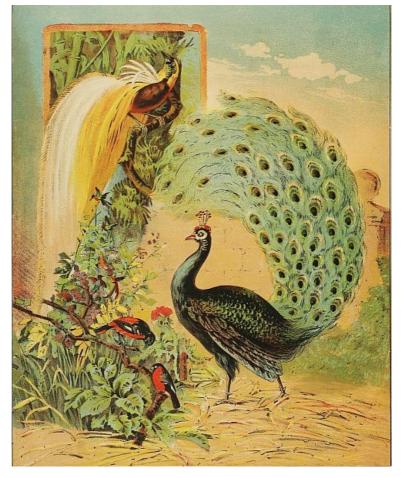
"Gay, here is an animal with a name longer than you are yourself!" said Mr. Barnum.

"What is it?" she asked, as they paused before a creature with a tremendous mouth.

"The Hippopotamus."

"Hip-po-pot-a-mus!" baby tried to say after him, adding, "he is not pretty, and I do not like him."

Tom was still less polite, and called the animal "beastly ugly;" though he seemed to admire the one-horned rhinoceros, which Gay thought still more frightful. "But how wallopy his skin is!" said Tom.



"Yes," said Mr. Barnum, "but he has a thinner skin under his heavy hide, which is only what Trixie would call his 'upper skirt'—eh, Toodles?" and the little girl laughed to think that he should know anything about such drapery.

When she saw the alligator she wished for his scaly skin, that she might have it made into slippers for papa.

But what had become of Gay? She had left the others, and they found her trying to stroke a downy little yellow chicken, which was just beyond her reach.

"Why this is like being in the country!" cried the delighted Trixie, looking around at the horses and the cattle, the pigs and the chickens. "Where's Tom?"

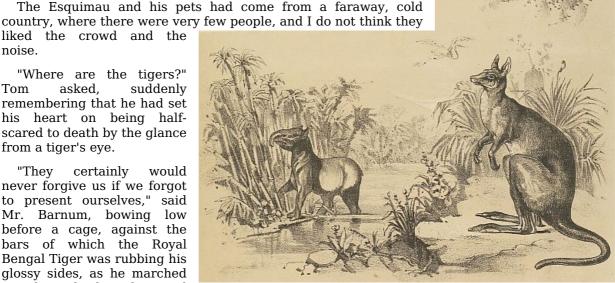
But a barn-yard scene was quite too tame for that young gentleman, who was chattering away to a funny little squat Esquimau, who did not understand a word he said. Near him were a fat seal and a walrus with two great tusks which seemed to say, "The better to eat you, my dear!"

The Esquimau and his pets had come from a faraway, cold

liked the crowd and the noise.

"Where are the tigers?" suddenly asked, remembering that he had set his heart on being halfscared to death by the glance from a tiger's eye.

"They certainly would never forgive us if we forgot to present ourselves," said Mr. Barnum, bowing low before a cage, against the bars of which the Royal Bengal Tiger was rubbing his glossy sides, as he marched angrily backward and forward.



"Come away!" cried Trixie, trying to clasp her three friends in her tiny arms.

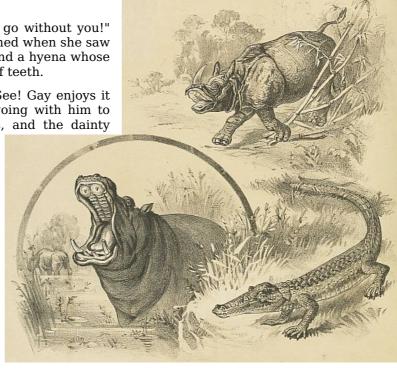
"You go, Toodles, if you are afraid," said Mr. Barnum.

"No, no!" she cried, "I will not go without you!" and she became still more frightened when she saw a beautiful, fierce-eyed leopard, and a hyena whose horrible grin showed three rows of teeth.

"The little goose!" said Tom. "See! Gay enjoys it all." And so she did, afterward going with him to look at the wolves, the wildcats, and the dainty

little red foxes, while Mr. Barnum took his pet to see the brilliant birds which had been brought from their own homes in the hot countries to our town of the little brown sparrow.

Great green parrots, gold and silver pheasants, white cockatoos, and the flaming red flamingo! Trixie was wild with joy, but, oh! she could not half enjoy them without Gay and Tom; so she scampered off after them, not noticing in her joy that she passed once again very near the tiger's cage.



The little Bird of Paradise, with its long train of plumage which showed all the colors of the rainbow, was more beautiful than anything they had ever imagined. "Let us stay here all the rest of the day!" Gay said.

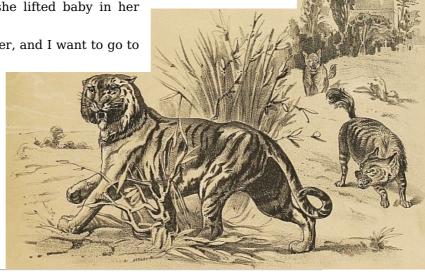
"All the rest of the day, darling!" repeated Mr. Barnum, looking at his watch, "Why it is almost time for my own birds to be in their nest."

Mama was watching for them at the parlor window, and she lifted baby in her arms as she opened the door.

"O, mama! I want my supper, and I want to go to bed!"

But in the middle of the night she awoke with a laugh, crying—"Oh, how funny! I dreamed that the little Chinese dwarf was waltzing with the giraffe!"

"Hush, darling!" said Trixie, softly, sitting up in her little crib. "You'll wake mama, baby!"



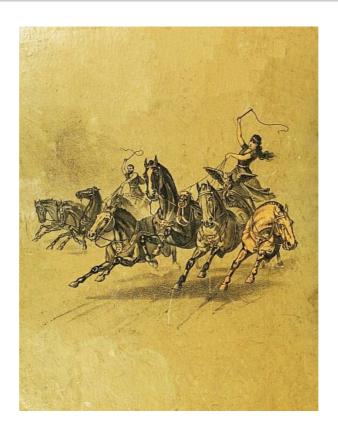
Yes, the sun was fast sinking in the west, and the time had come for tired little feet to turn toward home.



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