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Buchanan Read**

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Title: Drifting

Author: Thomas Buchanan Read

Illustrator: Lizbeth Bullock Humphrey

Release date: April 14, 2014 [EBook #45383]

Language: English

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\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK DRIFTING \*\*\*

**DRIFTING**

**By T. Buchanan Read.**

**Illustrated**

**From Designs By Miss L. B. Humphrey**

**Philadelphia:**

**J. B. Lippincott & Co.**

**1881.**

**DRIFTING.**

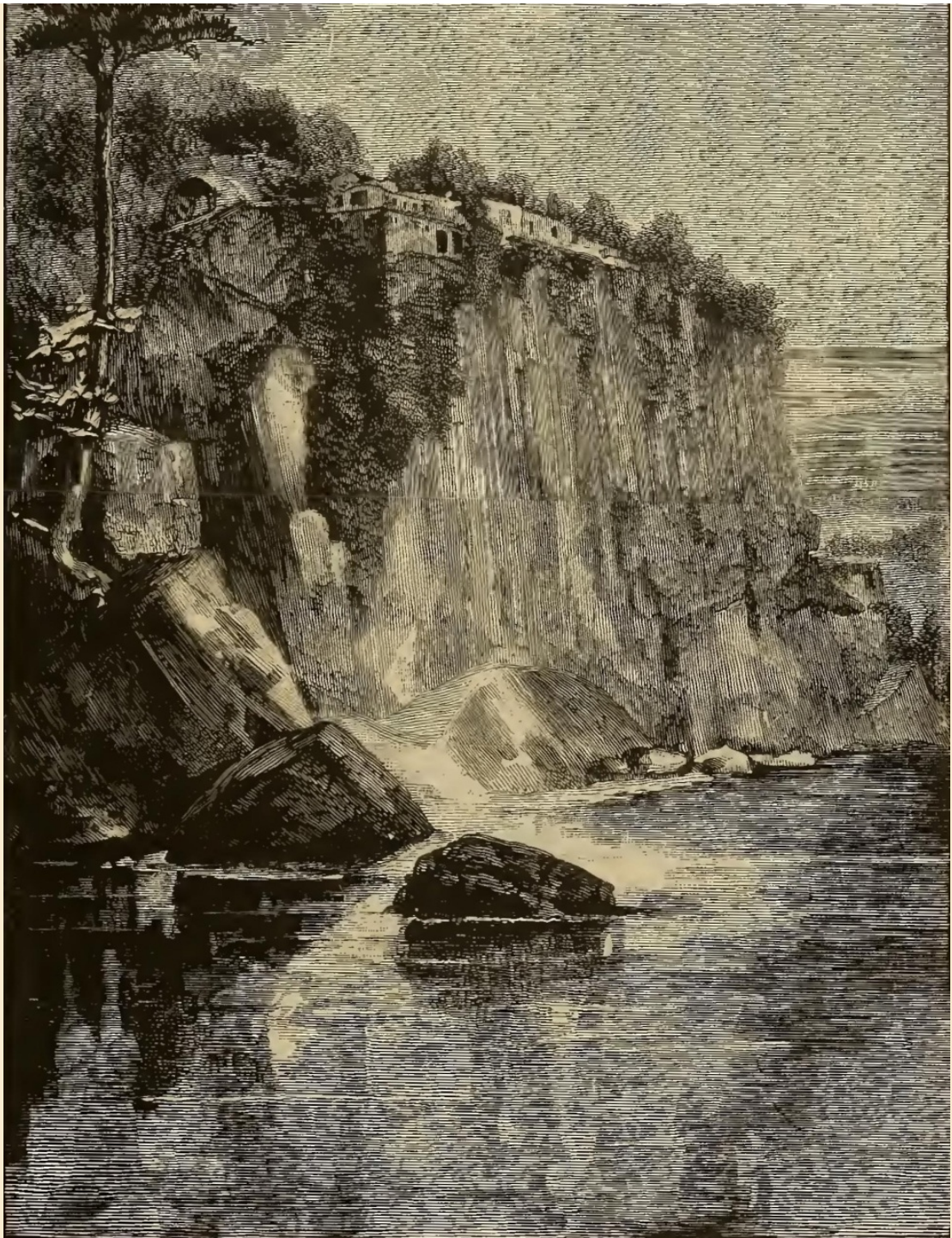


MY soul to-day  
Is far away,  
Sailing the Vesuvian Bay;  
My wingéd boat,  
A bird afloat,  
Swims round the purple peaks remote:—

*Original*

MY soul to-day  
Is far away  
Sailing the Vesuvian Bay;  
My wingéd boat,  
A bird afloat,  
Swims round the purple peaks remote:—

ROUND purple peaks  
It sails, and seeks  
Blue inlets and their crystal creeks,  
Where high rocks throw,  
Through deeps below,  
A duplicated golden glow.



*Original*



**F**AR, vague, and dim,  
The mountains swim;  
While on Vesuvius' misty brim,  
With outstretched hands,  
The gray smoke stands  
O'erlooking the volcanic lands.

*[Original](#)*

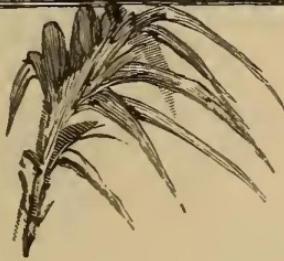
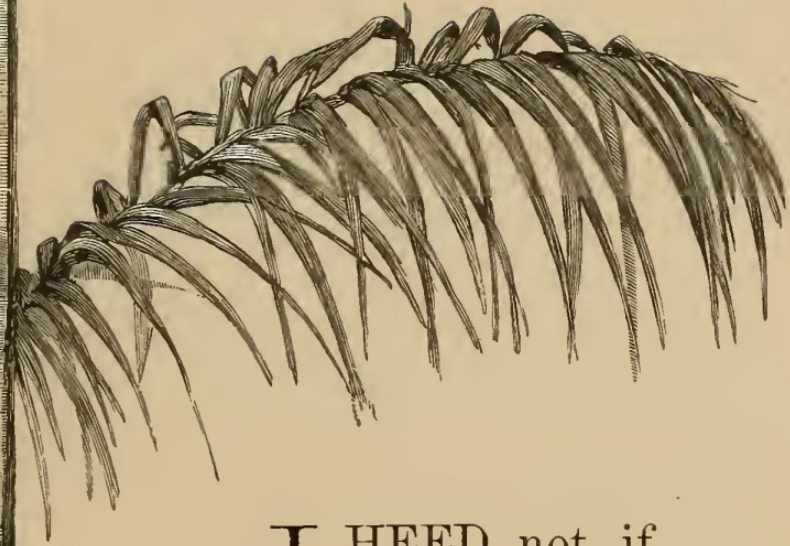
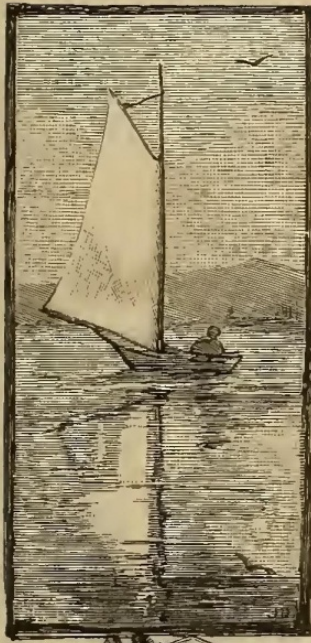
**F**AR, vague, and dim,  
The mountains swim;  
While on Vesuvius' misty brim,  
With outstretched hands,  
The gray smoke stands  
O'erlooking the volcanic lands.

**I**N lofty lines,  
'Mid palms and pines,  
And olives, aloes, elms, and vines,  
Sorrento swings  
On sunset wings,  
Where Tasso's spirit soars and sings.

HERE Ischia smiles  
O'er liquid miles ;  
And yonder, bluest of the isles,  
Calm Capri waits,  
Her sapphire gates  
Beguiling to her bright estates.



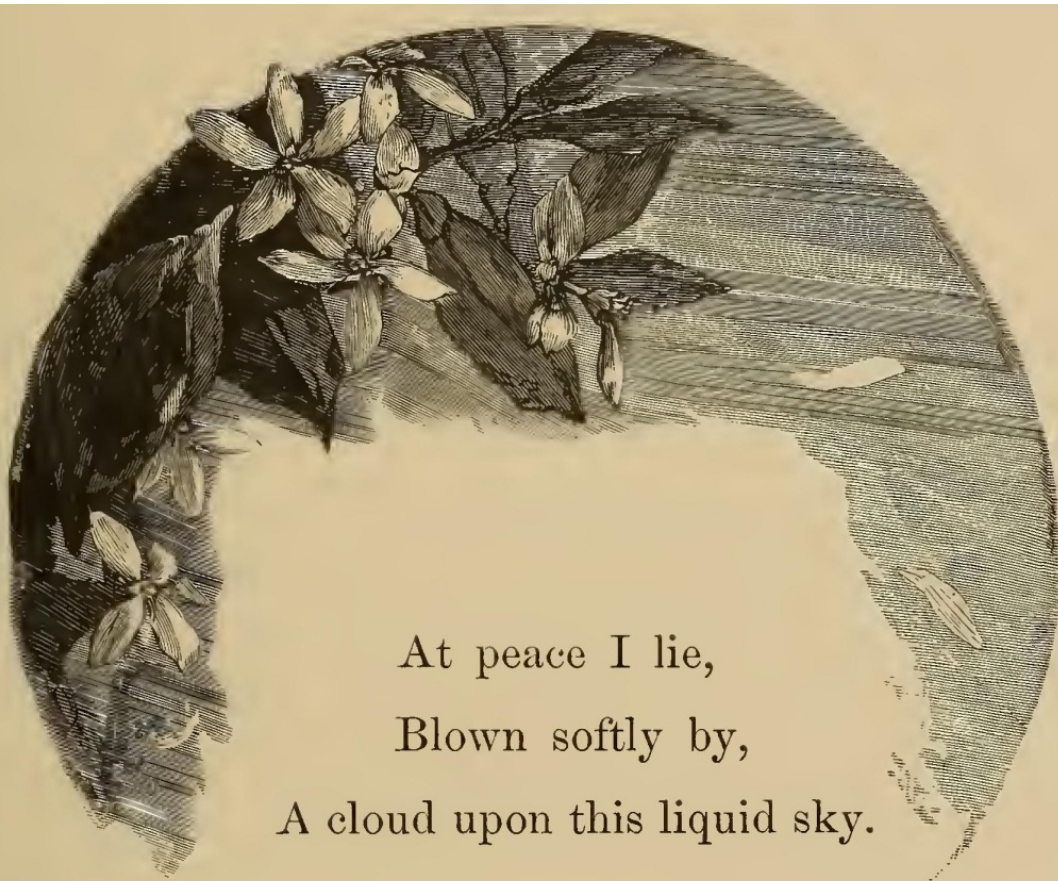
Original



I HEED not, if  
My rippling skiff  
Float swift or slow from cliff to  
cliff;—  
With dreamful eyes  
My spirit lies  
Under the walls of Paradise.  
  
Under the walls  
Where swells and falls  
The Bay's deep breast at intervals

Original

I HEED not, if  
My rippling skiff  
Float swift or slow from cliff to  
cliff;—  
With dreamful eyes  
My spirit lies  
Under the walls of Paradise.  
Under the walls  
Where swells and falls  
The Bay's deep breast at intervals.



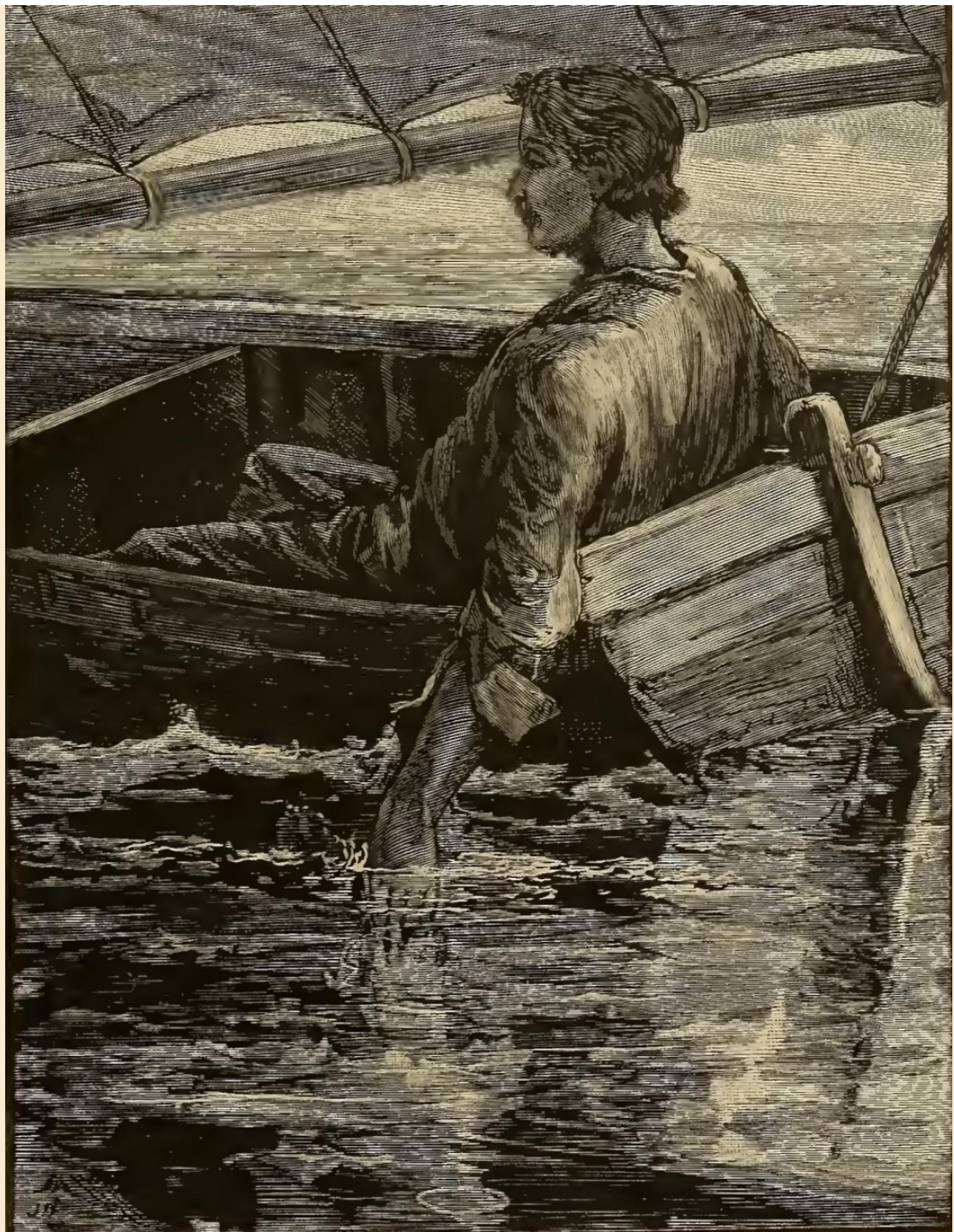
At peace I lie,  
Blown softly by,  
A cloud upon this liquid sky.

The day, so mild,  
Is Heaven's own child,  
With Earth and Ocean reconciled;—  
The airs I feel  
Around me steal  
Are murmuring to the murmuring keel.

Original

At peace I lie,  
Blown softly by,  
A cloud upon this liquid sky.  
The day, so mild,  
Is Heaven's own child,  
With Earth and Ocean reconciled;—  
The airs I feel  
Around me steal  
Are murmuring to the murmuring keel.

**O**VER the rail  
My hand I trail  
Within the shadow of the sail,  
A joy intense,  
The cooling sense  
Glides down my drowsy indolence.



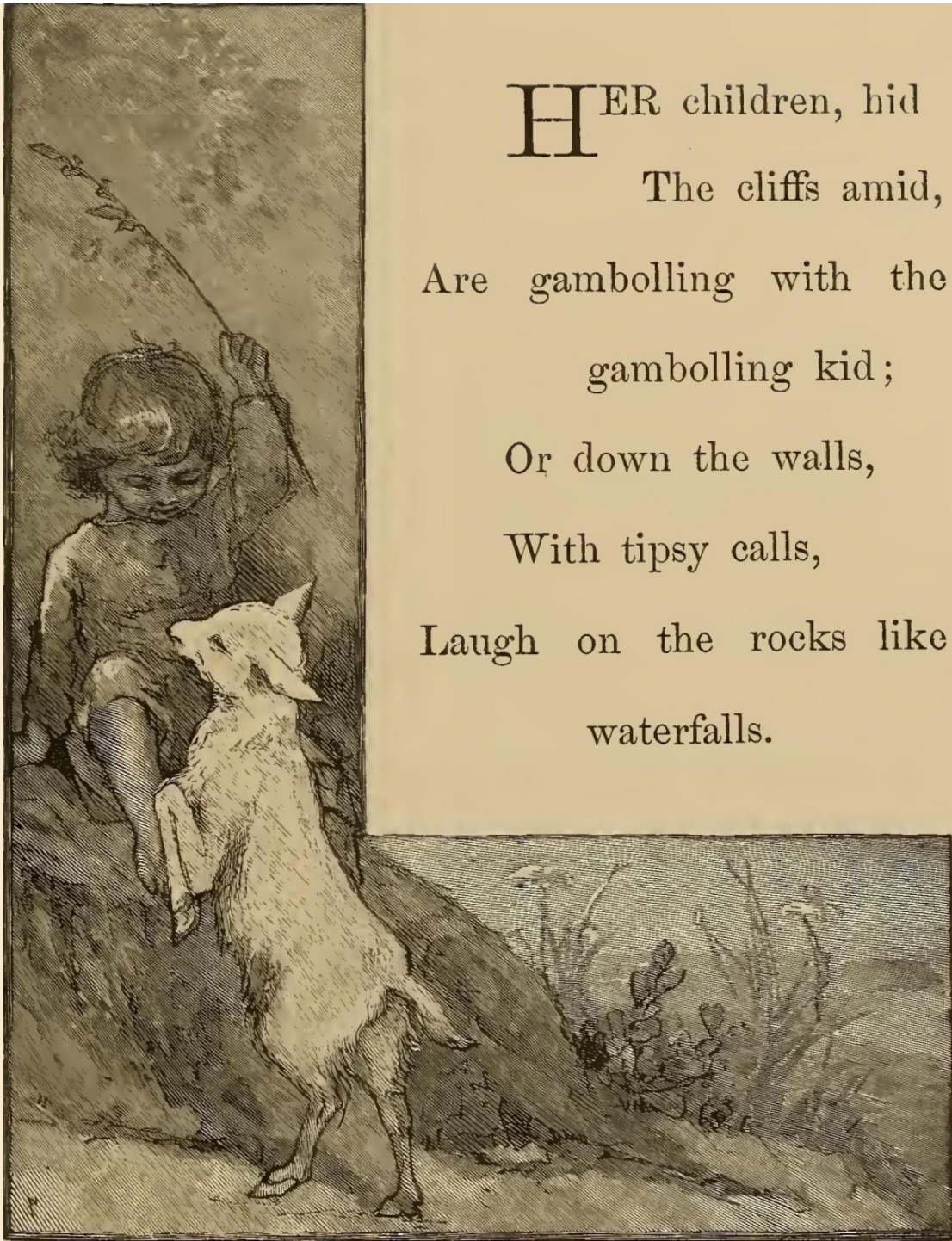
*Original*





WITH dreamful eyes  
My spirit lies  
Where Summer sings and never  
dies,—  
O'erveiled with vines,  
She glows and shines  
Among her future oil and wines.

*Original*



HER children, hid  
The cliffs amid,  
Are gambolling with the  
gambolling kid;  
Or down the walls,  
With tipsy calls,  
Laugh on the rocks like  
waterfalls.

*Original*

**T**HE fisher's child,  
With tresses wild,  
Unto the smooth, bright sand beguiled,  
With glowing lips  
Sings as she skips,  
Or gazes at the far-off ships.



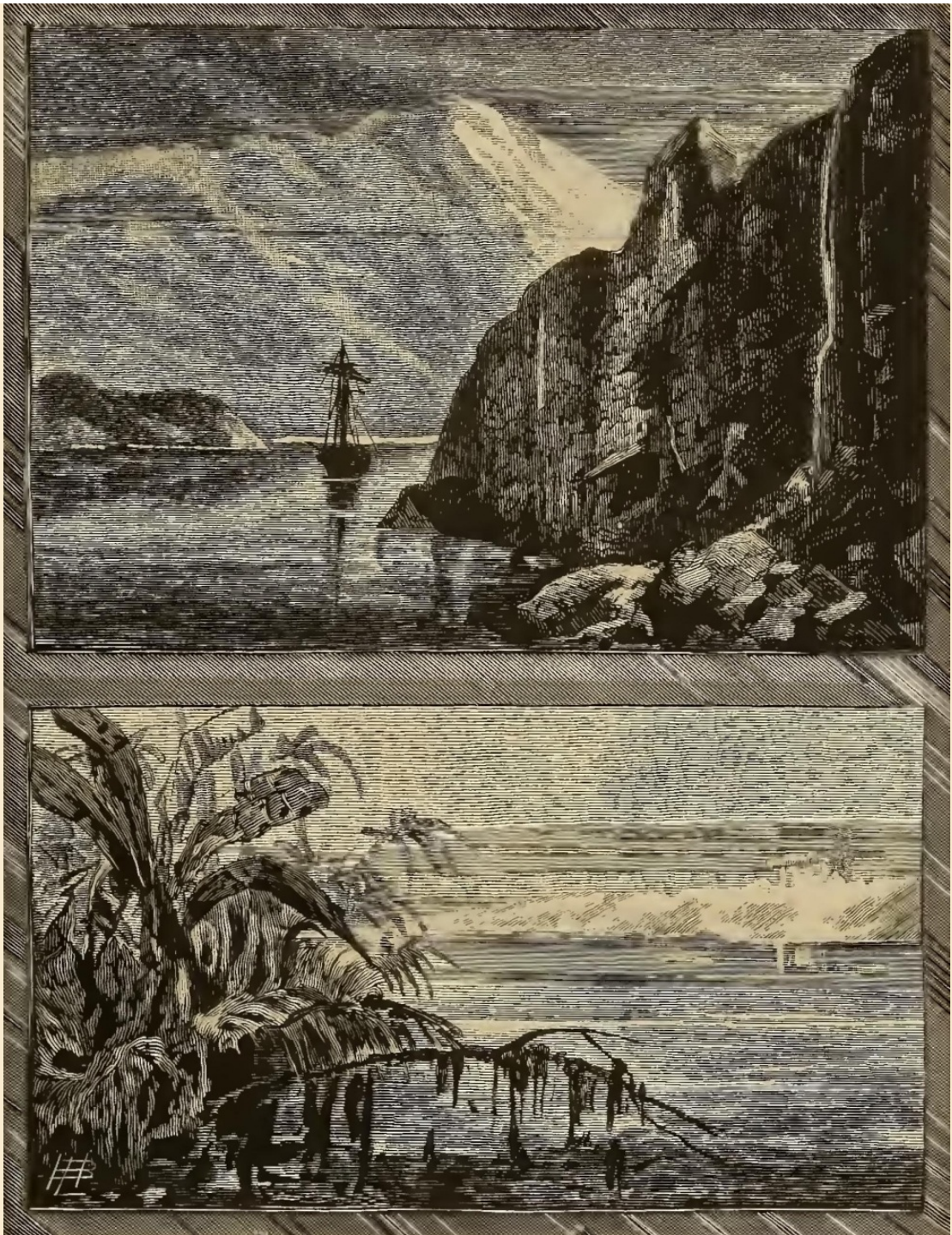
*Original*

YON deep bark goes  
Where Traffic blows,  
From lands of sun to lands  
of snows:—

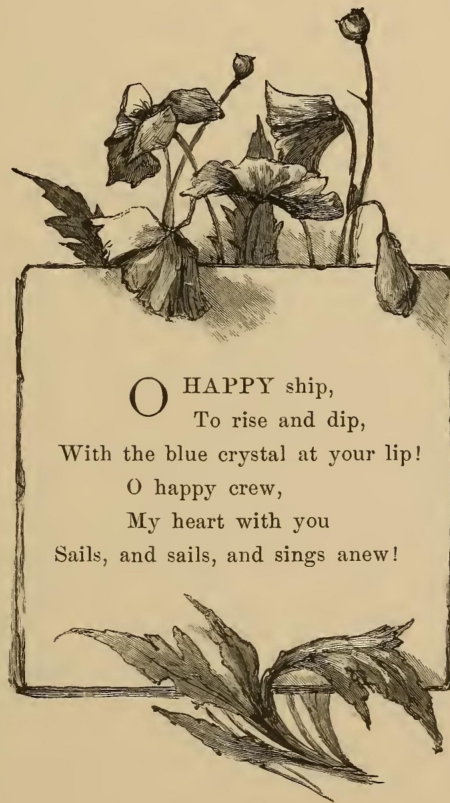


This happier one,  
Its course is run  
From lands of snow to  
lands of sun.

*Original*



*Original*



*Original*

**H**APPY ship,  
To rise and dip,  
With the blue crystal at your lip!  
O happy crew,  
My heart with you  
anew!

**N**O more, no more  
The worldly shore  
Upbraids me with its loud uproar  
With dreamful eyes  
My spirit lies  
Under the walls of Paradise!



*Original*

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