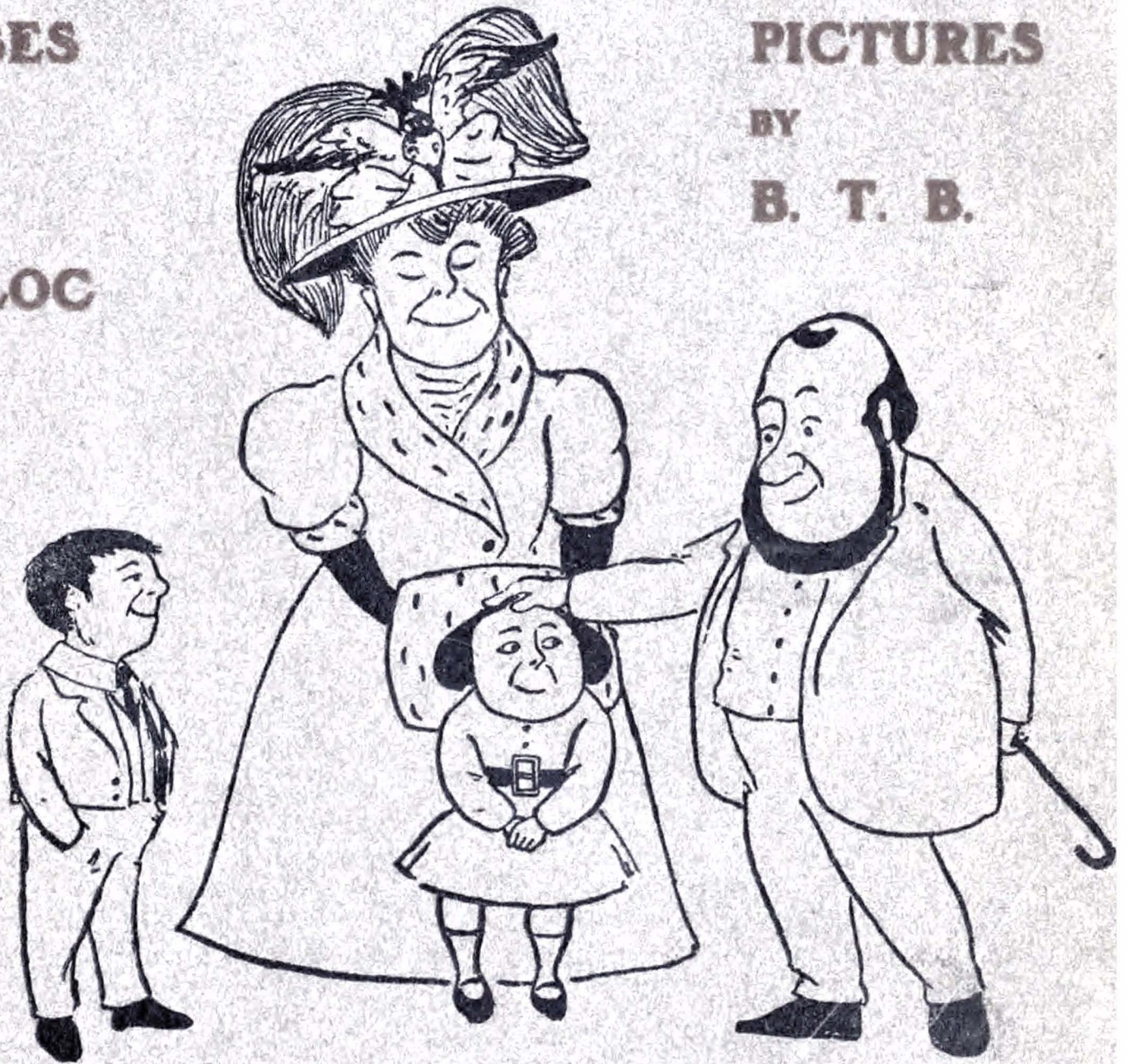


# CAUTIONARY TALES FOR CHILDREN

VERSES  
BY  
H.  
BELLOC

PICTURES  
BY  
B. T. B.

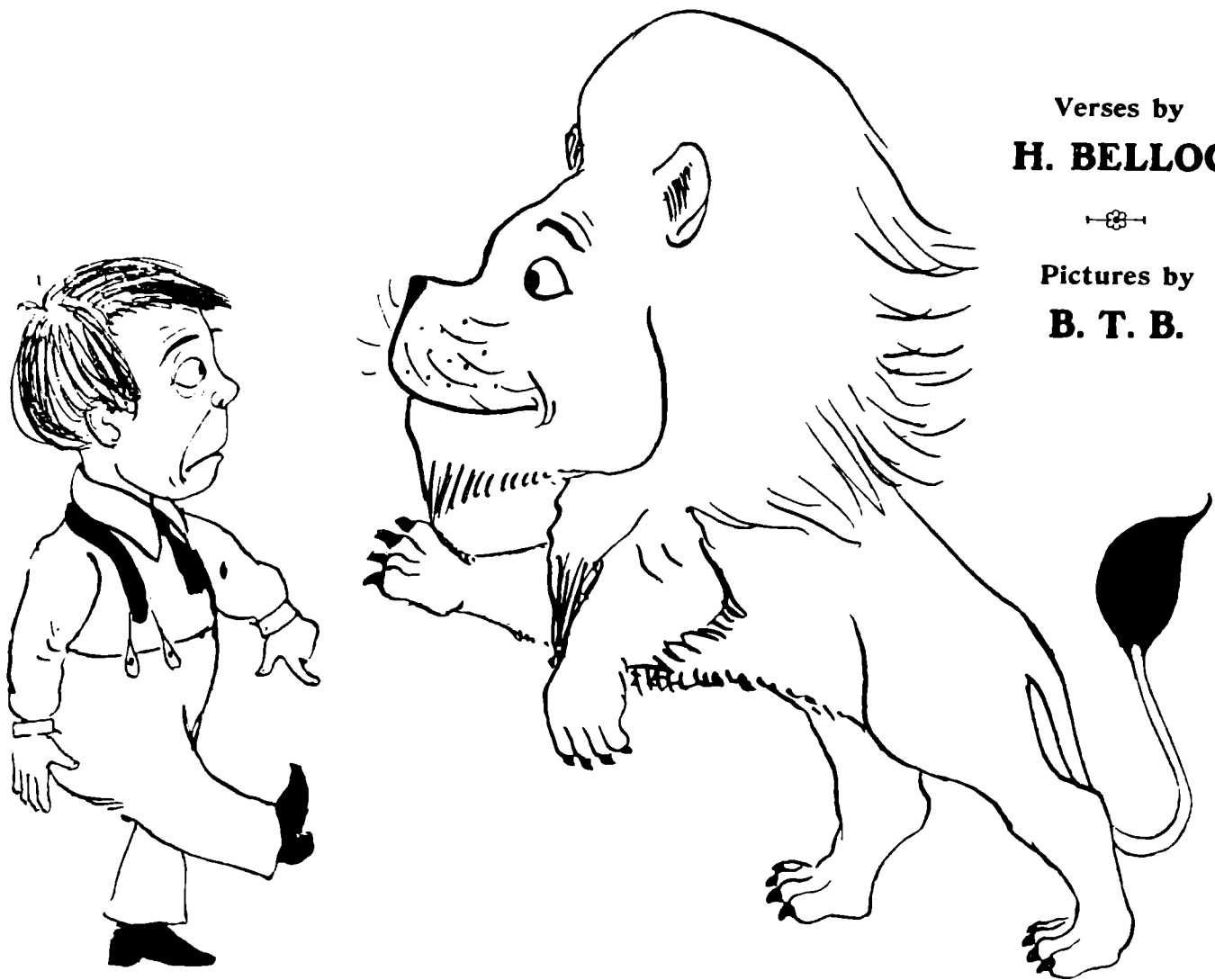


London  
THE EVELEIGH NASH COMPANY  
LIMITED  
36 King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

# **CAUTIONARY TALES FOR CHILDREN**

# CAUTIONARY TALES FOR CHILDREN

*Designed for the Admonition of Children between  
the ages of eight and fourteen years.*



Verses by  
**H. BELLOC**



Pictures by  
**B. T. B.**

LONDON  
THE EVELEIGH NASH COMPANY  
LIMITED

**DEDICATED**

TO

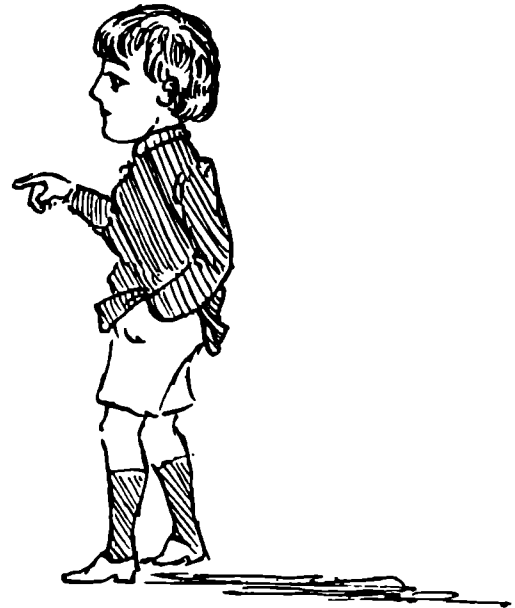
**BOBBY, JOHNNY, AND EDDIE  
SOMERSET**

## INTRODUCTION



Upon being asked by a Reader whether the verses contained in this book were true.

*And is it True? It is not True.  
And if it were it wouldn't do,  
For people such as me and you  
Who pretty nearly all day long  
Are doing something rather wrong.  
Because if things were really so,  
You would have perished long ago,  
And I would not have lived to write  
The noble lines that meet your sight,  
Nor B. T. B. survived to draw  
The nicest things you ever saw.*



*H. B.*

# Jim,

*Who ran away from his Nurse, and was  
eaten by a Lion.*



There was a Boy whose name was Jim ;  
His Friends were very good to him.  
They gave him Tea, and Cakes, and Jam,  
And slices of delicious Ham,  
And Chocolate with pink inside,  
And little Tricycles to ride,  
And



read him Stories through and through,  
And even took him to the Zoo—  
But there it was the dreadful Fate  
Befel him, which I now relate.

You know—at least you *ought* to know,  
For I have often told you so—  
That Children never are allowed  
To leave their Nurses in a Crowd;

Now this was Jim's especial Foible,  
He ran away when he was able,  
And on this inauspicious day  
He slipped his hand and ran away!  
He hadn't gone a yard when—

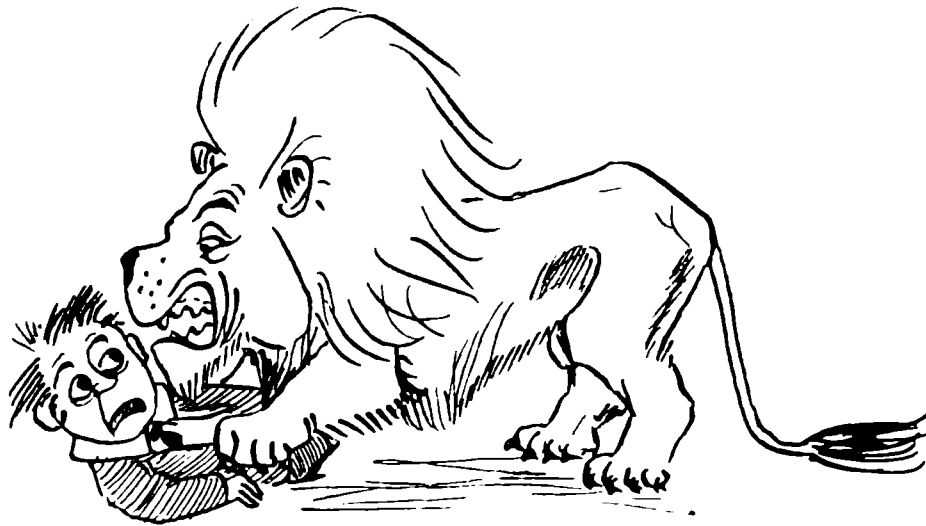


Bang!

With open Jaws, a Lion sprang,  
And hungrily began to eat  
The Boy: beginning at his feet.



Now, just imagine how it feels  
When first your toes and then your heels,  
And then by gradual degrees,  
Your shins and ankles, calves and knees,  
Are slowly eaten, bit by bit.



No wonder Jim detested it!  
No wonder that he shouted "Hi!"  
The Honest Keeper heard his cry,  
Though very fat



he almost ran

To help the little gentleman.

“Ponto!” he ordered as he came  
(For Ponto was the Lion’s name),  
“Ponto!” he cried,



with angry Frown.

“Let go, Sir! Down, Sir! Put it down!”

The Lion made a sudden Stop,  
He let the Dainty Morsel drop,  
And slunk reluctant to his Cage,  
Snarling with Disappointed Rage.  
But when he bent him over Jim,  
The Honest Keeper's



Eyes were dim.

The Lion having reached his Head,  
The Miserable Boy was dead!



When Nurse informed his Parents, they  
Were more Concerned than I can say:—  
His Mother, as She dried her eyes,  
Said, “Well—it gives me no surprise,  
He would not do as he was told!”  
His Father, who was self-controlled,  
Bade all the children round attend

To James' miserable end,  
And always keep a-hold of Nurse  
For fear of finding something worse.

# Henry King,

*Who chewed bits of String, and was early cut off  
in Dreadful Agonies.*



The Chief Defect of Henry King  
Was



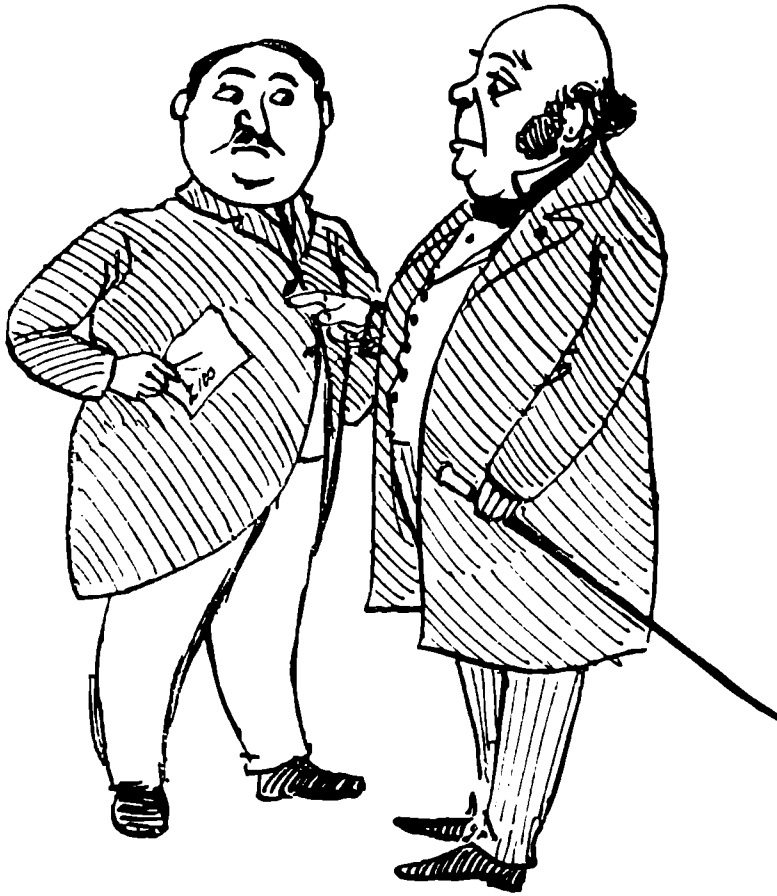
chewing little bits of String.

At last he swallowed some which tied

Itself in ugly Knots inside.



Physicians of the Utmost Fame  
Were called at once; but when they came  
They answered,



as they took their Fees,  
“There is no Cure for this Disease.  
Henry will very soon be dead.”  
His Parents stood about his Bed  
Lamenting his Untimely Death,  
When Henry, with his Latest Breath,  
Cried—



“Oh, my Friends, be warned by me,



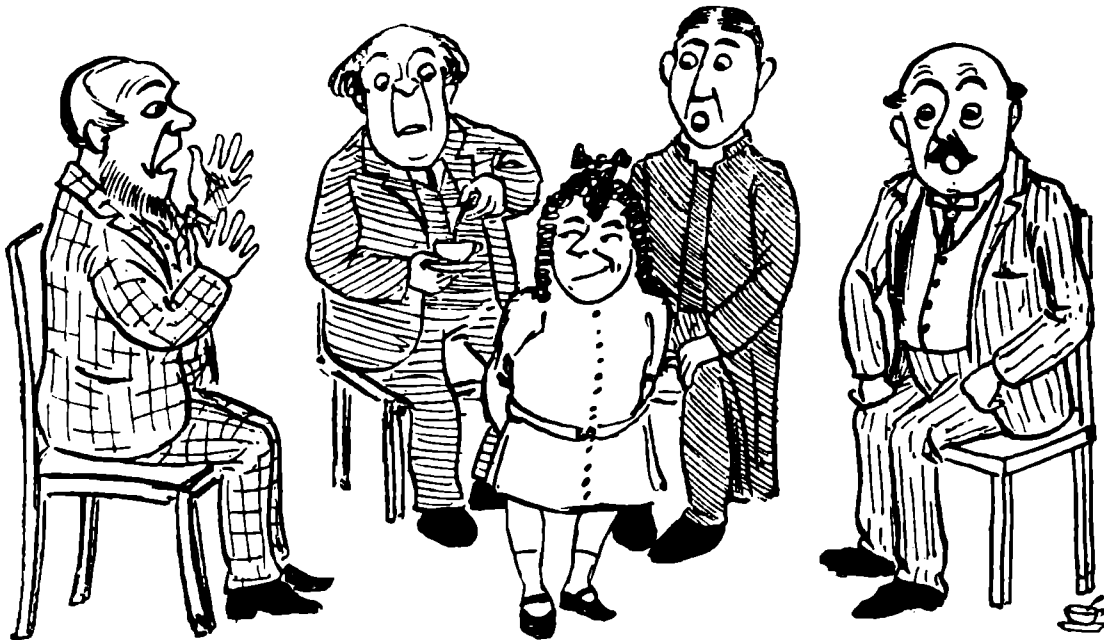
That Breakfast, Dinner, Lunch, and Tea  
Are all the Human Frame requires . . .”  
With that, the Wretched Child expires.

# Matilda,

*Who told Lies, and was Burned to Death.*



Matilda told such Dreadful Lies,



It made one Gasp and Stretch one's Eyes ;  
Her Aunt, who, from her Earliest Youth,  
Had kept a Strict Regard for Truth,



Attempted to Believe Matilda:  
The effort very nearly killed her,  
And would have done so, had not She  
Discovered this Infirmity.  
For once, towards the Close of Day,  
Matilda, growing tired of play,

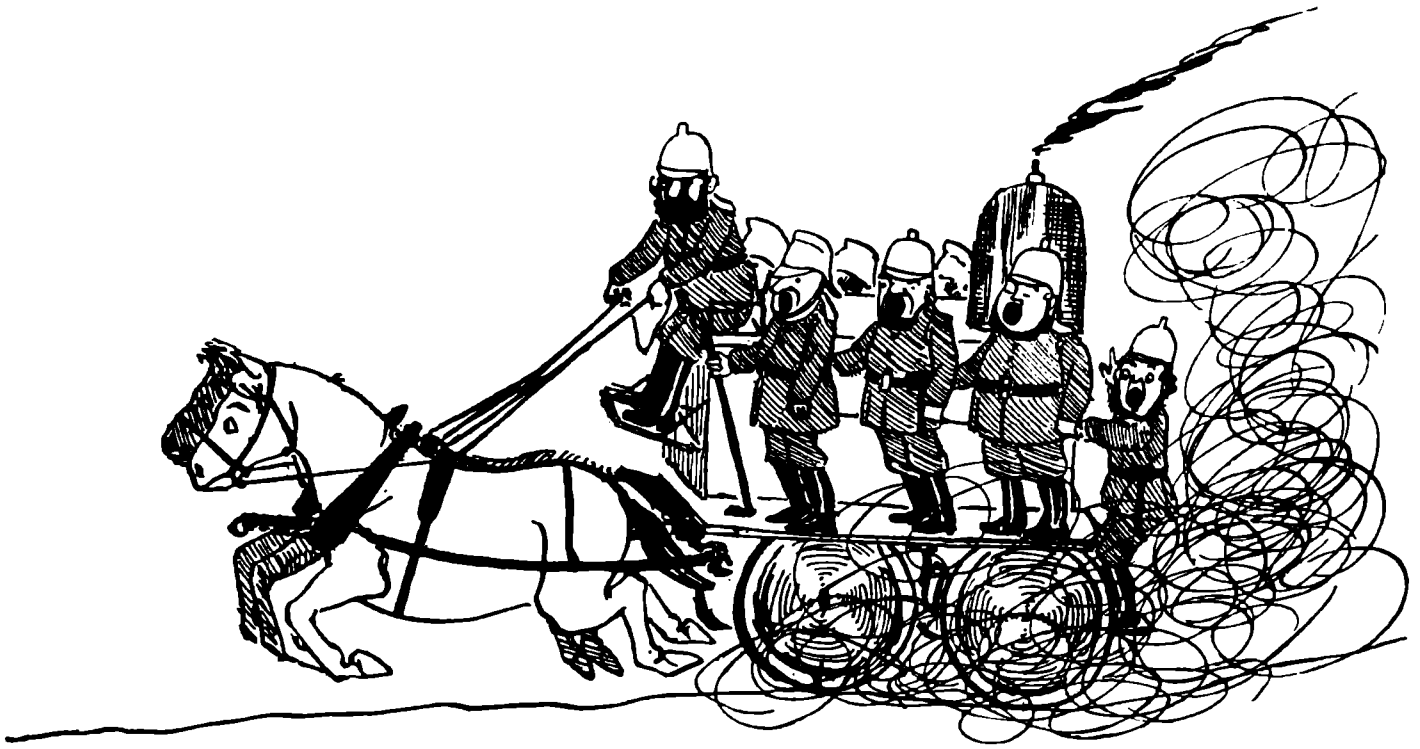
And finding she was left alone,  
Went tiptoe



to

the Telephone

And summoned the Immediate Aid  
Of London's Noble Fire-Brigade.  
Within an hour the Gallant Band  
Were pouring in on every hand,  
From Putney, Hackney Downs, and Bow  
With Courage high and Hearts a-glow  
They galloped, roaring through the Town,



“Matilda’s House is Burning Down!”  
Inspired by British Cheers and Loud  
Proceeding from the Frenzied Crowd,  
They ran their ladders through a score  
Of windows on the Ball Room Floor;  
And took Peculiar Pains to Souse  
The Pictures up and down the House,



Until Matilda's Aunt succeeded  
In showing them they were not needed;  
And even then she had to pay  
To get the Men to go away!

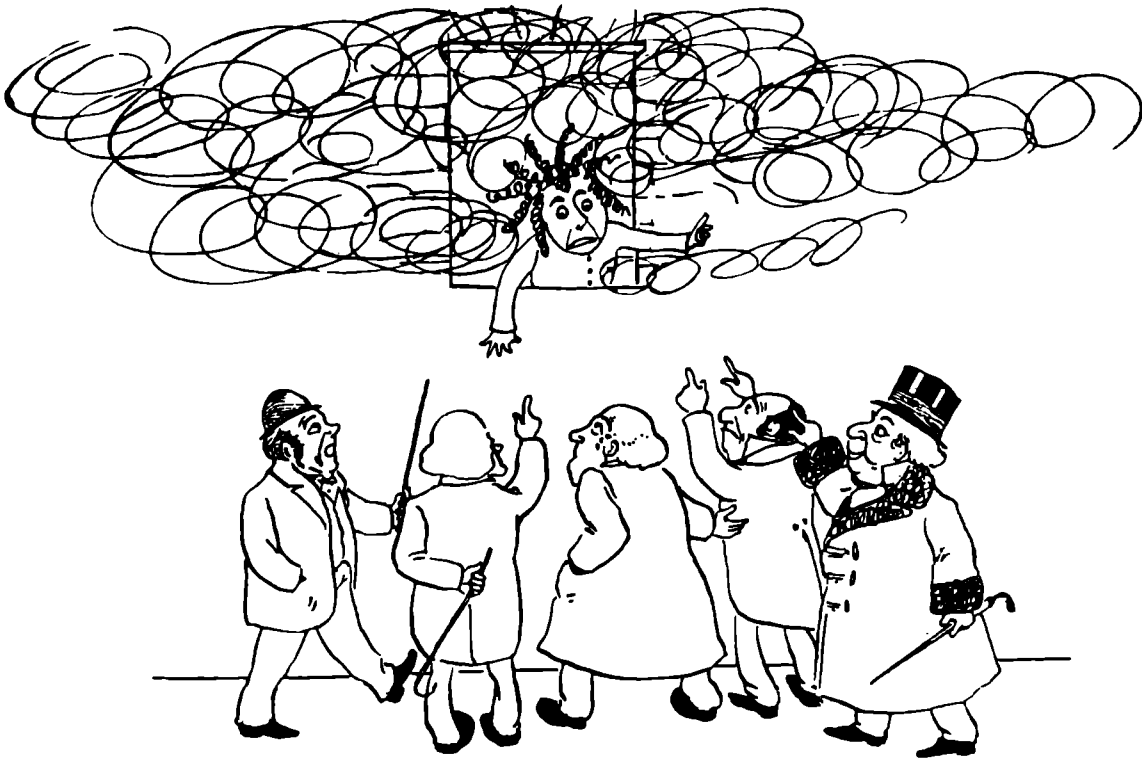
. . . . .

It happened that a few Weeks later  
Her Aunt was off to the Theatre  
To see that Interesting Play

*The Second Mrs. Tanqueray.*

She had refused to take her Niece  
To hear this Entertaining Piece:  
A Deprivation Just and Wise  
To Punish her for Telling Lies.  
That Night a Fire *did* break out—  
You should have heard Matilda Shout!  
You should have heard her Scream and Bawl,

And throw the window up and call  
To People passing in the Street—  
(The rapidly increasing Heat  
Encouraging her to obtain  
Their confidence)—but all in vain!  
For every time She shouted “Fire!”



They only answered “Little Liar!”  
And therefore when her Aunt returned,

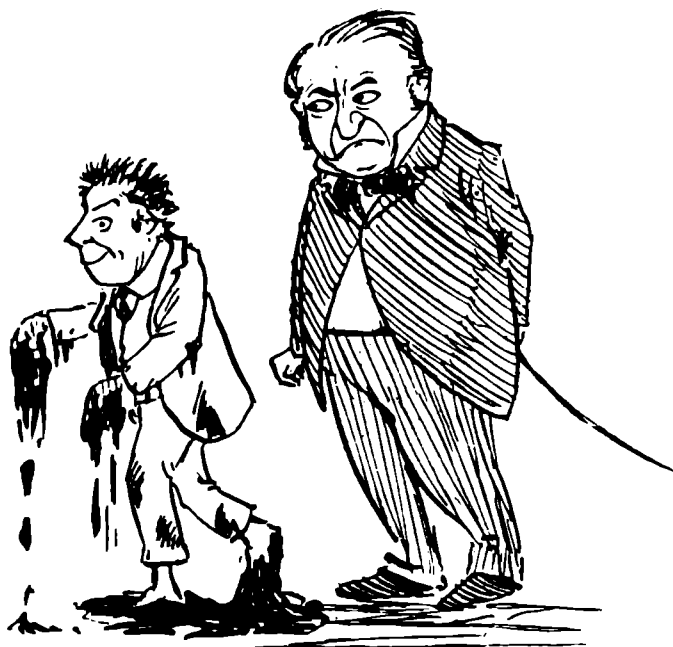


Matilda, and the House, were Burned.



# Franklin Hyde,

*Who caroused in the Dirt and was  
corrected by His Uncle.*



His Uncle came on Franklin Hyde  
Carousing in the Dirt.  
He Shook him hard from Side to Side  
And



Hit him till it Hurt,

Exclaiming, with a Final Thud,

“Take



that! Abandoned Boy!  
For Playing with Disgusting Mud  
As though it were a Toy!”

MORAL.

From Franklin Hyde's adventure, learn  
To pass your Leisure Time

In Cleanly Merriment, and turn  
From Mud and Ooze and Slime  
And every form of Nastiness—  
But, on the other Hand,  
Children in ordinary Dress  
May always play with Sand.



# Godolphin Horne,

*Who was cursed with the Sin of Pride, and  
Became a Boot-Black.*



Godolphin Horne was Nobly Born ;  
He held the Human Race in Scorn,  
And lived with all his Sisters where  
His Father lived, in Berkeley Square.  
And oh ! the Lad was Deathly Proud !

He never shook your Hand or Bowed,  
But merely smirked and nodded



thus :

How perfectly ridiculous!  
Alas! That such Affected Tricks  
Should flourish in a Child of Six!  
(For such was Young Godolphin's age).

Just then, the Court required a Page,  
Whereat



The Lord High Chamberlain  
(The Kindest and the Best of Men),  
He went good-naturedly and





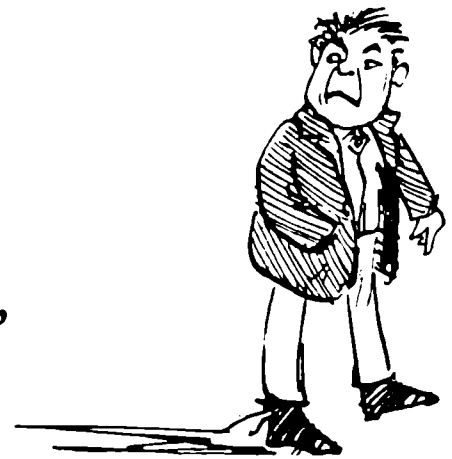
took

A Perfectly Enormous Book  
Called *People Qualified to Be  
Attendant on His Majesty*,  
And murmured, as he scanned the list  
(To see that no one should be missed),  
“There’s

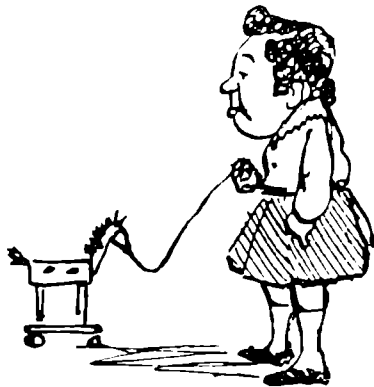


William Coutts has got the  
Flue,

And Billy Higgs would never do,



And Guy



de Vere is far too young,

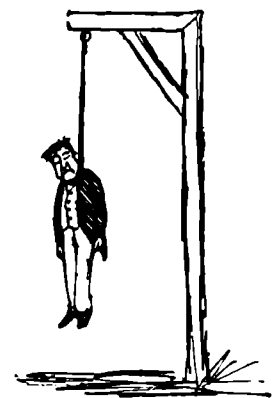
And . . . wasn't D'Alton's Father hung?

And as for Alexander Byng!— . . .

I think I know the kind of thing,

A Churchman, cleanly, nobly born,

Come



let us say Godolphin Horne?"

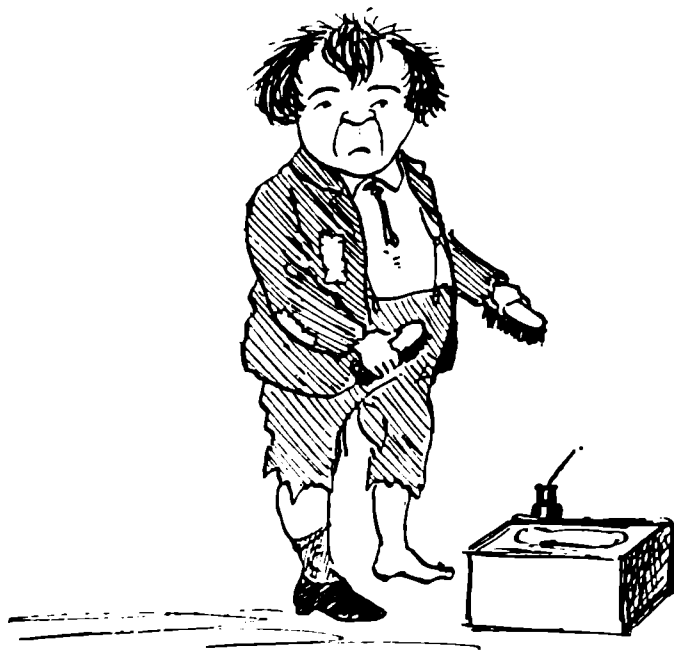
But hardly had he said the word  
When Murmurs of Dissent were heard.  
The King of Iceland's Eldest Son  
Said, "Thank you! I am taking none!  
The Aged Duchess of Athlone  
Remarked, in her sub-acid tone,  
"I doubt if He is what we need!"  
With which the Bishops all agreed;  
And even Lady Mary Flood  
(*So Kind, and oh! so really good*)  
Said, "No! He wouldn't do at all,  
He'd make us feel a lot too small."  
The Chamberlain said,

“. . . Well, well, well!  
No doubt you're right. . . One cannot tell!”  
He took his Gold and Diamond Pen  
And



Scratched Godolphin out again.  
So now Godolphin is the Boy

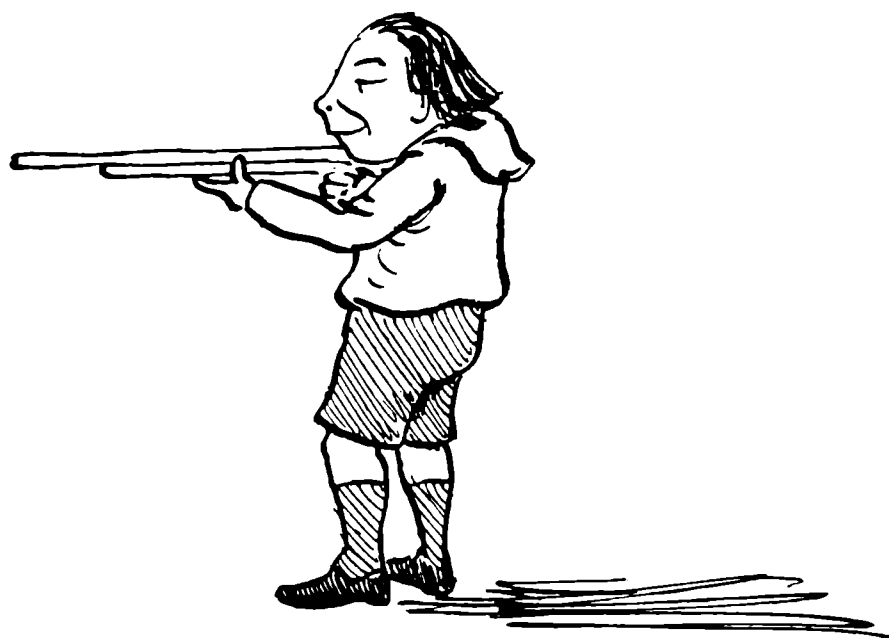
Who blacks the Boots at the Savoy.



# Algernon,

*Who played with a Loaded Gun, and, on missing his Sister, was reprimanded by his Father.*

Young Algernon, the Doctor's  
Son,  
Was



playing with a  
Loaded Gun.  
He pointed it to-  
wards his sister,  
Aimed very care-  
fully, but

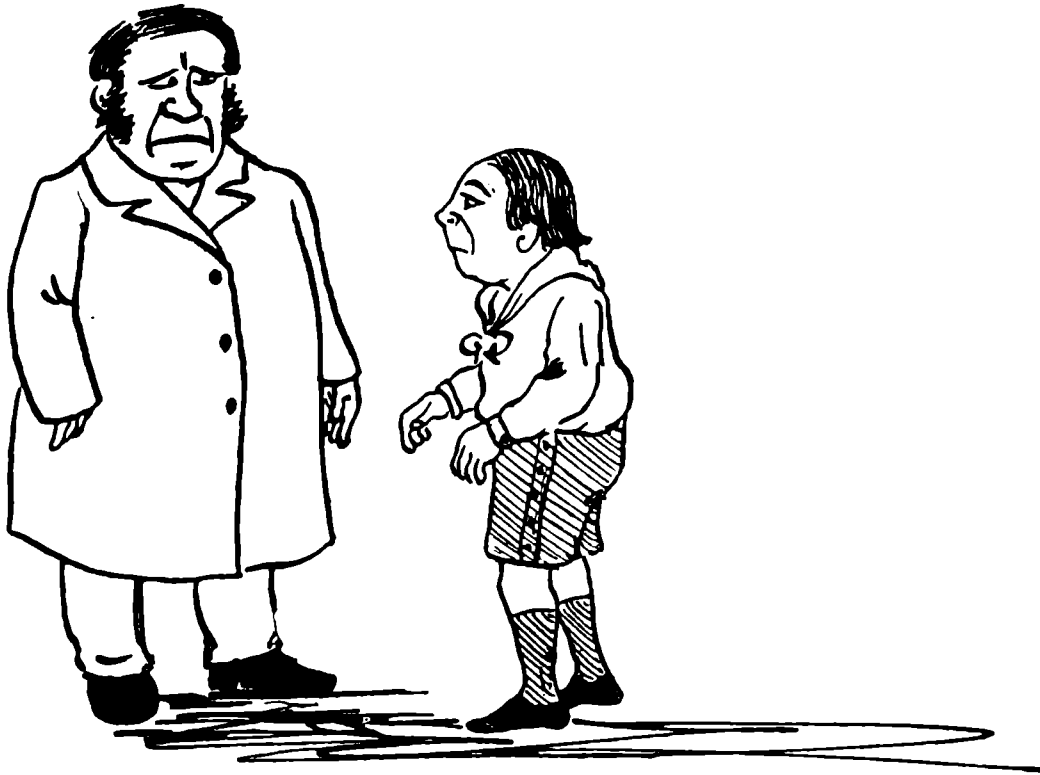


Missed her!

His Father, who was standing near,



The Loud Explosion chanced to Hear,

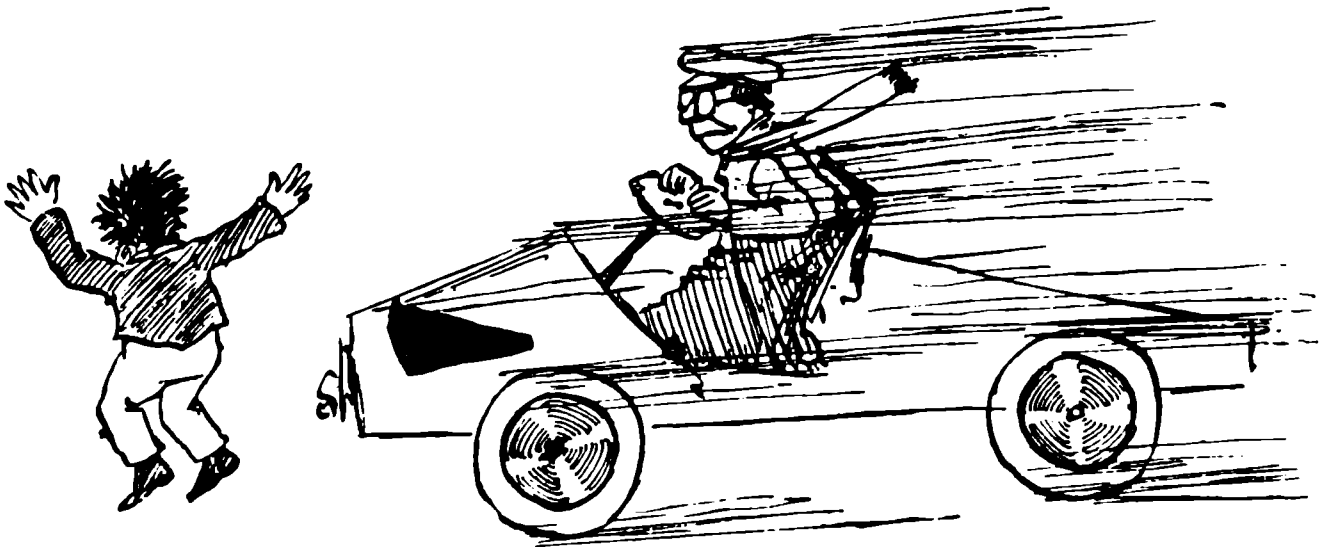


And reprimanded Algernon  
For playing with a Loaded Gun.



# Hildebrand,

*Who was frightened by a Passing Motor,  
and was brought to Reason.*



“Oh, Murder! What was that, Papa!”

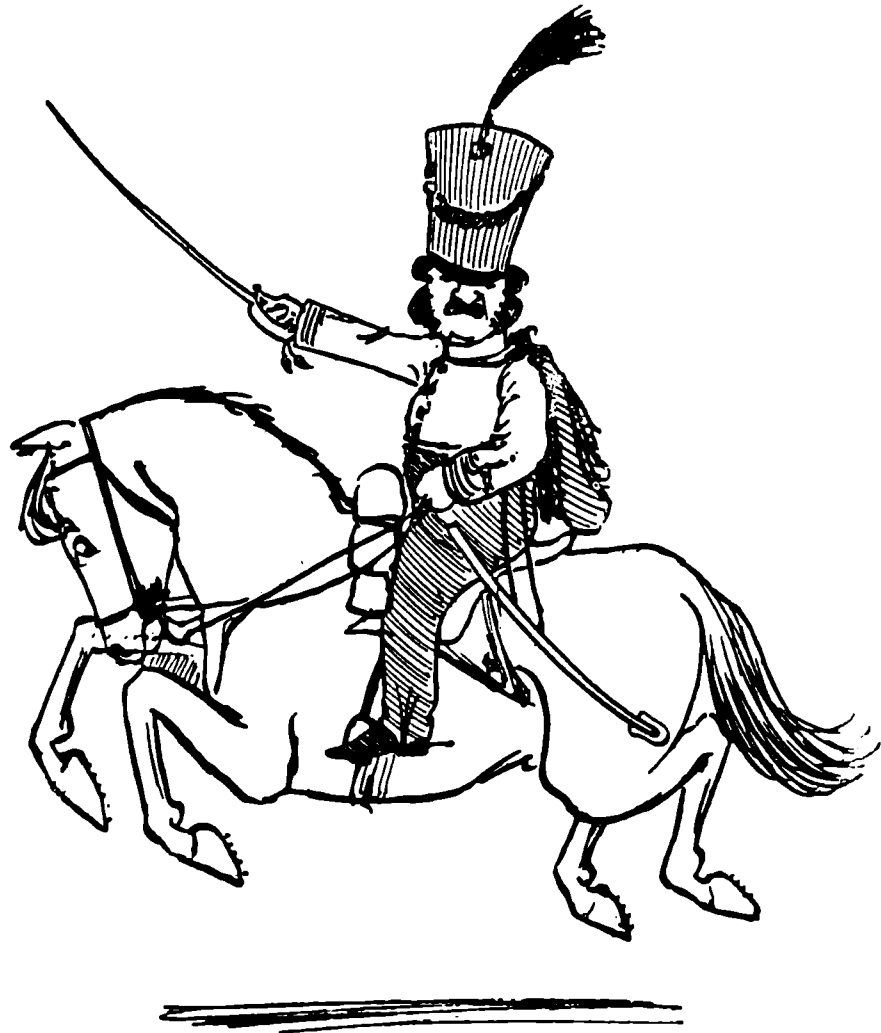
“My child,

It was a Motor-Car,  
A Most Ingenious Toy!



Designed to Captivate and Charm  
Much, rather than to rouse Alarm  
In any English Boy.

“What would your Great Grandfather who



Was Aide-de-Camp to General Brue,

And lost a leg at



Waterloo,

And

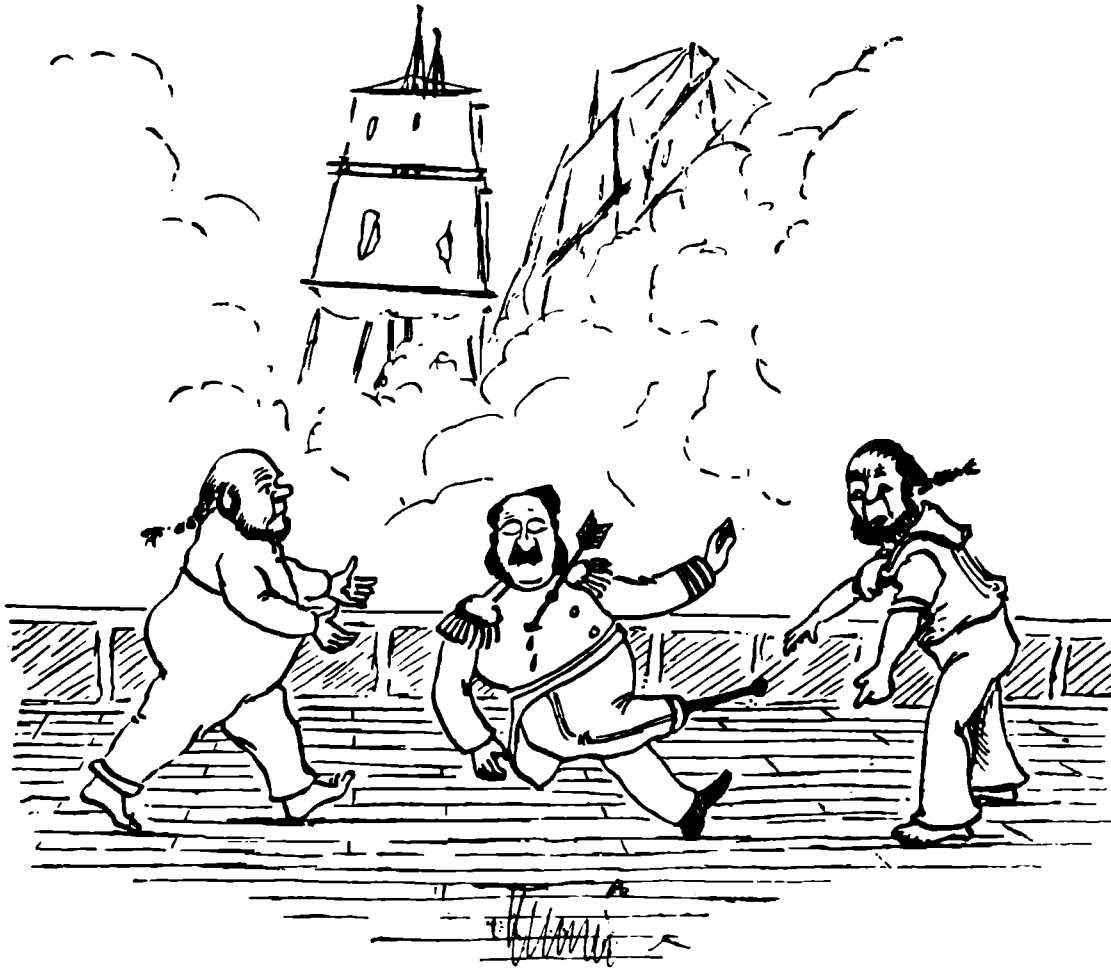


Quatre-Bras and



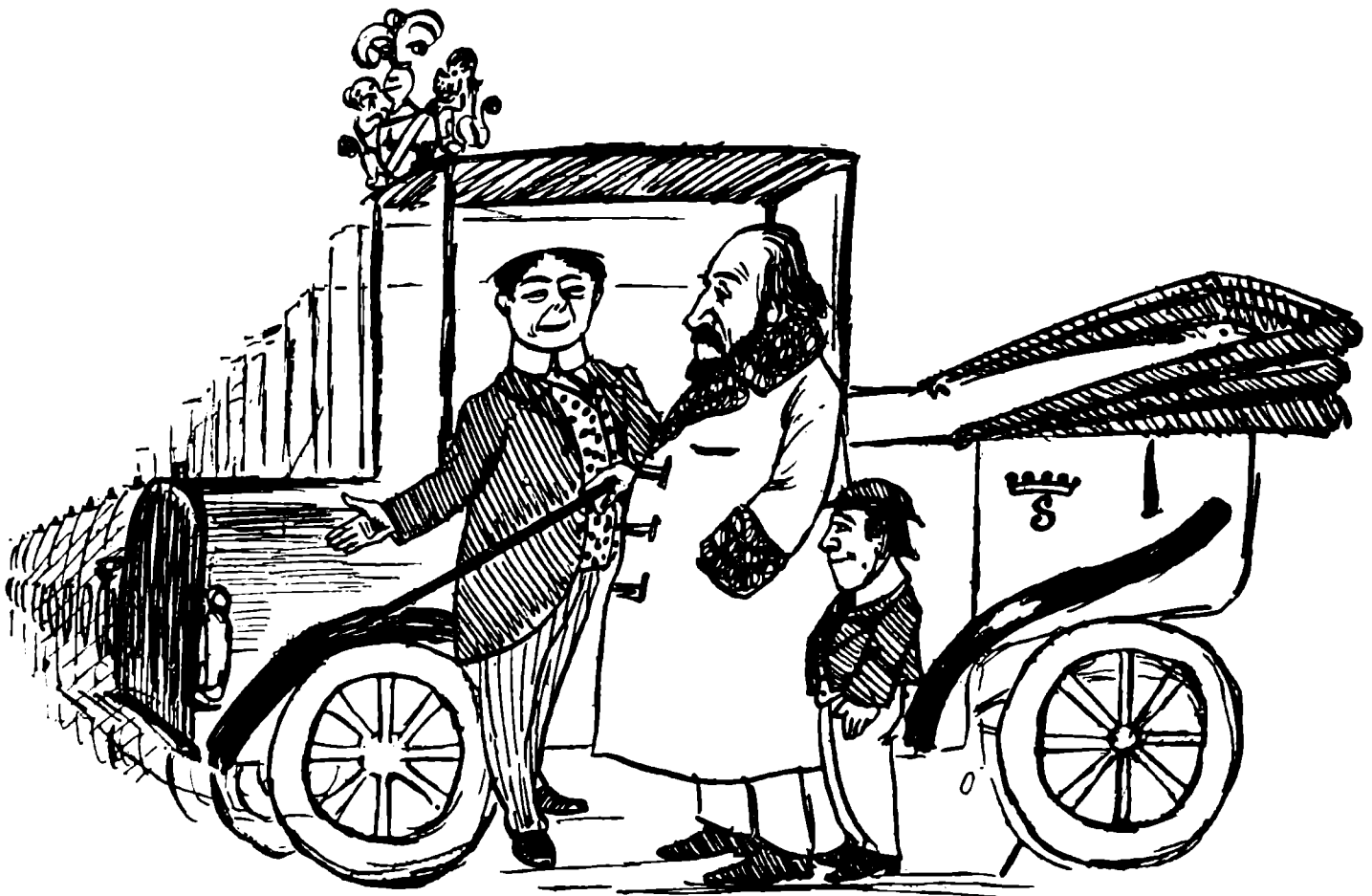
Ligny too!

And died at Trafalgar!



What would he have remarked to hear  
His Young Descendant shriek with fear,  
Because he happened to be near  
A Harmless Motor-Car!  
But do not fret about it! Come!

## We'll off to Town



And purchase some!"

# Lord Lundy,

*Who was too Freely Moved to Tears, and thereby  
ruined his Political Career.*



Lord Lundy from his earliest years  
Was far too freely moved to Tears.  
For instance, if his Mother said,  
“Lundy! It’s time to go to Bed!”  
He bellowed like a Little Turk.  
Or if





his father, Lord Dunquerque  
Said, "Hi!" in a Commanding Tone,  
"Hi, Lundy! Leave the Cat alone!"  
Lord Lundy, letting go its tail,  
Would raise so terrible a wail  
As moved

His  
Grandpapa  
the



Duke

To utter the severe rebuke:  
“When I, Sir! was a little Boy,  
An Animal was not a Toy!”

His father's Elder Sister, who  
Was married to a Parvenoo,



Confided to Her Husband, "Drat!  
The Miserable, Peevish Brat!  
Why don't they drown the Little Beast?"  
Suggestions which, to say the least,  
Are not what we expect to hear  
From Daughters of an English Peer.  
His grandmamma, His Mother's Mother,

Who had some dignity or other,  
The Garter, or no matter what,  
I can't remember all the Lot!  
Said, "Oh! that I were Brisk and Spry  
To give him that for which to cry!"  
(An empty wish, alas! for she



Was Blind and nearly ninety-three).

The

Dear old Butler



thought—but there!

I really neither know nor care  
For what the Dear Old Butler thought!  
In my opinion, Butlers ought  
To know their place, and not to play  
The Old Retainer night and day

I'm getting tired and so are you,  
Let's cut the Poem into two!



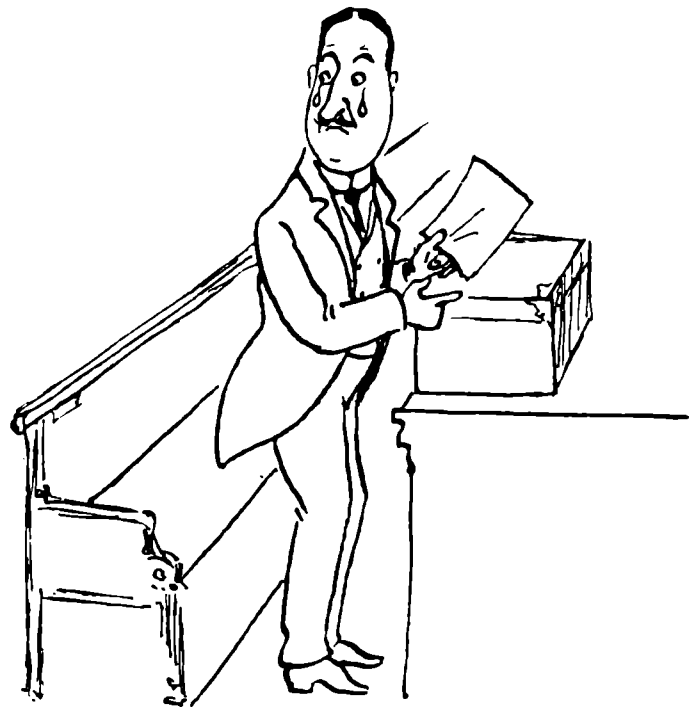
# Lord Lundy

*(SECOND CANTO).*

It happened to Lord Lundy then,  
As happens to so many men :  
Towards the age of twenty-six,  
They shoved him into politics ;  
In which profession he commanded  
The income that his rank demanded  
In turn as Secretary for  
India, the Colonies, and War.  
But very soon his friends began  
To doubt if he were quite the man :  
Thus, if a member rose to say  
(As members do from day to day),



“Arising out of that reply . . . !”



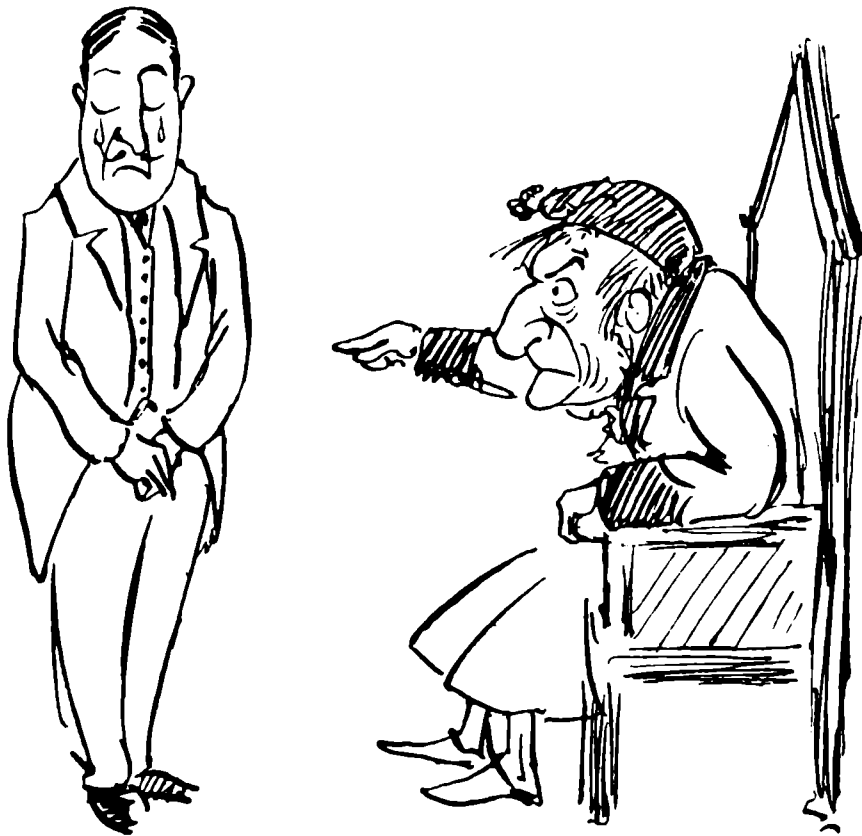
Lord Lundy would begin to cry.  
A Hint at harmless little jobs  
Would shake him with convulsive sobs.



While as for Revelations, these  
Would simply bring him to his knees,  
And leave him whimpering like a child.  
It drove his Colleagues raving wild!  
They let him sink from Post to Post,  
From fifteen hundred at the most  
To eight, and barely six—and then  
To be Curator of Big Ben! . . .  
And finally there came a Threat  
To oust him from the Cabinet!

The Duke—his aged grand sire—bore  
The shame till he could bear no more.  
He rallied his declining powers,  
Summoned the youth to Brackley Towers,

And bitterly addressed him thus—  
“Sir! you have disappointed us!  
We had intended you to be  
The next Prime Minister but three:  
The stocks were sold; the Press was squared;  
The Middle Class was quite prepared.  
But as it is! . . . My language fails!



Go out and govern New South Wales!”

. . . . .  
The Aged Patriot groaned and died:

And gracious! how Lord Lundy cried!

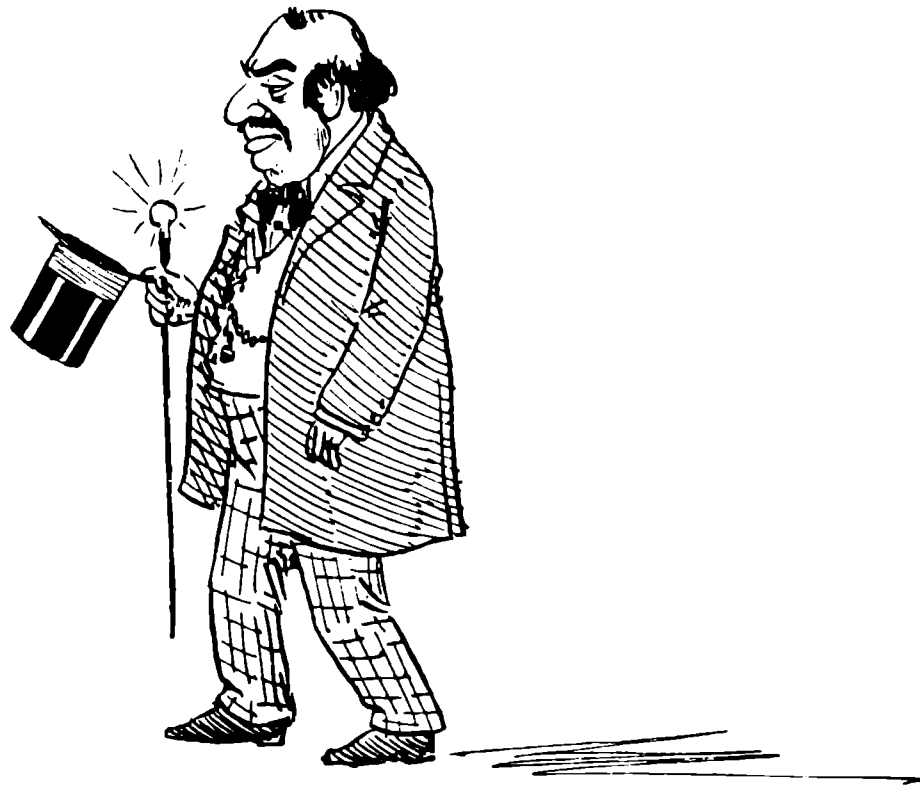


# Rebecca,

*Who slammed Doors for Fun and Perished Miserably.*



A Trick that everyone abhors  
In Little Girls is slamming Doors.  
A



Wealthy Banker's



## Little Daughter

Who lived in Palace Green, Bayswater  
(By name Rebecca Offendort),  
Was given to this Furious Sport.

She would deliberately go

And Slam the door like  
Billy-Ho!



To make

her

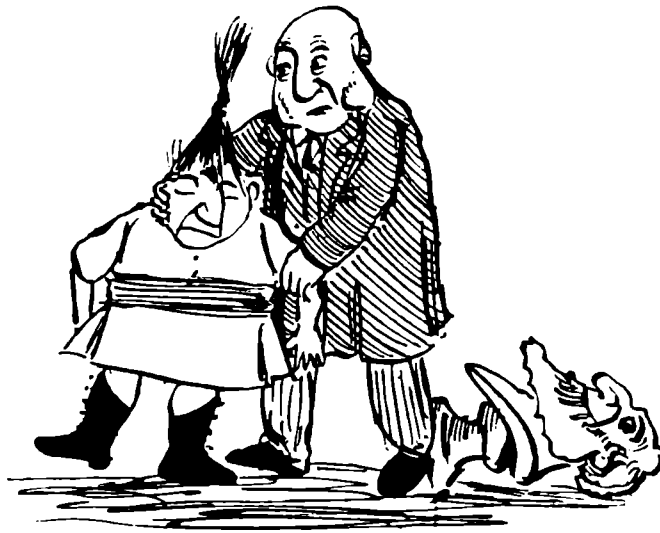


Uncle Jacob start.

She was not really bad at heart,  
But only rather rude and wild:  
She was an aggravating child. . . .

It happened that a Marble Bust  
Of Abraham was standing just  
Above the Door this little Lamb  
Had carefully prepared to Slam,  
And Down it came! It knocked her flat!

It laid her out! She looked  
like that.



. . . . .  
Her funeral Sermon (which was long  
And followed by a Sacred Song)  
Mentioned her Virtues, it is true,  
But dwelt upon her Vices too,

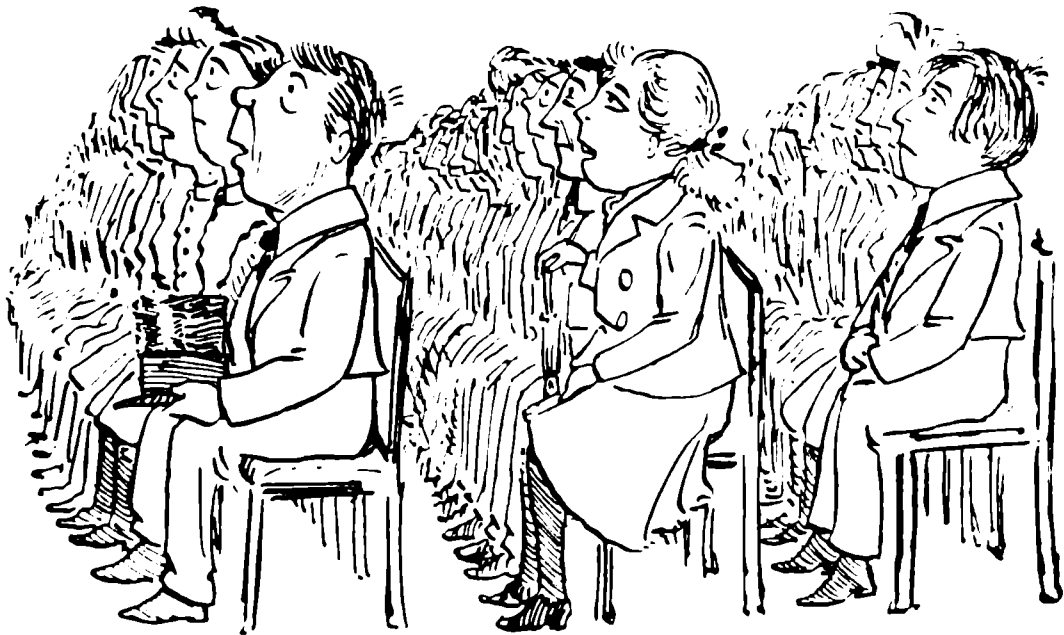
And showed the Dreadful End of One  
Who goes and slams the door for Fun.

. . . . .

The children who were brought to hear  
The awful Tale from far and near  
Were much impressed,



and inly swore  
They never more would slam the Door.  
—As often they had done before.



# George,

*Who played with a Dangerous Toy, and suffered a  
Catastrophe of considerable Dimensions.*



When George's Grandmamma was told



That George had been as good as Gold,  
She Promised in the Afternoon  
To buy him an *Immense BALLOON.*

And



so she did ; but when it came,  
It got into the candle flame,  
And being of a dangerous sort  
Exploded



with a loud report !

The Lights went out! The Windows broke!  
The Room was filled with reeking smoke.  
And in the darkness shrieks and yells  
Were mingled with Electric Bells,  
And falling masonry and groans,  
And crunching, as of broken bones,  
And dreadful shrieks, when, worst of all,  
The House itself began to fall!  
It tottered, shuddering to and fro,  
Then crashed into the street below—  
Which happened to be Savile Row.

When Help arrived, among the Dead

Were



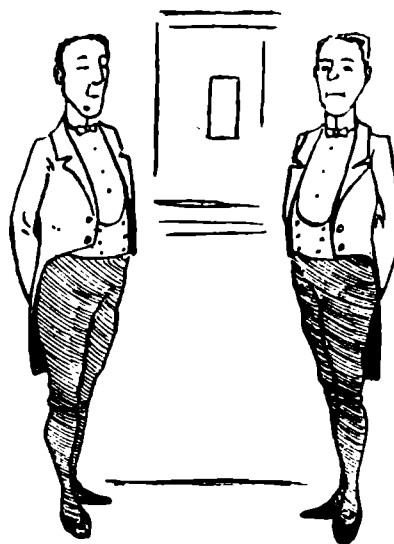
Cousin Mary,

Little Fred,





The Footmen



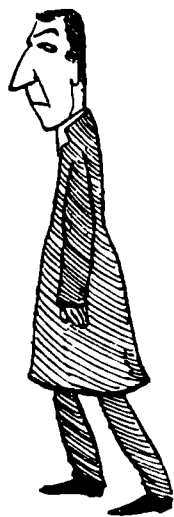
(both of them),



The Groom,

The man that cleaned the Billiard-Room,

The Chaplain, and



The Still-Room Maid.

And I am dreadfully afraid  
That Monsieur Champignon, the Chef,  
Will now be



permanently deaf—

And both his

Aides



are much the same ;

While George, who was in part to blame,  
 Received, you will regret to hear,  
 A nasty lump



behind the ear.

**MORAL.**

The moral is that little Boys  
 Should not be given dangerous Toys.

# Charles Augustus Fortescue,

*Who always Did what was Right, and so  
accumulated an Immense Fortune.*



The nicest child I ever knew  
Was Charles Augustus Fortescue.  
He never lost his cap, or tore  
His stockings or his pinafore :

In eating Bread he made no Crumbs,  
He was extremely fond  
of sums,

To which, however, he preferred

The Parsing of a Latin  
Word—

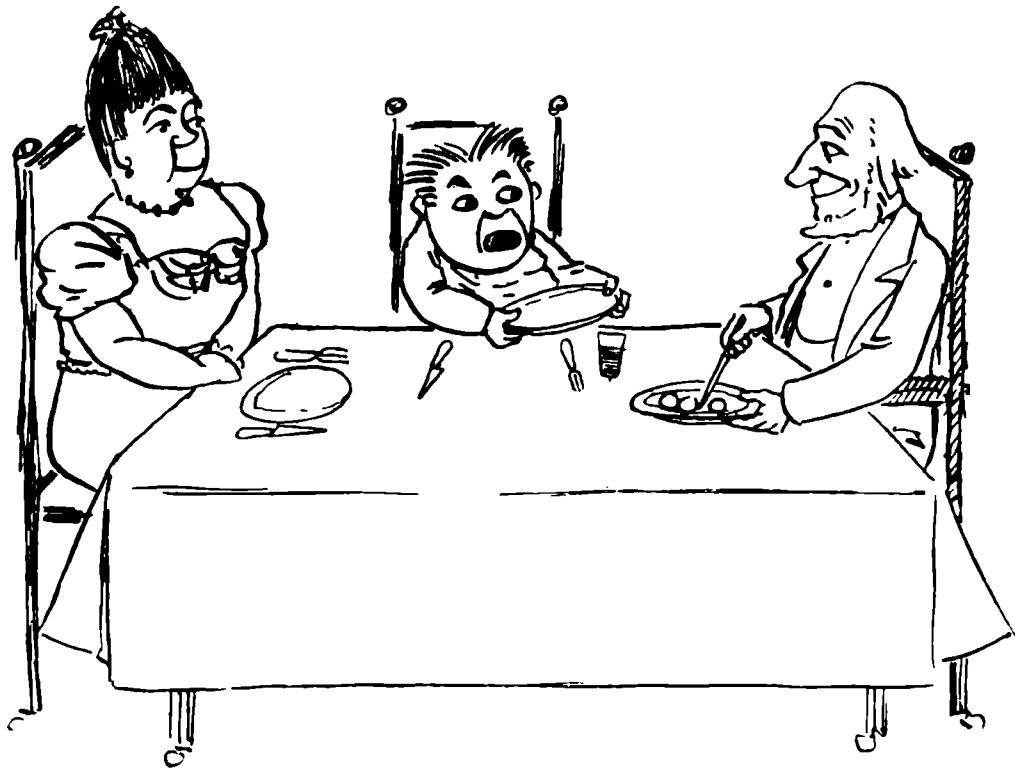
He sought, when it was in  
his power,

For information twice an hour,





And as for finding Mutton-Fat  
Unappetising, far from that!  
He often, at his Father's Board,  
Would beg them, of his own accord,



To give him, if they did not mind,  
The Greasiest Morsels they could find—  
His Later Years did not belie  
The Promise of his Infancy.

In Public Life he always tried  
To take a judgment Broad and Wide;

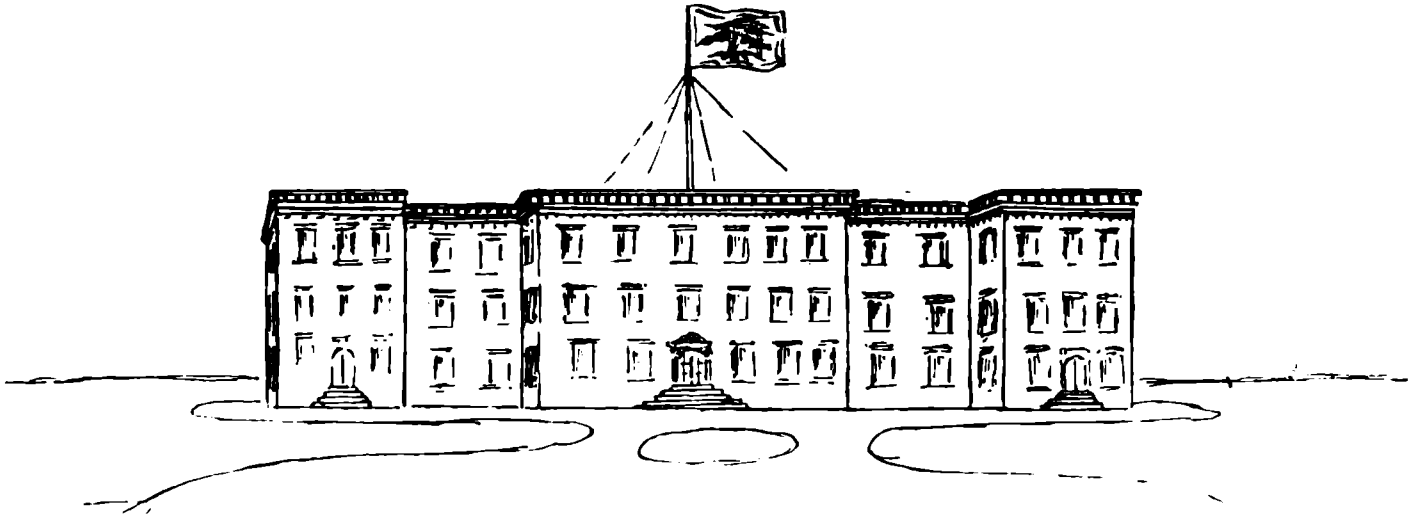


In Private, none was more than he  
Renowned for quiet courtesy.  
He rose at once in his Career,  
And long before his Fortieth Year  
Had wedded

Fif,



Only Child  
Of Bunyan. First Lord Alberfylde,  
He thus became immensely Rich,  
And built the Splendid Mansion which  
Is called



“The Cedars,  
Muswell Hill,”

Where he resides in Affluence still  
To show what Everybody might  
Become by

**SIMPLY DOING RIGHT.**

*Printed by*  
**MORRISON & GIBB LIMITED**  
*Edinburgh*