





# THE LITTLE MOUSE

THAT MADE ITSELF A HOUSE  
IN A CHRISTMAS CAKE.

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A pretty story I will tell  
Of Nib, a little Mouse,  
Who took delight, when none were near,  
To skip about the house.

As dainty in her fare was she,  
As any queen or king;  
Ate cake and pudding,—and, in fact,  
The best of every thing.

Her little nose could sniff and smell  
Where all good things were kept;  
And in the pantry well she knew  
That mistress Pussy slept.

But, notwithstanding, in she crept,  
And on the shelf she found  
A Christmas cake! the top of which  
Was by a castle crowned.

You all have tasted Christmas cake,  
Its currants and its spice;  
And some, you know, have ornaments,  
With suitable device.

The subject of the present cake  
Was Windsor's mighty walls;  
With turrets, windows, standard too,  
And entrance to the halls.

Why, here within such walls as these,  
Thought Mousey, I could dwell;  
And, should the Cat lay siege to them,  
Defend myself right well.



So, with her little teeth, which served  
For pickaxe and for spade,  
She gnawed right through the Gothic door,  
And thus an entrance made.

Then climbed the turret, which she chose  
Her residence to make;  
And thought to leave it now and then,  
And feast upon the cake.

All this occurred on Christmas eve,  
And next came Christmas day;  
And then the little folks all came  
To eat, and drink, and play.

For dinner they had turkey, goose,  
Roast beef, and roasted hare;  
And, full of spice, and very nice,  
Plum-pudding, too, was there.



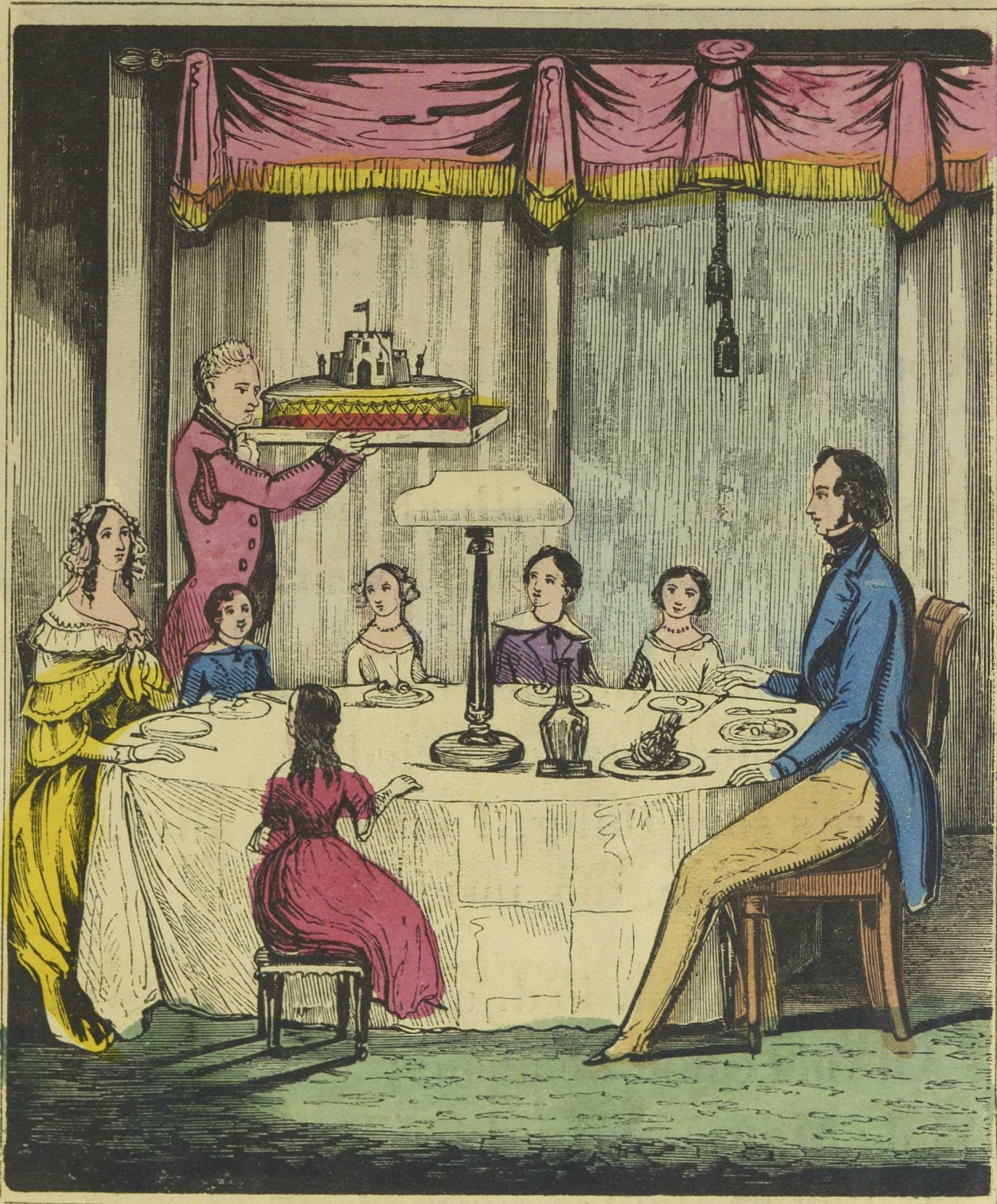
The dinner finished, wine and fruit  
Were on the table spread ;  
And then the cake, where Mousey lay,  
With terror almost dead.

Right merry are the little folks,  
And what a noise they make,  
When Windsor castle they behold,  
Displayed upon the cake.

The turrets and the walls they view,  
The cannon, too, admire ;  
The soldiers ready to present,  
And then—pop!—pop!—to fire.

On this, when they had long enough  
All exercised their wit,  
They scrutinized the cake, and wished  
To taste a bit of it.



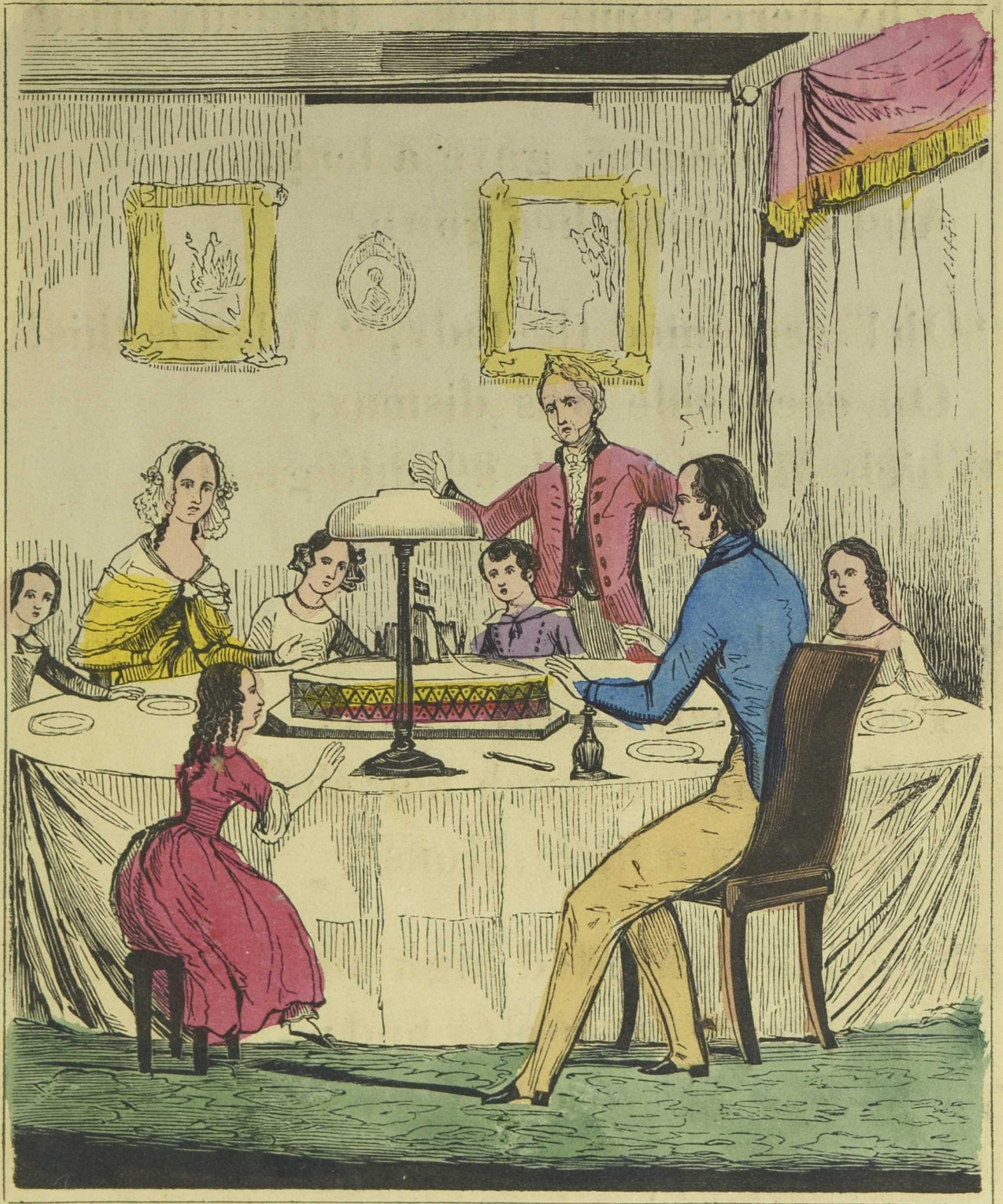


Each guest prepared,—the knife was raised  
Some slices to begin,  
When, lo! with wonder, all exclaimed,  
“ I hear a noise within?”

Poor Mousey, when she saw the knife,  
At once expressed her fear,  
By squeaking out with all her might,  
Which every one could hear.

Then John, as he the turret viewed,  
With consternation cried,  
“ There’s something, I am sure, alive,  
And moving, too, inside.”

All now were hushed, and knew not what  
All this could be about;  
While Mouse, in fright, forgot her tail,  
Which at the top popped out.



“Why here’s some trick,” the lady cried,  
“I’ll knock the turret down.”

Mousey, in terror, gave a leap,  
And ran along her gown.

“Oh!” screamed the lady, “What is this?”  
On each side was dismay,  
Which Mousey took advantage of,  
By scampering away.

Their fright all o’er, loud laughs ensued,  
From all within the house,  
To think that so much fear should be  
Caused by a little Mouse.

The children hunted high and low,  
This merry Mouse to find;  
To have a bit of fun with her,  
They all appear inclined.



She saw her foes, and knew their aim,  
But was not such a dolt  
To wait till she was caught, but made  
Right through a hole—a bolt.

The party then began their dance,  
And singing next ensued ;  
And then came supper, with its cakes,  
And very best home-brewed.

They then shook hands and bade adieu ;  
Well pleased was every one ;  
And hoped next Christmas-day might be  
As full of harmless fun,

For all agreed, who on that day  
Had visited the house,  
They ne'er had seen such pleasure through  
A pretty little Mouse.



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TALE OF THE

**LITTLE MOUSE**

THAT MADE ITSELF A HOUSE  
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