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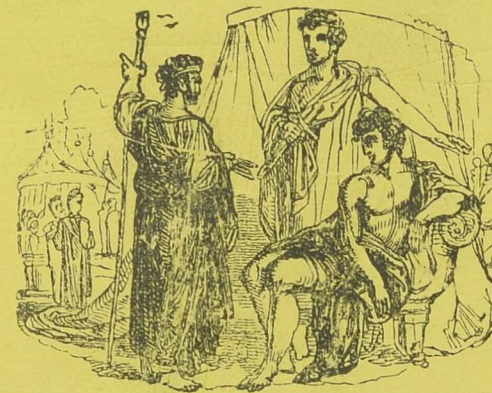
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THE DAINTY LITTLE BOY.

NEVER BE DAINTY and throw food away ;
'Tis sinful, as you must have heard many say ;
Besides, you yourself may require food, some day,
Though well fed.

So don't smell your plate and turn over your food,
And doubt if its wholesome, or pleasant, or good ;
Such conduct is not only senseless,—but rude
And ill-bred.

There was a young boy, who so dainty became,
That whether his dinner was fish, flesh, or game,
He turned up his nose at them all just the same,
And would cry,



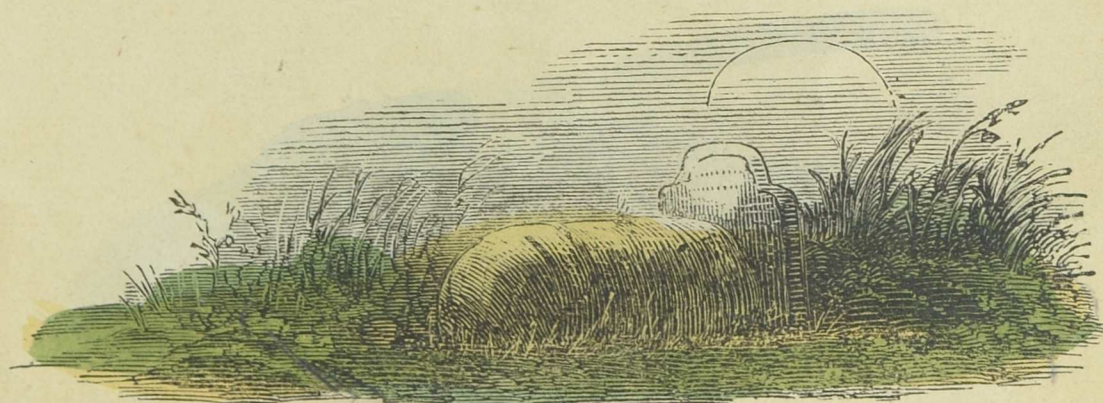
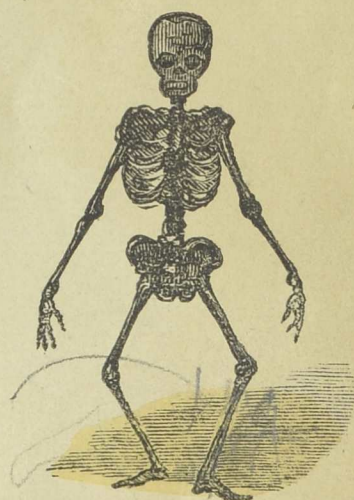
“I cannot eat this,”—and, “I do not like that ;” —
“This chicken’s too lean,” —and “That mutton’s too fat ;
The dog he may eat it up all, or the cat,
But not I.”

The consequence was, that he soon became thin ;
His bones they stuck out, and his cheeks they sunk in,
And his hands were not stronger nor thicker than tin,
If so strong.

And his legs grew as slender as little hat-pegs,
And almost as small was his waist as his legs ;
And he looked like the laths that are fastened round kegs,
Thin and long.

And thinner, and thinner, and thinner, he grew ;
A shadow had been rather fat, of the two ;
In fact, you might easily look him right thro’,
If you tried.

And when he was quite to a skeleton grown,
As weak as a reed, and as cold as a stone,
He fell all to pieces, and with a faint groan,
So he died.





THE LITTLE BOY WHO BIT HIS NAILS.

SEE HERE a naughty boy, John Thales,
Who had a shocking way
Of picking at his finger nails,
And biting them all day.

And though he had, like other boys,
Both soldiers, kites, and drums,
He liked much better than these toys,
His fingers and his thumbs.

And so he bit and bit away,
And ne'er would laugh or speak ;
He ate at least a nail a day,
And sometimes ten a week.

But soon he ate right to the bone,
And fingers were bereft
Of shape and beauty,—both had gone,—
And naught but stumps were left.

And now his stumps he dare not show,
But hangs his head for shame ;
And all of you will find it so,
If you should do the same.





THE LITTLE GIRL WHO SUCKED HER FINGERS.

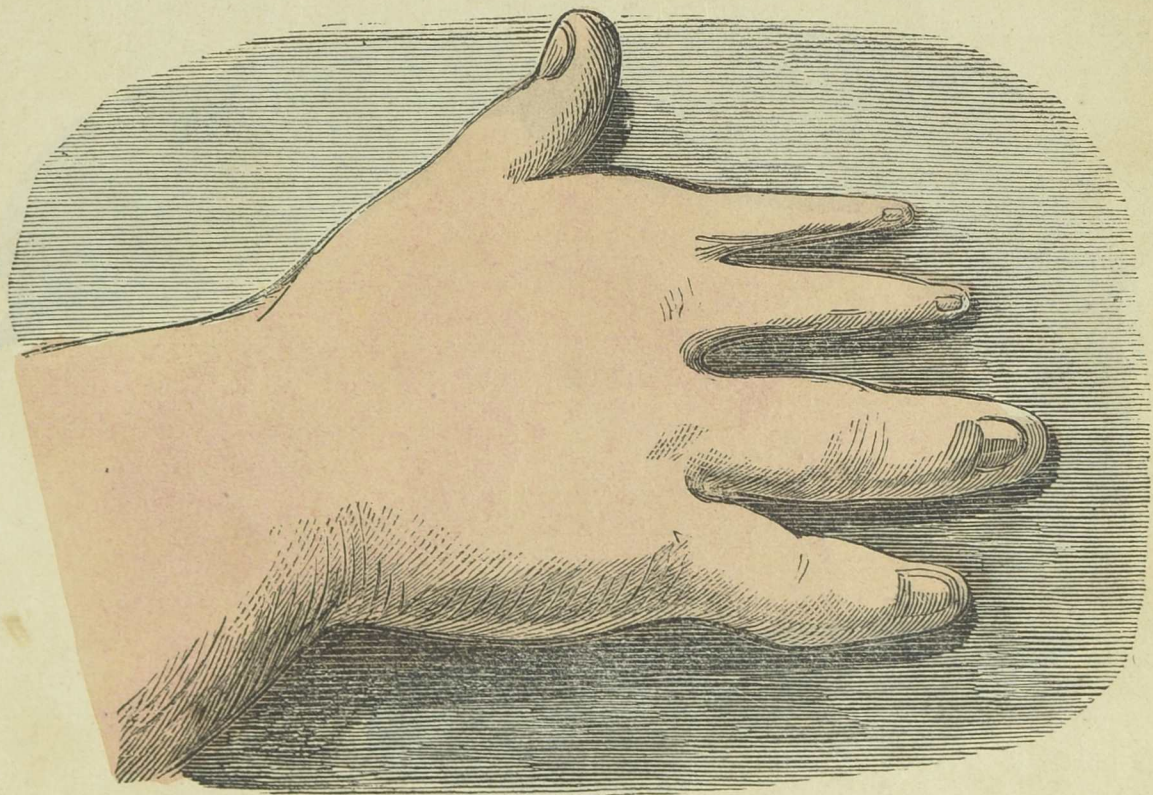
A LITTLE GIRL, NAMED MARY KATE,
Whose picture here you see,
Would have been loved by small and great,
But for one thing, which I'll relate;
So listen now to me.

A silly habit she'd acquired
Of putting in her mouth
The pretty fingers of her hand,
And sucking them, for hours she'd stand,
In manner most uncouth.

Her play-companions used to laugh,
And jeeringly would say,
“Oh, pray bring Mary Kate some crumbs,
Poor thing! she’s dining off her thumbs;
She’ll eat them all away.”

They spoke in jest, but very soon
The saying turned out true;
So strongly had the habit grown,
Awake, asleep, with friends, alone,
The practice she’d pursue.

She sucked and sucked, ’til from her hand
The ill-used fingers pined;
Shorter and thinner, every day,
By sure degrees they shrank away,
And left mere shades behind.



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