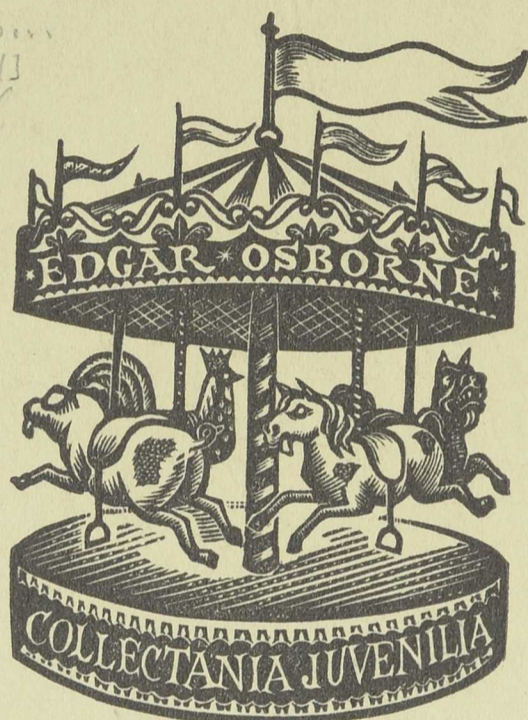




MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED, LONDON
NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

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MABEL OSBORNE

For Phil
with best love from Aunt Eleanor
June 1901

OLD KING COLE'S
BOOK OF NURSERY RHYMES



MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED, LONDON
NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

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EDMUND EVANS.



OLD
KING
COLE

WAS A MERRY OLD
SOUL

BY AM. SHAW

OLD KING COLE

OLD King Cole

Was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he.
He called for his pipe,
And he called for his bowl,
And he called for his fiddlers three.
Every fiddler, he had a fiddle,
And a very fine fiddle had he,
Twee-tweedle-dee, tweedle-dee, went the fiddlers.
Oh, there's none so rare
As can compare
With King Cole and his fiddlers three.

I HAD A LITTLE HUSBAND

I HAD a little husband, no bigger than my thumb ;

I put him in a pint pot, and there I bid him drum.

I bought a little horse, that galloped up and down ;

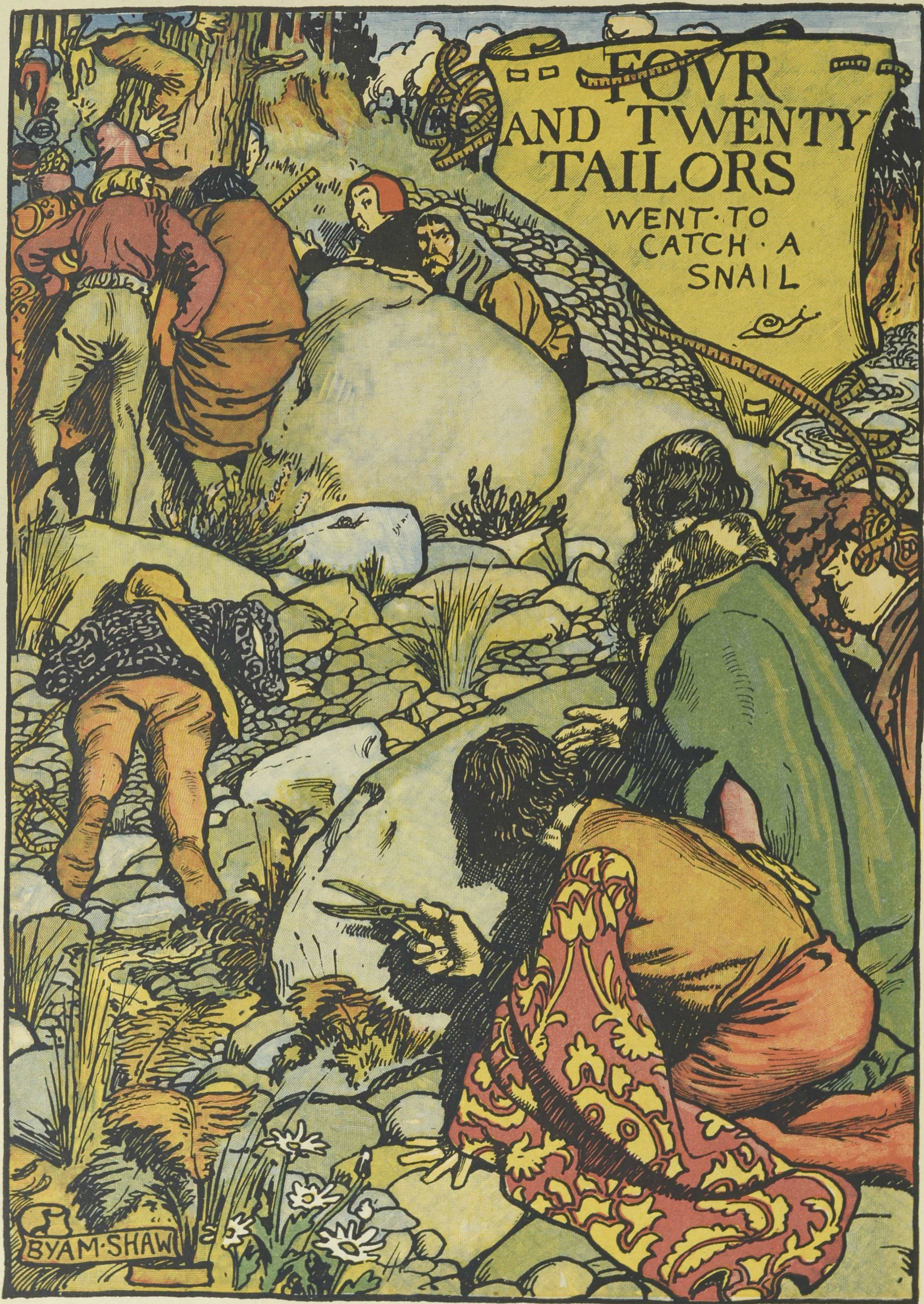
I bridled him, and saddled him, and sent him out of town.

I gave him some garters, to garter up his hose ;

And a little handkerchief, to wipe his pretty nose.

BYAM SHAW





FOUR-AND-TWENTY TAILORS

FOUR-AND-TWENTY tailors went to catch
a snail,

The best man amongst them durst not touch her
tail;

She put out her horns, like a little Kyloe cow,
Run, tailors, run, or she'll kill you all just now.

SNEEZE ON MONDAY

IF you sneeze on Monday, you sneeze for
danger ;

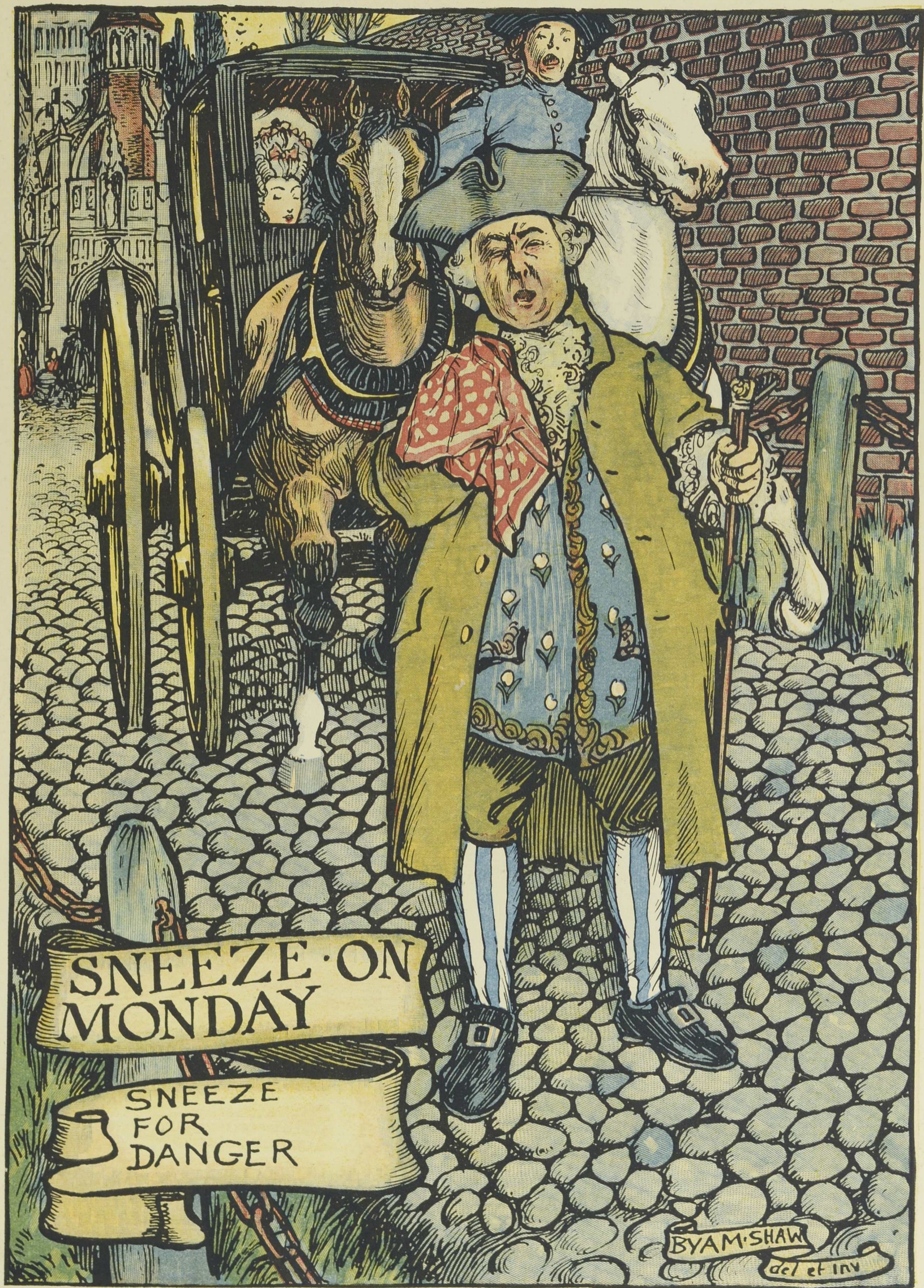
Sneeze on a Tuesday, kiss a stranger ;

Sneeze on a Wednesday, sneeze for a letter ;

Sneeze on a Thursday, something better ;

Sneeze on a Friday, sneeze for sorrow ;

Sneeze on a Saturday, see your sweetheart to-morrow.





LADY QUEEN ANNE

QUEEN ANNE, Queen Anne, she sits in the
sun,

As fair as the lily, as white as the swan :

I send you three letters, so pray you read one.

I cannot read one unless I read all ;

So pray, Master Teddy, deliver the ball.

THERE WAS AN OLD WOMAN

THERE was an old woman who rode on a broom,
With a high gee ho, gee humble;
And she took her old cat behind for a groom,
With a bimble, bamble, bumble.

They travell'd along till they came to the sky,
With a high gee ho, gee humble;
But the journey so long made them very hungry,
With a bimble, bamble, bumble.

Says Tom, I can find nothing here to eat,
With a high gee ho, gee humble;
So let us go back again, I entreat,
With a bimble, bamble, bumble.

The old woman would not go back so soon,
With a high gee ho, gee humble;
For she wanted to visit the Man in the Moon,
With a bimble, bamble, bumble.

Says Tom, I'll go back by myself to our house,
With a high gee ho, gee humble;
For there I can catch a good rat or a mouse,
With a bimble, bamble, bumble.

But, says the old woman, how will you go?
With a high gee ho, gee humble;
You shan't have my nag, I protest and vow,
With a bimble, bamble, bumble.

No, no, says Tom, I've a plan of my own,
With a high gee ho, gee humble;
So he slid down the rainbow, and left her alone,
With a bimble, bamble, bumble.



BYAM
SHAW

THERE
WAS AN
**OLD
WOMAN** WHO
RODE ON A BROOM
*With a high gee ho
gee humble*

AND SHE TOOK HER OLD
CAT BEHIND FOR A GROOM
With a bumble bumble bumble



A WAS AN ARCHER

A was an Archer, who shot at a frog,
B was a Butcher, who kept a bull-dog.
C was a Captain, all covered with lace,
D was a Drummer, who played with much grace.
E was an Esquire, with pride on his brow,
F was a Farmer, who followed the plough.
G was a Gamester, who had but ill luck,
H was a Hunter, who hunted a buck.
I was an Italian, who had a white mouse,
J was a Joiner, who built up a house.
K was a King, so mighty and grand,
L was a Lady, who had a white hand.
M was a Miser, who hoarded up gold,
N was a Nobleman, gallant and bold.
O was an Organ boy, who played about town,
P was a Parson, who wore a black gown.
Q was a Queen, who was fond of her people,
R was a Robin, who perched on a steeple.
S was a Sailor, who spent all he got,
T was a Tinker, who mended a pot.
U was an Usher, who loved little boys,
V was a Veteran, who sold pretty toys.
W was a Watchman who guarded the door,
X was expensive, and so became poor.
Y was a Youth, who did not love school,
Z was a Zany, who looked a great fool.

COME TO BED, SAYS SLEEPY HEAD

COME, let's to bed, says Sleepy Head,
Tarry a while, says Slow ;
Put on the pan, says Greedy Nan,
Let's sup before we go.

COME

TO BED SAYS
SLEEPY-HEAD



BYAM SHAW



THIS LITTLE PIG WENT TO MARKET

A Song set to five fingers or toes.

THIS little pig went to market ;
This little pig stayed at home ;
This little pig eat roast beef ;
This little pig had none ;
This little pig cried, “Wee, wee, wee !
I can’t find my way home !”

LITTLE POLLY FLINDERS

LITTLE Polly Flinders
Sat among the cinders
Warming her pretty little toes.
Her mother came and caught her,
And smacked her little daughter
For spoiling her nice new clothes.

BYAM SHAW



LITTLE
POLLY
FLINDER
5

SAT AMONG THE CINDERS

BARBER BARBER
SHAVE A PIG



HOW MANY HAIRS WILL MAKE A WIG?

BARBER, BARBER, SHAVE A PIG

BARBER, barber, shave a pig,
How many hairs will make a wig?
“Four-and-twenty, that’s enough.”
Give the barber a pinch of snuff.

THE LION AND THE UNICORN

THE Lion and the Unicorn,
Fighting for the Crown;
The Lion beat the Unicorn
All round the town.
Some gave them white bread,
Some gave them brown;
Some gave them plum-cake,
And sent them out of town.





LITTLE BO-PEEP

LITTLE Bo-Peep, she lost her sheep,
And didn't know where to find them;
Let them alone, they'll all come home
And bring their tails behind them.

Little Bo-Peep fell fast asleep,
And dreamt she heard them bleating;
But when she awoke, she found it a joke,
For they were still a-fleeting.

Then up she took her little crook,
Determined for to find them;
She found them indeed, but it made her heart bleed,
For they'd left their tails behind them.

It happened one day, as Bo-Peep did stray
Into a meadow hard by,
There she espied their tails side by side,
All hung on a tree to dry.

She heaved a sigh and wiped her eye,
Then went o'er hill and dale,
And tried what she could, as a shepherdess should,
To tack to each sheep its tail.

IF ALL THE WORLD WERE WATER

IF all the world were water,
And all the water were ink,
What should we do for bread and cheese?
What should we do for drink?

IF ALL THE WORLD
WERE BREAD &
CHEESE





GOOSEY, GOOSEY, GANDER

GOOSEY, goosey, gander,
Where shall I wander?

Up stairs, down stairs,

And in my lady's chamber ;

There I met an old man

That would not say his prayers ;

I took him by the left leg,

And threw him down stairs.

ROCK-A-BYE, BABY, ON THE TREE TOP

ROCK-A-BYE, baby, on the tree top,
When the wind blows the cradle will rock,
When the wind lulls, the cradle will fall,
Down will come baby and cradle and all.





PETER PIPER

PETER PIPER picked a peck of pickled
pepper ;

A peck of pickled pepper Peter Piper picked ;
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper,
Where's the peck of pickled pepper Peter
Piper picked ?

HERE GOES MY LORD

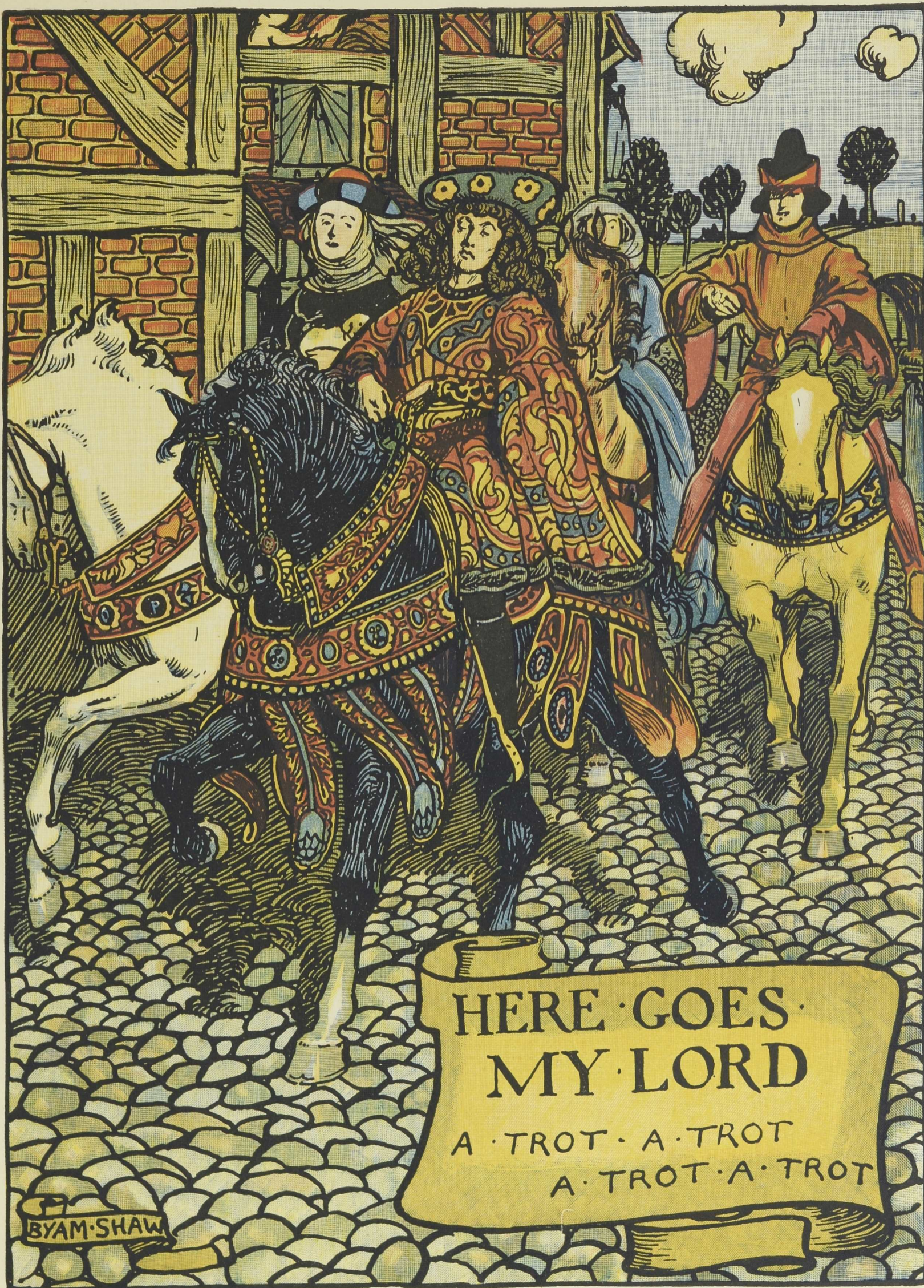
HERE goes my lord
A trot, a trot, a trot, a trot;

Here goes my lady

A canter, a canter, a canter, a canter!

Here goes my young master
Jockey-hitch, Jockey-hitch, Jockey-hitch,
Jockey-hitch;

Here goes my young miss,
An amble, an amble, an amble, an amble!





A CARRION CROW SAT ON AN OAK

A CARRION CROW sat on an oak,
Derry, derry, derry, decco ;
A carrion crow sat on an oak,
Watching a tailor shape a coat.
Heigh-ho ! the carrion crow,
Derry, derry, derry, decco.

“O wife, bring me my old bent bow,”
Derry, derry, derry, decco ;
“O wife, bring me my old bent bow,
“That I may shoot yon carrion crow.”
Heigh-ho ! the carrion crow,
Derry, derry, derry, decco.

The tailor shot, and he missed his mark,
Derry, derry, derry, decco ;
The tailor shot, and he missed his mark,
And shot his old sow right through the heart.
Heigh-ho ! the carrion crow,
Derry, derry, derry, decco.

“O wife, bring brandy in a spoon,”
Derry, derry, derry, decco ;
“O wife, bring brandy in a spoon,
“For our old sow is in a swoon.”
Heigh-ho ! the carrion crow,
Derry, derry, derry, decco.

THREE WISE MEN OF GOTHAM

THREE wise men of Gotham
Went to sea in a bowl :
If the bowl had been stronger,
My song had been longer.





LITTLE MISS MUFFET

LITTLE Miss Muffet,
She sat on a tuffet,
Eating of curds and whey;
There came a great spider,
Who sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

SIMPLE SIMON

SIMPLE SIMON met a pieman,
Going to the fair :
Says Simple Simon to the pieman,
“Let me taste your ware.”

Says the pieman to Simple Simon,
“Show me first your penny.”
Says Simple Simon to the pieman,
“Indeed I have not any.”

Simple Simon went a-fishing
For to catch a whale ;
All the water he had got
Was in his mother's pail.

Simple Simon went to look
If plums grew on a thistle ;
He pricked his fingers very much,
Which made poor Simon whistle.





I SAW THREE SHIPS

I SAW three ships come sailing by,
come sailing by, come sailing by—
I saw three ships come sailing by,
New Year's Day in the morning.

And what do you think was in them then,
was in them then, was in them then?
And what do you think was in them then?
New Year's Day in the morning

Three pretty girls were in them then,
were in them then, were in them then—
Three pretty girls were in them then,
New Year's Day in the morning.

One could whistle and another could sing,
and the other could play on the violin—
Such joy was there at my wedding,
New Year's Day in the morning.

THREE BLIND MICE

THREE blind mice,
See how they run!

They all ran after the farmer's wife,
Who cut off their tails with a carving knife.
Did you ever see such a thing in your life
As three blind mice?



