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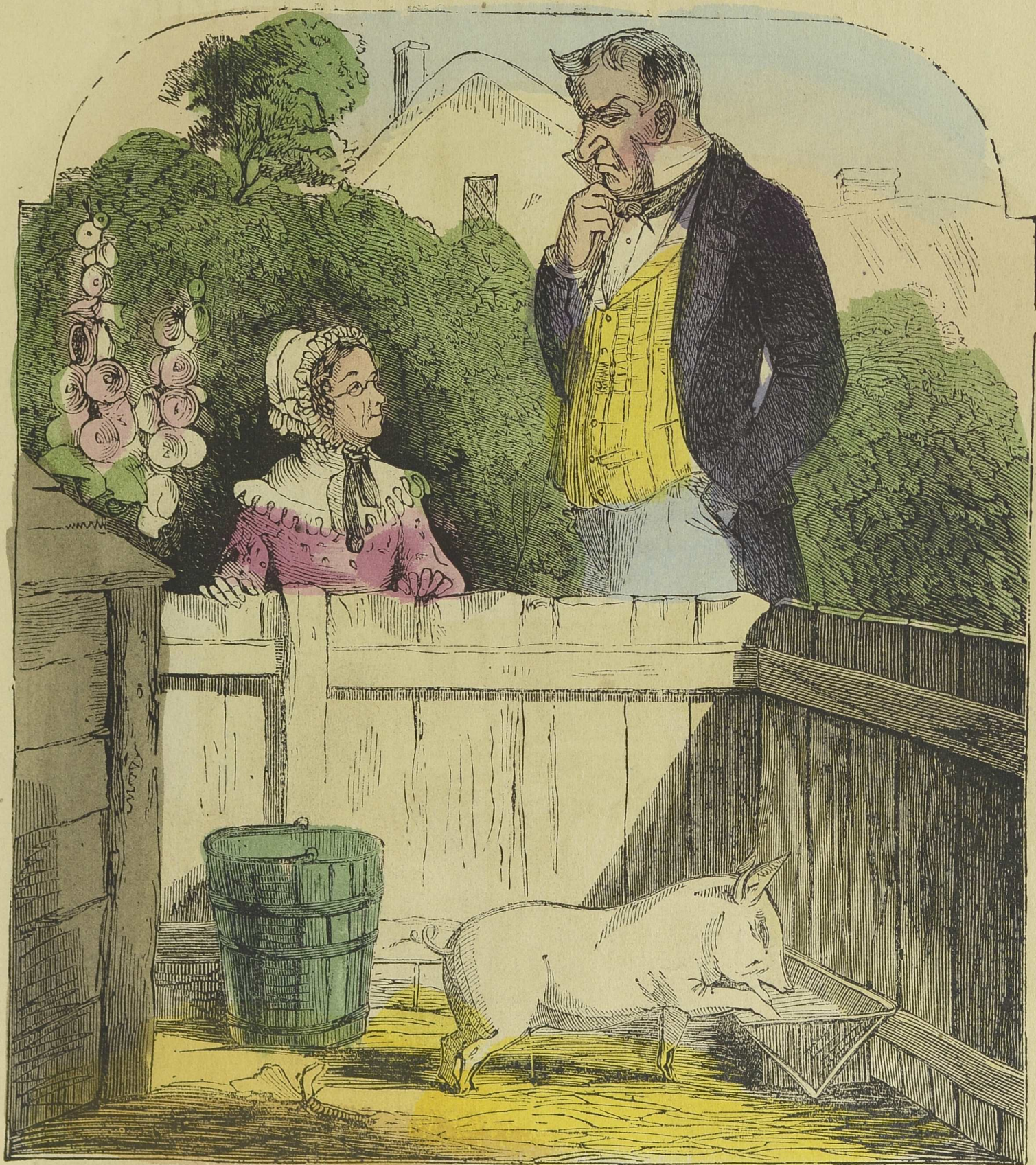
LITTLE PIG.

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THE NAUGHTY LITTLE PIG.



THERE was once a little Woman, with a little curly wig,
Who went, upon a market-day, to buy a little Pig.
She scarcely knew which one to choose, so many were for sale,
When a little man, with a little pig who'd a very little tail,
Said "I have a little pig to sell; a lively one, and sleek;
You'll never find a better, if a little pig you seek."
The little pig was bought; and, pleased, the woman homeward hied,
The little pig seemed pleased as well, and trotted by her side.



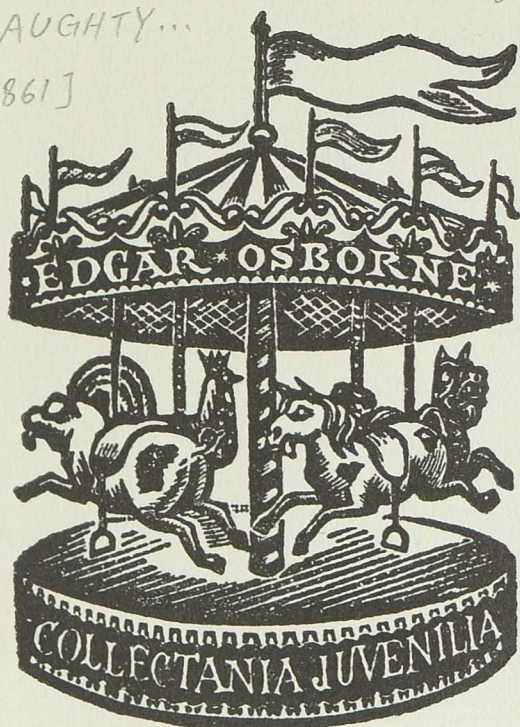
That self-same night, the little pig was comfortably housed ;
But in the morn, at early dawn, 'twas by the mistress roused ;
Who brought with her a neighbour, and she ask'd him what he thought
Of the little pig which yesterday at market she had bought.
Now neighbour Longman was a judge, in our little woman's eyes ;
And truly a GREAT judge must be, if taken by his size.
Well, thus he spoke, " Now, neighbour Short, just mark well what I say,
That bargain you at market bought, you'll rue for many a day ;
I ne'er saw such a roguish pig, (and I've seen full many a score,)
I'm certain, if you let him live, he'll prove a shocking BORE."

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NAUGHTY...

[1861]

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“Well, live he shall,” the woman said, “at least for one short week,
So, piggy, mind, behave yourself.” Pig answered with a squeak.
A week then passed, and piggy lived,—nay, might live longer yet,
For his kind little mistress made him quite a little pet.
'Twas Thursday eve, and neighbour Short had asked some friends to tea;
And, quite delighted with the thought, how pleasant it would be,
Had nice seed-cake, and muffins too, kept warm before the fire,
And a better cup of tea, I'm sure, no lady could desire.
The great arm-chair in corner placed, for wealthy Mrs. Jones,
With nice warm cover o'er it thrown, to comfort her old bones.



In fact, good neighbour Short had tried to please each coming friend ;
 But how far she succeeded, we shall find out in the end.
 Well, one by one the guests arrived, and each one took her place,
 And viewed the muffins, cake, and tea, with happy smiling face.
 They chat awhile : some scandal talked, then spied the great arm-chair,
 "Ah! Mrs. Short," said old dame Smith, "pray tell us who'll sit there."
 "Why, deary me," our friend replied, "I thought you all to treat,
 By asking the great lawyer's wife,—for her I kept that seat ;
 Because, you know, her rheumatiz,—she's told me oft and oft,—
 Won't let her sit on anything but what is warm and soft."



“Ah! here she is,—the good old soul,—she can’t undo the gate;
No; yes she can; she’s here at last, although ’tis rather late.”
Each neighbour rose and curtsyed, as she came within the door;
Hoped she and lawyer Jones were well, then curtsyed all once more,
And round the table drew their seats, admiring, one and all,
Great Mrs. Jones, who went herself, to lay aside her shawl,
Her bonnet and her large fur cape, umbrella too, and clogs.
(She always great precautions took ’gainst cold, and rain, and fogs.)
The tea poured out, she now returned, her toilet made complete,
And gathering up her satin skirt, prepared to take her seat.



Then down she sat. But how can I with feeble pen express
The sudden scene of uproar, and the cries of sad distress,
That filled the ear, where just before such happiness had been?
In terror each began to think what all the noise could mean.
But I must go a little back, the mystery to explain.
And in this little history, bring piggy forth again.
Well, when Dame Short the cover threw o'er Mrs. Jones's chair,
She knew not that her little pet was calmly sleeping there.
And when we say her spectacles were not before her eyes,
And she was old, the oversight need not cause much surprise.



Now let us see where we left off:—Oh! Mrs. Jones's gown
She gathered up,—the careful soul,—and then at once sat down,
When from the cover underneath arose such dreadful moans,
Then struggles, squeaks, and kicks ensued, that frightened Mrs. Jones;
Who bounded up with such a shriek as ne'er was heard before,
Upsetting table, cake and tea, and candles on the floor.
The little piggy thus released, ran round, and round, and round,
Till all the party, by his tricks, lay sprawling on the ground.
'Mid broken tea-cups, scattered cake, and muffins here and there,
Chairs overturned, in darkness quite, confusion everywhere.



Yet piggy still kept running round, and squeaked with all his might.
The neighbours screamed in dread alarm, "Oh! pray bring in a light!"
Dame Short at length a candle lit, and when she saw the scene
That met her eyes where'er she looked, what must her thoughts have been!
Best china broke, offended friends, and all done in a trice;
Oh! how she wished that she had taken Longman's good advice.
But now, too late, she sees her fault; it nearly drove her mad,
To think that one she'd petted so, should now behave so bad.
The neighbours left without their tea, the Dame vowed, for that work,
Before another night should pass, she'd turn the pig to pork.

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