

# PRUDENT PAULINA

BY  
G. M. GEORGE

ILLUSTRATED  
BY G. M. C. FRY





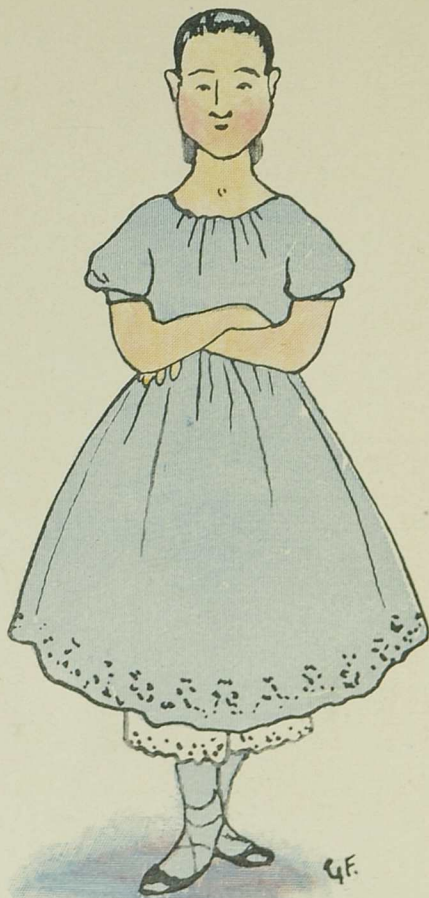
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PRUDENT PAULINA









Prudent Paulina.

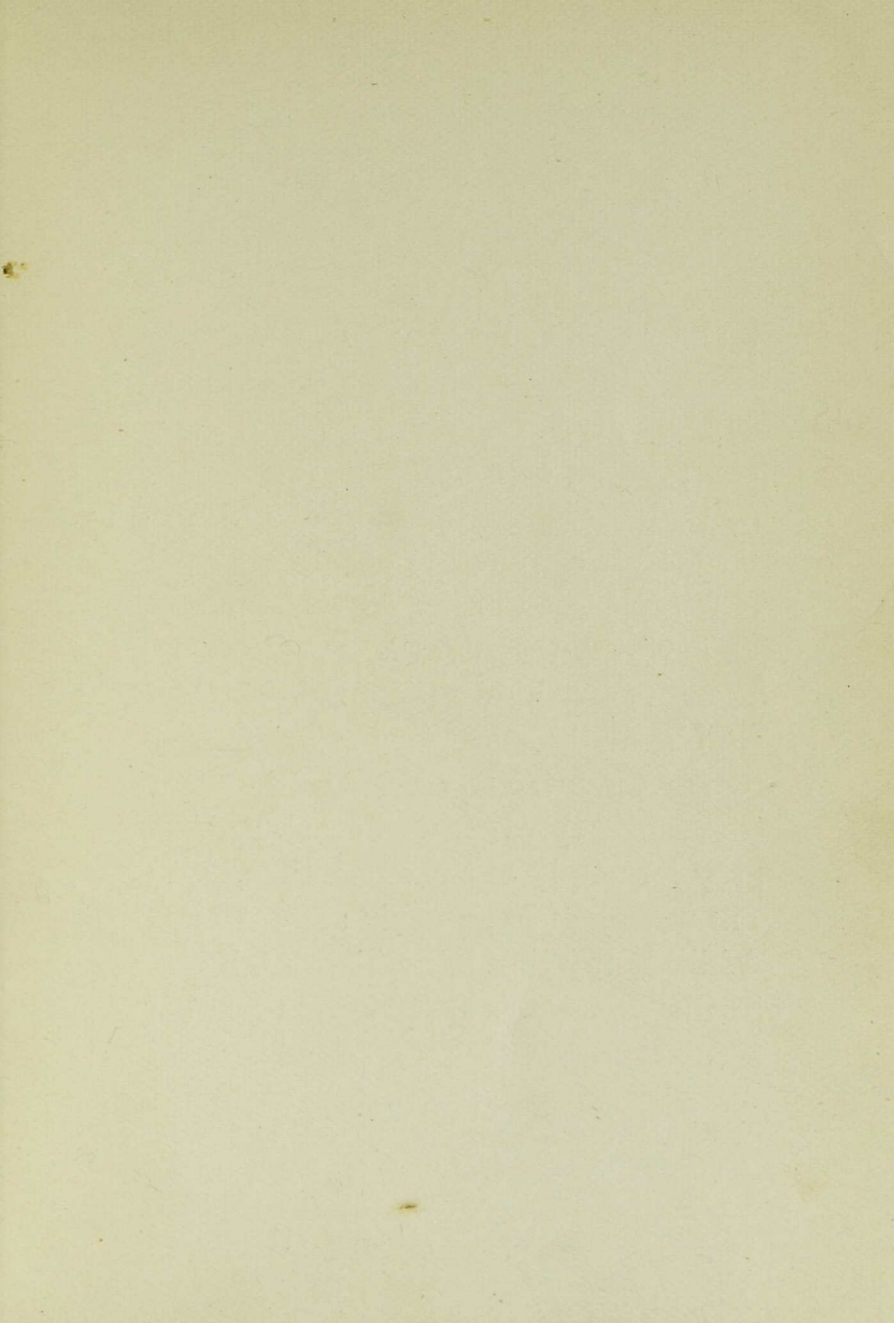
# Prudent Paulina

BY  
G. M. GEORGE  
AND  
G. M. C. FRY

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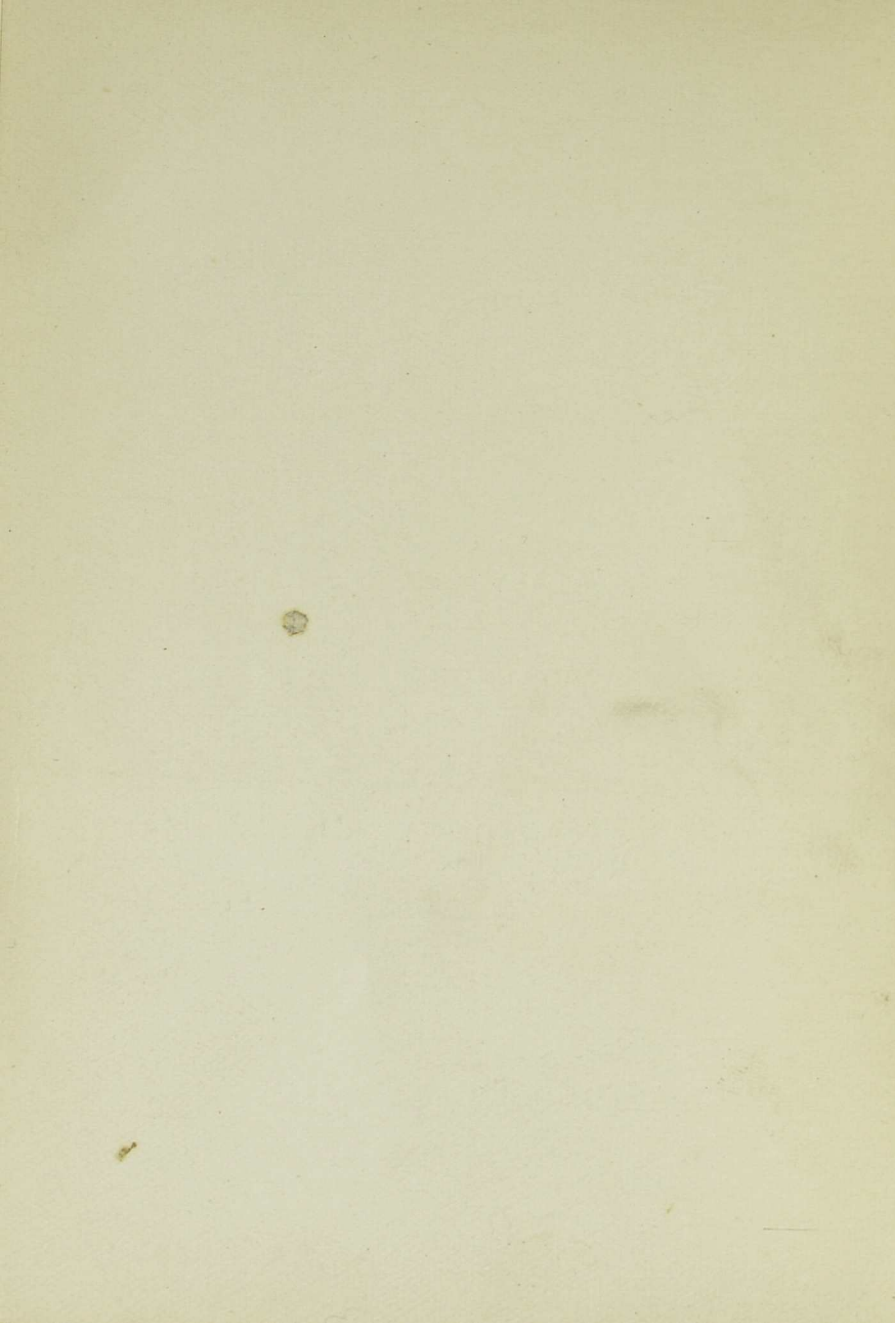




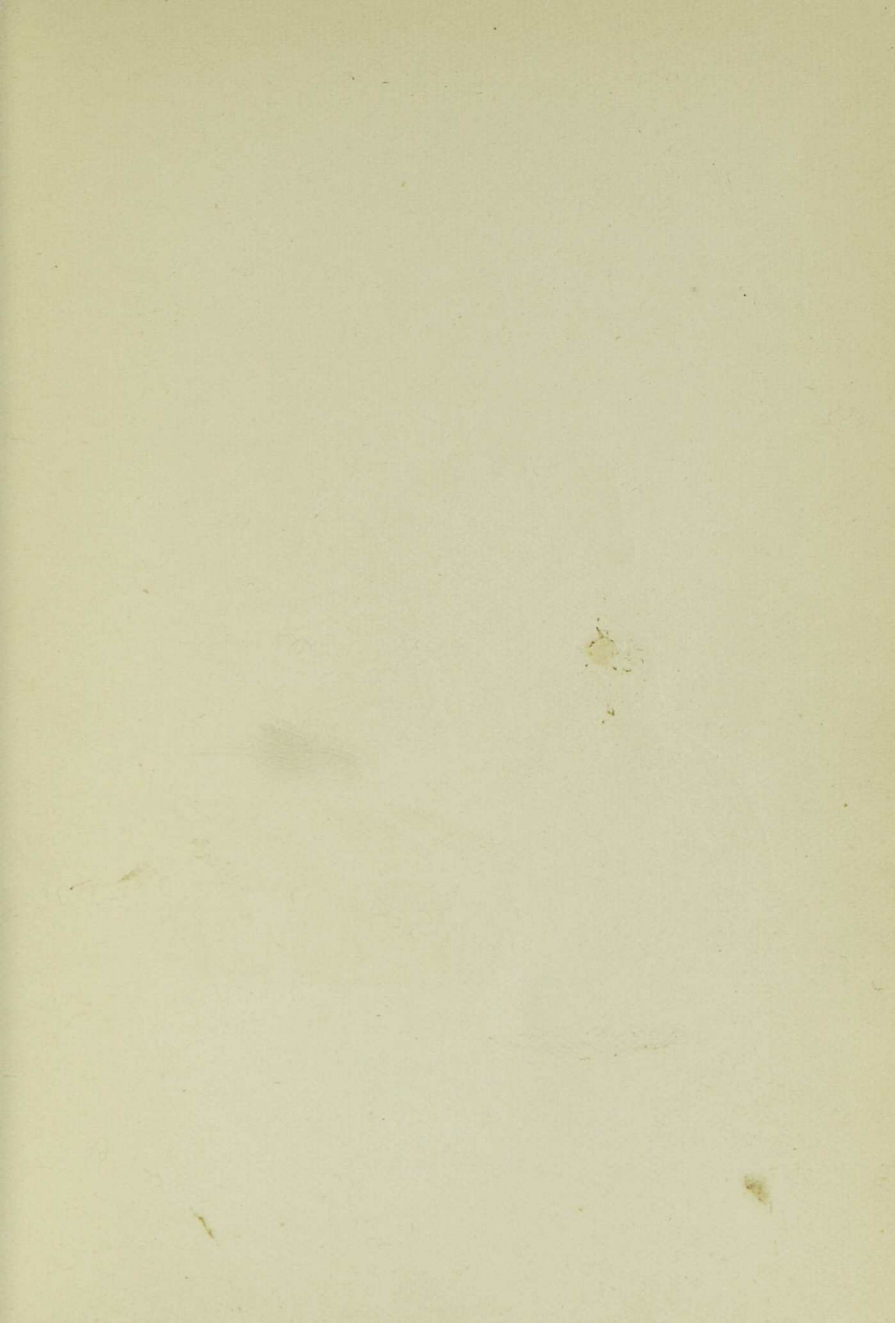
PRUDENT PAULINA, it was plain,  
Was neither frivolous nor vain ;  
“ For vanity,” she said, “ We find  
The product of an empty mind.  
While knowledge,” she would add, with truth,  
“ Is easiest acquired in youth.”  
When her good father crossed the main,  
To cultivate the sugar cane,  
She gave her kind Mama relief,  
And partially assauged her grief,  
By saying, “ We can best avoid  
Despondency when well employed.  
Pray let us ply our needles, then,  
Till we rejoin Papa again ;  
While sunny Sarah, nothing loath,  
Reads ‘ Magnall’s Questions ’ to us both.”



"Reads 'Magnall's Questions'  
to us both."









—And it did.

Sarah ran laughing for the book,  
And gave her such a happy look !  
—And thus in quiet and content  
A year, or eighteen months, was spent ;  
And then their father wrote to say,  
“ Pray join me here without delay.”  
Then Sarah skipped, quite wild with glee,  
Saying, “ How happy we shall be !”  
Prudent Paulina did her best  
To stock a little medicine chest ;  
While her Mama, with anxious heed,  
Began to pack what they would need.  
She made a wise selection, but  
Her trunk was soon too full to shut.  
Paulina, as with prudent mien  
She corked a bottle of quinine,  
Said, “ Let me stand upon the lid,  
For that may close it.”—And it did.

The good ship *Leopard* was to take a  
Journey out to far Jamaica ;  
Mama, in haste to be away,  
Engaged three berths without delay.  
Paulina showed such strength of mind :  
She did not leave her keys behind !  
—Nor did she even pack the pair  
Of gloves designed for travelling wear.  
(I hope that every little Miss  
When trav'ling will remember this.)  
Her calm composure was remarked  
Upon the morning they embarked ;  
While Sarah, little giddy pate !  
Chattered and laughed at such a rate !  
“ High hopes,” said Paula, “ being vain,  
Bring disappointment in their train.”  
But Sarah, who was rude and young,  
Put out her little rosy tongue,  
And skipped about, and talked with glee  
About the wonders she should see,  
Until the motion of the ship  
Warned her, it was not wise to skip.

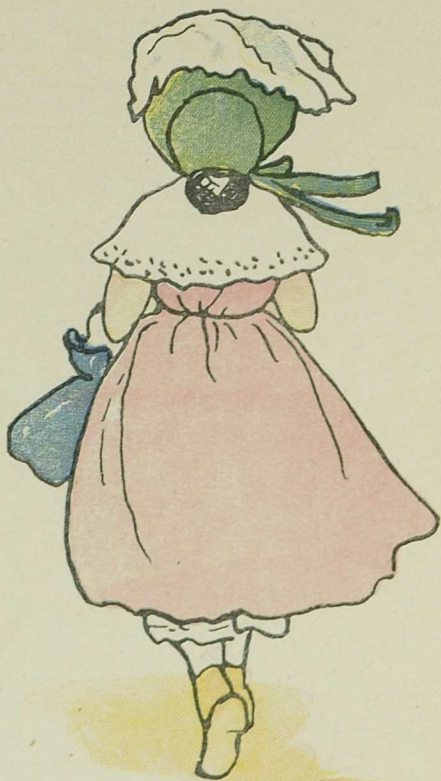




Put out her little rosy tongue.







C.F.

Prudent Paulina went below.



When boisterous winds began to blow  
Prudent Paulina went below,  
Where we, with prudence like her own,  
Will leave her with Mama alone.

After some time, the varying breeze  
Wafted them into tropic seas,  
Where Paula made some sage remarks  
About the nature of the sharks.  
“Their coarse voracious habits, must,”  
She said, “inspire us with disgust.  
I hope each little Miss aspires  
To modest moderate desires ;  
And does not, like this greedy beast,  
Regard a surfeit as a feast.”

Just then the sky grew overcast  
And a stout Tar exclaimed, "Avast!"  
—Tars will say that, at times, you know,  
Also "Ahoy!" and "Yo heave ho!"  
And many another word, indeed,  
Which Paula heard, but did not heed;  
Paulina was too prudent, far,  
To learn the language of the Tar.  
The Captain said a squall was near,  
Although there was no cause for fear.  
He begged the passengers to go  
Into the cabins down below.

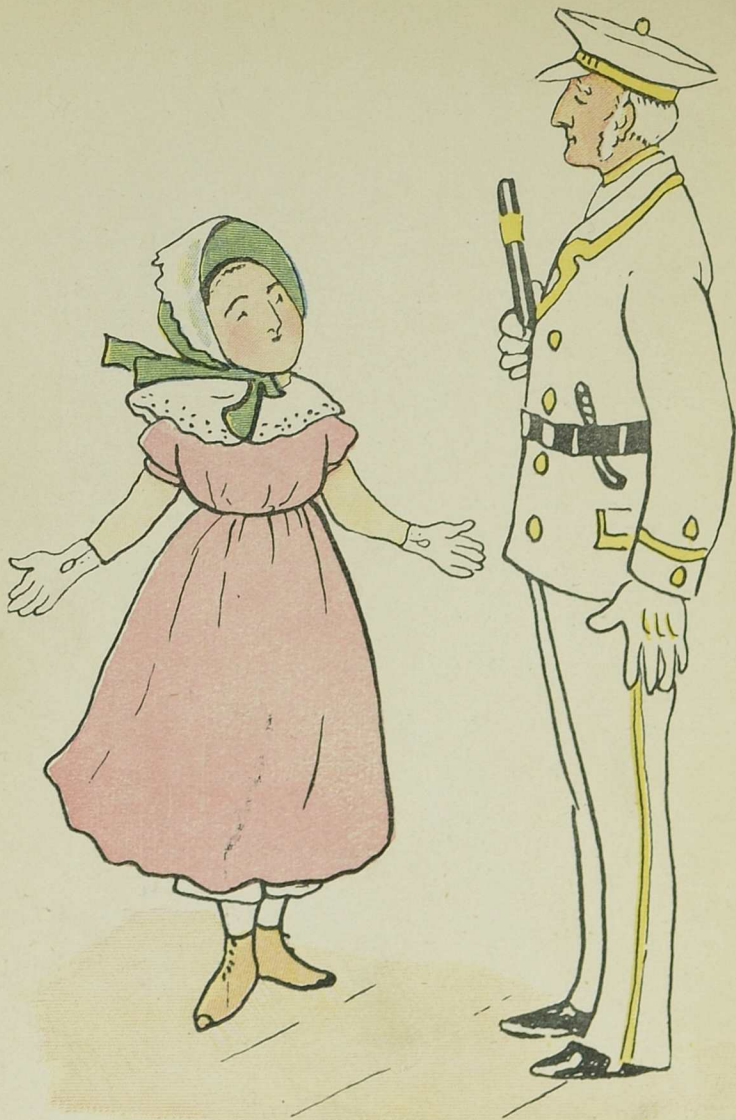


A stout Tar exclaimed, "Avast!"









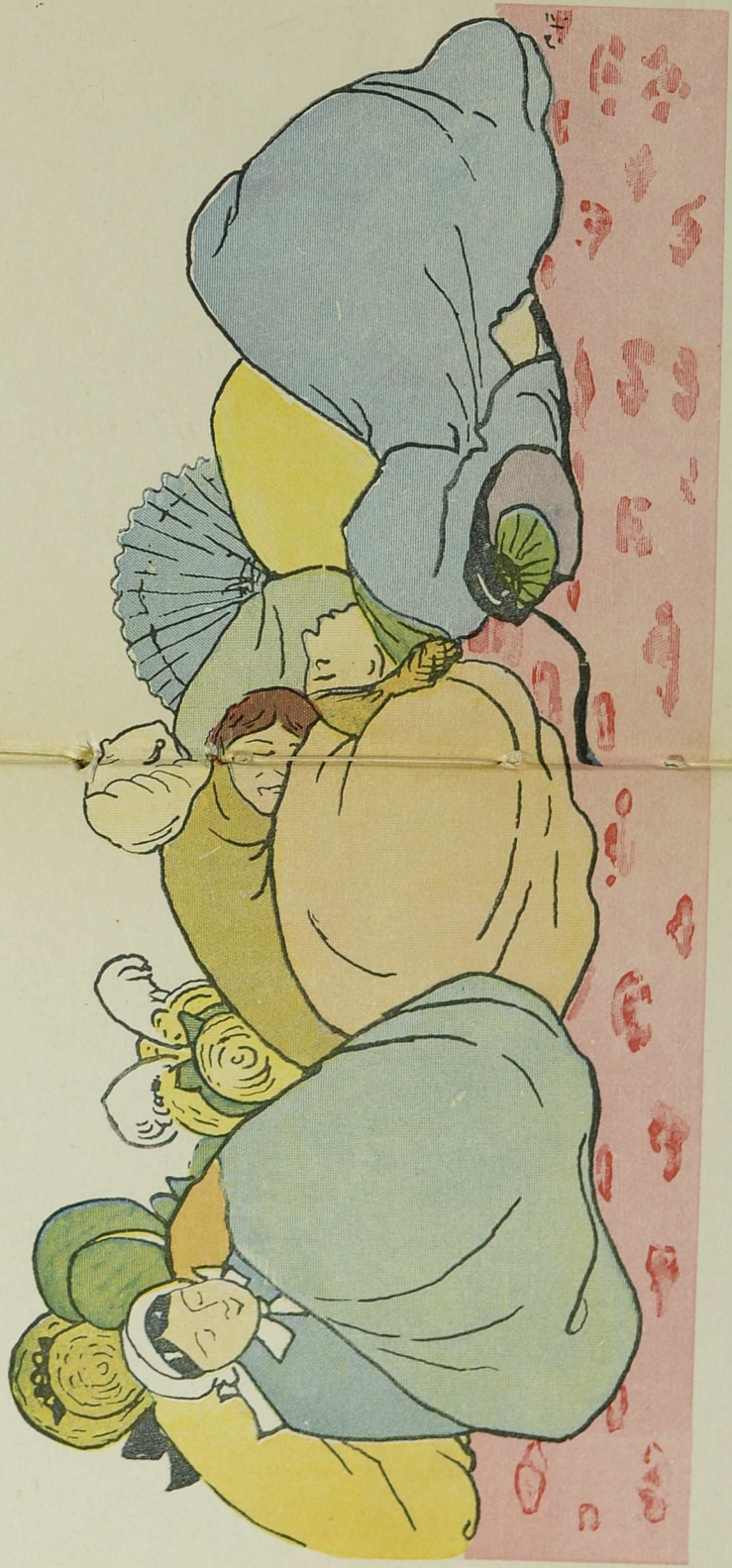
"Sir, I expect  
We very shortly shall be wrecked."

Paulina said : “ Sir, I expect  
We very shortly shall be wrecked.  
Pray bid the sailors to provision  
The boats.” She added with decision :  
“ Sir, be prepared.”—But, strange to say,  
The Captain hurried her away.  
The wild winds roared, the thunder rolled,  
The water poured into the hold.

Night fell, but clouds obscured the moon ;  
Some ladies fell into a swoon ;  
Paulina, wiser than the rest,  
Produced her little medicine chest :  
Her smelling salts were vastly strong ;  
She brought the ladies to, ere long.  
She then observed : “ I rather think  
It probable this ship may sink.  
Pray let us, then, Mama, proceed  
To pack such things as we shall need :  
A hatchet, hammer, nails and twine,  
Some biscuits and a keg of wine.”







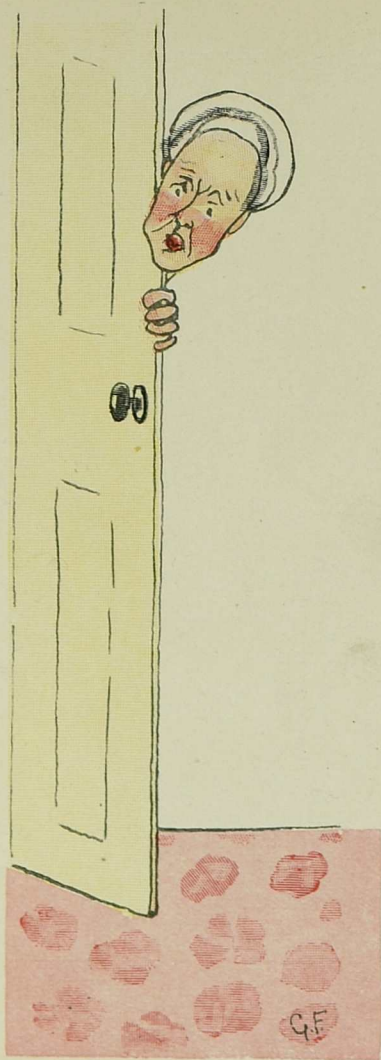
Some ladies fell into a swoon.







Sarah alone was blithe and gay  
When the first mate looked in to say :  
“ The ship is sinking ; we must man  
The boats as quickly as we can.”  
How dreadful was the hubbub then !  
Half of the ladies swooned again ;  
And there were shrieks, and wild alarm ;  
Paula, and she alone, was calm.  
When everybody rushed on deck  
The vessel seemed a simple wreck.  
All were in haste to get afloat  
That instant, in the nearest boat.



The first mate looked in.





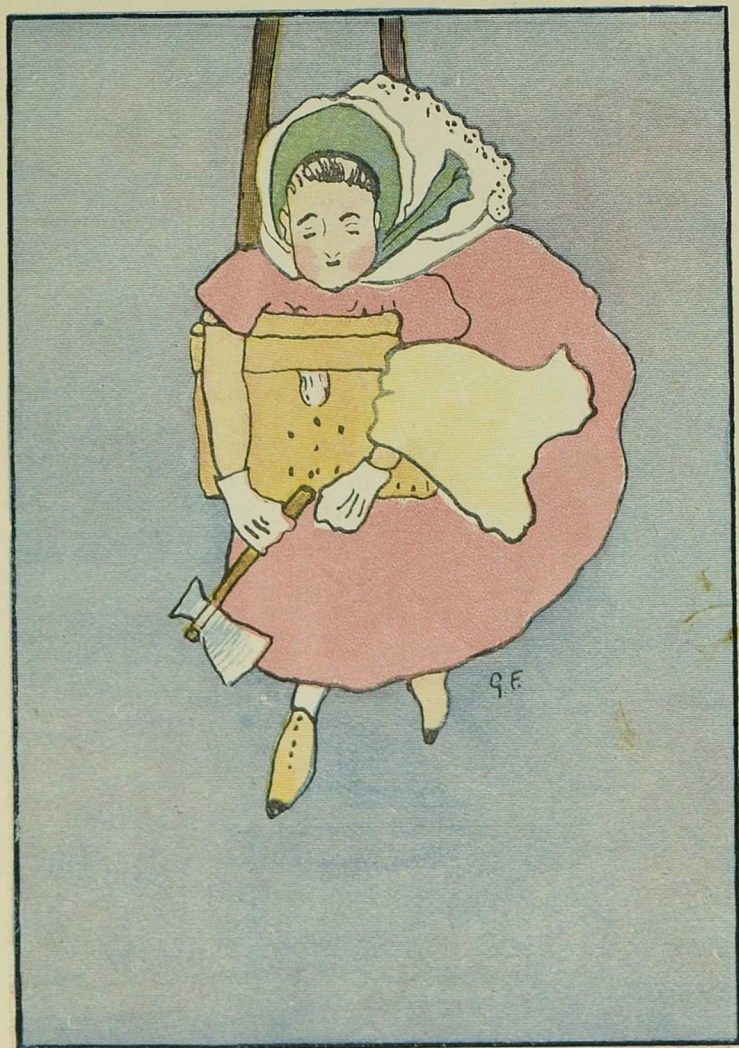




Paulina led ... a few sagacious Tars aside.

Paulina mused : " How mad they are !  
That boat is filled too full by far ;  
Our heedless actions rashly done,  
Oft court the very fate we shun."  
Paulina led, with modest pride,  
A few sagacious Tars aside,  
And said : " It is my present plan  
To use the boat you have to man.  
My good Mama, and Sarah too,  
Will occupy the boat with you."

The Tars at once exclaimed "Ay! Ay!"  
—A truly nautical reply.—  
And Paula, with a winter vest,  
A hatchet, and her medicine chest,  
Was lowered down into the boat,  
Which was provisioned, and afloat.  
Mama then followed with a rope,  
Her work-box, and some mottled soap ;

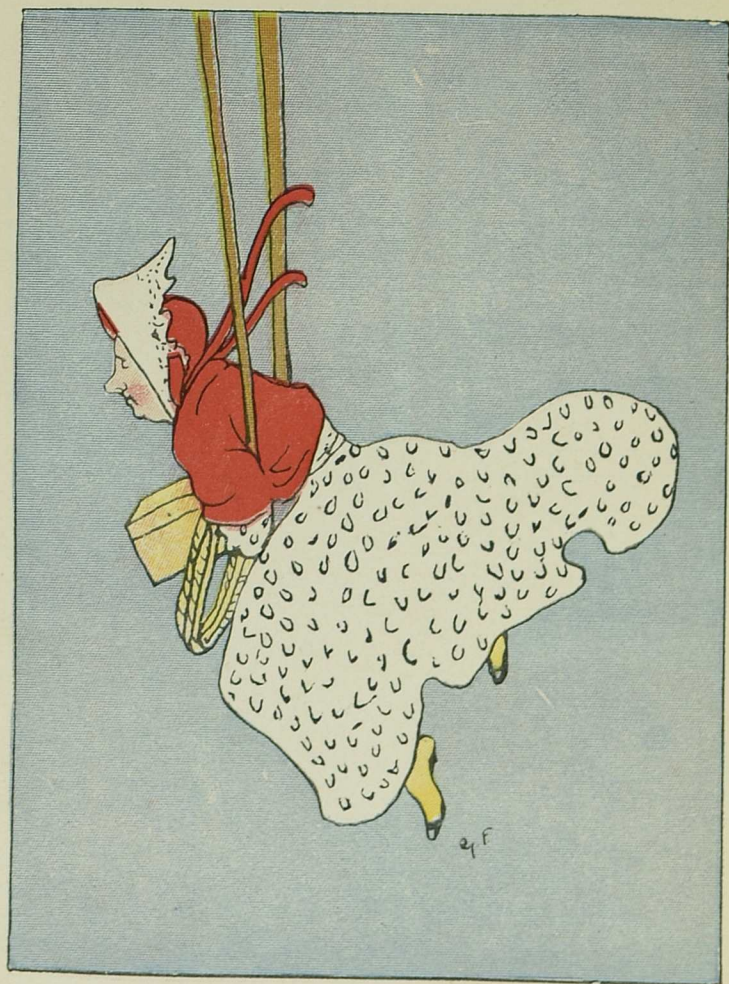


Paula... was lowered down into the boat.







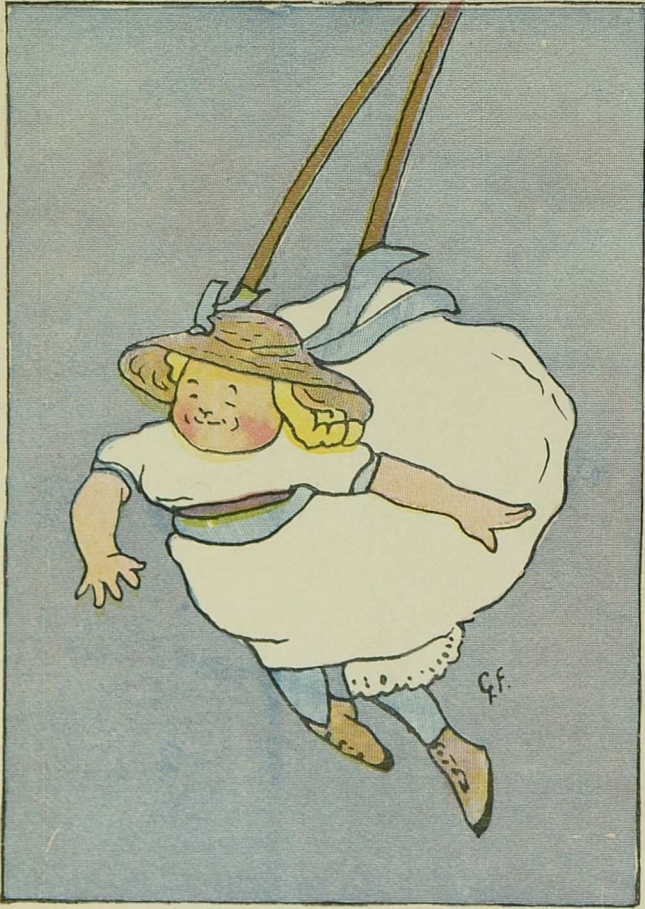


Mama then followed.

While Sarah, little giddy thing,  
Brought nothing that she ought to bring.  
Paulina, with a serious face,  
Took a small bottle from its place,  
And poured into the raging foam  
Some castor-oil she'd brought from home.  
"The sages tell us," added she,  
"Oil stills the most tempestuous sea.  
Just as our reason should assuage  
The stormy tumult of our rage."

Now all things were in order, so  
The lusty Tars began to row.  
Just as the sun was seen to rise,  
The *Leopard* sank beneath their eyes.  
“How odd!” cried Sarah, “oh, how funny!”  
—Through all their dangers she was sunny!





Sarah, little giddy thing,  
Brought nothing that she ought to bring.





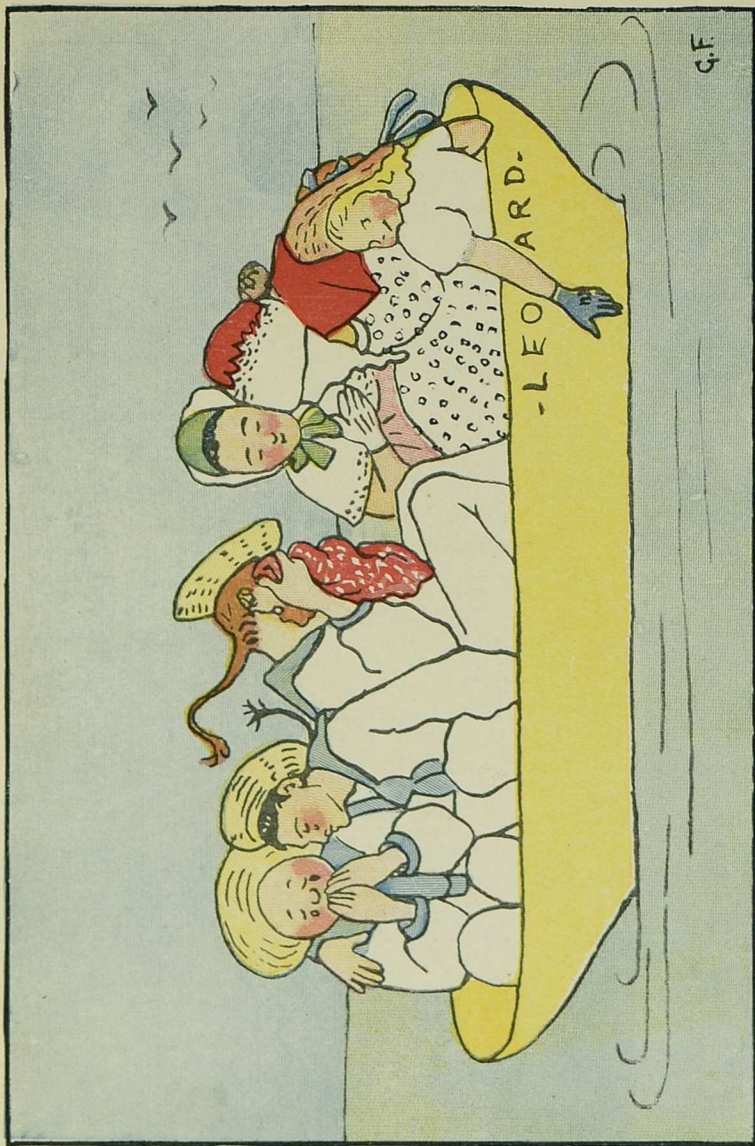


The brave Tars kept rowing on.

The sea grew calm ; a bright sun shone,  
And the brave Tars kept rowing on.  
When evening fell, the party saw  
Exactly what they'd seen before ;  
—A waste of waters, drear and wide,  
And simply nothing else beside.—  
“No man,” said Paula, “works his best  
While lacking nourishment or rest.”  
So half the Tars agreed to keep  
Watch while the others went to sleep.  
When they awoke, they seemed to be  
In just the same wide stretch of sea.  
The Tars began to mutter low,  
For they were cross and cramped, you know.  
Mama essay'd to stop their talk  
By proffering them bits of pork ;  
But towards the evening of the day  
Paulina's poor Mama gave way ;  
The burning tears she shed, expressed  
The anguish of her heaving breast.



The very Tars began to melt,  
But hid the emotion that they felt,  
And brushed away the manly tear  
That sympathy had bid appear.  
But Paula gazed with glad surprise on  
Some object on the far horizon.  
At length, she pointed with her hand—  
“My men,” she said, “can that be land?”  
“Ay, ay!” they cried; and at the sight  
Began to row with all their might.  
While poor Mama, on hearing it,  
Fell into an hysteric fit.  
They seemed to near a pleasant strand;  
But it became too dark to land.  
So they cast anchor in a bay  
And waited for the light of day.  
When the sun rose, and it was light,  
They saw—oh such a pleasant sight!  
Palm trees, and cocoa-nuts, and grapes,  
And lots of little merry apes,  
Parrots—and all you would expect  
To see, had you been lately wrecked.



G.F.

The very Tars began to melt.









Curled up upon her pelerine.



Then Sarah danced about in glee,  
And nearly fell into the sea,  
But Paula caught her by the gown,  
And bid the giddy child sit down.  
The Tars then dragged the boat to land  
Upon a stretch of yellow sand.  
“Now,” said Paulina, “is this spot  
Inhabited, or is it not?”  
When they had breakfasted off pork  
They took a long exploring walk.  
But, tho’ they searched with anxious care,  
They could not find a native there.  
They rested in a nice dry cave,  
Safe from the rough encroaching wave.  
And there Paulina placed her vest,  
Her hatchet, and her medicine chest.  
She then expressed a prudent wish  
To catch a turtle or a fish.  
The fish were num’rous in the bay ;  
And thus they lived from day to day,  
On the rich fruits that nature gave,  
And on the product of the wave.  
Mama, at times, would swoon to see  
A snake, where snakes should never be,  
Curled up upon her pelerine,  
Or in the pan she had to clean.

Paula, at times, would anxious frown  
Darning her one and only gown.  
But, on their island, they did not  
Idly repine against their lot.  
“Content,” said Paula, “is a grace  
Confined by neither time nor place.  
I trust that ever, for my part,  
I shall retain it in my heart.”



Darning her one and only gown.









Paula strove to catch a fish.



Much worried by a stinging fly.

Once when the Tars were all away  
Exploring in a distant bay,  
Gay little Sarah thought it fun  
To romp about the sands and run ;  
While Paula strove to catch a fish  
To make a tasty supper dish ;  
And her good mother read near by,  
Much worried by a stinging fly ;  
When sunny Sarah cried, " Oh look ! "  
Which made Mama put down her book.  
She, glancing, saw a little fleet  
Ploughing the waters at her feet.

“ Oh joy ! ” she cried, and wildly waved  
Her ’kerchief, shrieking, “ We are saved ! ”  
Paulina said, as with a sigh  
She put her fishing tackle by,  
“ Consider that some heathen horde  
Of savages may be on board.  
Those vessels are canoes, I fear,  
Would that our gallant Tars were here ! ”  
The strangers, when the boats came near,  
Did look most savage and most queer ;  
For they were black, with gleaming eyes,  
And they were smeared with paints and dyes,  
Also, they wore, I must confess,  
A wholly insufficient dress.



Wildly waved her 'kerchief.









They seemed astonished at the sight of one so prudent and polite.

Mama, unnerved by terror, sank  
All tremulous upon a bank.  
Paulina said : " We must appease  
Savage intruders, such as these."  
She took a pudding and a peach  
And hurried breathless to the beach.  
She curtsyed as they leapt to land,  
Politely proffering her hand ;  
And saying, with a trembling lip :  
" I hope, sirs, you enjoyed your trip."  
They seemed astonished at the sight  
Of one so prudent and polite.  
But soon they ceased to simply stare :  
They touched and poked her, here and there ;  
And then began to yell and sing,  
Dancing around her in a ring.

Paulina stood, with serious face,  
Thinking their antics out of place ;  
Then, gravely curtseying again,  
Addressed the tallest of the men.  
“ Accept this pudding,” she observed ;  
“ For, sir, tho’ plain, ’tis nicely served.”  
She also gave her peach away  
To a stout man whose hair was grey,  
But whose bright paint and feathers grand,  
Proclaimed him leader of the band.  
They ate her off’rings in a trice ;  
Their table manners were not nice.  
“ Civilization, only, teaches  
The proper mode of eating peaches,”  
Paulina thought—“ and ’tis no sin  
To let juice trickle down one’s chin.  
Good teaching, and a silver knife  
Secure the niceties of life.”  
Mama, more timorous than brave,  
Meanwhile sought refuge in the cave.  
Sarah came running in soon after,  
Her voice scarce audible from laughter.  
“ They are such funny, funny men !”  
She said, and then she laughed again.  
“ So odd ! Mama, you should have seen a  
Number dancing round Paulina !”





Thinking their antics out of place.









Set a most forbidding brave  
To guard the entrance of the cave.

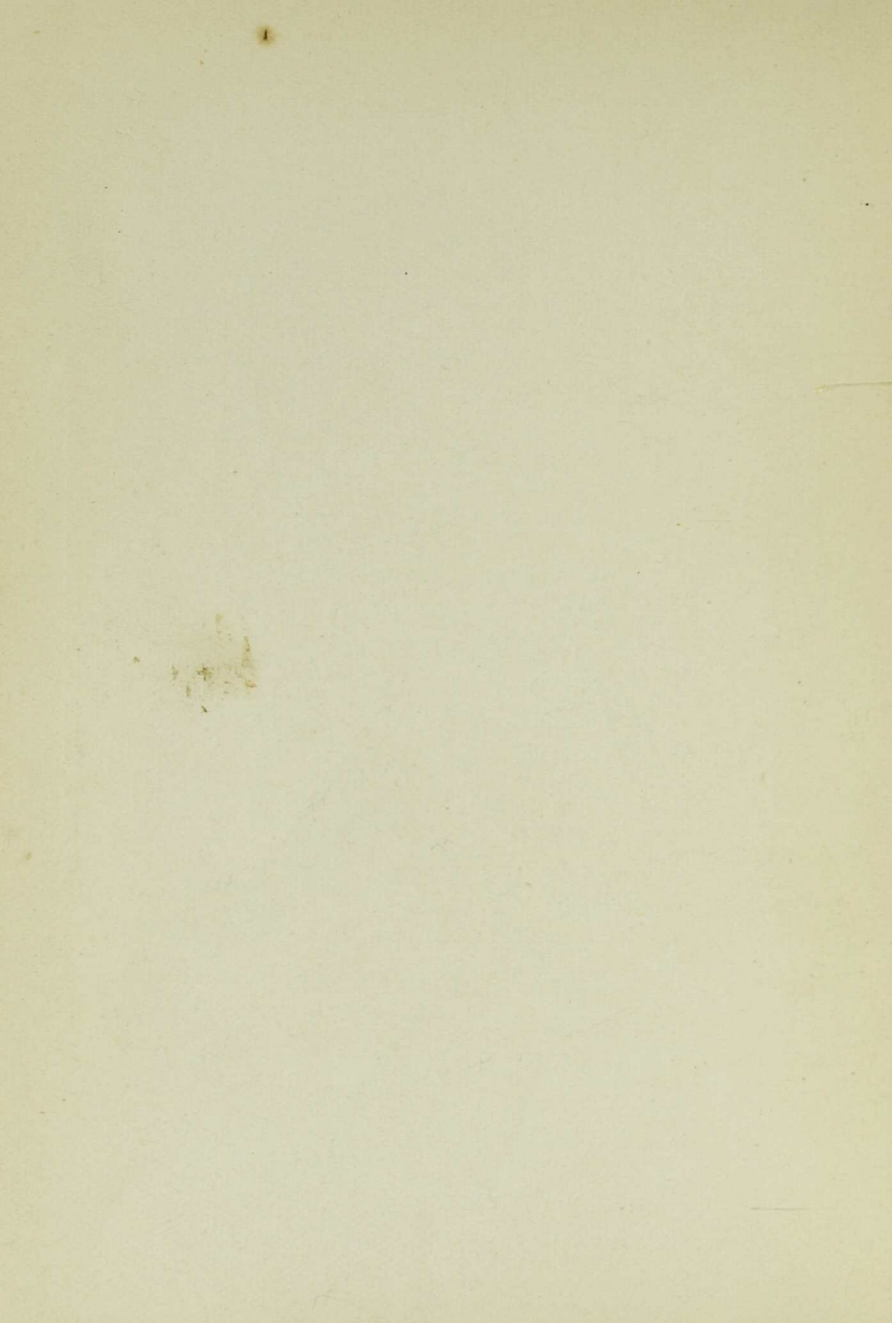
Mama, tho' terribly afraid,  
Was flying to her daughter's aid,  
But she perceived the savage band  
Approaching her across the sand ;  
While many a yell and horrid sign  
Clearly proclaimed they meant to dine.  
The pudding and the peach were light :  
But fit to whet an appetite ;  
And now the savage crew agreed  
A savoury joint would meet their need.  
They proved, by many a pinch and thump,  
Paulina's flesh was firm and plump.  
They smacked their lips when they espied  
Mama, with Sarah by her side ;  
And set a most forbidding brave  
To guard the entrance of the cave,  
Where their three victims sat confined  
In much disquietude of mind.  
A savage took their big iron pot,  
And all the firewood they had got.  
E'en Sarah wore a daunted look  
When she perceived which things they took.  
While poor Mama could only weep,  
All huddled in a trembling heap.  
Paulina quietly pounded up  
An odd dark potion in a cup ;  
Then said : " How much unhinged you are !  
Take this composing draught, Mama."

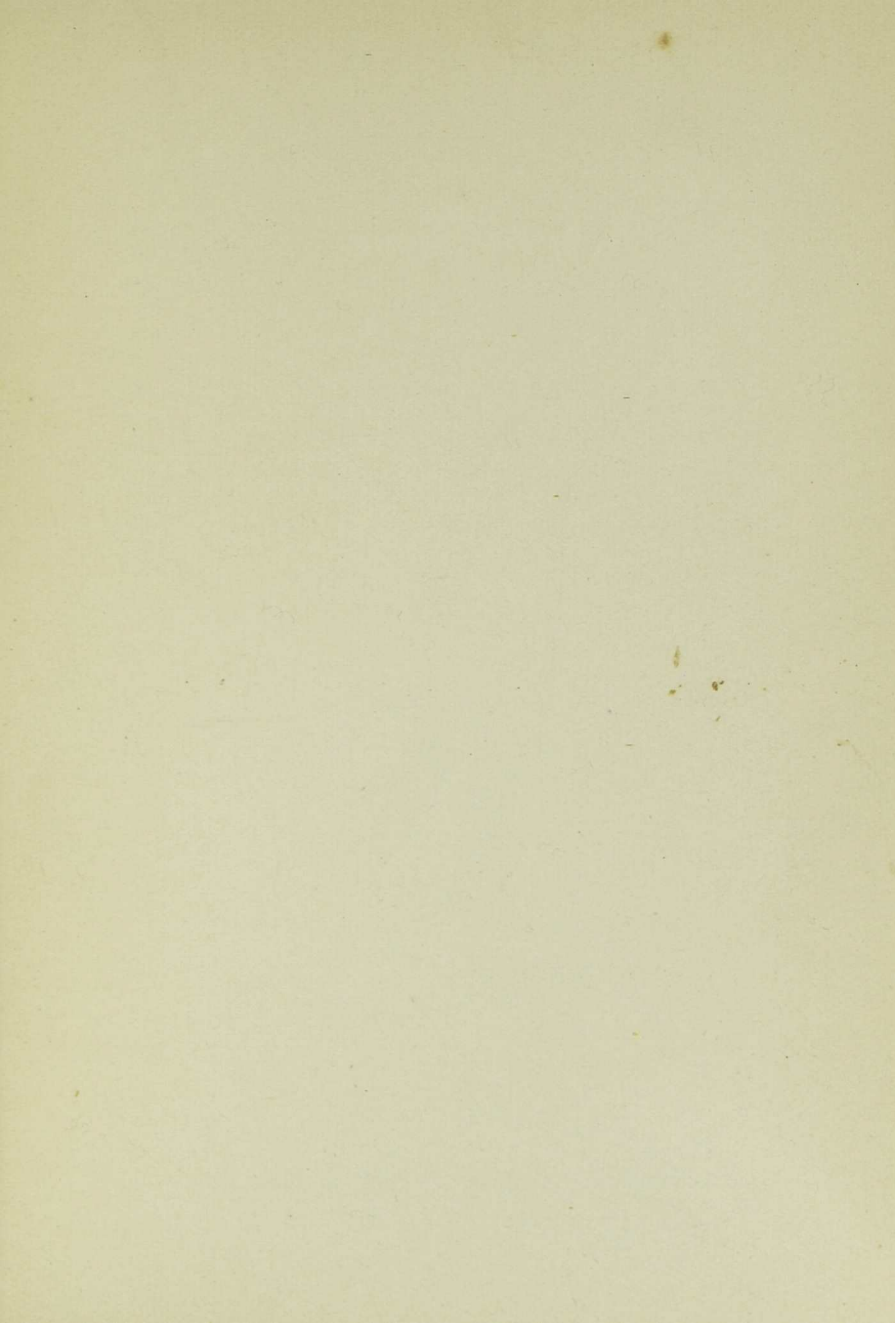
The savages—'twas dry, hot weather—  
Got fire by rubbing sticks together,  
With which they managed to ignite  
Such things as quickly catch alight :  
Small sticks, dry grass, and bits of straw  
—All this their trembling prisoners saw.  
Prudent Paulina tried in vain  
To reason with them, and explain  
A vegetarian diet's wise  
For such as live 'neath tropic skies.  
For a great meal of hot roast meat  
Can serve but to increase one's heat.  
They knew no English, so 'twas vain,  
—They merely smacked their lips again,  
And a huge savage vainly tried  
To tear her from her mother's side,  
Who clutched her with a frenzied shriek,  
And slapped the rude intruder's cheek.





Slapped the rude intruder's cheek.





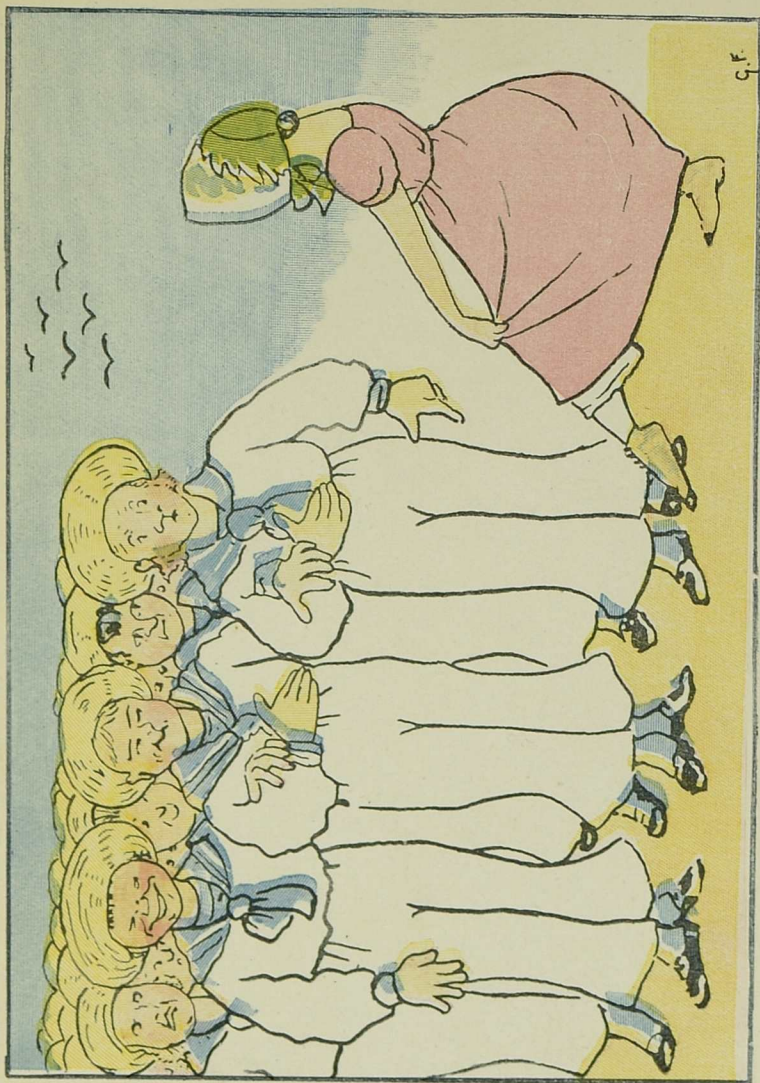


Sarah shrieked with might and main.

He raised his poisoned spear to slay ;  
But Paula's mother swooned away ;  
And she was dragged to where the pot  
Was bubbling horrible and hot.  
Then Sarah shrieked with might and main,  
She shrieked and then she shrieked again,  
For she perceived, which they did not,  
That men were landing near the spot,  
And that a gallant schooner lay  
At anchor in the sunny bay.  
Paulina saw a wretch advance  
With gleaming knife and horrid dance ;  
He raised his weapon, with a yell,  
Then, staggering forward, groaned and fell !  
A bold deliverer, on the sand,  
Had shot him, as he jumped to land !  
How loud was the confusion then !  
The war-cries of the savage men,  
Their shrieks and screams, and louder far  
The firing of the British Tar !



The three poor prisoners never saw  
So horrible a scene before.  
The Tars were scarcely one to ten,  
The natives fought like desperate men,  
And all but put their foes to rout,  
When—Paula heard an answering shout :  
Her Tars, returned from far away,  
Soon changed the order of the day.  
The cannibals, by ones and twos  
Contrived to enter their canoes ;  
Bearing away their wounded friends  
To answer culinary ends ;  
And thus they left that sandy shore,  
And Paula never saw them more.  
And then Mama, in accents wild,  
Bless'd the deliv'rer of her child.  
Paulina, curtseying with care,  
Said to the Tars assembled there :  
“ My obligations, I confess,  
Are greater than I can express.”



Curtsying with care.







Sarah simply sat and smiled.



While Sarah simply sat and smiled  
—A sunny, but exhausted, child.  
All were in haste to be away  
And board the schooner in the bay.  
Paulina, overjoyed but calm,  
Her medicine-chest beneath her arm,





Was glad to leave that sunny isle :  
And, in a very little while  
She, with her sister and Mama,  
And also her revered Papa,  
Were all united once again  
Beside a grove of sugar cane.



All united once again.

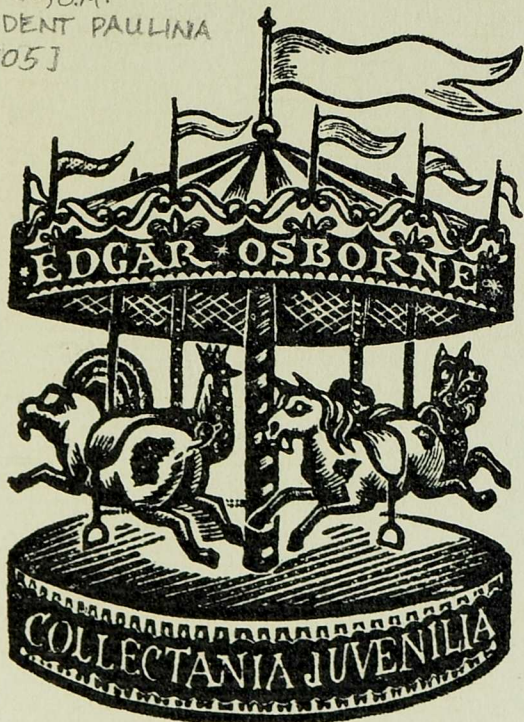








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PRUDENT PAULINA  
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