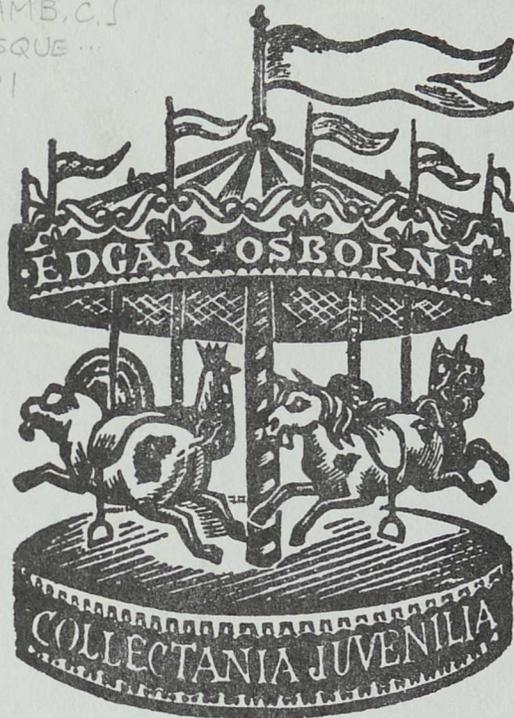


A MASQUE OF DAYS

WORDS
BY ELIA
DRESSES
& DECOR-
ATIONS
BY
WALTER
CRANE



(SA) fol
[LAMB, C.]
MASQUE ...
1901



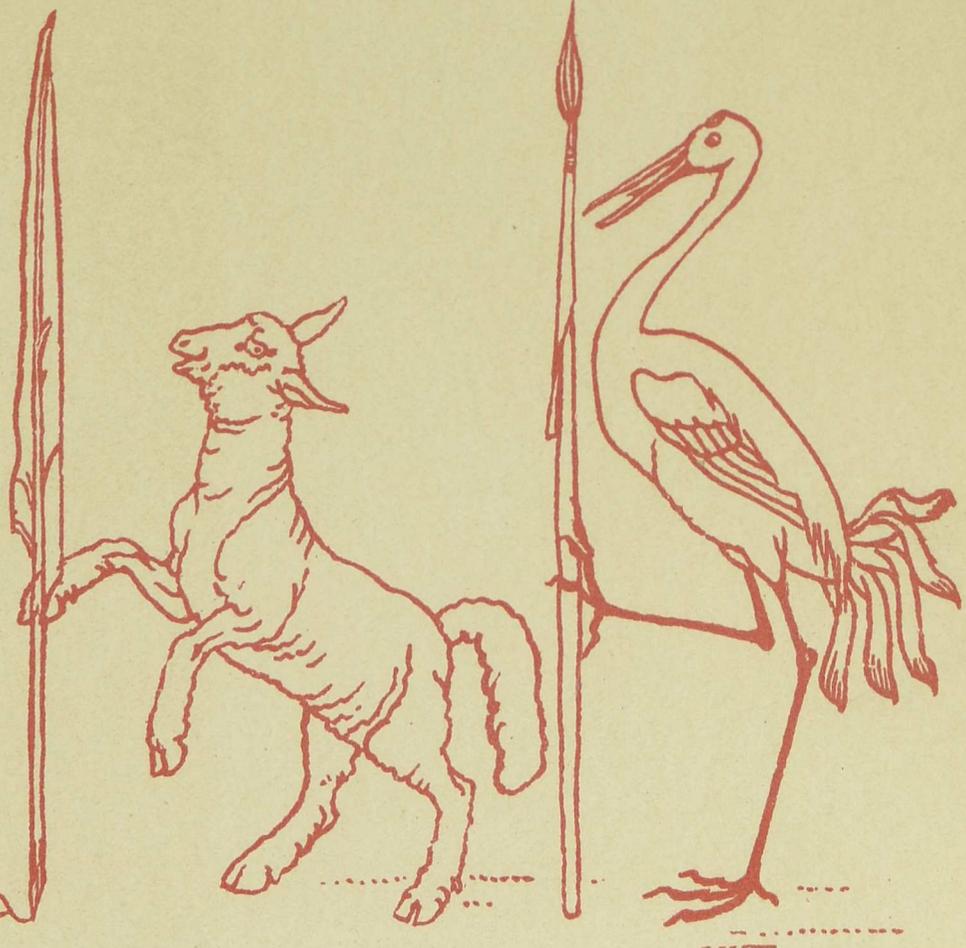
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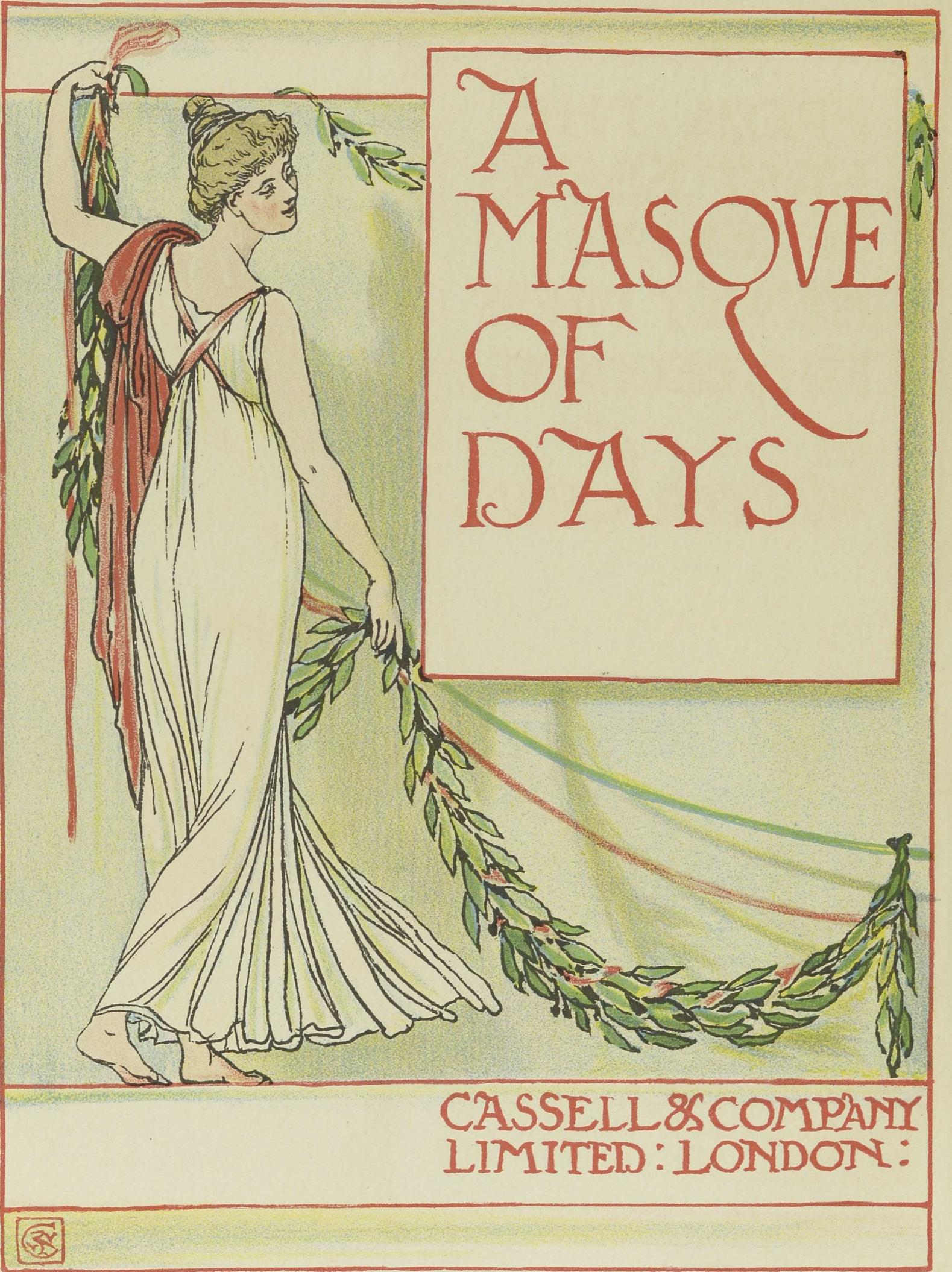
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A MASQUE
OF DAYS



Elia

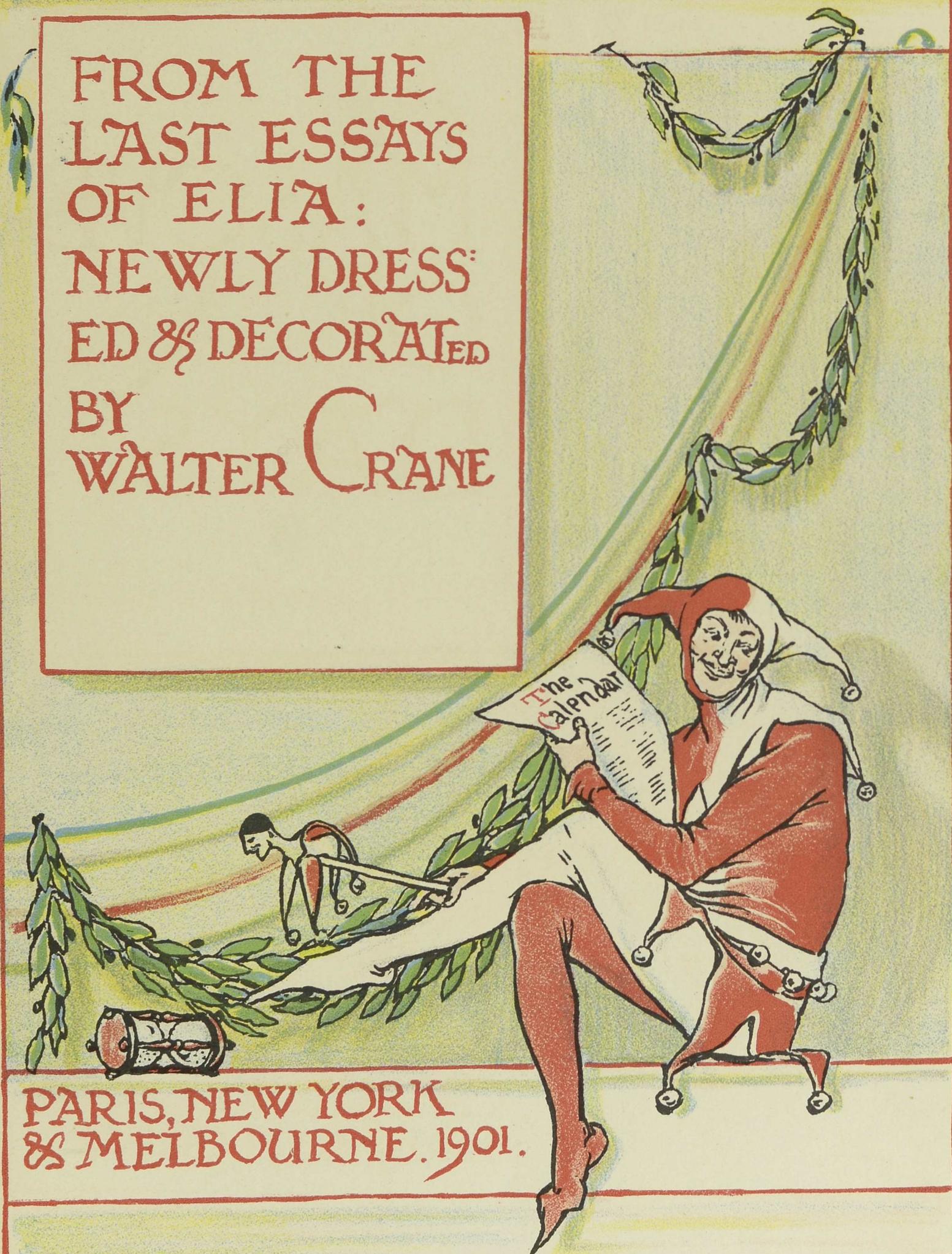


A
MASQUE
OF
DAYS

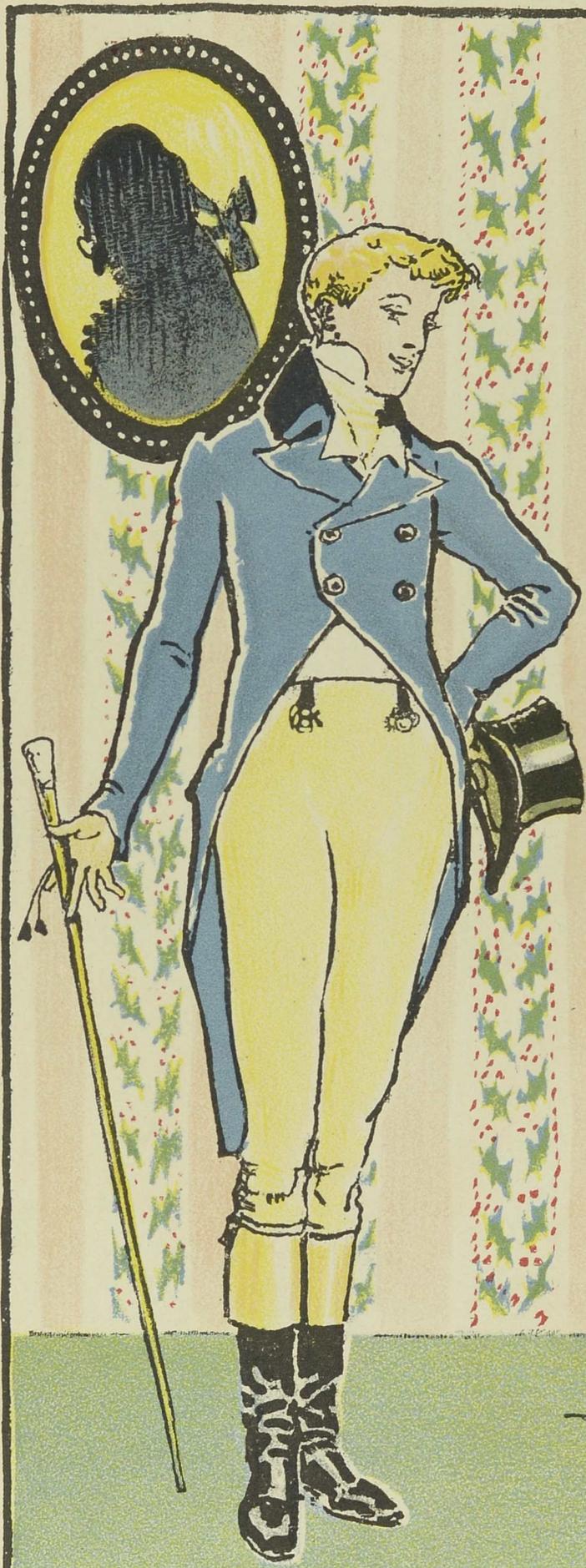
CASSELL & COMPANY
LIMITED: LONDON:



FROM THE
LAST ESSAYS
OF ELIA:
NEWLY DRESS-
ED & DECORATED
BY
WALTER CRANE



PARIS, NEW YORK
& MELBOURNE. 1901.



1.
THE OLD YEAR being
dead, and the **NEW**
YEAR coming of age, wh:
he does by **C**alendar **L**aw,
as soon as the breath is out
of the old gentleman's body,
nothing would serve the young
spark but he must give a din:
ner upon the occasion, to wh:
all the **D**ays in the year were
invited. **T**he **F**estivals, &
whom he deputed as his &
stewards, were mightily ta:
ken with the notion. **T**hey

2.
had been engaged time out of
mind, they said, in providing
mirth and good cheer for mort:
als below; and it was time they
should have a taste of their own
bounty. **I**t was stiffly debat:
ed among them whether the
Fasts should be admitted. ✠
Some said, the appearance of
such lean, starved guests, with
their mortified faces, would per:
vert the ends of the meeting.
But the objection was over:
ruled by **C**hristmas **D**ay who
had a design upon **A**sh **W**ed:
nesday





^{3.}
(as you shall hear),
and a mighty desire
to see how the old
Domine would be:
have himself in his
cups.

Only the **VIGILS**
were requested to
come with their
lanterns to light the

gentlefolks⁴ home at
night. ✠ · ✠ · ✠

All the **D**ays came
to their day. **C**overs
were provided for a
three hundred and a
sixty-five guests at
the principal table;
with an occasional knife
and fork at the side-board
for the **T**wenty-**N**inth of
February.





5.
I SHOULD have ~~se~~
told you that cards
of invitation had been
issued. **T**he carriers
were **THE HOURS**
twelve little, merry whirl-
igig foot-pages, as you
should desire to see, that
went all round, and found



6
out the persons invited
well enough, with the
exception of **Easter**
Day, **Shrove Tuesday**,
and a few such **Move**:
ables, who had lately
shifted their quarters.
✻ . ✻ . ✻ . ✻





7
WELL, they all met
at last, foul **Days**
fine **Days**. all sorts of
Days, and a rare
din they made of it. **u**
There was nothing
but, **Hail!** fellow **Day**;
well met—brother **Day**—
sister **Day**—only **LADY**
DAY kept a little a:
loof and seemed some:

what scornful. Yet
 some said, **TWELFTH**
DAY cut her out and
 out, for she came in a
 tiffany suit, white and
 gold, like a queen on
 a frost-cake, all roy:
 al glittering, and
Epiphanous. ✿
 ✿ . ✿ . ✿ . ✿



The rest came,
some in green, some
in white — but old
Lent and his fam-
ily were not yet
out of mourning



Rainy Days came
in, dripping; and
sun-shiny Days
helped them to
change their
stockings

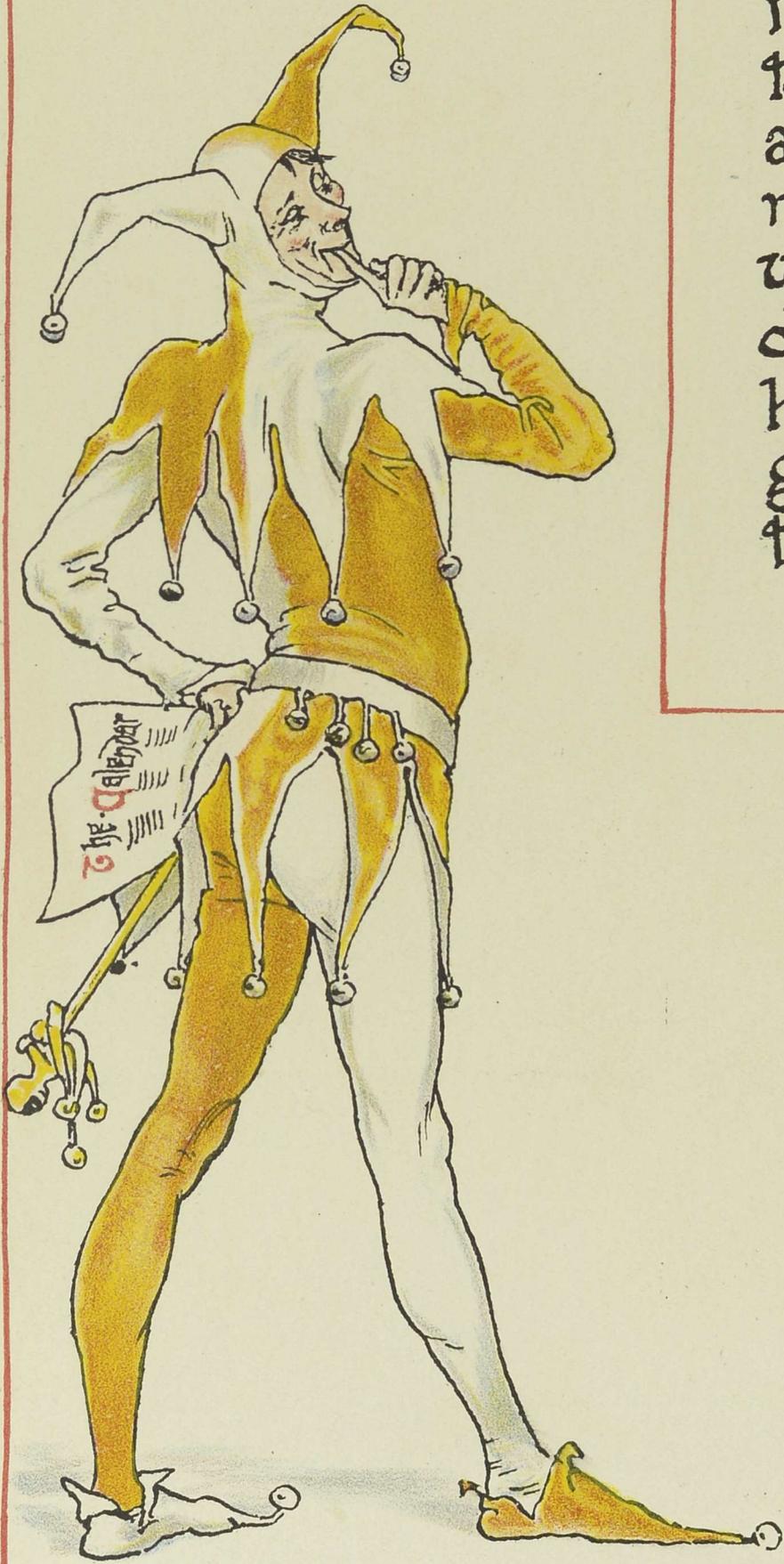


Wedding Day
was there in his
marriage finery,
a little the worse
for wear.



Pay **D**ay came late, as he always does ; and **D**ooms day sent word — he might be expected.





13
April Fool (as my
young lord's jester)
took upon himself
to marshal the guests,
and wild work he &
made with it. **I**t
would have posed a
old **E**rra **P**ater to &
have found out any
given **D**ay in the year,
to erect a scheme
upon -



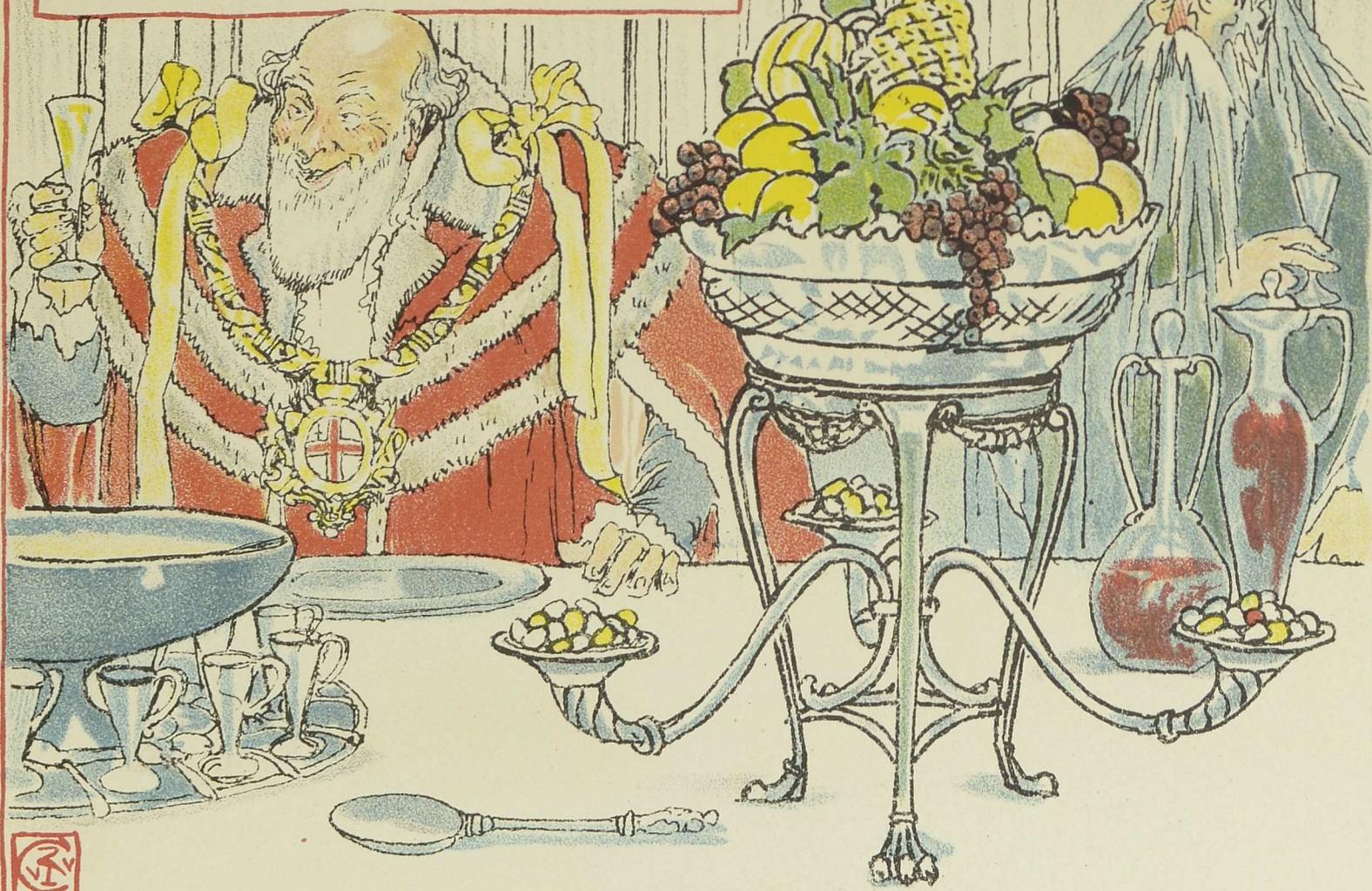
14
good Days, bad Days
were so shuffled to
together, to the con-
founding of all sober
horoscopy. He had
stuck the Twenty-First
of June next to the Twen-
ty-Second of December,
and the former looked
like a Maypole siding
a marrow-bone.



Ash **W**ednesday got
 wedged in (as was concerted)
 betwixt **C**hristmas & **L**ord
Mayor's **D**ays. **L**ord! how
 he laid about him! **N**othing
 but barons of beef & turkeys
 would go down with him
 & to the great greasing
 & detriment of his new sack-
 cloth bib & tucker. **A**nd
 still **C**hristmas **D**ay was
 at his elbow, plying him
 with the wassail-bowl,
 &



till he roared, & hiccupp'd, & profested there was no faith in dried ling, * * * a sour, windy, acrimonious, censorious hy-po-crit-crit-critical mess & no dish for a gentelman. **T**hen he dipt his fist into the middle of the great custard that stood before his left-hand neighbour, & daubed his hungry beard all over with it, till you would have taken him for the **L**ast **D**ay in **D**ecember it so hung in icicles.



AT another part
of the table, **S**hrove
Tuesday was help-
ing the **S**econd of
September to some
cock broth, —



which courtesy the
latter returned with
the delicate thigh
of a hen pheasant
— so there was no
love lost for that
matter.



The Last of Lent was spunging upon Shrove-tide's pancakes; which April Fool perceiving, told him he did well, for pancakes were proper to a good fry-day.

In another part a hub-bub arose about the Thirtieth of January, who, it seems, being a sour puritanic character, that



thought nobody's meat
good or sanctified enough
for him, had smuggled in-
to the room a calf's head,
which he had had cooked
at home for that purpose,
thinking to feast thereon
incontinently; but as it lay
in the dish **March** **M**any
weathers, who is a very
fine lady, and subject to
the meagrimms, screamed



out there was a human head in the platter," and raved about Herodias' daughter to that degree, that the obnoxious viand was obliged to be removed; nor did she recover her stomach till she



had gulped down a
Restorative, confectioned
of **O**ak **A**pple, which
the merry **T**wenty-**N**inth
of **M**ay always carries
about with him for that
purpose.



The King's health
 being called for after
 this, a notable dispute
 arose between the 12th
 of August (a zealous
 old Whig gentlewoman,
 and the Twenty Third of
 April (a new-fangled la-
 dy of the Tory stamp) as
 to which of them should
 have the honour to propose
 it.

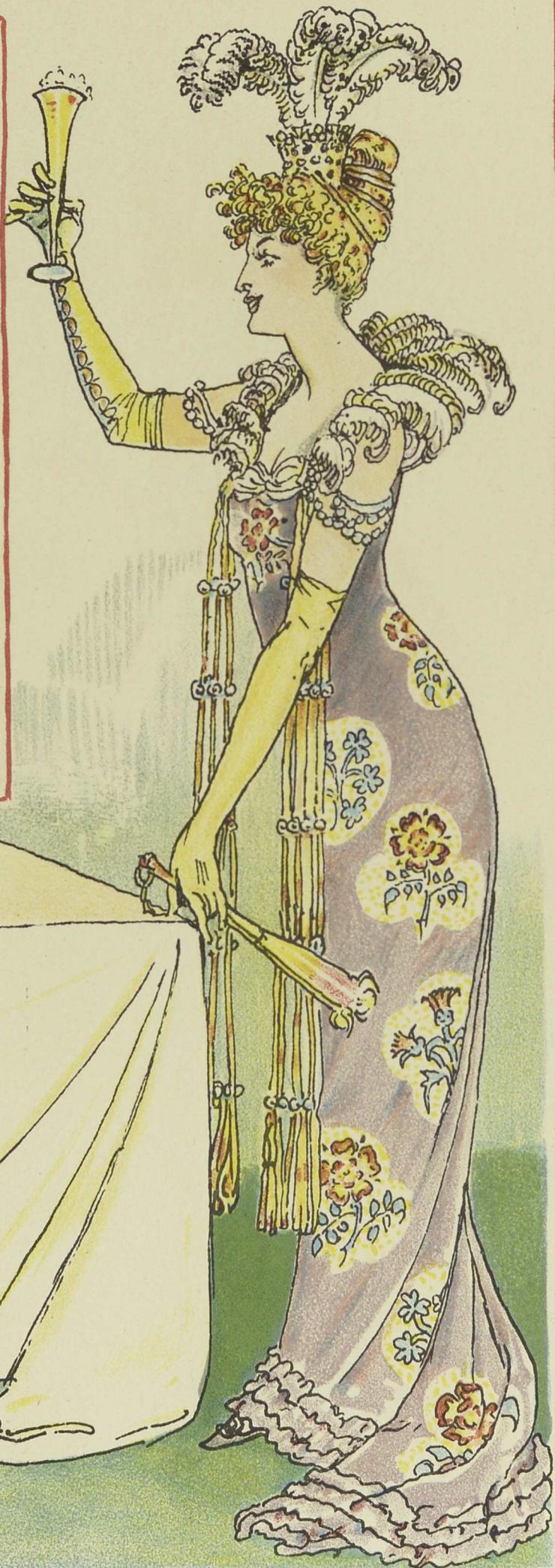


August grew hot upon
the matter, affirming time
out of mind the prescrip-
tive right to have lain
with her, till her rival
basely supplanted her;

* * * * *

April Fool being made med-
iator, confirmed the right in
the strongest form of words to
the appellant, but decided for
peace' sake that the exercise
of it should remain with the
present possessor.

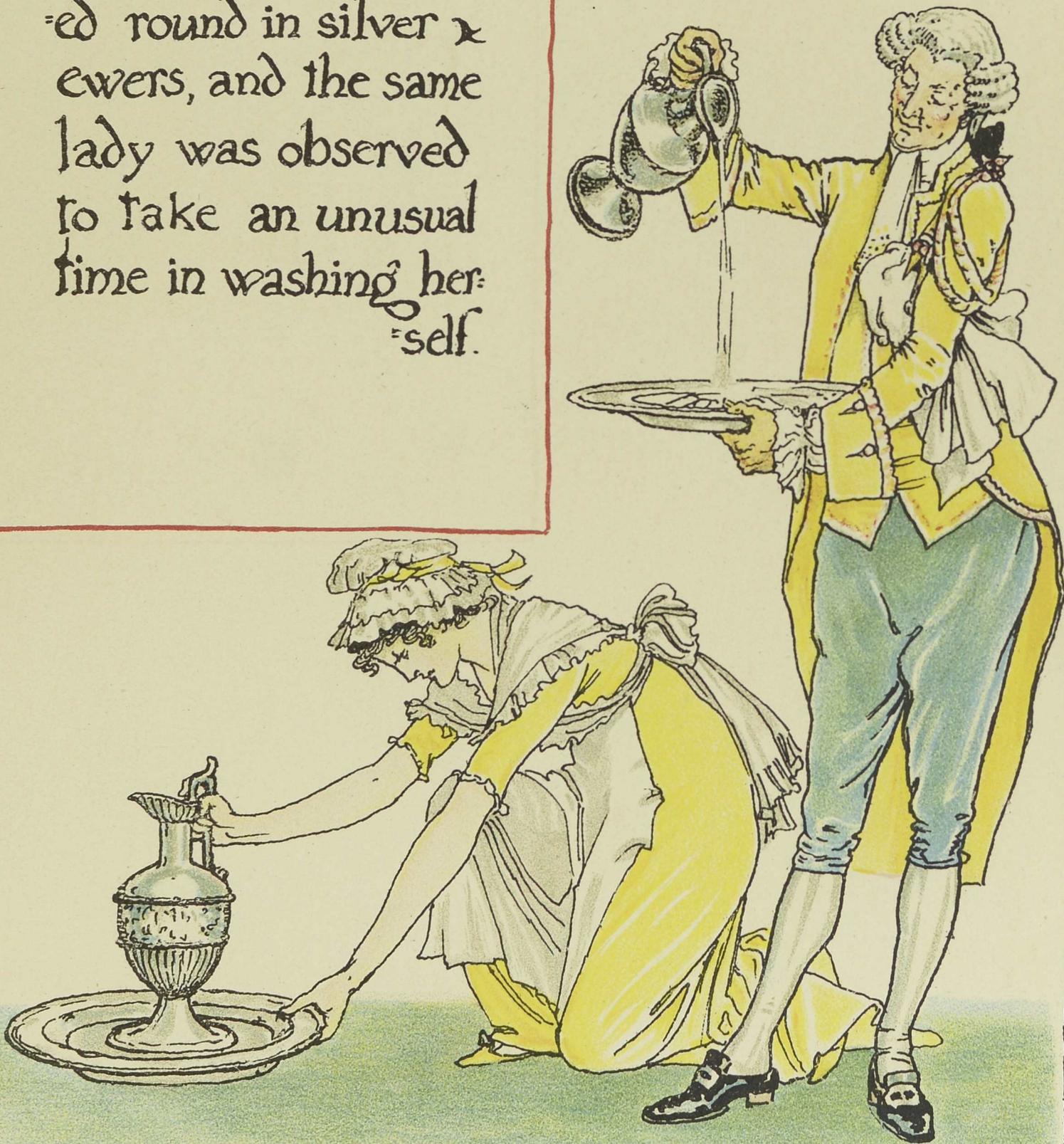
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It beginning to grow
a little duskish, ~~the~~
Candlemas lustily
bawled out for lights
which was opposed by
all the **D**ays, who pro-
tested against burning



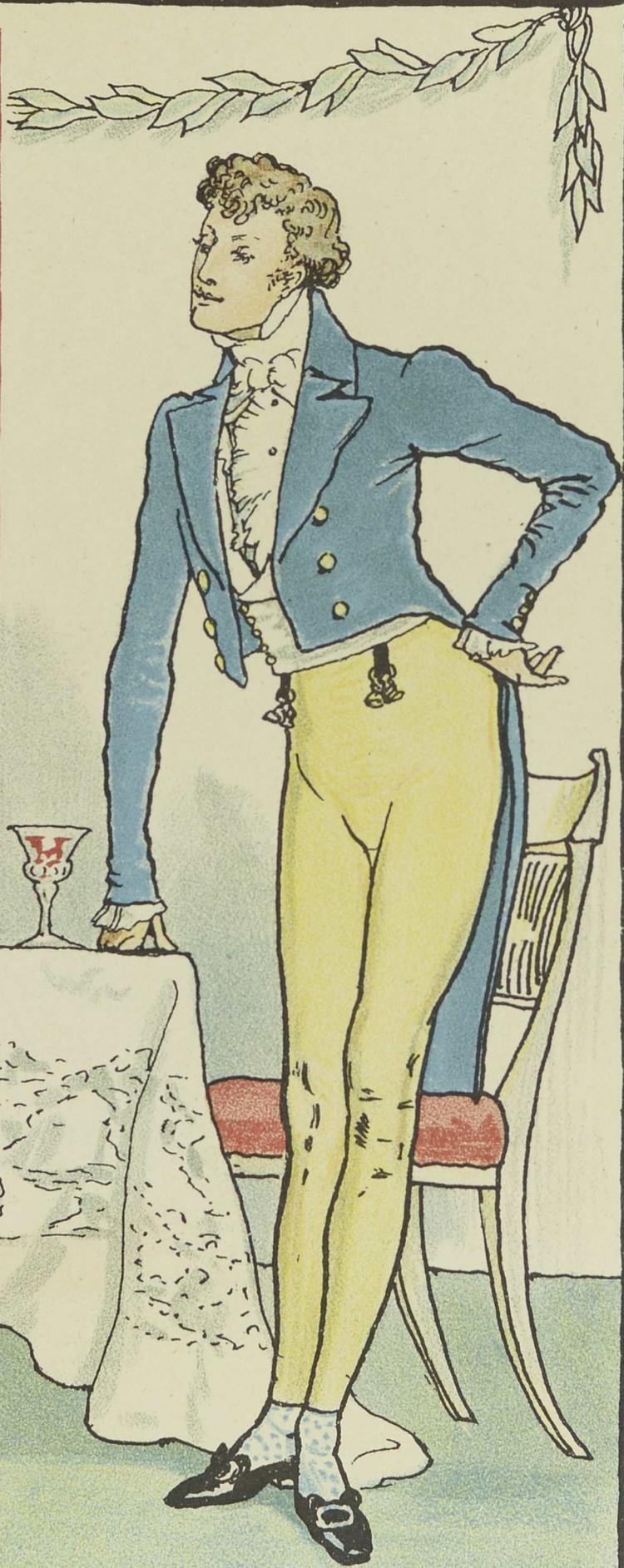
daylight. Then a fair water was handed round in silver ewers, and the same lady was observed to take an unusual time in washing herself.



May-Day, with that
 sweetness which is
 peculiar to her, in a neat
 speech proposing the &
 health of the founder,
 crowned her goblet, and
 by her example the rest
 of the company, with
 garlands. && **T**his be-
 ing done, the lordly &
New Year from the up-
 per end of the table,



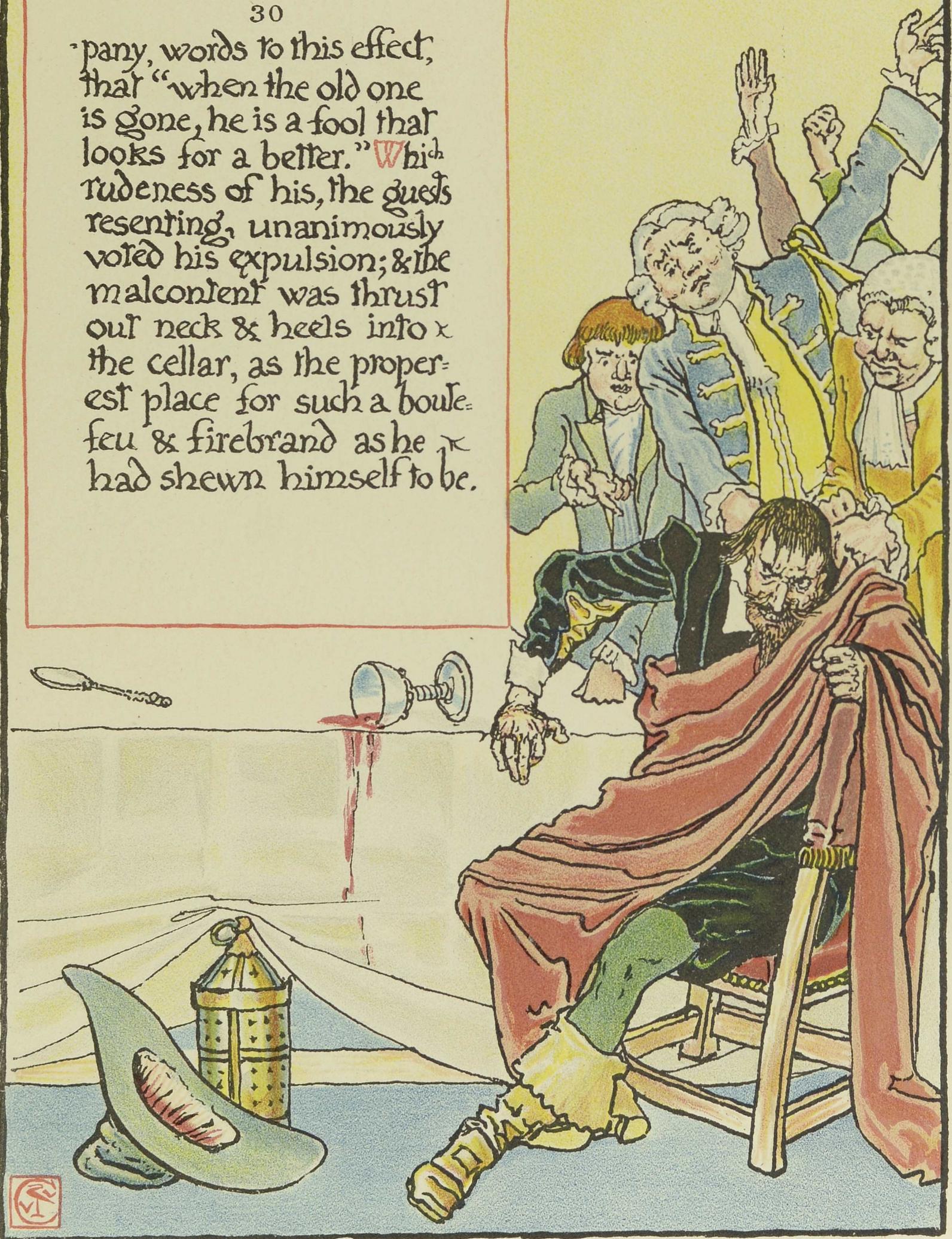
in a cordial but somewhat lofty tone, returned thanks. He felt proud on an occasion of meeting so many of his father's late tenants, promised to improve their farms, & at the same time to abate { if anything was found unreasonable } in their rents.



At the mention of this & the **F**our **Q**uarter **D**ays involuntarily looked at each other, & smiled; **A**pril **F**ool whistled to an old tune of "**N**ew **B**rooms" & a surly old rebel at the further end of the table {who was discovered to be no other than the **F**ifth of & **N**ovember} muttered out distinctly enough to be heard by the whole com-



pany, words to this effect, that "when the old one is gone, he is a fool that looks for a better." Which rudeness of his, the guests resenting, unanimously voted his expulsion; & the malcontent was thrust out neck & heels into the cellar, as the properest place for such a boufe-feu & firebrand as he had shewn himself to be.





Orders being restored—
the young lord {who, to say
truth, had been a little ruffled &
put beside his oratory} in as few,
& yet as obliging words as pos-
sible, assured them of entire wel-
come; & with a graceful turn,
singling out poor **T**wenty-Ninth
of **F**ebruary, that had sat all this
while mumchance at the side-
board, begged to couple his health
with that of the good company
before him — which he drank
accordingly; observing, that he
had not seen his honest face
any time these four years —
with a number of endearing

April **F**ool swore they had
exchanged conditions; but
Good **F**riday was observed
to look extremely grave; &

expressions besides. **A**t the same time, removing the solitary **D**ay from the forlorn seat which had been assigned to him, he stationed him at his own board, somewhere between the **G**reek **C**alends & **L**atter **L**amas.

Ash **W**ednesday, being ^{now} called upon for a song, with his eyes fast stuck in his head, & as well as the **G**anary he had swallowed would give him leave, struck up a **G**arol, which **C**hristmas **D**ay & had taught him for the nonce; & was followed by the latter, who gave "**M**iserere" in fine style, hitting off the mumping notes & lengthened drawl of **O**ld **M**or: rification with infinite humour.

Sunday held her fan before her face, that she might not be seen to smile.



Shrove tide, Lord
 Mayor's Day, and
 April Fool, next join-
 ed in a glee -

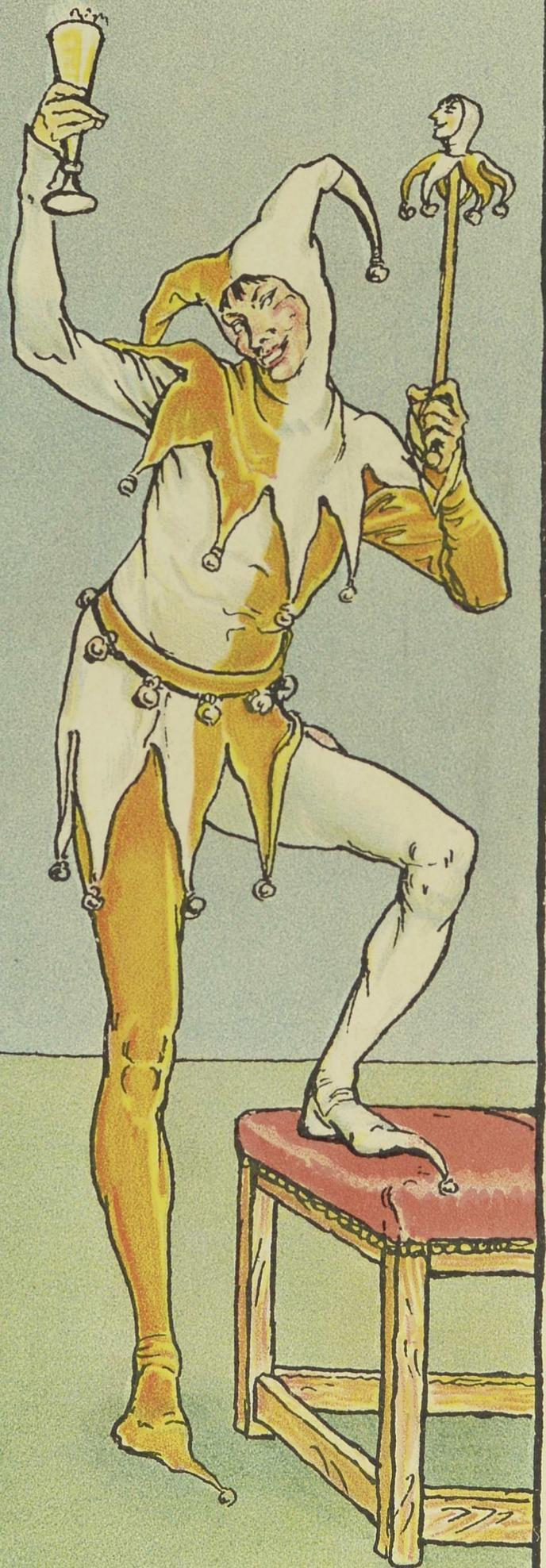
Which is the properest
 day to drink?
 in which all the days
 chiming in, made a mer-
 ry burden.

They next fell to quib-
 bles & conumdrums.

سز



The question being proposed, who had the greatest number of followers — the **Quarter Days** said, there could be no question as to that; for they had all the creditors in the world dogging their heels. **But April Fool** gave it in favour of the **Forty Days** before **Easter**; because the debtors in all cases outnumbered the creditors, & they kept lent all the year round.



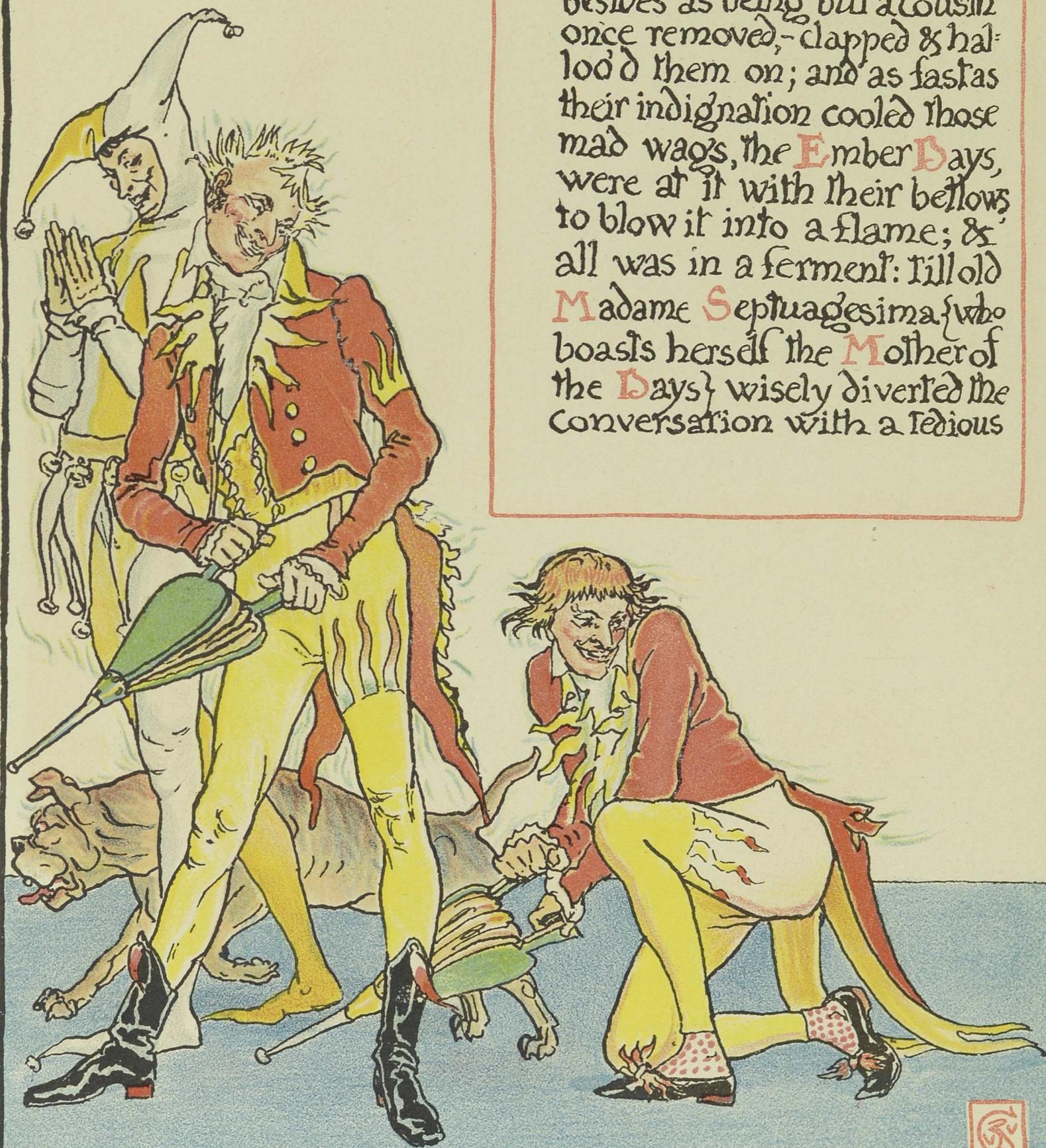
All this while
Valentine's Day
kept courting
pretty May, who
sat next him,
slipping amorous
billets-doux un-



Under the table, till
the **D**og **D**ays
{who are natural-
ly of a warm con-
stitution} began
to bark and rage
exceedingly.



April Fool, who likes a bit of sport above measure, & had some pretensions to the lady besides as being but a cousin once removed, - clapped & halloo'd them on; and as fast as their indignation cooled those mad wags, the **E**mber **D**ays, were at it with their bellows to blow it into a flame; & all was in a ferment: till old **M**adame **S**eptuagesima {who boasts herself the **M**other of the **D**ays} wisely diverted the conversation with a tedious



tale of the lovers which she could reckon when she was young; & of one **Master Rogation Day** in particular, who was for ever putting the question to her; & but she kept him at a distance, as the chronicle wd: tell - by which I apprehend she meant the **Almanack**.

Then she rambled on to the **Days** that were gone, the good old **Days**, & so to the **Days** & before the **Flood** - which plainly showed her old head to be little better than crazed & doited.



Day being ended, the Days called for their cloaks & great coats & took their leaves.

Lord Mayor's Day went off in a mist as usual; Shortest Day in a deep black Fog that wrapt the little gentleman all round like a hedgehog. Two Vigils—so watchmen are called in heaven—saw Christmas Day safe home—they had been used to the business before. Another Vigil—a stout, sturdy, patrol, called the Eye of St Christopher—



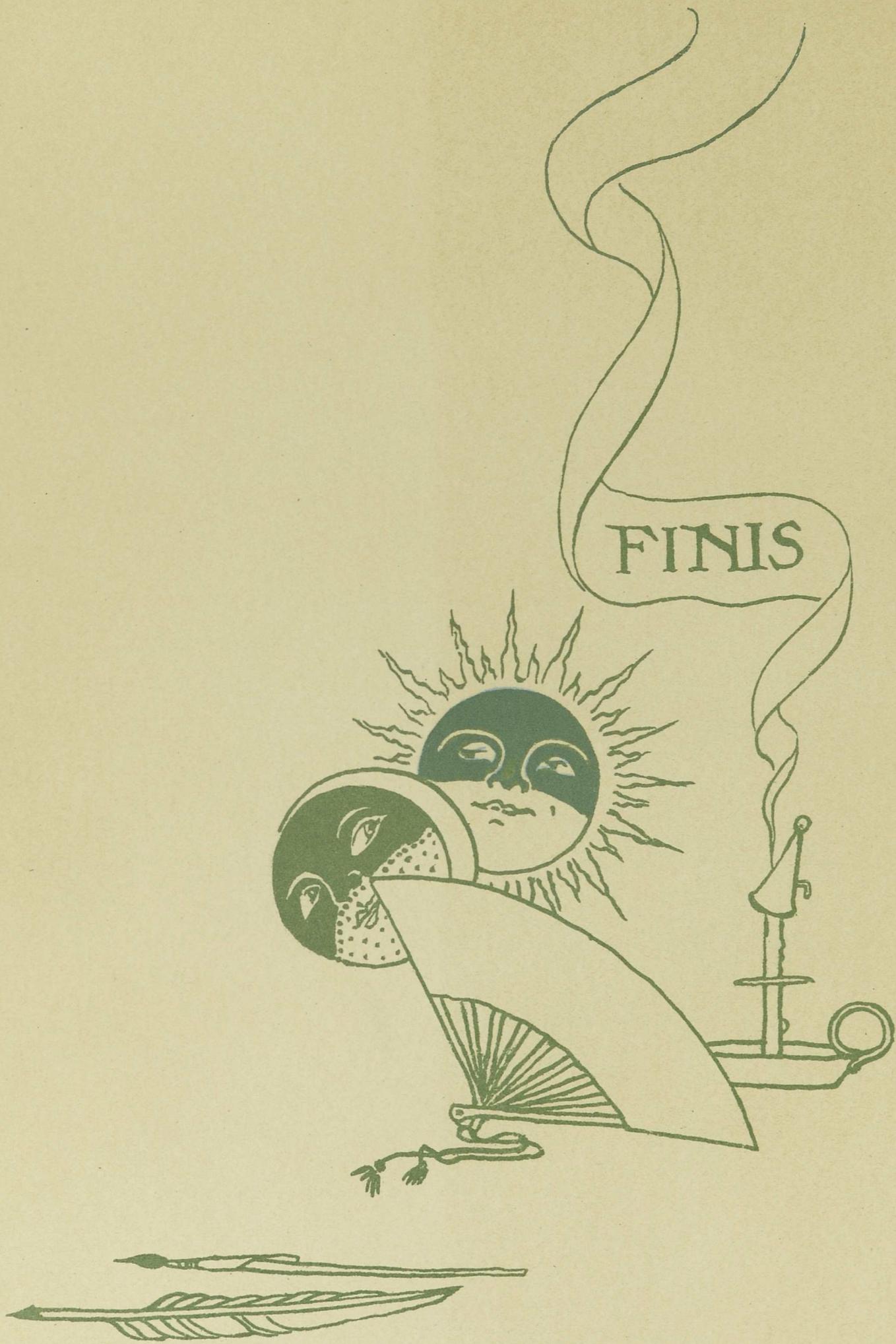
seeing **A**sh **W**ednesday in a condition little better than he should be - e'en whipt him o-ver his shoulders, pick-a-back fashion, & **O**ld **M**ortification & went floating home singing - "On the bat's back do I fly," & a number of old snatches besides, between drunk & sober; but very few **A**ves or **P**enitent-iaries (you may believe me) were among them. **L**ongest **D**ay set off westward in beautiful crimson & gold - the rest, & some in one fashion, some in another; but **V**alentine & pretty **M**ay took their departure together



in one of the prettiest silvery twilights a **L**over's **D**ay could wish to set in.

FINIS









A MASQUE OF DAYS

AUTHOR:
ELIA.
ARTIST:
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CRANE.
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