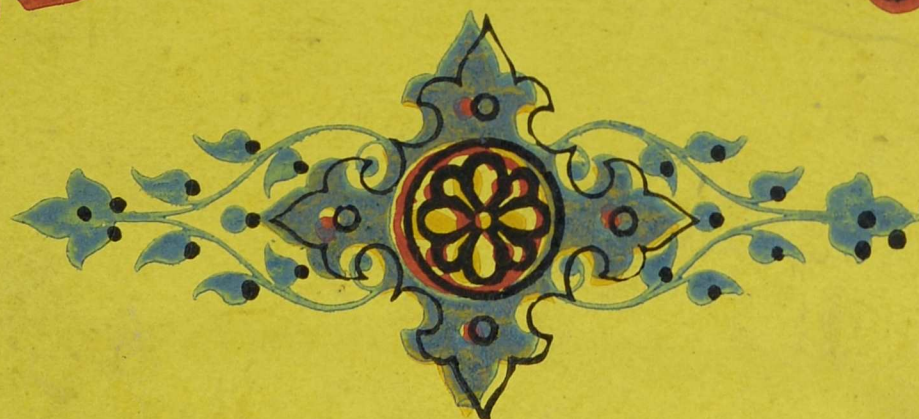


PRICE ONE SHILLING; or, MOUNTED WITH LINEN, TWO SHILLINGS.

6
AUNT LOUISA'S

LONDON TOY BOOKS



THE LIFE OF A DOLL

LONDON.

FREDERICK WARNE & CO.



IT was little Fanny's Birthday; the one that made her eight years old. She was very much delighted, when, on running into the breakfast-room that morning, she saw her Mamma holding a very large doll in her hands. "Oh! Mamma, is that for me?" she cried, quite forgetting to say "Good morning."

"Yes, my darling," answered her Mamma, kissing her; "it is a birthday gift from your Papa and myself. Gently, dear; take it carefully, for it is not a common doll. It cost a great deal of money, Fanny, and I hope it will last as long as you like to play with a doll."

"Oh! thank you, dear, kind Mamma," said Fanny; "that will be for ever."

Her Mamma smiled. "Not quite so long I think, my little one. Your new baby can open and shut her eyes, say something like Mamma and Papa, and *walk across the room*, whenever you choose to let her."

Fanny clapped her hands with joy. Then she said gravely, "She is not a baby; she is quite a great girl. When children can walk and talk they are no longer babies."

Her Mamma smiled.

"What shall her name be, Mamma? Shall I call her Violet or Rose?"

"I think Violet a very pretty name."

"Then she shall be called by it, and you are her Godmother," said Fanny. "How kind it was of you and Papa to buy her for me."

"We wished to give our little girl pleasure because she had been good for a long time," said her mother. "Now she must be a kind Mamma to her doll, and make her nice pretty clothes, for that is the best way to learn how to work for real babies."

Fanny held up her mouth for a kiss.

"I will try to be as good a Mamma to her as you are to me," said the child.

And she kept her word.

SA VALENTINE
LIFE OF A DOLL
ca. 1870

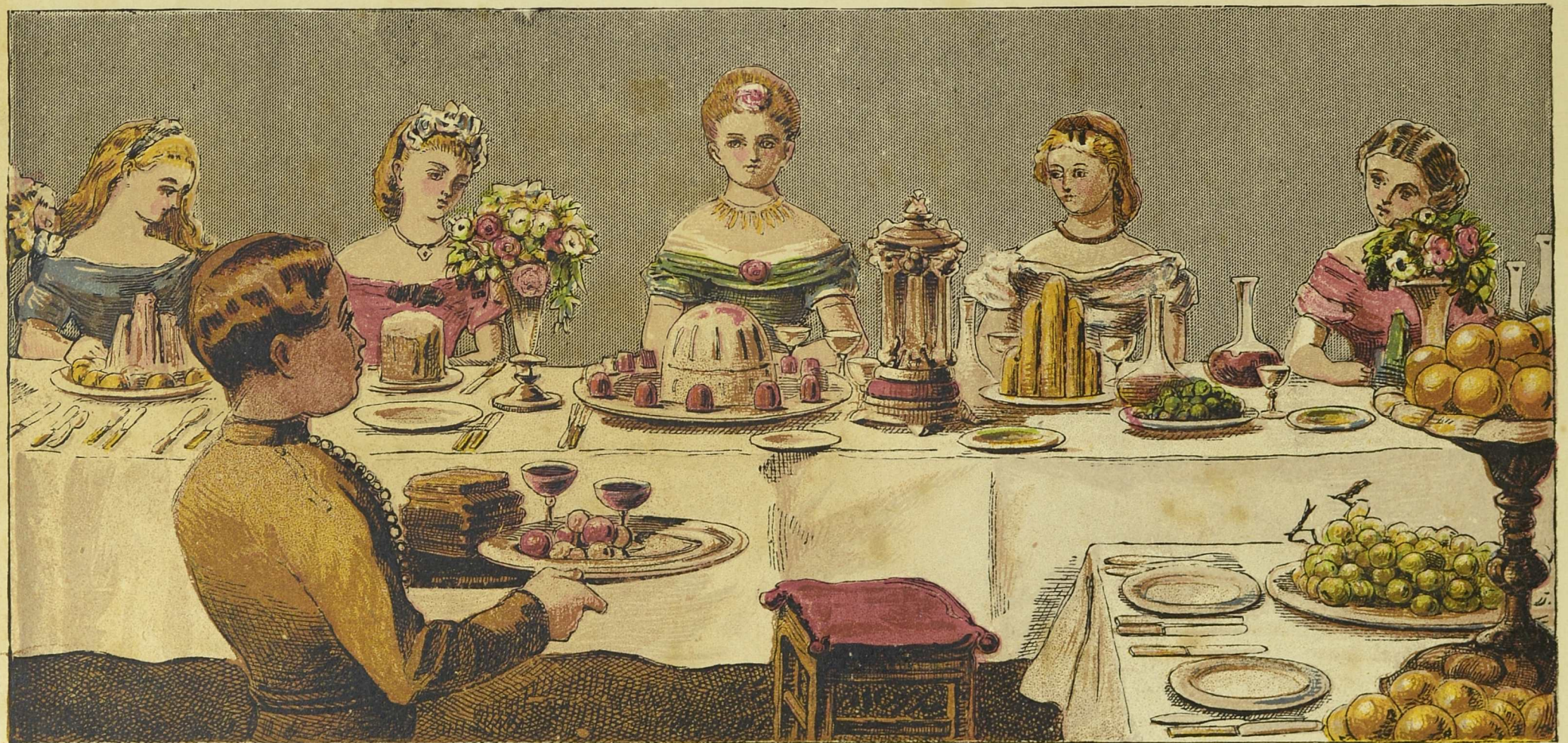
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FANNY'S Mamma had invited eight little girls to drink tea with her that evening, and they were all asked to bring their dolls. They were a very merry party. Amelia Hays (whom you will see if you look at the picture, seated in the right-hand corner) brought a large wax doll with a fine head of *real* hair, of which she was very proud; and little Mary and Anna Grey had each charming wax babies, but they were not to be compared with "Violet;" who stood up by her new Mamma's side without being held, dressed in her very best evening frock, with a handkerchief in her hand. The little visitors were quite delighted with her; but said, that of course *their* dolls could not walk, because they were quite babies; Violet was very much older; they supposed she would soon go to school? But Fanny said, "No; I mean to teach my child at home."



THE little girls played very happily all the evening; introducing their wax babies to Violet, who was, they said, very much like the Empress of the French. But not one of the little girls would have exchanged her doll for Fanny's, because, even if a child is surpassed in beauty by another, it ought not on that account to be less dear to its own Mamma. At least that is what Anna said. By-and-by they made a grand supper for the dolls, at which Miss Violet presided. And the table was spread with cake, and fruit, and jellies, all very nicely placed on Fanny's doll's dinner-service, and they had currant juice for wine, in the blown-glass decanters, and Edith's boy-doll waited table quite as well as could be expected.



VERY soon afterwards Violet became a great traveller, for Fanny's Papa was a soldier; he was ordered to go to India with the regiment of which he was colonel, and he intended to take his little daughter and her Mamma with him. So Fanny dressed Violet in her best hat and cloak, and led her over the wharf to go on board the ship. She was sure that Violet did not mind leaving England, for the doll smiled as sweetly as ever.

FANNY thought it would do her doll good to have a little turn on deck, as the day was very fine, so she put Violet into the perambulator that her Aunt Louisa had given her on leaving, and drew it up and down the quarter-deck, telling the doll to look at the wide sea, with the sun shining on its smooth surface, and at the merry porpoises throwing themselves in and out of the water.

FANNY, her Mamma, and all the other ladies were ill when first the ship sailed. But as soon as she was well again, the little girl began to think of her doll, whom she had quite forgotten for a time; Violet, who was very patient, never complained; but Fanny was sure now, that the doll must be ill also; so she put her into the berth (or bed-place), and nursed her tenderly.

BY-AND-BY they reached Bombay, and Fanny took care that Violet should show the dark Hindoos how well she could walk. They were very much surprised to see a walking doll; but they did not show that they were. They made low bows (called *salaams*). Look at them in the picture. The man with a high cap is a Parsee. He is a fire-worshipper, and says his prayers to the sun.

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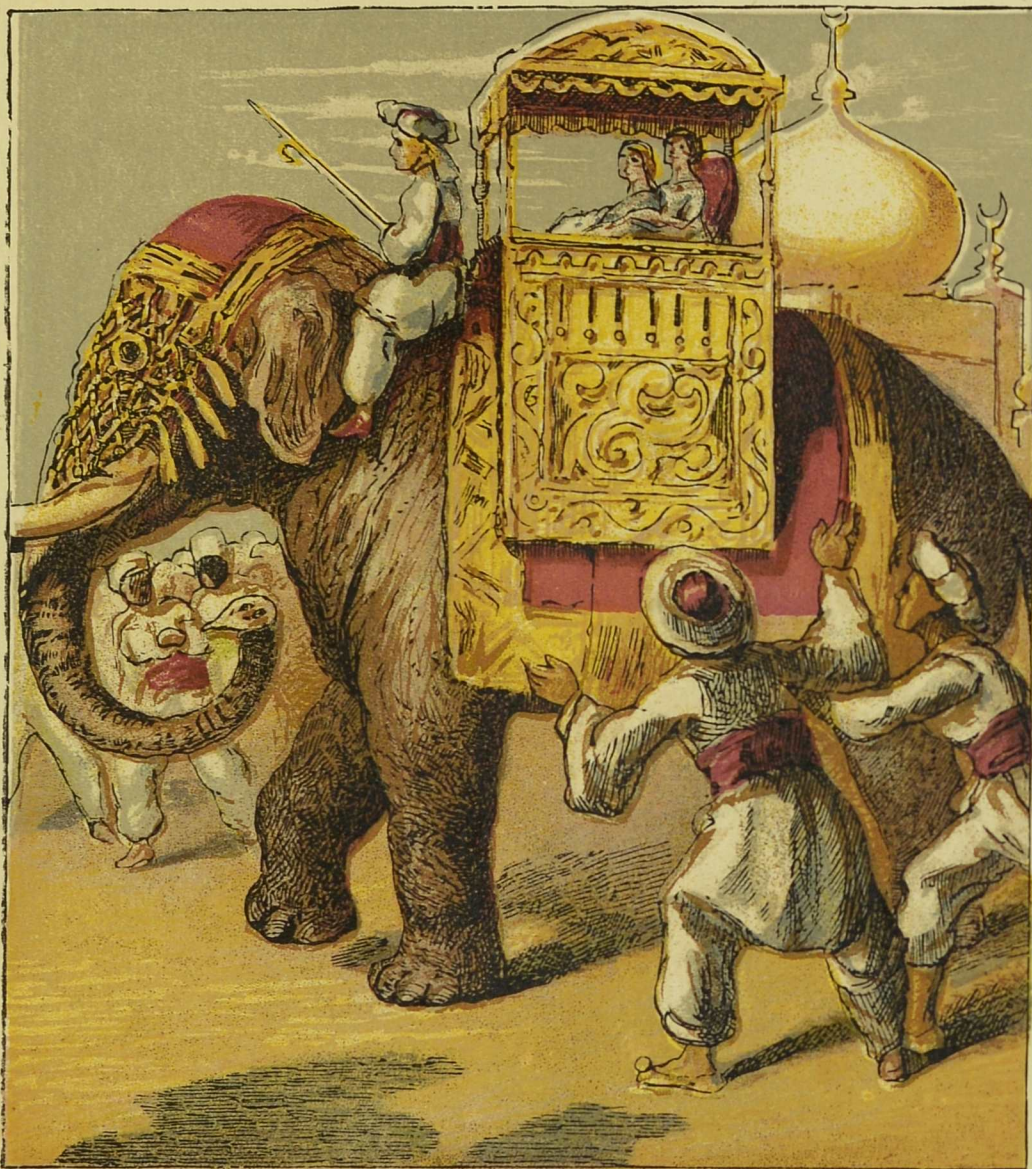
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ONE day Fanny was allowed to ride on an elephant, and she took Violet with her. They sat in a kind of tent (called a *howdah*) on the animal's back. By-and-by the driver, or *mahout*, told the elephant to fan the ladies, and the creature picked a large palm leaf, turned his trunk back, and fanned them with it. Violet was very much pleased, and so was her Mamma.


BOMBAY is an island, and sometimes Fanny would carry her doll to a room on the flat roof of the house, covered with an awning, and show her the boats gliding over the calm waters of the harbour. She told Violet that though the sea looked so sunny and still, it covered over dangerous fish called sharks, which would eat her up if she fell into it.

ONE morning when they were up on the hills, Fanny took her doll out for a walk without leave. They came to the edge of a jungle or Indian wood, and there Fanny saw so many monkeys playing in the trees that she was quite afraid; she pointed them out to Violet, and told her that they were very mischievous creatures, and would run away with *her*, if her Mamma did not take great care of her; so they had better make as much haste to go home again as they could. Luckily the monkeys did not run after the child, or hurt her.


ANOTHER day Fanny's Papa sent for a juggler, that is, a Hindoo conjuror, to come and amuse his little girl. She let Violet see him also, and they were both surprised when the man threw up a great many gold balls at the same time, and caught them again without letting one of them drop.




AT length the time came for Fanny's parents to leave India, and once more they were sailing over the sea. They had a good voyage, and landed safely in France. The French sailors and the sentry on guard could not believe their eyes when they saw a doll walking : for French people, though they are very ingenious, did not invent walking dolls ; they were first made by the Americans.



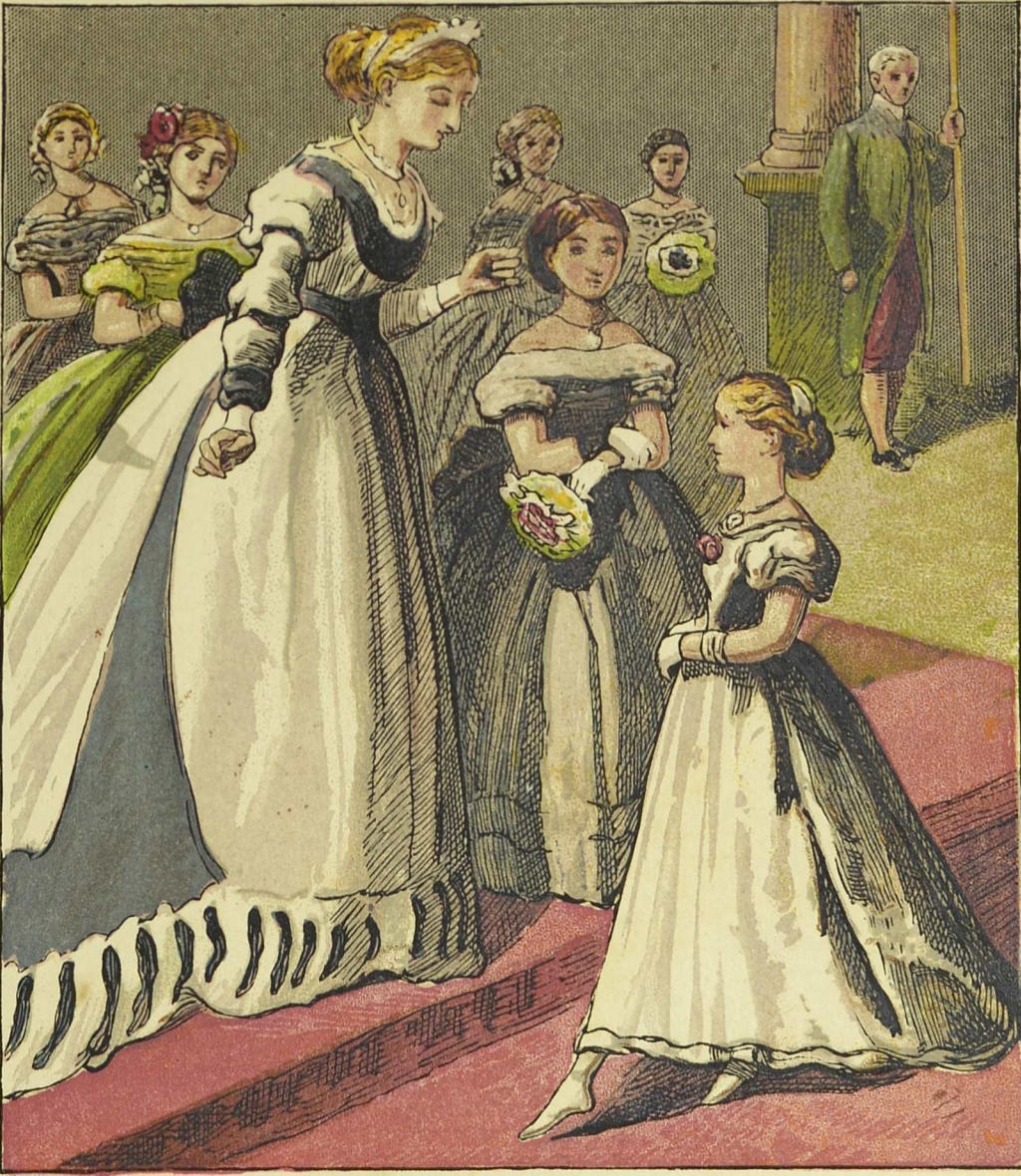
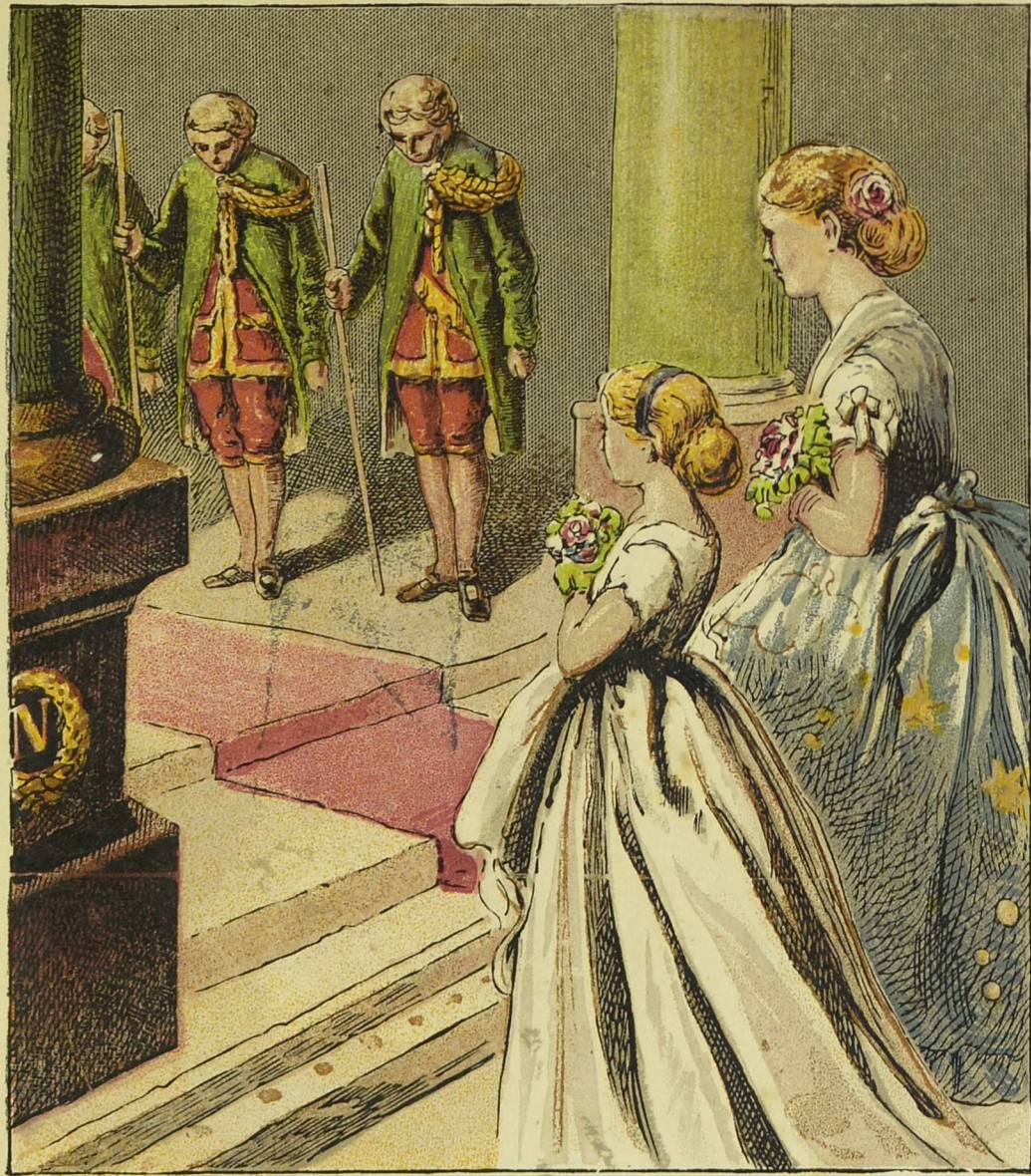
WHEN they came to Paris, Fanny's Papa let her drive Violet out in a carriage drawn by two white ponies. The Empress heard of the little English girl's walking doll, and sent one of her attendants to ask Fanny if she would bring Violet to the palace of the French Emperor, that she might see it.



HERE you see Fanny taking Violet to the French Court. It was a great honour for a doll, but Violet, who never thought about herself, did not seem to care for it ; she walked on just as she would have done if she had been in Fanny's play-room. The little girl and her doll were both very nicely dressed, and had bouquets in their hands.



AT last Violet stood before the Empress, who was very much pleased with her. The doll never ceased looking at the fair face of the royal lady, who was indeed very lovely. I am quite sure that she did not once move her eyes from the Empress Eugenie, who gave her a diamond locket (at least, a locket that looked like diamonds), and tied it round her neck.



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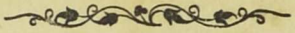
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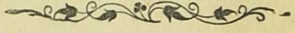
HOME in England again, and Fanny is leading Violet out in the beautiful green park, showing her the oaks and the deer—which ran away, believing that they saw two children, not only a child and a doll. Her cousin Charles, a mischievous boy, is watching her from behind the trees. He does not like poor Violet. Boys seldom like dolls.



FANNY put her doll down at the foot of an oak, and bade her sit still there while her Mamma went into the house for a book. Alas! when she came back she found poor Violet hanging to a tree by her long hair! Fanny ran very fast to take her down. It was Charles who had hung her up on the bough; but she was not hurt at all, and this was the only disagreeable thing that ever happened to her.



FANNY was obliged to study very hard when she came to England, so she could not play a great deal with her doll, but she did not like to leave Violet all alone: therefore she seated her at the school-room table, and taught her everything she learned herself, which was a good plan for improving both. If you teach your doll your lesson, you will be sure to know it very well yourself.



THE time was come when Fanny no longer cared to play with dolls, but she wished very much to find a good Mamma for her poor Violet. Now her cousin Amelia was a very neat little girl, who would, she knew, take care of it, so Fanny made her very happy by giving the walking doll to her. And then, to amuse other little girls she wrote this Life of a Doll.



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