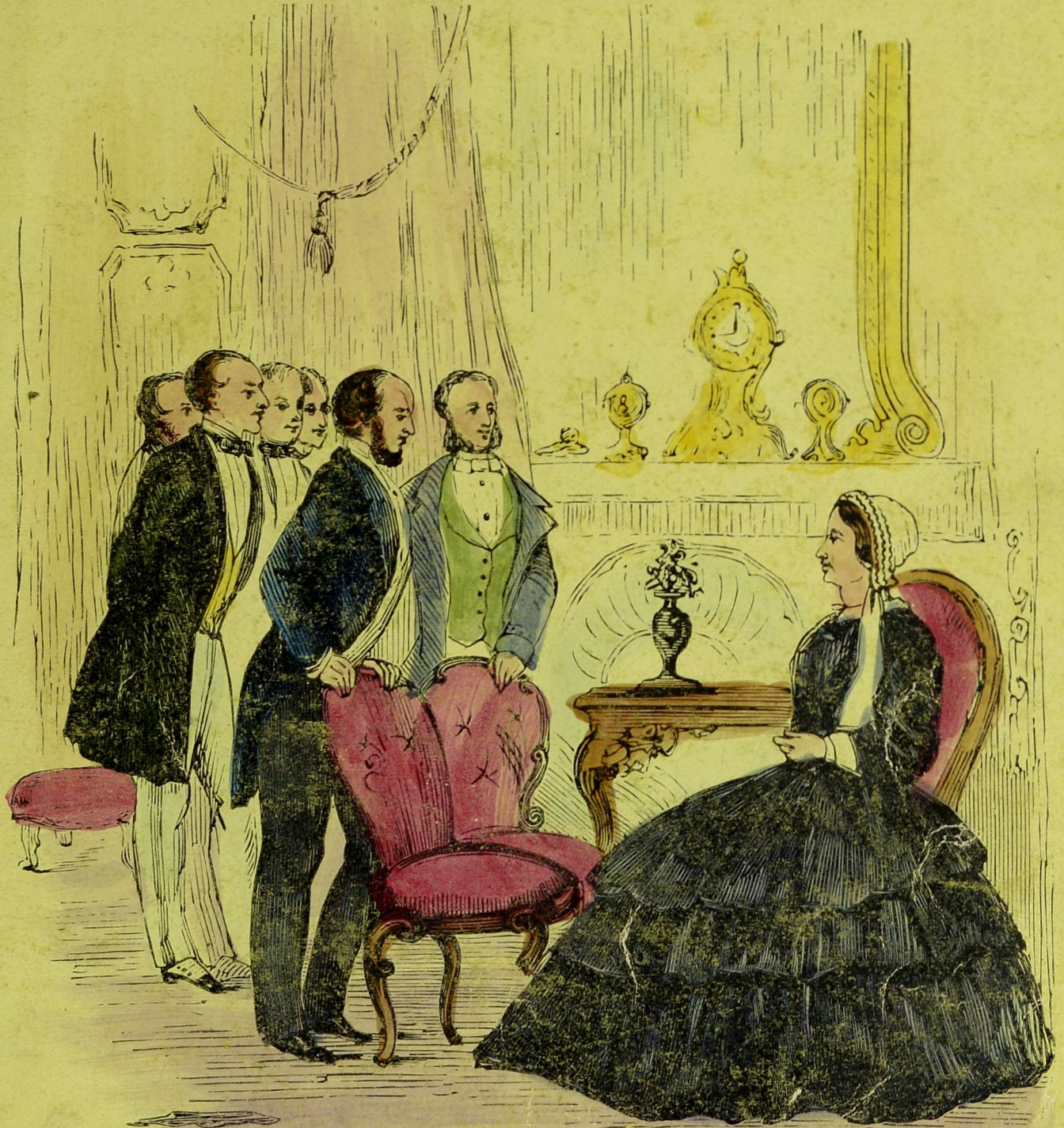


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MR. NOUN AND MRS. VERB



OR, GRAMMAR IN FUN.

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MR. NOUN AND MRS. VERB; OR, GRAMMAR IN FUN.



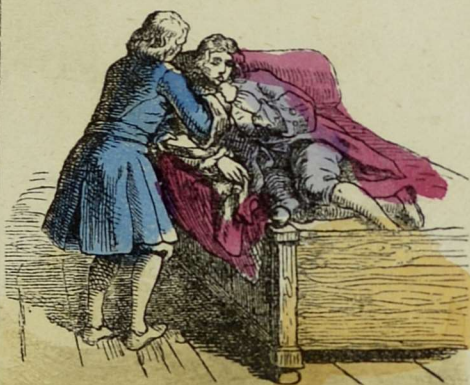
MEMBERS OF MR. NOUN'S FAMILY.

MR. NOUN SUBSTANTIVE was a very clever fellow. He belonged to a large family, which included many great names. There were the Proper Nouns, who were very proud people, and gave themselves great airs because they had particular names;—such as Peter, Paul, Jeremiah, and others. The Common Nouns, on the other hand, were not thought nearly so

MR. NOUN AND MRS. VERB; OR, GRAMMAR IN FUN.



Hot punch.



A sick friend.



A CRUEL man.



BLACK prisoners.



A KIND son.



A GOOD cat.

ADJECTIVES, OR WORDS OF QUALITY.

much of, because they were a much larger family, and had only such common names as Horse, Man, Cow, Labour. But in general it could be said, that every name of a place, a person, or a thing, belonged to the family of Mr. Noun Substantive.

Among the friends of Mr. Noun Substantive were some very remarkable folks, called the Adjectives. They were looked up to a good deal, and every one paid homage to them as *people of quality*; but still it was seen that they were of no importance at all, unless they were joined in some way to one of the family of the Nouns Substantive. Even the best among them, such as *Good, Clever, Great, Sweet*, were of no value at all until you joined them to one of the Nouns or names—when they at once became valuable;—for every one will see that the Noun man becomes better by being joined to the Adjective *clever*, and *good*, and made a *good, clever man*; and that the Noun, Mr. Pudding, is all the better for the Adjective *sweet*, which makes a *sweet pudding* of him. So the use of the Adjectives was found to be, that they gave rank or quality to the family of Noun Substantive.



ACTIVE VERBS.

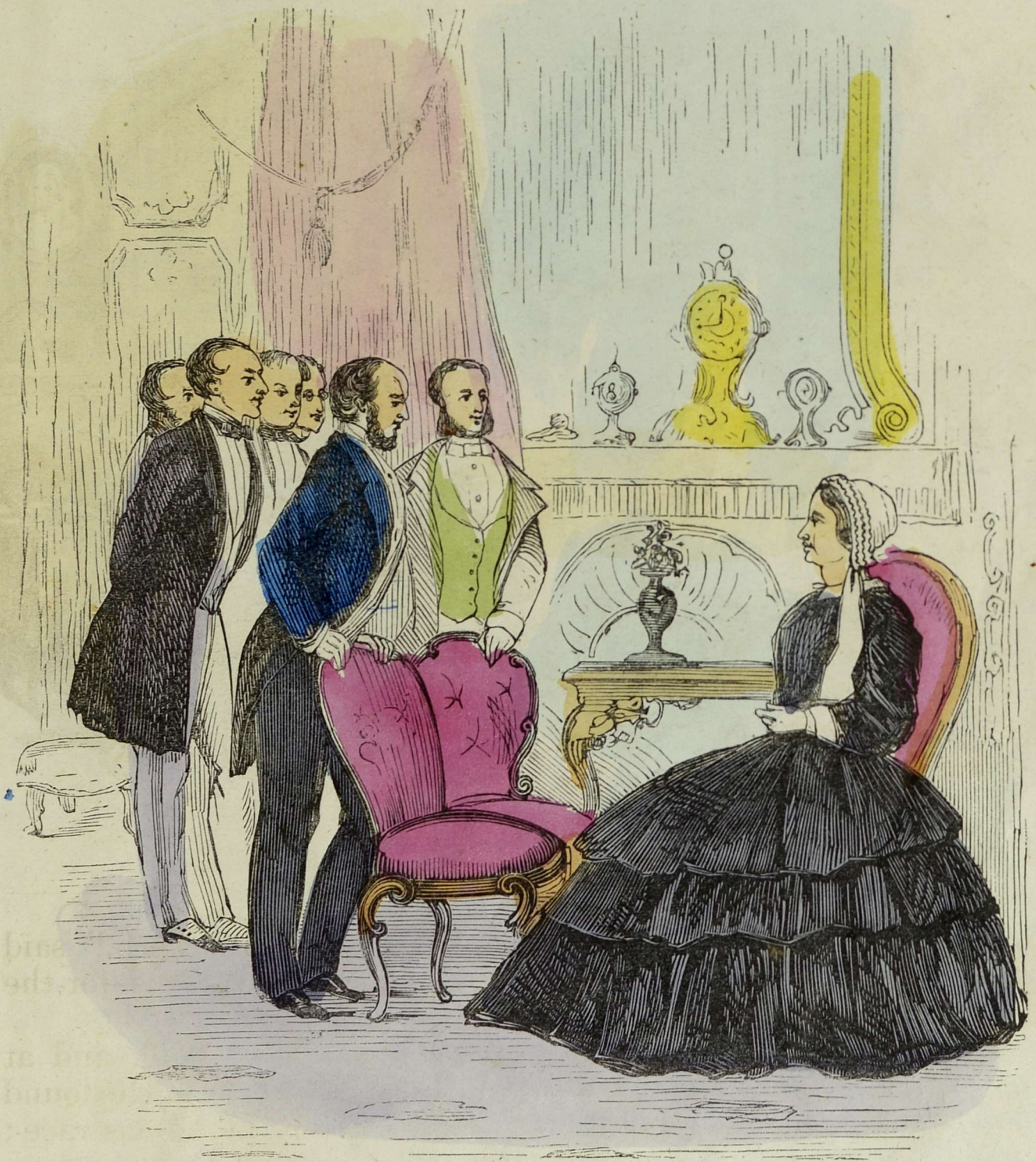
Now Mr. Noun Substantive had been very lucky. He had joined himself with one Adjective, and become a *rich* man; another had clung to him, and he became a *handsome* man; while a third had made him *agreeable*, and a fourth *useful*. Still he could not get on as he wished, and often found himself in difficulty when he wanted to *do*, or to *have* anything. So he consulted with his friend the Adjective, *Wise*, and with another Adjective, named *Pleasant*;—and they both advised him to get



NEUTER VERBS.—To *stand*, to *sit*, to *point*, to *look*, to *smile*

married. “There is the charming widow, Mrs. Verb,” said they. “She would be just exactly the wife you want;—for the office of her life is to *have*, to *be*, and to *do*.”

Now when Mr. Noun heard this he was very glad, and at once made inquiries about the family of the Verbs. He found out, that like his own family, they were a very numerous race; and that there was a great difference between their characters. For instance, some were *Active Verbs*. These were always at work; and their names were — to *Grind*, *Leap*, *Spin*, *Sew*, *Plough*, *Study*, *Learn*, and so on; and they all had some object in what they did. For instance, the active verb, *Grind*, ground a *knife*; the active verb, *Learn*, learned a lesson; and so on. Some verbs were of a quiet, passive nature, and did not act, but suffered; while others again, the *Neuters*, sometimes acted, but seemed to have no object, beyond *themselves*, in what they did. Among these verbs were to *Sleep*, to *Kneel*, to *Stand*, and others.



You may imagine that Mr. Noun wanted to marry a bustling *active* Verb, and not a Passive or a Neuter one. He naturally thought an active verb—one that was always *doing*, would make a good housewife. The maiden name of Mrs. Verb, the charming widow, was—*To Love*; so Noun sent to ask her to marry him. For he thought as she was an *active* verb, and wanted an *object*, she might as well take him for that *object* as any one else. But he did not, for all that, go at once himself

MR. NOUN AND MRS. VERB; OR, GRAMMAR IN FUN.



I am Tomkins.



THOU art selfish.



HE is greedy.



WE are many.



YOU are cruel.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

to ask her. He was far too bashful. He thought it would be better to send some friends. So he sent some chosen Adjectives of his acquaintance—such as Mr. *Pleasant* and Mr. *Agreeable*; and besides these, some very intimate friends—the Pronouns.

Now the Pronouns were very great friends of Mr. Noun—six of them, especially, the *Personal Pronouns*, who had very often appeared for him to save him trouble. The names of these useful friends were—I, THOU, HE, WE, YOU, and THEY. These all went to Mrs. Verb to Love, and asked her if she would marry their friend. “I, madam,” said the first, “can promise you happiness;” “HE, madam,” said another, “will be a good husband to you;” “WE, madam,” said they all, “can assure you that your future husband is worthy of you. HE keeps the very best company, and has some very desirable Adjectives always staying with him; and, in marrying him, you will have to do with a *good* man, a *clever* man, a *pleasant* man, and an *agreeable* man.”

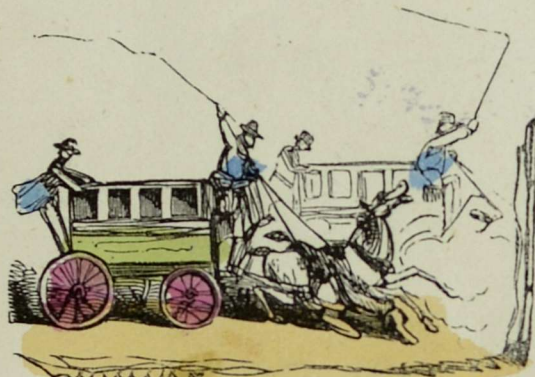


“I am extremely obliged to you, my dear Personal Pronouns,” said pretty Widow Verb, “for the trouble you have taken on your friend’s behalf; and I will freely consent to marry him on one condition—that he admits my friends the *Adverbs* on an equal footing with his friends the *Adjectives*. They are generally to be known by having the letters *ly* at the end of their names, and they are as dear to me as the Adjective family can be to Mr. Noun. When we have them always about

MR. NOUN AND MRS. VERB; OR, GRAMMAR IN FUN.



Cook acts CARELESSLY.



These men drive FURIOUSLY.



He dresses NEATLY.



It rains HEAVILY.



Stealing CUNNINGLY.

ADVERBS.


us we shall be able to love *truly*, to live *usefully*, to pass our time *happily*, to work *cheerfully*, and, I hope, to prosper *continually*."

The Personal Pronouns made their bows, and went away.

* * * * *

I need hardly tell you that Mr. Noun gladly acceded to these terms, and that the wedding took place soon afterwards. There were present, among the bridegroom's friends, those people of high quality the Adjectives, *Good*, *Clever*, *Agreeable*, and many others. All the six Personal Pronouns, besides many of their relatives, such as Mr. *Who*, and Miss *Which*. The bride came, accompanied by some very choice *Adverbs*, such as *Merrily*, *Cheerfully*, *Gracefully*, and others; and the wedding altogether was a very brilliant and happy one. About their other friends, Preposition, Conjunction, and the rest, I must tell you some other time.

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
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