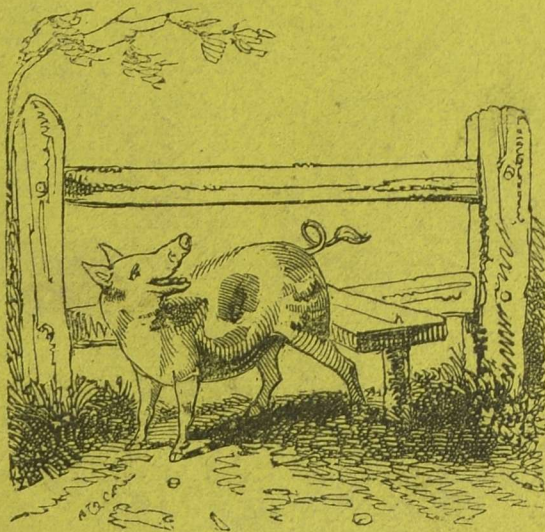


THE OLD WOMAN

AND

HER PIG



LONDON:

JOHN HARRIS, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

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THE REMARKABLE ADVENTURES

OF

AN OLD WOMAN AND HER PIG.

AN ANCIENT TALE

IN A

MODERN DRESS.

LONDON:

JOHN HARRIS,

CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.



Delighted she seiz'd it, and, dancing a jig,
Exclaim'd, "With this money I'll purchase a
Pig."

So saying, away to the market she went,
And the fruits of her fortunate sweeping she
spent
On a smooth-coated, black-spotted, curly-tailed
thing,
Which she led off in triumph, by means of a
string.



But how shall I paint her vexation and toil,
When, in crossing a meadow, she came to a stile,
And found neither threats nor persuasions would
do,
To induce Mr. Piggy to climb or creep through?
She coax'd him, she strok'd him, she patted his
hide,
She scolded him, threaten'd him, thump'd him
beside;
But coaxing, and scolding, and thumping proved
vain,
Whilst the evening grew dark, and 'twas likely
to rain.



The dame, out of patience, now cried, in a fright,
To a dog which came up, "Pray give Piggy a
bite,

"And over the stile, Sir, compel him to go,
"Or here I may stay till 'tis midnight, you
know."

This request Mr. Bow-wow, of course, must have
heard,

But he silently stood, without saying a word.

"Well, well," said the dame, "I'll be even with
you,—

"Unkindness like this you may happen to rue."



Then pausing, and anxiously looking around,
She saw a stout crab-stick lie flat on the ground.
“ Kind stick,” she exclaim’d, “ I entreat you to flog
“ This cruel, regardless, unmannerly dog,
“ Who will not bite Piggy, though plainly you see,
“ My pig will not stir, and there’s no home for
me.”

No reply made the stick, not a blow would it
strike,
But crab-stick and cur remained silent alike.



“ Well, this is provoking ! but yonder ’s a fire,
 “ And now,” said old Goody, “ I’ll have my de-
 sire.”

The flame she saluted, and cried, “ Pray be quick,
 “ Assist a poor woman, and burn this vile stick,
 “ For ’twill not beat yon dog, though the cur will
 not bite

“ My pig ; and I here may remain all the night.”
 In vain to the flame did our sweeper appeal,
 For her sufferings it would not, or perhaps *could*
not, feel.

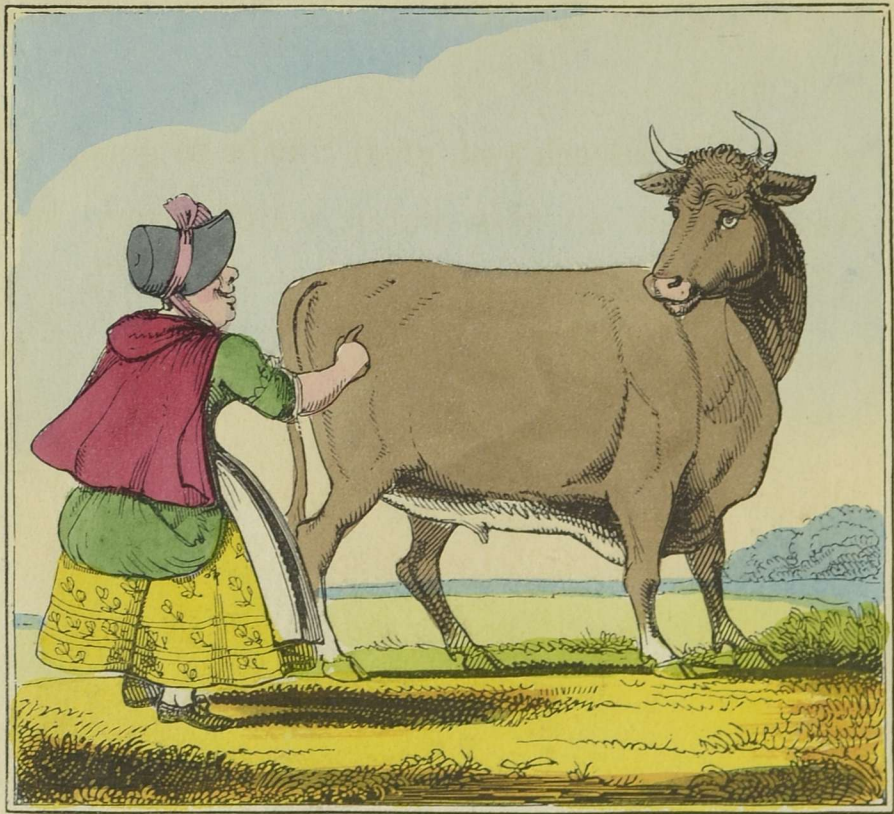


An opposite element next caught her eye,
And its friendly assistance she therefore would
try.—

“ Dear water,” she said, “ do extinguish this fire,
“ Which will not (although 'tis my ardent de-
sire)

“ Consume yonder crab-stick, which, obstinate
too,

“ With beating that cur will have nothing to do ;



“ And the dog, as ill-natured, you see, as the
rest,

“ Refuses to bite this young obstinate beast ;

“ So here I’m compelled, most reluctant, to stay,

“ And here may remain till the break of the day.”

The water regardless of all that was said,

Lay perfectly still,—not an effort was made.

So next to an ox her attention she turn’d,

And telling him how her entreaties were scorn’d,

By the dog, by the stick, by the flame, and the
flood,

She said, " I beseech you, great Sir, be so good,

" As to drink up this water, which, every one
knows,

" Could have put out the fire with ease, if it
chose :

" Oh grant me this favour—do pity my plight,

" Or here in the fields I must stay all the night."

The ox was unmov'd, not an eye would he turn,

Though no flood would extinguish, no fire would
burn,

No crab-stick would give Mr. Bow-wow a blow,

Nor would he compel the pig forward to go.

Then kindling with rage Piggy's mistress cried
out,

" Oh! here comes a man, he'll avenge me, no
doubt."

So once more relating her pitiful story,

She said, " In the death of that ox I should
glory :



“ Now therefore, good butcher, the animal kill ;
“ I ’ll thank you, I ’ll bless you ; indeed, Sir,
I will.”

The butcher, however, continued his way,
Without even deigning one sentence to say.
Goody trembled with rage ; yet she ventured to
hope

A friend was at hand, when she saw a new rope.



So now with clasp'd hands, mournful voice, and
bent knees,

She said, " Hang that butcher, good rope, if you
please ;

" For, though 'tis his lawful vocation each day,

" An ox the barbarian refuses to slay."

She paused for an answer ; but hard was her lot,

No help, nor a word of reply could be got.



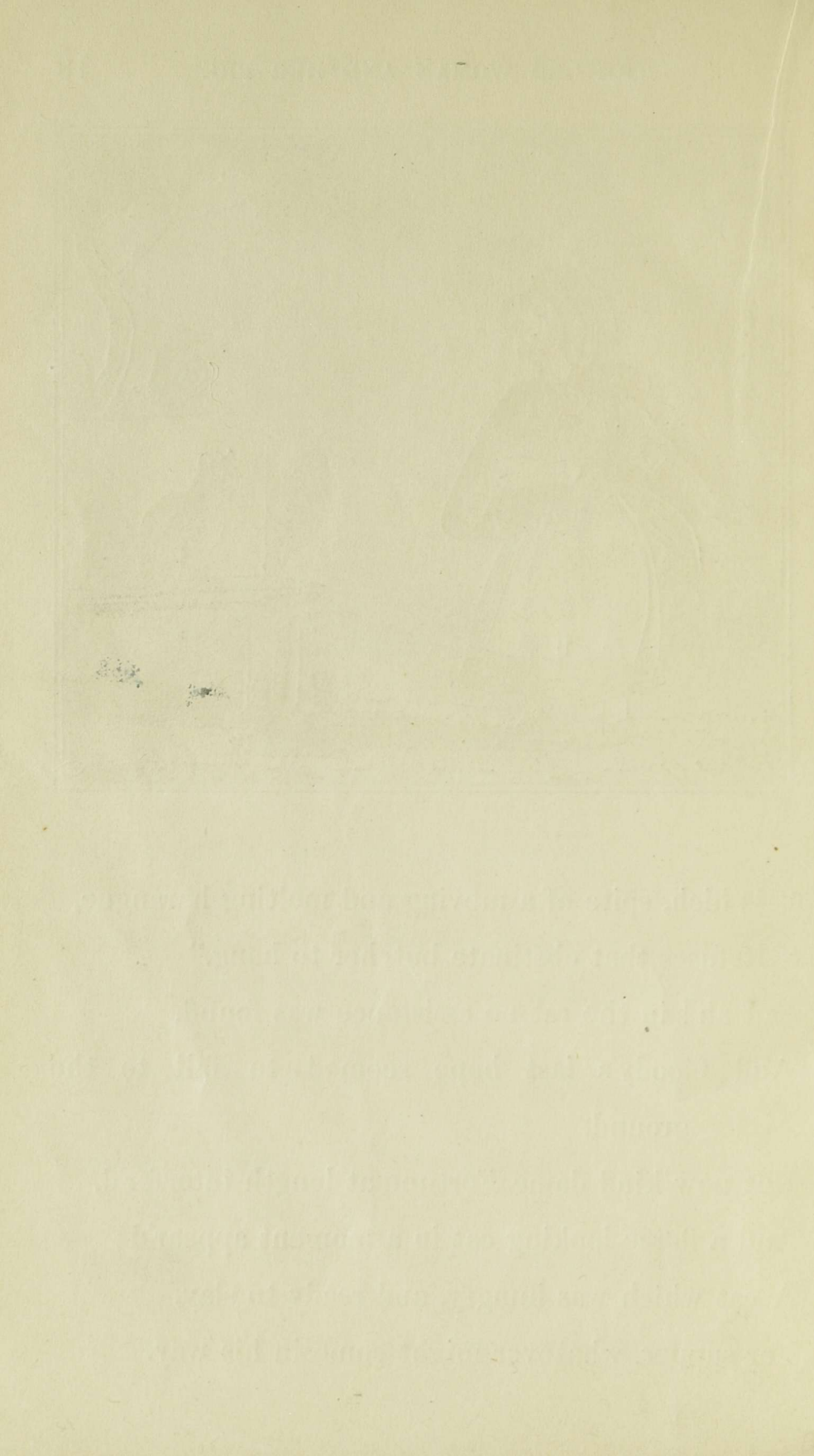
A veteran rat at this moment drew near,
And quietly stood her entreaties to hear.
So curtsying low,—“ I entreat,” said the dame,
“ By your grandfather’s beard, and your grand-
mother’s fame,
“ By the conquests your father and uncles have
won,
“ And the deeds which both you and your bre-
thren have done,
“ That your worship will not disappoint my fond
hope,
“ But graciously gnaw and destroy yonder rope.



“ Which, spite of a moving and melting harangue,
“ Refuses that obstinate butcher to hang.”

But ah ! in the rat no assistance was found,
And Goody’s last hope seemed to fall to the
ground.

But now kind dame Fortune at length interfer’d,
And a fierce-looking cat in a moment appear’d ;
A cat which was hungry, and ready to slay,
For supper, whatever might come in his way.



No sooner had, therefore, old Goody repeated
The slights with which all her petitions were
treated,

Than Mr. Grimalkin, espousing her cause,
Seiz'd the ill-natured rat in his terrible claws,
“ O spare me !” he squeaked, “ and the rope I'll
destroy ;”

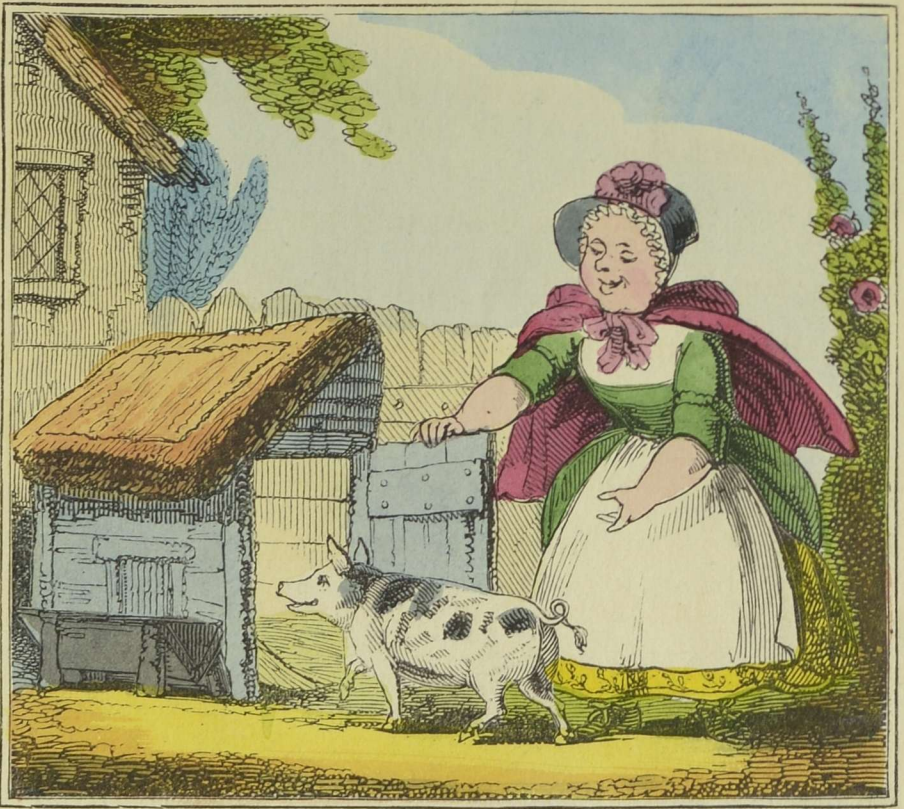
But when he began his sharp teeth to employ,
The rope to hang up the cross butcher prepar'd ;
And the butcher, that moment, most terribly
scar'd,

At the head of the ox aim'd a death-giving blow ;
But submission is better than death we all know ;
So away, at full speed, the wise animal ran
To drink up the water.—The water began
The flame to extinguish : but now 'twas the
turn

Of the fire the ill-natured crab-stick to burn.

“ Hold, hold !” said the stick, “ I am going to
flog,

Most soundly, that obstinate cur of a dog.”



“ But, Sir,” said the dog, in a terrible fright,

“ The old lady’s pig I ’m preparing to bite.”

This prov’d to be true, and his bite was severe :

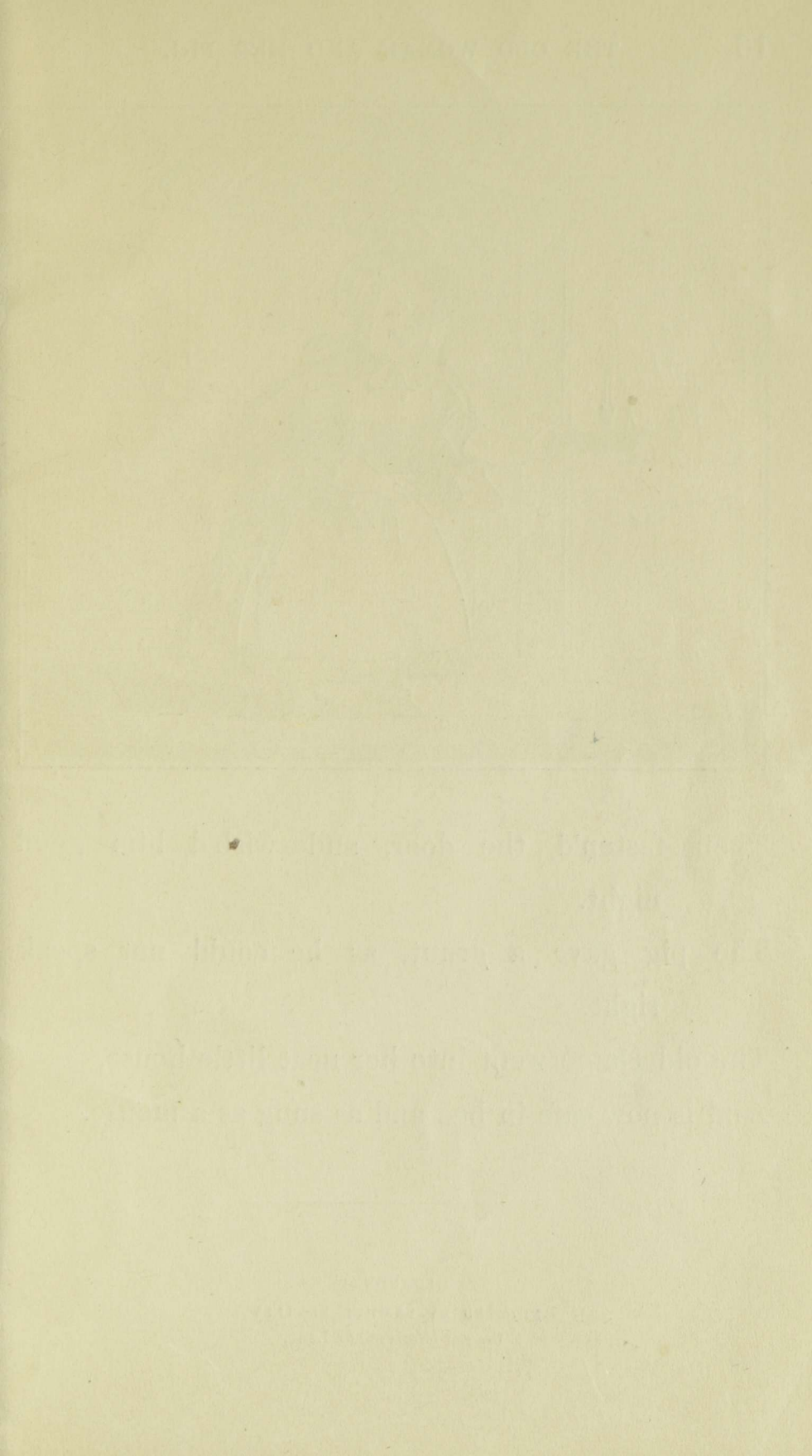
“ Oh ho !” cried the pig, “ I must not remain
here ;”

So over the stile he thought proper to get,

And Goody no more had occasion to fret ;

For the pig to his sty was now easily led,

And she put him a trough, and clean straw for a
bed :





Then fasten'd the door, and wish'd him good
night.

The pig gave a grunt, as he could not speak
right.

The old Dame went into her neat little house,
And is now safe in bed and as snug as a mouse.

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