BEHOLD here the Piper
Who whiſtles and plays,
And *Tom Thumb*, who on the rope
To and fro' ſways.

A pretty little thing
For *Johnny* and *Benny*,
Tom Thumb and the Piper,
And all for a penny.

TOM THUMB's PLAY-THING;

WITH

The LIFE of the AUTHOR:

CONTAINING,

Among other Adventures, his surprising Escape out of the Cow's BELLY.

LONDON:
Printed and Sold by JOHN MARSHALL, No. 4, *Aldermary Church-Yard, Bow-Lane*, and No. 17, *Queen-Street, Cheapside.*

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1794.

THE LIFE and ADVENTURES OF *TOM THUMB.*

IN the days of Prince *Arthur*, there lived a poor honeſt man and his wife in a country village, who had long prayed to have a ſon, though it was no bigger than one's thumb. At length, to their great joy, a ſon was born to them; but ſo exceedingly ſmall, that his mother for ſome time kept him in a walnut ſhell, covered over with wool, and when he was grown up, was no larger than his father's thumb, and was therefore chriſtened *Tom Thumb*. However, to make amends for his being ſo ſmall, a fairy told his mother, Her ſon ſhould be of ſuch a nature that nothing could hurt him, ſo long as the charm laſted.

When he came of age, he was dreſſed in a ſhirt made of a fine ſpider's web, a

coat ſpun from the down of thiſtles, a pair of ſtockings made of the rind of an apple, breeches of a cat's ear, a hat of the leaf of an oak, a pair of garters of an inch of thread, and ſhoes of a mouſe's ſkin. In this fine new dreſs he went abroad to play with the boys, where meeting with a party at play with cherry-ſtones, he ſoon got them all, by winning ſome, and ſlily jumping into their pockets for the reſt. This happened in the holidays, when his mother was making black puddings, which ſhe was buſy about when *Tom* came home; no ſooner was his mother's back turned, than he gets up to peep into the bowl in which ſhe was making her puddings, and unfortunately tumbled in over head and ears, unknown to his mother, and was made up in one of the largeſt puddings, which ſhe afterward gave a tinker for mending a hole in her kettle, and he carried it away in his budget, intending to dreſs it for his dinner; but as the tinker was getting over a ſtile he let a loud crack, to which *Tom* in

the black-pudding, replied, much good may it do you, Mr. Tinker. At this the Tinker ſtood amazed, to think what could be got into his budget, and to get rid of his fears, threw budget, pudding and all over the hedge, and ran away as faſt as he could. *Tom* was now left to make the beſt of his way out of the pudding and budget, which he did in about two days, and ran home to his mother, who was full of joy at ſeeing him; but while ſhe made an end of milking her cows, tied him with a thread to a thiſtle, leſt the wind, which then began to be very high, ſhould blow him away.

How often are mothers diſappointed? for while ſhe thought him quite ſafe, he was unfortunately devoured by a red cow, that eat up the thiſtle, *Tom* and all at one mouthful. Oh! how his mother ran hunting and calling all over the fields for poor *Tom*, who at laſt hearing her as ſhe came near the red cow, anſwered, Here am I mother. Where? ſaid ſhe. In the red cow's

belly, mother, and jumped for joy at finding his mother ſo near him; which put the cow in ſuch griping pain, that ſhe ſoon diſcharged him, but in a ſad condition: and greatly rejoiced indeed were both at his happy eſcape from the cow's belly.

Tom Thumb's father going out to ſow his corn, had an inclination to take his ſon along with him, and gave him a whip to keep the flies off, and away they went to the plow-field, where they were no ſooner come, than *Tom* tumbles into one of the deep furrows. In the mean time a kite that was over head, ſpied ſomething very buſy in the furrow, which taking for a delicious morſel, he flew down, took *Tom* in his claws, carried him clear off, and dropped him in a giant's caſtle, where he was taken up and ſwallowed by the giant, who ſoon repented of eating him, for *Tom* ſo ſcratched and kicked him in the guts, that he had no reſt night nor day. At length he went into the ſea, filled his belly full of water, and brought him up, where he muſt have periſhed, had not

a large fish that was near at hand taken him into his belly. Soon after this fish was caught, and carried to Prince *Arthur*'s court, where the cook in cutting open the fish's belly found poor *Tom*, who jumped for joy that he was on land again. The cook took the greatest care of him, and got him introduced to the Princess, who was quite delighted with him, and taught him to dance a minuet on her thumb-nail, with many other diverting tricks: Prince *Arthur* often took him on the pummel of his saddle a hunting, and once on a rainy day, the King, to shelter him, put him into his pocket, where *Tom* seeing great pieces of gold, said to the King, I have an indulgent father and mother, who are old and very poor, permit me to beg a small boon of your great riches to make their lives comfortable; which the king granted, and accordingly *Tom* and a servant set out with as much money as they both could carry, and were received by his father and mother with

greater joy than you can imagine: He ſtayed with them ſome time, and then returned to court, where he lived many years, daily diverting the Prince and Princeſs, by ſometimes riding a mouſe out a hunting, at other times jumping through her gold ring, ſkipping on the end of a tobacco-pipe, hopping on her thumb, riding a cock-horſe on her noſe, dancing a hornpipe on the tip of her chin, running a race with a cricket acroſs the table, and a number of other diverting tricks *Tom* played; till at length the charm was diſſolved, and his beſt friend, the fairy, left him. He continued ſtill to be as adventrous as ever, and being out a hunting, met with a dreadful fall, and his horſe over him, as he was riding full gallop down a mole-hill: The moſt ſkillful doctors were ordered to attend him, but to no purpoſe, *Tom* had received his death's wound; and notwithſtanding the fineſt cordials prepared by the Princeſs were given to him, he pined away and died.

A Was

A Was an Ape,
You may eaſily tell,

B Was a Bird,
That ſung very well.

C Was a Cock,
That crow'd before day,

D Was a Dog.
In a doublet they say,

E Was

E Was an Eagle,
That ſoars to the ſkies,

F Was a Fox,
Both crafty and wiſe.

G Was a Goose,
A cackling thing,

H Was a Hen,
And laid in the spring.

J Was

J Was a Jay,
That prated apace.

K Was a Knight,
And fell in disgrace.

L Was a Lion,
That ſtroll'd thro' the wood,

M Was a Mermaid,
And liv'd in the flood.

N Was

N Was a Nightingale,
And ſung very nice,

O Was an Owl,
Long fed upon mice.

P Was was a Piper,
Who bluſters and ſtruts,

Q Was a Queen,
And Queen of the ſluts.

R Was

R Was a Rebel,
Confin'd in a goal,

S Was Squirrel,
And cock'd up his tail.

T was

T Was a Trumpet,
That made a great noiſe,

V Was a Vulture,
That kills and deſtroys.

W Was a Wren,
A ſweet pretty thing,

X Was old *Xerxes*,
A fam'd *Perſian* King.

Y Was

Y Was a Youngſter,
Who climb'd up an oak,

Z Was a Zealot,
And wrapp'd in a cloak.

The

The ſun ſhines moſt bright,

The moon gives a light.

The Crown's a curious thing,

Fit only for a King.

The

The Dunce plays the fool,

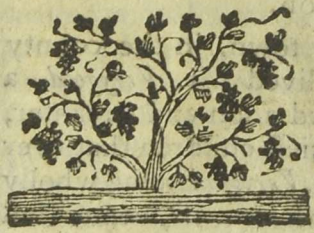
And is whipp'd at ſchool.

The Roſe is very ſweet,

The Hare is very fleet.

The

The Vine bears lovely fruit,



The Bear cannot get to't.

The Frog looks very ſilly.

The Plum will ſerve for *Billy*.

The

The Reward of Learning *and* Virtue, *exemplified in the History of Master and Miss* VERYGOOD.

IN an opulent town, in the county of *Goodluck*, lived Mr. *Verygood*, a saddler, who had a son and daughter, two of the prettiest children that ever were seen. Mr. *Verygood* being wholly taken up with his business, committed the care of their infant education to his wife, who made it her study to give them such learning, and instil into their minds those maxims, that were most likely to make them good and happy; for it was a saying of hers,

If love of learning does but once prevail,
'T will give content when friends and money fail.

When they became capable of thinking, they made it so much a rule to obey their parents the moment they signified their pleasure, that by this means they avoided many accidents and

and misfortunes. For example, *Tommy* was running giddily one day round the brink of a well, and if he had made the leaſt falſe ſtep muſt have certainly fallen to the bottom, and been drowned; but his mamma, by a ſign from her finger that called him to her, preſerved him, and then laid before him, how much his ſafety and happineſs depended on being obedient to her commands.

Tommy was very fond of his ſiſter: as an inſtance of this, one day when they were playing in the field together, there was a ſmall rivulet that ſtopped *Nancy* in her way: *Tommy* being nimble, and better able to jump, with one ſpring leaped over, but his ſiſter being unable to follow him, he came back again, and helped her over likewiſe. From this circumſtance their parents took an opportunity of demonſtrating the uſe *Tommy* might be of to her in life, and that ſhe ought

in

in return to do her utmoſt to be obliging to him.

They paſſed their time thus agreeably together, till a gentleman, who was told of *Tommy*'s pretty behaviour, ſent for him to his houſe, and when he came of age put him apprentice to a linen-draper in *London*, and at his death left him heir to his eſtate.

By this time his ſiſter, who had followed his ſteps, and took equal delight in learning, married greatly to her advantage. Mr. *Verygood* and his wife left off buſineſs, and retired farther into the country, with the joy of the well doing of their children, and paſſed the remainder of their lives in happineſs and content.

THE END.

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