

HERE WE ARE AGAIN





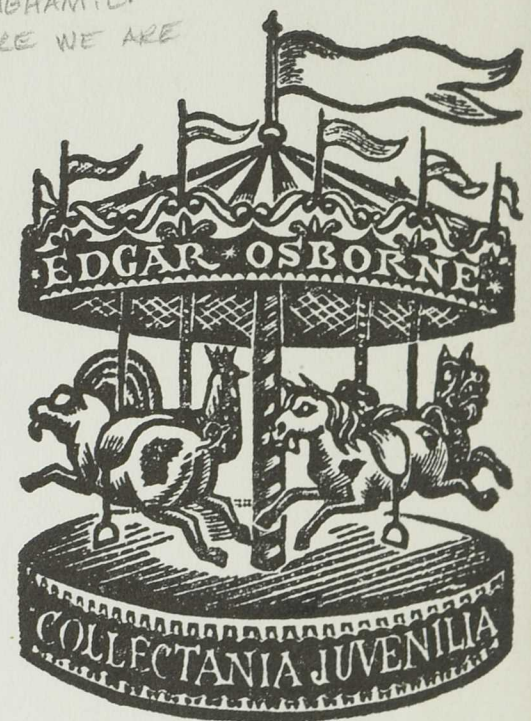
Here we are Again!

Our frowns are really frightful!
The saddest sighs we heave!
But we all can smile in the shortest while,
In the Land of Make-believe.

For we're the Young Pretenders,
As you can well perceive,
And we live in the Town of Half-a-crown,
In the Land of Make-believe.



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BINGHAM, C.
HERE WE ARE



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HERE WE ARE AGAIN!

A Little Play Book

With some Verses by Clifton Bingham

Here we are again! we've come to play for you,
All our jokes are old, but all our songs are new;
Toby, Judy, Punch,
With frill, and cap and hunch,
My little dear, oh, don't you hear, our Rooti-tooti-too?

Here we are again! we've come to play for you,
Sixpence is our fee, but a penny—that might do;
The show will soon begin—
Walk in! walk in! walk in!

Each little dear come running here, to our Rooti-tooti-too.

Pictures by
G.F. CHRISTIE.

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SOSO'S BAND

(By Royal Command)

Chapter I.

Of course, when Soso started his Band, he intended to make a noise in the world. And he did. The big Trombone helped him, but, as long as he had breath, he helped it, which was very good of him.

He had only a wooden drum, it is true, but it made a lot of noise, and the Euphonium, which Soso would insist on calling "youfunnyone," that helped as well.

The neighbours didn't like it at all.

Chapter II.

When Toodles had taken the kitten out of the "youfunnyone," Soso started his band. Directly the next door cat heard it, she fled. "I'm ashamed of you," she mewed, as distinctly as possible. But Soso did not hear, so he went on conducting. It was a lovely noise.

Oh, have you heard of Soso's Band?
It is the finest in the land!

The bandsmen dress in blue and gold,

And none are more than nine years old.

You'd think their instruments would break,
With all the lovely noise they make!



I should be most extremely proud
If I could tootle half so loud.

Chapter III.

Soon after, Soso got an engagement to play at a Fashionable Restaurant. You know the sort of place I mean, where you get things to eat and drink. But when Soso's Band started, everybody ran away. He made such a noise that the waiters couldn't wait, and the diners couldn't dine. The noise of the drum nearly broke Lord Sillyface's eyeglass, and he grumbled most dreadfully.

Dining Out

Their servants have a holiday,
They kindly said they might;
They cannot dine at home, so they
Are dining out to-night!

"Please, waiter, will you take my hat,
Give madame, too, a chair;
We're really very hungry, both,
So bring the bill of fare!"

"There's nothing here I like," said she,
"It's far too rich, indeed,
Just something simple, something nice,
Is really all I need!"

Cried he, "My order, waiter, take—
I know just what will do ;



Two cups of tea, some currant cake,
And bread and jam for two !”

Chapter IV.

So Soso took his Band away, and started to play outside the windows and doors in the streets and squares.

Then things happened.

For Soso met an Italiano-piano-organo man, who wouldn't leave off playing, even for Soso, and the Italian dog barked at him, in Italian—of course he was really supposed to be a monkey, only he was nothing but a dog with four legs, one at each corner. And Soso conducted himself—into the next street.

Italiano

We are poor Italiano,
With our baby, and piano,
Tambourine and monkey, too,—
Shall we play some tunes to you?

All our music very sweet,
And the people down the street,
Shake their fist and tell us they
Hear it better miles away!

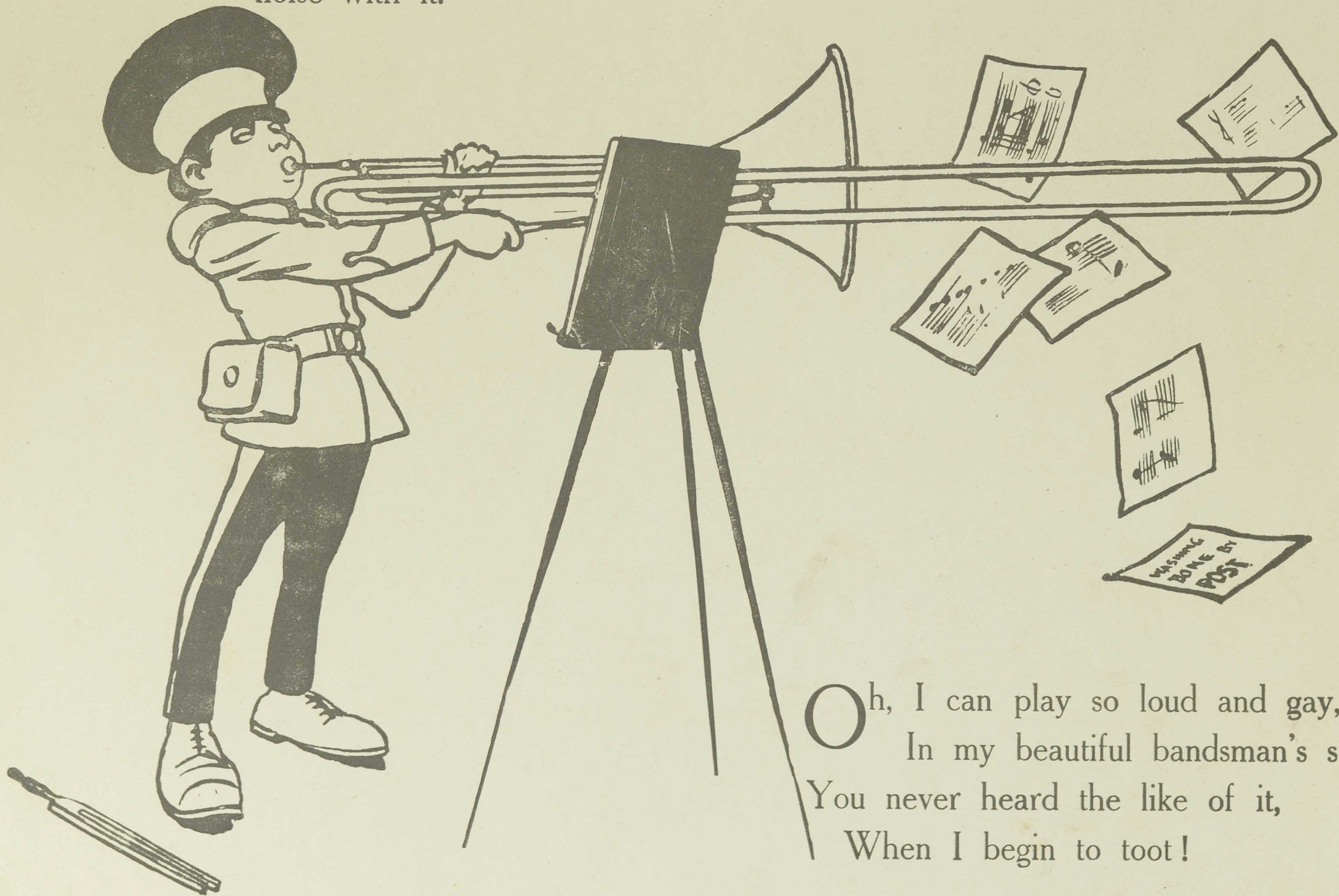
We just come from Italy,
Long, long way across the sea ;



Spare a penny if you can,
For a hungry organ man !

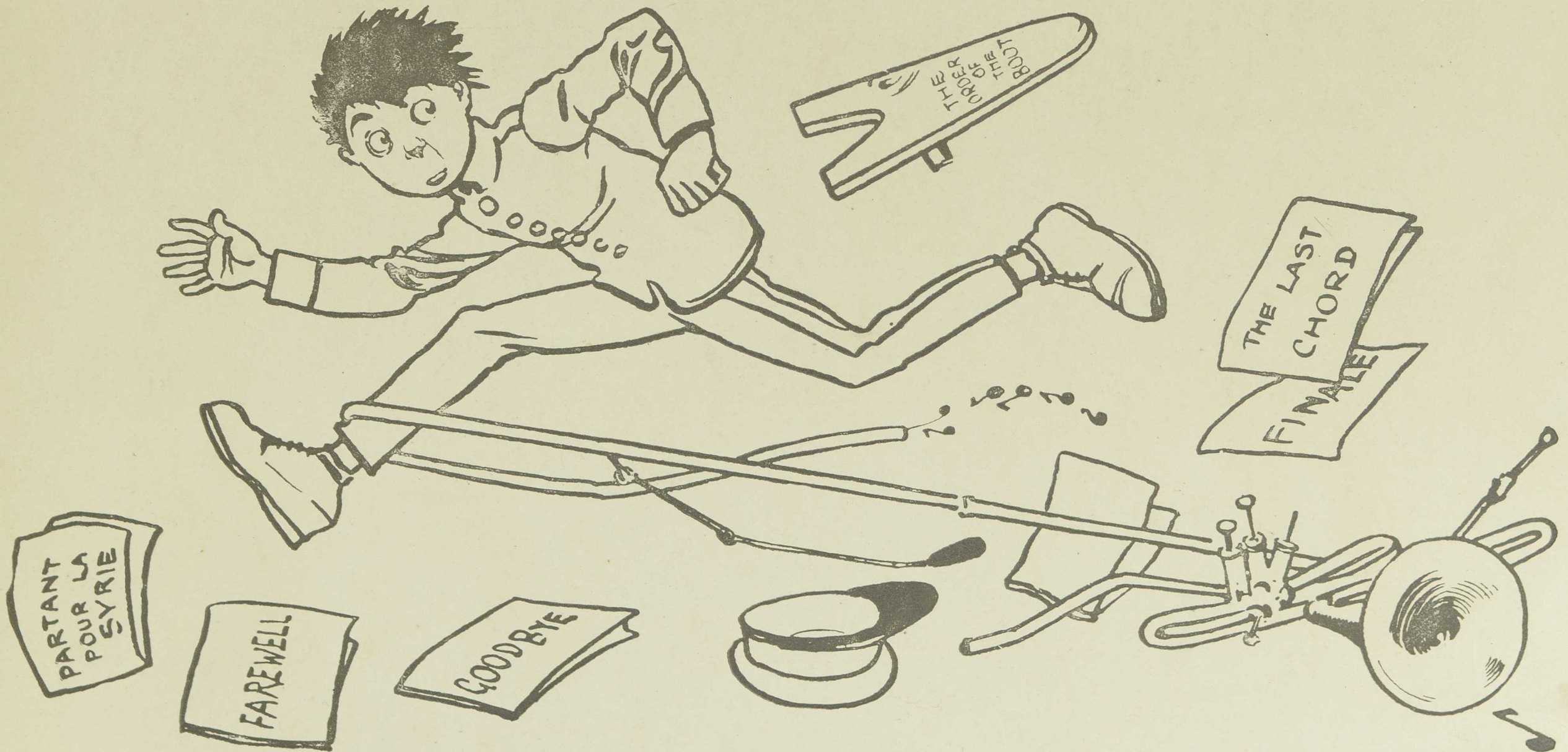
Chapter V.

After this, Soso thought he would be a band all by himself. And he was! He had a Trombone as long as a yard of pumpwater, and he did make a noise with it.



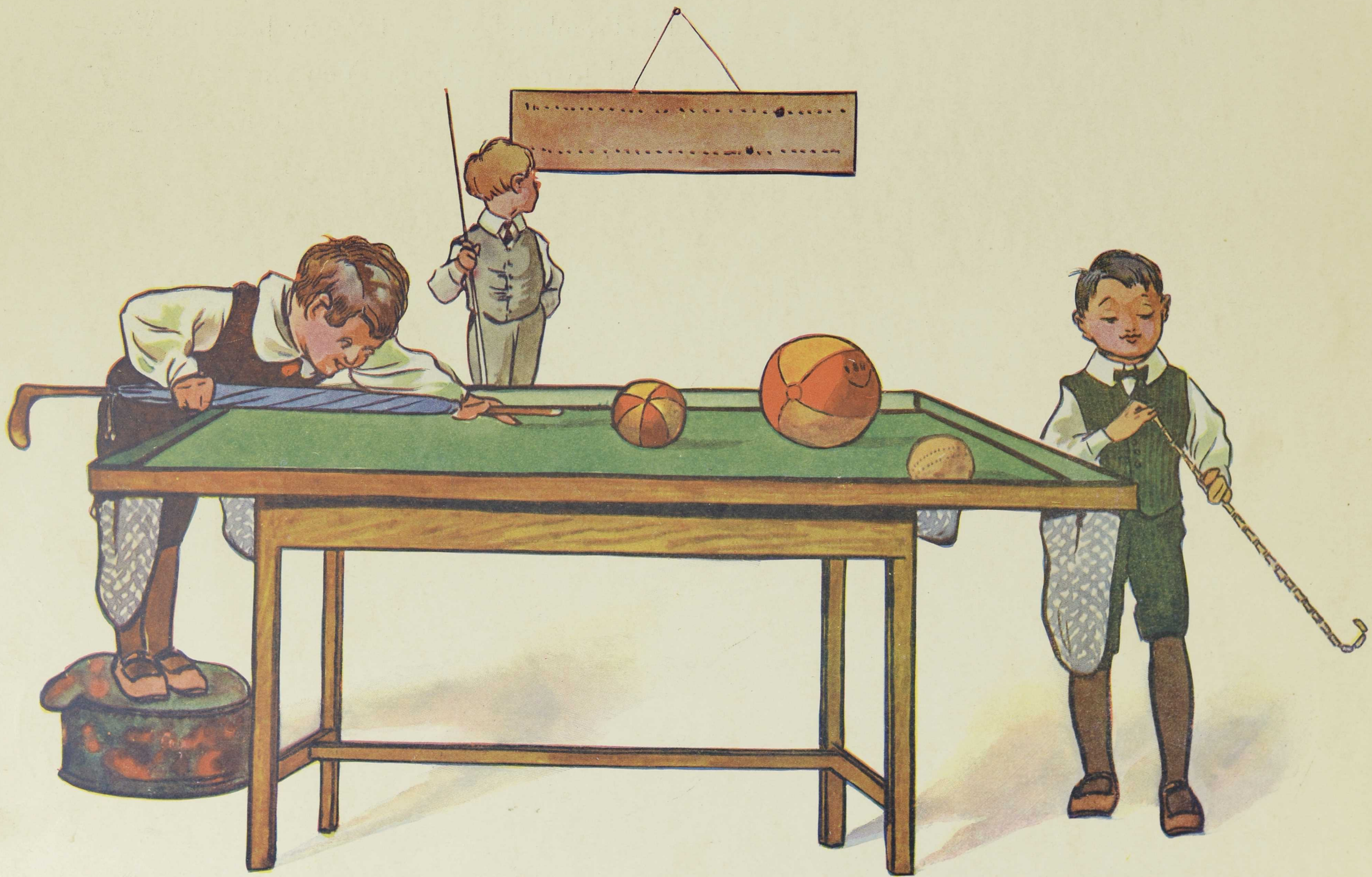
Oh, I can play so loud and gay,
In my beautiful bandsman's suit,
You never heard the like of it,
When I begin to toot!

It had to be put a stop to somehow, so they stopped it at last, and this was how they did it. Soso started playing his Trombone and Sonny Jim and Wee McGreegor and Ally Sloper happened to come along. You will very likely meet them again in a minute. "Hoy!" said Sloper. "Aye!" said McGreegor. "Shoosh!" said Sonny Jim. And Soso had to 'Shoosh' at once.



But the people here have a very bad ear,
Though extremely straight they throw;

They are not fond of music, and
They've plainly told me so!



Umbrella Billiards

Of all the games from east to west,
Umbrella billiards is the best,—
But then, I must explain, we play
In rather an unusual way!

Cannons and flukes and pockets count
Exactly each the same amount—
And what's remarkable is this,
There's not a stroke that you can miss!

So when the game at last is done,
The bother is, to know who's won—
And if you can't find out, why, then
You simply start it all again!

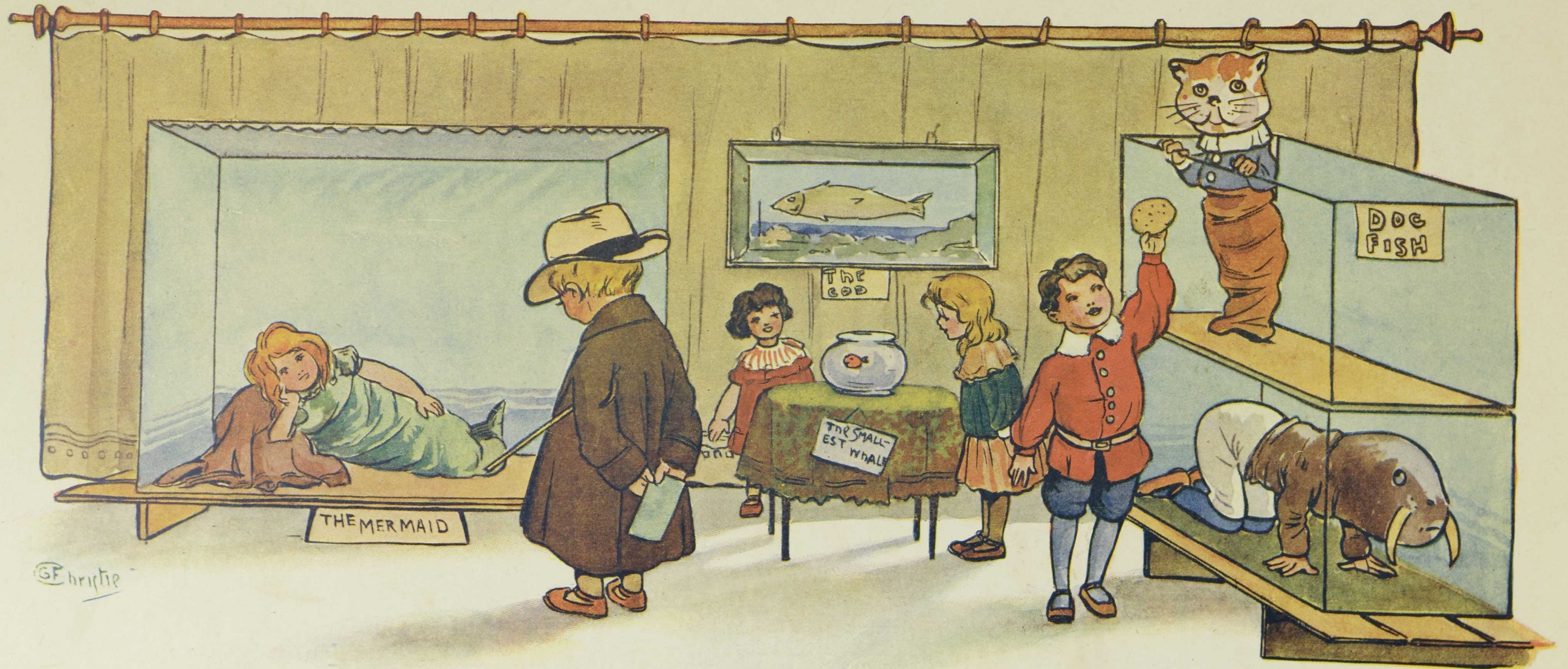
Chapter VII.

But he left his Trombone behind him ; so, as he couldn't play that, he played billiards. It was a splendid game, even if you didn't know how to play it. It made the marker laugh so, that he forgot to mark, so nobody knows to this day who won the game, but it must have been one or the other.

Last time was this

The Aquarium

Good people all, make haste and
Leave all your work and play,



And look at our Aquarium—
It only lasts to-day!

We have a lovely mermaid here,
A dog-fish, too, on show,
A seal who speaks quite plain and clear
And says "I told you so!"

But please don't stare at them too hard,
They mind it very much—
And "Visitors," says the notice-card,
"Are requested not to touch!"

Chapter VIII.

"I'm sick of music," said Soso, "let us go into this Mewseeum of Professor Purr.'s"
So they went in.

It was a lovely sight. The mermaid was beautiful. Soso said he wished he had his Trombone with him, so that he could play her a solo. But he hadn't. So he couldn't. But he was very annoyed when he found that the dog-fish didn't know how to bark.

A Hearty Meal



There were three jolly sportsmen
Went out to dine one day ;
They all had asked each other,
So no one had to pay.

The first was Ally Sloper,
The next was Sonny Jim,
The third was Wee MacGreegor—
No doubt you've heard of him?

And one had Force—a plateful,—
And one had ginger-beer,—
The third, he wanted porridge,
But there was none, I fear!

While Sloper opened bottles,
And Jim the Force did munch,
He said, "D'ye call this dinner?
It isn't even lunch!"

Chapter IX.

Then Soso met Wee MacGreegor, Sonny Jim, and Ally Sloper again. And they were all as happy as could be. So was Soso, because Sonny Jim had found his Trombone. "Whoosh!" said MacGreegor. And Soso started to "Whoosh" at once.

"Hoy!" said Ally Sloper. "Go away!" said Sonny Jim.

And if you look round the corner you will see Soso, going away as fast as his legs can carry him.

HIGH JINKS

By Tiddleywinks

Chapter I.

And there were High Jinks, too, I can tell you. Especially when we started out in the Air-bus, and ran into an Air-policeman.

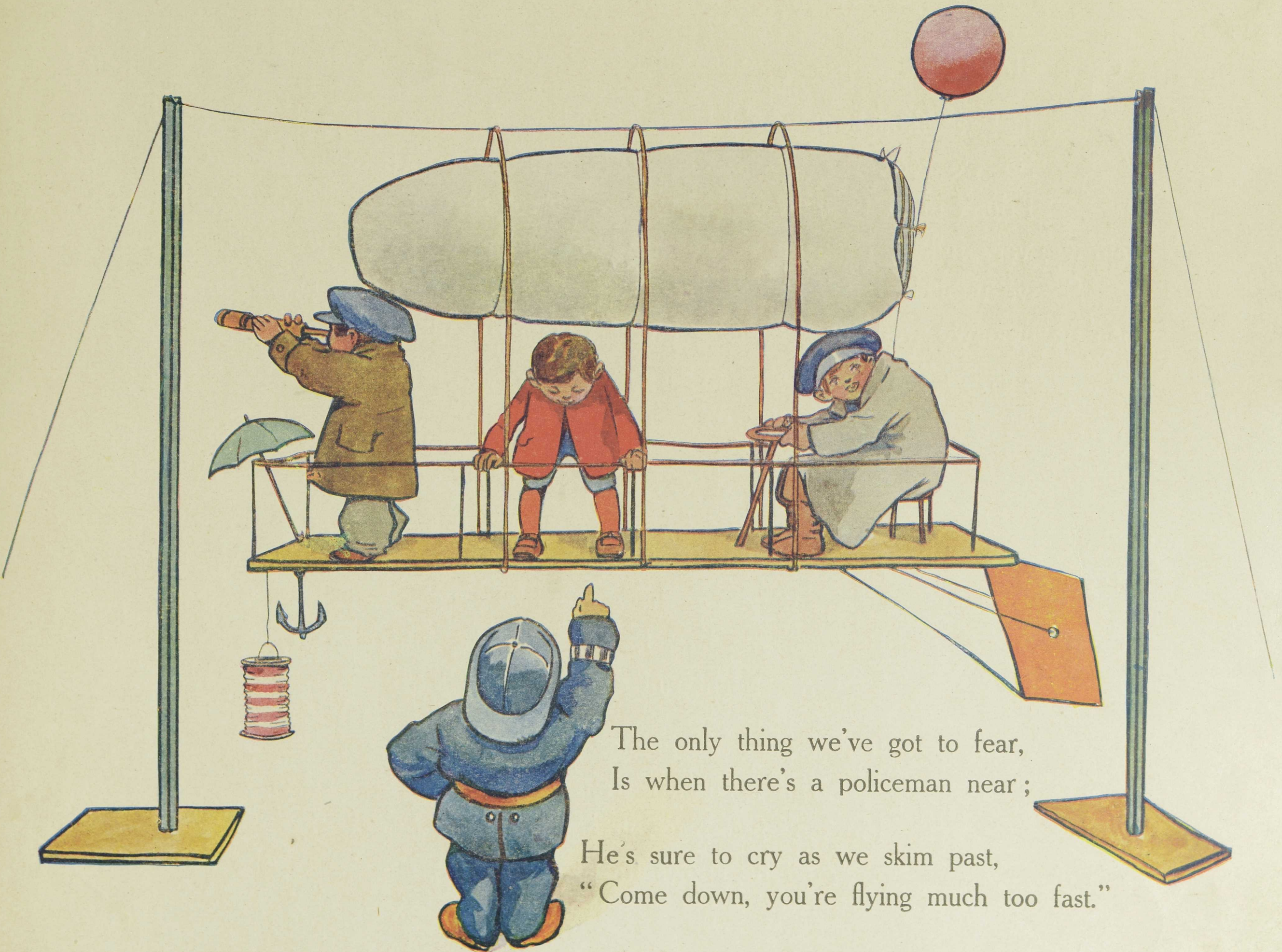
“Come down,” said he.

But we only went on! He got so cross, which is a very uncomfortable getness when you're a policeman.

We didn't care, so we went upper and upper. Then all of a sudden the Air-bus became an Air-bust, and we came back to earth. But the Policeman was so amused, that he forgot all about his crossness.

Oh, folks may talk of Airships fine,
There's nowhere one like this of mine;
It really is, 'twixt me and you,
The finest craft that ever flew!

Of course it will be understood,
It cost a lot of rope and wood;
But then you don't meet, every day,
With Air-ships built in quite this way.



The only thing we've got to fear,
Is when there's a policeman near;
He's sure to cry as we skim past,
"Come down, you're flying much too fast."

Chapter II.

After that we thought it would be safer to have the next High Jink on land. So we took the Cooke's Special Excursion to There-and-Back-Again. I don't mind telling you that we were there at once if not sooner. The train was very full, and the engine was not a strong one, so it soon got out of puff. So we unhitched it, and put it at the other end of the train, and in less than no time we were back again. Nothing could be quicker.

The Leeds Express

This is the famous Leeds express,
It goes at half-past nine ;
But don't be late, for it cannot wait,
Or it might run off the line !

It is a kind of a motor train,
With a golliwogg engineer—
He took first place in a donkey race,
And he knows the way to steer.

But if we find it takes too long,
We must change our plans, you see:
If we don't arrive at Leeds by five,
We shall all come home to tea!



GEhrstie

Chapter III.

Well, we thought we had had enough of Jink Travelling for a while, so we had a lovely Punch and Judy Show. We forgot that Punch and Judy, to say nothing of Dog Toby, and the Baby, were travellers all over the world!

Still, that didn't matter much. We had a lovely show and made ever so much noise. It would have been all right, only Toby wouldn't act properly.

In the end, we had to play it without him!

Punch and Judy

Come and see our Punch and Judy,
It's the finest ever seen,
Though it has not yet been witnessed
By our Gracious King and Queen!

Punch is such a funny fellow,
Judy, too, is young and fair;
Our dog Toby is so clever,
Plays his part with greatest care.

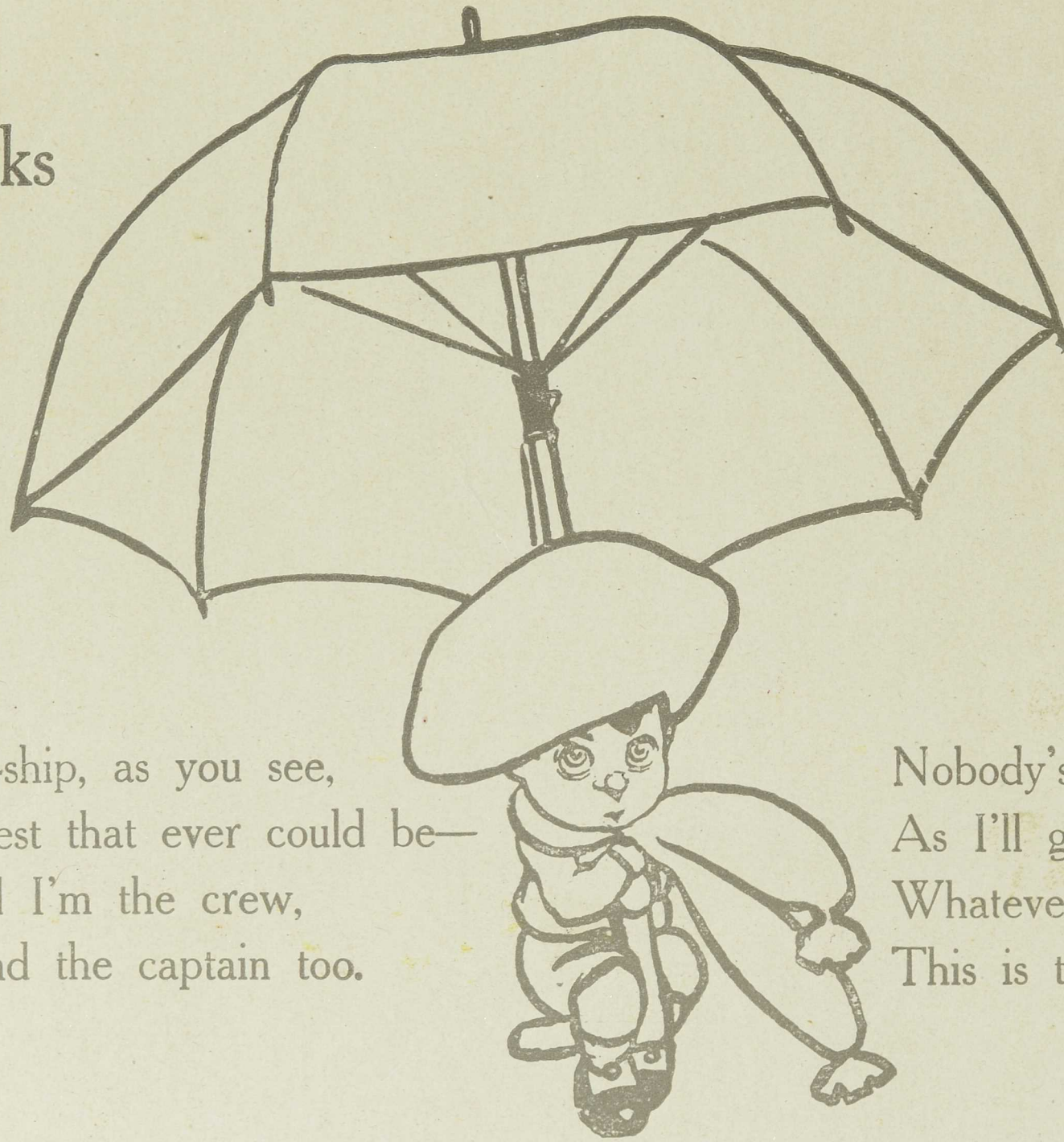
Other shows put up their shutters,
When they see our show arrive ;



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Theirs, you see, are only dummies—
Our performers are alive !

High Jinks

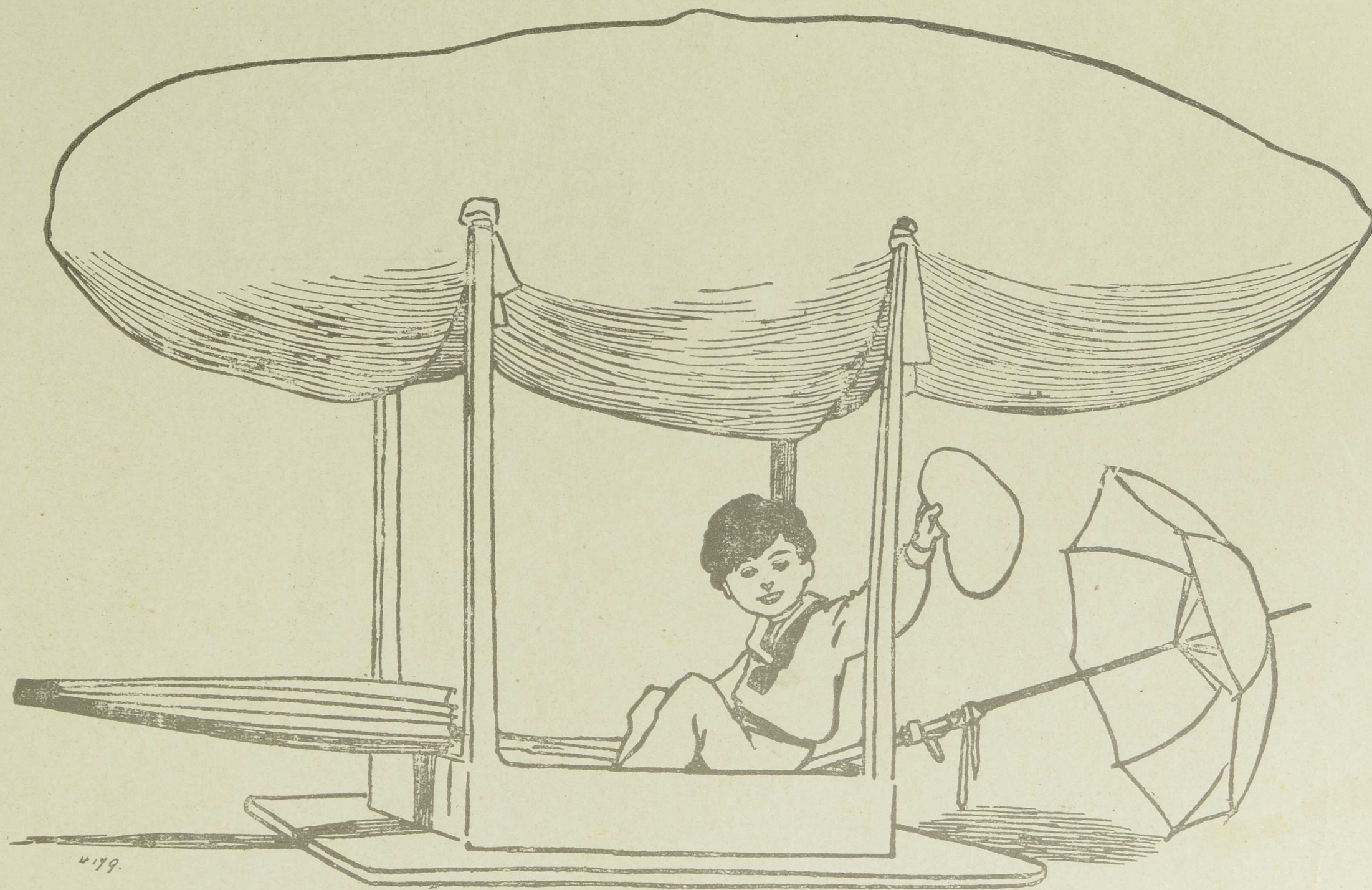


This beautiful Air-ship, as you see,
Is quite the best that ever could be—
I made it myself, and I'm the crew,
And I'm the mate and the captain too.

Nobody's ever gone quite so high,
As I'll go voyaging up the sky:
Whatever anyone says or thinks,
This is the highest of all high jinks!

Chapter IV.

It was a fine day, and we were having all these High Jinks in the garden.
So we were not surprised when a Parachute arrived, with the Boykin
holding on tight to it. He was only little, we were so glad to see him.



“I thought of coming by Airship,” he said, “but at the last minute I found I hadn’t got a Flying License, and as I didn’t want to be fined a brass farthing for breaking the Law, I took my Parachute. Hope you like it.” We all said we did.

The Conjuror

Ladies and gents, I don't deceive,
I've really nothing up my sleeve ;



Christie

You all could see, if you would look,
This Bunny from this hat I took !

No doubt you might suppose that it
Was difficult: no, not a bit!
I say, "Hey Presto!"—give a shake—
And there's the rabbit, no mistake.

And if you don't believe it's true,
This wondrous trick I'm showing you—
Well, then, to make it clear and plain,
I'll put the Bunny back again!

Chapter V.

You've never seen me conjure, have you?" said the Boykin; "if you are all very good you shall."

So we were all very good, and we did.

And the way he brought things out of Daddy's Sunday hat was marvellous. It is true that the Rabbit was brought out of the Toy Cupboard first, but as the Boykin explained to us, the Rabbits in the garden every one ran away when he asked them to come on the platform and help him!

Too bad of them, wasn't it?

The Steamboat

“Steam’s up Madame, all aboard,
We are starting soon,
Pleased to take you for a nice
Trip this afternoon!”



“Danger! not a tiny bit,”
So the captain cried;
“This fine steamboat could not sink,
Even if she tried!”

“I assure you, Madam, when
On her deck you stand,
You’re as safe as if you were
Standing on dry land!”

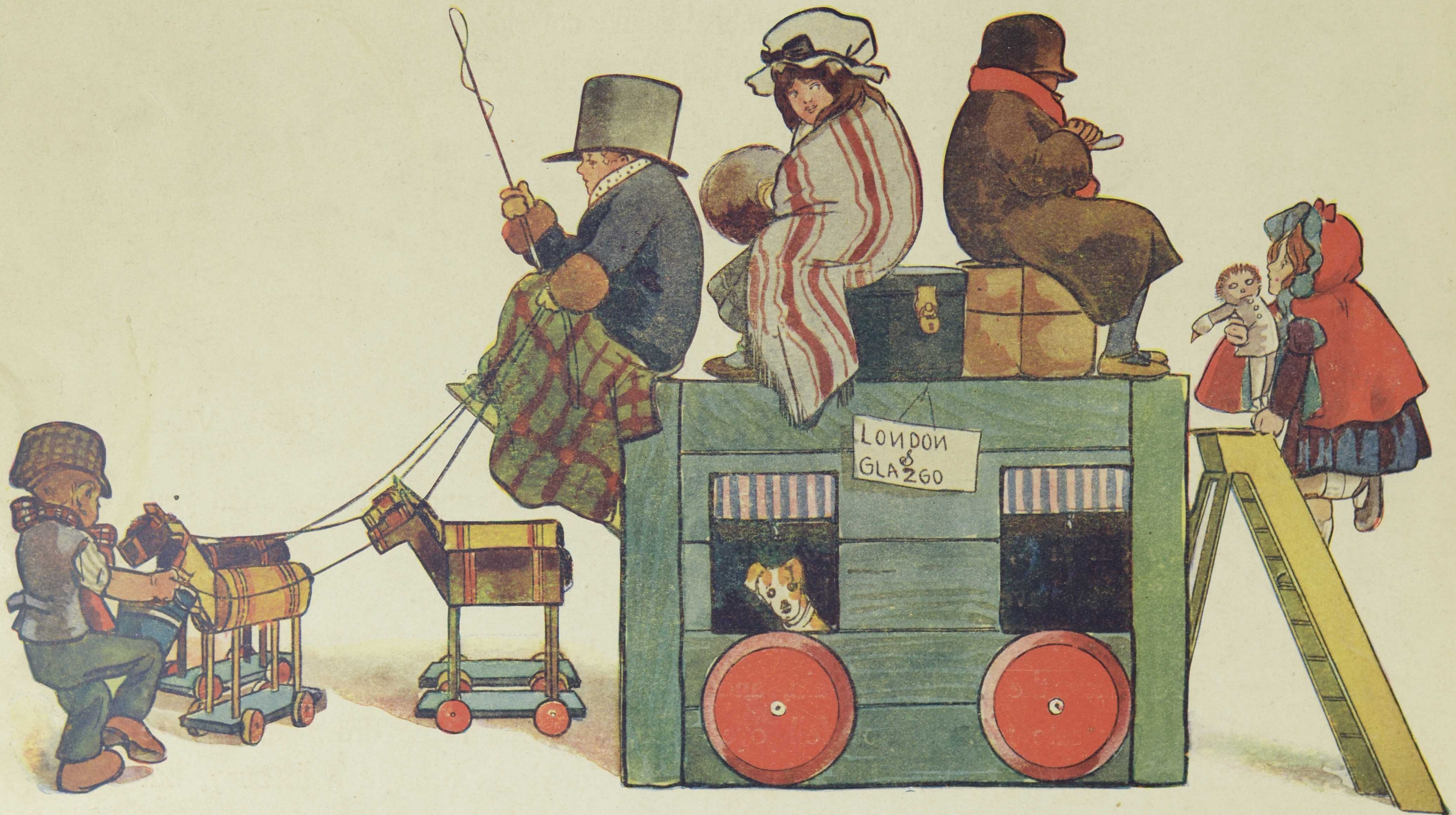
Chapter VI.

Just then it came on to rain, so we ran indoors at once. Rain, when you stop out in it, makes you so wet, you know.

“Let’s have a Jink-trip by Steamer,” said the Boykin.
“Splendid!” we all said at once. So we did.

We made the Boykin captain, and it was a lovely steamer, as you can see, and properly safe too. If you fell overboard, you couldn’t be drowned, because it was quite a new kind of Dryland Boat. Curlylocks brought a lifebuoy, but we were none of us a little bit afraid.

The Nursery Coach



The coach is ready, take your seats,
There still is room for one:

O, how we'll rattle down the streets,
When once our drive's begun!

We all prefer the coach's top,
It's much the best, you'll own:
The passenger that sits inside,
Is feeling rather lone.

But if it should come on to rain,
And heavy clouds I see—
No doubt the outside passengers,
Will keep him company!

Chapter VII.

When we got home from that High Jink, some of us were tired. No wonder, we had travelled so far that afternoon.

So we took the Nursery Coach for Bedfordshire, which is a very nice journey-jink when you are sleepy. And we were, I can tell you. High Jinks is Hard Work if you do it properly. We put Toby inside, and Baby brought her dolly. We all wrapped ourselves up warm and comfy, and the Boykin drove, and—and—

Well, that's all I remember.

Aiston Digman



GOOD
BYE

