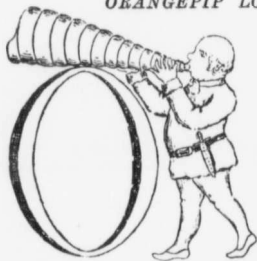


The Adventures of Prince Melonseed

PART I.

ORANGEPIP LOST AND FOUND.



IN a lovely island, far away in the Sunny South, there once lived a fairy nation. These fairies were tiny people (the King's own Bodyguard of soldiers, chosen from the tallest men in the land, were not more than ten inches high), but in appearance, and in their way of talking and acting they did not differ much from the people we all meet every day of our lives, as you will see.

The King lived in a beautiful palace on the outskirts of the city, and the grounds of the palace extended to the white sea sand. The building consisted of only two grand halls, called the Banqueting Hall and the Social Hall, standing side by side and connected by an avenue of palms. But it was not built of stone or marble, like