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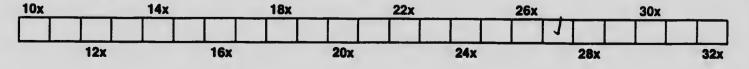
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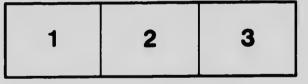
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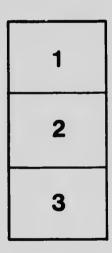
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WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MARGUERITE BULLER ALLAN

LONDON: JOHN LANE THE BODLEY HEAD NEW YORK: JOHN LANE COMPANY TORONTO: S. B. GUNDY MCMIVII

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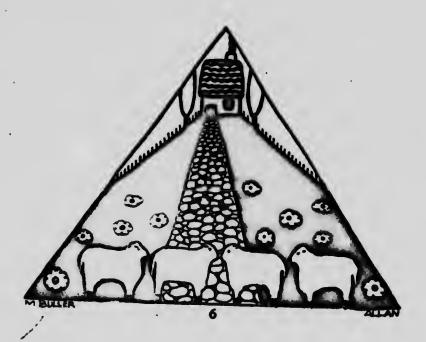
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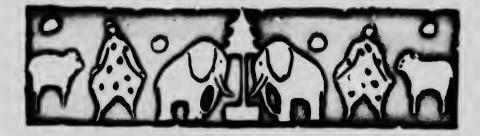
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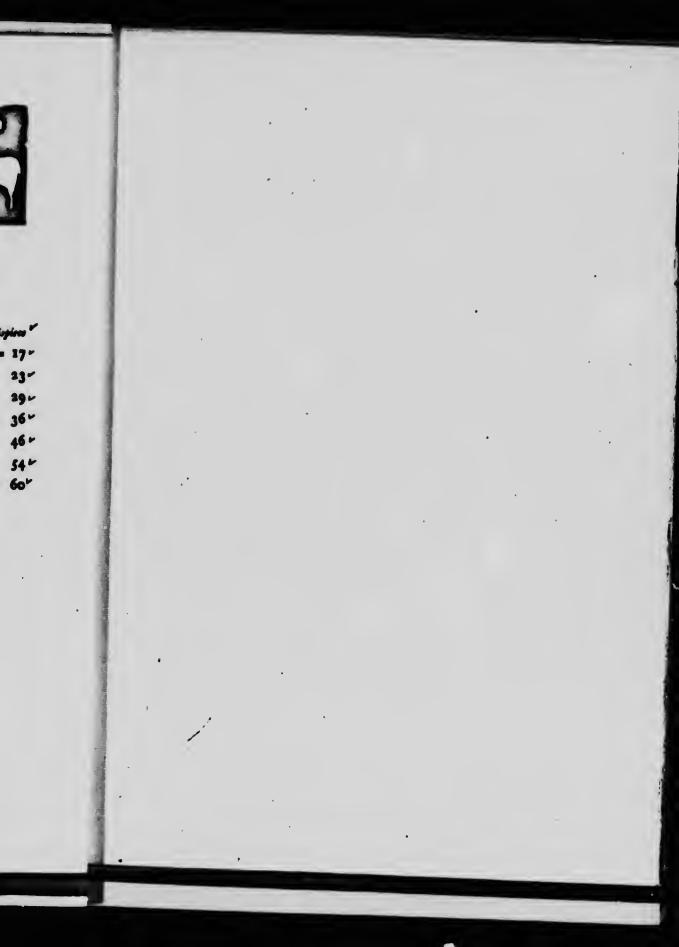
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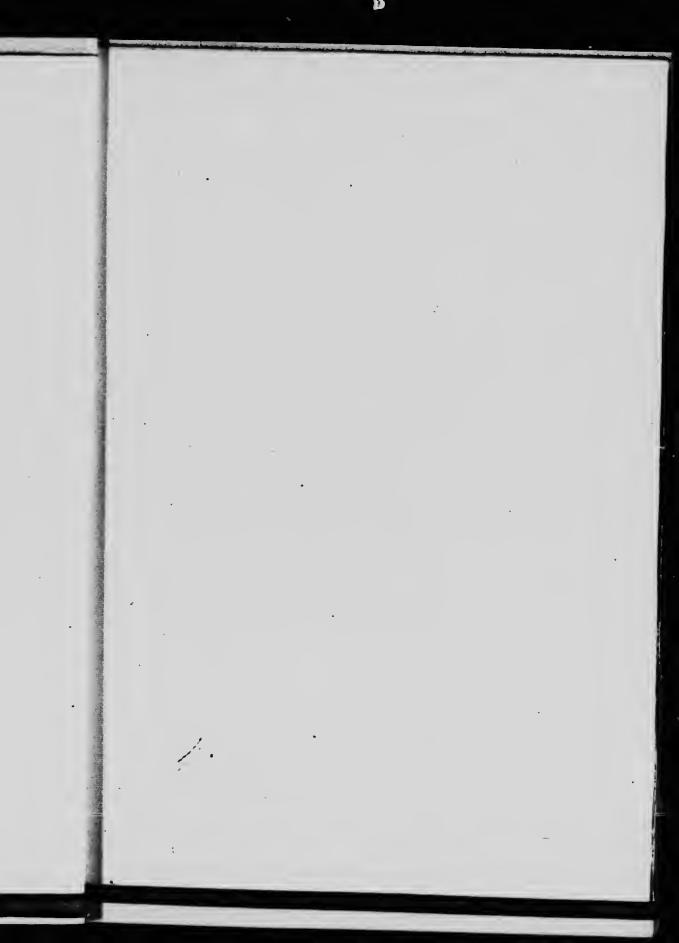


A number of these verses have appeared in the Youth's Companion and St. Nicheles, and are reprinted here by the courtesy of the editors of those journals.



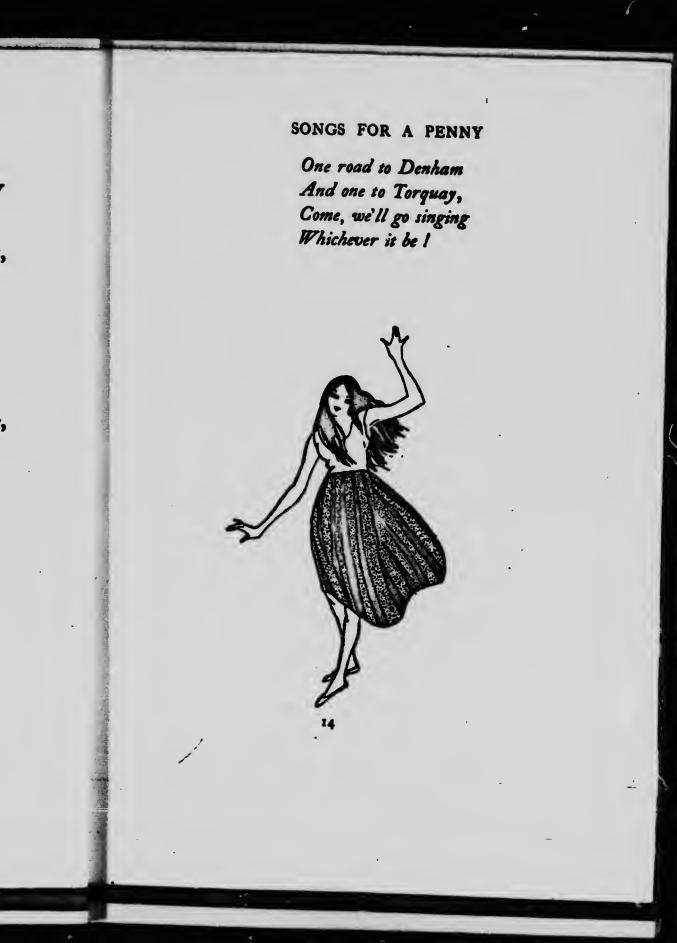






SONGS FOR A PENNY

CONGS for a penny, songs for a penny, J Give me your pennies, If you have any. And if you haven't What do I care? Here I stand singing Out in the square. You can buy peaches and raspberry wine, But the wild grapes for me Sweet and warm on the vine; Barefoot and tattered My curls all unbound Still I go singing About and around ; Your houses have doors That you lock with a key, But the meadows are open, The meadows are free.



AT THE ZOO

A TOUSLED cub behind the bars I watched while at the Zoo, Playing and rolling with a ball, As children like to do.

He seemed to be a friendly sort, And so I stopped to chat. "How do you do, young Mr. Bear?" I said, and doffed my hat.

"Thank you for asking, stranger child, I'm feeling very well; But oh, I hate this dusty cage Far more than I can tell!"

So he replied, and then he said, "I simply long for trees, For deep green pools and forests cool— Are there no more of these?"

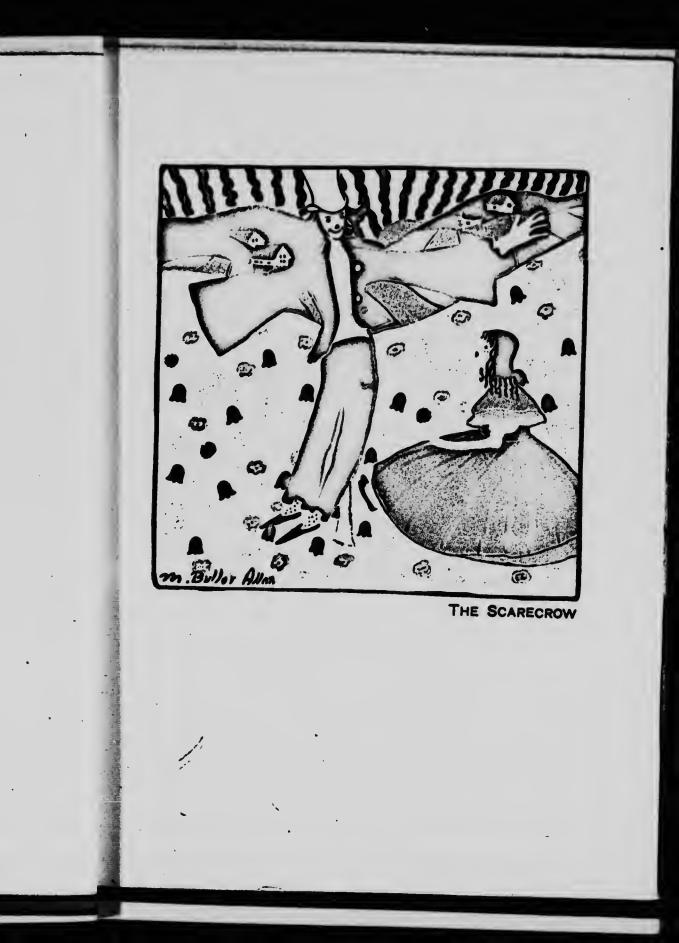
AT THE ZOO

He stared at me, forgot his play, Poor jolly little bear; It seemed to me he was in jail In that enclosure there.

They've taken from him all he loves— The woods, the pools, the sun, And in exchange, they offer him A little currant bun !







THE SCARECROW

THE scarecrow watched the moon come up And laughed both long and loud, The timid disconcerted moon Sank back behind a cloud.

And when the morning sun shone out, The scarecrow mocked the sun, He laughed so much the cars of wheat. Joined gaily in his fun.

"The splendid sun and stately moon, Why do you jeer at these, Whose beauty every poet sings?" I asked him. "Tell me, please."

THE SCARECROW

The scarecrow in a softened mood, Wept very bitterly. He said, "I have to laugh at them Or they would laugh at me."



AN AMBITIOUS KITTEN

"I HAVE a plan," the kitten cried, "to celebrate my name,

To write 'Belinda Wonder Cat' upon the hall of fame. I plan to kill a hundred mice upon a single day And then to kill as many rats, should any come my way. I have a plan to catch a bird, an owl, maybe, or two, To hold him with my little paw and see what he could do; I plan to race with butterflies, to climb the highest tree, I'll make the biggest dogs my friends, if any dogs I see; All this and more I mean to do, some day,—my secret keep,

For now," the little kitten said, "I think I'll tak sleep !"



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THE NEST

ALL day I watched a busy crow A-building of her nest, With twigs and tiny bits of fluff Where baby crows might rest.

I wish that my mama would make A tiny nest for me, I'd like to have a little bed Well hidden in a tree.

For then I'd talk with all the birds A-singing in the pine, A little nest beneath the moon, Oh ! wouldn't that be fine !



MY BROTHER IS A SOLDIER

MY brother is a soldier bold-A soldier's like a king, So fine and tall and oh, so strong, As brave as anything !

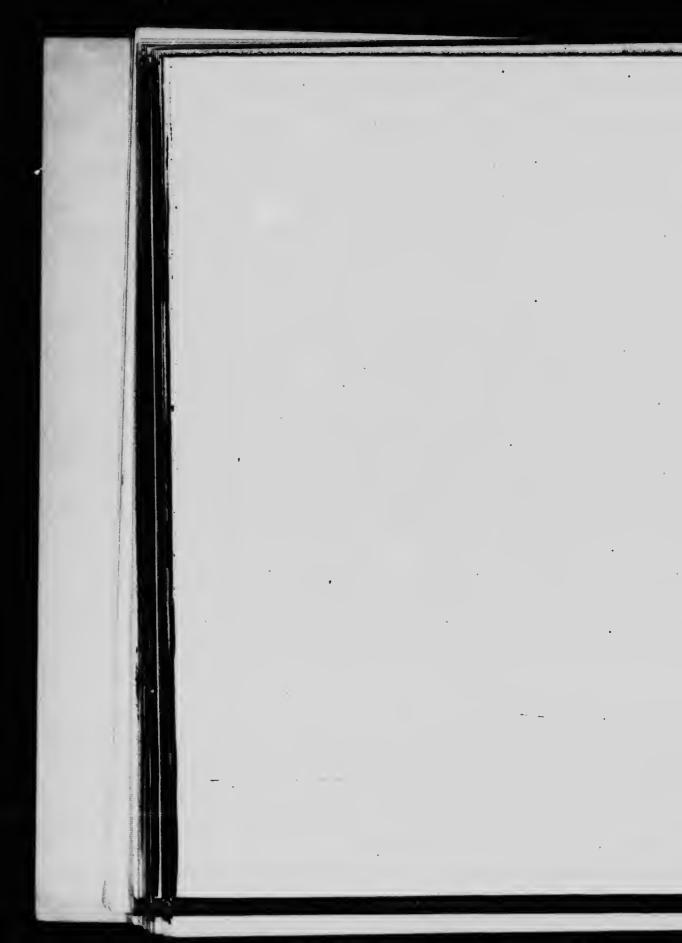
He's always dressed in khaki clothes With buckles made of gold; When he comes home I'm very good And do what I am told.

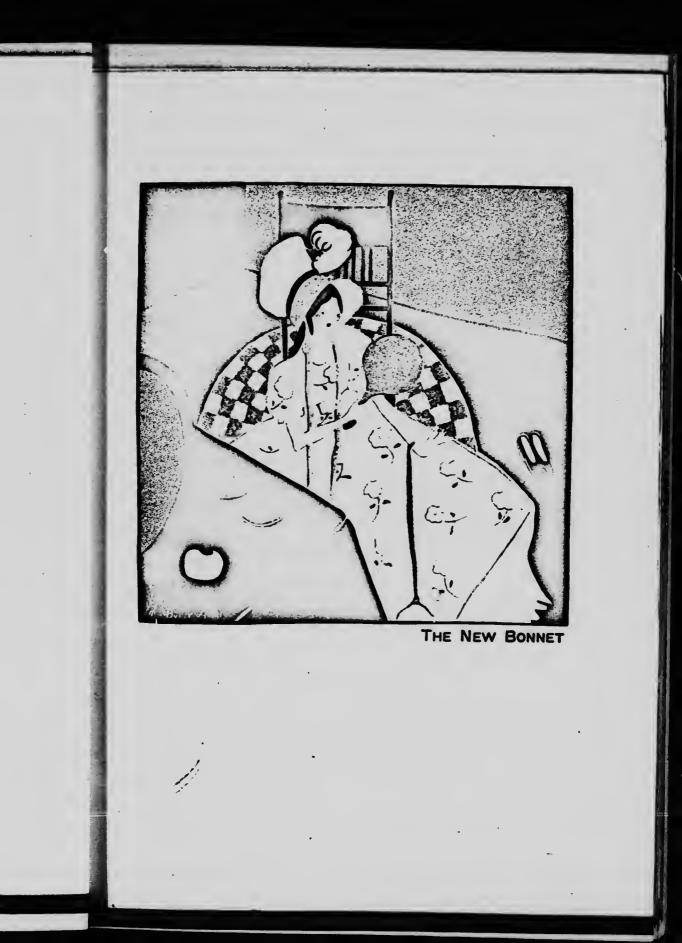
He throws aside his gloves and whip And takes me on his knee, And tells me it's a splendid thing A little boy to be.

MY BROTHER IS A SOLDIER

But when he mounts upon his horse And gallops quickly by, I long so much to be a man I always want to cry.







THE NEW BONNET

I HAVE a new bonnet, There's velvet upon it, And ribbons and laces so fine, And when I'm dressed in it I hope every minute The sun will continue to shine !



THE DISAGREEABLE BULLDOG

THE poodle said, "How fine I look !" And wagged his tail for joy, The bulldog thought that such conceit He would at once destroy.

And so he said, "My poor young man, You really are a sight, With half your hair shaved off that way You simply look a fright!"

The bulldog spoke this way because He was a jealous beast, And when the poodle grieved and wept He cared not in the least.

THE DISAGREEABLE BULLDOG

He just continued mocking him : You never would have guessed How much he envied in his heart The way the poodle dressed !



25

THE ORCHARD

THE orchard has a hundred trees, And all so slim and fine, Each powdered with pale apple bloom They straightly stand in line.

The wind and raindrops love them well And all the world besides, I think they look exactly like A row of little brides !



WAS IT A DREAM

AN insect lived in a narrow cocoon (Like a poor little nun in a cell,) But sometimes she looked at the people outside And so there's a story to tell.

Once came a butterfly dancing about And she called to the shy little nun, "You're an insect like me, so why do you hide Away from the beautiful sun?"

She flashed all the colours that shone in her dress-And she told of what stuff it was made, Then deep in the shade of the gloomy cocoon The dear little nun was afraid.

She wept, and she fell fast asleep, and she dreamt Of a frock that was scarlet and blue. . . . She opened the door of her dull little cell And off in the sunshine she flew.

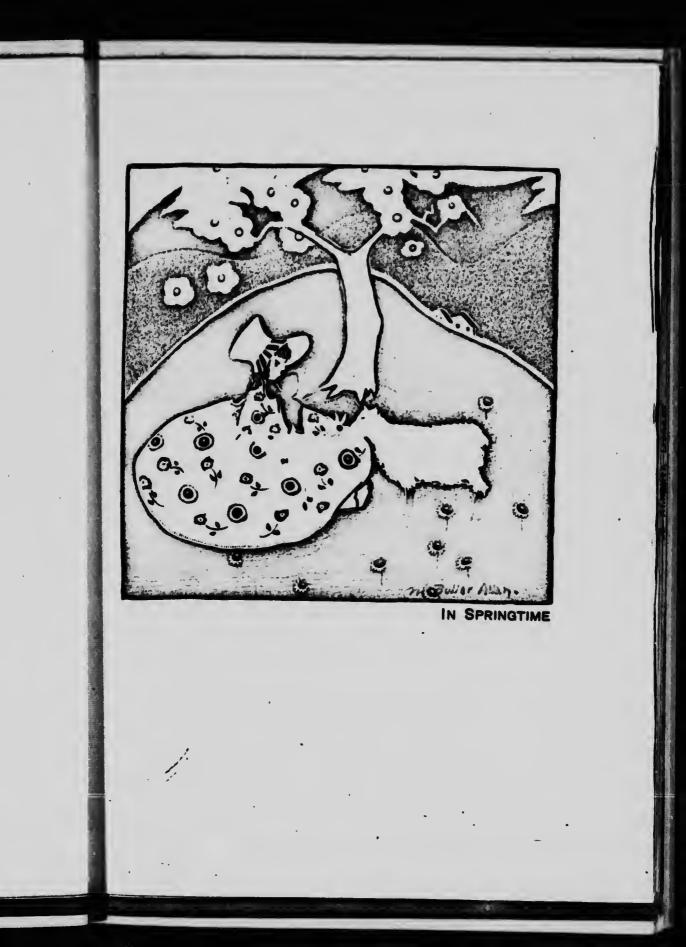
WAS IT A DREAM

When she woke up she was really amazed, For she poised on the edge of a rose, And if the cocoon was a dream or was not, She wonders if any one knows.



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IN SPRING TIME

THE bees are humming near the hive Each one is glad to be alive, And children leap about for joy Each little girl and little boy.

The brook is laughing in the sun And hoping to the sea to run, It carries past in flash and gleam Small insects, sailing on the stream.

The flowers dance with blades of grass And bend and sway as on we pass, And in the cooling shower of rain They pause, 'ere they dance off again.

IN SPRING TIME

The world is warm and green and sweet And days like flying clouds are fleet, Then all the stars come out at night... A million little points of light.



MY LITTLE PLAYMATE

F

THE sun's my little playmate, He has a golden face, And though he lives in heaven I find him in every place.

He's always in the garden And out upon the hill, And through my bedroom window He comes when I am ill.

We love the scented orchard, For there we hide and seek, Behind a big red apple tree His yellow eye will peek.

Upon the lake he passes And flecks the waves with light, – And hidden in the grasses He counts the flowers bright. –

MY LITTLE PLAYMATE

But when the sky is darkened He turns the other way, To distant worlds he journeys Where other children play.

E



A FISHY TALE

O LD Mr. Fish swam home one night, He seemed quite dazed and looked a sight. "Where have you been?" asked Mrs. Fish, "You missed a tasty supper dish."

Said he, "My dear, there hung my tail Caught fast upon a rusty nail A boy had baited with a fly, I really thought that I should die !

"At last I managed to get free And hurried home : do pardon me ; By chance I missed a dreadful fate, And that's the reason I am late."

33



C

THE BATTLEFIELD

WHEN fire is made upon the hearth, I'm always, oh, so glad, I watch until the clock strikes nine,— (Which means "To bed, my lad").

I see all sorts of splendid things, The hearth's a battlefield, With soldiers clad in red and green, Their leader bears a shield.

I hear the crack as rifles pop, And sub- of cannon comes Which where the army in the rear, And then I hear the drums....

My little sister cannot see My soldiers there at all, She see witch, in cloak of red Astride a camel tall.

THE BATTLEFIELD

And once she saw a butterfly, That spread enormous wings. . . . Now what can she be dreaming of To see such silly things?

And in the flaming battlefield I try to show her where My little soldiers bravely stand And cheer the flag they bear.

I never want to go to bed Until the fight is done; Of course I cannot tell who wins, But all the same it's fun.

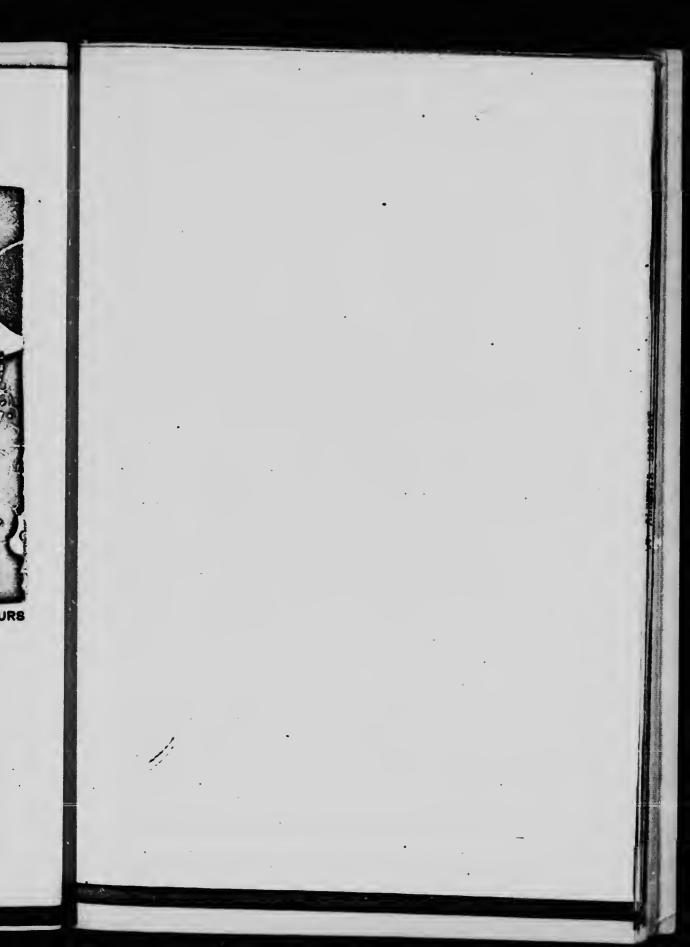


COLOURS

I LIKE all sorts of gaily coloured things, Dear little insects with their jewelled wings, A humming bird in vest of gold and blue, And patterned meadows, made of flowers and dew. Pears and apples good to eat, Nice red shoes upon my feet, Houses painted blue and white, Gardens bathed in yellow light, Shells of mauve and pink and green, Fish with scales of silver sheen— Colour is a voice that sings In these gay and lovely things !







THE MIRACLE

M Y wish came true: the stars rained down Upon the hills and sea, And from the sky above the town The moon fell straight to me.

And silver-spangled waves danced up The star-encrusted land. I held the moon, a yellow cup Within my little hand.

And then, when I should have been glad, I saw the sky's dead blue . . . And I was sad, O, I was rad Because my wish came true.

CASTLES IN THE AIR

I N Bubble Land the fairies roam, I always see them there, Castles that I build for them Go floating through the air.

O fairies dear ! your lives are short, But in your castles blue You laugh behind the rainbow walls, Who wouldn't envy you?

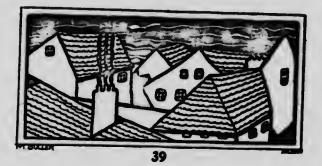


DADDY'S NEW TOY

MY daddy is a grown-up boy, An airship is his newest toy, Up, up he sails, so very high It seems as if he pierced the sky.

The motor buzzes like a bee, And when I can no longer see Where he has gone, I always sigh Because he will not let me fly.

I laugh and shout and wave my hand As slowly he descends to land, And every day when it is bright My daddy and his toy take flight.



THE CHINA DANCER

THE little china dancing doll Stood just beside the clock, And high above her tiny feet She held her china frock.

The clock said, "Do not dance so much, But rest a little while." The doll replied, "I cannot rest," And nodded with a smile.

The clock ticked out, "Why not, why not Be grave and slow like me?" She answered, "Little china dolls Must dance continually." The clock ticked out, "Why not, why not Take life more easily?"

THE CHINA DANCER

But all the time her twinkling feet The sober hours beguiled, And when at last she fell and broke, The clock ticked out, "Poor child, I loved her little dancing feet, Poor child, tired child, poor child !"



BAZAAR SONG

I'LL sell you for a penny So many, many things; I'll sell a little posy, I'll sell you golden rings, If you give me your penny You'll quaff a glass of milk, And for another penny Here's honey soft as silk; I'll sell you for a penny So many, many things; But I won't sell my kisses For all the wealth of kings !



THE REVENCE

WO angry sparrows in a nest Discussed a neighbour's theft: (He'd carried off their crumb of bread With speed and cunning deft)

And one of them so angry grew He cried, "I'll teach him how I punish birds who do these things, There's going to be a row."

He ruffled all his feathers up And said that he would make The wretched thief apologize For eating up their cake.

Said he, "I'll call him out to fight, And with my sharpened beak I'll bite him till he trembling falls Too terrified to speak."

THE REVENCE

But just as he had said these words The thief came hopping near, The bold avenger spread his wings-His face grew pale with fear.

And suddenly he flew away. I think perhaps he knew That all the things he boasted of He really could not do.



DREAMS

BENEATH the lilac Grandma sits In shadow there and knits and knits. It can't be any fun at all To sit all day and make a shawl!

Sometimes she puts her knitting by And scarcely stirs. I wonder why Her eyes are full of tears, the while The nodding lilac seems to smile.

And Grandma says she drear s all day,— My dreams at night are always gay, And so when I see Grandma cry I wonder why, I wonder why!

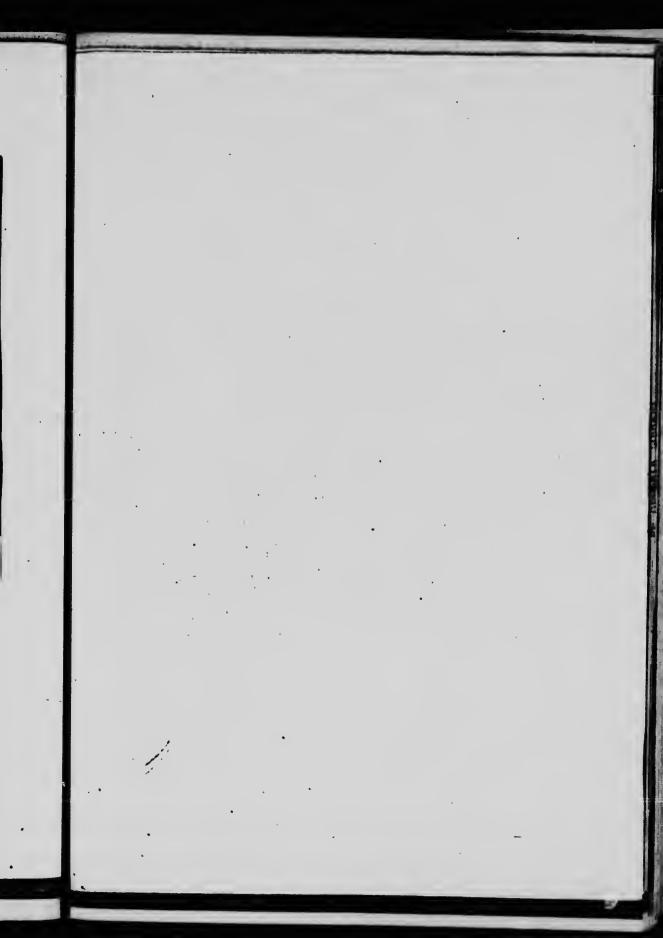


TWO POINTS OF VIEW

A FISHERMAN was talking to himself one summer day, (Most fishermen are much alone, and often talk this way) And very close to where he sat a little fish swam near And listened well to what he said and thought it very queer.

- "How beautiful this lake that mirrors clouds a-sailing by,
- And shows upon a sapphire screen the wings of birds that fly.
- There is no joy on earth like this, to sit the long day through
- Beside the changing lovely lake, so clear, so deep, so blue."





TWO POINTS OF VIEW

The little fish just waved his fins and laughed aloud in glee,

He really was as much amused as any fish could be.

0

Thought he : I lead a simple life far down beneath the foam,

Can this old man be talking of my quiet gloomy home?



VOYAGE IN A BOWL

THEY had no fear of the ocean trip And their faces did not pale, They silently stood on the steamer's deck In a row beside the rail;

They were only wooden dolls, you see, Of course they could not quail !

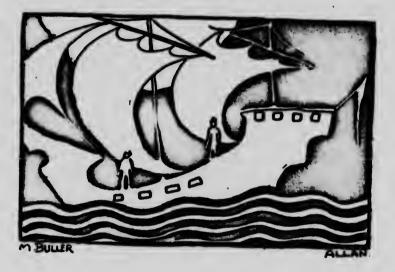
The ship wasn i made of iron or steel, But the captain said with a wink, "I'll sleep all day, and you never need fear, You are perfectly safe, I think."

Of a piece of wood the ship was made, Of course it could not sink !

VOYAGE IN A BOWL

They left the coast all gleaming white, And sailed to the other side, A beautiful trip, most easily made, On a perfectly even tide; It was only across the bowl they went,

Of course it was not wide !



49

D

THE DANCE OF THE STARS

THE lamp of the moon is illumined And the sky is so splendidly bright, Who can be giving the party The stars are enjoying to-night?

The Bears, both the large and the small one, Are capering there I can see, And Venus appears in the distance, As trim and as bright as can be.

A dancer comes tripping among them, Her skirts are all shimmering white; She doesn't stay long to delight them, The fickle Miss Northern Light!

THE DANCE OF THE STARS

For supper they'll sip from the Dipper The cream of the Milky white Way, The party will last until morning . . . Until the sun rises, they'll stay.

But who can be giving the party, And why does he hide out of sight?... I wish I could see him, I'd ask him To let me dance with them to-night!



THE ROOSTER

THE hens were all laughing at some one's new joke, And only the rooster was sad, He watched and he frowned at their running around, And the wonderful fun that they had.

But nobody spoke to him, all of the hens Were busy in various ways; However, the rooster was king of the yard, And organised most of their plays.

So he sent the poor hens on an errand at once, The ducks he spoke forcibly to. The geese were still laughing, quite silently now, At the joke that was funny and new.

THE ROOSTER

But finally all of the birds were annoyed, And silenced. They looked most depressed, But the rooster was gay, it was dways that way, He was gay when he saddened the rest!

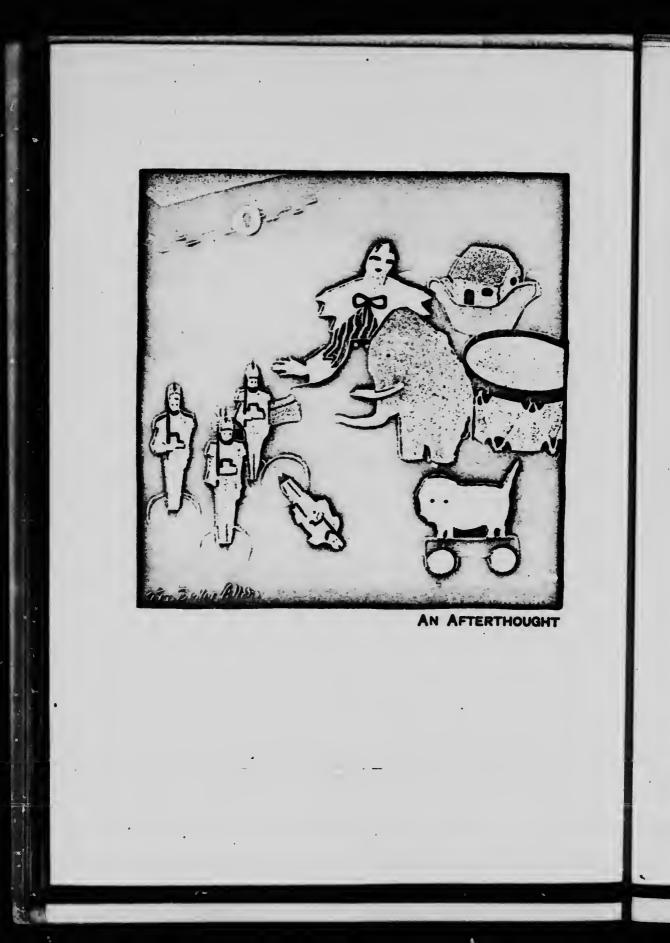


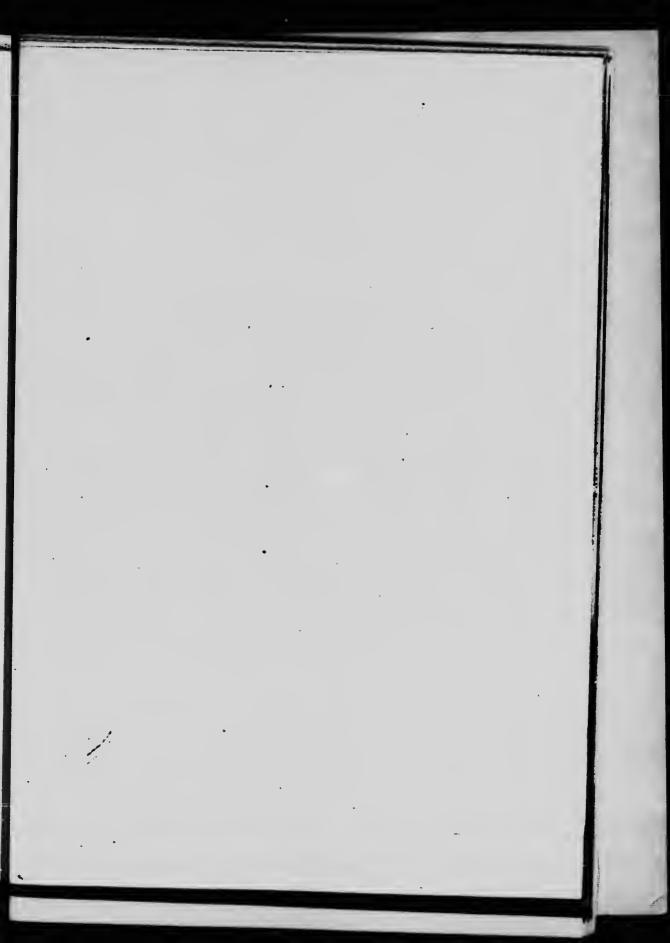
AN AFTERTHOUGHT

I'D like to be a giant tall, Powerful and great, I'd wear two submarines for shoes When I walked out in state.

And dauntless, tread on ocean's depths, The water to my knees; I'd bite a piece out of the moon As if it were a cheese!

I'd pluck a dozen stars or so, And set them in a ring, And for a lovely posy take The whole earth's blossoming.





AN AFTERTHOUGHT

But if I were as big as that Perhaps I wouldn't see My soldiers, toys and little things That are so dear to me.



THE QUESTIONER

BECAUSE I'm very small, you see, A lot of things are puzzling me. I'd like to know, if you can say, What happens to the moon by day.

Last night I saw within a pool, Drowned in the waters dark and cool, Another moon and stars also . . . How they got there I do not know.

The crocus wears a purple gown, The rushes only dress in brown, Is there a fairy who designs The colours and the pretty lines?

Why do some children in the street Go walking round with naked feet, And have to beg a little penny, Because their fathers haven't any?

THE QUESTIONER

If I were in a cage I'd cry; But my poor bird who cannot fly Sings gaily on. Now can it be That when he sings he thinks he's free?

Between the bars he sees the sky, The sun, the rain, the tree tops high, He doesn't dream of sadder things But chirps and folds his tiny wings.

The world is like a puzzle toy, Because I'm such a little boy, But when a man I grow to be Then nothing more will puzzle me.



AT THE PARTY

"W^{E'D} like to dance so very much, But there are five of us, you see." "I'm sorry," said the little boy, "There's only one of me!"



A MIX UP

I DREAMT an owl was fishing Perched high upon a tree, Although absorbed in wishing For fish, he smiled at me.

But I was very much surprised To see no river near, "He must be dreaming," I surmised, "He can't catch fishes here 1"

I gave him just an inkling Of what I thought was true, He answered in a twinkling, "Well, aren't you dreaming too?"

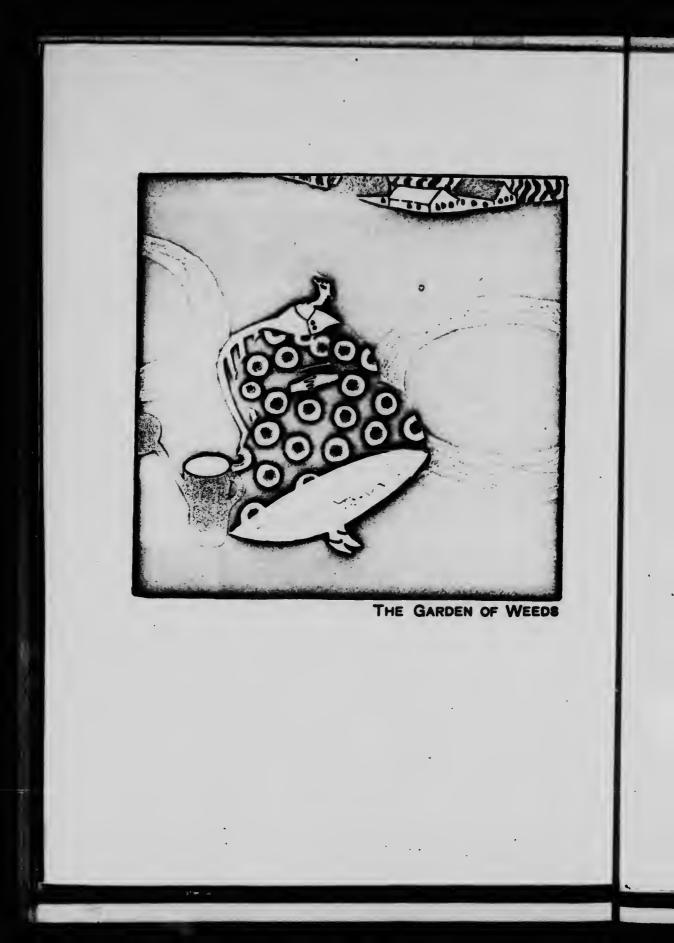


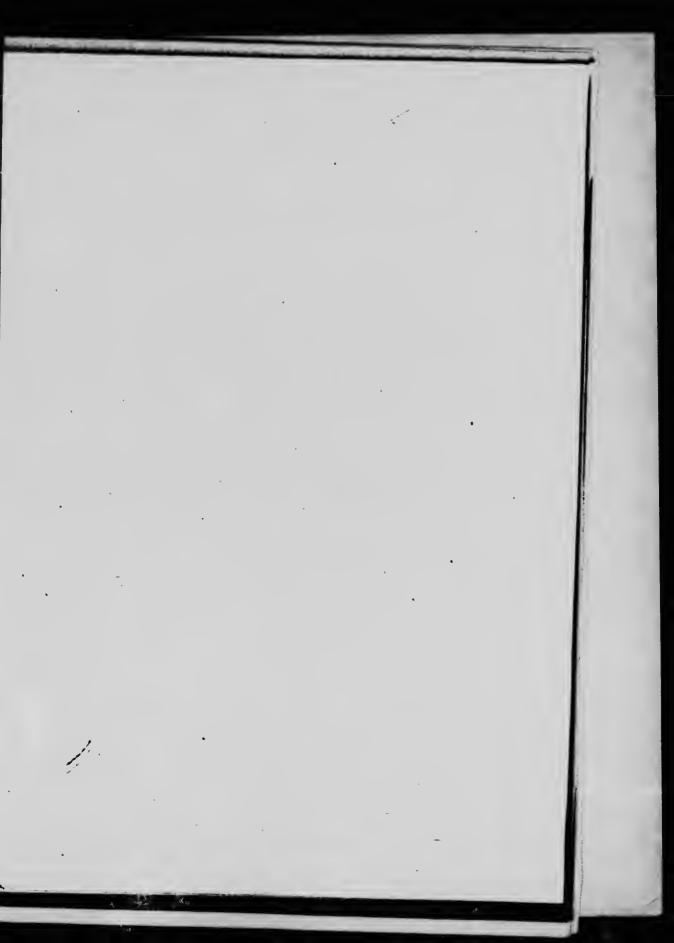
THE GARDEN OF WEEDS

I HADN'T any flower seeds To plant my garden round, But when the sun shone in the spring I watered well the ground.

And waited for the tiny shoots I knew would soon appear, And now the people call them weeds . . . I think it's very queer !

My garden may be full of weeds But they are tall and green, I think them just as beautiful As flowers that I've seen.





CHILD'S PRAYER

I PRAY to Thee, I lift my hands As children do In countless lands, To the far God, who understands The little children.

Guard us from danger, Love us well, To poor tired people Comfort tell ; Look down, beyond the great church bell On weeping children.

I pray that Thou Will give us Light, For Fear comes creeping In the night; Unfold great wings, screnely bright About Thy children.

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CHILD'S PRAYER

My cyclids fall, I'm half asleep . . . My bed's so warm And soft and deep . . . I pray Thee, Lord, our hearts to keep As little children.



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MY PICTURE BOOK

HIS is my little picture book. Sit down by me and let us look. Such pretty things there are to see I'm sure you will agree with me. Here is the Queen who made the tarts, The Knave comes in and off he darts With every one. Oh, what a shame! (But maybe I'd have done the same.) Here's Cinderella at the ball Beside the Prince so fine and tall (He's sure to give her some ice-cream And little cakes, so it will seem Exactly like a birthday treat). And here she's running down the street, The Prince has found her slipper, so He'll wed her very soon I know. Miss Muffet next you will behold, So frightened by the spider bold

MY PICTURE BOOK

She quite forgot her curds and whey. And here's a Cat. The verses say In boots he walked about the town As foolish as a circus clown Who makes us laugh. Look now at this, A little boy I'd like to kiss, His name is 'Finis' and he cries, Poor little boy with tearful eyes. They do not tell his story here ; It must be very sad, I fear.



