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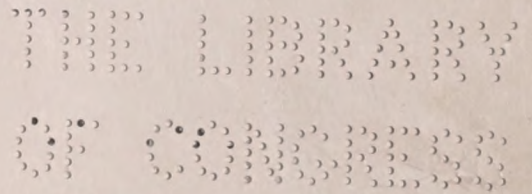
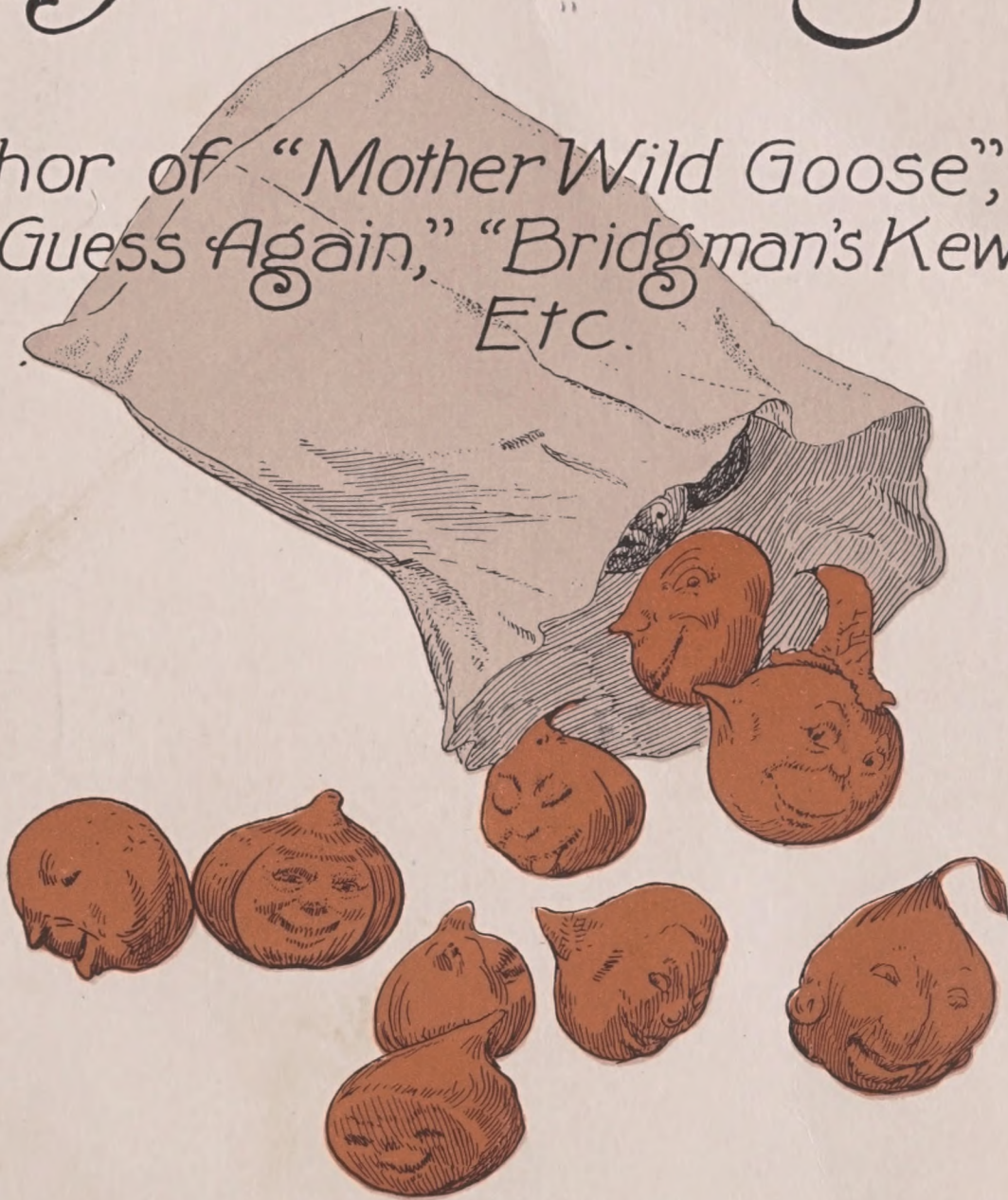


Taste
and Try
before
you Buy

Jest-nuts

By L. J. Bridgman

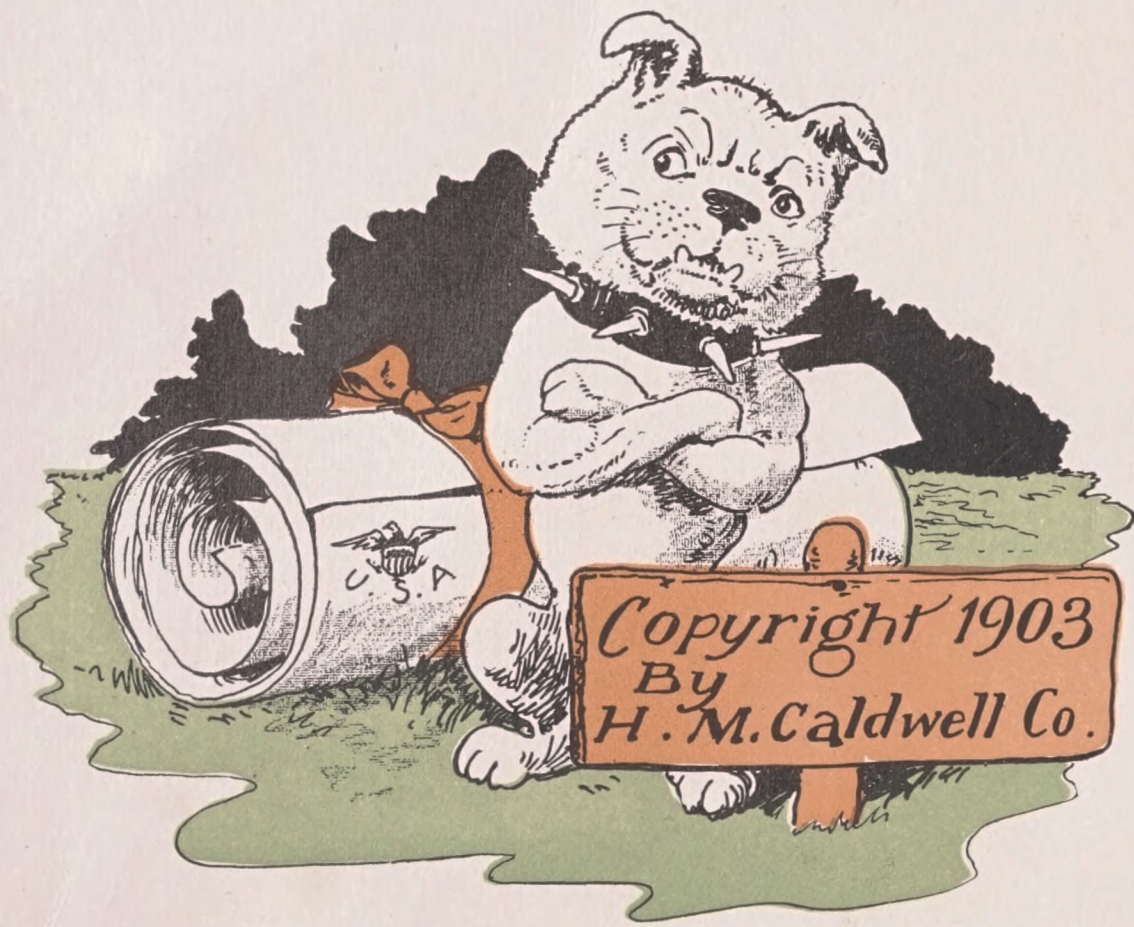
Author of "Mother Wild Goose", "Guess"
"Guess Again," "Bridgman's Kewts"
Etc.



H. M. Caldwell Company
New York and Boston

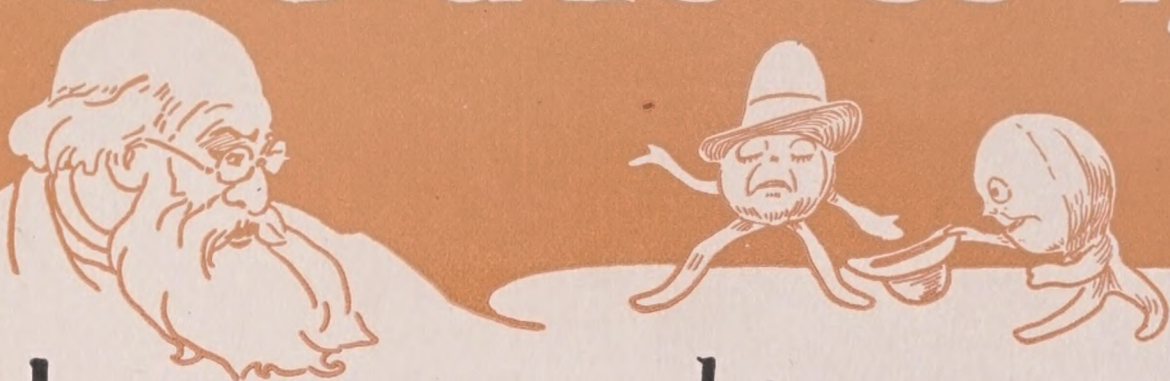
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WALKER
1903

In-tro-duc-to-ry.



There was once a lot more wisdom
Than one well could carry 'round,
So they puzzled how to keep it
Till, at last, this way was found:
It was crowded into nutshells,
Phi-lo-soph-i-cal-ly packed,
And you can't tell what's inside them
Till the nutshells have been cracked.
Now these packed up words are proverbs
And they're cracked by many folks.
If you're careful when you crack them,
You will find you're cracking jokes.

“Many hands make light work.”



How silly! With one
finger, you
May press a but-
ton merely,
And cause electric
light to work.
Why should folks
talk so queerly?

Many hands make light work?



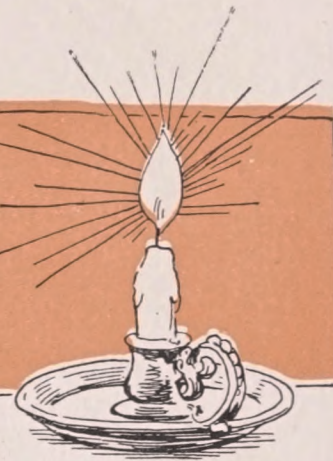
“It is never too late to mend.”

When the bear and the seal,
in their automobile,
Took a spin at the world's
frozen end,
Said the bear, “Something queer
ails the old steering gear,
But 'tis never too late to mend.”
Soon there came a loud crash
and a terrible smash
On some ice at the edge of the sea,
And the seal and the bear
swam and wondered just where
Under water their carriage
might be.

It is never too late to
mend?



“The burnt child dreads
the fire.”



When July fourth
draws to its close,
And yet a cracker
lingers,
Is any patriot going to
stop
Because he burned
his fingers?

The burnt child dreads
the fire ?



“Paddle your own canoe.”

Mr. Squirrel afloat, with
a twig for a boat,
Got along without paddling
or rowing,

For his tail in the air was a
sail for him there,

When the favoring breezes
were blowing.

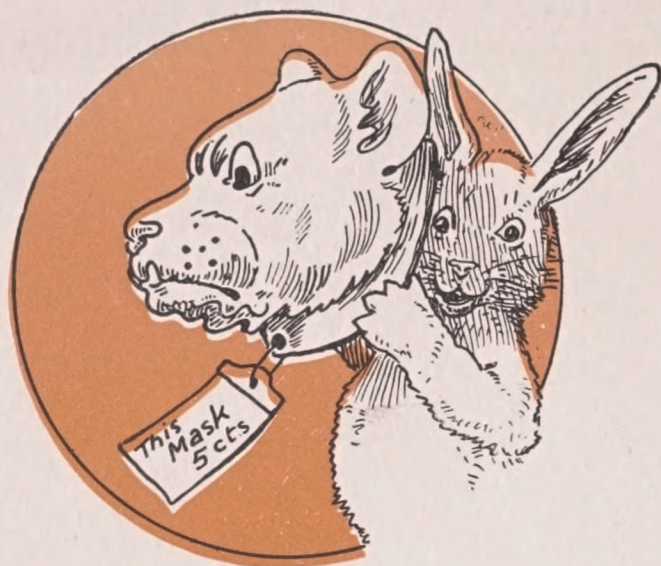
So he sang, “Yoho! ’Tis the
style, you know,

To go yachting, so, bless you, I do.
If there’s any wee gale, then
just hoist up your sail
And *don’t* paddle your own canoe!”

Paddle your own canoe ?



“Appearances are deceitful.”



Watch the juggler on
the stage.

Why do the people roar so?
Appearance may deceitful be,
But disappearance more so!

Here's a rabbit in a hat.

Cover him up neatly.
Presto! Now the rabbit's
gone!
Disappeared completely!

Disappearances are deceitful.



“The early bird catches the worm.”



“I met the early bird
to-day,
A wounded worm
once said,
“The early worm is
caught by birds!
Wise worms will
stay in bed!”

The early bird catches the worm. What does the early worm catch?



“Where ignorance is bliss,
'tis folly to be wise.”

When Johnny Bear came
down to camp,
He tried to steal the kettle,
But oh! he dropped it very
quick,
So hot was that same metal.

“Where ignorance is bliss,”
exclaimed
Miss Annie Bear, his sister,
“Poor Johnny, people often find
’Tis folly makes a blister!”

Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis
folly to be wise ?



“He laughs best who
laughs last.”



Sammy cracks his little joke;
Tommy laughs at once.
Johnny doesn't see the joke
Because he is a dunce.
When Johnny sees the joke
and laughs,
Perhaps a fortnight after,
He laughs the last, but why
should his
Be any better laughter?

He laughs best who
laughs last?



“While there’s life there’s hope.”



“I’d like to fly above the trees
Upon the mountain’s slope
With wings wide spread
 against the breeze,
And while there’s life
 there’s hope.”

So rhymed the hippopotamus.
I think, before he flies,
We’ll see some four wheeled
 omnibus
Flit through the summer skies.

While there's life there's hope?



“You can't eat your cake
and have it”

Well, perhaps you don't remem-
ber

When one little piece of cake
Seemed too small to share
with others,

Yet boys followed in your wake,
Saying, “Just a bite! Aw! Greedy!”

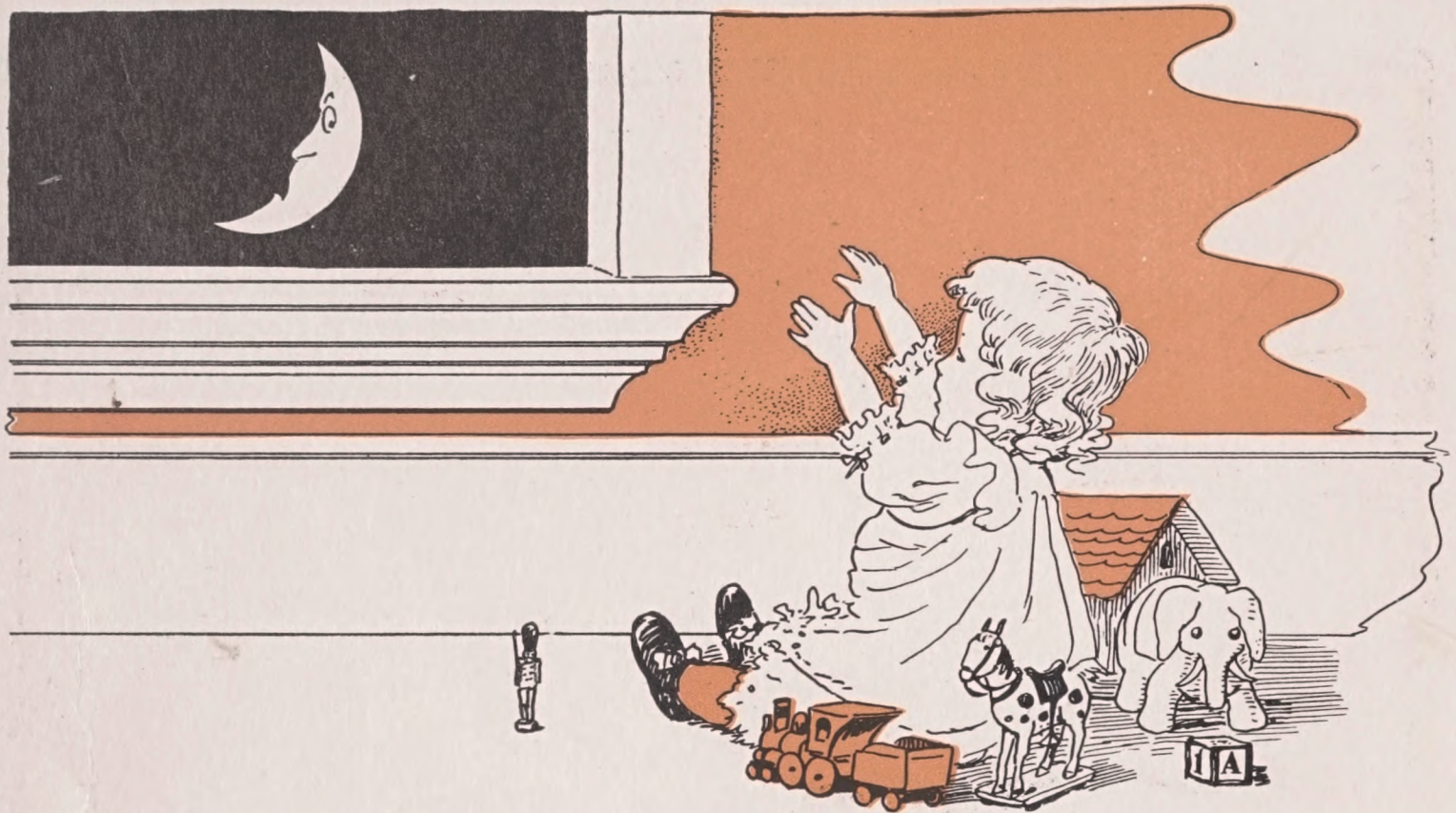
As they tagged you through
the town,

And you couldn't feel you had it
Till 'twas safely swallow-
ed down.

You can't eat your cake
and have it ?



“The more we have, the
more we want.”



Of bumps and thumps
And dumps and mumps,
Well, well, it beats the Dutch
If you want more
Of these bad four,
Or more of any such!

The more we have, the
more we want?



“A bird in the hand is
worth two in the bush.”

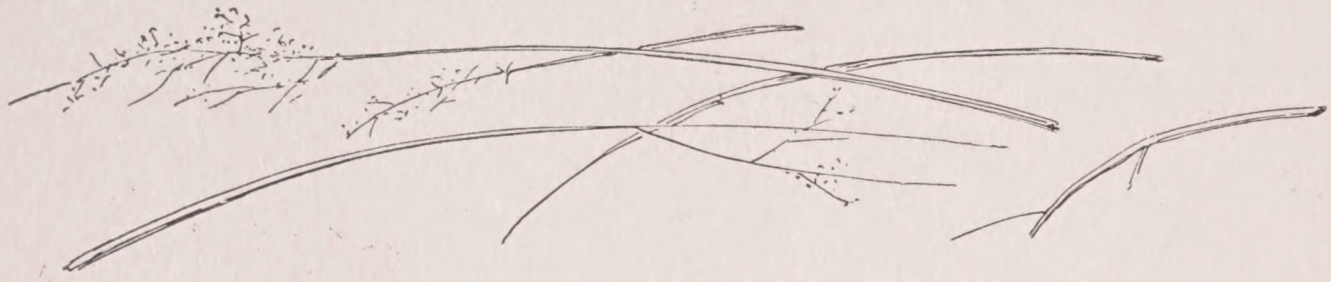


Said the chickadee,
“Nonsense!”
And added, “Absurd!
I’ll leave the whole question
To any old bird;
For a bird in the bush
Can get little bugs
crawling;
A bird in the hand, —
Oh! It’s simply appalling!”

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush?



“Straws show which way
the wind blows.”



Oh! Straws show bet-
ter things than that,
As drug-store people
know;
They show where ice-
cream sodas and
Some other good
things go.

Straws show which way
the wind blows ?



“All’s well that ends well.”



“Oh dear, no!” said the squirrel,
“I end well enough,”
And he looked at his tail
Of a beautiful fluff,
“But the nutshell I swallowed
Is hurting, inside.
I am quite far from well
Though my tail is my
pride.”

All's well that ends well ?



“A great mark is soon hit.”

The moon rose full, be-
hind the trees,
Observed by Captain Biddle.
“Make ready, boys,” he shout-
ed then,
“And shoot that through
the middle!”
He thought it was the camp
fire of
The enemy, but oh!
Although the mark was
big enough,
They fired much too low.

A great mark is
soon hit?



“Children should be seen,
not heard.”



The rooster loudly, proudly
crowed

His boys did too, that morning.

“You children should be seen,
not heard,”

He gave them speedy warning

But Mrs. Hen, with flattering ways,

Said, “Oh! my dear, unless

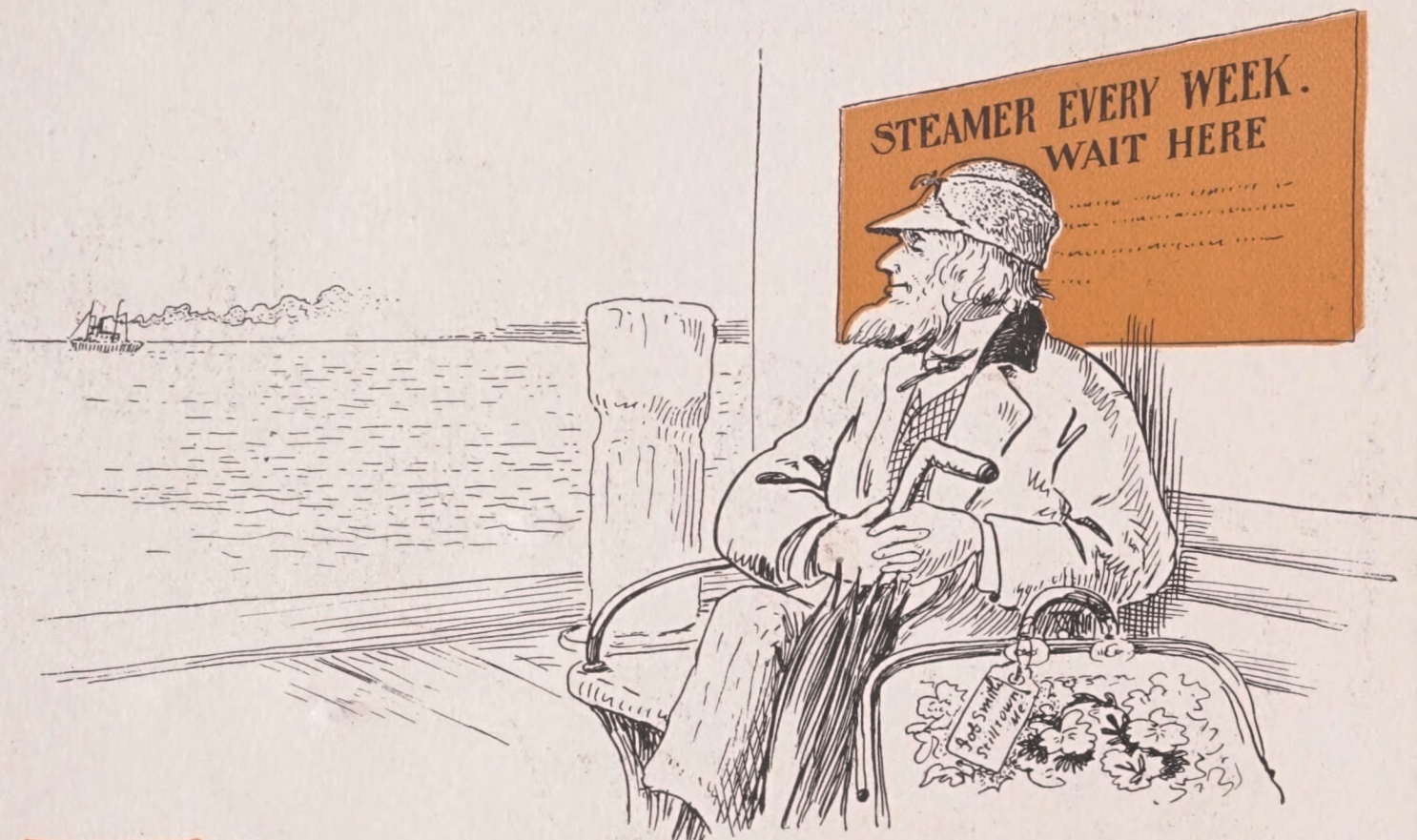
They practice now they’ll never
learn

To crow like you, I guess.”

Children should be seen,
not heard?



“Everything comes to him
who waits.”



The waiter gets his
fee, of course,
But still, not everything.
There's something left
to pay for what
The waiter has to bring.

Everything comes to him
who waits?



“Never trouble trouble till
trouble troubles you.”



What! Never trouble trouble
Till trouble troubles you?

Now isn't that a selfish,

Very selfish thing to do?

When some trouble troubles

Tristram,

When, perhaps, he stubs

his toe,

I must trouble Tristram's

trouble

Till that trouble has to go.

Never trouble trouble till
trouble troubles you ?



“Turn about is fair play.”



Said a cute little
donkey, “I say,
Turn about is regarded
fair play;
It is your turn to drag on
This squeaky old wagon.”
His master replied, “Not
to-day.”

Turn about is fair play?



“What can't be cured
must be endured”

Said the smiling alligator
To the bashful little rabbit,
“Ah! I can't be cured of biting,
So you must endure my
habit.”

But the rabbit said, “Oh,
no sir!”

In a very hurried way,
“Such unpleasant allegations!
Oh! Excuse me, but —
good day!”

What can't be cured
must be endured ?



“Uneasy lies the head that
wears a crown.”



If one must wear his
hat to bed,
Its crown won't both-
er him
One half as much, I'm
very sure,
As will the lumpy
brim.

Uneasy lies the head that
wears a crown?

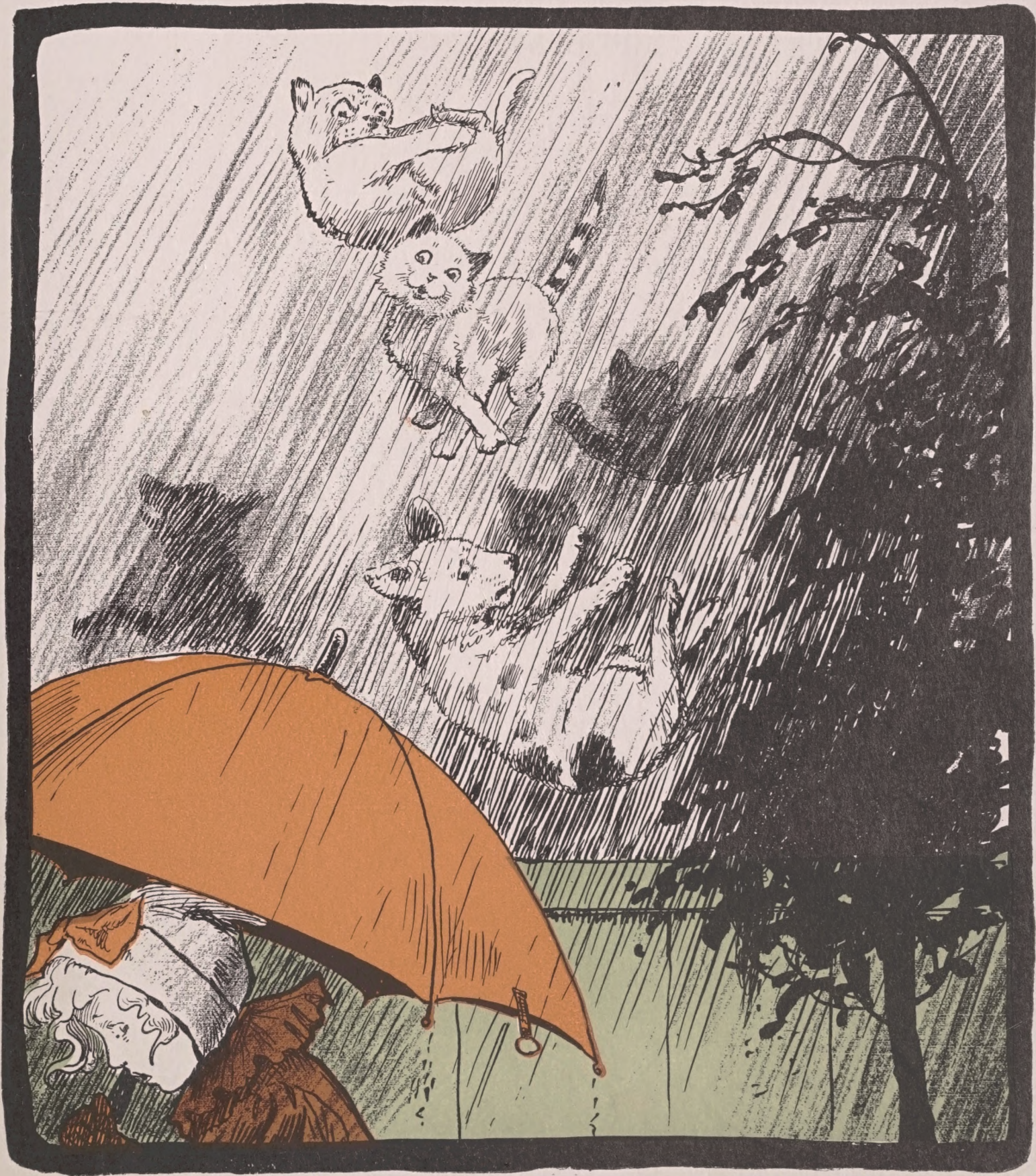


“Too much of a good thing
is worse than none at all.”



“It’s raining cats and dogs,”
they say,
And if ’twere really true,
Why that would make too
many pets
For those who like a few.
I’d rather ’twould rain pussy cats
And dogs, for half a day,
Than never own a little dog
Or see a kitten play.

Too much of a good thing
is worse than none at all?



“Boys will be boys.”



That boys are boys
We know. What then?
Boys being boys,
They will be men.

Boys will be boys ?



“Taste and try before you buy”



“Oh, taste and try before
you buy!”

Called out the candy man,
And forty hands of twenty
boys

Reached for each candy pan;
And when the twenty boys
had tried,

The candy man said, “Well,
Now you have tried before you buy,
There’s nothing left to sell!”

Taste and try
before you buy?



“Money makes the mare go.”



The man who owns
the mare now speaks,
“Oats! Hay! New har-
ness! Oh!
I’m getting poorer every
day!
The mare makes mon-
ey go!”



Wanted
at once

More
Oats

New
Stall

New
Shoes

New
Harness

Manger

Gold
Bridle
Silver
Mbs

“If you wish a thing done,
go; if not, send.”



That might have
done in ancient days,
But hardly in our own.
We need not go or
send when we
Can simply telephone.

If you wish a thing done
go; if not, send ?



“Never put off till to-mor-
row what you can do to-day.”



I can paint father's hat
a most beautiful red;
There's a fine can of
paint I could borrow;
Would you really advise
me to do it to-day,
Or to keep putting off
till to-morrow?

Never put off till to-mor-
row what you can do to-day?



“Delays are dangerous.”



“Delays are dangerous,
you know,”

The bee buzzed near and far.
She told the cow and then
the man
Who ran the electric car.

The cow then galloped
blindly on;
The motor man went quicker;
The car took bossy on
its front,
Which made the people snicker.

Delays are dangerous ?



“Those who live in glass houses
should not throw stones.”



I would rather the people
who live in glass houses
Threw stones at the per-
sons who pass,
If the stones could be dia-
monds rubies or opals
Or something more pre-
cious than glass.

Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones?



“Silence gives consent.”

The partridge is not
talkative,
He neither sings nor
hums;
He never shouts aloud
like boys,
Although they say he
drums.
I asked him once to dinner,
but
He never said a word.
“Ah! Silence gives consent,”
said I,
But off he flew, shy bird!

Silence gives consent?



“Little pitchers have big ears.”



“We fellows here play
ball,” said Ned,
“You’d better b’lieve we do!
Our pitcher’s ears are just
as small
As other people’s too!”

Little pitchers have big ears ?



“Still waters run deep.”

“Ah! Still waters run deep,”
A Said the owl to the frog,
And the frog told the saying
All over the bog.

Froggie saw a still puddle:
“Still waters run deep!”
He cried as he dived,
But he fell in a heap.

“Ow! The puddle is shallow!
Now who would suppose
The wise owl was mistaken?
I’ve bumped my poor nose!”

Still waters run deep ?



“A carpenter is known by
his chips.”

If one is known by cat or dog,
That cat or dog will
show it.

If chips wag tails or purr
or bark,

I'm sure I do not know it.

I think a carpenter at work
Would be surprised to see
His chips rise up and bow
to him.

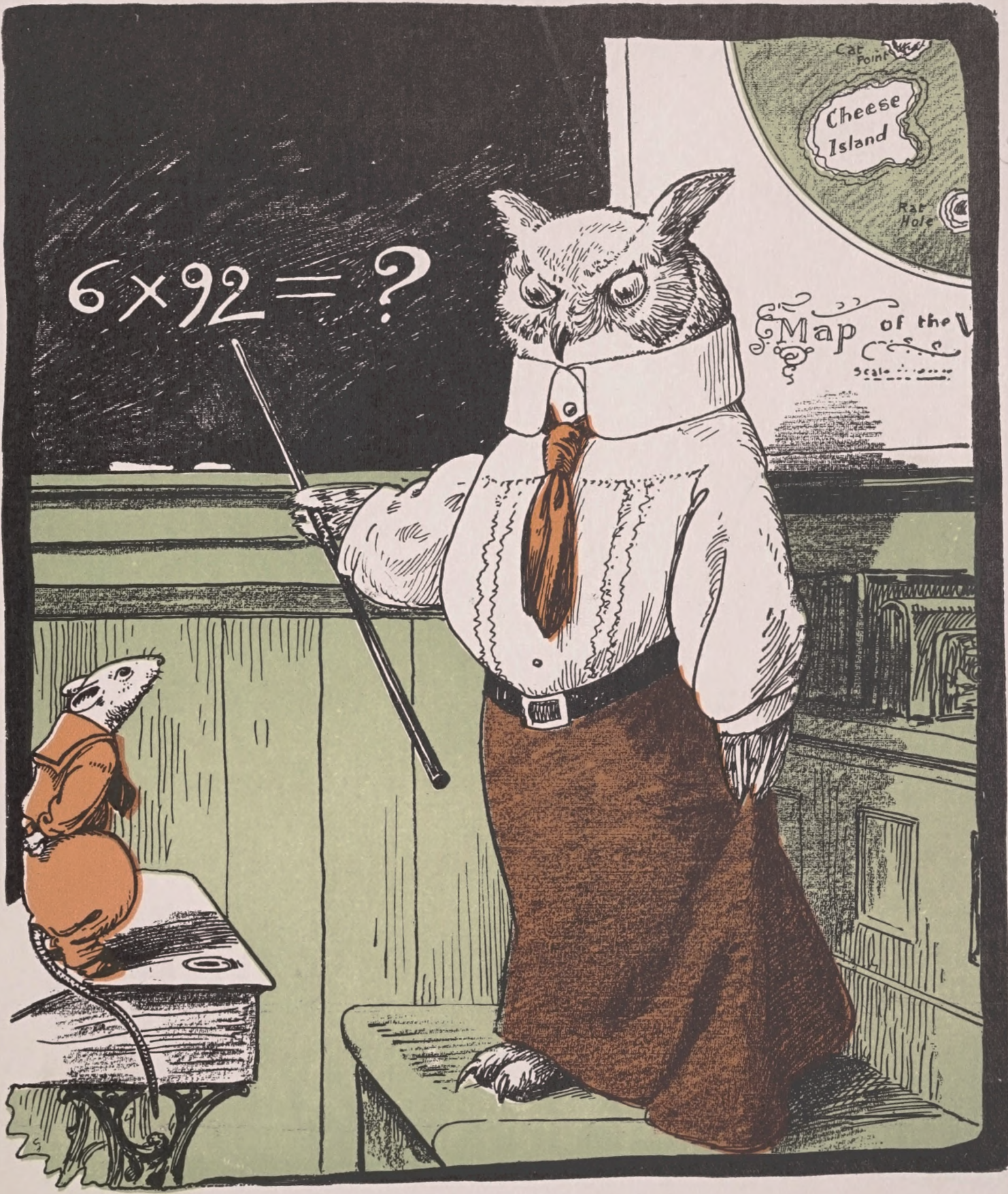
Don't you agree with me?

A carpenter is known by his chips?



A word to the wise is sufficient?

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“Too many cooks spoil the broth.”

“A particular cook, still another good cook,
Yes, one other good cook —
that’s three,
I’ll have made in a stew, and I
hope three will do,”
Said the cannibal king Jamboree.

When the broth was all done,
“Why, what under the sun!”
Said the cannibal, “What can we do?
Now the broth is too thin! It is
almost a sin,
For the broth is now spoiled by too few!”

Too many cooks spoil the broth?



“Least said, soonest mended”

If little pigs behave like pigs,
With manners rude and shocking,
You'll find they will not mend
their ways
Without a lot of talking.

“Their table manners! Mer-
cy me!

Such conduct will not do,”
Said Mrs. Pig, “And they
won't mend
Just for a grunt or two.”

Least said, soonest mended?



“Seeing is believing.”

We like to read the
circus bills
Upon the great high wall,
But Jack and I are very
wise,
We can't believe them all.

Each circus, if the bills
are true,
Is certainly the best.
If you believe one bill is
true,
How can you trust the rest?

Seeing is believing ?

CUS
is the
BEST
and
BIGGEST

Coming on the 10th



WITH THE
Largest
and **Best**
SHOW in the
WORLD

Coming on
the **20th**



HERE ON THE 25th
WAIT
for
US



3 Rings
500 Animals

“Two heads are better than one”

When the hare and the pig had
some pleasure to plan,
They each found they had much
better fun

If they planned it together and
both of them said,

“Surely two heads are better than one!”

But the hare had the toothache, the
pig got the mumps,

Then they cried, “Oh, just one
head will do!

Just to think what we’d suffer if
each had two heads!

Surely one head is better than two!”

Two heads are better than one?



“There is no place
like home.”

There are forty-nine
houses in Tenement Row
And each house like the next
one above and below,
Like the corn on a cob or
the teeth on a comb;
None who live there can
say there is no place like home.
There's a cat at the Smiths,
just as black, just as lean
As the cat at the Browns,
and these cats may be seen
Both in yards they suspect
are not theirs by good rights.
How these poor puzzled pussies
cry over it, nights!

There is no place
like home?



“Foresight is better
than hindsight.”



A pilgrim made very
quick tracks

When an indian chased
with an axe,

And said, “Foresight!
Gadzooks!

Can't you tell, by the
looks,

What we need is some
eyes in our backs!”

Foresight is better than hindsight?



“Better late than never

Old uncle Silas thought to try
A game of football. Well,
He hadn't played at all when
young,

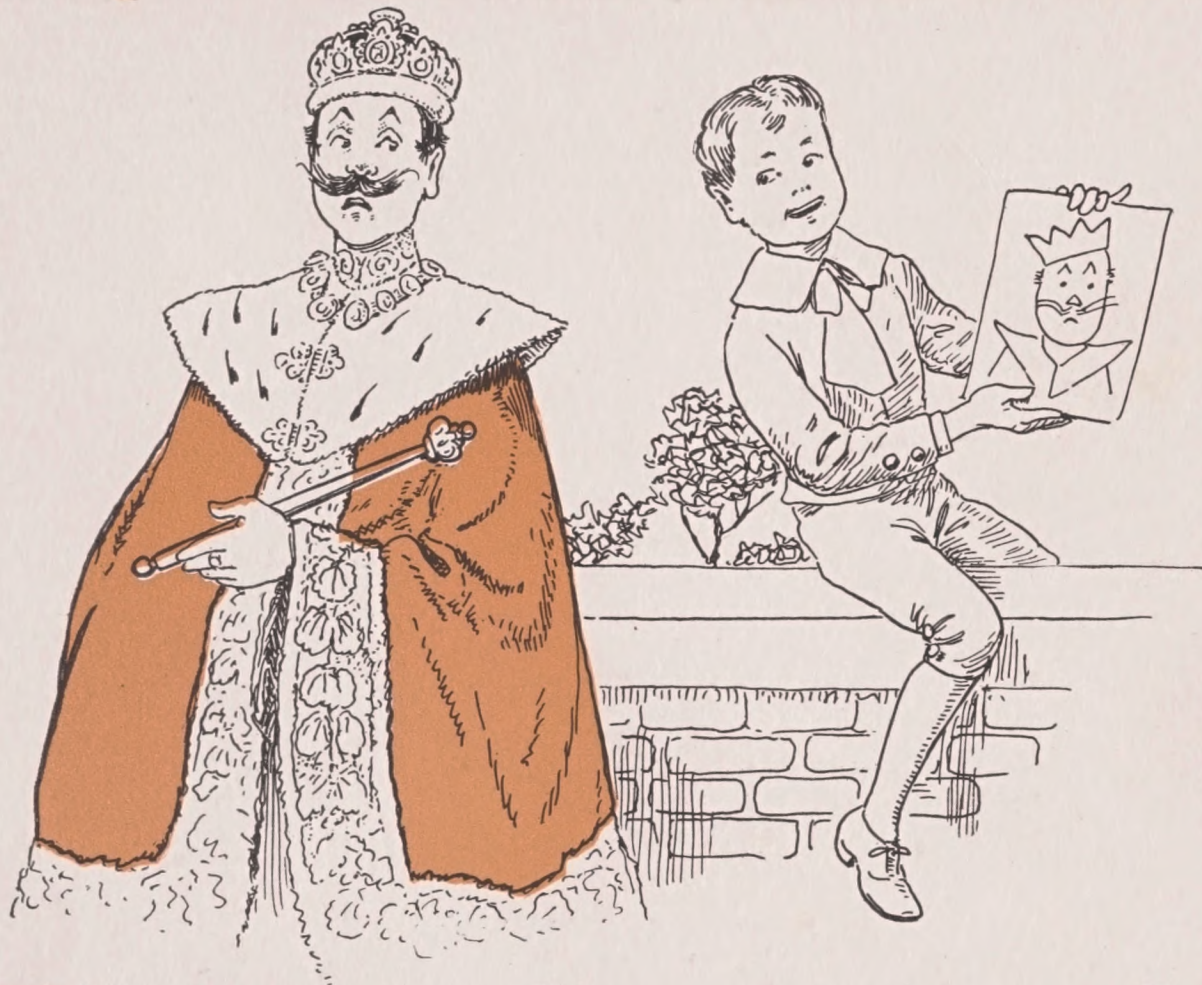
And this is what befell:
They rustled him and hustled him
And stood him on his head
And bumped his nose and tore his clothes
Until, at last, he fled.

“I never should have tried so late,
I see,” said uncle Si,
“I'd better never play at all
Than late in life,” say I.

Better late than never?



“Familiarity breeds contempt.”



The more I've seen of
buzz saws
And the more I've seen of bees,
The less I wish to fondle
Either one. Excuse me please!

Familiarity breeds contempt?



“It takes two to make a quarrel.”

One day my tabby chanced to pass
In front of our big looking-glass.

“What’s that?” she said, with
much surprise,

And opened wide her yellow eyes:

“Another cat come here to stay!

Go home, you saucy thing I say!”

She yowled and tried to

scratch that cat,

Put up her back — she was so fat!

How ’shamed she looked, when

soon she knew

There was one cat, instead

of two!

It takes two to make a quarrel?



“A cat may look at a king.”



It is seldom, very seldom
That a cat may cross
the sea,
But our cats would be o-
bliged to
If they'd gaze on royalty.
In our country are policemen
With brass buttons, clubs
and things
Which a cat's allowed to
gaze on.
But she cannot look on
kings.

A cat may look at a king?



“Practice makes perfect.”

Well, if practice makes perfect,
and so I have heard,
Said the elephant soon I
will sing like a bird.”

So the elephant practiced
each day, without rest,
“Mr. Dooley” and other
songs, trying his best,

Yet the tigers all tittered
and said, “It’s no use!
Practice only will make him
a perfect old goose.”

Practice makes perfect ?



“Absence makes the heart
grow fonder.”

Said Billy Boye to Tommy
Boye,

“Let’s stay away from school.
If absence makes folks love
us more,

We’ll try to prove the rule.”

“Oh! don’t you, Bill,” said
Tommy Boye,

I tried that very plan.
It struck me then it didn’t
work.”

“What struck you?” “Oh! rattan!”

Absence makes the heart
grow fonder?



“Where there’s a
will there’s a way.”



Once a very mad hat-
ter said, “Hey!
Truly, where there’s a
will there’s a way;
I will make a silk hat
From the tail of a cat.”
But the hat is not fin-
ished, they say.

Where there's a
will there's a way?



“Forbidden fruit is sweetest.”

Old farmer Jones is very wise,
A sly chap too is he.

A sign, “ALL TRESPASSING FOR-
BID,”

He tacked upon a tree,
His only sour apple tree,
And, hid in near by places,
He liked to see folks steal
from that,
And then to watch their faces.

Forbidden fruit is sweetest?



“Christmas comes but
once a year.”



“**W**hat? Christmas comes
but once a year?
That all depends upon
How many Sunday schools
you join,”
Said Alexander John.

“Each school must have
its Christmas time
And presents on a tree.
I joined four Sunday schools
last year,
And all remembered me.”

Christmas comes but once a year?





Printed for the H. M. Caldwell Co.
By The Colonial Press
C. H. Simonds & Co. Boston U.S.A.

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