

THE  
HISTORY OF THE  
**LITTLE BOY**  
**WHO CHEATED HIMSELF.**

An Old Story,  
BY A VERY OLD FRIEND.



LONDON

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PRICE SIXPENCE.

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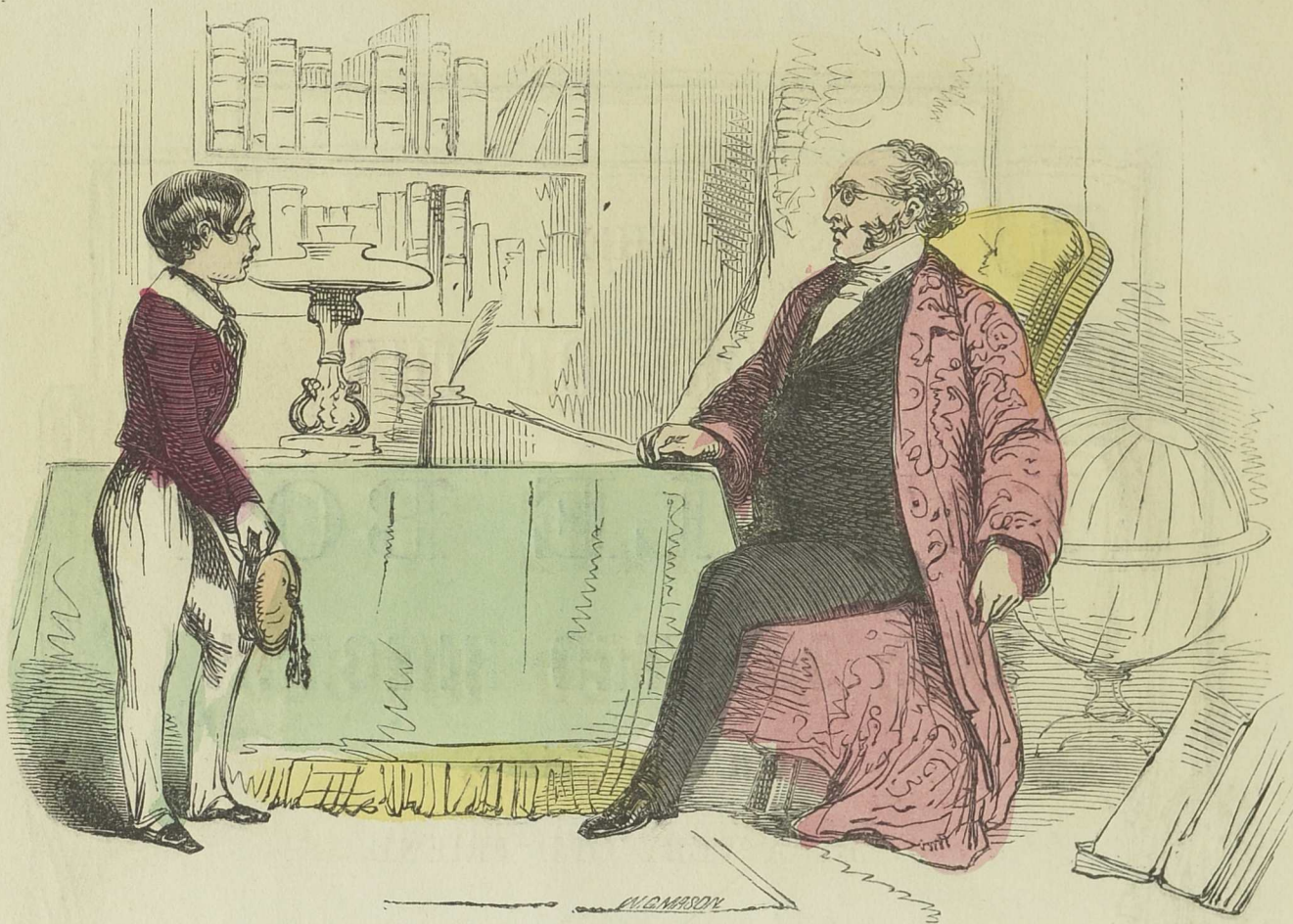
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## REQUEST.

The clock had struck twelve, on a fine summer's day,

When his master George Playful address'd ;

“ My birth-day is come, I have therefore to pray

That you will permit me a short time to play,

If it's proper to grant my request.”



## ASSENT.

“That I will,” said his master, for George had been good,

And had said all his lessons that day;

“You may take all your play-mates, and go to the wood,

Which stands by the field on the side of the road,

And sport till I call you away.”



## IDLENESS.

Then George quickly call'd all his play-mates around,

And away they set off in full glee ;

When in passing along they beheld on the ground

A man stretch'd along in a sleep most profound,

While a basket stood close to his knee.



## PROPOSAL.

Cried George to his play-mates, “ If you are inclined,

Like me, to enjoy some rare fun,

I’ve a thought for that purpose come into my mind ;

Let us open this basket—take out what we find,

And hide it away when we’ve done.



## AGREEMENT.

“ It will be such fine sport, we shall all of us grin,

To see how the fellow will stare,

When he opens the basket, and finds nothing in.”

His play-mates cried “ Come, let us haste and begin ;

’Tis a famous fine plan I declare.”





## MISCHIEF.

The basket they open'd, a parcel well seal'd,

And pack'd up with care they espied ;

They took it away to the end of the field,

And beneath some long grass it was quickly conceal'd,

And the basket they put by his side.



## CARELESSNESS.

As soon as they ended, the poor man awoke,

And, thinking all safe as before,

His basket he seized, without taking a look,

Walk'd on, while they follow'd, much pleas'd with the  
joke,

Till he rested at George's school door.



## ENQUIRY.

To the servant he said, as they plainly could hear,

“ Is Master George Playful at home ? ”

“ No—he ’s gone out to play, and I hardly know where,

But I think I can see him—yes, here, I declare,

Master George and his play-mates all come.”



## PRESENT.

George spoke to the man—"Did you want me, I pray?"

"Oh, yes, Sir," he cried, with a bow;

"Your Mamma sends her love, and, she bid me to say,

She has sent you a present, to grace your birth-day,

And a charming plum-cake 'tis, I know."



## ASTONISHMENT.

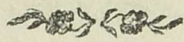
The basket he open'd, but guess his surprise

When he found that the parcel was floun ;

George was silent, and scarcely could lift up his eyes,

From his play-mates loud torrents of laughter arise,

For the cake he had hid *was his own*.



## VEXATION.

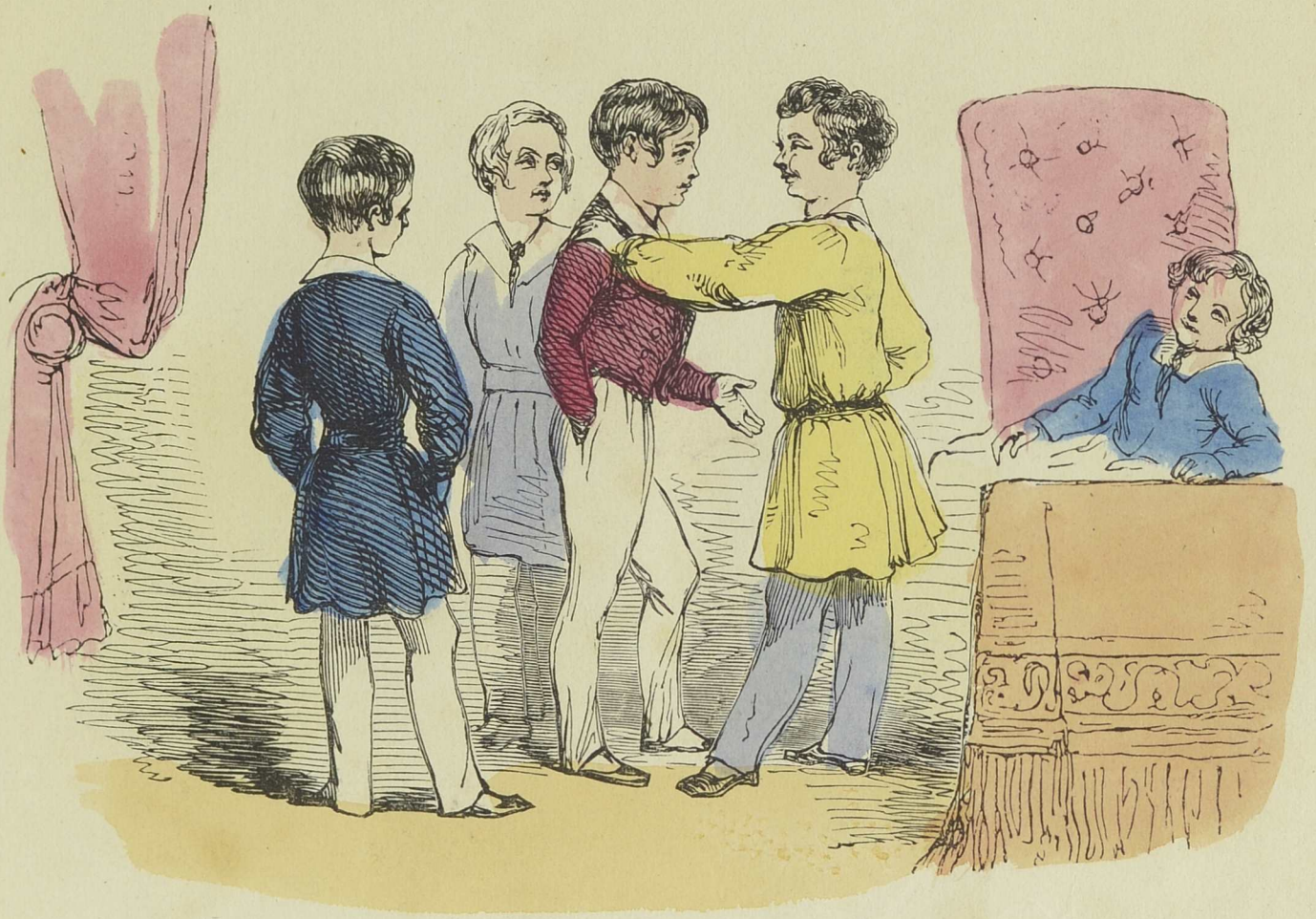
George ran to the spot, but his fate had been seal'd,

For the parcel was lost to his eyes ;

As a plough-boy, in passing, while George left the field,

Discover'd the cake, though so nicely conceal'd,

And carried it off as his prize.



## REPENTANCE.

Now vex'd at his folly, and loss of his cake,  
His pleasure all turn'd into pain ;  
He resolved all his old foolish tricks to forsake,  
A new course of life for the future to take,  
And never to do so again.



# PICTORIAL INSTRUCTION

FOR

YOUNG CHILDREN,

*Foolscap Quarto, sewed in neat Wrappers, each containing Eight large Coloured Plates, with the Letterpress in bold type.*

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**PRICE ONE SHILLING EACH.**

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QUADRUPEDS, AND THEIR USES TO MAN.  
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*Just out, on the same plan,*

**PRICE ONE SHILLING EACH.**

REUBEN RAMBLE'S TRAVELS IN

I. THE NORTHERN COUNTIES OF ENGLAND.	
II. THE EASTERN	DITTO.
III. THE SOUTHERN	DITTO.
IV. THE MIDLAND	DITTO.
V. THE WESTERN	DITTO.

