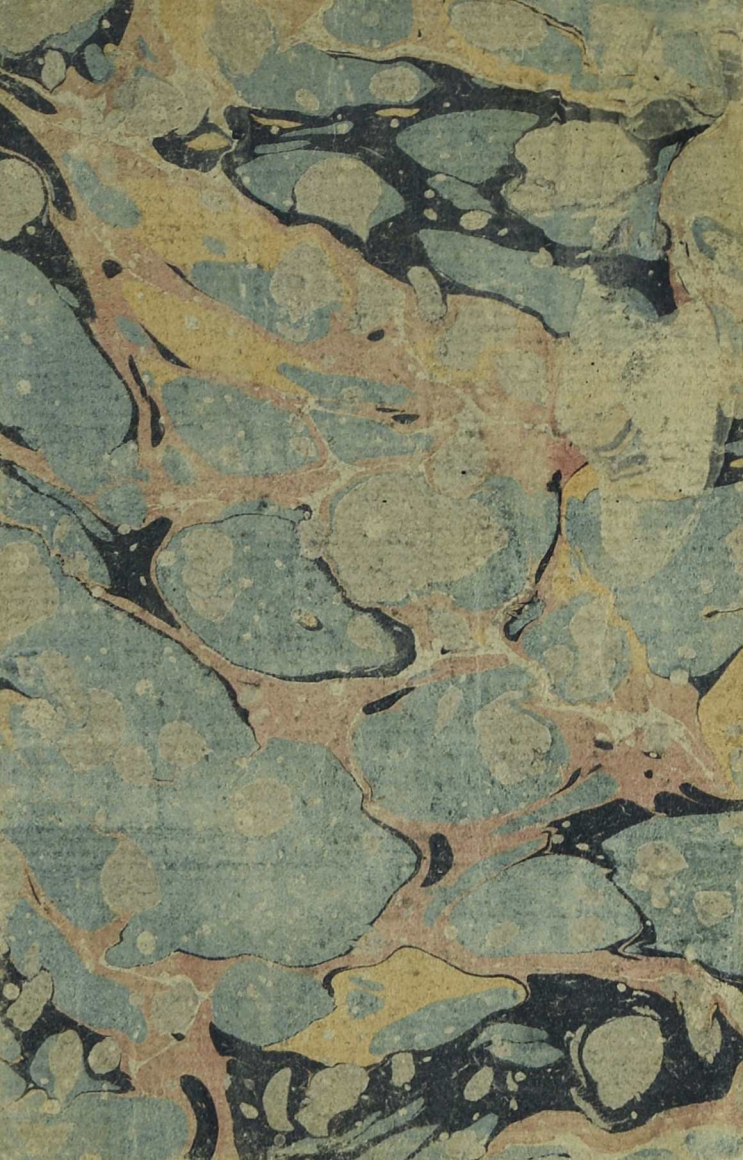


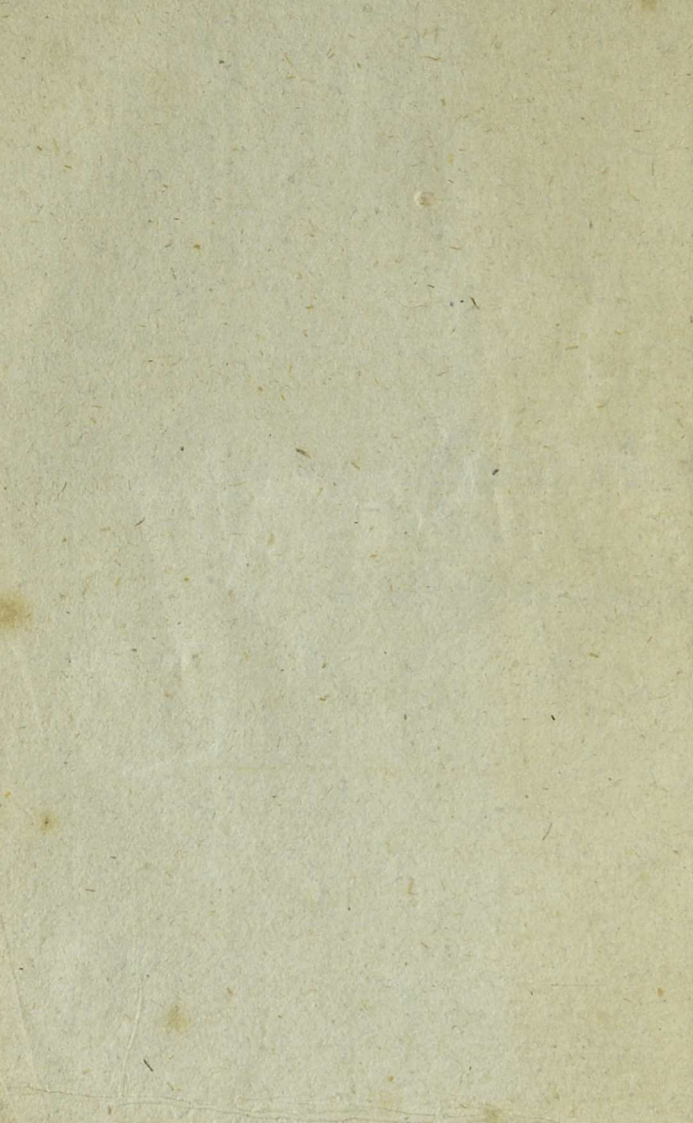


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THE
HISTORY
OF
J O S E P H
AND
HIS BRETHREN.

INCLUDING AN ACCOUNT
OF THEIR
JOURNEY FROM CANAAN,
AND THEIR
DEPARTURE FROM EGYPT.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
JOSEPH, &c.



JACOB loved his son Joseph better than his other children, and made him a coat of many colours,

because he was a better man than his brothers, and was the son of his dear wife Rachel ; but he was hated by his brothers on several accounts. One day Joseph saw them do something bad ; and he acquainted his father Jacob with it, which made his



brothers angry. Another day he said to them, I have dreamed that

we were in a field making up wheat sheaves, but all your sheaves bowed down before mine : another time I dreamed, that the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars, prostrated themselves before me.

Though Jacob thought that God had sent these dreams to Joseph, yet he chid him for telling them ; and said to him, Dost thou believe that thy mother and I, and thy brothers, are to be thy servants ? Jacob's other children were then very angry with Joseph ; and one day, when they were tending their flocks, a great way off, they saw Joseph

coming, Jacob having sent him to know how they did ; and they said, Here is our dreamer, let us kill him.

Reuben, who was not so wicked as the others, said, No, don't let us kill him, but throw him into a deep pit.



For Reuben intended to have come back in the night, and to have drawn him out of this pit; but when he was gone, Jacob's sons saw some merchants coming, who were going into Egypt; they drew Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to these merchants for a slave.



When Reuben came at night to save Joseph, he was much troubled at not finding him, and fell a crying; but his brothers took Joseph's coat, and having made it all over bloody, sent it to Jacob, who thought that some wild beast had devoured Joseph, at which he was extremely concerned.



The merchants who had bought Joseph, sold him to a great Egyptian lord. Joseph seeing himself a slave, resolved to serve his master faithfully ; his name was Potiphar ; and he gained his affection. Potiphar had a very wicked wife, and she was for enticing Joseph to betray his master. Joseph would ne-



ver do such a bad thing; and Potiphar's wife, being provoked at him, told her husband that Joseph was a wicked man, who betrayed him.

Potiphar, who did not know his wife would lie, was very angry at Joseph, and put him in prison: he staid there a long time; but the master of the prison, moved by his virtue, had a great respect for him.

There was in this prison two officers belonging to the king of Egypt; his name was Pharaoh; one was his cup-bearer, that is, he who gave out his drink; the other was

the chief of the bakers, or he that furnished the bread. One day the cup-bearer said to Joseph, I dreamed that I had very fine grapes, and squeezed them in a cup, and the king drank the juice of those grapes.



Joseph said to him, The meaning of this dream is, that the king will pardon thee, and restore thee to thy

place. When thou returnest to court, be so kind as to speak to the king for me, that I may be taken out of prison, for I am innocent. The chief baker said to Joseph, I dreamed also that I was carrying on my head a basket full of cakes, and that the birds came and ate them. Joseph answered, this means that thou wilt be hanged, and the birds will eat thy body. All these things happened as Joseph had foretold ; but when the cup-bearer was at court, he forgot his friend Joseph, who continued in prison.

It may be seen that these dreams, and others we shall speak of, were

sent to show the innocence of Joseph. It was a miracle which God did to reward him, and make him happy.

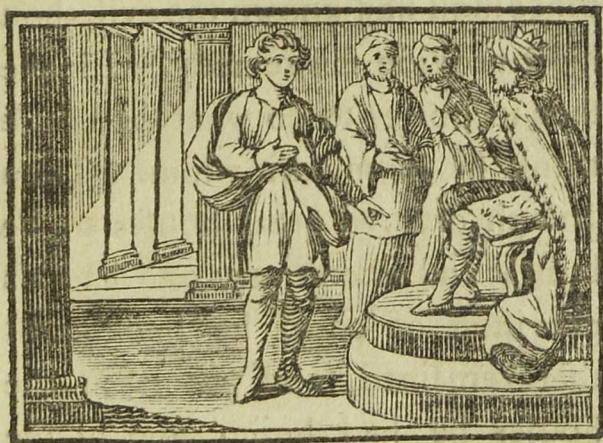
Now it must not be thought that God works miracles for nothing, and that he will discover to man, without necessity, what is to come. So that to set up to explain dreams by any pretended art, is a very great folly, and ought always to be discouraged.

But to return to our story, Joseph so faithfully obeyed his master, and the man who commanded in

prison, that, by his good behaviour, he gained their favour.

Pharaoh dreamed one night that he saw seven fine cows, so fat, that it was a pleasure to look at them; on a sudden, he saw seven cows so lean, that they were nothing but skin and bone; these seven lean cows ate up the seven fat ones. And the king, when he waked, sent for the most learned men of Egypt to interpret his dream; but they could not, because God had not taught them what it meant. Then the cup-bearer remembered Joseph, and told the king that he had

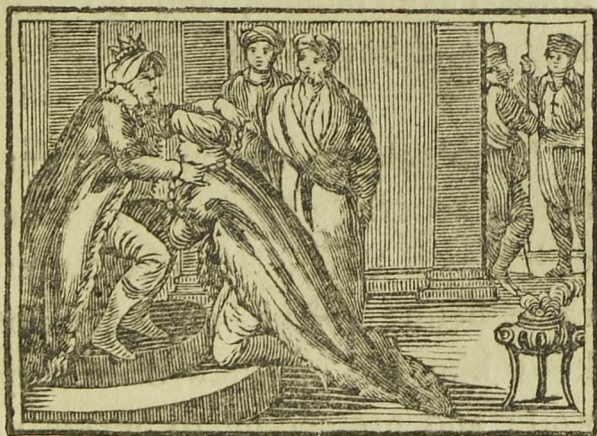
interpreted his dream, and that of his chief baker.



Joseph was sent for, and he said to the king, The seven fat cows signify that, during seven years, there will be a great deal of corn, but after this time there will be seven years in which there will be no corn ; and these are the seven lean

cows, which shall eat up the seven fat ones. The king said to Joseph, Since thou hast known the evil, thou must provide the remedy. I leave thee in power to do what thou shalt think fit in my kingdom. Then Joseph ordered great houses to be built; and when every one had his provision of corn, he bought all that remained, and put it in the houses he had built; and at the end of seven years all those houses or barns were full of corn. It was not known why Joseph did so, but it was soon discovered; for, after the seven years, the corn which had been sown did not come up, and the Egyptians were obliged to go and

buy the king's corn, of which Joseph had the care. Thus Pharaoh perceived the wisdom of Joseph, and he put a chain of gold on his neck, and raised him to the greatest dignity in his kingdom.



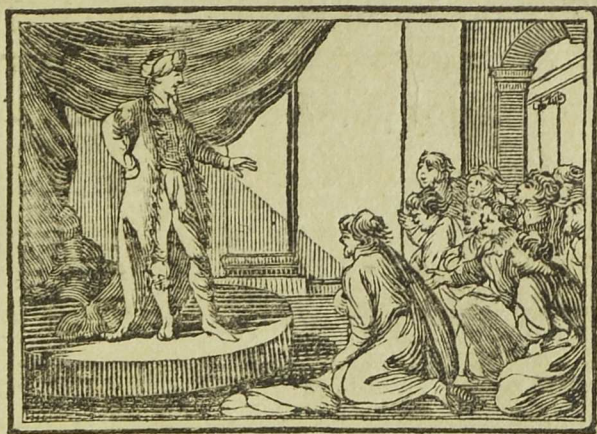
Jacob, we may remember, had

many children, besides a great number of servants.

He had but little corn left to make bread; and having heard that it was sold in Egypt, he said to his sons, Take money, and go into Egypt and buy corn.

Jacob's children set out for Egypt, but he kept little Benjamin at home with him. When Jacob's children came before Joseph, they did not know him, but he knew them very well; and pretending to be angry, said, You are spies; you are come into this country to betray the king.

They answered (prostrating before him), My lord, we are not spies,



but we are brethren, and children of the same father; we have another brother at home, besides one who died long ago. You are spies, said Joseph unto them; and I will not believe you, unless you bring your young brother with you. Then Jo-

seph's brothers, who did not know him, and who thought he did not understand their language, said, God punishes us for having sold our poor brother Joseph, who cried for mercy to us.

Joseph, who had not forgotten the language of his country, understood them very well, and said, Go back to your father, that you may bring your little brother with you ; one of you I will keep in prison, and if you don't come, I will put him to death. Jacob's nine children returned to their father, but they were very much surprised to find in their sacks the money which they

had given to pay for their corn ;
for Joseph had given orders that



their money should be put again
into their sacks. Yet they gave
an account of their adventure to
their father ; but Jacob would not
let Benjamin go. There was, how-
ever, a necessity for returning when
they had ate up all their corn ; and

Judah, the eldest of Jacob's children, said to him, that he would be answerable for his young brother; and Jacob let them go.

Joseph was very glad to see his brother Benjamin; and having ordered Simeon, who was in prison, to be released, he told his steward to take these strangers to his house, for he would have them at his table. They were afraid when they heard this, and said to the steward, We do not know how it came about, but we found in our sacks the money we had given for corn in the journey. The steward answered them, Be easy, I have re-

ceived your money ; I demand nothing of you. When Joseph came, he asked how Jacob did, and whether Benjamin was their younger brother that they told him of ; and looking stedfastly at his brother, who, as well as himself, was the son



of Rachel, the tears came into his eyes, and he withdrew for a mo-

ment ; afterwards they sat down to a table, and Benjamin was helped to a mess of five times as much as the others. The next day Joseph ordered his steward to give them corn ; but he told them at the same time, to conceal in Benjamin's sack a fine golden cup, he himself drank out of.

When Jacob's children were got a little way off, the steward ran after them, and said, You are thieves and wicked men ; my master entertained you kindly in his house, and in return you have carried off his golden cup.

They all answered, We have not done this wicked action ; and if thou findest the cup among us, we consent to be thy master's slaves. They emptied their sacks, and the cup was found in Benjamin's.



They returned to Joseph, who said to them, It is not just that the

innocent should suffer for the guilty; go home to your father, and the thief shall be my slave. Judah, throwing himself at Joseph's feet, said to him,



Let not my lord be angry; pray allow me to be thy slave in Benjamin's stead; for if my father see us come back without him, he will die of grief. Joseph, no longer able

to withhold his tears, ordered every body to go out of the room, and said to his brothers, I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold ; but I forgive you ; don't be afraid ; God has permitted this, that I might give you bread ; and Joseph fell upon Benjamin's neck, and embraced him and his brethren.



In the mean time, Pharaoh having heard that Joseph had found his brothers again, was mightily pleased, and said to him, Take chariots, and send for thy father ; it is my will that he come into Egypt with all his family, and I will give him the finest country of all Egypt to live in. Then Joseph, after showing a deal of kindness to his brothers, made them great presents, and sent them to fetch their father Jacob. When the children of Jacob got home, they said to their father, Rejoice, thy son Joseph is not dead, he is become a great man, and it is he that is master of all the corn in

Egypt. Jacob could hardly believe this good news ; but when he saw the presents, he thanked God, leaping for joy ; and set out with all his family to go and see his dear son again.

Joseph, after embracing him, pre-



presented him to the king, who asked him how old he was? I am an hundred and thirty years old, answered Jacob; and the days of my pilgrimage on earth have been short and troublesome.

Pharaoh gave Jacob and his children a very fine country, where their flocks were pastured; and Jacob lived several years longer.

Before he died he foretold to his children all that would happen to them; and he assured his son Judah, that the crown would come into his family, and never go out of it.

After his death, his body was carried to the burial-place of his fathers; for he had strictly enjoined Joseph to give him that satisfaction.

Joseph lived a great number of years; and as God had revealed to him, that the descendants of Jacob, who were called Israelites, would one day go out of Egypt, he obliged his children to give him the strongest assurance that, after his death, they would carry away his bones, and lay them near those of his father Jacob.

After Jacob's death, Joseph's

brothers were afraid that he would take that occasion to be revenged ; but he removed their apprehensions, by assuring them he had forgiven them with all his heart.

Who can but admire the goodness of God in bringing about his designs ? Who would not have thought Joseph very unhappy, to have such wicked brothers, to be sold as a slave, and accused by Potiphar's wife, and put in prison.

And yet, had not all these misfortunes happened to Joseph, he could not have had the pleasure

of saving Egypt, and his family, nor of forgiving his brothers.

The children of Jacob, who were also called Israelites, had many children, and they made a great people.

A long time after, another king, whose name was likewise Pharaoh, ascended the throne: but Joseph died before this king was born. This wicked king was for destroying the Israelites, and he forced them to work at the building of several great cities; but the more they worked, the better they were in health, and the more children they had. Pharaoh, who intended to

exterminate them, ordered that all the little boys of the Israelites should be thrown into the Nile. As the Nile is a great river, they were all drowned. A man, of the tribe of Levi, had a little boy, who was very handsome, and his mother hid him for three months : but being afraid that the child would be discovered, she made a pretty basket, and having put her son into it, she carried him to the Nile, and left her daughter Mary to see what would become of him. Pharaoh's daughter came at that time to bathe herself; and seeing the basket, ordered one of her maids to take it out. When she

saw the pretty babe in the basket, she had pity on it, and said, "I'll save it." Mary, who heard this, said to her, "If thou please, I'll go and fetch thee a nurse." "Do so," said the princess. Then Mary went and fetched her mother; and the princess, having named the child Moses, gave it to nurse to his own mother, whom she did not know.

When Moses was grown up, the daughter of Pharaoh took him for her own, and he became a great man; but the riches and pleasures of the court did not make him forget his brethren the Israelites. One day he saw one used ill by an Egyp-

tian ; and Moses killed the Egyptian, who was about to kill the Israelite ; and hid him in the ground, and was fully persuaded nobody had seen him. The next day he saw two Israelites quarrelling, and said to them, “ Why do ye quarrel ? ye are brethren ; you should live peaceably.” One of the Israelites made answer, “ What business is it of thine ? thou art not our judge ; dost thou want to kill me as thou didst the Egyptian yesterday ?” Moses, who thought that nobody knew of his killing the man, was very much afraid ; and hearing that the king designed to put him to death, he fled into another country. Af-

ter walking a great way, he sat himself down near a well to rest; and there came seven young women, who were sisters, and their father's name was Jethro. These young women having drawn water for their flocks to drink, there came some shepherds, who were for driving them away; but Moses defended the young women; and when they were returned home to their father, they told him what had happened.

Jethro said, "Why did you not ask that civil man to come in and eat a bit with us? Then Jethro made Moses come in; and

some time after gave him one of his daughters, called Sephorah.

Moses was one day tending the flocks of his father-in-law Jethro, and he came as far as Mount Horeb ; where, as he was watching his flock, he saw a bush all on fire, and yet the bush did not burn. Moses drew near to admire this wonder ; then he heard a voice, which said to him, “ Pull off thy shoes, for this place is holy.” Then Moses prostrated himself, with his face to the ground ; and the voice said, “ I have heard the cry of my people which are in Egypt ; for the Israelites are my people ; and there-

fore I order thee to go to them, and deliver them: and thou shalt tell them, that thou comest from me.”

“ Lord,” said Moses, “ I don’t know thy name, how shall I tell it them ?” “ I AM THAT I AM,” answered the voice.

“ Go to Pharaoh, and thou shalt ask him leave to take my people into the desert, there to sacrifice for three days.”

“ Lord,” replied Moses, “ Pharaoh will not believe me, and he will put me to death.” “ I will be with thee,” replied the voice, “ and give thee power to work miracles: throw down the little rod in thy hand.”

Moses obeyed, and the rod was instantly changed into a serpent. Mo-

ses was afraid, and fled; but the voice said to him, "Take the serpent by the tail, and it will immediately be a rod again." It happened as the voice had said, and yet Moses could not get over his fears. The voice ordered him to put his hand into his bosom, and it was immediately covered with a leprosy; and having put his leprous hand into his bosom, it was healed. Though Moses knew by these miracles that it was God who spake to him, yet he found a great difficulty in taking a resolution to go to Pharaoh; and said, "Lord, thou knowest that I have not a free use of my tongue, and all my life long I have

found it hard to utter my words ; and since I have spoken to thee, the difficulty has increased." The voice answered him, " Who has made the mouth of the dumb, and of him that speaketh, Is it not I ? Go thy way, I will be in thy mouth ; and then I will send thy brother Aaron to meet thee, who speaks readily, and shall be thy interpreter." Upon which Moses left the mountain, and went into Egypt ; and as he went on his way, Aaron met him, as God had promised.

Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and said, " The Eternal God

orders thee to let his people go into the desert, that they may offer a sacrifice to him." Pharaoh answered, "I know not the Eternal God." This wicked king sent for those who kept the Israelites at work, and said, "Increase this people's work: had they work enough, they would not have time to wish for a journey into the desert." Hereupon more work was set out to the Israelites than they could do; and they were beaten because they had not done their work. The Israelites, seeing that they were more miserable than before, said to Moses, "You are the cause of our misfortunes: why

didst thou speak to Pharaoh to let us go into the desert?" Then Moses said to the Lord, "Thou seest my brethren are angry with me." The Lord answered him, "I am the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob; I will give to the Israelites the land of Canaan, which is the best country in the world; return to Pharaoh, and Aaron shall work miracles in his presence." Moses and Aaron went again to the king; and Aaron having thrown his rod on the ground, it was changed into a serpent.

Pharaoh's magicians also turned their rods into serpents; but Aa-

ron's serpent ate up the serpents of the magicians. Afterwards Aaron struck, with his rod, the waters of the river, and they were changed into blood; the waters stunk, and killed all the fish; but as the magicians also changed the waters into blood, Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

God afterwards commanded Aaron to hold out his rod, and he beheld a great quantity of frogs. They got into the houses and beds, and even into the king's chamber.

Then Pharaoh said to Moses,
" Pray to thy God, that he may kill

these frogs, and I'll let the Israelites go." Moses prayed to God, and the frogs died; but after they were dead, Pharaoh would not keep his promise. Then God sent great numbers of lice, among men and beast; then a great hail; he sent sores on all men; and at noon one could not see, there was such a thick fog. It was only in the country of the Israelites these misfortunes were not felt; yet for all this Pharaoh would not let them go. Then God said to Moses, "Let every family of the Israelites take a lamb or a kid, and sprinkle the blood on their door-posts; this lamb, or kid, must be roasted and eaten, and if any re-

mains, it must be burnt. You shall eat this supper in haste; for I am going to bring you out of Egypt.” The Israelites did as they were ordered. About midnight God sent his angel, who slew the eldest sons of the Egyptians; but nobody died in the houses where the blood was sprinkled.

Then Pharaoh and his people set up a great cry, and said, “Go away quickly, and pray for us.” The Israelites accordingly went, six hundred thousand men, besides women and children, having borrowed from their neighbours vessels of gold and silver, they carried them

away with them ; but they probably did not know they should never return. When the Israelites entered the desert, the Lord ordered his angel to guide them. In the day he walked before them in a cloud, and in the night in a pillar of fire. In the meantime Pharaoh was sorry he had let them go ; and, with a great army he followed them with all expedition. When the Israelites saw the Egyptians, they were afraid, and murmured against Moses, who exhorted them to trust in God ; and he also prayed for them. And the angel, who was before them, placed himself behind, and with the cloud hid them from the Egyptians.

Then Moses waved his rod on the Red Sea, and divided it; and the sea stood in the air like a mountain. All night the Israelites went over, and the Egyptians thought they might pass after them; when they were all in the sea with Pharaoh, the waters returned to their place, and they were all drowned. Then Moses, Aaron, and their sister Mary, sang with the people a song of praise to the Lord, who had delivered them from the hands of their enemies.

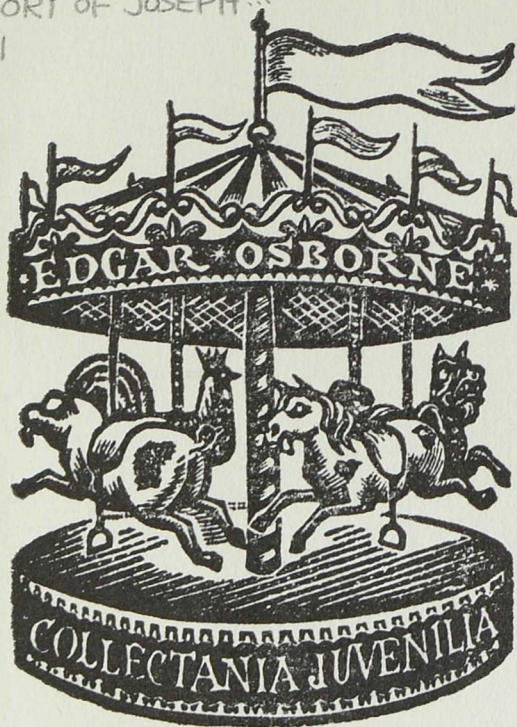
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