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Walter Crane

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# **A FLORAL FANTASY IN AN OLD ENGLISH GARDEN**

**BY WALTER CRANE**

NEW YORK & LONDON HARPER AND BROTHERS





·A·FLORAL·  
·FANTASY·



# **A FLORAL FANTASY IN AN OLD ENGLISH GARDEN**



A FLORAL  
FANTASY  
IN AN OLD  
ENGLISH  
GARDEN





SET FORTH IN  
VERSES & COLOURED  
DESIGNS  
BY  
WALTER CRANE

LONDON: AT THE  
HOUSE OF HARPER  
AND BROTHERS:  
1899

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# **THE OLD ENGLISH GARDEN**

**A FLORAL PHANTASY**

THE OLD ENG-  
LISH GARDEN  
A FLORAL PHAN-  
TASY. \* \* \*

In an old world  
garden dreaming,  
Where the flowers  
had human names,  
Methought, in fan-  
tastic seeming,  
They disported as  
squires  
and dames.



In an old world garden dreaming,  
Where the flowers had human names,  
Methought, in fantastic seeming,  
They disported as squires and dames.



**O**ld in Rosamond's  
Bower,  
**W**ith its peacock hedges  
of yew,  
**N**one could never find  
the flower  
**U**nless one was given  
the clue;  
**S**o take the key of the  
wicket,  
**W**ho would follow my  
fancy free,  
**B**y formal knot and  
clipt thicket,  
**A**nd smooth green  
sward so fair to see





Of old in Rosamond's Bower,  
With it's peacock hedges of yew,  
One could never find the flower  
Unless one was given the clue;  
So take the key of the wicket,  
Who would follow my fancy free,  
By formal knot and clipt thicket,  
And smooth greensward so fair to see

And while Time  
his scythe  
is whetting,  
Ere the dew  
from the grass  
has gone,



And while Time his scythe is whetting,  
Ere the dew from the grass has gone,

The Four  
Seasons'  
flight  
forgetting,  
As they dance  
round the  
dial stone;



The Four Seasons' flight forgetting,  
As they dance round the dial stone;



With a leaf  
from an old  
English book -  
A Jonquil  
will serve for  
a pen -



With a leaf from an old English book,  
A Jonquil will serve for a pen.

**L**et us note  
from the green  
arbour's nook,

**F**lowers mask-  
ing like women  
and men



Let us note from the green arbour's nook,  
Flowers masking like women and men.

FIRST in  
VENUS'S  
LOOKING  
GLASS,

YOU may see  
where

LOVE LIES  
BLEEDING,

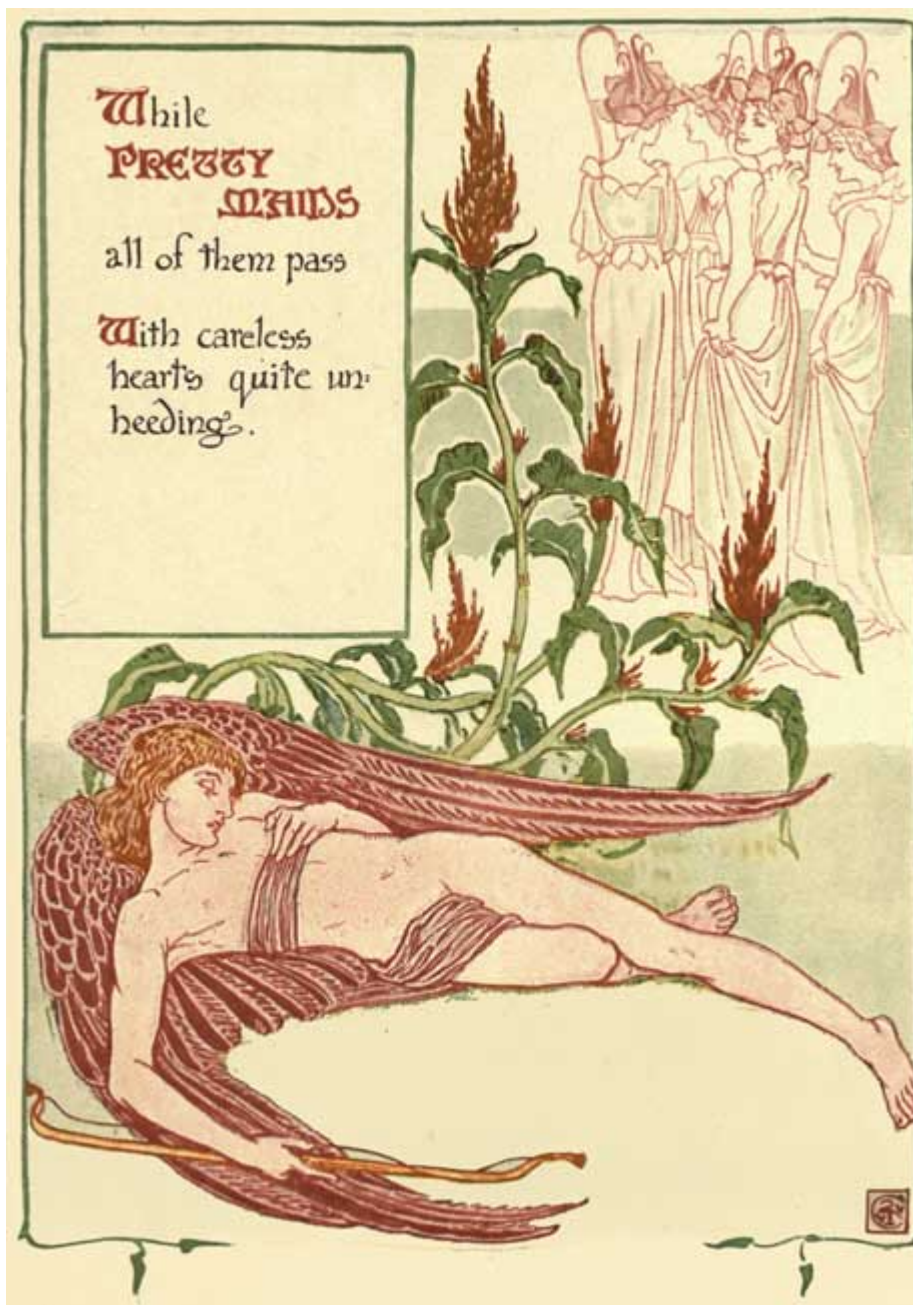


FIRST in VENUS'S LOOKING GLASS,  
You may see where LOVE LIES BLEEDING,

While  
**PRETTY**  
**MAIDS**

all of them pass

With careless  
hearts quite un-  
heeding.





While PRETTY MAIDS all of them pass  
With careless hearts quite unheeding.



Next, a knight  
with his flam:  
ing targe  
See the  
**DENT-DE-LION**  
so bold  
With his feath:  
ery crest at large,  
On a field of the  
cloth of gold.

Next, a knight with his flaming targe  
See the DENT-DE-LION so bold  
With his feathery crest at large,  
On a field of the cloth of gold.

**S**imple **H**onesty  
shows in vain  
**A** fashion feat  
seek to robe in,  
**W**hile the poor  
**S**HEPHERD'S PURSE  
is ta'en  
**B**y rascally  
**R**AGGED ROBIN.



Simple honesty shows in vain  
A fashion few seek to robe in,  
While the poor SHEPHERD'S-PURSE is ta'en  
By rascally RAGGED-ROBIN.



COLTSFOOT  
and  
LARKSPUR  
SPEEDWELL





COLTSFOOT  
and  
LARKSPUR

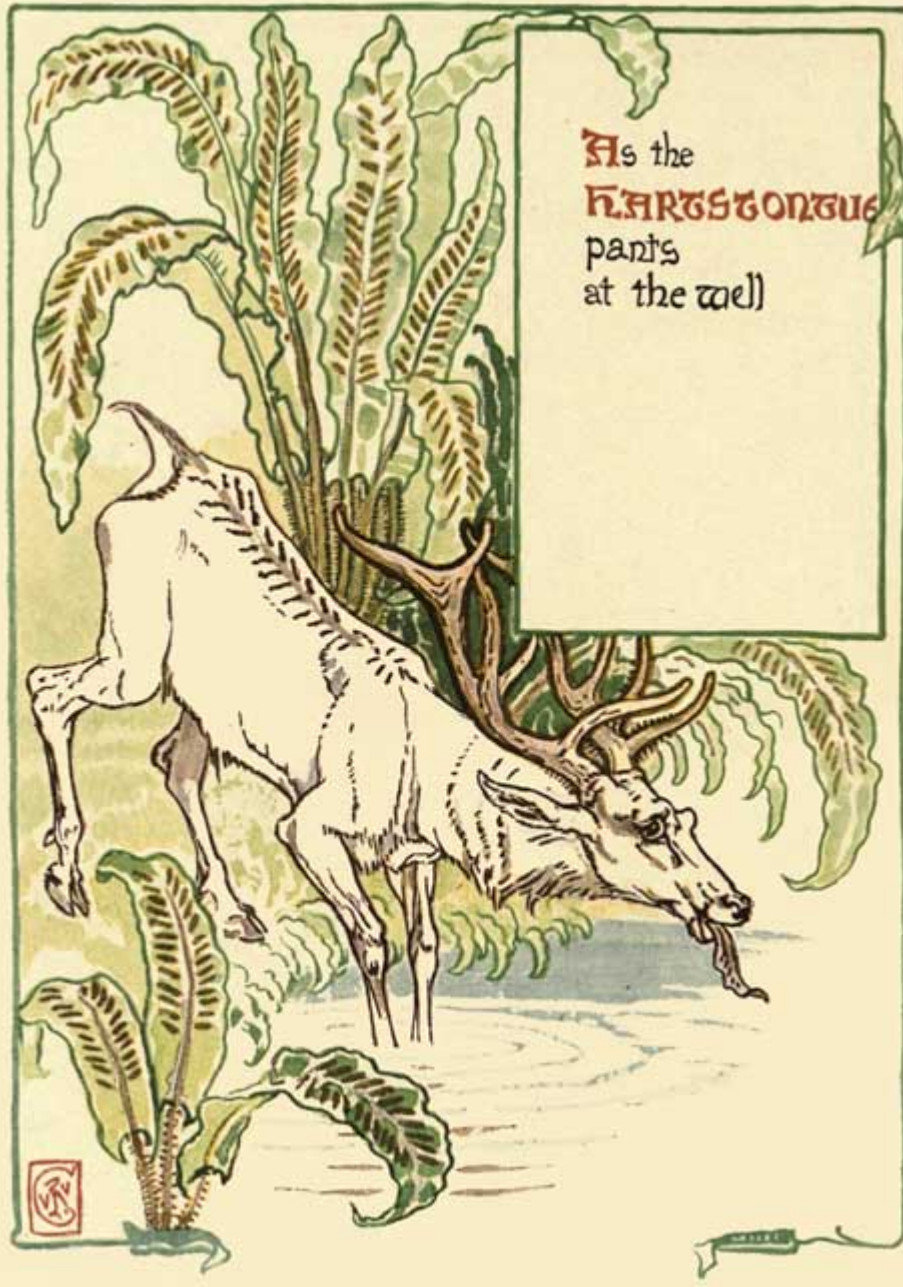
SPEEDWELL

In the race  
of the flowers  
that's run  
due,



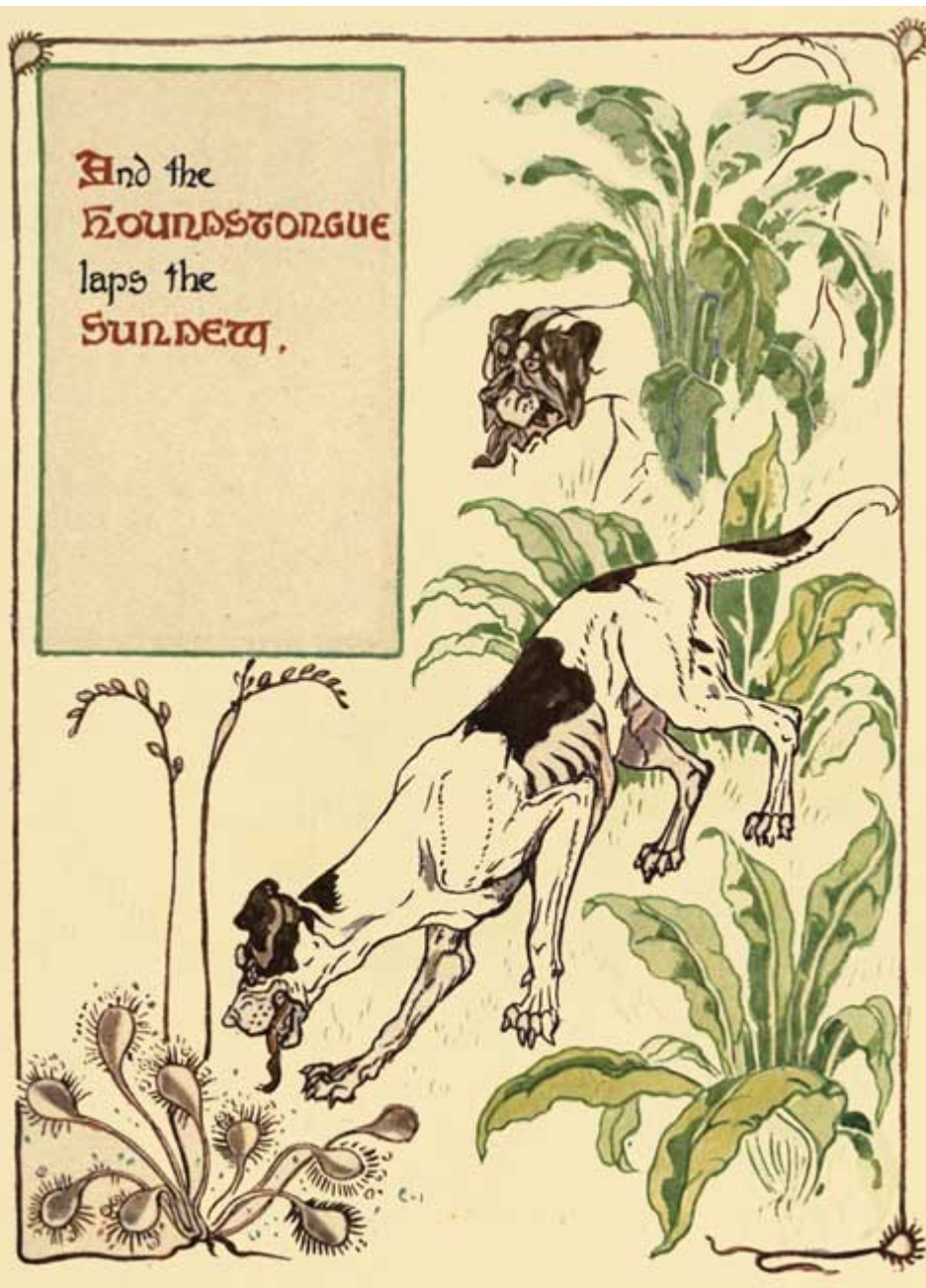
In the race of the flowers that's run due,

As the  
**HARTSTONGUE**  
pant's  
at the well



As the HARTSTONGUE pants at the well

And the  
Houndstongue  
laps the  
SUNSET.





And the HOUNDSTONGUE laps the SUNDEW.

Here's  
VENUS' GOMBE  
for  
MAIDENHAIR:  
While  
KINGCUPS  
drink  
BELLA DONNA,



Here's VENUS'-COMBE for MAIDENHAIR:  
While KING-CUPS drink BELLA-DONNA,

Glad in purple  
and gold  
so fair,  
Though the  
DEADLY  
NIGHTSHADE'S  
upon her.



Glad in purple and gold so fair,  
Though the DEADLY NIGHTSHADE'S upon her.





Behold  
LONDON PRIDE  
robed & crowned,  
Ushered in by the  
GOLDEN ROD,  
While a floral  
crowd press  
around,  
Just to gain from  
her crest a nod.



Behold LONDON PRIDE robed & crowned,  
Ushered in by the GOLDEN ROD,  
While a floral crowd press around,  
Just to win from her crest a nod.

**T**he **F**oxgloves  
are already on,  
**N**ot only in pairs  
but dozens;  
**T**hey've come out  
to see all the fun,  
**W**ith sisters and  
aunts  
and cousins.



The FOXGLOVES are already on.  
Not only in pairs but dozens;  
They've come out to see all the fun,  
With sisters and aunts and cousins.

The  
STITCHWORT  
looked up  
with a sigh

At  
BACHELOR'S  
BUTTONS  
unsettled :



The STITCHWORK looked up with a sigh  
At BATCHELOR'S BUTTONS unsewn:



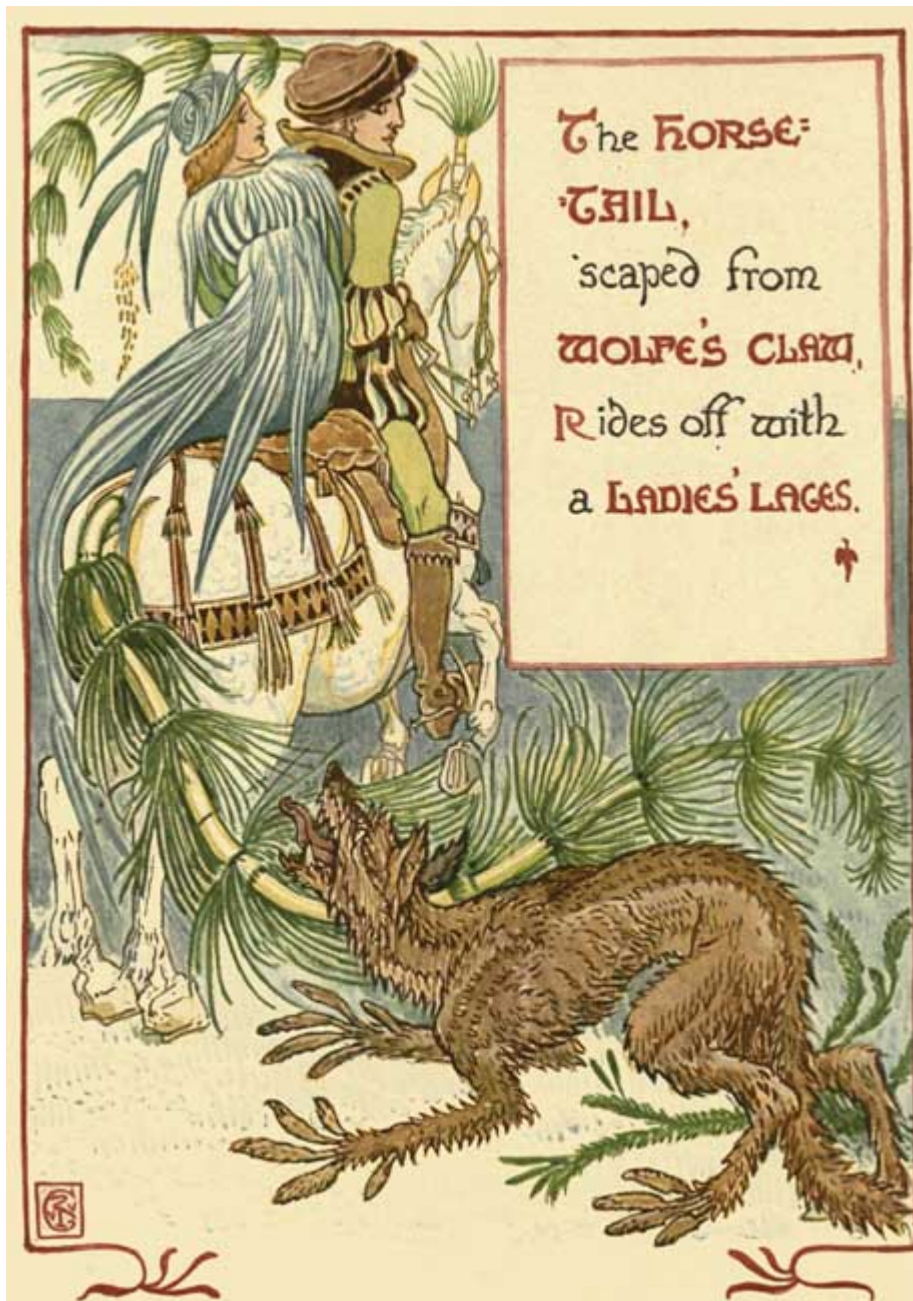
**S**ingle **D**aisies  
were not  
in her eye,

**F**or  
the grass  
was just  
neatly mown.





Single Daisies were not in her eye,  
For the grass was just newly mown.



The HORSE-TAIL, 'scaped from WOLFE'S CLAW,  
Rides off with a LADIES' LAGES.

The **FRIAR'S**  
**GOWD**

hides  
a doctor of law,

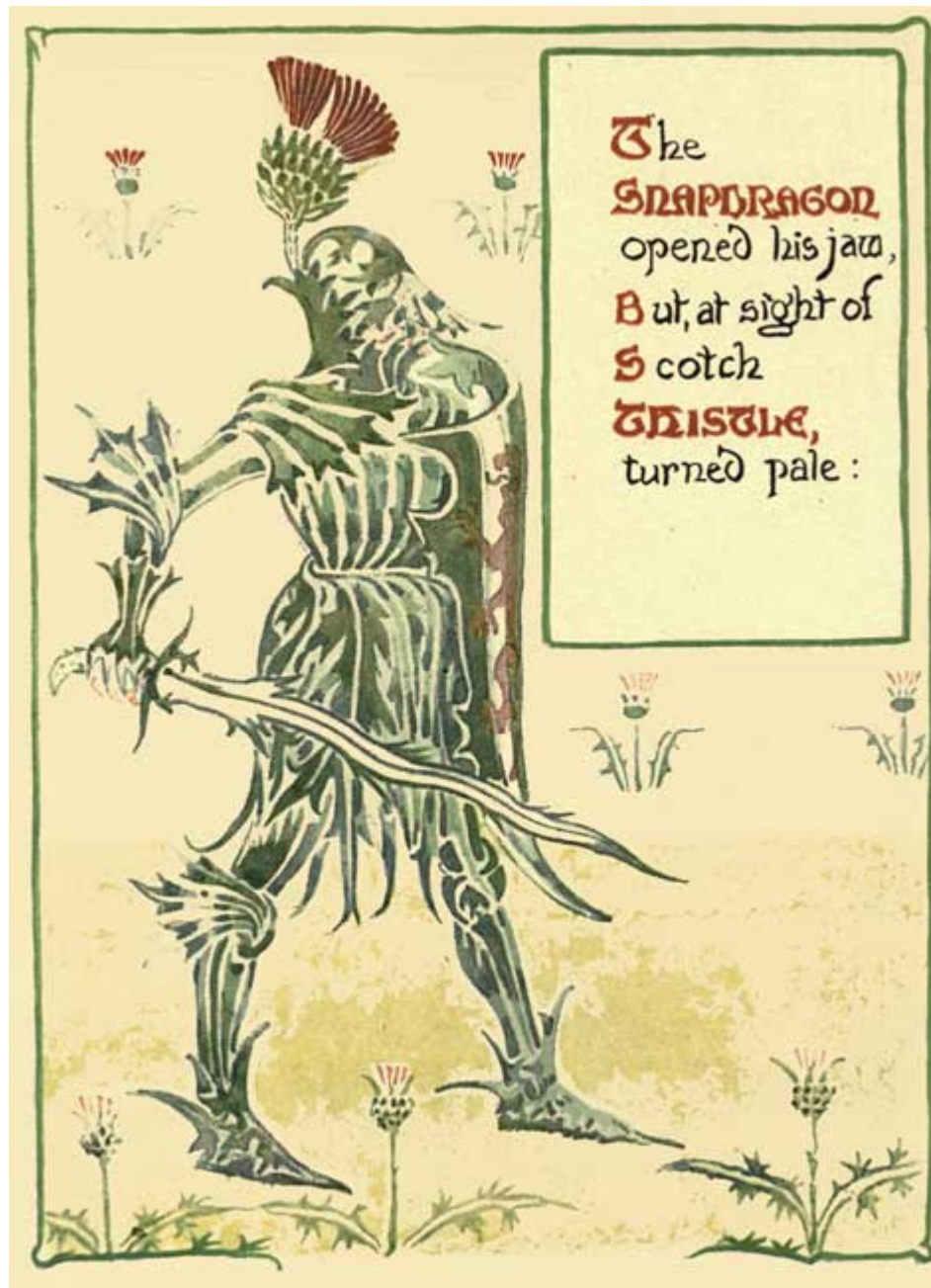
And the  
**BISHOP'S-WEED**

covers  
his grace's



The FRIAR'S-COWL hides a doctor of law,  
And the BISHOP'S-WEED covers his grace's





The  
**S**NAPDRAGON  
opened his jaw,  
But, at sight of  
**S**cotch  
**T**HISTLE,  
turned pale :



The SNAPDRAGON opened his jaw,  
But, at sight of Scotch THISTLE, turned pale:

**H**e'd  
too many points  
of the law  
**F**or a dragon  
without  
a scale.

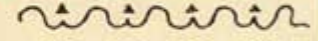


He'd too many points of the law  
For a dragon without a scale.



**Little JENNY-  
GREER**

lay low,  
Till happy thoughts  
made her gladder;  
How to rise in the  
world she'd know,  
So she climbed up  
**JACOB'S LADDER**



Little JENNY-CREEPER lay low,  
Till happy thoughts made her gladder;  
How to rise in the world she'd know,  
So she climbed up JACOB'S LADDER



SWEET WILLIAM  
with  
MARYGOLD  
Seek  
HEARTSEASE  
in the close box-  
border,  
Where, starched  
in their ruff's stiff  
fold  
DUTCH DAHLIAS  
prim, keep order.



SWEET WILLIAM with MARYGOLD  
Seek HEARTSEASE in the close box-border.  
Where, starched in their ruff's stiff fold,  
DUTCH DAHLIAS prim, keep order.

**NARGISSUS**

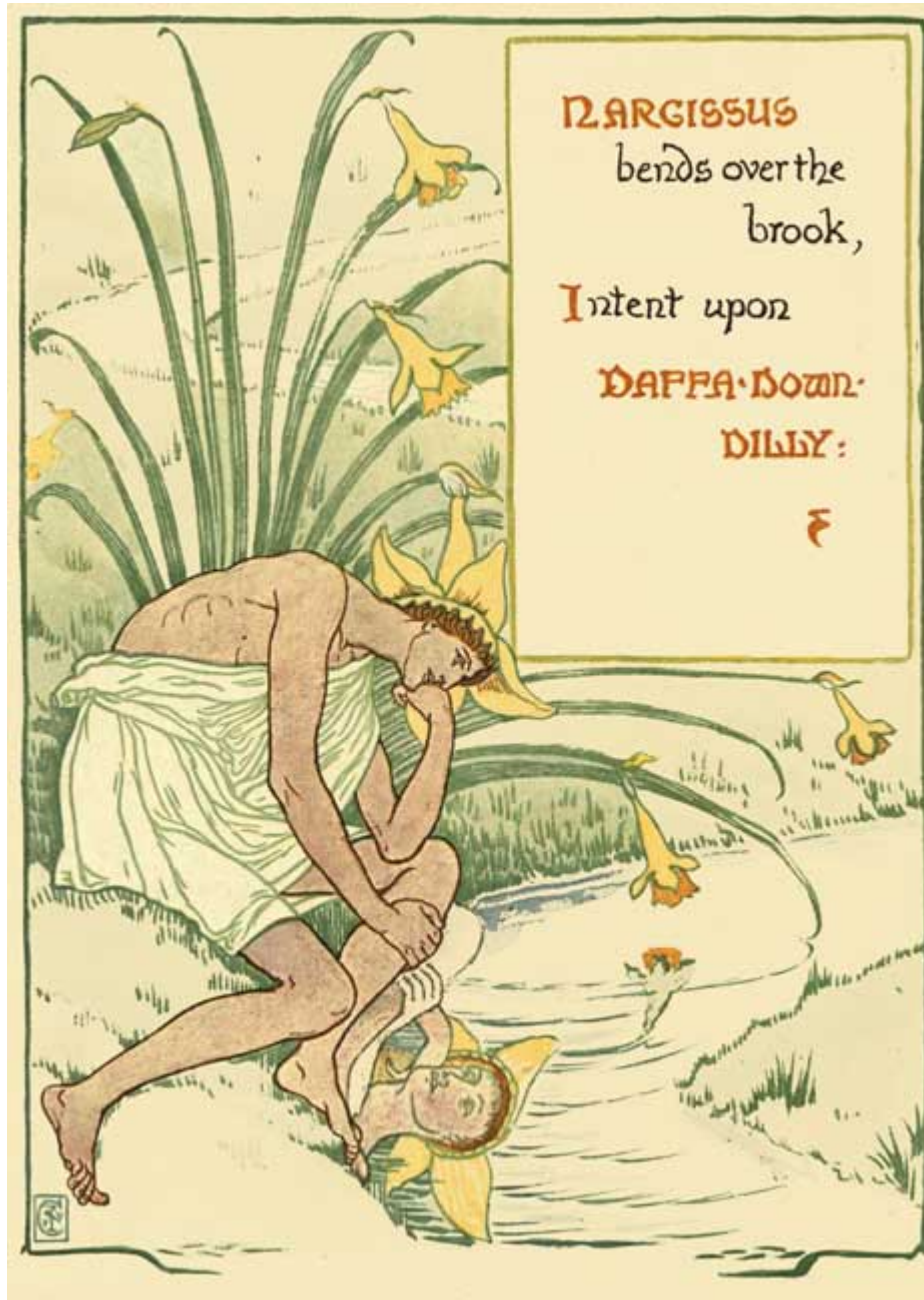
bends over the  
brook,

**I**ntent upon

**DAPPA·DOWN·**

**DILLY:**

**F**



NARCISSUS bends over the brook,  
Intent upon DAFFA-DOWN-DILLY:



While **EYEBRIGHT**  
observes from  
her nook,  
**And** wonders he  
could be so  
silly.





While EYEBRIGHT observes from her nook,  
And wonders he could be so silly.

A LANCE FOR  
A LAD 'gainst  
KING'S SPEAR,  
When the BUGLE  
sounds for  
the play



A LANCE FOR A LAD 'gainst KING'S SPEAR.  
When the BUGLE sounds for the play

A LADIES MANT'  
LE flaunting  
there  
Is the banner  
that leads  
the fray.



A LADIES MANTLE flaunting there  
Is the banner that leads the fray.



KNIGHT'S SPUR  
to the  
LADIES BOWER  
To seek for the  
LADIES SLIPPER.



KNIGHT'S SPUR to the LADIES BOWER  
To seek for the LADIES SLIPPER.

'T was lost in  
the wood  
in a summer  
shower  
When the  
**GHOST'S WORT**  
tried to trip her.



'Twas lost in the wood in a summer shower  
When the CLOWN'S WORT tried to trip her.



TOAD-FLAX

is spun

for

BUTTER-

AND-EGGS

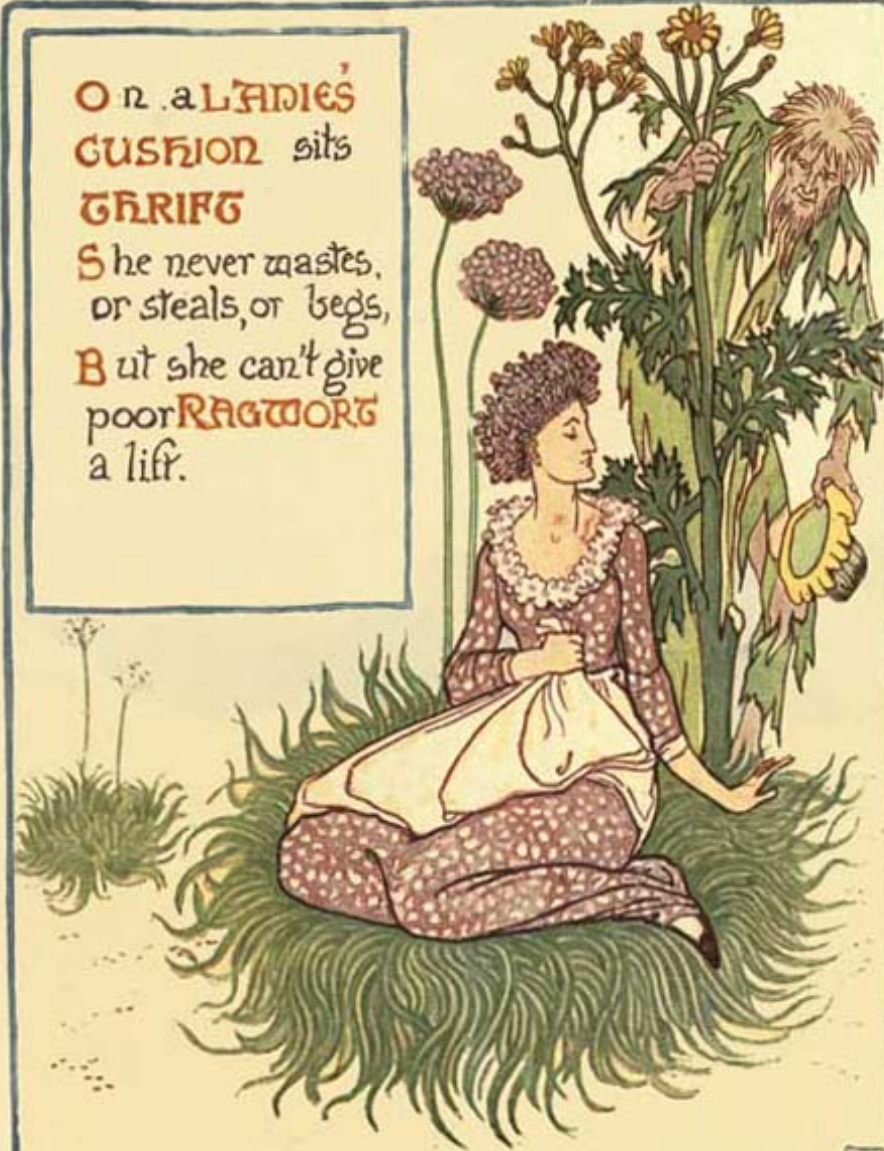




TOAD-FLAX is spun for BUTTER-AND-EGGS

On a LADIES'  
CUSHION sits  
THRIFT

She never wastes,  
or steals, or begs,  
But she can't give  
poor RAGWORT  
a lift.



On a LADIES' CUSHION sits THRIFT  
She never wastes, or steals, or begs,  
But she can't give poor RAGWORT a lift.

QUEEN OF  
THE MEADS

is  
MEADOWSWEEP.

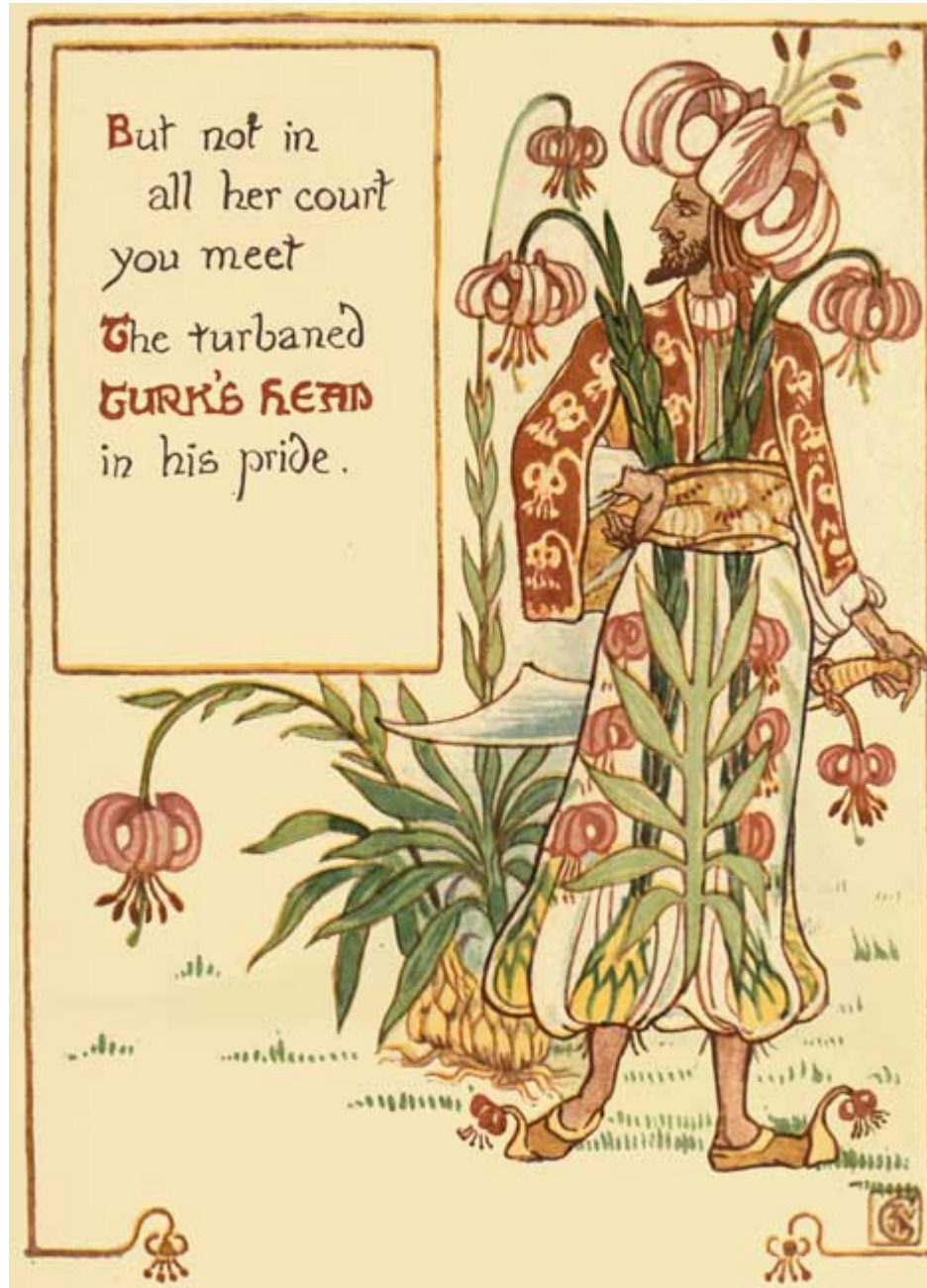
In the realm  
of grasses  
wide:



QUEEN OF THE MEADS is MEADOWSWEET,  
In the realm of grasses wide:



But not in  
all her court  
you meet  
The turbaned  
**TURK'S HEAD**  
in his pride.



But not in all her court you meet  
The turbaned TURK'S HEAD in his pride.

**Fair BETHLEHEM'**  
**STAR**

shineth bright,

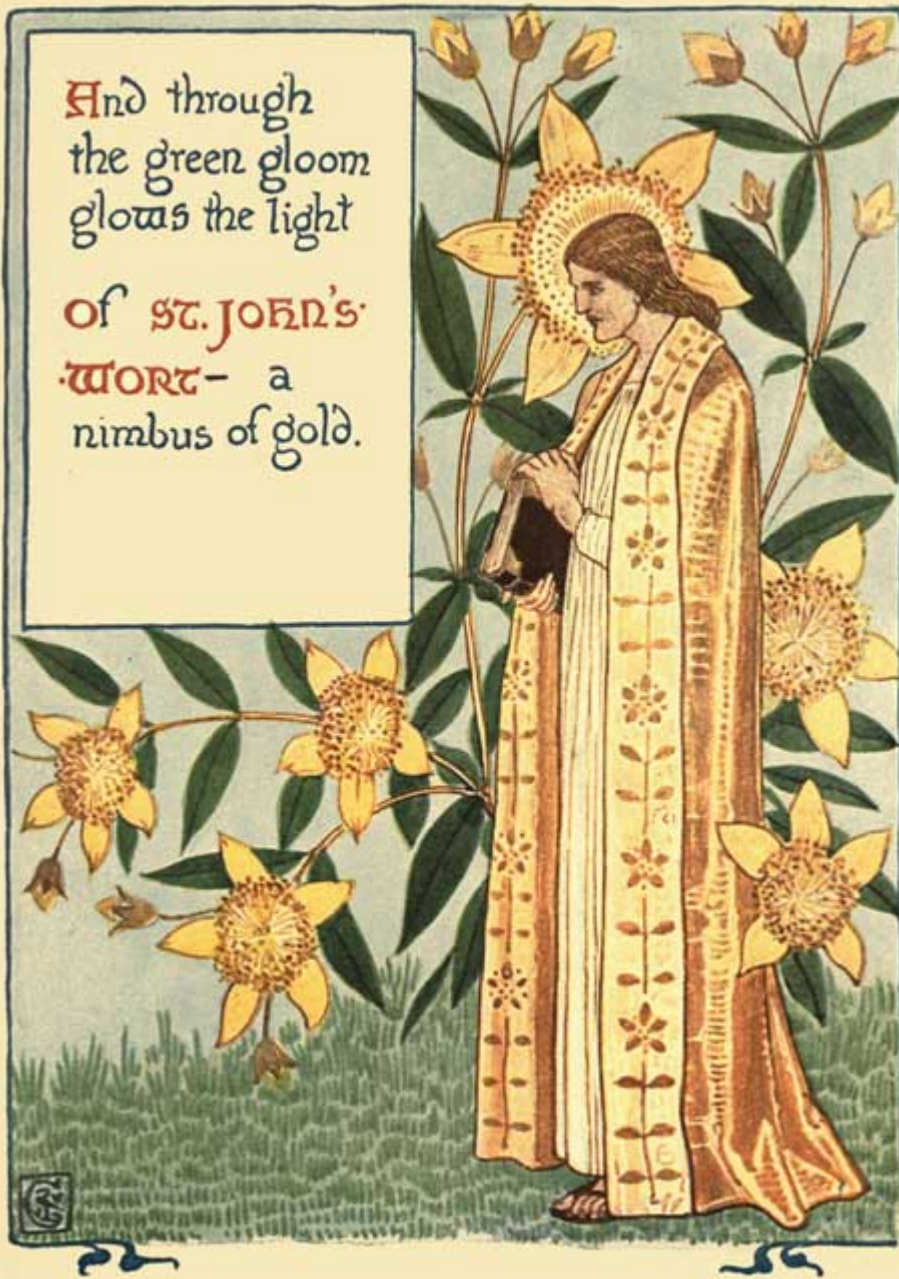
**I**n a lowly  
place, as  
of old,



Fair BETHLEHEM' STAR shineth bright,  
In a lowly place, as of old,



And through  
the green gloom  
glows the light  
of ST. JOHN'S  
WORT - a  
nimbus of gold.





And through the green gloom glows the light  
Of ST. JOHN'S-WORT—a nimbus of gold.



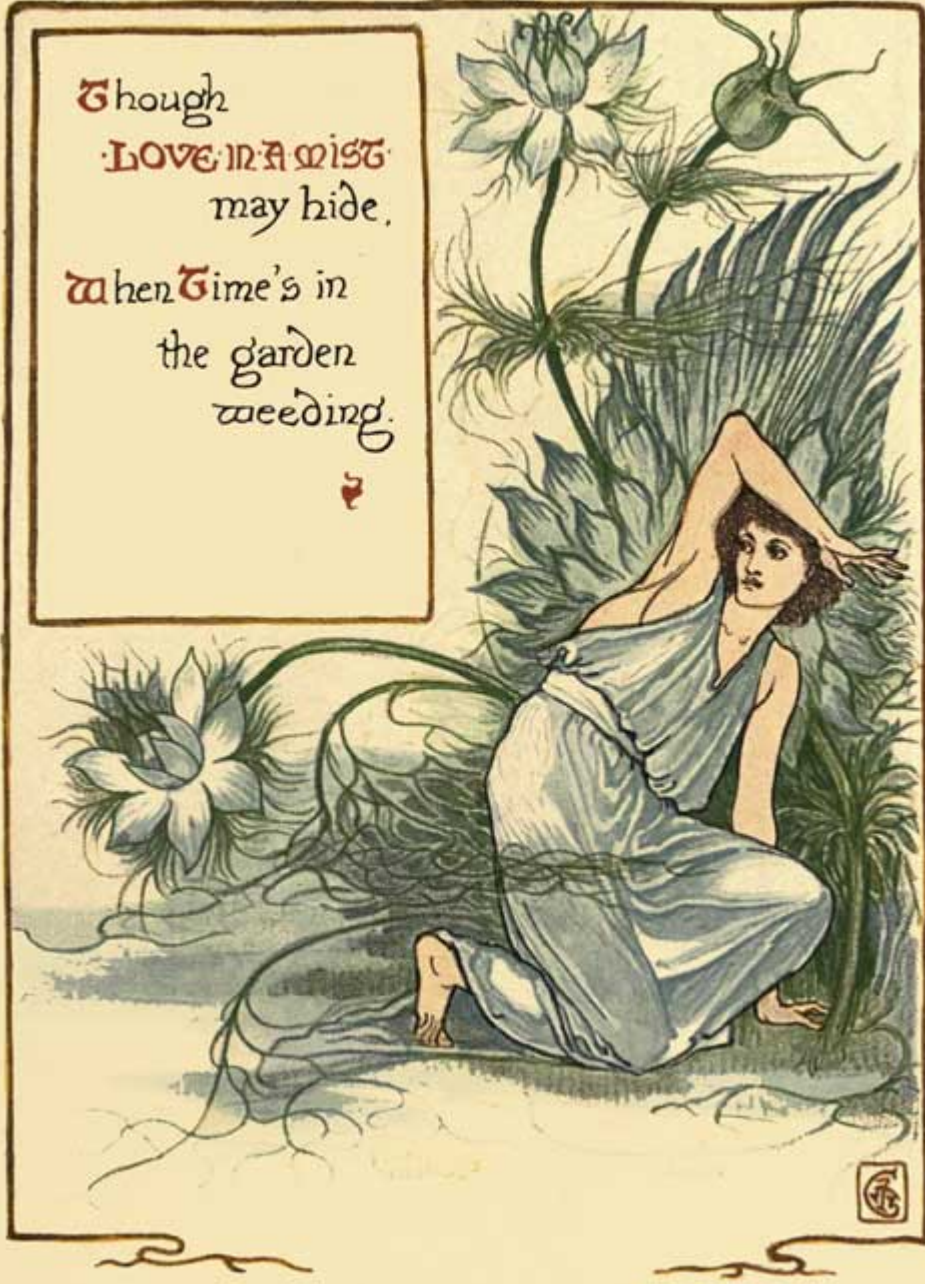
**B**ut the hours  
of the sun  
swift glide,

**A**nd the flowers  
with them are  
speeding,



But the hours of the sun swift glide,  
And the flowers with them are speeding.

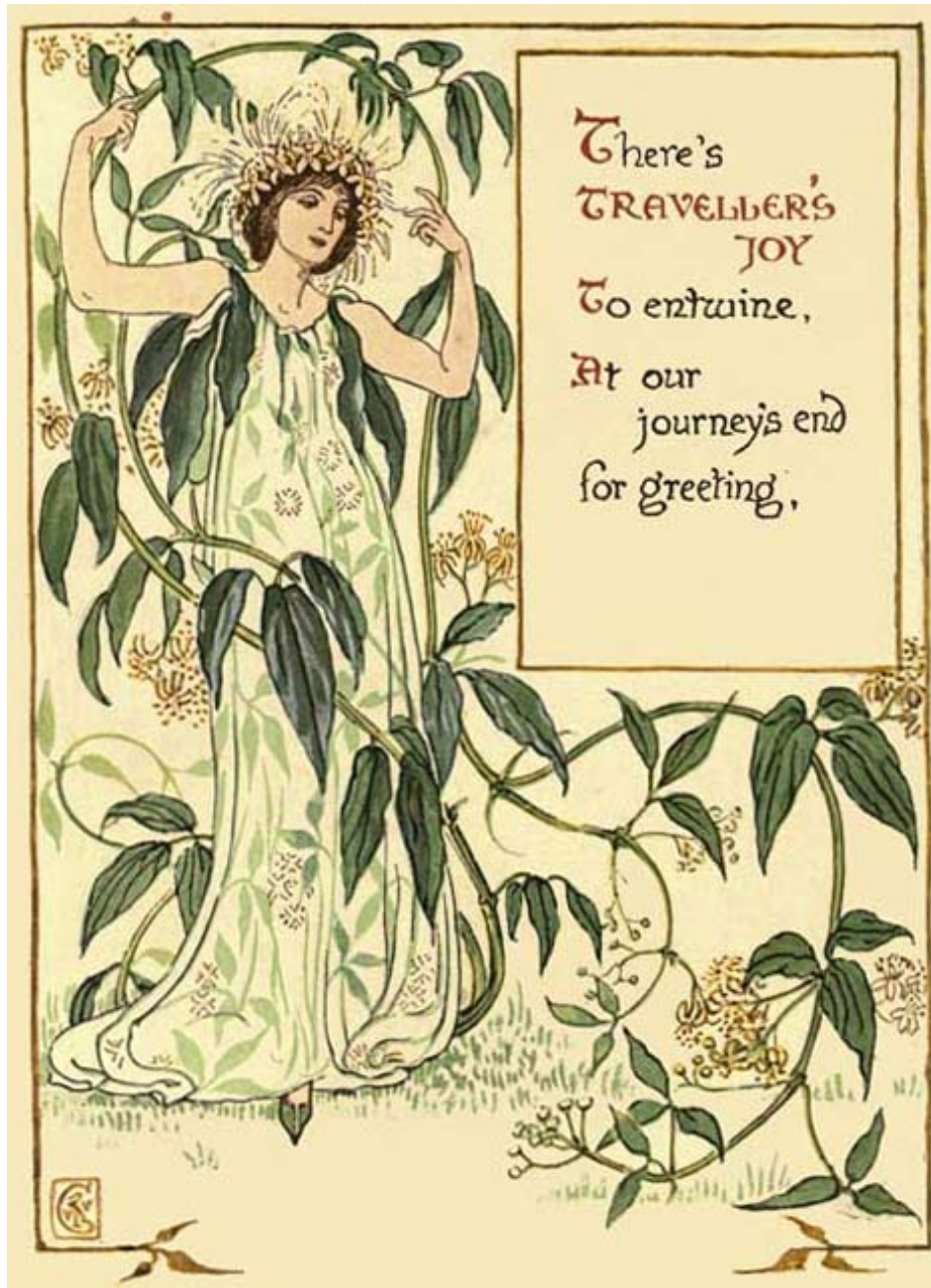
Though  
Love in a mist  
may hide,  
When Time's in  
the garden  
weeding.



Though LOVE-IN-A-MIST may hide,  
When Time's in the garden weeding.



There's  
TRAVELLER'S  
JOY  
To entwine,  
At our  
journeys end  
for greeting.



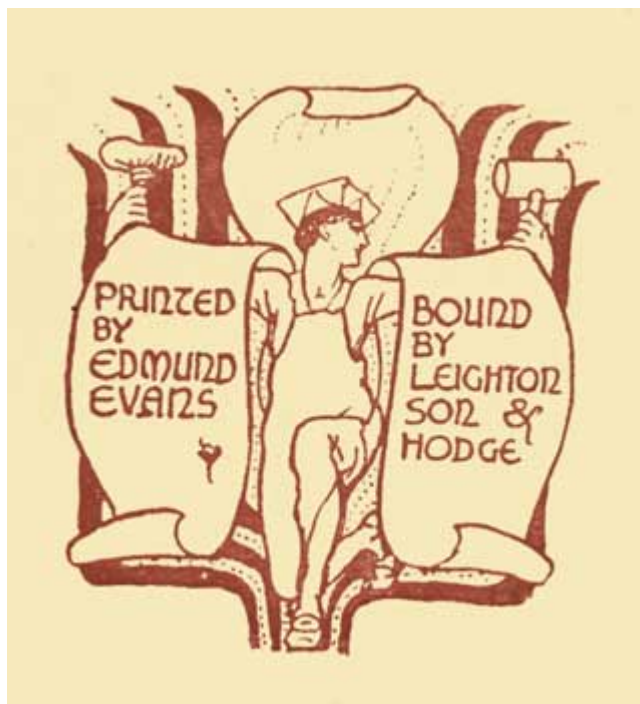
There's TRAVELLER'S JOY  
To entwine,  
At our journey's end for greeting,

We can  
talk over  
SOPS-MINE,  
And drink to  
our next  
merry meeting.



We can talk over SOPS-IN-WINE,  
And drink to our next merry meeting.





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