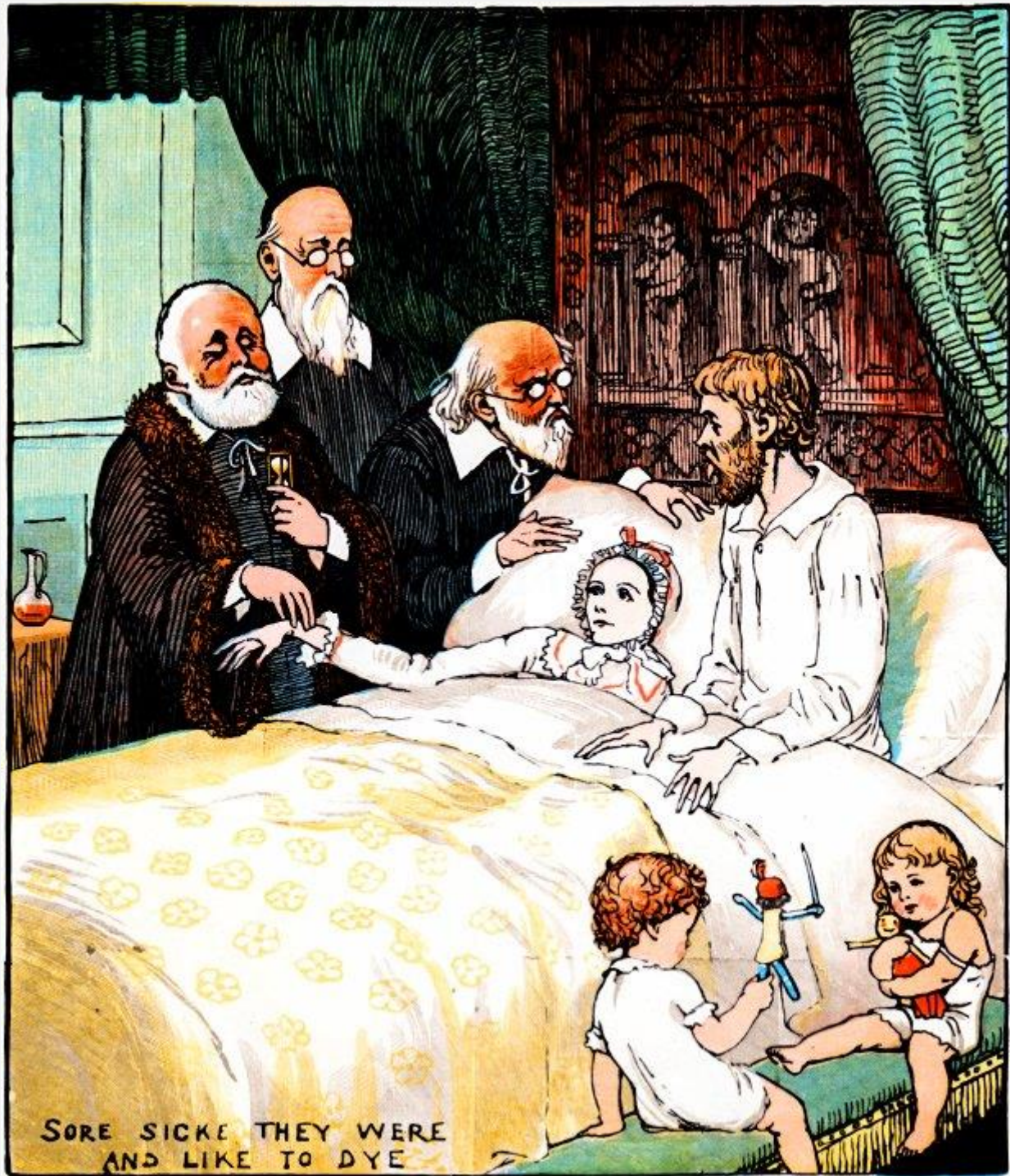
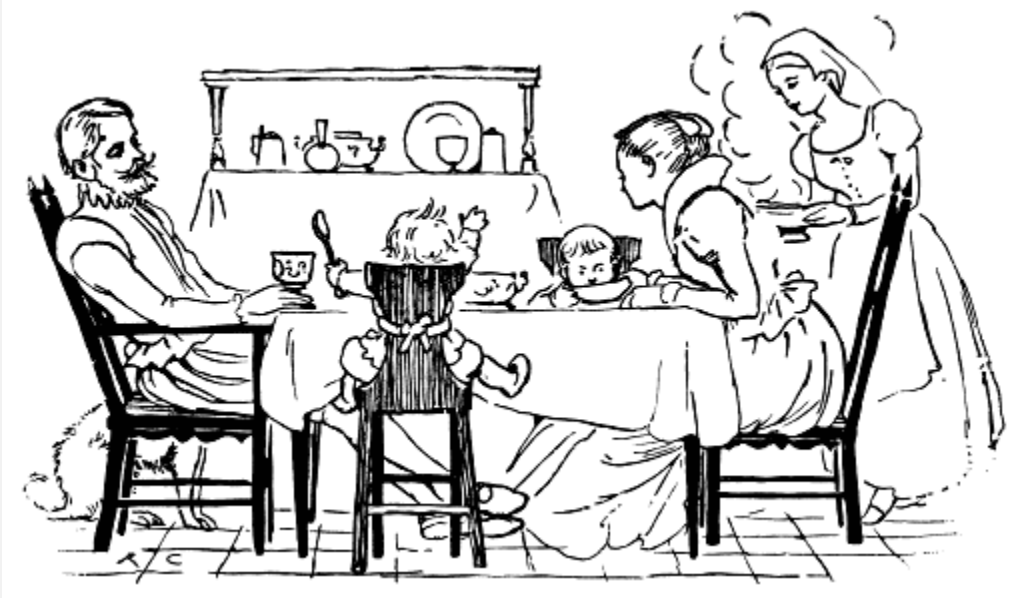


THE BABES IN THE WOOD



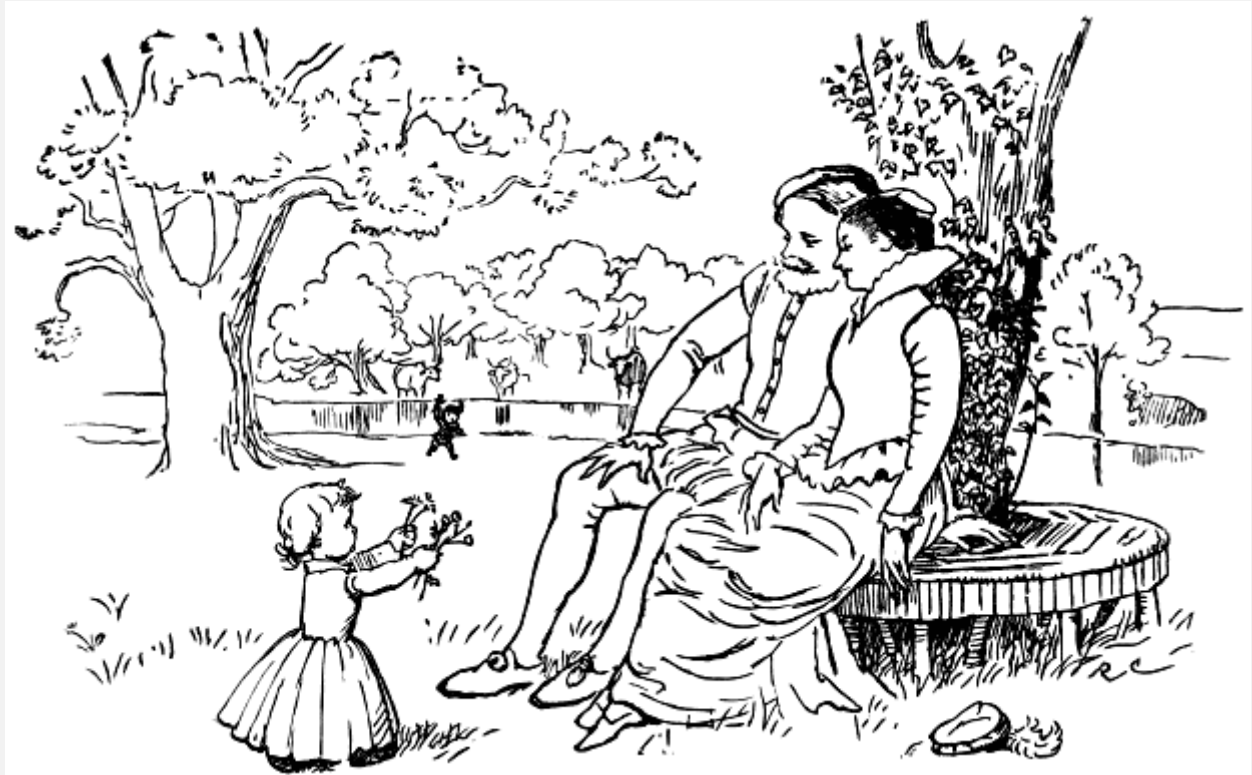
The BABES IN THE WOOD.



Now ponder well, you parents deare, These wordes which I shall write; A doleful story
you shall heare, In time brought forth to light.

A gentleman of good account In Norfolke dwelt of late. Who did in honour far
surmount Most men of his estate.

Sore sicke he was, and like to dye, No helpe his life could save; His wife by him as sicke
did lye, And both possest one grave.



No love between these two was lost, Each was to other kinde; In love they liv'd, in love they dyed, And left two babes behinde:

The one a fine and pretty boy, Not passing three yeares olde; The other a girl more young than he And fram'd in beautye's molde.

The father left his little son, As plainlye doth appeare, When he to perfect age should come Three hundred poundes a yeare.

And to his little daughter Jane Five hundred poundes in gold, To be paid downe on marriage-day, Which might not be controll'd:



But if the children chanced to dye,Ere they to age should come,Their uncle should
possesse their wealth;For so the wille did run.



NOW, BROTHER, said the dying man, LOOK TO MY CHILDREN DEARE .

"Now, brother," said the dying man, "Look to my children deare; Be good unto my boy and girl, No friendes else have they here:

"To God and you I do commend My children deare this daye; But little while be sure we have Within this world to stayer.

“You must be father and mother both, And uncle all in one; God knowes what will become of them, When I am dead and gone.”



With that bespake their mother deare: “O brother kinde,” quoth shee, You are the man must bring our babes To wealth or miserie:





“And if you keep them carefully,Then God will you reward;But if you otherwise should deal,God will your deedes regard.”

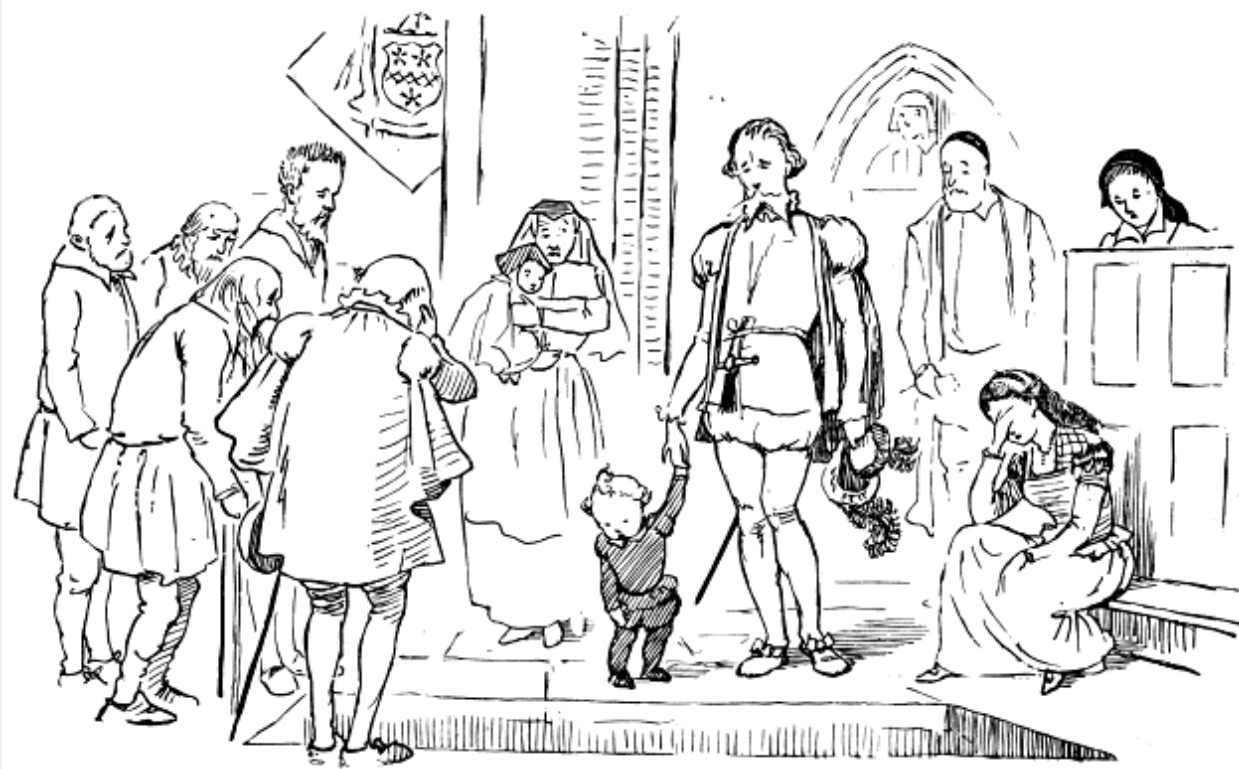


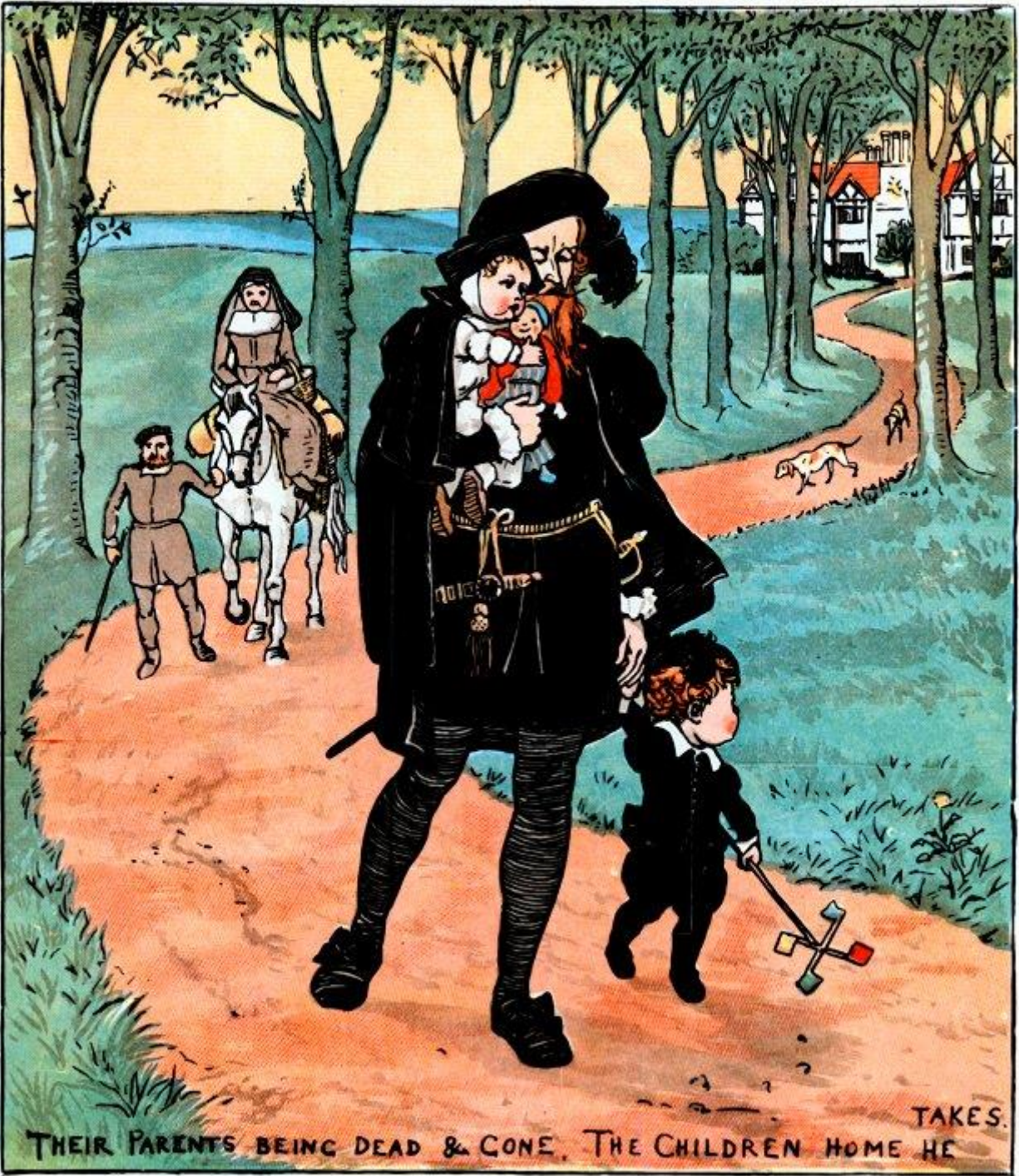
With lippes as cold as any stone.They kist the children small:‘God bless you both, my children deare;’With that the teares did fall.



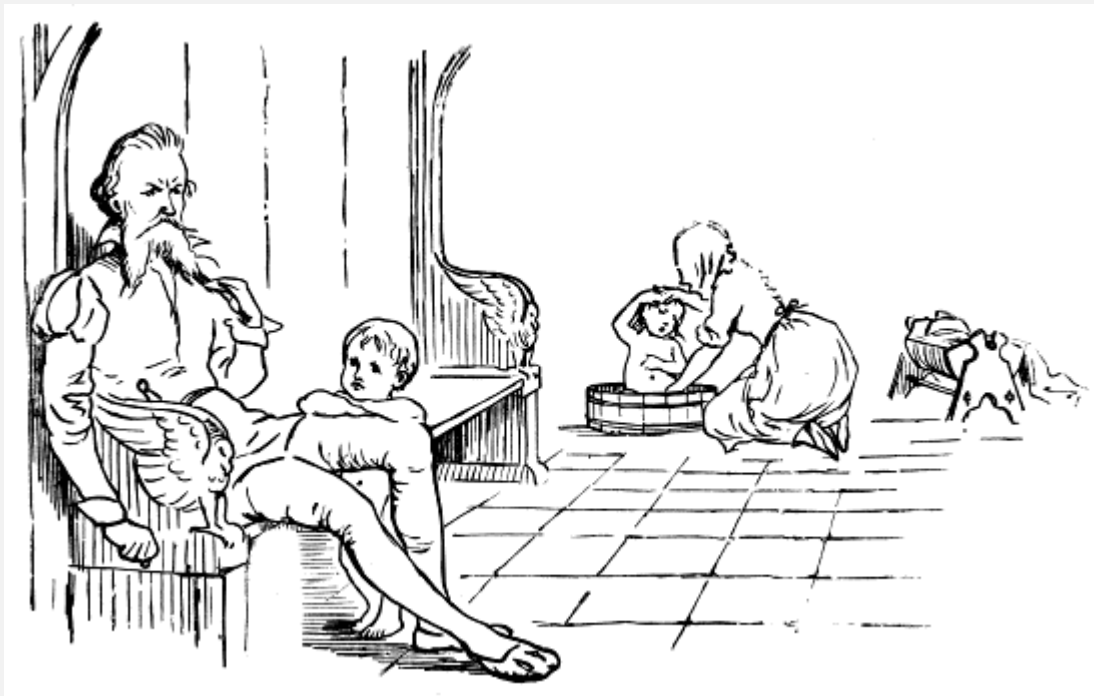
These speeches then their brother spake
To this sicke couple there: "The keeping of
your little ones, Sweet sister, do not feare:

"God never prosper me nor mine, Nor aught else that I have, If I do wrong your
children deare, When you are layd in grave."





The parents being dead and gone, The children home he takes, And brings them straight unto his house, Where much of them he makes.



He had not kept these pretty babes
A twelvemonth and a daye,
But, for their wealth,
he did devise
To make them both awaye.

He bargain'd with two ruffians strong,
Which were of furious mood,
That they should
take the children young,
And slaye them in a wood.

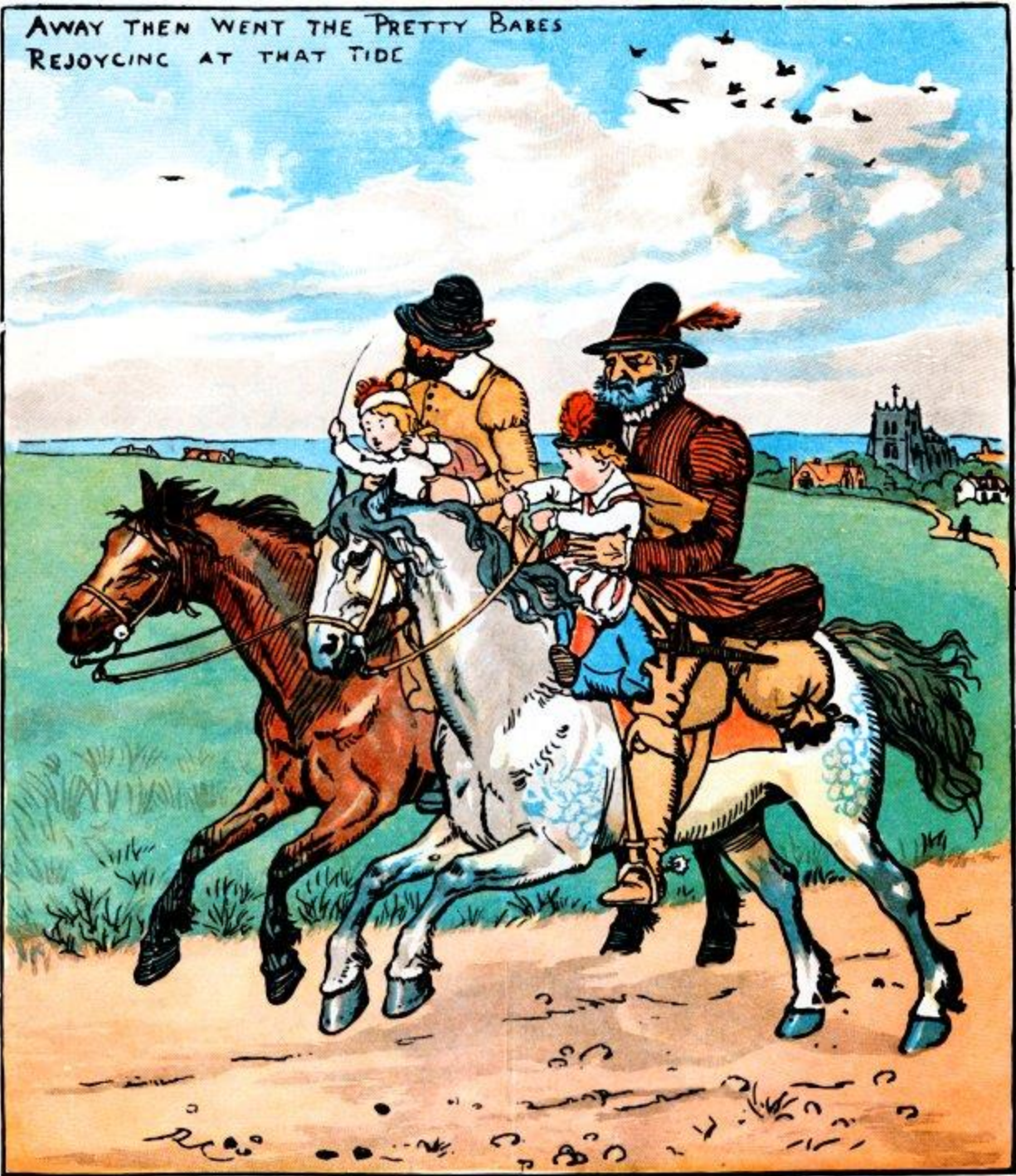


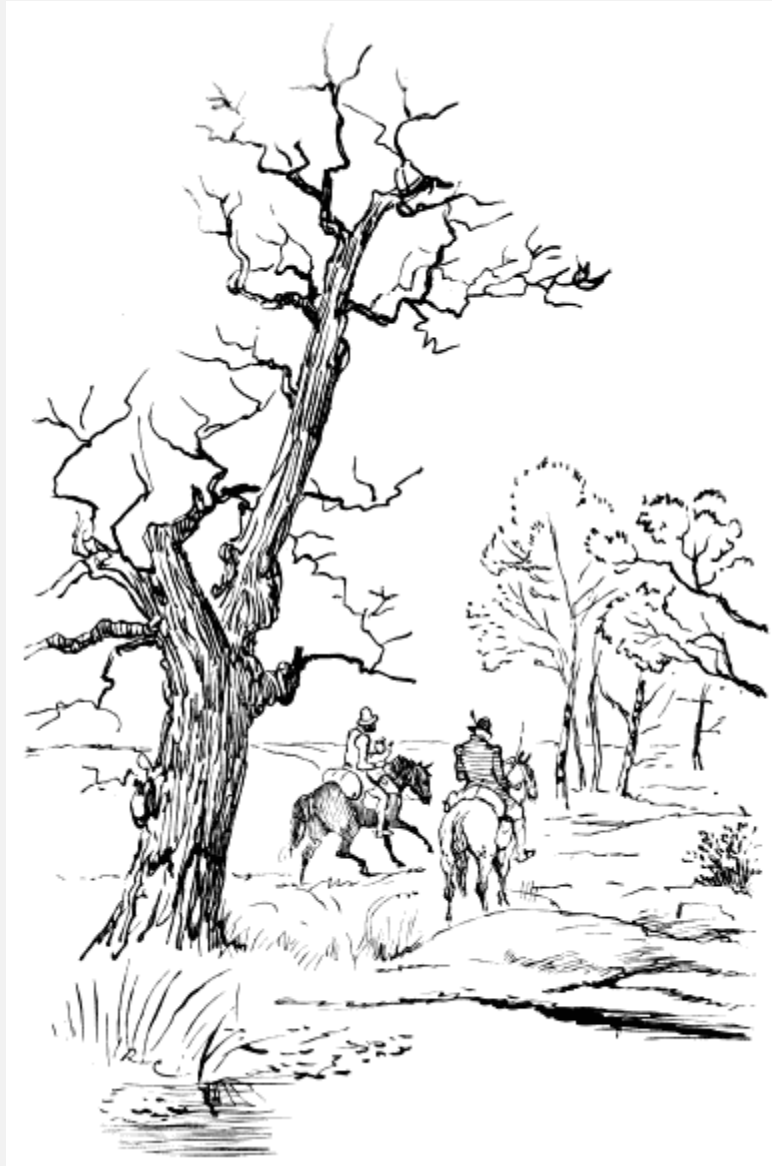
He told his wife an artful tale, He would the children send
To be brought up in faire London, With one that was his friend.



Away then went those pretty babes, Rejoycing at that tide,
Rejoycing with a merry minde, They should on cock-horse ride.

AWAY THEN WENT THE PRETTY BABES
REJOYING AT THAT TIDE





They prate and prattle pleasantly
As they rode on the way, To those that should their
butchers be, And work their lives' decay:

So that the pretty speeche they had, Made murderers' heart relent: And they that
undertooke the deed, Full sore did now repent.

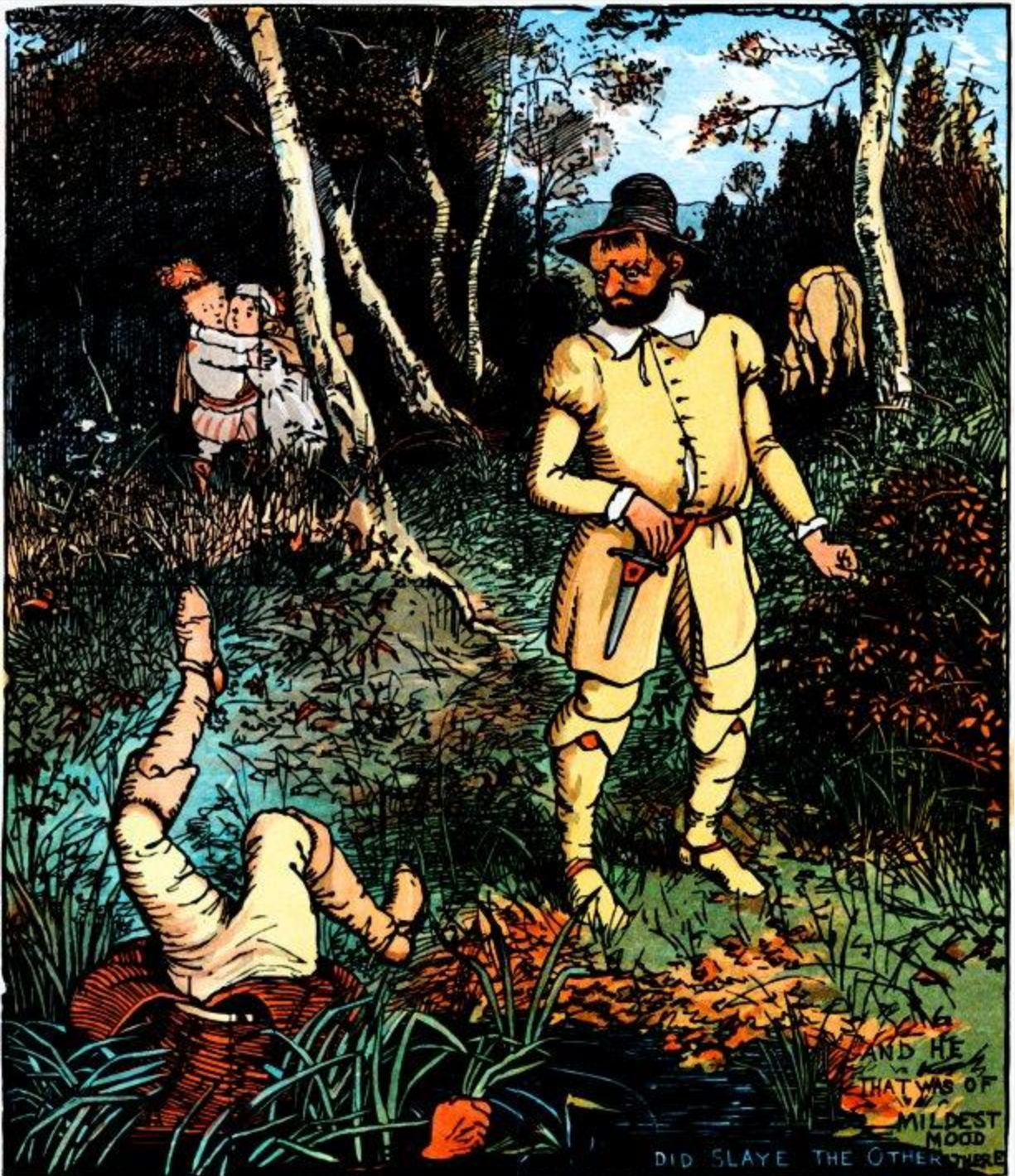
Yet one of them, more hard of heart, Did vow to do his charge, Because the wretch,
that hired him, Had paid him very large.



The other would not agree thereto, So here they fell to strife; With one another they did fight, About the children's life:



And he that was of mildest mood, Did slaye the other there, Within an unfrequented wood, Where babes did quake for feare!





He took the children by the hand, While teares stood in their eye, And bade them
come and go with him, And look they did not cry:

And two long miles he ledd them on, While they for food complaine: "Stay here,"
quoth he, "I'll bring ye bread, When I come back againe."



These pretty babes, with hand in hand, Went wandering up and downe;



But never more they saw the man approaching from the town.





Their prettye lippes with blackberries
Were all besmear'd and dyed; And when they
sawe the darksome night, They sat them downe and cryed.

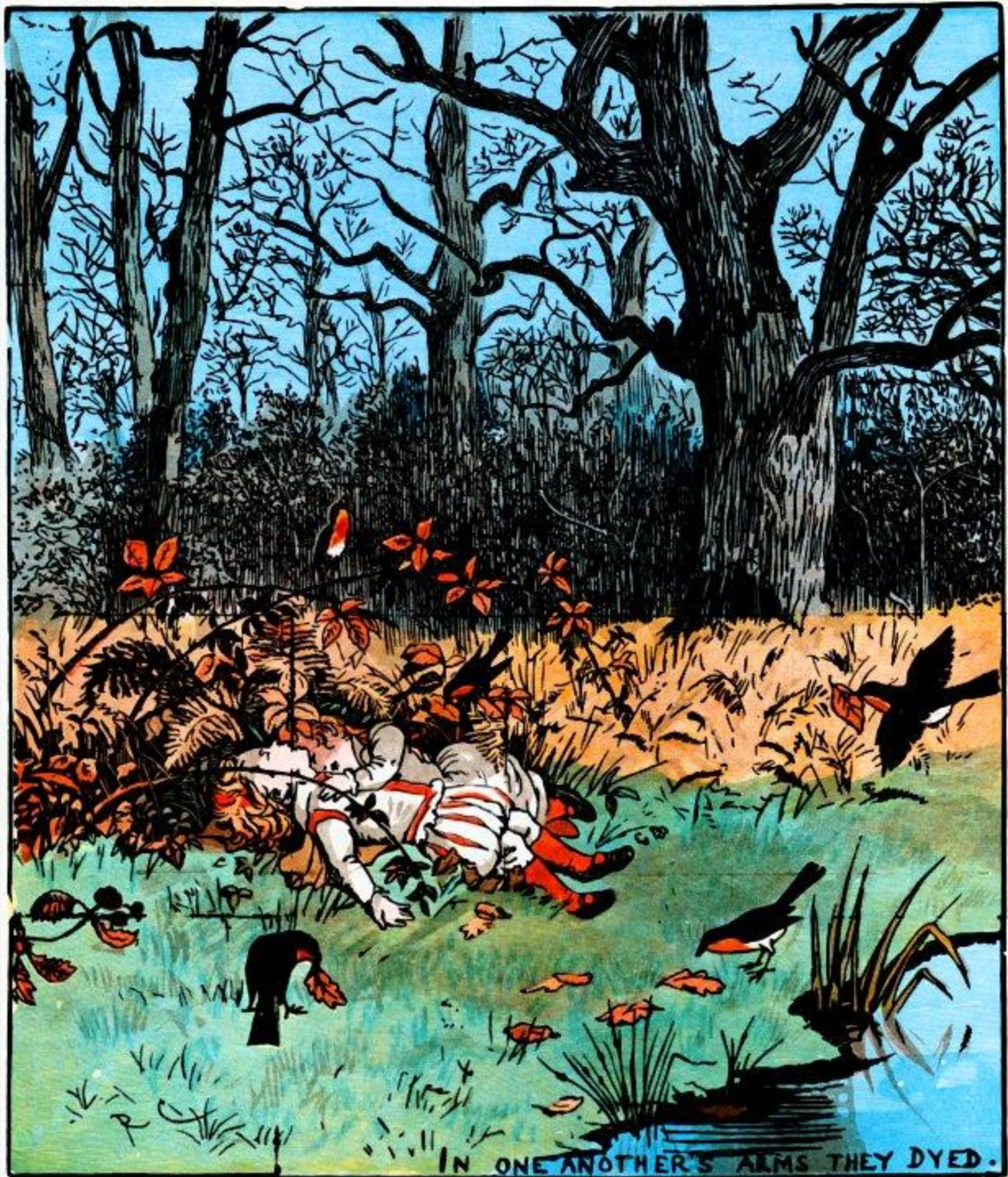


Thus wandered these two pretty babes,Till death did end their grief;In one
another's armes they dyed,As babes wanting relief.

No burial these pretty babesOf any man receives,



Till Robin-redbreast painfully
Did cover them with leaves.



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7		The		Queen			of	Hearts
8			The			Farmer’s		Boy
9				The				Milkmaid
10		Hey-Diddle-Diddle			and		Baby	Bunting
11	A	Frog		He		Would	a-Wooing	Go
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