

MOTHER'S LULLABY.

How often have I seen you, Mother, when you were young, Soft as the down of the white dove...

CHANGING CHUCKER'S PANTALOONS.

How far it is expedient to convert a railway carriage into a dressing room is a question which would be quickly solved...

It is in England a passenger who likes to change his attire in a first-class compartment as a rule, pretty secure from interruption.

At least, so thought Mr. Barnaby Chucker, as he alighted from a hansom at Paddington, and rushed across the platform, holding a railway rug and a carpet bag.

Mr. Chucker had received an invitation to dine at Windsor, with some friends of influential position, but, being a busy man, he had not found time to dress at his office in the city, or at his chambers at the West End.

He slipped a shilling into the hand of the guard, and said: "Keep this compartment, I want to dress."

"All right, sir," answered the guard, and the next moment the train started.

Mr. Chucker then unlocked his carpet-bag, and drew out a clean shirt, with other equipments necessary to his bodily adornment.

It must not be supposed that he did this without reluctance, for he was a great stickler about all the properties of life.

"Why, why, dear me?" ejaculated Mr. Chucker, at this stage of his cogitations, "I think the train—no, it cannot be—is stopping."

overrapped in his self-uplifting thoughts that he had not even noticed the first slackening of the engine's speed.

He had to decide hastily whether he would steam alongside Ealing platform in his shirt-sleeves or minus his pantaloons.

He chose wisely in huddling on his coat, which he buttoned up, while he covered his lower man with his railway rug. This done, he collected as many of his belongings as he could into his bag, kicked his boots under a seat, and tried to look dignified.

The train had come to a standstill now, and a guard opened the door of the carriage in which our hero was sitting, and cried:

"This room here, sir, for you and this lady."

"Hush!" exclaimed Mr. Chucker, leaning out in horror, "you told me I should have this compartment to myself."

"Unfortunately for our modest friend, the guard to whom he had given the shilling was not the one appointed to travel with the train. These little mistakes often occur, and lead to unpleasant consequences."

The present guard said bluntly: "I can't give you a compartment to yourself unless you pay for it, sir. It's against the rules. Here, madam, step in, please."

A lady who looked in very delicate health got into the carriage, and a gentleman with her, Mr. Barnaby Chucker felt ready to swoon. Before he could inform the guard of his readiness to pay for a while compartment, however, she had his privacy intruded upon, the train was off again, and Mr. Chucker fell to reflecting how he should effect his change of carriage at Slough, now that he was in so fit state to step on to a platform.

"Nothing is the matter with you?" "Nothing, sir," stammered Mr. Chucker. "What should there be?" but, so saying, he nudged his rug closer to him with a guilty look.

"Would you mind stepping out, sir?" "Why should I? My ticket is for Windsor."

passengers became convinced that they were travelling with a lunatic. The lady began to scream. Her nerves were so unstrung that they could not stand this extra shock.

Mr. Chucker made things worse at the fifty with which he stared at her. The gentleman armed himself with an umbrella to protect his wife.

Mr. Chucker, entering into the spirit of his part, caught up his own umbrella and brandished it.

The travellers were in their attitude of vigilance and menace when the train once more slackened speed, and Haswell was reached.

Instantly the gentleman jumped out on the off side of the line, so as not to pass Mr. Chucker, and helped out his wife, whose screams had by this time given place to a fit of sobs.

Mr. Chucker thought himself well off of his mess, for the train would go on again, and he should be able to complete his dressing. By way of insuring privacy for the remainder of his journey, he began by pulling the carriage blinds down.

Alas! he was not to get off so easily. Already there was a commotion on the platform.

The husband of the fainting lady had explained matters to the station master; some porters and guards had crowded him, and rumor, circulated that there was a lunatic in the train. Some passengers, poking their heads out of the carriage windows, protested against travelling in the company of a man who might commit some mad act.

The station master was obliged to justify himself against the angry crowd, and the alleged maniac's carriage. The all-conscious Mr. Chucker was rudely aroused by the door being un-

dered and he found himself in a predicament. He looked at the lady who had fainted, and she looked at him with a look of surprise.

"What is it that you have done, my child?" demanded the President indignantly.

short struggle, but this did not improve his position, for his resistance was resorted to a manual outbreak, and emboldened his aggressors to dig him out of the carriage feet foremost. He tumbled out in a heap, and was then carried across the platform, kicking and roaring in the sight of a hundred pairs of astonished or amused eyes.

"Well, but why didn't you tell us this before?" cried the nonplussed station master.

"Because you wouldn't listen to me, you beast!" screamed Mr. Chucker. "Well, you've missed your train and your dinner," said the station master, "and that'll be a lesson to you."

"Lesson of what?" asked Mr. Chucker, exasperated.

"Lesson—why—why—lesson, not to take off one pair of breeches until you've put the other on, and that for decency's sake, sir," answered the station master, sternly, formulating an axiom which sounded well, though perhaps, like some other maxims propounded by worldly philosophy, it was not easy to follow.

ANNIE BEDE'S DEBT. The judge was in their place. Outside the box, weighted heavily upon the shapely building, effaced the walls and gazed itself to the windows, concealing their dusty flowering.

looked that covered her head, caught her breath heavily, then answered, sighing: "My affair is sad, Mon. is President, very sad."

"Her voice, soft and delicious, went to the heart like good music, that, even when one hears it no longer, seems still to vibrate in the air and change everything by its mysterious influence."

The faces of the jurors were no longer so nervous. The portrait of the king, set farther away still of the Justice Canon, appeared to make to her from the silent wall, and at last, with a sigh, she turned her head to meet the eyes of the President.

"Not see you," said she, "this writing; it will tell you better than I can."

The girl nodded sorrowfully; the handkerchief, loosened by the movement, fell from her hand, and a heavy tear of long black hair, all undisturbed, veiled her features. It sought, perhaps, to shield them from the gaze of the people, for if she should show a tingle of white hair, she was purple with shame at this moment.

"It is a week since we received it," stammered she in a broken voice. "The court officer brought it himself and explained what it wanted to tell us, and my poor mother said to me: 'This must go, my child; the law is the law, and one should not take it as a pleasure. I have come, therefore, to—to begin the six months.'"

The President wiped his glasses, then wiped them again, his cold, stern gaze seeking the face of his colleagues. "The windows, the door, the great iron stove, through whose grated door fiery eyes seemed to sparkle and threatenly regard him."

And he read once the summary before him, the black, spraying scrawls across the white page, declaring "Annie Bede condemned to six months' imprisonment for the receiving of stolen goods."

Meanwhile the ladies ventilator had quickened its pace and spun furiously outside the wind had risen, and now it shook the windows, whistled through the crevices, and seemed to hiss remorselessly about the ears of the sipping crowd.

"The law, the law is the law!" The head of the President bent affirmatively before this important voice; he dropped his eyes and touched the ball for the tipstaff.

"Accompany Annie Bede," said he, "to the home of the Inspector of Prisons."

The man bowed, the child turned obediently, but her little rose-red lips opened and shook tremulously, as if words were on them that she could not speak.

"Perhaps, my child," said the President, noticing her distress, "perhaps you have still something to say to us."

"Only that I am Lisette, Lisette Bede, Monsieur le President; Annie Bede was my sister, and we buried her, poor girl, a week ago."

"Was not you, then, that was condemned and sentenced?" cried the President, surprised.

"Ah! Ben Dea, no? Why should I have been condemned, who have never done harm to a fly?"

"Then why are you here, mad child, that you are in the prison?"

"Because if you please it is because Annie died while her business was before the Royal Table (the Lower Court of Hungary). It was when she was lying in her coffin all cold and white that the order concerning the six months arrived, certifying that she was dead."

"How she had died and passed for it, and tried so hard to live to receive it, she had never dreamed of that, Monsieur le President, and when they had taken her away with closed eyes, nose and deaf forever, my mother and I had ourselves that we must repair the wrong she had done because of her fiancé, General Karlowitz. It was for that, and without leaving it, that she sinned, and was thought—"

"What, my child?"

"That he let her rest peacefully in her mortal coils, and that no one should see her soul then anything that we must do as I said—repair the wrong done by her. My mother had the means for the goods, and I have some, Monsieur le President, to serve in her place this six months' imprisonment."

"What nonsense, what stupidity!" The juror smiled heavily the face of the President was no longer cold or stern; now, as he was pleased his face from which he stropped the moisture with a large yellow handkerchief.

"It is well," said he, "you were right, my child; but—let, now that I think of it—"

He stopped, frowned, and seemed to reflect intently. "Now that I think of it," continued he, "there was an error in this affair. We have, my dear child, sent you the wrong document."

"The wrong document, Monsieur le President?"

"The wrong document," said the President, "is that which you have given me to sign."

"The large guinea modern notes can be used only twenty-five times, when they become worn out."



Portrait of a man in a suit, likely a character from the story.

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Advertisement for Hood's Pills, featuring the text 'Hood's Pills' and 'Darah Stewart'.

Large advertisement for 'MANTLES, CLOTHS, FOODS, LETTRES, SHOES, NG, IES.' with various product listings and prices.



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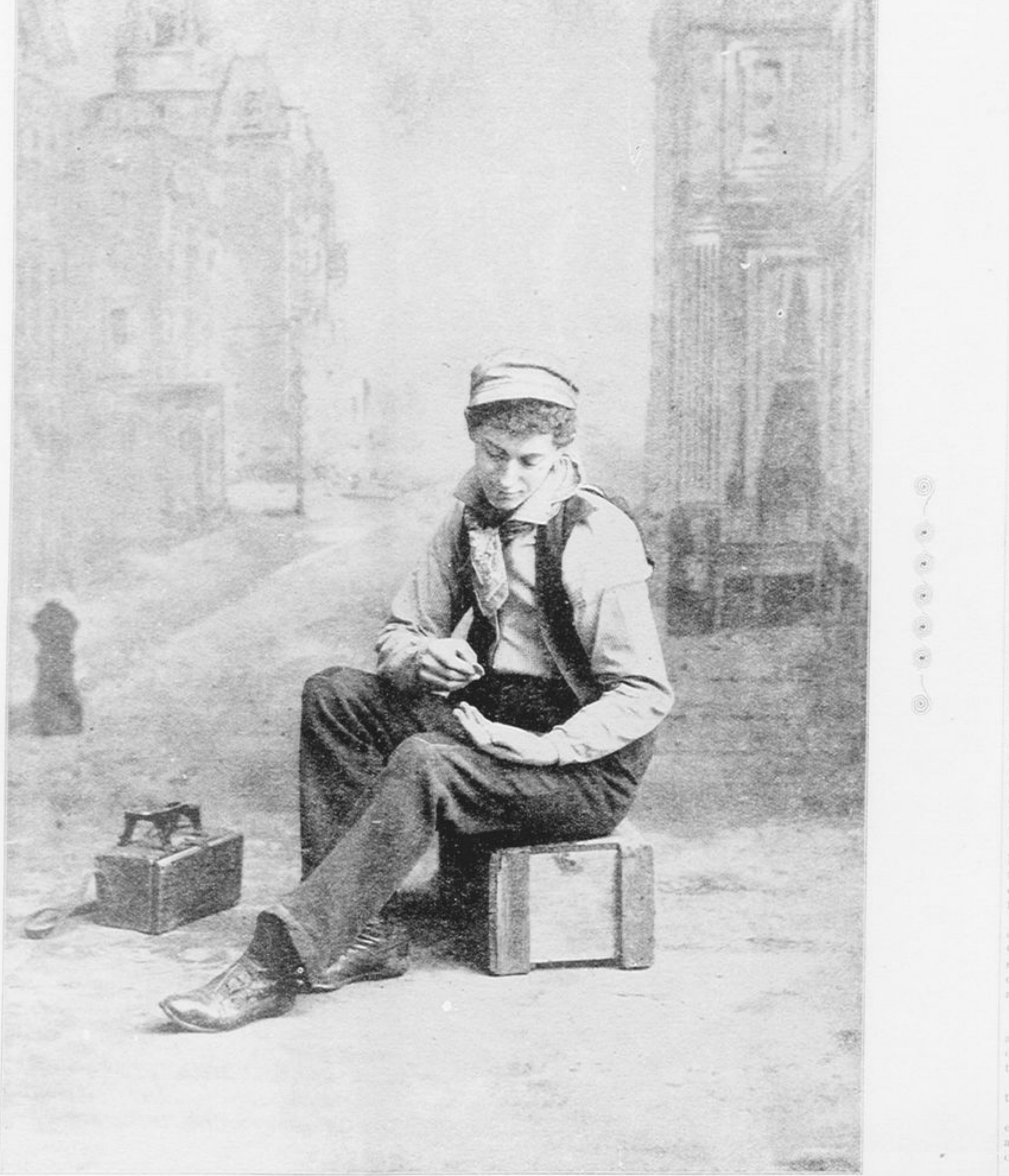


Illustration of a man sitting on a bench, looking thoughtful, with a suitcase next to him.



Portrait of a woman in a dress, likely a character from the story.