

The awful and ethical allegory of Deuteronomy Smith / [by a student of medicine].

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Publication/Creation

Edinburgh : Livingstone, [1892?]

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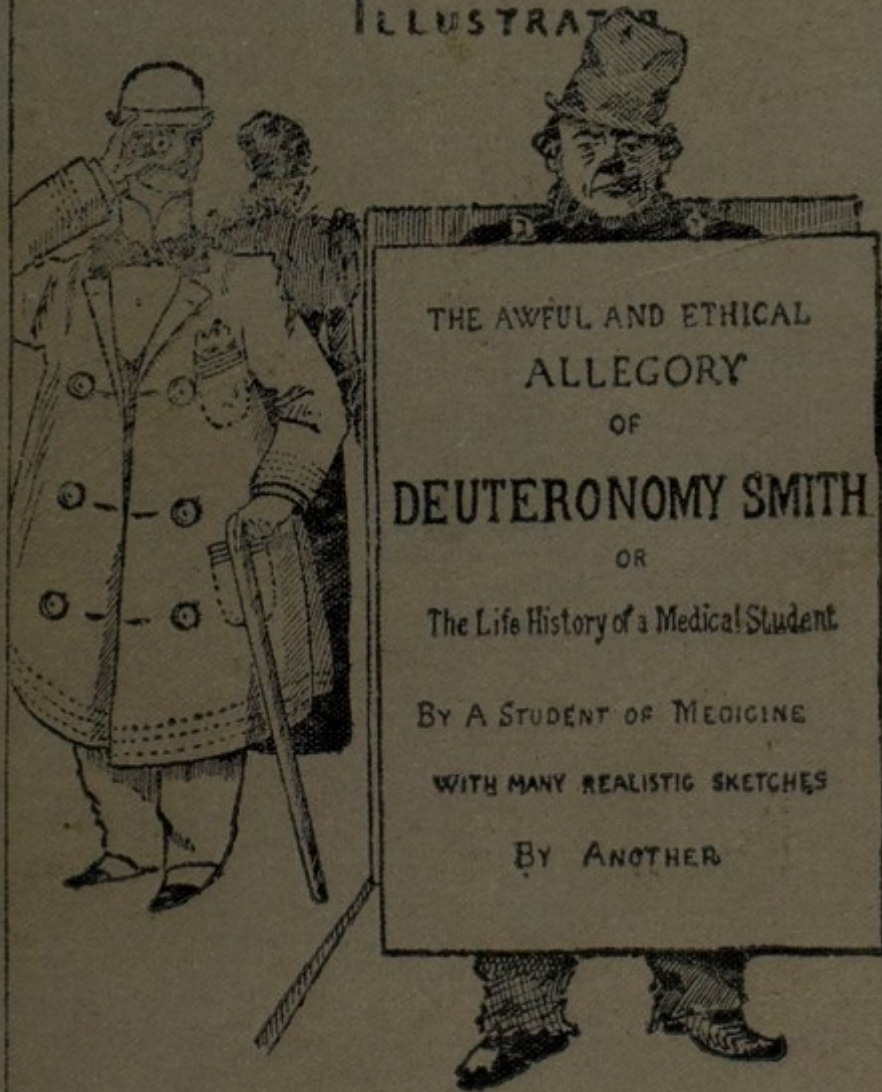


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DEUTERONOMY SMITH.

OR
The life history of a medical Student

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Deuteronomy Smith.

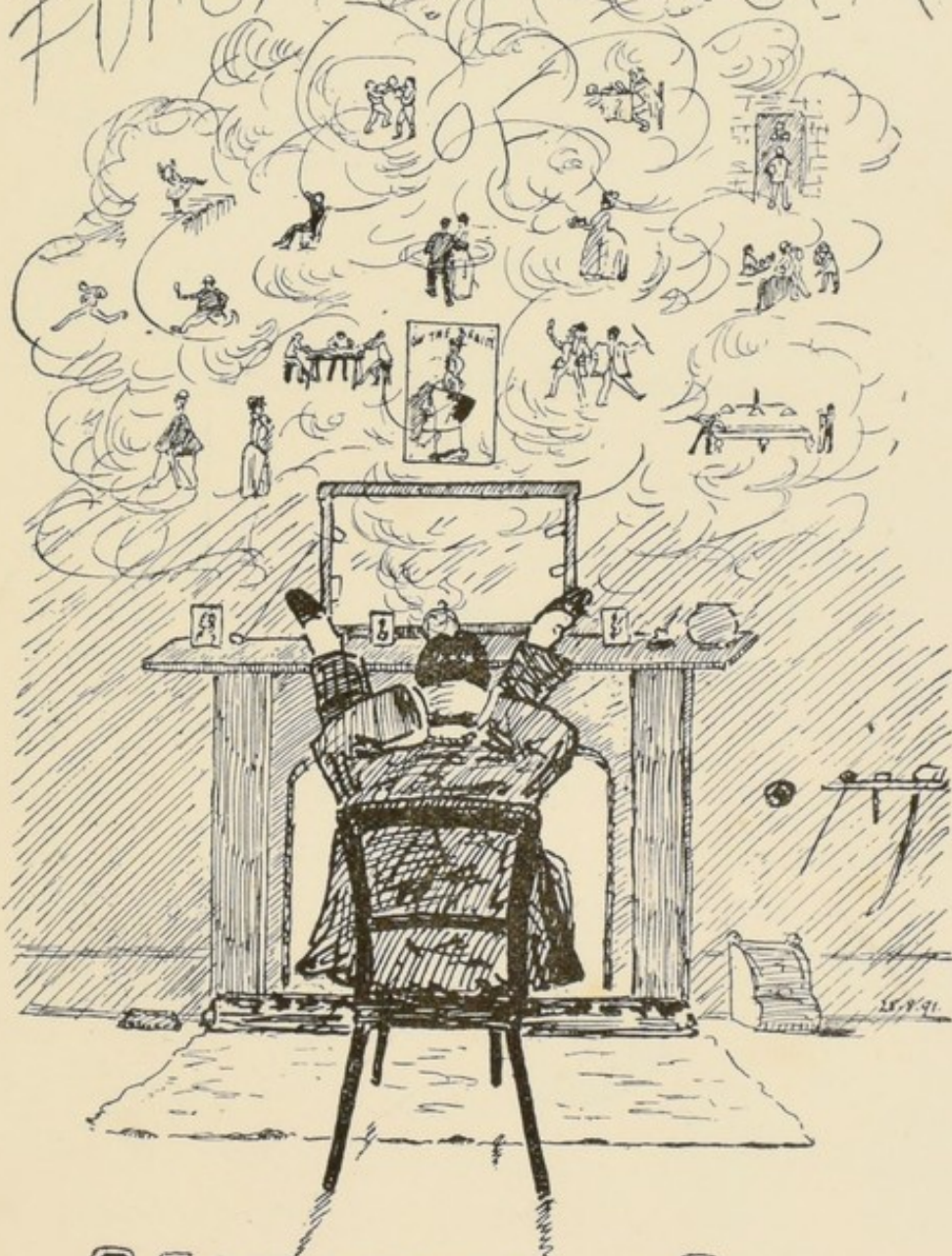




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THE AWFUL AND ETHICAL ALLEGOR



DEUTERONOMY SMITH

EDINBURGH: E. & S. LIVINGSTONE.

SATIRE, medical 19 cent.

STUDENTS, medical, in literature = 19 cent.

318957

Printed by
E. & S. LIVINGSTONE,
4 MELBOURNE PLACE
Edinburgh.

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The Awful and Ethical Allegory

OF

DEUTERONOMY SMITH.

CHAPTER I.

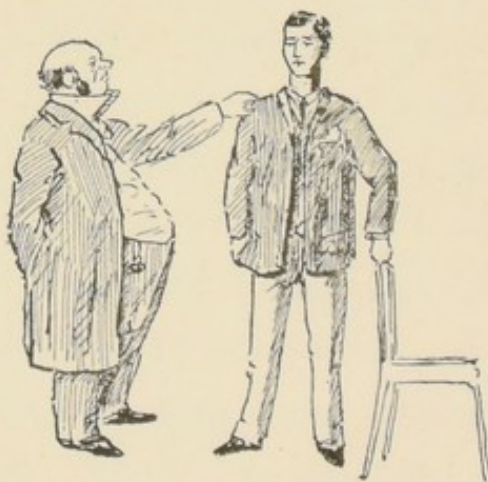
IN the days that are past there lived in the land of Britain a certain man whose name was Smith; and he was a man of good report, and one that was mighty in the land: for he had possession of money and possession of goods; and flocks and herds without number did he also have.

Moreover, he had an only son, the years of whom were as the years of a youth when the time of his manhood draweth nigh, and he was a youth of goodly promise.

And unto him had been given the name of Deuteronomy.

And it came to pass that one day Smith lifted up his voice and spake unto Deuteronomy, his son, saying,

Lo, Deuteronomy! thou art a well favoured youth, and thou art beloved by many maidens; moreover, thou art versed in all the learning of the wise men of the land.



For thou art able to write strange characters upon scrolls of parchment, and thou canst add figures and numbers one unto the other.

Thou canst also understand the tongues that are dead ; yea, even the tongues of the nations that of old time dwelt in the East.

And the books written by prophets and kings of old hast thou read ; and full well thou knowest that into three parts was the land of the Gauls divided.

Moreover, thy teachers have told thee that Balbus was building a wall of exceeding strength, and that even unto this day he laboureth at the building thereof.

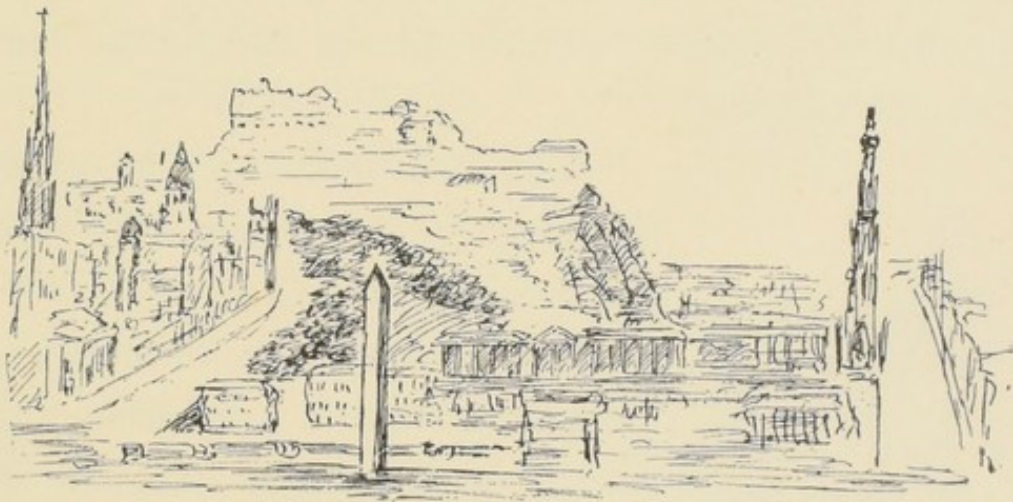
Thy ways also are good ; for thou perfumest not the breath of thy mouth with the incense of that strange weed which men bring from far countries across the great waters ; neither dost thou drink of the wine which is goodly to look upon, but which maketh mad the minds of men.

Because, then, of these thy wondrous gifts, and these thy upright ways, I will send thee unto a place where thou shalt wax yet stronger in knowledge, and in due time, when thou come again, thou shalt become a man mighty in the land wherein thy fathers dwelt.

For I have heard of a country called the land of the Caledonians ; and men say that it is a goodly land, and that the mountains of it—and they are many—flow with milk and honey, and that the valleys amongst the mountains bloom with flowers of every colour which fade not.

Yet, forsooth, are there certain men who have also travelled into that country who deny that it is a goodly land, and report that there it raineth day and night, and that a thick mist covereth the face of the earth alway.

But the tidings of these latter men do I not believe, nor do I put any trust in their sayings.



And in that country is a great city called the City of the Castle.

For in the centre of the city is an high rock, and upon the rock is built a strong Castle, and armed men keep watch therein night and day.

And, furthermore, within the city stand two temples of marvellous workmanship.

And they are built of costly stones, even of great stones; stones of ten cubits and stones of twenty cubits.

And their foundations are of hewed stones, even of stones hewed from the sides of far mountains.

And the floors are of the wood of the pine-tree, and the courts are paved with precious marbles inlaid with gold.

And in the walls are windows of glass clearer than crystal, and they are built row above row and light against light.

And within the temples are many wonderful things, and books and scrolls without number.

Moreover, there are ranks of graven images; and these are the images of wise men who in the olden time served as elders in the temples.

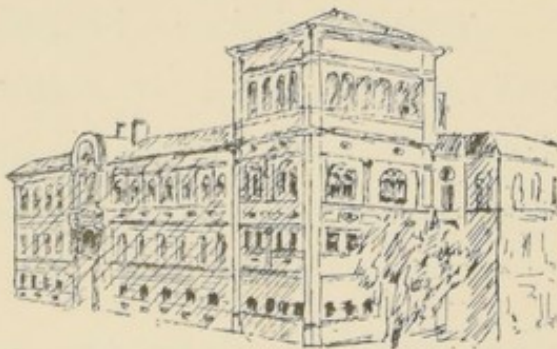


And one temple is of great age, insomuch that no man can remember the building thereof.

But generation saith unto generation that it stood firmly where yet it standeth through all the years.



But the other temple, of which I have told thee, was built by men who still walk in the land of the living, and unto them is given high honours and great reward, for the new temple exceedeth even the old one in glory.



Now these temples are called the Temples of Learning.

And within the walls of them sit many wise men and elders skilled in all manner of wisdom, and they discourse unto whomsoever will hearken.

And the fame of the elders of the temples hath been noised abroad, and multitudes of youths and old men from every land, come and sit at the feet of the elders in the Temples of Learning.

And they learn all kinds of wisdom: to heal the sicknesses and wounds of men do they learn, that in due time they may minister unto the afflicted of their brethren.

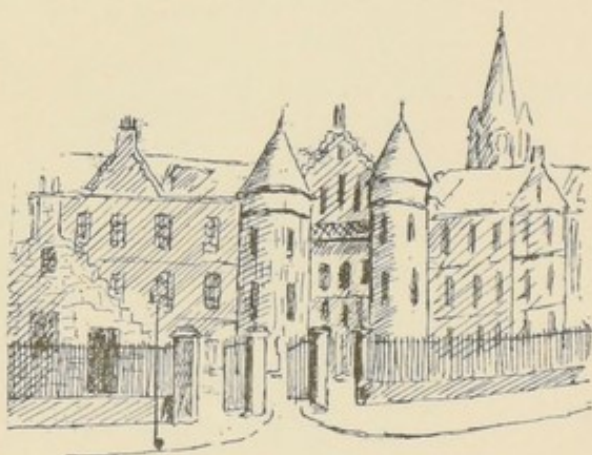
For it is said that in the curing of the sicknesses of men do they take delight, and that the mending of broken bones is to them a thing of great rejoicing.

Now nigh unto the Temples of Learning is another temple of wondrous size; and this temple is divided into many mansions.

And thereto resort all the people who are stricken with dire diseases or with wounds and sores, and they are received into the mansions of the temple and kept therein and comforted until they are whole again.

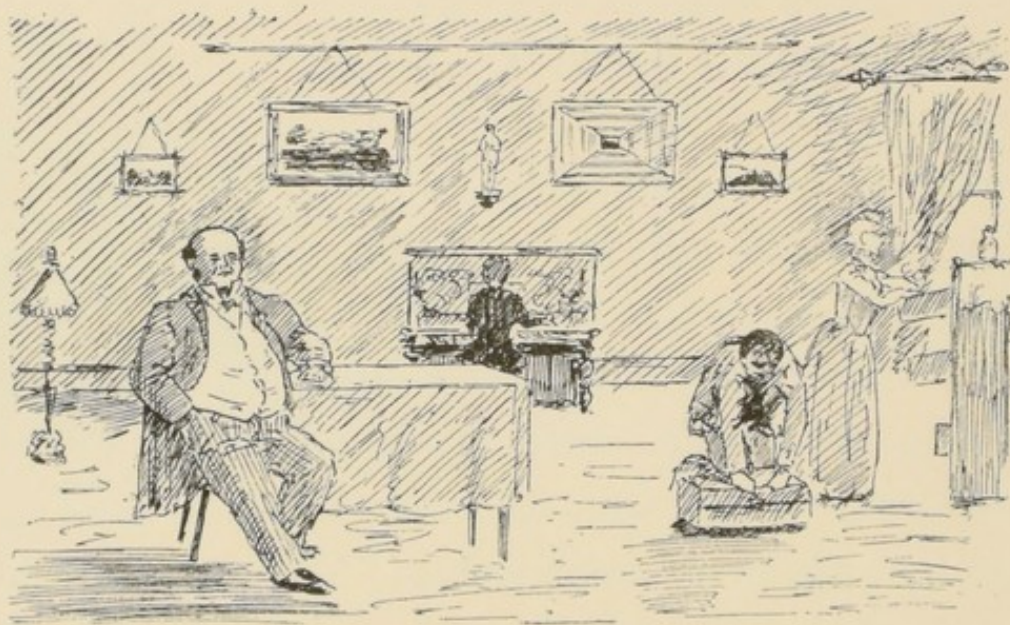
For many wise men, who are skilled in all manners of diseases and wounds, wait within the mansions to render service unto whomsoever suffers pain.

This do they not for the gain of shekels or the hope of reward, but because of the great love they bear unto all mankind.



And to this temple also proceed the youths from the Temples of Learning, that they may gather wisdom from the words of the wise men who take compassion upon the sick.

Now, O Deuteronomy, my son, I will send thee unto the country of the Caledonians, even unto the City of the Castle, that thou mayest enter into the Temples of Learning that are in that city, and sit at the feet of the elders who abide therein.



Therefore, gird up thy loins straightway, and take two changes of raiment.

And into thy purse I will put shekels of silver and shekels of gold, that thou mayest pay thy way whilst thou art on the journey, and mayest, moreover, pay unto the scribes and elders of the Temples of Learning whatsoever sums they may require of thee.

And that thou mayest provide thyself with books to read and scrolls of parchment whereon to write.

And that thou mayest buy cunningly devised instruments of steel wherewith to skilfully carve the limbs of men.

Go, then, and bid farewell unto thy mother, and unto all thy kindred, and unto the maidens who are enamoured of thee, and hold thyself ready to set out on the morrow.



And when Deuteronomy heard the things which his father had said he was filled with joy, and lifted up his voice and said, As thou sayest, so will I do.



CHAPTER II.

IN the fulness of time it came to pass that Deuteronomy entered within the walls of the City of the Castle. And being weary and an hungered after his journey, he went into an inn that he might find rest, and also appease his hunger.



So he called unto the keeper of the inn, and said, Lo, I am in need of meat and drink; bring them unto me, for I would fain eat of the fat of the land.

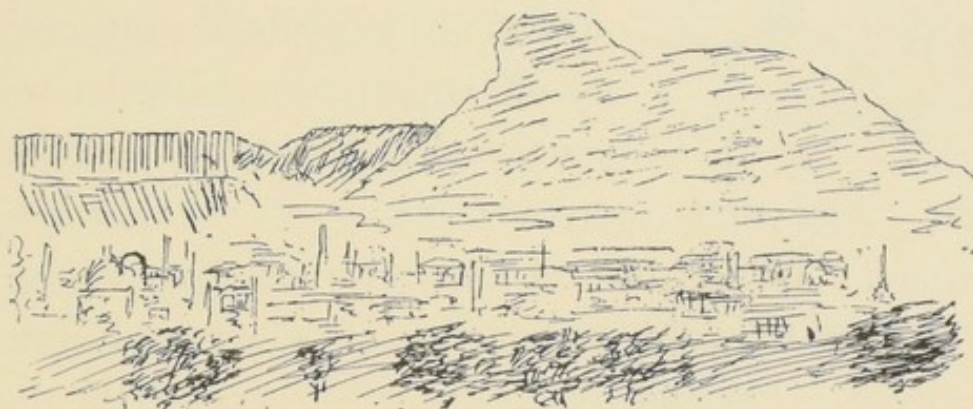
And the keeper of the inn did as he was commanded.

And after Deuteronomy had rested and had partaken of sumptuous food and drink, he left his possessions at the inn, and walked out into the streets of the city.

And he was much amazed at the things which he saw.

For, lo! the houses were of hewn stones, and were of wondrous height; and, moreover, many of the streets were of exceeding steepness, some so steep that few men could climb them.

And without the city was a great hill, in shape like unto a lion that rested, yet slept not, but kept eternal guard over the city.



And as he walked he asked one whom he met what the name of the hill might be; and he learned that it was called the Seat of Arthur.

Again in the streets he saw men attired in strange raiment, having garments like unto those of women.

And upon the shoulders of these men were numbers written, and upon their bosoms were ornaments of silver and of iron.

And Deuteronomy asked who these might be, and he heard that they were of those who keep watch within the Castle, and that they were of that tribe of the Caledonians which dwelleth in



the high hills, even those hills which are beyond the waters which lie to the north of the city.



He also heard, moreover, that they were valiant warriors, and that even now many of their kinsmen sojourn in far-off countries, and make war upon peoples of many nations and of many tongues. And that, moreover, many of the warriors whom Deuteronomy beheld had of late returned from doing valiant deeds. And that the ornaments of silver and iron which they wore bore testimony to their prowess in the heat and thunder of battle.



Other men did he see, arrayed in blue, and upon their garments were numbers and curiously wrought ornaments of silver.

And they had girdles of leather round their waists.

Deuteronomy again asked what these men were, and he heard that they were called 'Roberts' by the youths of the Temples of Learning.

But by the people of the city were they called the keepers of the peace.

These men were of exceeding high stature, and their countenances were terrible to behold, for they showed signs of anger alway.

And Deuteronomy heard that by night the girdles of these men gleamed with great lamps, which shone like unto the eyes of bulls.

That oft did these keepers of the peace put strange weapons of wood, inlaid with gold, into their mouths, and make noises like unto *tarantara, tarantara, tarantara.*

And that they also played sweetly upon little instruments of silver.

And that they were awful in the sight of evil men, and that when these beheld the girdles which gleamed like unto the eyes of bulls, and heard the strange sounds which the keepers of the peace made, they trembled and waxed sore afraid, and fled away and hid themselves in secret places.



But that the young men of the Temples of Learning were not terrified at the sight of those whom they called 'Roberts,' for their ways were good; neither did they lend countenance unto the deeds of evil men.

Still it was rumoured in the city that the lot of the keepers of the peace was not a happy one.

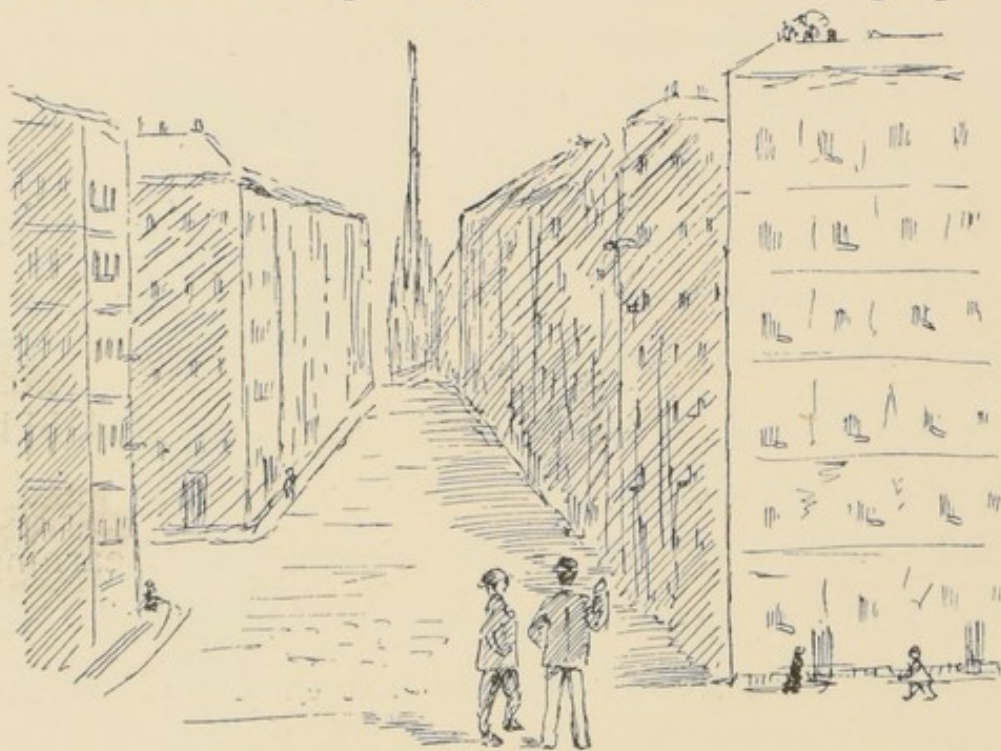
Now, as the evening was drawing nigh, Deuteronomy spake unto himself in this wise,

Lo! I must seek out some house wherein I may abide, lest at the inn they may require more shekels than I can spare.

And as he walked through the streets, meditating upon this, he beheld that from many windows boards stood forth, so as to catch the eyes of passers-by.

And upon many of these boards he read a certain word, which, being interpreted, meaneth apartments, written in large letters of gold.

Some boards had not the word apartments written thereon, but a word which, being interpreted, meaneth lodgings.



And Deuteronomy asked what these things might mean.

And he heard that in the houses, from the windows of which stood forth gilded boards, there dwelt certain women who let out chambers for strangers to lodge therein.

And these women were called the ladies of the land.

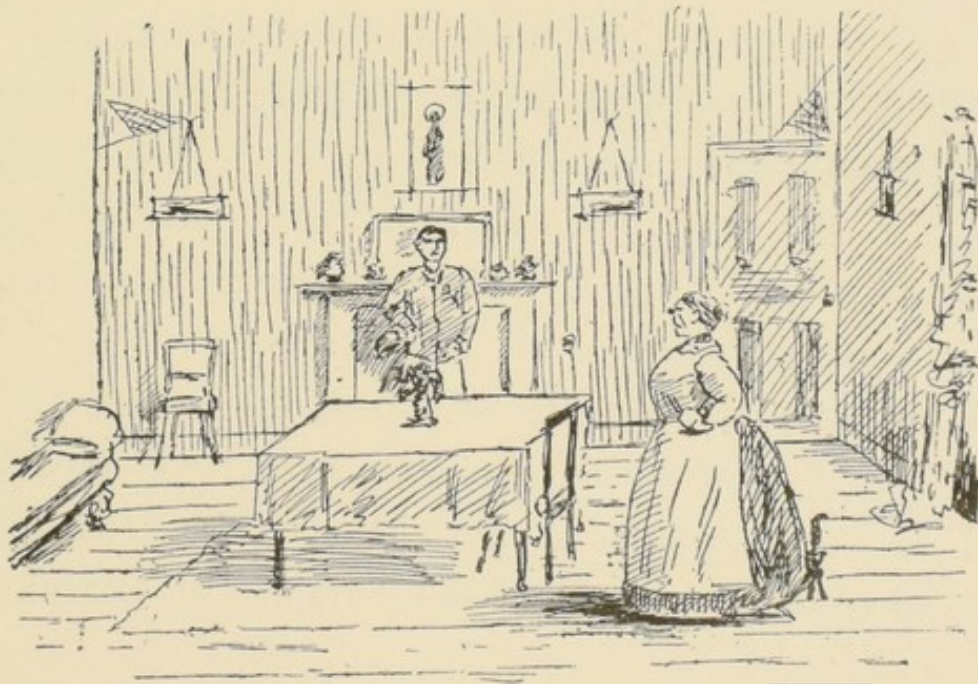
So Deuteronomy chose out one board that shone brighter than all the other boards, and he climbed up many steps of

stone, and came unto the door of the house from the window of which this board stood forth, and he knocked loudly thereat.

And the lady of that house opened the door.

Then Deuteronomy spake unto her, saying, Lo! I am in need of chambers wherein to lodge; canst thou provide them for me?

And the lady of the house said, Yea, here are goodly rooms, and they are filled with furnishings of exceeding costliness and beauty, even so that a king might long to dwell therein.



Behold, also from the windows thereof thou canst look upon the far parts of the city, even unto the green fields and waters without the walls.

And thou mayest lodge therein for so many shekels of silver week by week.

But Deuteronomy, when he had gone in and had seen the chambers, liked them not.

For they were not goodly, neither were they clean, for spiders spun their webs in the cornices thereof.

But the woman of the house was terrible to look upon, and, moreover, her breath smelt like unto strong drink, and her nose shone like the sun when it sinketh in the west.

These things made Deuteronomy sore afraid, and though he cared not for the chambers, yet durst he not tell the woman so.

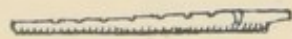
And he wist not what to do, and communed with himself.

Then he said unto the woman, Lo! there is no bath in the house wherein I may wash, neither is there any instrument of music whereon I may play.



But the woman replied, Yea, I have in my house a great vessel of metal wherein I wash garments, and it is a round vessel of six cubits round.

And this mayest thou use as a bath for thyself.



Moreover, for one penny I will buy thee an instrument of music, even a silver trumpet like to those whereon the youths of the Temples of Learning love to play.

Then was Deuteronomy perplexed, and yet again he pondered.

Then he said unto himself, Lo! I have a device whereby to escape from her house.

And he that writeth these things grieveth much that Deuteronomy thereupon forsook the path of truth.

For to escape from the wrath of the woman he said, Lo! I am well pleased with thy chambers, and I will take them and live therein.

Therefore kindle thee a fire of coals in the fire-place, and cook joints of meat that I may dine.

And in the meantime I will go unto the inn and bring my goods unto thy house in the evening.

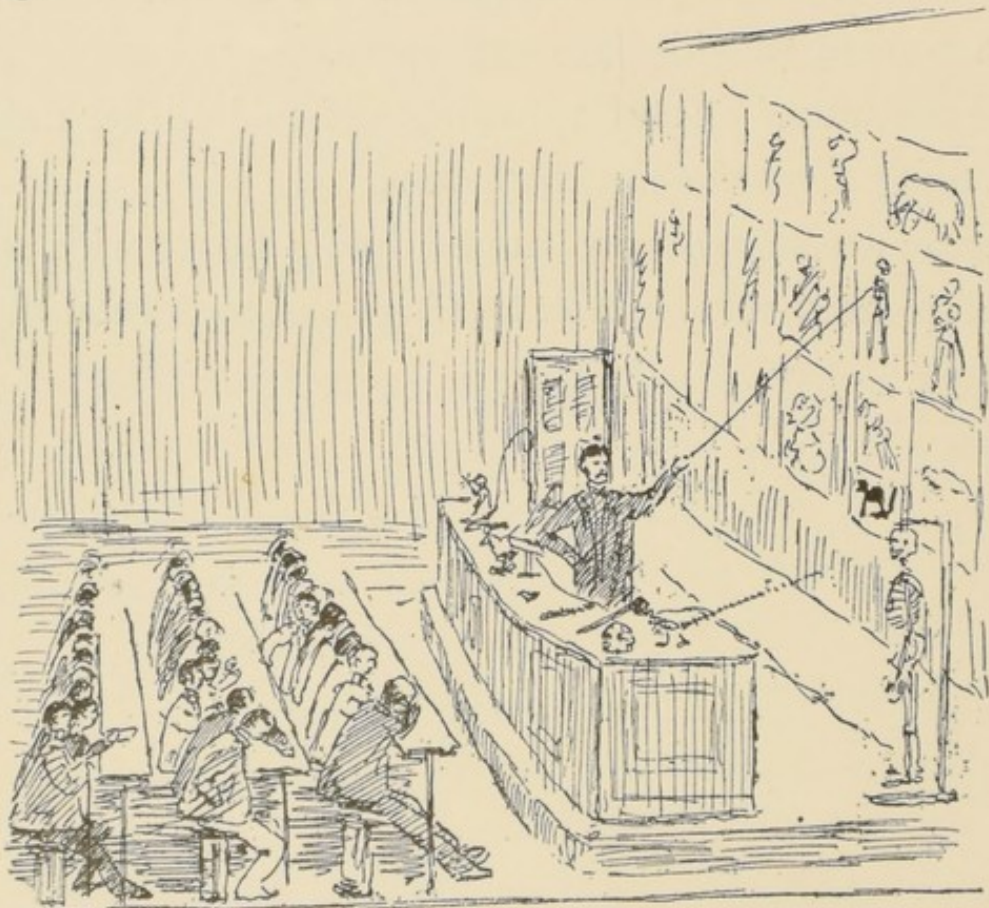
So he went his way, but returned not to that house, neither did the woman see his face any more.

And she waxed exceeding wroth, and told all her neighbours of the thing Deuteronomy had done.

But Deuteronomy soon entered into a house with which he was well pleased, and he took lodgings and sojourned therein.

CHAPTER III.

AND it came to pass that upon the third day of the tenth month of the year, Deuteronomy was present amongst the young men who sat within the new Temple of Learning.



And he was amazed at the things which he saw: for he saw the bones of men, and the bones of beasts of the field, and of monsters of the deep.

Pictures of the limbs of men did he also see, and these were painted in many colours.

And an elder arose and expounded unto the young men the meaning of these things.



And Deuteronomy hearkened unto the words of wisdom which fell from the lips of the elder.

Moreover, Deuteronomy had with him many books of great size, upon the pages whereof were pictures painted like unto the pictures which the elder showed unto them.

Scrolls of parchment did he also have whereon to write down whatsoever things the elder said.

And he had cunningly devised instruments of steel wherewith to carve the limbs of men.



Now as Deuteronomy hearkened unto the voice of the elder, certain youths of the temple who sat behind Deuteronomy made sounds of laughter, laughing Deuteronomy even unto scorn.

The elder did they also provoke unto anger, for they beat upon the seats with staves, and stamped heavily upon the floor with their feet.

And the elder lifted up his voice and said, O young men! there is no need for these sounds.

Yet did Deuteronomy take no part in the making of these strange sounds, but ceased not to hearken unto all the words of the elder, and to write them down upon scrolls of parchment.

And this did he day by day, and he waxed strong in knowledge.



Now, nigh unto the Temples of Learning were other temples of small size dedicated to the god Bacchus; but there was one temple which the youths of the Temples of Learning favoured more than all the rest.

And by the youths who resorted thereto was this temple called "the little house round the corner."



Yet within the little temple were not spoken words of wisdom, but the gurgle of liquids of divers colours, and the jingle of shekels, was heard therein from morning even unto late at night.

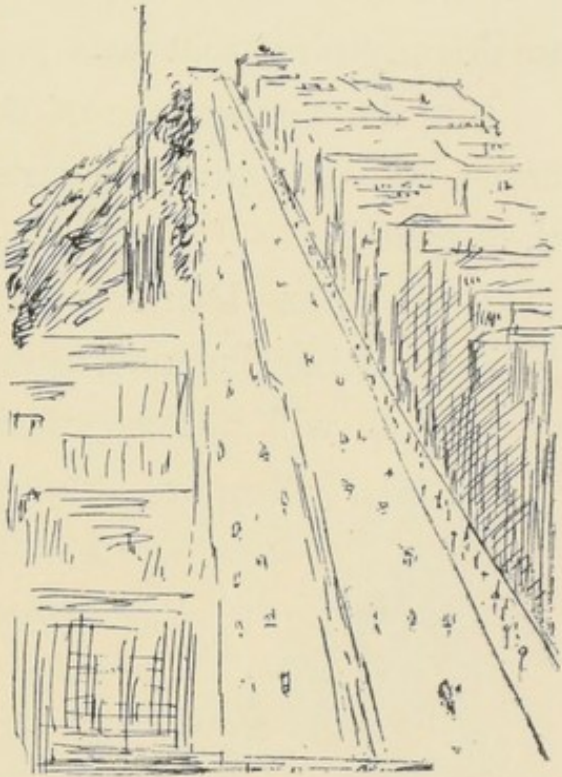
And, moreover, in the city was one straight and broad street called the street of the Princes.

And on one side thereof were many high mansions of stone, having windows of clear glass, row above row, in their walls.

And upon the other side there were no mansions, but a deep valley planted as a beautiful garden.

And by night was this street lighted even as with the brightness of the sun; and the noise of chariots was heard therein continually.

By night also there walked in this street certain strange women attired in costly raiment.



But the words of these women were not good words, nor were their ways good ways.

And whosoever walked with these women could not hope to do anything that was good.

But the young men of the Temples of Learning were wise and spake not unto the strange women, nor hearkened when they called.

And when Deuteronomy first heard men speak of the Temple of Bacchus and of the street of the Princes, he said,

Lo! I will not approach unto the doors of that temple though its glitter be great, neither will I walk by night in the street of the Princes though its light be brighter than the day.



But by day I will sit within the Temples of Learning, and hearken unto the teachings of the elders, and by night I will stay in my own diggings and

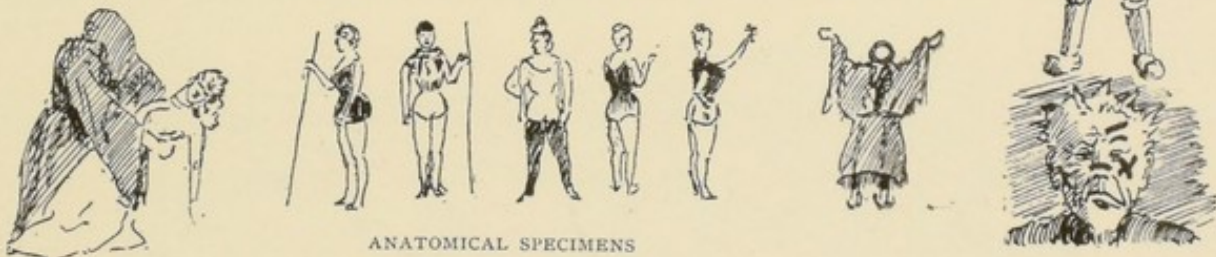
read books written by men of surpassing wisdom.

(And by the word 'diggings' Deuteronomy meant the chambers wherein he lodged, for such were they called by the young men of the Temples of Learning.)

CHAPTER IV.

NOW in a certain part of the City of the Castle was a temple called the Temple of Thespis.

And one week in every year there journeyed thereto from the land of Britain certain sweet singers who sang the songs of every country.



And, moreover, while they sang musicians played unto them upon all kinds of instruments—upon instruments of

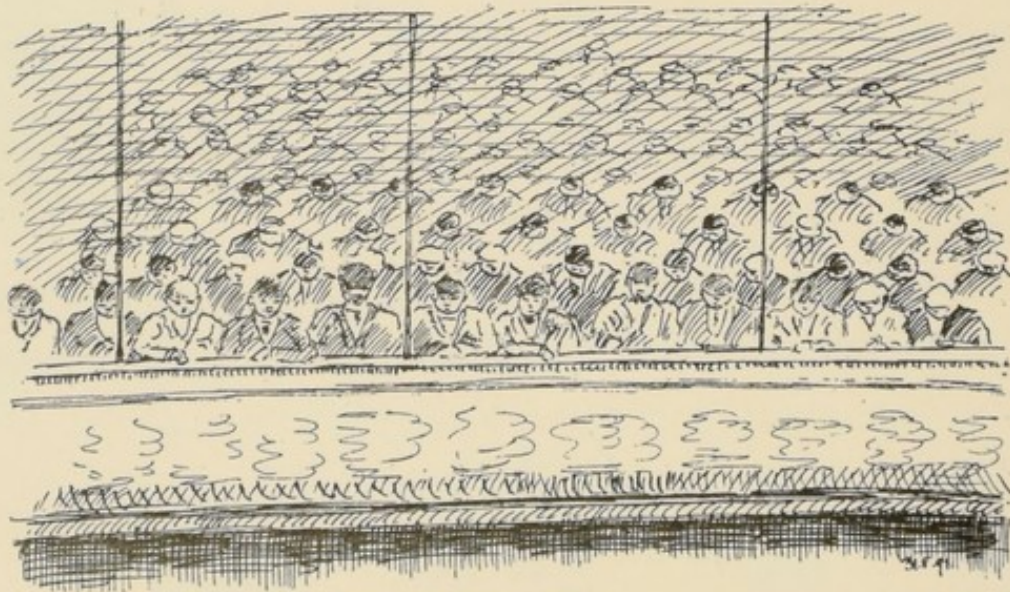


silver and instruments of brass, and of the skins of beasts prepared by cunning workmen.

Both upon wind instruments and stringed instruments did they play—yea, upon the trumpet and upon the cornet and upon the flute, upon the timbrel and upon the harp, and upon the great drum.



And it came to pass that when that season of the year was at hand when the sweet singers came, the youths of the Temples of Learning were filled with joy.



And they gathered themselves together within the Temple of Thespis, and sat in the high places therein—yea, even in the places of the gods.

And a great multitude of the people of the city also gathered themselves together within the walls of the Temple

of Thespis; but, lo! they sat upon the floor of the temple, for none but the youths from the Temples of Learning durst sit in the high places.

And when the Temple of Thespis was filled, the sweet singers came forward and made obeisance unto the multitude of people, and unto the youths who sat in the high places, and began to sing their songs.

And the youths and the people hearkened unto the songs and the music.

But when the youths heard one song which was sweeter than all the other songs, they lifted up their voices in praise and clapped their hands together.

And the sweet singers, when they heard and saw these things, made obeisance unto the youths, and sang the song unto them again.

Then were the youths much pleased, and they made more sounds of rejoicing, and strewed beautiful flowers at the feet of the sweet singers.

Now, at those times when the sweet singers rested between their songs, the youths of the Temples of Learning sang one unto another, and to all the people that sat upon the floor of the Temple of Thespis.

And while they sang certain of the youths played skilfully unto them upon trumpets of silver. Now the cost of each trumpet was one penny.

And the singing of the youths pleased the people mightily, insomuch that they called unto them to sing their songs again.

But the voice of Deuteronomy excelled the voices of all the other youths in sweetness ; and all the youths made obeisance unto Deuteronomy.



Now when Deuteronomy found that he sang exceedingly well, he said within his heart,

Lo ! when the sweet singers sing their songs again I will join my voice with theirs, and of a surety it will please them greatly.

And as he had resolved to do so he did.

But, behold, when the sweet singers heard the voice of Deuteronomy joining with their voices while they sang, they were envious, and waxed wroth.

And they ceased from their singing, and bade the servants who waited in the Temple of Thespis put Deuteronomy away, yea, even to drive him out into the streets.

But when the servants went to do as they were commanded, the youths of the temple closed around Deuteronomy, and prevented the servants from laying hands upon him.

And Deuteronomy laughed the servants to scorn, and all the youths of the Temples of Learning likewise laughed.

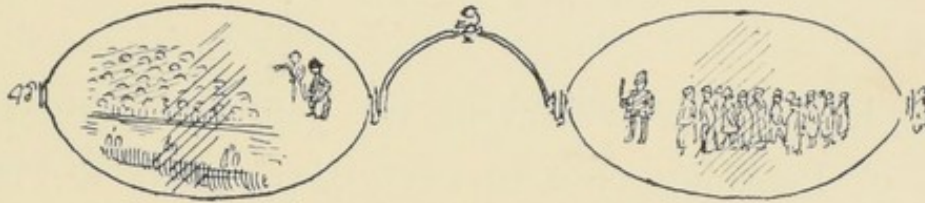
And at these things all the people were filled with great tumult.

But when Deuteronomy knew that the sweet singers were jealous of his singing, he said,

Lo ! they are exceedingly thankless, and I will sing with them no more.

And the sweet singers sang again in peace.

Yet did they cherish much bitterness in their hearts against Deuteronomy, and they bade the servants bring keepers of the peace and mark Deuteronomy where he sat, that they might take him captive as he left the temple.



But Deuteronomy eluded their vengeance, for upon his back he put the cloak of one of his familiars, and upon his head the covering of another of his familiars.

And as he left the temple the servants knew him not, so he passed them by and went on his way rejoicing.

CHAPTER V.

NOW it was the custom of the youths of the Temples of Learning once in every three years to appoint a ruler to rule over them.



And, behold, the time drew nigh when the ruler should be appointed.

And the young men gathered themselves together, and disputed one with another as to whom they should appoint.

And one said, Lo! such an one is of a surety well fitted to be our ruler, for, behold, he is indeed a great man,

One that speaketh wise things continually, yea, whose every word is golden.



And another said, Nay, nay, he of whom thou speakest is not wise, neither doth his tongue drop words of gold.

Behold, he is but a babbler, in whose words no man that is prudent would place his trust.

But, verily, I can name one who is of great repute, and who even now sitteth among the rulers of the land.

And he spake aloud the name of this one, and shouted with joy and gladness.

But the other shouted not for joy, but spake scornfully of him whose name had been mentioned.

And said, Lo! no man hath heard of him excepting inasmuch as his uncle was a mighty magician, who wrote many books filled with the chronicles of the kings and the people of Britain.

But because of the wisdom of his uncle thou thinkest him of whom thou talkest wise.

And so they waxed hot in argument.

But while they disputed, yet another young man rose up and said, O young men of the Temples of Learning, why dispute ye one with another regarding these two men?

For, verily, I deny not that they are men of repute in the State, and sit every night in the councils of the wise men who make laws for our nation.

But oftentimes do they laugh each other to scorn, and their parties are divided amongst themselves, and we can ourselves in no wise agree concerning them.

Neither of them should we elect to rule over the youths of the Temples of Learning.

For, indeed, I know a wise man who himself sat many years among the elders in the Temples of Learning, and even now he dwelleth within the City of the Castle.

And he is of a truth exceeding wise, and learned in all the learning of the great peoples of old times, even of the

Greeks of whom we read in our scrolls, and with his pen doth he write marvellous things.

And when he speaketh unto the people they wonder exceedingly ; yea, they laugh and shout for joy at his words, and cry out unto the wise man to sing them a song of their native country.



And oftentimes doth the wise man do as they bid him, and sing unto them in the language of the Caledonians.

For he is indeed a Caledonian of the Caledonians.

But the young men hearkened not patiently unto what the youth said.

And many cried out, Nay, we will not have the man of whom thou speakest to rule over us.

For, behold, he doth not speak wisdom, and, moreover, he careth not for the customs of the Caledonians, though thou callest him a Caledonian indeed.

For verily he hath much guile in him, for upon the Sabbath day doth he journey oftentimes unto the great City that is in the West and speak unto multitudes of people.

Thou indeed knowest this to be an evil thing, for in the land of the Caledonians are none permitted to speak unto the people on the Sabbath day save such as are priests in the synagogues.

And the noise of their disputing grew loud, yet could they not convince each other.

Nor could the young men that hearkened unto them agree among themselves as to whom was most worthy of their choice.

So they were divided among themselves into parties.



And as the time of election drew nigh, the youths were filled with expectation and excitement.

And they held many meetings, whereto to publish abroad the greatness of the man in whom they severally trusted, and to denounce the men in whom all others placed their trust.

Writings and songs written in strange characters did they also distribute, and many of these were filled with things that made those that read them laugh aloud.

Pictures also did they draw of the men who aspired to rule over them, and these were drawn with exceeding skill.

For, behold, each artist contrived to give unto the countenance of him in whom he did



not believe an appearance of stupidity and fierceness, and to make his form exceedingly uncomely.

But he forgot not to make the face of him in whom he did believe beam with wisdom and beauty, nor to give unto him a form of god-like grace.

And all these things greatly pleased Deuteronomy.

And with his familiars he attended nightly at the gatherings of youths who disputed as to who should be their ruler, and he made much noise of shouting, and of singing, and of beating his staff upon the ground.

And when the day appointed by the elders of the temple was come, Deuteronomy rose up early in the morning.

And with his familiars he repaired unto the old Temple of Learning.

For in the halls thereof sat the elders ready to count the names of the young men as they severally declared whom they desired to be their ruler.

And Deuteronomy and his familiars brought with them huge staves. And, moreover, they filled their pockets with peas, dried in an oven until they were of exceeding hardness.

And these did they throw at the youths of the temples, and at the keepers of the peace that stood without the gate.

And at the drivers of chariots who passed by the gate.



And the keepers of the peace waxed exceeding wroth, and threatened Deuteronomy, shaking their staves at him, and crying out the word *tarantara* one unto the other.

But Deuteronomy kept well within the portals of the temple, and laughed aloud at the discomfiture of the keepers of the peace, and cast still more peas at them.

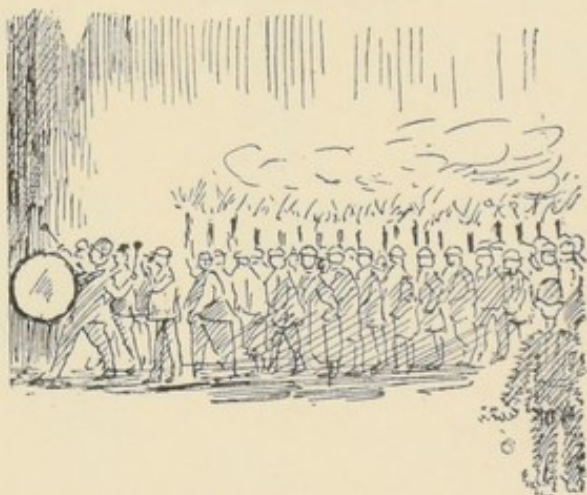
And when each youth had declared the name of him whom he wished to be ruler, behold, the chief of the elders announced unto the multitude assembled the name of the wise man who had been chosen to rule over them.

Then was there manifestations of great joy, for, behold, the youths disputed no longer, but all did honour unto the wise man who had been elected as their ruler.

And when the evening was come, they gathered together in the courtyard of the temple.

And each one held in his hand a burning torch.

And in front of them were placed musicians, and, arranged in order like unto a legion of soldiers, they marched through the streets of the city, holding above their heads the flaming torches so that the whole city was lighted up with the glare thereof.



And the people of the city were amazed, and followed them, crying aloud with wonder.

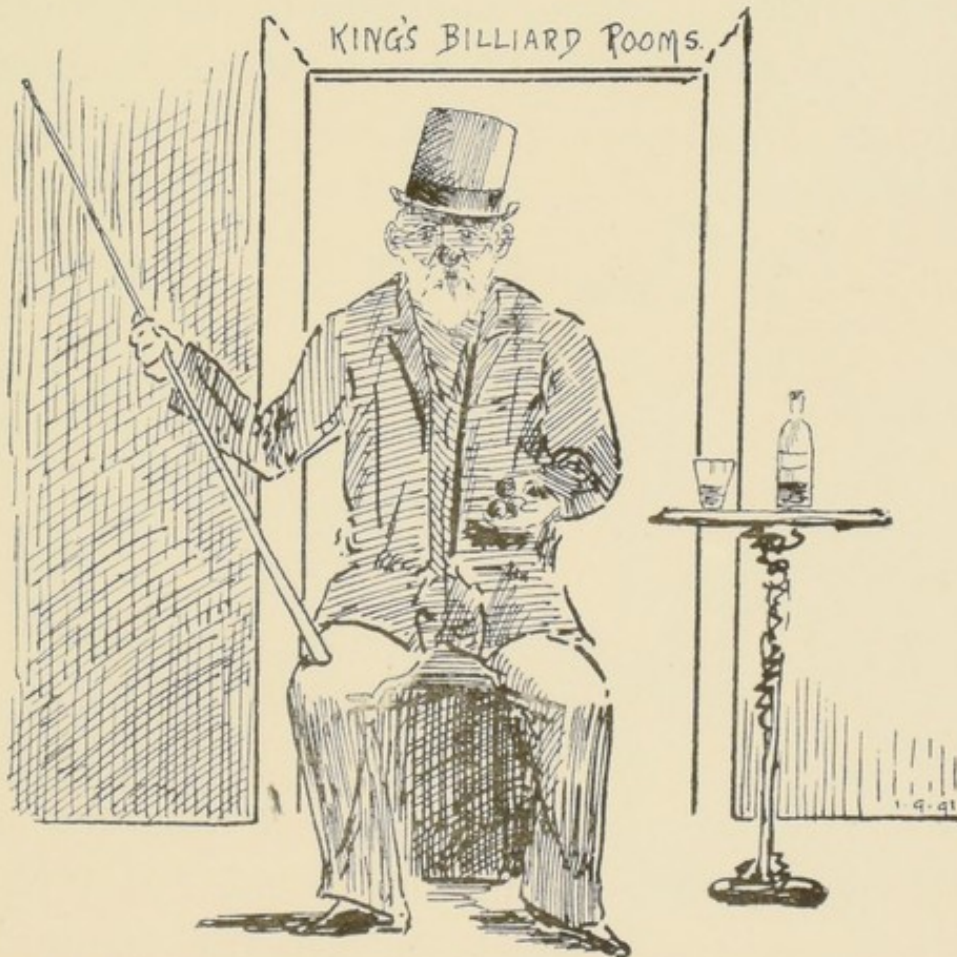
But the keepers of the peace were sore afraid lest the youths should cast more peas at them.

And they followed the procession afar off in fear and trembling, but in their hearts they vowed vengeance upon Deuteronomy for all that he had done against them.

But Deuteronomy retired in safety to his lodgings, and feared not for what the keepers of the peace might do unto him.

CHAPTER VI.

AND Deuteronomy went also unto certain houses hard by the Temple of Learning.



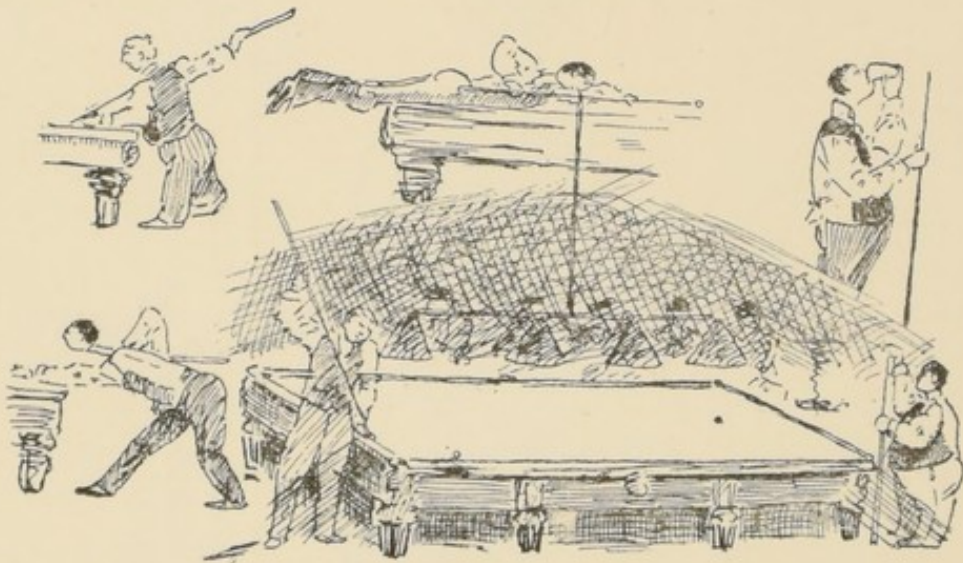
For, behold, the keepers of these houses were men of great power and riches ; and Deuteronomy heard with awe that the greatest of them reigned as a King in the land.

And he beheld that in these houses were many youths, and that upon the floors stood tables, the legs of which were carved with exquisite workmanship.

Upon the tables also were there green cloths of strange texture spread out, and at the sides and the corners thereof were cunningly woven bags placed.

And upon the green cloths of strange texture were laid balls of divers colours—balls of green and of red and of yellow, even of every colour of the rainbow.

Now these balls were all carved from the teeth of the Mastodon.



And the youths that stood by took instruments of wood into their hands, even instruments of wood that had been well seasoned, and they struck the balls one against another in strange fashion.

And Deuteronomy was much amazed at the things which he saw.

And he longed to be able to knock the balls one against the other as the other young men did.

To this end he practised diligently day by day.

And it came to pass that after many days had passed by Deuteronomy excelled all the other youths in skill, even so that they who stood by and watched oftentimes cried out in amazement,

Saying one unto the other, 'Lo! he hath cannoned off the red,' and other strange sayings, the meaning whereof he that writeth these things can in no wise interpret.

Now it came to pass that at the end of many weeks Deuteronomy suffered from a thirst of exceeding perversity.



And he went often unto the Temple of Bacchus, that is called 'the little house round the corner.' And he passed much time therein, and drank many liquids of divers colours.

Moreover, he made offerings of shekels of silver and shekels of gold unto the high priest of the little temple.

And he walked by night in the street of the Princes.

And ofttimes he went not nigh unto the Temples of Learning, neither did he pay any regard to the teachings



of the elders therein, but he hied him in the afternoon unto the street of the Princes, and did there walk in the company of maidens belonging to the city.



Now these maidens were of great beauty, and the spell of their loveliness was such that Deuteronomy said unto himself,

Lo, it is better to win their smiles and to walk with them in the light of the sun than to seek the favour of the elders and wise men by poring over books and scrolls without number in the gloomy halls of the Temples of Learning.

And the fame of Deuteronomy as a mighty masher was noised throughout the four corners of the city.

(By the word 'masher' did people of the city mean one who won the hearts of many maidens.)

But, behold, there was a law of the Temples of Learning, which commanded that on certain days the youths should give unto the doorkeepers of the Temples pieces of parchment having their names inscribed thereon.



And these days were called the days of the card; but the youths knew not when these days would be.

Thus it came to pass that Deuteronomy was not present in the Temples of Learning upon many days of the card.

And upon these days the scribes that sat within marked not a cross after the name of Deuteronomy Smith when they saw it in their scrolls.

But Deuteronomy troubled not himself about this thing, for he wrote not, neither did he read; yet was he joyous exceedingly, and fared sumptuously every day.

And in the fulness of time he did divers other evil deeds.

For he passed the Sabbath day in riotous living and in driving about in chariots, to the sorrow of the inhabitants of the City of the Castle.



For the people of that city were good people, and on the Sabbath day they entered into their synagogues twice or thrice in the day.

And two whole days in every year they fasted.

But Deuteronomy went not into any of their synagogues, neither did he keep any of their fasts.

Now it came to pass that one day as Deuteronomy and one

of his familiars walked in the streets they beheld that upon the walls of the houses were certain shining ornaments of brass.

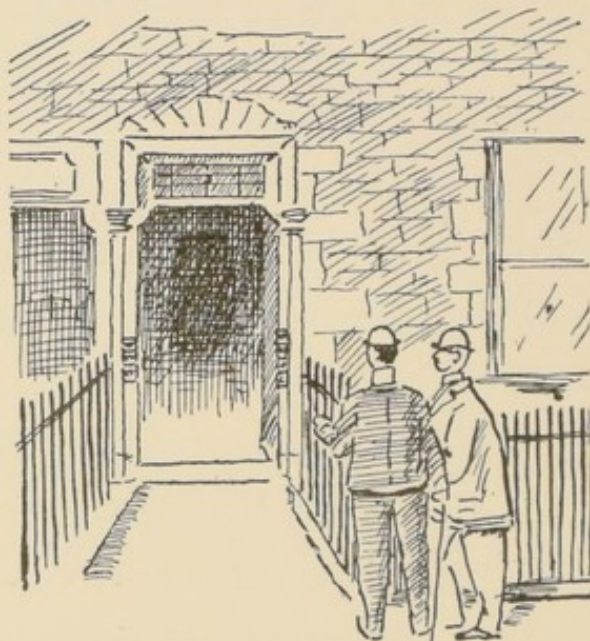
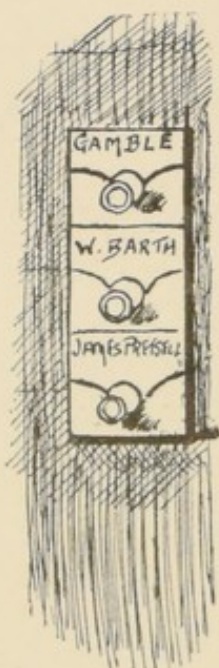
And Deuteronomy showed them unto his familiar, and they coveted them within their hearts, and they

conspired together that they might obtain many of these ornaments of brass.

Now these were indeed strange things.

For they were placed upon the wall of every house, that whomsoever desired to enter into that house might lay hands upon them and pull them.

And thereupon a great instrument of silver which was within the house, and upon the wall thereof, would play sweet music.



And when the people of the house heard the sweet music of the instrument of silver, then would they open the door of the house, that whomsoever willed might enter in.

And when Deuteronomy and his familiar had conspired together concerning these ornaments of brass, they parted and went their ways, each one unto his own diggings.

But in the darkness of the night did they meet again, yea, even in that watch of the night which is nighest unto the morning, and when deep sleep sealet the eyes of men.

And they went forth into the suburbs of the City.

And they brought with them a bag made from the skin of a goat, that they might place therein whatsoever handles of brass they might obtain.

And they took their way from house to house, and by much diligence and trouble pulled from the walls of the houses many bright ornaments of brass of cunning workmanship.

Even so great a number did they pull from the walls that the bag wherein they carried them became exceeding heavy.

And it so happened that Deuteronomy bore the bag.

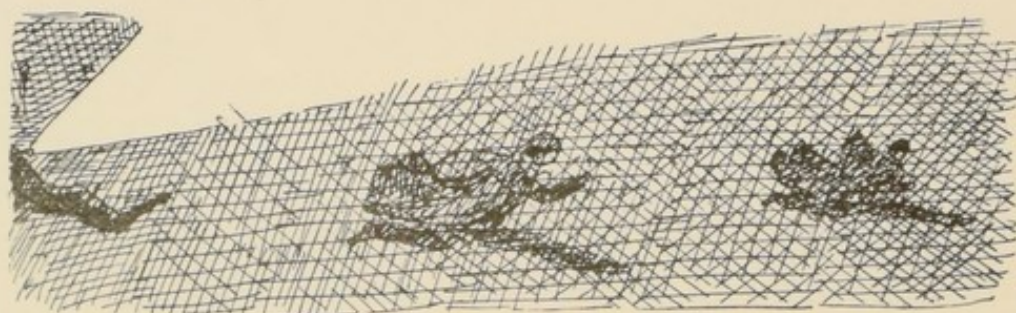
Now as Deuteronomy and his familiar were pulling a certain ornament of brass from the wall whereon it was placed, suddenly a bright light shone upon them and dazzled their sight.



And the light was like unto the light which flameth in the eyes of a bull when it beholdeth banners of scarlet, and is filled with terrible rage thereat.

For, lo! a keeper of the peace, who was a man of passing vigilance, had watched the deeds of Deuteronomy and his familiar, and he longed to take them captive.

And when the familiar of Deuteronomy saw the light, he cried in a loud voice unto Deuteronomy, Lo! Deuteronomy, fly for thy life, for the Roberts are upon us.



And even as he spake he lifted up his heels and fled.

But Deuteronomy being burdened with the weight of the bag which he carried, was not able to run with the swiftness of his familiar, and the keeper of the peace gave chase unto him and gained upon him.

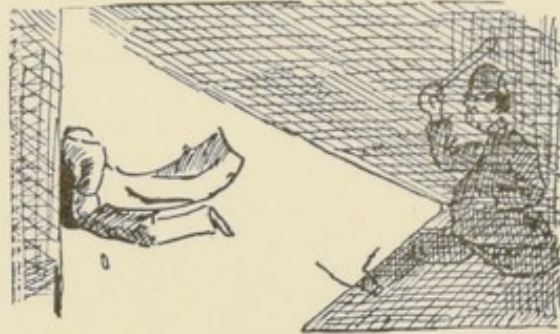
And when Deuteronomy heard the footsteps of the keeper of the peace close behind him he was sorely troubled, and he was tempted to throw down the bag which burdened him.

But the temptation did he withstand; for he said unto himself, rather would I be taken captive than lose the brazen ornaments which are the reward of my prowess.

And as he ran, thinking in this wise, he remembered an artifice of which he had heard the youths of the Temples of Learning speak.

And thereupon he let fall at his feet one shekel of silver.

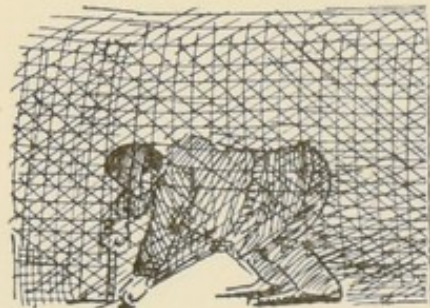
Now, the keeper of the peace was a man of upright ways and one whose heart was kind, therefore, he desired not that Deuteronomy should lose any of his shekels.



And when he heard the jingle of the shekel upon the ground, he ceased from running straightway, and said unto himself,

Lo! I will search upon the ground for the shekel which Deuteronomy hath lost in his haste, and when I find it shall render it unto him again.

But, while he searched for the shekel, Deuteronomy fled unto his own diggings, and took refuge therein.



And presently the keeper of the peace, having found the shekel, rose up from the ground, intending to deliver it unto Deuteronomy.

But when he saw that Deuteronomy had fled he was filled with amazement.



And said unto himself, I will keep the shekel safely within my pocket; and

if, peradventure, I meet Deuteronomy again, then will I deliver his shekel unto him.



Yet, though he looked diligently, could he never see the face of Deuteronomy again, for even at such times as he passed him in the street a strange blindness overcame his eyes,

And it is said that he was deeply grieved at this.

But Deuteronomy grieved not over the shekel which he had let fall, but rather esteemed himself happy at the store of bright ornaments of brass which he treasured up in his box of cedar.

CHAPTER VII.

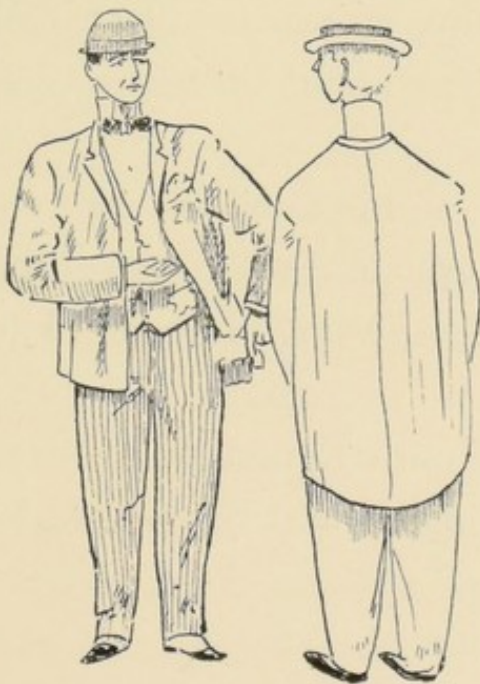
NOW it came to pass that after Deuteronomy had passed much time in the little temple, and had walked often in the street of the Princes, that he had no shekels left in his purse.

And this thing grieved him deeply, inso-much that he wept.

And he went unto one of his familiars and said, Lo! I cannot drink any more with you in the little temple, neither can I drive in chariots with you.

For, behold! my pockets are empty, and I have no shekels in my purse.

But if thou wilt lend unto me five shekels, then can I again sit with you in the little temple, and drive in chariots with you.



But his familiar was hard of heart, and he laughed Deuteronomy's request unto scorn, and made mock of Deuteronomy.

Then was Deuteronomy much vexed and went his way to his diggings, and sat down in sackcloth and ashes and wept.

But another of his familiars came unto him and said, Why, O Deuteronomy, art thou sad?

And Deuteronomy lifted up his voice and said, Hast thou also come to mock me in my sorrow?



For, behold I weep because my store of shekels is run out, and I know not where to turn for more.

And even one of my familiars hath denied me when I asked of him a loan of five shekels.

But this one of his familiars was one who was wise, yea, one who was deeply versed in all the ways of every kind of men.

And he said unto Deuteronomy, Nay, I come not to mock at thy sorrow, but to comfort thee.

For, behold, I bring thee glad tidings.



Knowest thou not that in this city are many near of kin to thee?

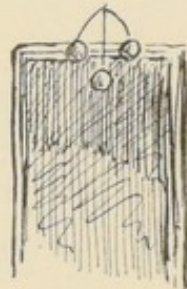
For there are brothers of thy father, and brothers of thy mother, and behold all these thy uncles are of the tribe of Benjamin.

And the name of one is Moses, and of another Jacob, and of another Joseph; yea, their names are so many that I wist not them all.



Moreover, thy uncles are men of good report and of exceeding great riches.

And over their door-posts hang globes of gold as a sign of their wealth.



And all the globes are of pure gold and not one of silver, for so rich are thy uncles that it is accounted as nothing in their sight.

Yet though the raiment of thy uncles is of costly stuff, and their houses sumptuously furnished, yet are they not stiff-necked or puffed up.

But they will be as uncles unto whomsoever asketh them.

And the number of their nephews that sit within the Temples of Learning is without count.

Moreover, thy uncles are dealers in merchandise and in goods, in ornaments of silver and ornaments of gold, in precious stones, and in those curious instruments of steel whereof thou hast many.

Books and scrolls also do they traffic in, and garments will they not despise.

Cast off, therefore, O Deuteronomy! thy coat of sackcloth, and shake the ashes from thy head.



And hie thee to one of thy new-found uncles, even unto that one which sitteth in a house hard by the walls of the Temple of Learning.

Also, take with thee thy ornaments of gold, and thy ornaments of silver, and thy cunningly devised instruments of steel. Neither forget thy books nor thy scrolls.

And say unto thy uncle, Lo! uncle, here are ornaments of silver and ornaments of gold; likewise cunningly devised instruments of steel, and many books and scrolls.

All these things I give unto thy safe keeping, that I may come back again and receive them uninjured from thy hand.

Give, therefore, unto me certain pieces of silver, that I may again visit the little temple and also drive about in chariots.

So Deuteronomy cast away his garment of sackcloth and shook off the ashes from his head, and said unto his familiar, As thou sayest, so will I do.

CHAPTER VIII.

AND when the evening was come Deuteronomy gathered together his ornaments of gold and silver, and his instruments of steel, and his books, the pages of which were painted with pictures of the bones of men and the bones of beasts.

And he carried them by secret ways unto the house of Moses his uncle.

And even as his familiar had directed him, he spake unto his uncle.

And Moses took the ornaments, and the instruments, and the books, and examined them.

For he had oftentimes had dealings with youths from the Temples of Learning, and he knew full well, yea, even better than did Deuteronomy, the value of each book and scroll, and each ornament of gold, and each instrument of silver.



And although many subtle youths had attempted it, yet had no one ever deceived Moses as to the worth of the moveables he desired to place in his safe keeping.



Then when Moses had well regarded the chattels which Deuteronomy had brought unto him, he said, Lo! Deuteronomy, thou art a youth of much promise, and the ornaments which thou hast are goodly. For I have tried them with strong

acids, made by wise men of the Gentiles, and the silver is pure and the gold exceeding good.

Lend them therefore unto me and I shall keep them safely for thee in my strong room; for it is locked and bolted with many bars, so that thieves cannot break through and steal.

I will, moreover, give unto thee certain pieces of silver such as thou requirest.

And that I may know thee again when thou comest to me for thy goods, I will also give thee a piece of paper with writing and with figures thereon.



But before I give thee the pieces of silver and the piece of paper, pay thou me the sum of one penny.

And when Deuteronomy heard this last saying he was much troubled.

For he had not the wherewithal to pay the penny.

But Moses, his uncle, seeing that Deuteronomy was perplexed, divined the cause, and said in a cheerful voice,

Be not troubled, for from the pieces of silver I will withhold the value of one penny.

But all the rest will I deliver unto thee.

And Deuteronomy consented and gave Moses his goods, and in return he received many shekels and a piece of paper with writing thereon.

Then Deuteronomy bade farewell unto Moses, his uncle, and hied him unto the little temple.

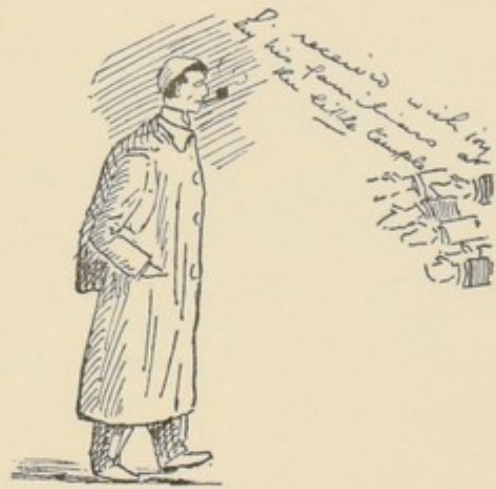
And his familiars received him with manifestations of great joy.

And Deuteronomy jingled the shekels wherewith his uncle Moses had provided him and said, Lo! I have many shekels, let us therefore drink and be merry.

And as he proposed, so did they.

And it came to pass that as the evening advanced they grew joyous and made much noise, and the songs of their native country did they sing, yea, even the praises of the balm of Gilead did they sing.

But while it yet lacked one hour of midnight, the priest of the little temple came unto them and said, Lo! it is



even time for ye to depart, for the keepers of the peace are strict, and I must now lock up my door and bar my windows, and sell no more drinks until the morrow.



So Deuteronomy and the rest bade farewell to the keeper of the little temple, and shouting aloud and singing songs they walked even unto the street of the Princes.

Then said one of their number, Come, let us make yet more noise of shouting and of laughter, and let us mock at the keepers of the peace whose girdles gleam like the eyes of bulls.

And the rest lifted up their voices, even as one voice, and cried, As thou sayest, so let us do.

Therefore they shouted yet louder, and made much noise with their staves, beating them upon the ground and against the doors of the houses.

And the lamps, wherewith the street of the Princes was lightened like unto the brightness of the day, did they put out, so that a great darkness fell upon the street.

And thereupon they heard the keepers of the peace approaching, and the sound of their feet was like unto the rushing of many waters.

But the warning of the keepers of the peace did they not heed, but laughed them unto scorn.

And presently a great tumult arose, and the keepers of the peace were struck and knocked about even like unto skittles.

Yet was there one keeper of the peace stronger than his fellows.

And in the midst of the confusion he laid hold of Deuteronomy and would not be prevailed upon to let him go.

Moreover, the keepers of the peace made strange noises, playing upon little instruments of silver and crying out the word *tarantara*, so that more keepers of the peace came to their aid.

And the young men who were with Deuteronomy were put to flight.

But Deuteronomy fled not, for the keepers of the peace surrounded him, and laid firm hold upon him.

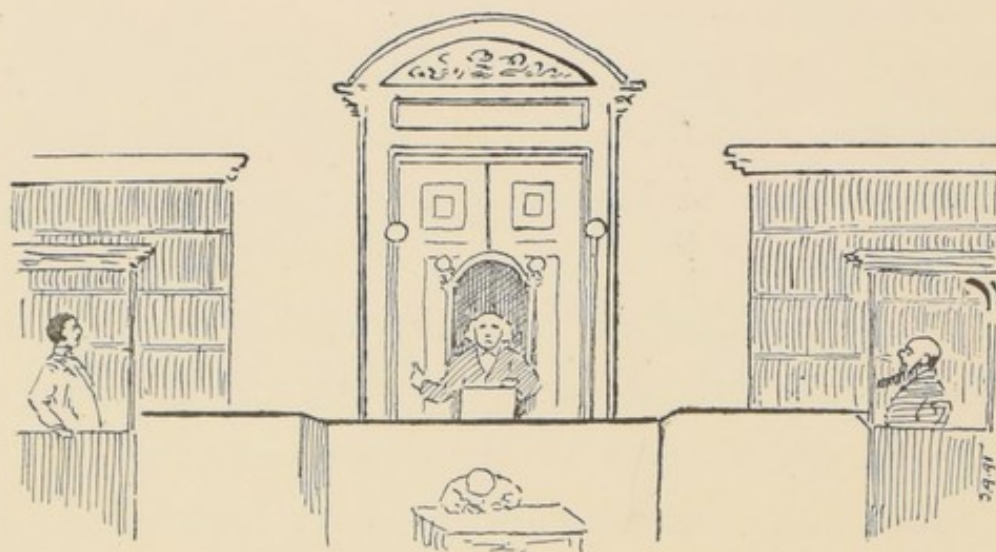
And they took him captive, and bore him unto a street that is called High, and kept a watch over him lest he should escape.

But certain young men of his familiars came and went surety, and Deuteronomy was released until the morning.



And when the morning was come Deuteronomy went again unto the street that is called High.

And he stood before a man well stricken in years, and who was mighty in the land.



And the keepers of the peace accused Deuteronomy of making much noise, and of being filled with wine, and of uttering many oaths and imprecations.

But many of Deuteronomy's familiars came forward and testified that Deuteronomy made not any noise, neither was he drunken with wine.

But the Magistrate looked exceeding stern and reproved Deuteronomy, and said unto him,

This once will I let thee depart in peace, but let me not see thee in this place again, or thou shalt render tribute unto the great Queen who reigneth over the realm.

So Deuteronomy and his familiars left the street called High, and went on their way rejoicing.

CHAPTER IX.

AND in the fulness of time, it came to pass that Deuteronomy found that the shekels wherewith Moses his uncle had provided him were all spent.

Nor had he any more ornaments to loan unto his uncle.

For Moses was a stern man, and gave not shekels unto any of his nephews unless he received goods as surety.



Now, Deuteronomy owed much money unto the lady in whose house he lodged.

And the lady importuned him for this money.

But he said unto her, Fear not, for in a little time I will pay unto you whatsoever just thing ye ask.

And the lady replied, Lo! Deuteronomy, thou hast often said that, and yet thou hast not paid me.



Now, therefore, but fourteen days more will I tarry ; and if thou payest me not by that time, then will I seize upon thy box of cedar, and thy small box made of the skins of beasts skilfully prepared by cunning workmen,

And I will sell them, that I may perforce receive the sums which thou owest me.

And Deuteronomy was troubled at these words, and pondered deeply.

And he said unto himself, I have a scheme whereby I may elude her watchfulness, and avoid paying her my rent.

Yet will I not cheat her altogether, but when I am able I will come again and give her back her own with usury ; for I would scorn to cheat her of that which is her own.

But now I will secretly remove my garments unto the house of one of my familiars.

And I will daily bring in great stones, and place them in my large box of cedar, so that the lady may think it full of garments.

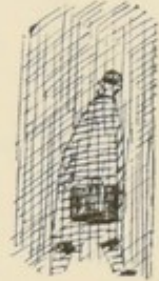
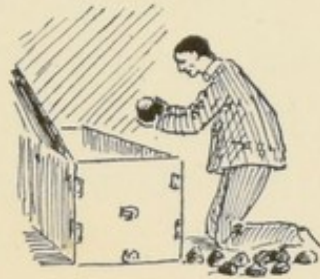
But my small box of the skins of beasts is light, and it will I carry with me when I leave the house by night.

Therefore he secretly removed his raiment unto the house of one of his familiars, even to him who had told him of his uncle Moses.



Now as the lady was very watchful, he durst not remove all his raiment

at one time, but he would wear two changes at once, and going unto the house of his familiar leave one change there.



Daily did he bring home great blocks of stone, and laid them in his box of cedar.

And on the night of the thirteenth day he escaped by stealth unto the house of his familiar.

His box made from the skins of beasts, tanned by cunning workmen, did he take with him, but his great chest of cedar could he not remove.

And on the morrow when the lady of the house found that Deuteronomy had fled, she was much amazed, and cried unto her neighbours, Lo! what manner of man is this? for, behold, he hath gone like a vision in the night.

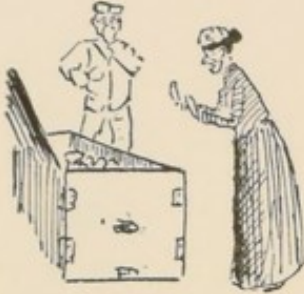
And she railed against Deuteronomy exceedingly, and breathed forth threatenings against him.

But when she beheld Deuteronomy's great box of cedar her wrath was appeased, and she was glad.

Saying unto herself, Lo! it is exceeding heavy; verily it is filled with scrolls, and with garments of rich texture from the looms of far-off lands.



Therefore will I tarry yet a little while, for Deuteronomy will return to claim his treasures.



After she had tarried for the space of forty days and Deuteronomy came not, then did she call in a workman skilled in locks and bolts of iron, and opened the great box of cedar.

And when the lady found that the box was filled with stones, and not with costly garments, she marvelled greatly.

Moreover, she waxed very wroth, and called unto her all her neighbours, and spake unto them many more evil things concerning Deuteronomy.

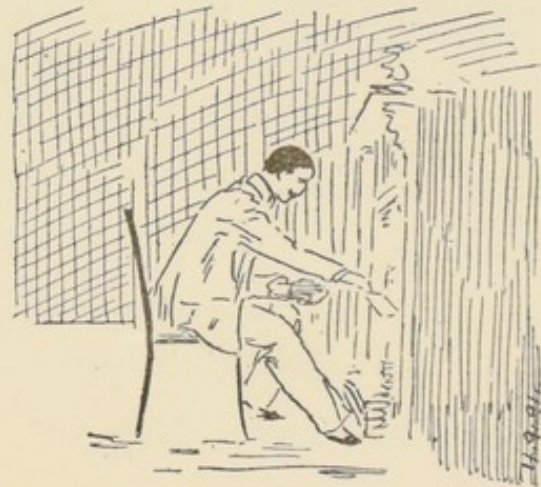


But all this time Deuteronomy abode with his familiar, and he was filled with mirth, and laughed exceedingly when he heard of the things which had taken place.

CHAPTER X.

BUT in the fulness of time it came to pass that Deuteronomy found grace in the eyes of a maiden.

And she was fairer to look upon even than the fair daughters of the city with whom Deuteronomy had oftimes walked with of an afternoon in the street of the Princes.



And Deuteronomy went no more out as a masher to mash, neither did he walk with any other maiden than she of his choice.

Yet did he dispose in secret of many locks of hair of divers many colours, some as fair as the flax and some even as dark as the raven's wing.

And of many pictures of the fair daughters of the city, and many epistles filled with loving words, and written upon parchments perfumed with all the perfumes of Araby, which maidens had of old given unto him.

But he showed not these things which he had ceased to treasure, and which bore witness unto his prowess as a masher in former days, unto her whom he designed to marry, lest peradventure she would be sore displeased.



And he loved her exceedingly, and said unto her, Wilt thou become my wife?

But the maiden was wise and prudent, and answered him in this wise, Lo! Deuteronomy, I would be well pleased to wed thee;

But as yet thou art young in years, and, moreover, thy store of shekels is not sufficient to buy for me such costly raiment as I would need.

Neither canst thou go out as a physician to heal the sick, for the high priests and rulers of the Temples of Learning have not yet added strange letters unto thy name.

Yet, shouldest thou become exceedingly diligent, and the wise men put many letters and titles after thy name, then will I marry thee.

And we will journey together unto the land of Britain, that thou mightest become a physician in the land wherein thy fathers dwelt.

And when Deuteronomy had heard the things which the maiden had said, and saw that they were good, he lifted up his voice and said, As thou sayest so will I do.

And from that day he went not nigh unto any of the little temples, nor did he walk by night in the street of the Princes.

Neither did he live riotously, nor provoke the anger of the keepers of the peace.

And, moreover, he drove not in chariots upon the Sabbath day,

But went daily unto the Temples of Learning, and hearkened unto all the words of the teachers.

For now he said, Rather would I be a doorkeeper in the Halls of Learning than a high priest in the little temple wherein the gurgle of divers liquids and the jingle of shekels is heard continually.

His shekels did he also treasure up; and when his store had become of sufficient greatness, he went unto the house of his uncle Moses, and redeemed his ornaments of gold and of silver, his instruments, and his painted scrolls.



And he became no more a nephew unto Moses, nor unto any of his uncles of the tribe of Benjamin.

The lady of the house from whence he had stolen by night did he also pay her own with usury, insomuch that she showed signs of great joy and cried out unto her neighbours that Deuteronomy was a youth of great promise.

And when Deuteronomy's familiars saw the change which



was wrought in him they were much astonished, and marvelled greatly.

And they whispered unto one another, and said, Lo! it is all on account of Eliza.

And it came to pass at diver times Deuteronomy stood before the elders of the Temples of Learning,



And the elders asked him many questions concerning the bones of men and of beasts, and concerning the herbs of the fields and the metals of the earth, whereby the sicknesses of men are healed.

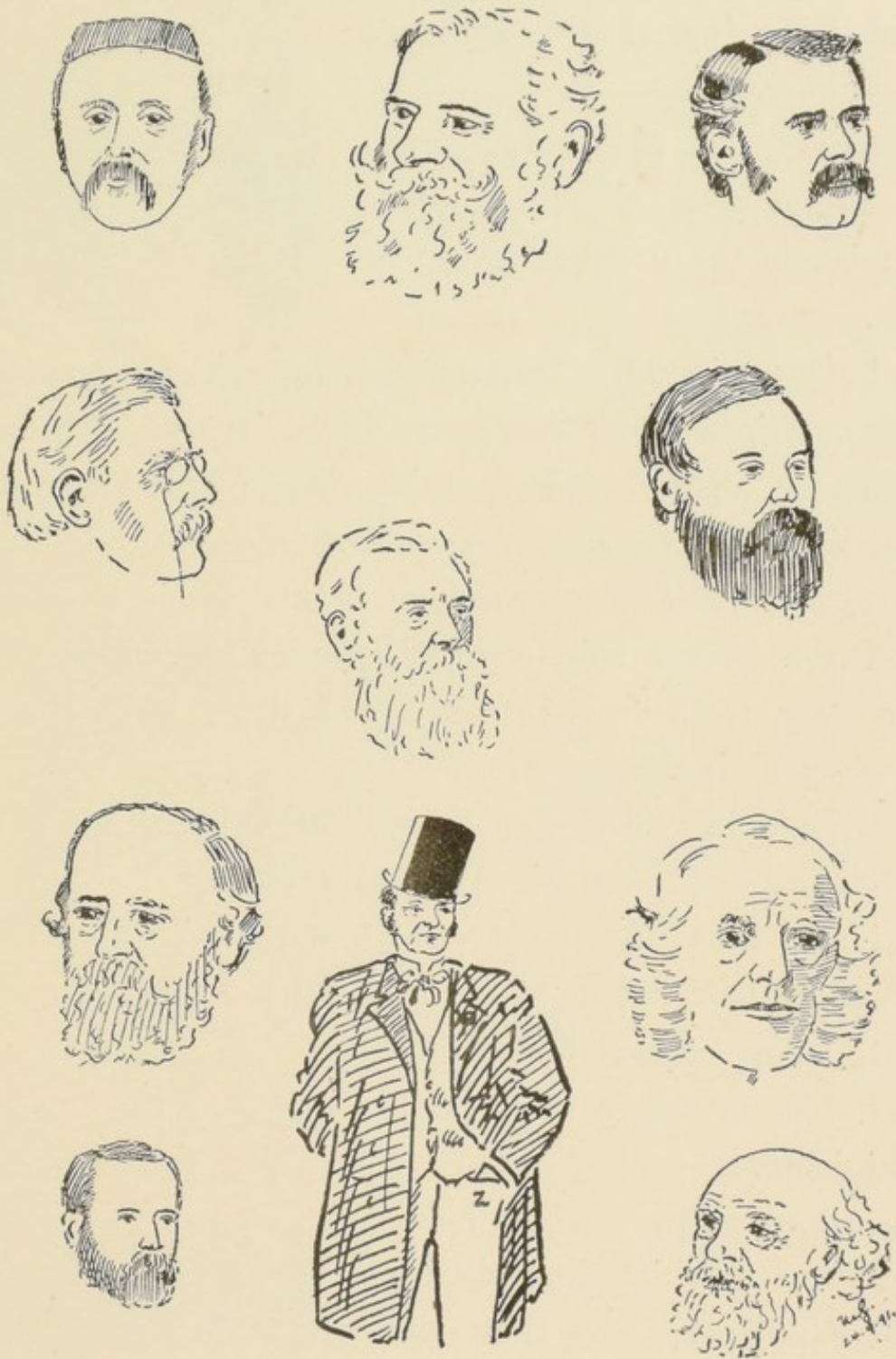
But, lo! they were able to ask him nothing that he could not answer, and many wonderful deeds did he perform in

their sight.

And because of these things, the elders of the Temple called upon Deuteronomy to appear again before them on a certain day.

And on that day, which was the first day of the eighth month of the year, Deuteronomy, and many other young men, stood in a great hall.

And they wore gowns adorned with hoods of many colours, and so bright were they that men said that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.



ELDERS OF THE TEMPLE.

And a great multitude of people was present, and they shouted with joy at the sight of Deuteronomy.

Moreover, the elders gave unto him a round piece of gold to wear on his bosom as a token of great wisdom.



And they said unto Deuteronomy, and the young men who had been diligent, that they were Physicians and Chirurgeons well skilled in all the manners and customs of the art of healing.

And that, moreover, they were free to go into the highways and byeways, and heal whomsoever was sick and wounded.

And the elders said secretly one to the other that the further they went from the City of the Castle, the better would they thrive.

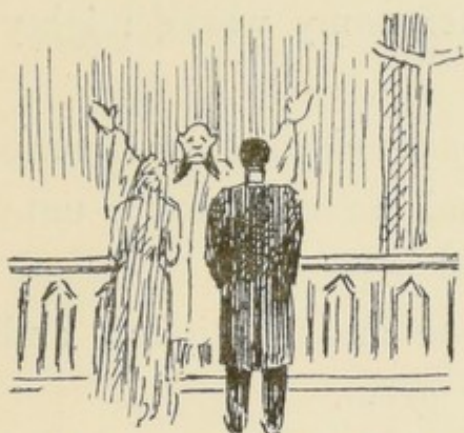
Moreover, the wise men gave unto them scrolls of parchment bearing seals and signatures thereon.

And told them that they were free to write many strange letters after their names.

And when these things were finished, Deuteronomy went on his way rejoicing.

And that night did he hold a great feast, to which he called all his old familiars; and they made many presents unto Deuteronomy, and took their leave of him.





And the next day did Deuteronomy take to wife the maiden in whose eyes he had found favour.

Thereafter did he and his wife set out for the land of Britain.

And as they began their journey, the people made sounds of rejoicing, and showered multitudes of cast-off sandals upon their heads.

And as they entered into that part of Britain wherein Deuteronomy was born, behold, the houses were decked with beautiful flowers, and adorned with banners of every colour.



The sound of musick was also heard in the streets, yea, the sound of the cornet and the flute, of the barrel-organ and the bagpipe, and all kinds of musick.

And when they reached the home wherein Deuteronomy and his fathers before him had dwelt, his father killed the fatted calf, and there was much feasting and dancing.

And in the fulness of the time Deuteronomy waxed mighty in the land of Britain.

And his fame as a Chirurgeon was noised abroad unto every land, and multitudes of sick and wounded came unto him to be healed.

His flocks and herds also increased and multiplied, and his store of shekels became exceeding great.

Chariots and horses did he also have, and these were of surpassing beauty.

And the rest of the acts of Deuteronomy Smith, are they not written in the chronicles of the men of Britain.

