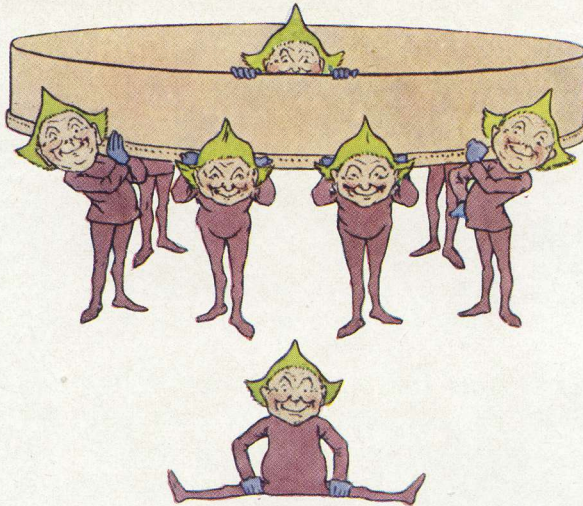


THE JUMBLIES

AND OTHER NONSENSE VERSES BY
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WITH DRAWINGS BY
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THE CUMMERBUND
AN INDIAN POEM

I

SHE sat upon her Dobie,¹
To watch the Evening Star,
And all the Punkahs² as they passed
Cried, "My! how fair you are!"
Around her bower, with quivering leaves,
The tall Kamsamahs³ grew,

¹ *Wasberman*

² *Fan*

³ *Butler*

The Cumberbund

And Kitmutgars¹ in wild festoons ¹ *Waiter at table*
Hung down from Tchokis² blue. ² *Police or post station*

II

Below her home the river rolled
With soft meloobious sound,
Where golden-finned Chuprassies³ swam,
In myriads circling around. ³ *Office messenger*
Above, on tallest trees remote,
Green Ayahs perched alone,
And all night long the Mussak⁴ moaned ⁴ *Water skin*
Its melancholy tone.

III

And where the purple Nullahs⁵ threw ⁵ *Watercourse*
Their branches far and wide,
And silvery Goreewallahs⁶ flew ⁶ *Groom*
In silence, side by side,
The little Bheesties⁷ twittering cry ⁷ *Water-carrier*
Rose on the fragrant air,
And oft the angry Jampan⁸ howled ⁸ *Sedan Chair*
Deep in his hateful lair.

IV

She sat upon her Dobie—
She heard the Nimmak⁹ hum— ⁹ *Salt*
When all at once a cry arose:
“The Cumberbund¹⁰ is come!” ¹⁰ *Waist Sash*

The Cumberbund

In vain she fled; with open jaws
The angry monster followed,
And so (before assistance came),
That Lady Fair was swallowed.

V

They sought in vain for even a bone
Respectfully to bury;
They said, "Hers was a dreadful fate!"
(And Echo answered, "Very.")
They nailed her Dobie to the wall,
Where last her form was seen,
And underneath they wrote these words,
In yellow, blue, and green:
"Beware, ye Fair! Ye Fair, beware!
Nor sit out late at night,
Lest horrid Cumberbunds should come,
And swallow you outright."