

**A BAR-LAMB'S
BALLAD BOOK**

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A Bar-lamb's Ballad Book by Evelyn Underhill

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EVELYN UNDERHILL

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**BY EVELYN
UNDERHILL**
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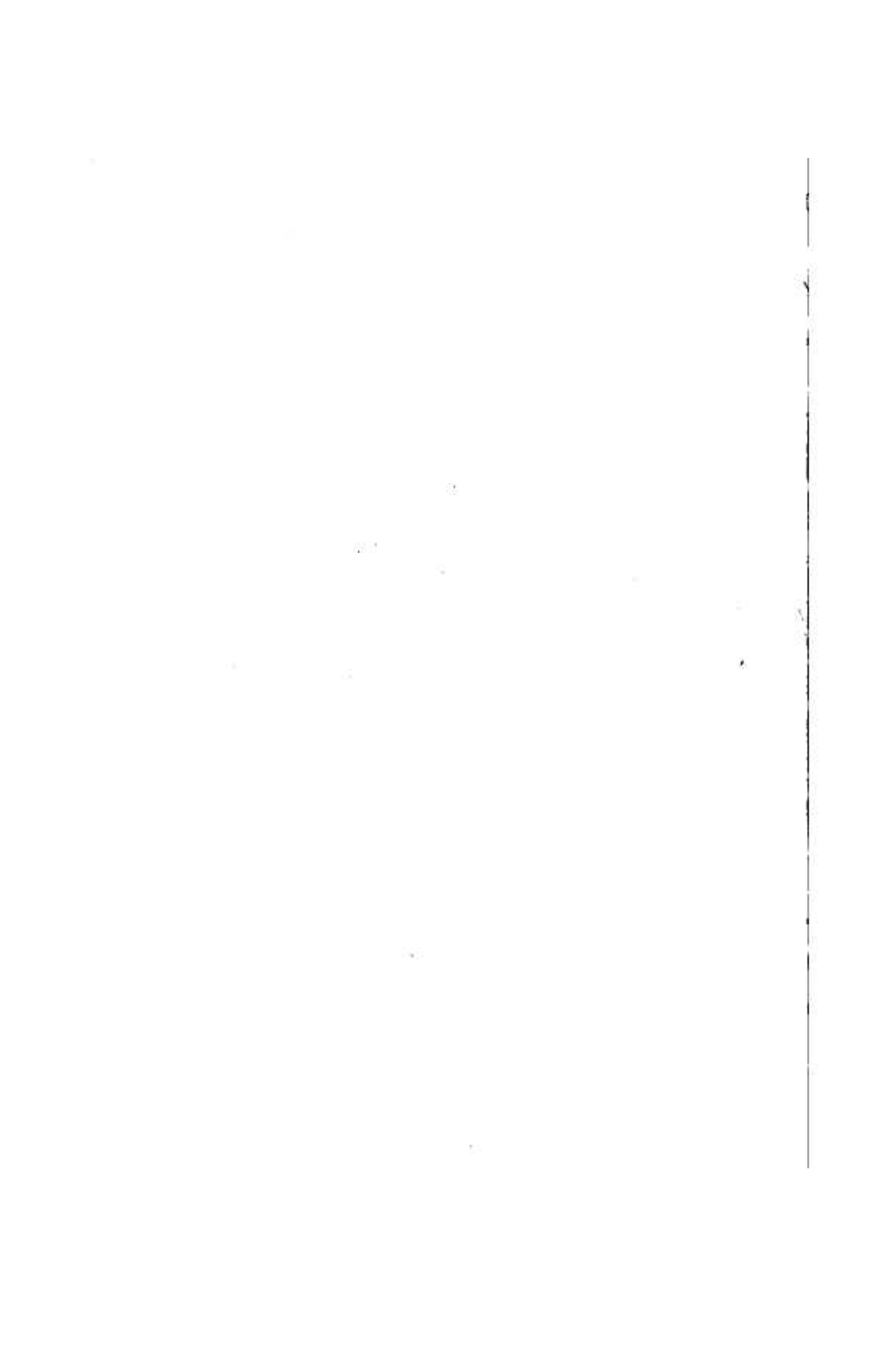
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DEDICATION

TO

JOHNNY BOOTLES.

Purr on, dear heart ! nor have a care
For aught this little book contains ;
To threaten you shall any dare
With legal penalties and pains ?
'Tis true, your plans for gaining food
Are oft of felony compact ;
But can it be a Tort construed
Within the meaning of the Act ?

*For oh ! the meals are very few
That no Remainder bear for you ;
And our First Charge upon the dish
Shall never bar your right to fish.*

No gulf you know 'twixt Stuff and Silk,
Of Equities you never prate :
Your only Trust's in constant milk,
A basket is your Real Estate.
Yet in your catty mind we see
The laws of strict descent prevail—
You might have held our hearts in Fee,
But chose a tenancy in Tail.

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JONES v. LOCK.

L.R. 1 Ch. 27.

A Father put a cheque into the hands of his son nine months old, saying, "I give this to Baby for himself," and then took the cheque back, put it away, and shortly afterwards died. Held that there was no valid gift of the cheque to the son.

A WIDOWER of independent means
With children to inherit his demesnes
By loneliness was led
A second time to wed ;
And, in due time, a new-born infant's squall
Announced to one and all
The advent of those awkward complications
A baby sometimes thrusts on his relations.

The father fled to London for a week
A little peace to seek,

And speculate a bit in Foreign Rails
Secure from childish wails :
Kind was Fortuna to the game he played,
The Bears and Bulls obeyed
His secret promptings, and he homeward turned
Bowed down with gold well earned ;
And to his wife a gift recherché brought,
An Infant's head in gold and diamonds wrought.
Alas! the troubles that from this befell
I now must tell.

The Nurse, with proper pride
And huffy manner, cried
"What! bring you not a gift for Baby too?"
The father said, "Oh yes, of course I do :
So Nurse, be sure you take
Note that for Baby's sake
This cheque (nine hundred pounds) I will invest
As I find best ;
That as he grows, the money may grow more
At compound interest, three per cent., or four."

"O lucky child!" the Nurse exclaimed with joy,
"See what a gift your father makes his boy!"