

**THE DOG AND THE  
CHILD AND THE  
ANCIENT SAILOR MAN**

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The Dog and the Child and the Ancient Sailor Man by Robert Alexander Wason

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**ROBERT ALEXANDER WASON**

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**THE DOG AND THE CHILD  
AND  
THE ANCIENT SAILOR MAN**



With dancing eyes the stranger awaited the appreciation this illustrative anecdote usually won. *See page 52*

Acting P  
Hawkins  
1871

# The Dog and The Child and The Ancient Sailor Man

By  
**Robert Alexander Wason**  
AUTHOR OF "PRIAR TUCK," "HAPPY HAWKINS," ETC.

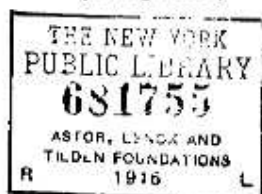
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## BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

THE world is full of radical talk; reactionaries, conservatives, progressives, insurgents, socialists, and anarchists are all shouting with brazen voices that the people must rule—whether they want to or not. The initiative, referendum and recall have been advocated so vociferously that many perfectly contented citizens who, between campaigns, forget that there is such a thing as a government, are now ready to accept these additional responsibilities in the same spirit that one purchases literature—in order to get rid of the book-agent: but there is one very important, very insistent, and very individualistic element in Society which is still kept in the hateful condition of legislation without representation—to say nothing of the initiative, referendum and recall.

The babies — what can the babies do about the laws which govern them, the fashions which oppress them, or the fads which irritate them? They do not even have the right to choose their own parents. A congressman, good or bad, has

to pose as a target every two years, even a senator can be reached, in a round-about way, every six years; but just put yourself in the place of a baby and consider the duration of a parent's *term* of office! Many babies retain their parents simply and solely because they have not the right of recall.

A parent is not forced to pass a civil-service examination, he is not compelled to take the stump and convince an electorate that he is qualified to ornament the high office to which he aspires, he—why, there is absolutely nothing democratic in the proceeding at all; it is an iniquitous usurpation of power, and a baby is perfectly justified in holding nightly meetings in opposition to such tyranny. If ever a situation thoroughly justifies the doctrine of free-speech, certainly this relation of parent and baby does so in unmistakable terms, and the prejudice of neighbors, the brutality of landlords, and the agonies of artificial insomnia should not be permitted to interfere with the nocturnal demonstrations by which a baby attempts to express his opinions.

A baby hates to be bundled up; consequently his raiment is of many layers like that of an