

**JACK AND JILL.
FOR OLD
AND YOUNG**

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Jack and Jill. For old and young by L. A. Gobright

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L. A. GOBRIGHT

**JACK AND JILL.
FOR OLD
AND YOUNG**

David R. McKee,

with the good wishes of

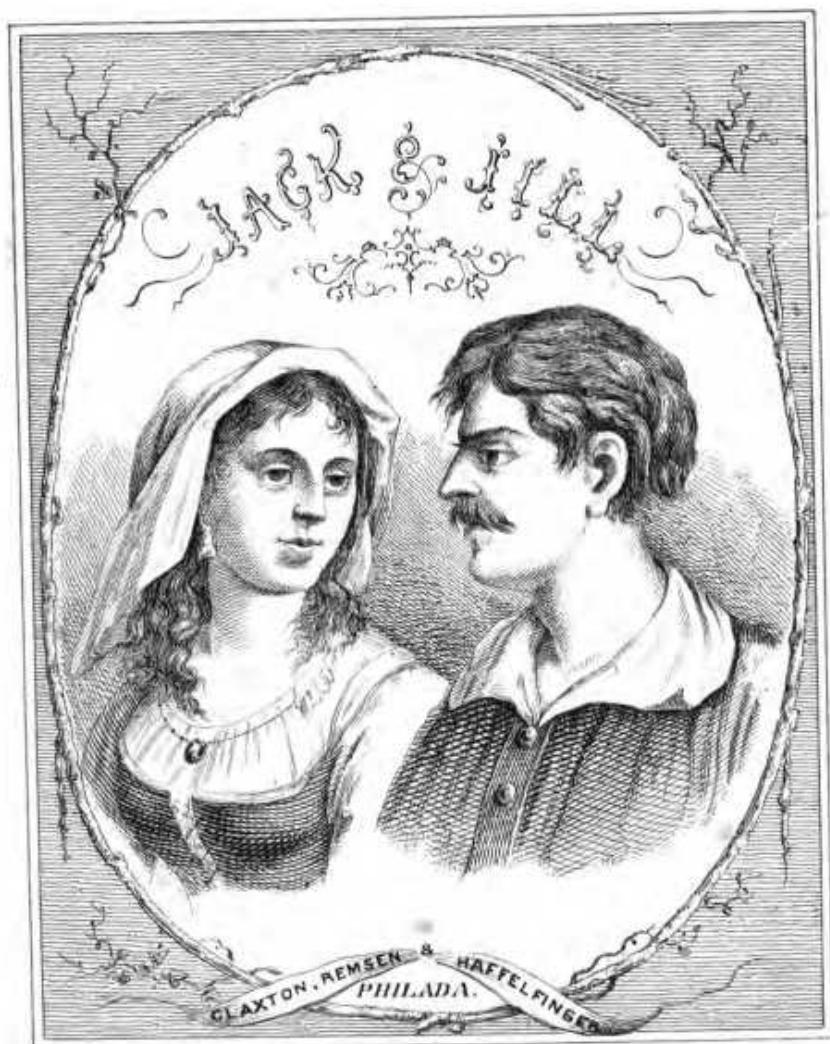
L. A. Gobright.

Washington, D.C.

Christmas, 1872.

NBI

6. 1. 1872



JACK AND JILL.

FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

“'Tis of books the chief
Of all perfection to be plain and brief.”
BUTLER.

BY

L. A. GÖBRIGHT,

bc AUTHOR OF "RECOLLECTIONS OF MEN AND THINGS AT WASHINGTON."



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1873.

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THE
STORY OF JACK AND JILL

Is usually rendered thus in the modern nursery editions :

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water,
When Jack fell down, and broke his crown,
And Jill came tumbling after.
Jack up got and home did trot,
As fast as he could caper;
His brother Bob plastered his knob
With vinegar and brown paper.

And in the earlier editions the following verses appeared :

Little Jane ran up the lane
To hang the clothes a-drying;
She called for Nell to ring the bell,
For Jack and Jill were dying.
Nimble Dick ran up so quick
He stumbled over a timber;
He bent his bow to kill a crow,
And shot a cat in the window.

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PREFACE.

"Because the beginning seemeth abrupt, it needs that you know the occasion of these several adventures, for the method of a poet historical is not such as of an historiographer." — SHAKESPEARE.

THE Nursery Melodies which the author has consulted do not give such information concerning the lives of Jack and Jill as he desired to obtain, in order to write their history with the particularity the subject seemed to demand. Mr. Spofford, the chief of the Library of Congress, extended all the facilities in his power to aid the author, who regrets that he is compelled to assert that the literature in that library, though abundant in other respects, is deficient in the matter of Jack and Jill. Therefore, it became necessary to make inquiries elsewhere — among the private, though not extensive libraries of children. But even there the results were not satisfactory. It was found that the several writers of narratives of Jack and Jill do not agree as to the character of the injury to Jack in the fall. They are, however, in harmony on the averment that his head was repaired by the application of "vinegar and brown paper." Taking this for granted, (and the author has, as yet, discovered no one who doubts the truth,) it is unreasonable to suppose that a broken crown could be repaired with such simple appliances! Therefore, the sensible conclusion is that Jack's head was not broken but merely stunned. As to Jack's "capering" to his home, this would seem to be mere poetic license, not warranted by the facts; or, it may have been intended to cast ridicule on the event which endangered his life!

By a strange mistake, which cannot be explained, the following inappropriate verse was added to the earlier editions of the history:

"Nimble Dick ran up so quick,
He stumbled over a timber;
He bent his bow to kill a crow,
And shot a cat in the window."