

**THE SMILE ON THE FACE
OF THE
TIGER; A COLLECTION
OF LIMERICKS. [1910]**

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The Smile on the Face of the Tiger; A Collection of Limericks. [1910] by Charles Knowles Bolton

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CHARLES KNOWLES BOLTON

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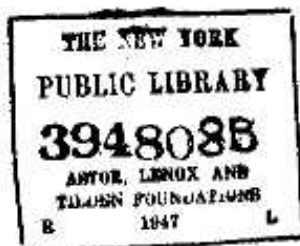
THE SMILE
ON THE FACE OF THE TIGER

**A COLLECTION
OF LIMERICKS**

THIRTEENTH THOUSAND

**BOSTON
BACON AND BROWN**

1910



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THE LIMERICK

W. W. M. S. - Feb 18, 1947

THE Limerick shares the fate of Homer, and we search in vain for a certified pedigree. In Ireland many years ago it was the custom at drinking parties to engage in convivial verse-contests. A singer would improvise a line, followed in chorus by the refrain :

Will you come up, come up?
Will you come up to Limerick?

A rival singer, then taking the lead, would add a line to cap or match the first, its last word rhyming with the end of the former line. The success of a brilliant sally of wit was instantaneous, and such success is sweet. The song went merrily and the cup passed cheerily.

This, they would have us understand, was the ancient origin of the Limerick. And, as it was not bred in a cloister, we may well believe the solemn assertion that "is a far from blameless production." But as slang works upward into good

etymological society, so the Limerick has, by leaning upon the arm of Lear and Miss Wells, ascended to an enviable position, and is welcomed wherever good verse is appreciated. We here present it and stand aside that it may make its best bow.

The first representative Limerick, according to Mr. Stanton Vaughn, was that beginning "There was a young man of St. Kitts," written about 1834. Lear is said to have derived his inspiration in 1846 from that gem of Mother Goose, "There was an old man of Tobago," — a favorite also of old Lady Tippins and the redoubtable Eugene. Since Lear's day the trend has been away from nonsense, and of those who would substitute wit a few have met with conspicuous success. To these gifted writers, Edward Lear, Cosmo Monkhouse, Carolyn Wells, Oliver Herford, Gelett Burgess, and others whose names we have diligently striven to discover, we are indebted and grateful. Limericks do "achieve an enormous circulation — verbally," and for this reason it has been difficult to trace authorship and accurate text. To forgiving authors and an indulgent public we commit the result of our labors.

THE SMILE
ON THE FACE OF THE TIGER

There was a young lady of Niger,
Who smiled as she rode on a tiger;
They returned from the ride
With the lady inside,
And the smile on the face of the tiger.