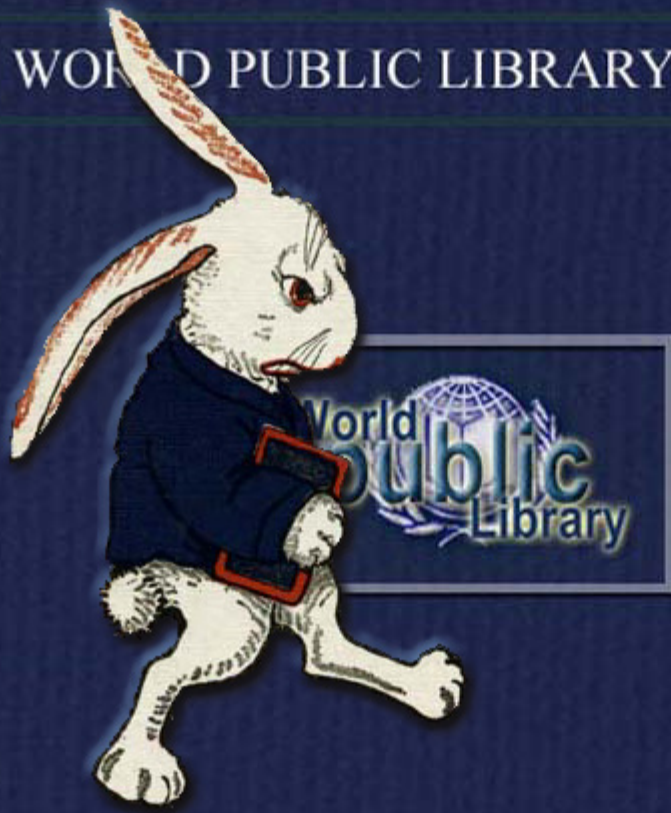


Peter Rabbit Goes to School

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By Louise A. Field

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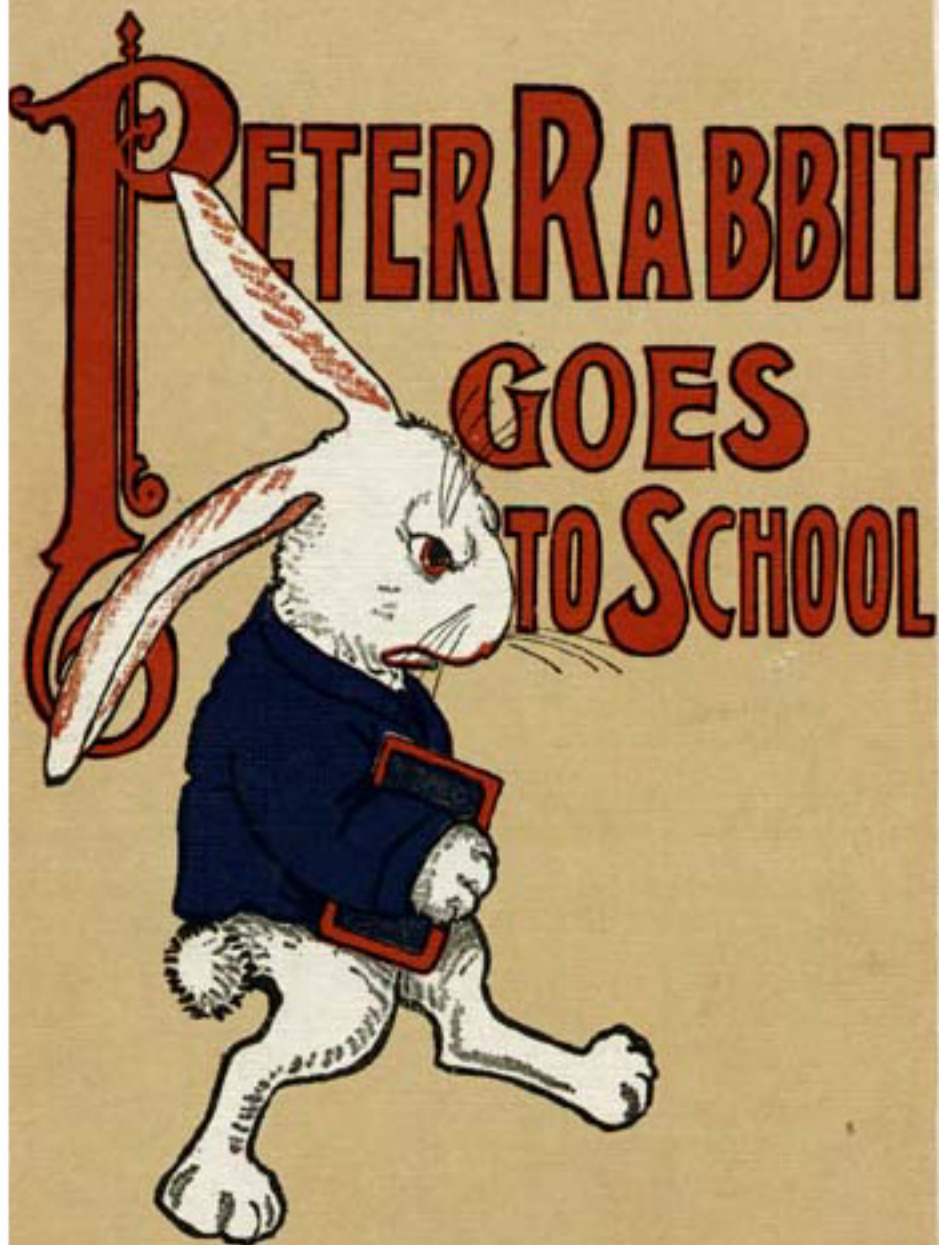
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By *Louise A. Field*
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
Virginia Albert

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PETER RABBIT GOES TO SCHOOL

Miss Peggy Possum had taught
school for two
terms under the
fir tree behind
the hollow
log.

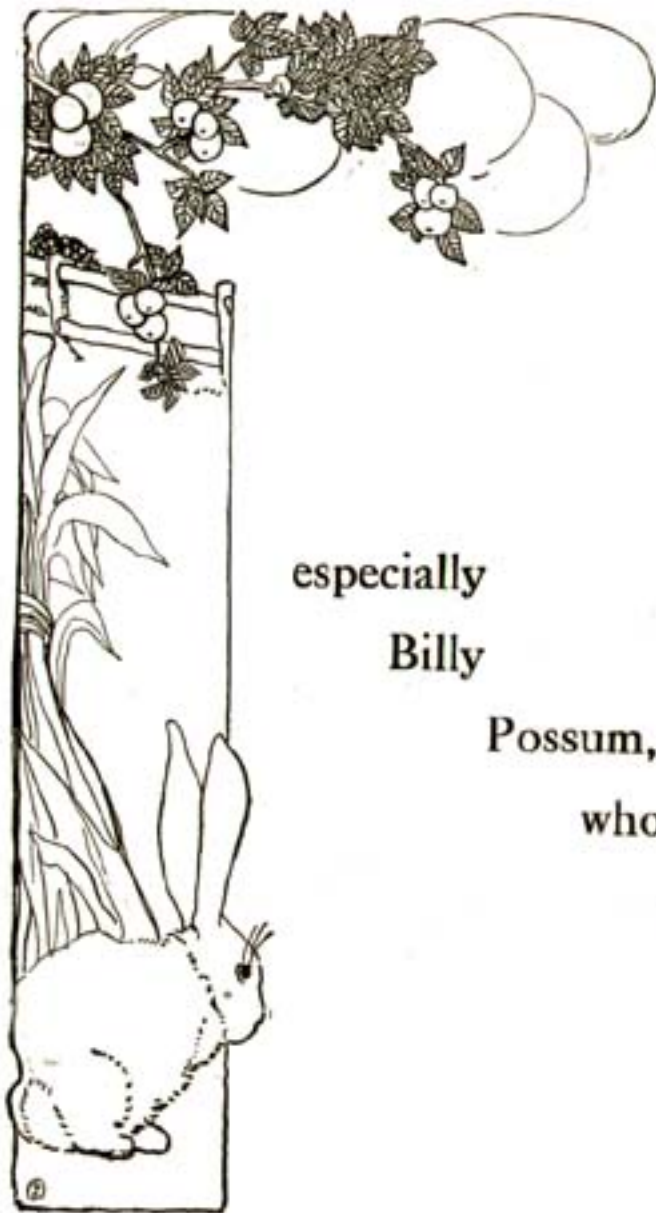


SHE was the eldest of the Possum family, and was considered to be very well educated, not only by her own family, but by a host of admiring friends.

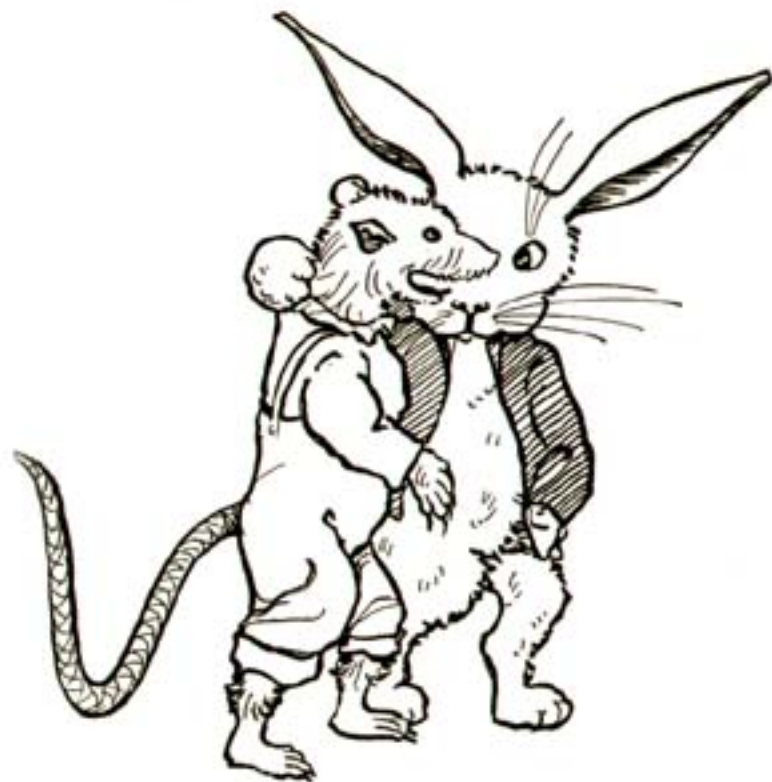
To be sure, it was something of a trial to her to teach



Her own brothers and sisters,



especially
Billy
Possum,
who was
a

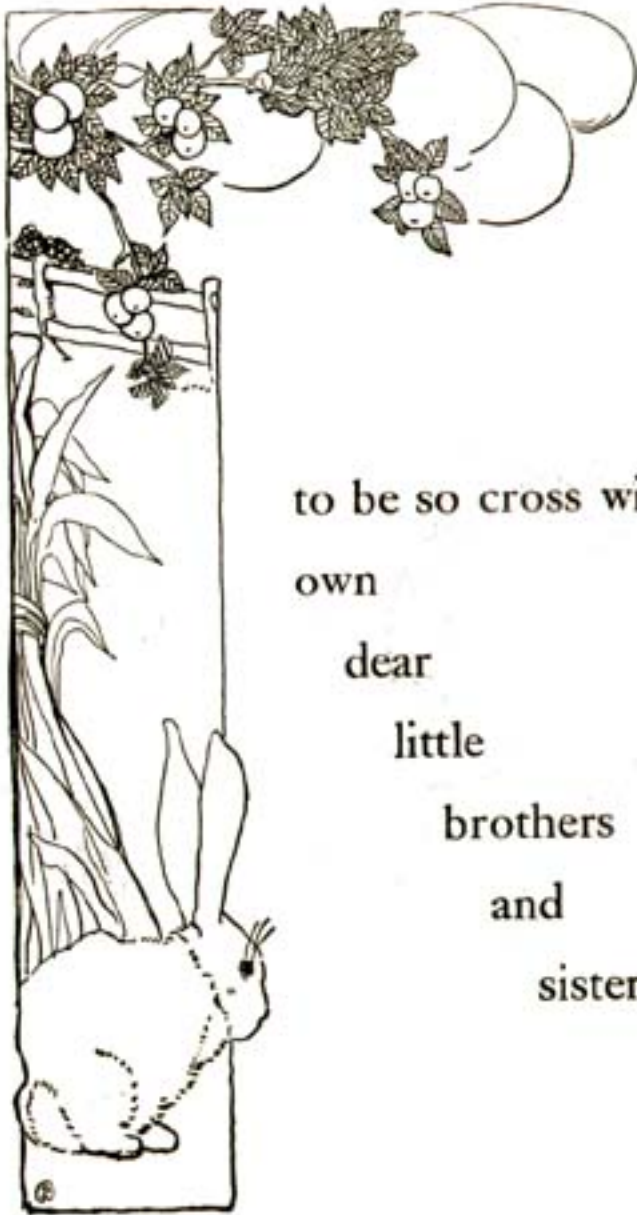


GREAT chum of Peter
Rabbit.

FOR they all agreed on one point, and that was treating her with a great want of respect, and with that she had to be content, whether she liked it or not. For Ma Possum invariably upheld the doings of the little ones, and

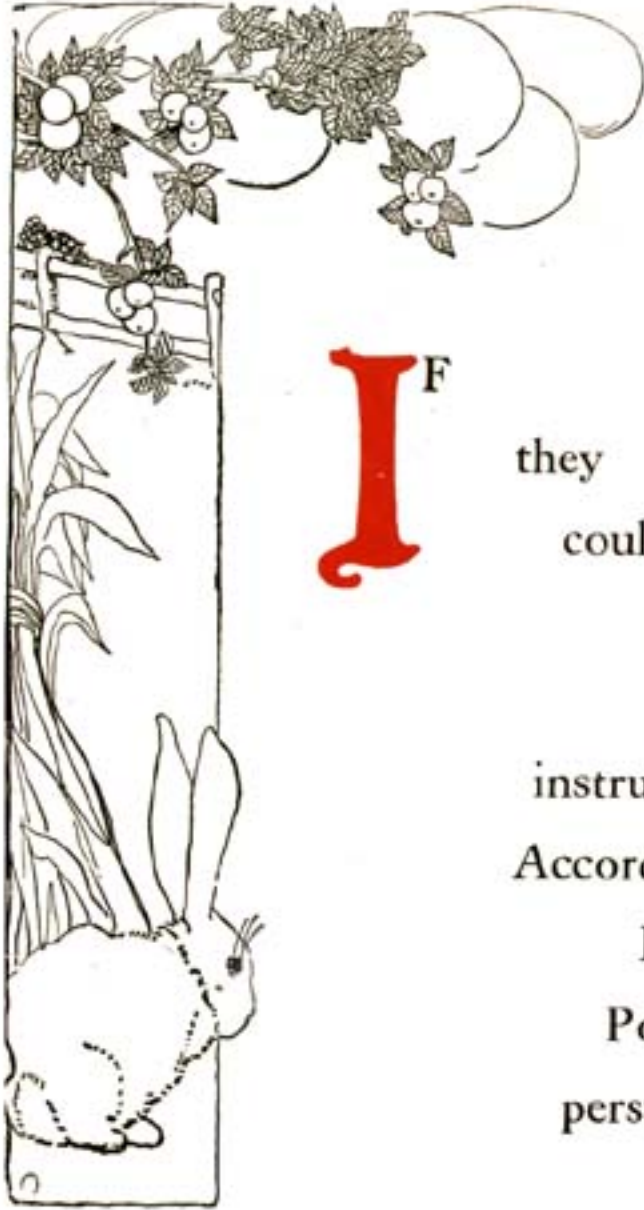


Told Miss Peggy she should be
ashamed



to be so cross with her
own
dear
little
brothers
and
sisters.

THE school was held in the evenings, partly because the fire-flies and glow worms and bats wished to attend, and they, of course, never showed up by daylight. The tree-toads, too, who desired to have their voices cultivated, declared their willingness to attend

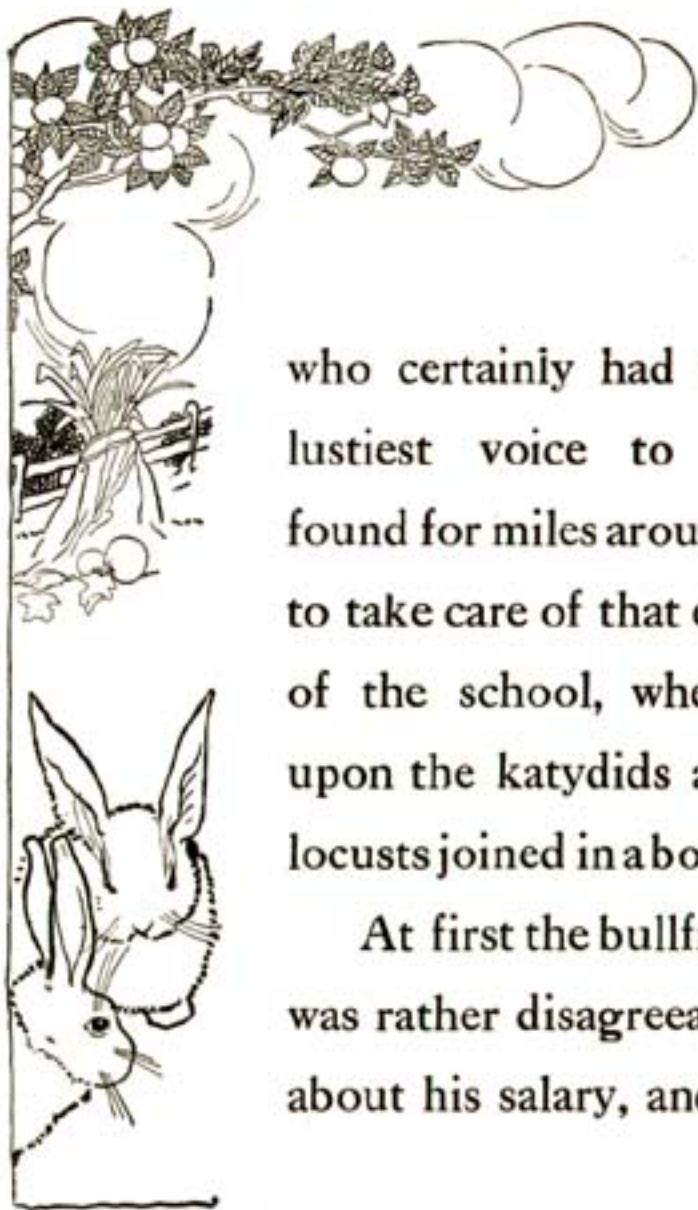


I^F

they
could
have
vocal
instruction.
Accordingly
Peggy
Possum
persuaded



A^N old bullfrog



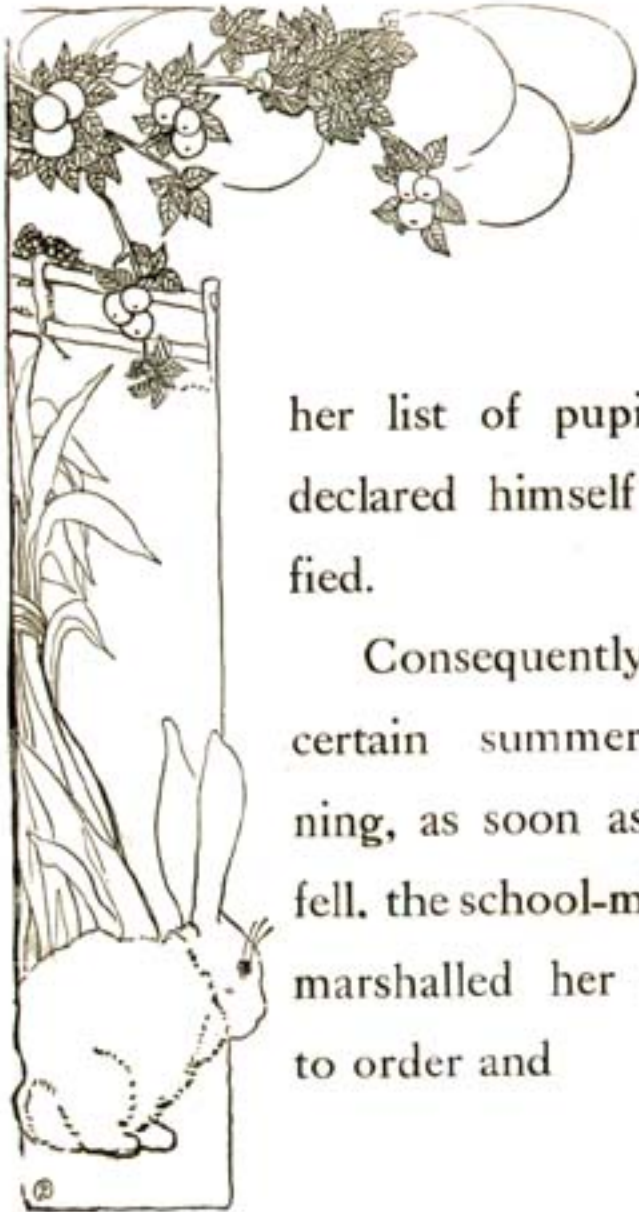
who certainly had the
lustiest voice to be
found for miles around,
to take care of that end
of the school, where-
upon the katydids and
locusts joined in a body.

At first the bullfrog
was rather disagreeable
about his salary, and

demanded some kind of a
guarantee,



but when Peggy Possum displayed



her list of pupils, he declared himself satisfied.

Consequently on a certain summer evening, as soon as dusk fell, the school-mistress marshalled her pupils to order and



Opened her classes.

THE school was a large one,
for the whole community at-
tended, both old and young.

The fat guinea pig usually arrived
first, and took a good nap while
waiting for the rest of the pupils to
come.



He
always
brought a
parcel of
lunch which
he ate on the
sly. In fact, he
did little but eat and sleep.



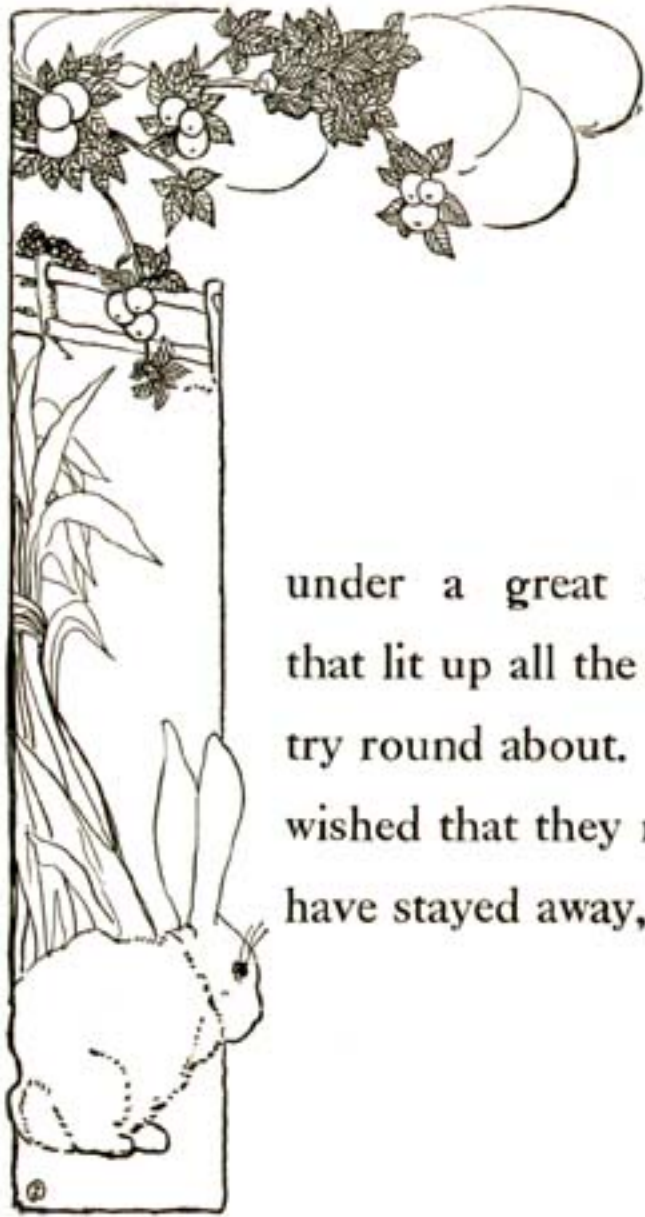


Consequently
his progress
was slow and
his ma was
continually
threatening to
take him out.

On the
night that
school
opened,



Peter Rabbit and Molly Cottontail
walked along



under a great moon
that lit up all the coun-
try round about. Both
wished that they might
have stayed away,

and
Peter
Rabbit
half
resolved
to play
truant.





HE had perfectly *dreadful* teeth. And, besides, he had such claws!

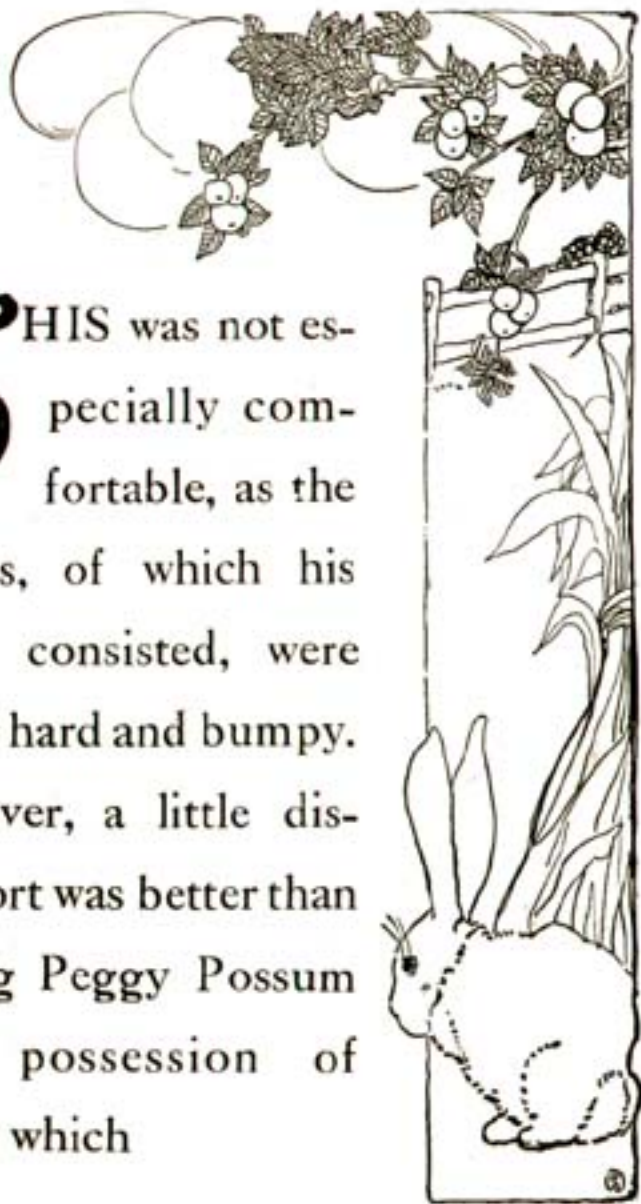
Peter Rabbit's seat was directly behind the fat guinea pig, who had finished his nap, and was sitting up, wide awake, having carefully

Only he did not like the truant officer, who was a big raccoon.



hidden his lunch under a big leaf, on which he had then proceeded to sit down.

THIS was not especially comfortable, as the carrots, of which his lunch consisted, were rather hard and bumpy. However, a little discomfort was better than having Peggy Possum take possession of them, which



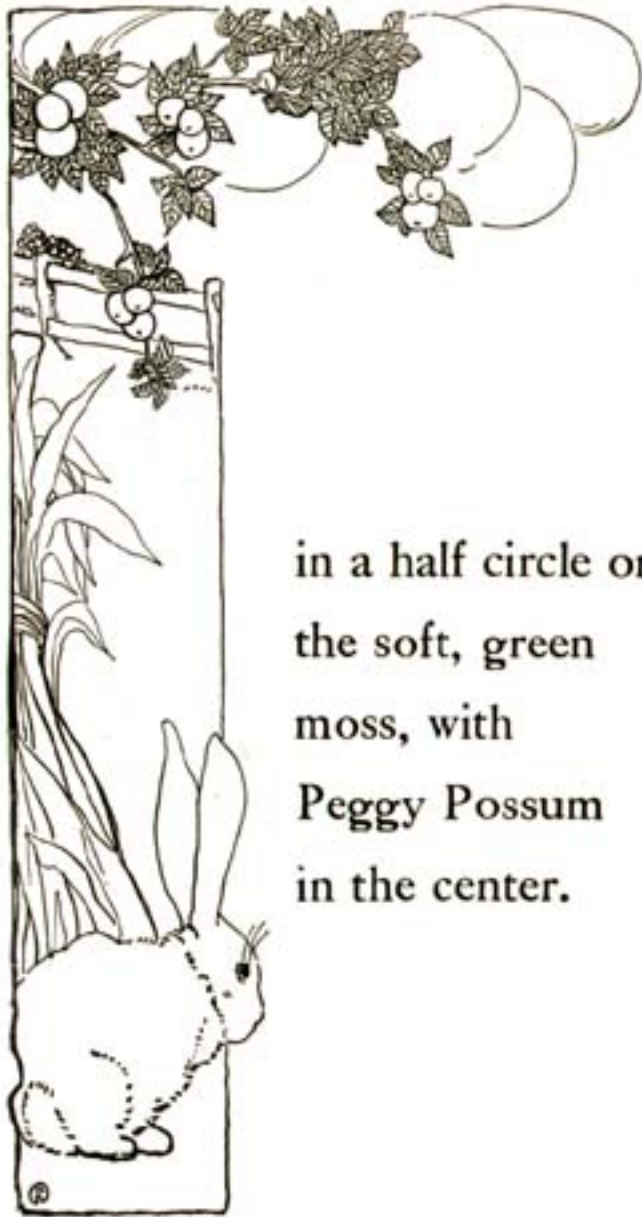
she
certainly
would
have
done
had
she dis-
covered
them.



For eating in school hours was
strictly forbidden.



All the scholars sat around



in a half circle on
the soft, green
moss, with
Peggy Possum
in the center.

SHE had delayed proceed-
ings for a few moments,
as the old white mule had
signified his intention to come. He
did not arrive, however, owing to
the fact that he was safely shut up in
the barn and fast asleep.



so in a few minutes school was called to order.

There were no slates and pencils, but large, round leaves were distributed by

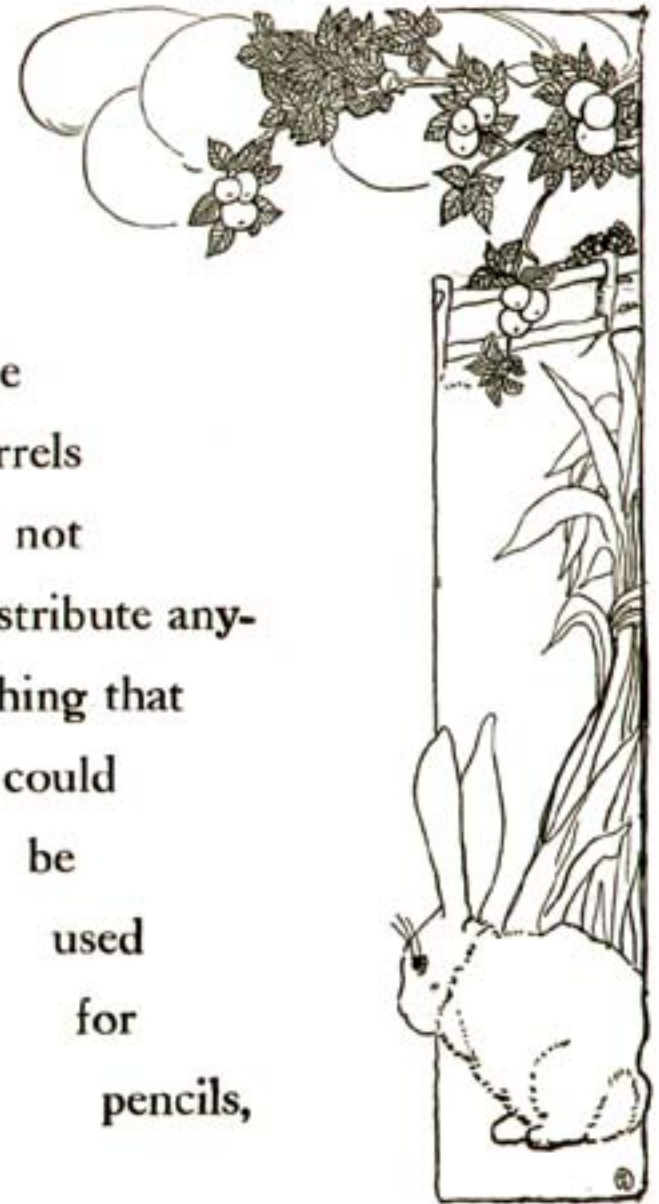


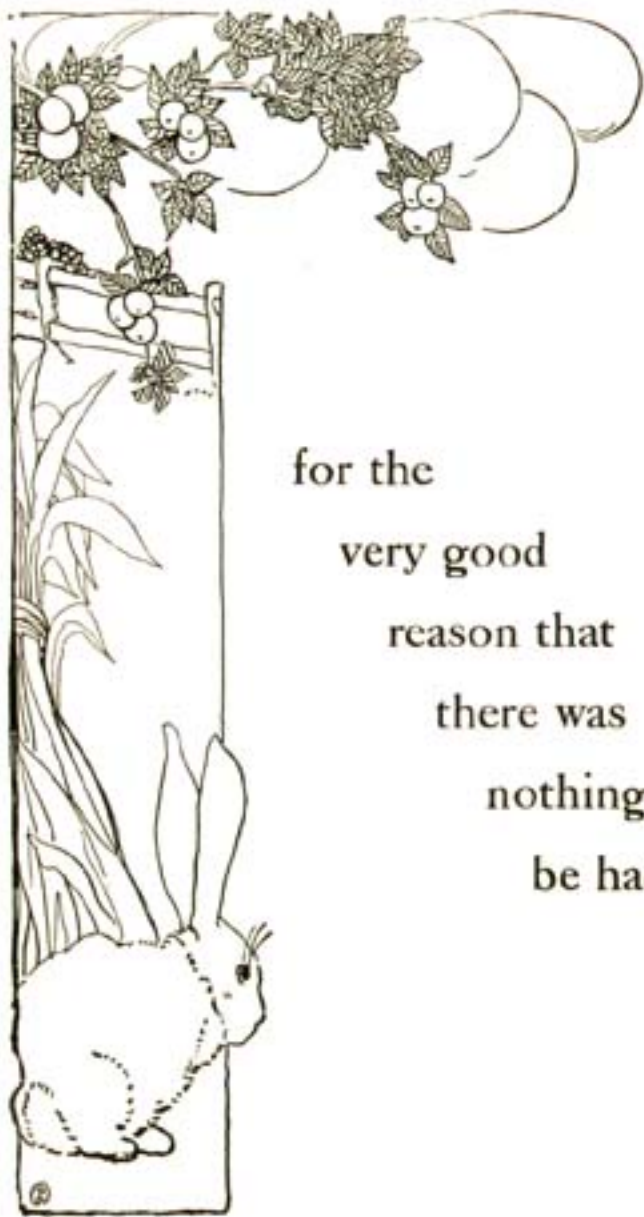
TWO gray squirrels

WHO were appointed to act as monitors for the whole season. This was considered very unfair, and caused much grumbling.

The pupils
all
liked
to be
monitors.

As the
squirrels
did not
distribute any-
thing that
could
be
used
for
pencils,

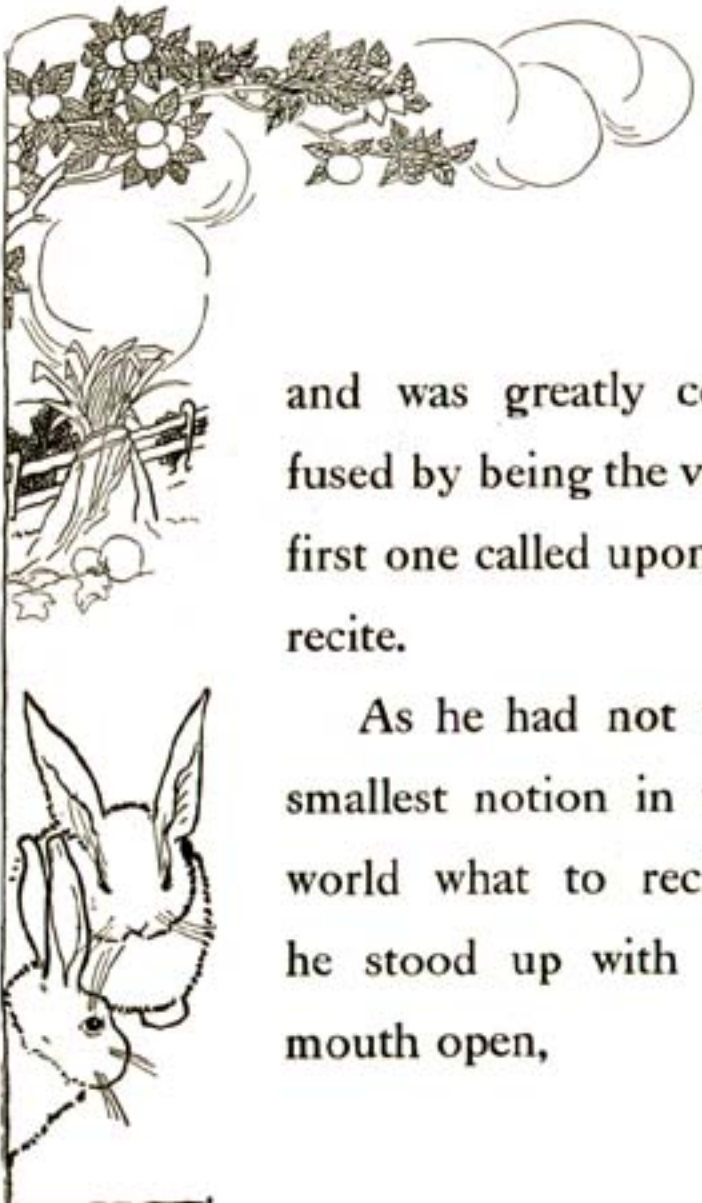




for the
very good
reason that
there was
nothing to
be had,



The fat guinea pig promptly ate up
his leaf.



and was greatly confused by being the very first one called upon to recite.

As he had not the smallest notion in the world what to recite, he stood up with his mouth open,

blinking
his
little
round
eyes
miserably,
and
feeling
sure

Peter Rabbit was at that very



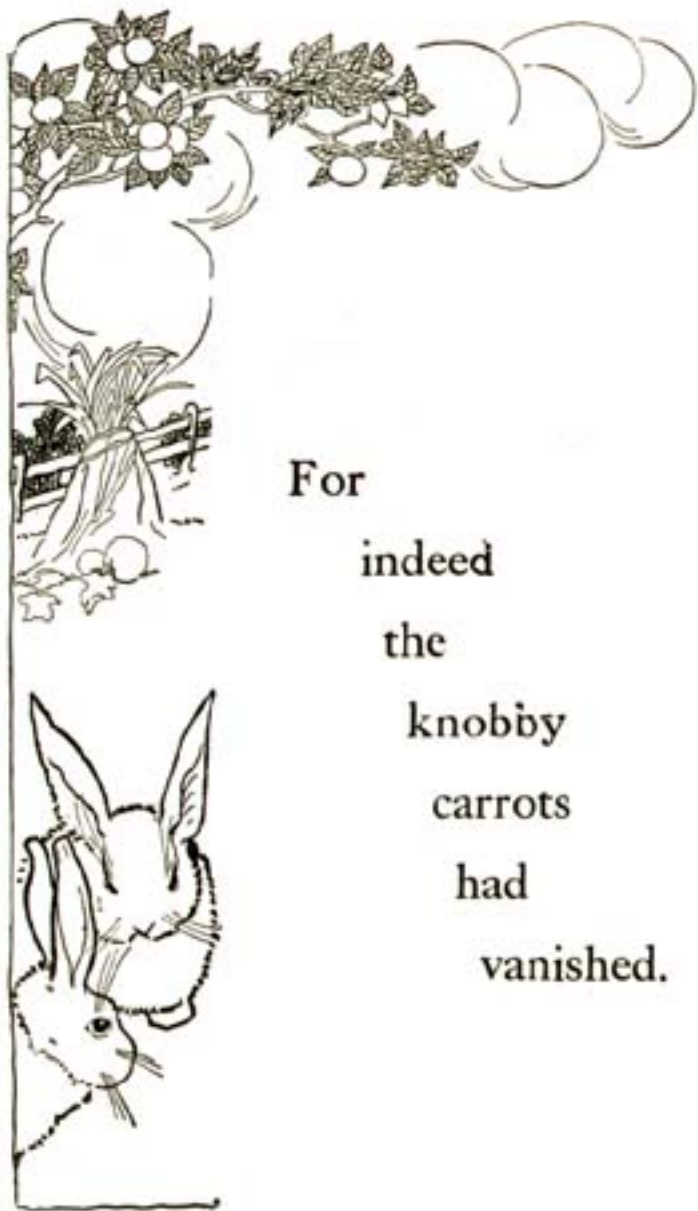
moment slyly slipping his lunch
from its hiding place.



WHICH was indeed the
case.



As he could think of nothing to
recite, and feeling very anxious to
know if his lunch, like the flag, was
still there, he sat down very suddenly
and very flat.



For
indeed
the
knobby
carrots
had
vanished.

Peter Rabbit, who had hidden
the parcel of lunch behind Molly
Cottontail,



sitting demurely beside him,
chuckled with impish glee, and,
jumping up, all out of order,

he called out in a sing-song voice:

“He
ate
his
slate!
He
ate
his
slate!”



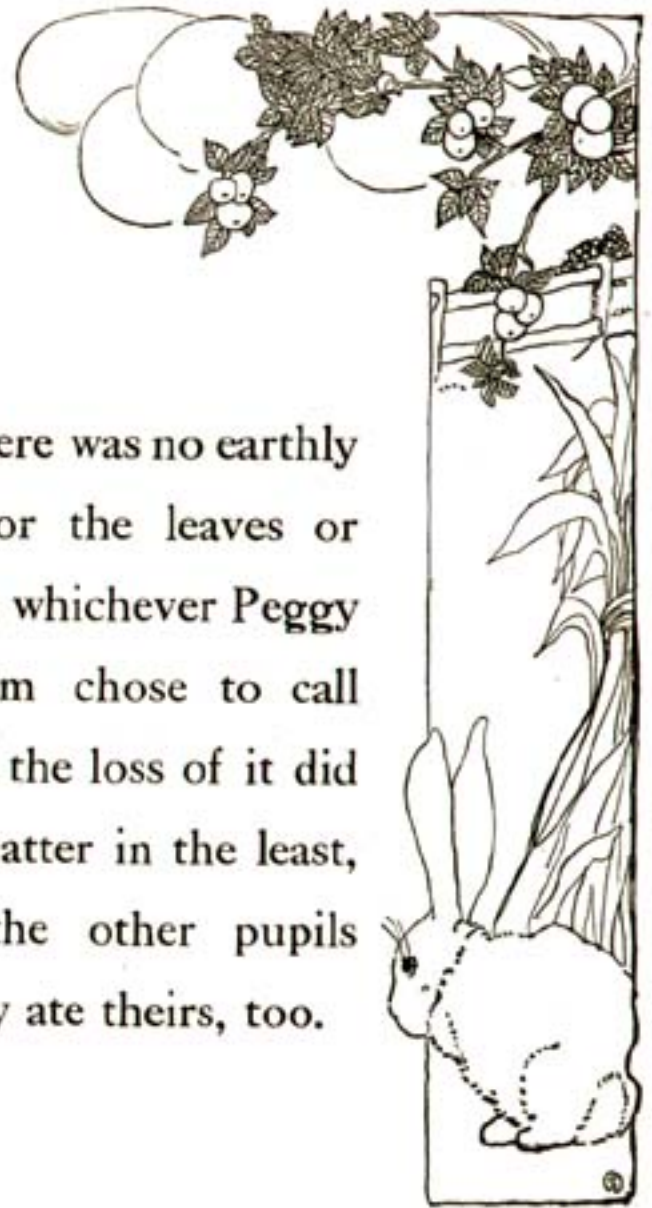
This so enraged
the guinea pig
that he reached
over and, snatching
away Peter Rabbit's
leaf,

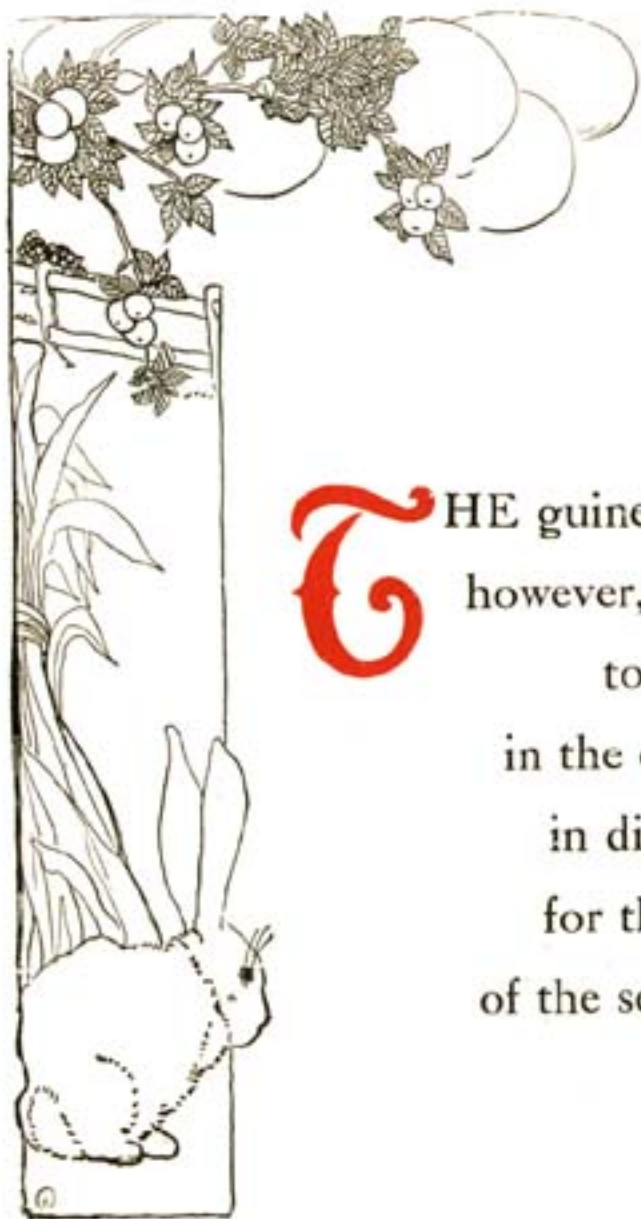


proceeded
to
eat
it.

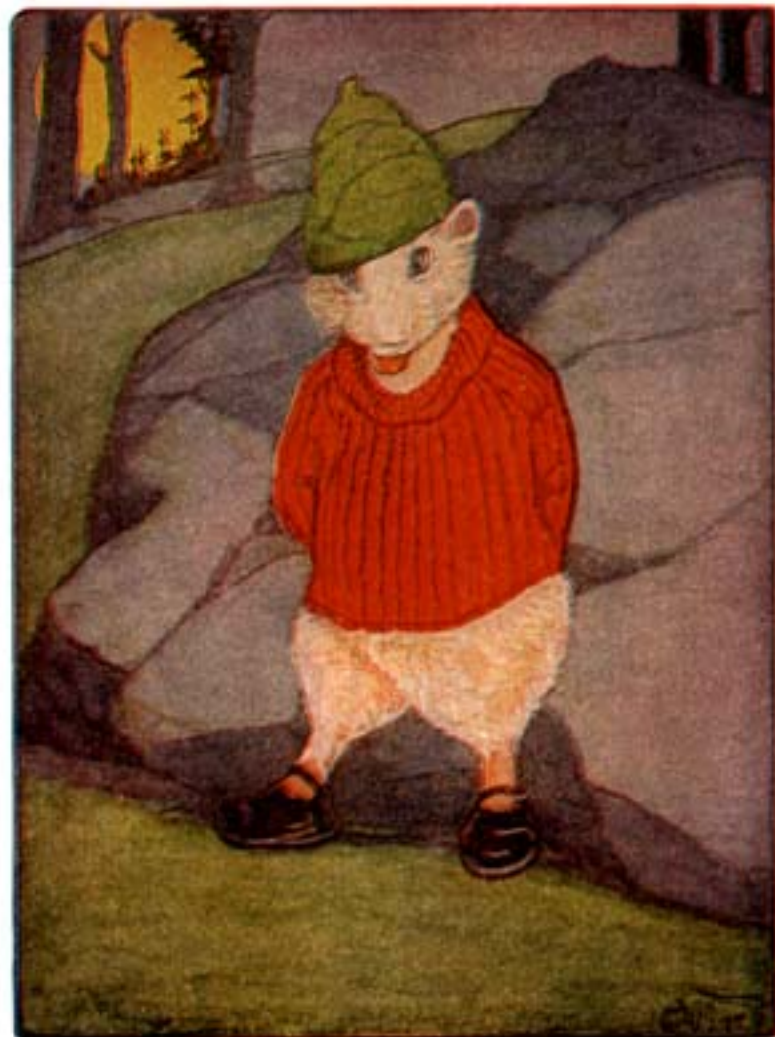


As there was no earthly
use for the leaves or
slates, whichever Peggy
Possum chose to call
them, the loss of it did
not matter in the least,
and the other pupils
hastily ate theirs, too.





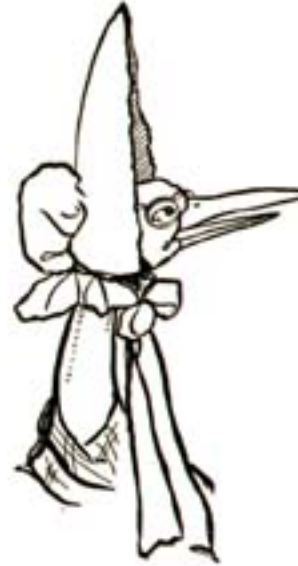
THE guinea pig,
however, had
to stand
in the corner
in disgrace
for the rest
of the session,



Decorated with a large fool's cap.

PEGGY Possum now declared the first class to be over, and as the pupils were loudly demanding their voice lesson, she called for the old bull-frog, who did not appear to be present.

Just then Granny Goose appeared and very delicately made it known that she had swallowed the bull-frog a few minutes before.



Peggy Possum promptly requested Granny Goose to take care of the singing classes, thinking if she had swallowed the music-master, she must be a capable person and in very good voice.

Granny
Goose, how-
ever, could do
nothing but
hiss, besides
which she
glared around
so hungrily
that the tree-toads went off in the
sulks, whereupon Peggy Possum
declared the second class to be over.



During all this time

the whole school had been growing restless, and the fat guinea pig was the only pupil who pretended to keep any order. He was sound asleep, standing up in his corner with the big fool's cap much askew and tilted over one eye.

Peggy Possum, in despair, declared school closed

for the whole season. Whereupon the pupils joyfully scampered home, all but the fat guinea pig, who did not wake up. And for all I know, he may be standing in the corner yet.





PEER
RABBIT



GOES
TO
SCHOOL

The End.

