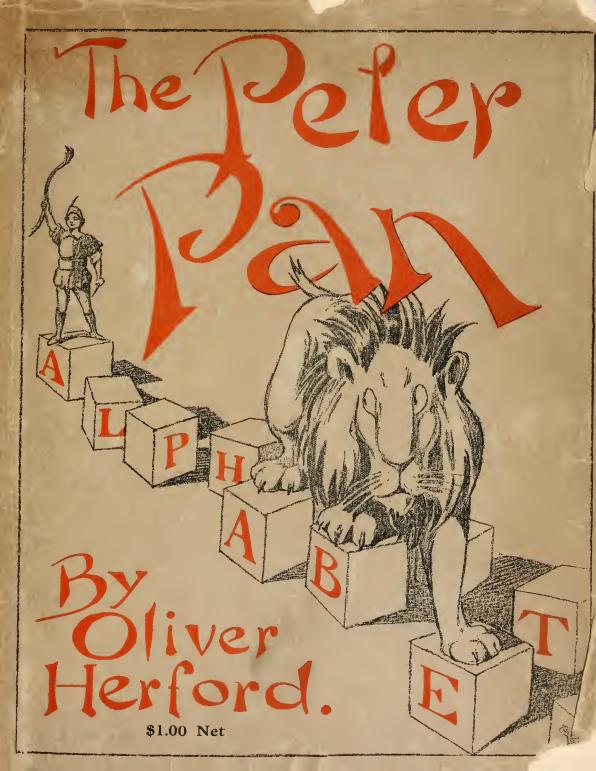
Öliver Herford

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THE PETER PAN ALPHABET

BOOKS BY OLIVER HERFORD

WITH PICTURES BY THE AUTHOR
PUBLISHED BY CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

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THE PETER PAN ALPHABET

By

OLIVER HERFORD



New York

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1907

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CITY OF NEW YORK A ROUND ROBIN TO I. M. BARRIE From His Humble and Devoted Servants THE ALPHABET The Lord forgive if we transgress Thus to familiarly address One of our betters. But Jamie, do vou no recall The slate whereon you learned to scrawl Your Humble Letters? Well we remember how you drew Our shapely features all askew, Unflattering really. You made A lame and B too fat And C too curly—what of that! We loved you dearly. From that first day we owned your spell, And just because you used us well We served you blindly. Why, even when you put us through A fearsome Scottish Reel, we knew You meant it kindly. Jamie, 'tis said Grand Tales there be Still biding in the ABC-If this be true, Quick Jamie! Cast your golden net. Maybe we have the grandest yet In store for you.



A is for Adams

So A is for Adams, Oh! fortunate A

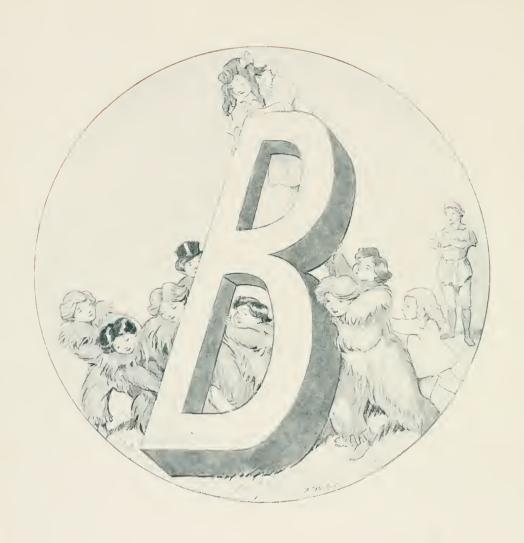
Luck certainly seems to be coming your way.

In the Days of my Infancy, A I recall

Stood for Ant or for Apple or anything small.

Now A stands for Adams, Maude Adams, Hurray!

I always said A would be Famous some day.



B stands for the Boys

B's for the Boys, all as Busy as Bees

They are building a Little House under the Trees

With funny red walls and mossy green roof

Where Wendy may live from danger aloof



C is the Crocodile

C is the Crocodile Creepy who ate

The right hand of Hook and covets its mate

He makes a loud ticking wherever he goes

For he swallowed a Clock (To kill time I suppose)



D is for Doodledoo

D is the Dire and Dread DoodleDoo

With which Peter Daunted the Pirate crew,

And demolished a foolish old Proverb for good

By crowing before he was out of the wood.



E is the Exit

E is the Exit the three children made

With Peter and Tinker for guides, Who's afraid?

They sailed through the window as calm as could be

Like three little Cherubim out for a Spree.



F is the Fight

F is the Fight, Peter Fought unafraid And F is his Falchion (Poetic for Blade)

And F's the Fine Feeling all Fearless
Boys Feel

When they give a Fierce Pirate a taste of Cold Steel.



G is Old Glory

G is Old Glory—that Peter upreared,

When Hook in the Crocodile's smile disappeared,

And the Decks were still wet with the terrible stains

Of *Invisible Gore* from the Pirate's veins.



H stands for Hook

I'm sorry for H, tho' I don't call Hook mean

For wanting to Blow Up his own Magazine.

I've known a Good Author blow up, in a Huff,

A Magazine just for not printing his Stuff.



I's for the Indian Girl

Peter Pan was too coy for the Indian Miss;

She sighed for his scalp—all she got was a kiss.



J is for John

J is for John (No, he hasn't a Pain;
He is Red-Handed Jack of the Pirate
Main)



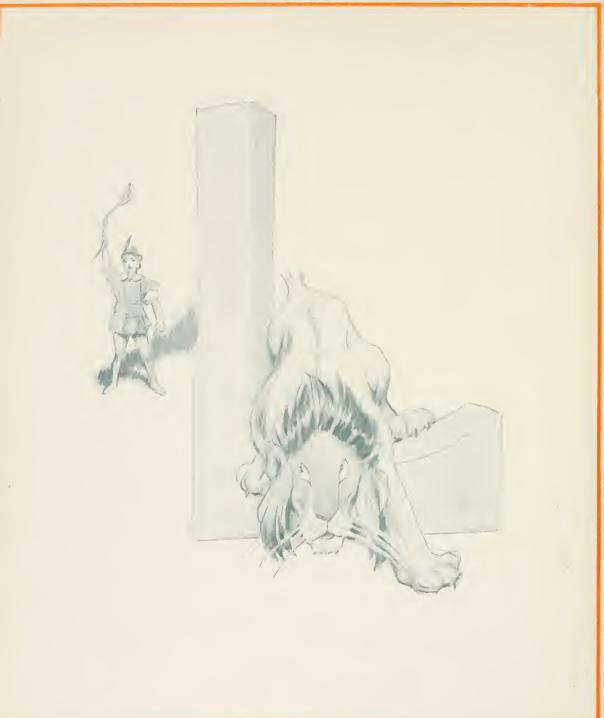
K stands for a Kiss

K stands for a Kiss? Oh, stern featured K!

Who would have suspected—You'd leanings that way!

Peter called *his* a Thimble—(I think it sounds tame

To call Kisses Thimbles—but what's in a Name!)



L is the Lion

L is the Lion who lashed his Fierce Tail,

And did Peter Tremble? did Peter turn Pale?

Not Much! 'Twas the Lion who moved to adjourn,

He couldn't turn Tail, Peter left none to Turn.



M is for Michael

M is for Michael—ssssh!—whisper it low!

In Pirate Circles he's called Blackbeard Joe!





N is for Napoleon and Nana

N is Napoleon—Mystic—Profound

And N is for Nana the Noble Nurse Hound—

Two wonderful natures—each great in his way,

One's dead and the other is "Having his Day"



O's for Odds-fish!!

o's for Odds-fish—the Pirate's Oath.

To print such a word, Gentle Reader, I'm loth.

And should *You* be guilty of language so low,

I should have to stop calling you "Gentle," you know.



P is for Peter

P is for Peter, and so are we all,

May he ever keep young and his Shadow stay Small.

Yet I think 'tis a pity the White House is Bann'd.

As President, Peter would simply be Grand!





Q is the Quiver

Q is the Quiver from which Tootles drew

The Arrow that nearly pierced poor Wendy through.

'Twas Peter's *Kiss Button* that stopped it—Ah me!

If Kisses were Buttons—how safe they would be!



R's for the Redskins

R's for the Redskins, who Guarded the Cave.

What a Treat to see "Injuns" sit up and Behave!



S is the Shadow

- S is the Shadow—tho' not of much use,
- You'd surely be Sorry if *Yours* Should get loose.
- So See to your Shadow—be sure its on tight,
- When Peter lost his he was in a sad plight.



T is for Tinker Bell

Poor Tinker Bell's dying, Quick! say you Believe

In Fairies, that Tinker New Life may receive



U is the Underground Home

U's the underground home mid the roots of the trees,

Where when not slaying Pirates, the boys take their ease.

While Wendy sits mending their shirtwaists and hose,

And the Redskins above Keep watch against foes.



V is the Verse

V's the Vile Verse that the Pirate Bawled—

It was not his language so much that appalled,

Nor the Tune—nor his Voice which was Raucus and Deep

'Twas the way that he sang it That made your flesh creep.



W's Wolves

W's wolves—'Tis said they will fly

If you look through your legs at them straight in the eye.

That's how the Boys did it, but if I were you,

I'd experiment first on a wolf in the Zoo.



X is the X Ray

X is the X Ray by whose light alone,

This last fleeting picture of Hook may be shown.



Y is for Youth

Y is for Youth to which Peter clung,

But where is the land where he learned to Stay Young?

Ask Peter, he'll tell you, Geography scorning,

"Second Turn to the Right and keep straight on till Morning"



Z is the Zebra

Z is the Zebra the Boys didn't meet,
But without which no Alphabet's really complete.













