The Little Man and the Little Maid: a synopsis of texts


The following list is related to items displayed and hence omits some of the versions recorded in the Opie Dictionary, while noting others not found there.

1765 *The Fairing: or a golden toy for children of all sizes and denominations*... London: John Newbery, advertised 1765 (Roscoe J110), here a 1777 ed. from Carnan & Newbery pp. 116-8
Six stanzas with a relief-engraved soft metal headpiece.

ca.1780 *Mother Goose's Melody; or sonnets for the cradle*...London: Thomas Carnan, ad. 1780 (Roscoe J250) here two facsimiles from Francis Power 1791 and John Marshall, second issue ca.1795
Six stanzas with a wood-engraved headpiece by Thomas Bewick after the above

Twelve stanzas adapting and extending the original, with twelve hand-coloured copper-engraved illustrations. For the complexities of this edition see Marjorie Moon *Benjamin Tabart's Juvenile Library: a bibliography*... (Winchester: St Paul's Bibliographies, 1990 no.109 wiith an appendix by BA pp. 168-171

One of Kendrew's halfpenny books (Davis no.3) p.14
One stanza only (probably from MGM), with woodcut headpiece

Eight stanzas selected from Tabart, each topped with a hand-coloured woodcut

Stanzas one and two only, from an untraced source. Unillustrated.

This short version of the ballad becomes the source for most of the subsequent texts appearing in children's nursery rhyme books. It continues through the many new editions of Halliwell's collections, later moving into his Fourteenth Class: Love and Matrimony and carrying his note on the Walpole broadside and the Tabart Memoirs. We show a mid-Victorian compendium with a Dalziel wood-engraved illustration.

1846 Edward F. Rimbault ed. *Nursery Rhymes with the Tunes to which they are*
n.d. p.51. Two stanzas noted as to the same tune as "The Duck and the Drake"

1849-50  *Harry's Ladder to Learning. Part IV. Harry's Nursery Tales*. London:
Joseph Cundall (in parts), with David Bogue (in volume form).
Two stanzas only (see McLean pp.30 and 69). Copy not present, details
from Cotsen copy. This bears no relation to the following item.

1850  *A Treasury of Pleasure Books for Children...* London: Grant & Griffith...and
Joseph Cundall, 1850, as the seventeenth 16-page section, with the title "The
Courtship and Wedding of the Little Man and the Little Maid".
Thirty-four 3-line stanzas with an entirely different narrative content, illus-
trated with six full-page hand-coloured wood engravings by Walter G.Mason
after John Absolon. Later issued as separately published picture books, first
by Cundall & Addey in 1851, later by Sampson Low in a "Pleasure Books for
Children" series (see McLean p.69).

The Cotsen Coll. has a printing with music published by Routledge ca. 1880
of the first nineteen stanzas of the Grant and Griffith text in a collection:
*Song-Land; a series of ditties for small folks*. Set, arranged and composed [well,
that covers most contingencies] by William M.Hutchinson. With illustrations
by A.W.Cooper, J.B.C.,Miriam Kerns (Mrs Percy Weekes), and J.Sadler.
Engraved and printed by Edmund Evans.

Various other nursery rhyme collections published after 1850 are displayed, variably
illustrated and almost all consisting of the two Halliwell stanzas.