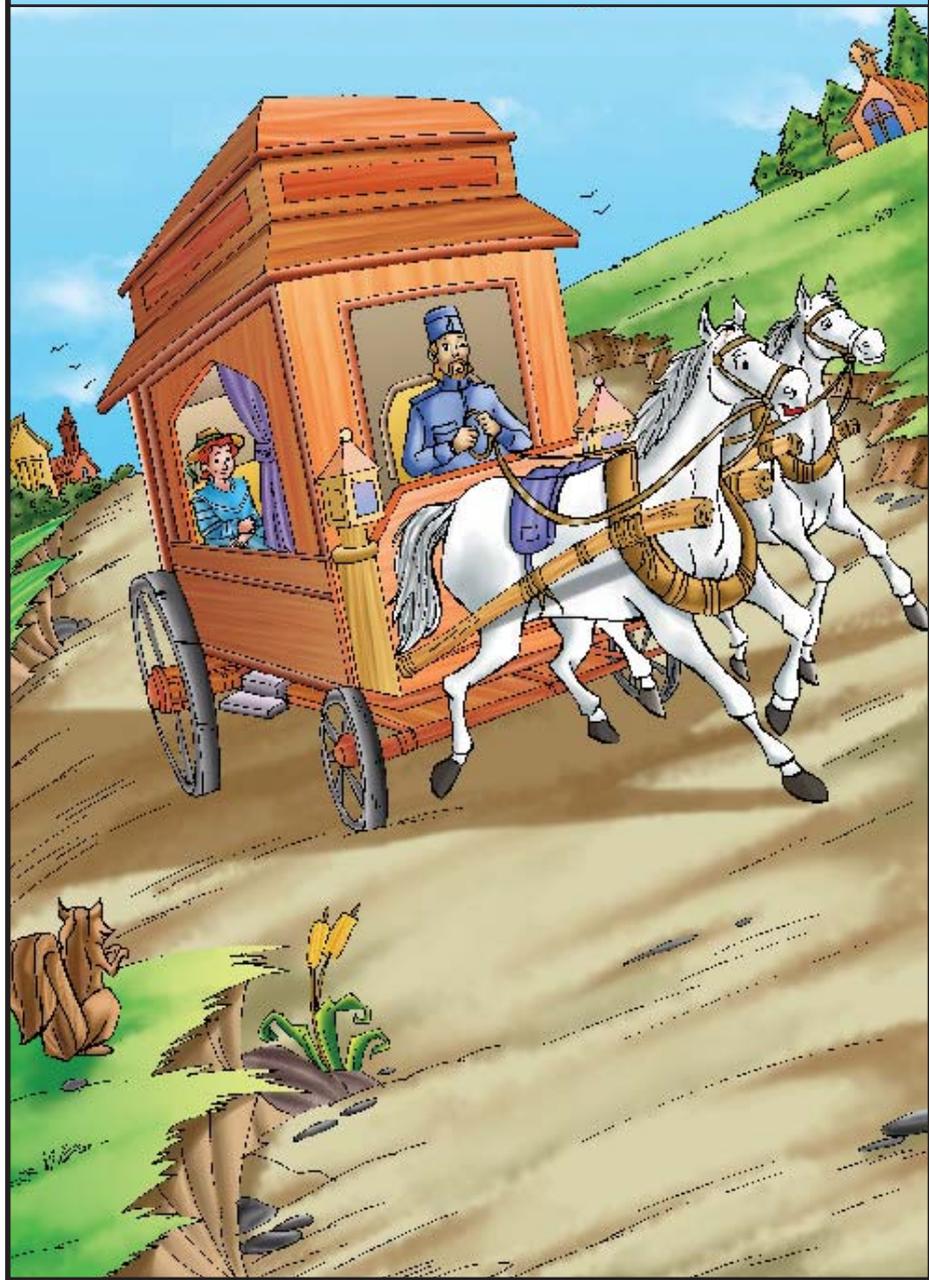
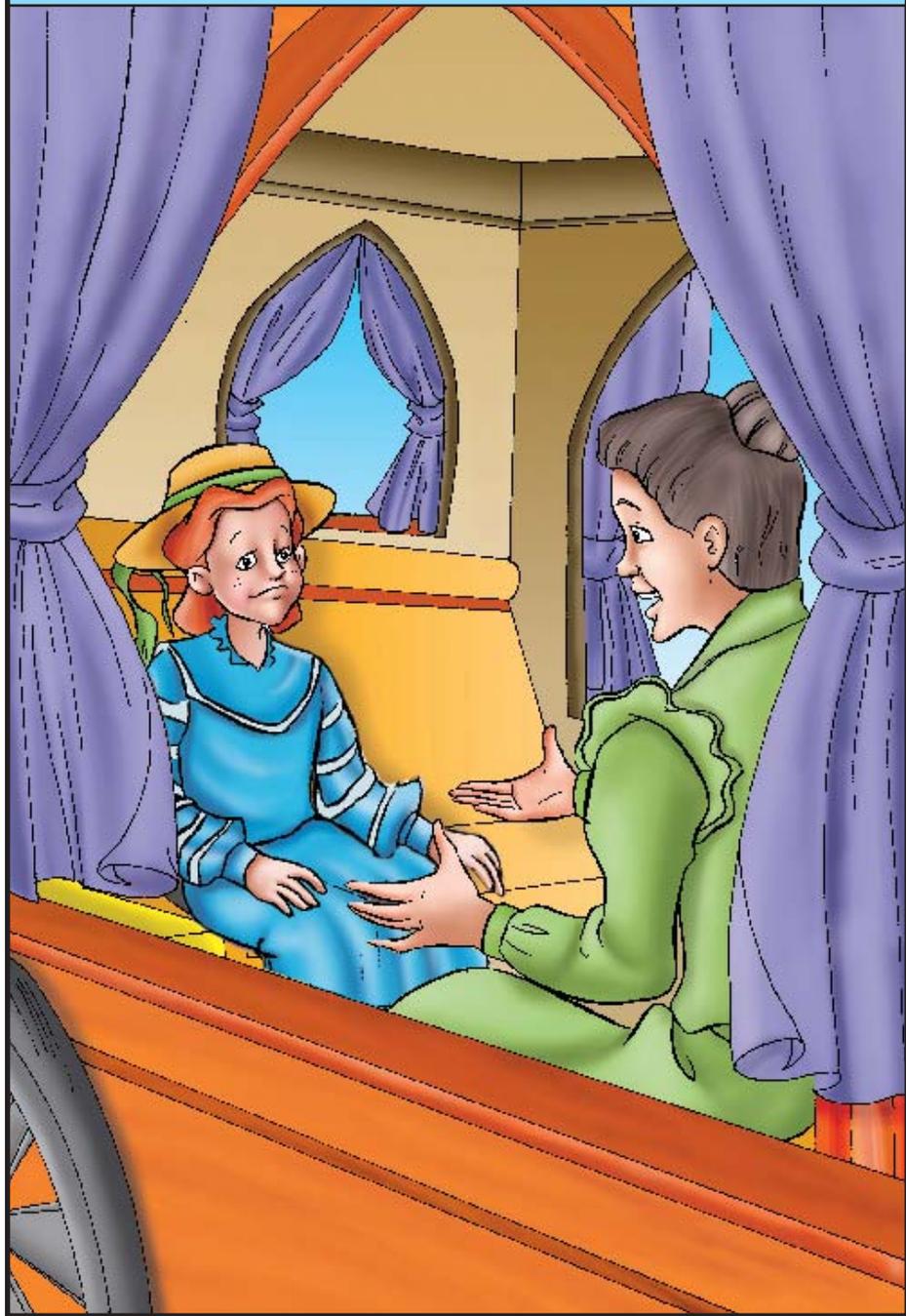


MARY LENNOX WAS SENT TO MISSELTWHAITE MANOR IN LONDON, TO LIVE WITH HER UNCLE AFTER HER PARENTS DIED IN INDIA. HER FATHER WAS IN THE BRITISH ARMY AND HER MOTHER WAS A PRETTY LADY WHO LOVED SOCIALISING. NEITHER OF HER PARENTS CARED TO DEVOTE TIME TO LITTLE MARY. HENCE, SHE GREW UP INTO AN UNPLEASANT CHILD IN BOTH MANNER AND APPEARANCE.



MRS MEDLOCK, THE HOUSE KEEPER OF MARY'S RICH UNCLE, HAD COME TO RECEIVE HER. SHE FELT SORRY FOR MARY, WHO WAS A NEGLECTED CHILD.



ON THE WAY, MRS MEDLOCK TRIED TO CONVERSE WITH MARY WHO WAS FROWNING, IN THE HOPE OF MAKING THE SITUATION A LITTLE PLEASANT.

DID YOUR PARENTS EVER SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT MISSELTHWAITE OR ABOUT MR CRAVEN?

NO, THEY NEVER HAD TIME TO TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING.

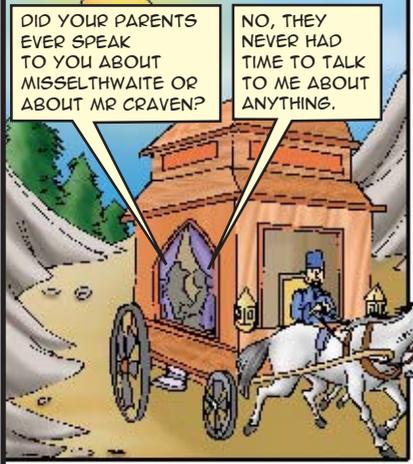
MRS MEDLOCK CONTINUED...

THEN IT'S MY DUTY TO TELL YOU ABOUT MISSELTHWAITE WHERE YOU WILL STAY. IT IS A BIG, GLOOMY AND LONELY PLACE ON THE EDGE OF THE MOOR. THE HOUSE IS SIX HUNDRED YEARS OLD AND HAS A HUNDRED ROOMS IN IT.

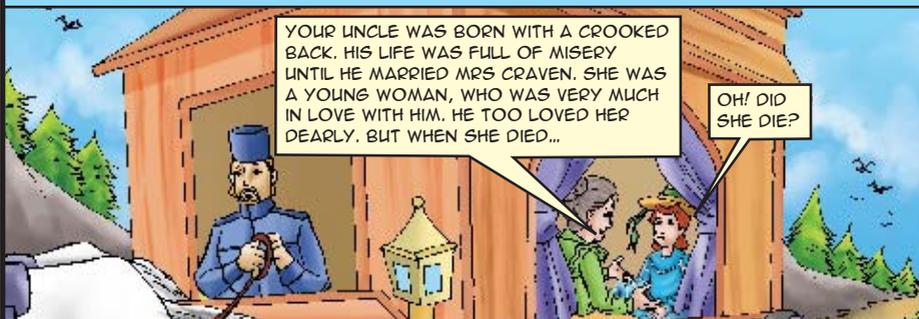
MARY WAS THOROUGHLY UNINTERESTED IN THE INFORMATION WHICH WAS BEING PROVIDED TO HER. BUT MRS MEDLOCK DIDN'T GIVE UP.

AS FOR YOUR UNCLE, I AM CERTAIN HE IS NOT GOING TO TROUBLE HIMSELF ABOUT YOU. HE DOESN'T TROUBLE HIMSELF ABOUT ANYONE, NOT EVEN...

SUDDENLY, SHE STOPPED TALKING AS SHE THOUGHT IT WISE NOT TO REVEAL THE SECRETS ABOUT HER MASTER OR HIS FAMILY TO MARY.



MARY LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO EVERYTHING THAT MRS MEDLOCK TOLD HER ABOUT HER UNCLE.

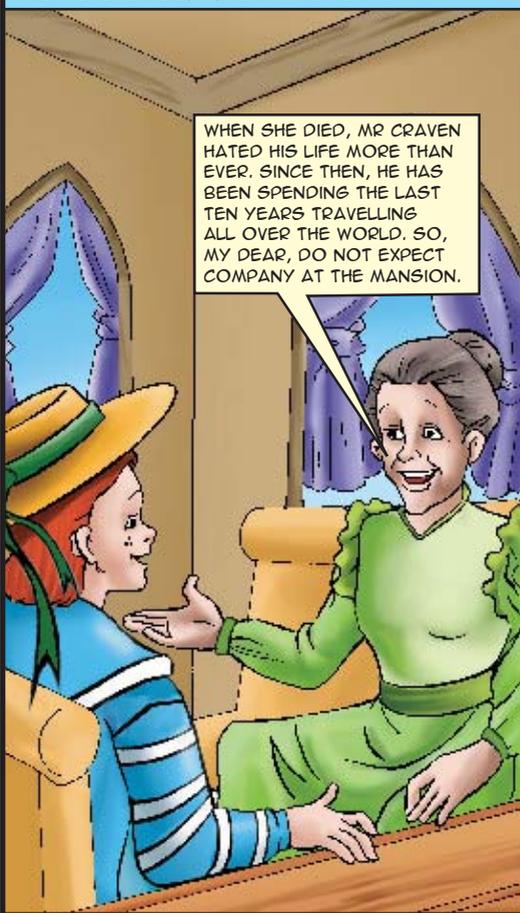


YOUR UNCLE WAS BORN WITH A CROOKED BACK. HIS LIFE WAS FULL OF MISERY UNTIL HE MARRIED MRS CRAVEN. SHE WAS A YOUNG WOMAN, WHO WAS VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH HIM. HE TOO LOVED HER DEARLY. BUT WHEN SHE DIED...

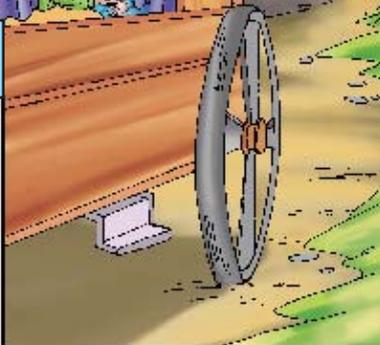
OH! DID SHE DIE?

MARY WAS TOUCHED BY HER UNCLE'S STORY. SHE SUDDENLY FELT VERY SORRY FOR HIM, WHO HAD LOST HIS WIFE.

MRS MEDLOCK CONTINUED HER STORY...



WHEN SHE DIED, MR CRAVEN HATED HIS LIFE MORE THAN EVER. SINCE THEN, HE HAS BEEN SPENDING THE LAST TEN YEARS TRAVELLING ALL OVER THE WORLD. SO, MY DEAR, DO NOT EXPECT COMPANY AT THE MANSION.



SHE FURTHER WARNED MARY...



ANOTHER ADVICE, DO NOT WANDER, OR GO POKING ABOUT THE HOUSE.

I DON'T CARE TO POKE ABOUT HIS HOUSE AT ALL.

ONCE INSIDE THE MANSION, MARY FOUND HERSELF IN A BIG HALL WITH LARGE PORTRAITS HANGING ON THE WALLS AROUND.

THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN MARY AWOKE, SHE WAS SHOCKED TO SEE THE BARE LAND OUTSIDE FROM THE WINDOW.

WHAT'S THAT?
I DON'T LIKE IT.

THE MASTER SAYS THAT, YOU ARE TO TAKE THE CHILD TO HER ROOM. HE IS LEAVING IN THE MORNING AND DOESN'T WISH TO SEE HER NOW.

IT'S THE MOOR. IT'S BARE NOW, BUT YOU WILL GET TO LIKE IT, ESPECIALLY IN SPRING AND SUMMER.

AND SO, MRS MEDLOCK SHOWED MARY TO HER ROOM. SHE WAS TOO TIRED TO EXPLORE THE ROOM THAT DAY. SO SHE WENT TO BED.

THE EASE WITH WHICH THE HOUSEMAID SPOKE SURPRISED MARY.

ARE YOU TO BE MY AYAH?

I AM MRS MEDLOCK'S SERVANT. SURELY, YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH. SO YOU WON'T NEED MUCH ASSISTANCE.

WILL YOU DRESS ME?

I AM AMAZED TO KNOW THAT A GROWN UP GIRL LIKE YOU, IS UNABLE TO DRESS HERSELF.

I NEVER DID IT IN MY ENTIRE LIFE. MY AYAH IN INDIA ALWAYS DRESSED ME.

THEN IT'S TIME YOU LEARN.

MARY WAS TERRIBLY UPSET AFTER THIS CONVERSATION AND HURT TOO.