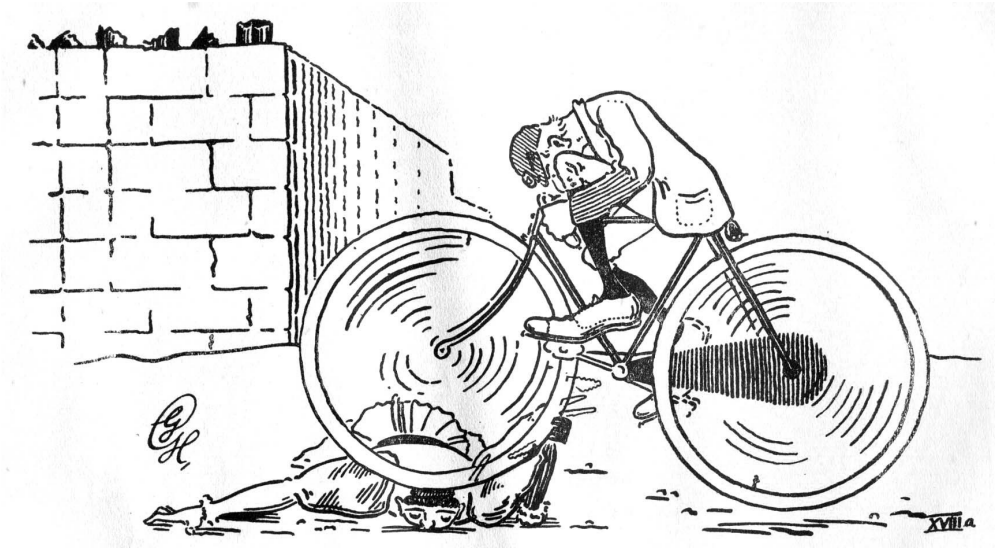
RUTHLESS RHYMES
FOR HEARTLESS HOMES

The pictures and verses shown here are from Ruthless Rhymes by Harry Graham. Beginning in 1898, Graham wrote a number of books for children of the same title . Those I have selected are loosely connected to transportation and are from an edition of the book published circa 1910, which was handed down to me by my grandfather.

Rick Astley



Scorching John.

John, who rode his Dunlop tyre
O'er the head of sweet Marye,

When she died in frightful pain,
Had to blow it out again,

Mr. Jones.

"There's been an accident!" they said,
"Your servant's cut in half; he's dead."

"Indeed!" said Mr Jones, "then please
Give me the half that's got my keys."

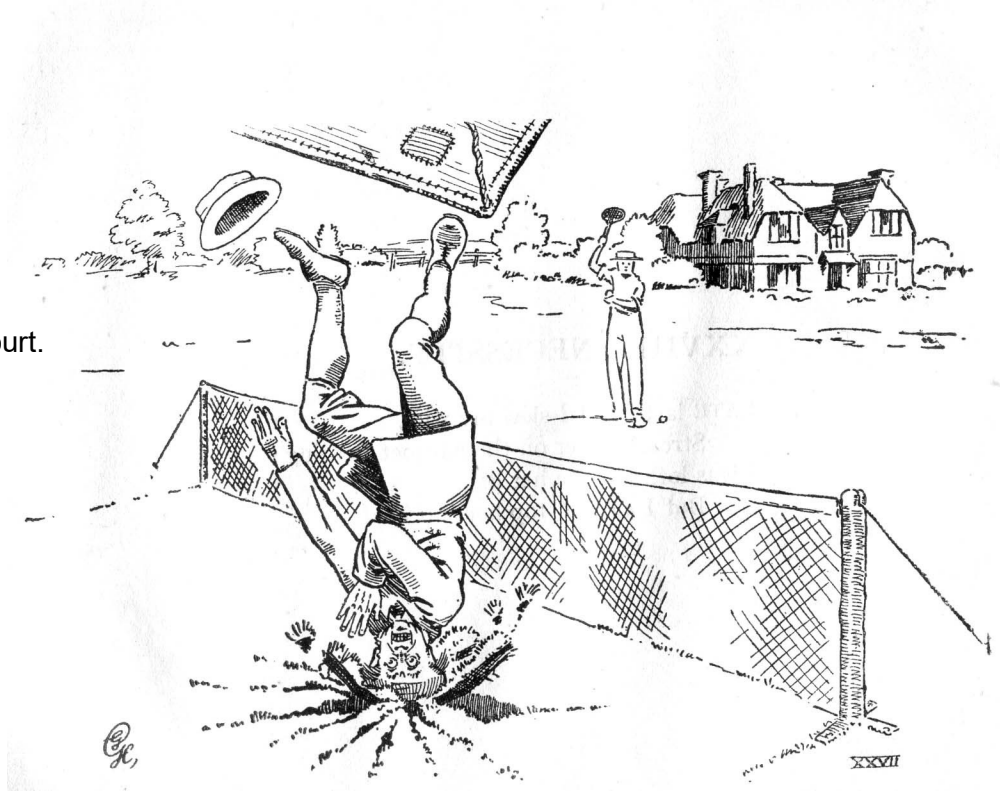
Aunt.

Aunt, a most delightful soul
But with little self control.
When run over by a “taxi”
Grew unconscionably waxy

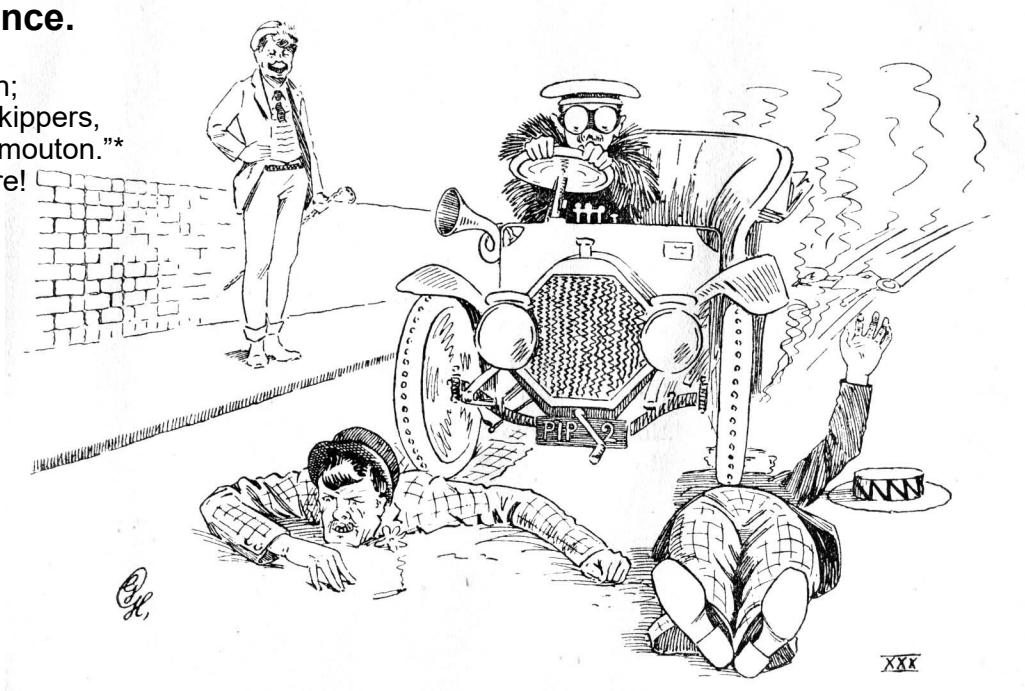
She could not have made more fuss
Had it been a motor-bus!

Uncle.

Uncle, whose inventive brains
Kept evolving aeroplanes,
Fell from an enormous height
On my garden lawn last night.
    Flying is a fatal sport,
    Uncle wrecked the tennis-court.



Inconvenience.

I collided with some “trippers”
    In my swift De Dion Bouton;
Squashed them out as flat as kippers,
    Left them “aussi mort que mouton.”*
What a nuisances “trippers” are!
I must now repaint the car.

*as dead as mutton