



*The Autobiography  
of a Monkey*

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Albert Bigelow Paine

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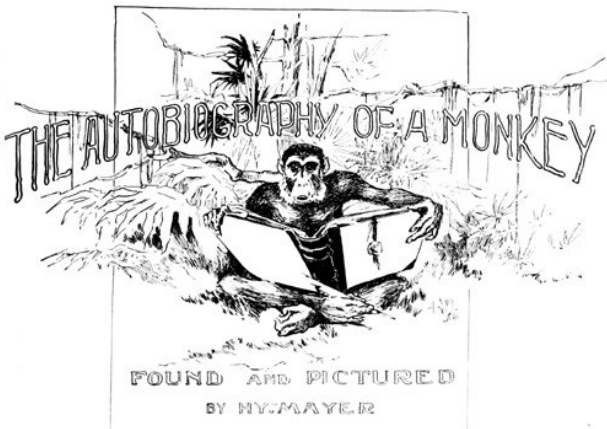
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# THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A MONKEY



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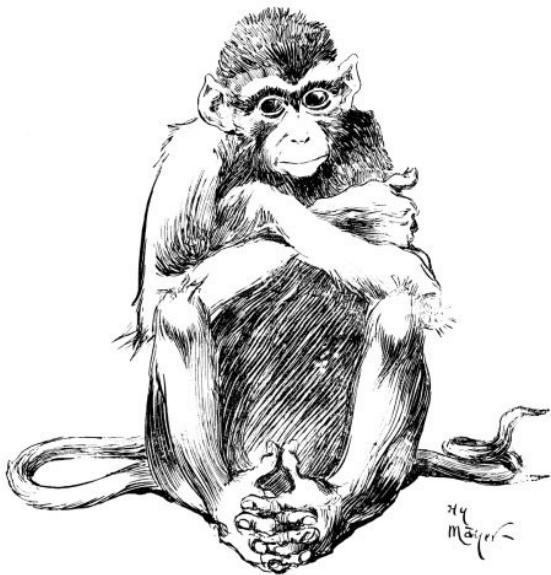
# THE DEPARTURE FROM THE FOREST.

Where the light laughs in  
through the tree-tops  
And sports with  
the tangled glade,  
In the depths of an  
Afric forest  
My earliest  
scenes were laid.



In a bower that was  
merry with smilax

From the  
grimace of no-  
where, I woke  
I was born on the  
first day of April  
And they  
called me a  
jungle joke.







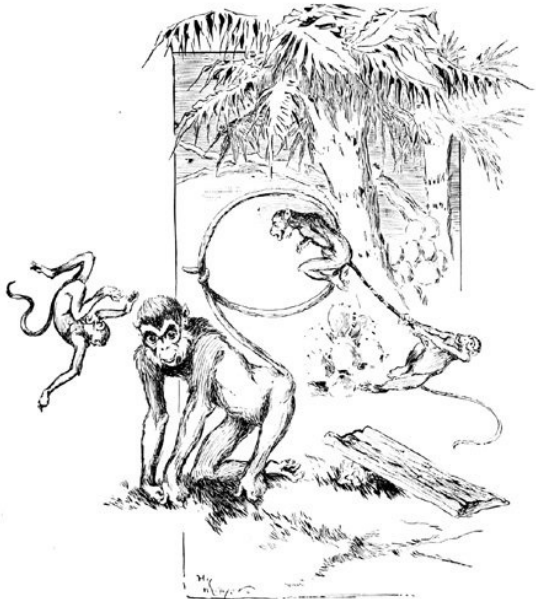
And the voices of  
birds were about me

---

And the  
beat and  
the flutter  
of wing;  
While morning  
returned at the  
trumpet  
Of Tusky,  
our  
elephant

king.







My nurse was a crooning  
old beldame

Who gazed in the  
palms of my  
hands

And vowed I was  
destined to travel  
In many and  
marvellous lands.



But little I heeded  
her croaking,  
For I  
gamboled

the whole  
day long,  
And swung by  
my tail from the  
tree-top,  
Or joined  
in the  
jungle  
song.





24.  
Mayer





# THE SONG OF THE JUNGLE.

*The Elephant:*

Oh, I am the lord of  
the forest and  
plain!

*The Lion, Tigers, etc.:*

And we are the beasts  
that  
acknowledge  
your reign!

*The Birds:*

And we are the  
minstrels that  
come at your  
call!

*The Monkeys:*

And we are the jesters  
that laugh at  
you all!



*Chorus, All—  
Oh, yes! Oh, yes!*

*Oh, yes! Oh,  
yes!*

*The tribes of  
the  
jungle  
are we  
—*

*Our home is the  
darksome  
wilderness  
That never a  
man  
shall  
see.*

*The Elephant:*

Oh, the jungle was  
meant and was  
made for my  
will!

*The Lions, Tigers, etc.:*

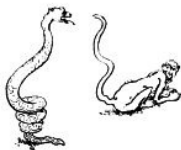
For the sport of the  
chase and the  
zest of the kill!

*The Birds:*

For the beating of  
wings and the  
echo of song!

# *The Monkeys:*

For gambol and  
grimace the  
whole season  
long!





*Chorus, All:*  
*Hurrah! Hurrah!*  
*Hurrah! Oh,*  
*yes!*  
*For all of the*  
*tribes*  
*that be*  
*With homes in the*  
*tangled*  
*wilderness*  
*That never a*  
*man*



*shall*  
*see.*



But, alas, for the boasts  
of the jungle!

The men  
came among  
us one day,  
And one with a box  
that made music  
Enticed foolish  
monkeys  
away.

The birds and the beasts of  
the forest

Were mute at the  
marvellous song,  
But the monkeys crept  
out of the tree-tops—  
An eager and  
wondering throng.



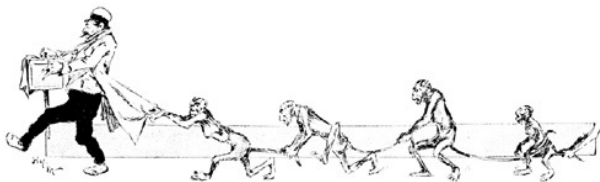


The birds and the  
beasts of the forest  
Kept hidden

and silent that  
day,  
But the monkey-  
folk formed a  
procession  
And followed  
the minstrel  
away.

And thus did we  
give up the forest  
To dwell  
with our  
brothers,  
the men—  
Farewell to the  
beautiful jungle!

'Twas long  
ere I saw it  
again!



**Part Second.**

# THE WAYS OF MEN.

Then away to a far  
distant country

On a drift  
that they  
said was a  
ship,

And I studied  
the ways of my  
master

And  
profited  
much by  
the trip.

And we sailed to his  
home in fair Naples,  
Where I  
studied the  
language of  
men,  
And I sat on a  
bench with his  
children,  
But soon we  
went sailing  
again.









And I made some nice  
friends on the voyage,  
And engaged  
in a pretty  
romance.  
I charmed all the  
ladies by climbing,

And one of  
them taught  
me to dance.

Yet often I longed  
for the jungle—

Its song  
and the  
rustle of  
wing—

And sometimes  
at night in my  
slumber

I talked

with our  
elephant  
king.





One morning my master  
awoke me,  
And, dressed in a  
gaudy new suit,

I beheld the New  
World in the sunlight,  
And lifted my hat  
in salute.

And then began  
troubles and trials—  
Through the  
streets by a  
string I was  
led;  
Toiling hard all the  
day for my master,  
Yet oft going  
hungry to bed.





But he sold me at last  
to a circus

And my lot  
became easier  
then,

So I gave many  
moments of leisure  
To acquiring  
the habits of  
men.

I copied their manners and  
customs

I made of each  
fashion a note;



And the children  
admired my  
performance

And the ladies the  
cut of my coat.





By and by I was sold  
to a banker

Who was  
charmed  
with my  
ball-rolling  
feat,

And arrayed in  
a Fauntleroy  
costume

I passed all  
my time on

the street.





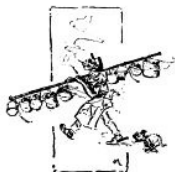
But alas for my plans of  
the future!

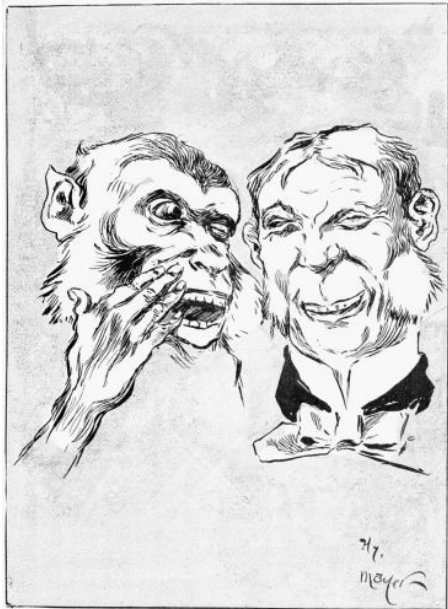
He died without  
leaving a cent,

And I had to go out to  
hard labor

To pay for my  
victuals and rent;  
Till I met with a  
gentleman's valet

Who was like  
me in manner  
and face,  
And I told him  
some stories that  
pleased him  
And bribed  
him to give me  
his place.









Then I started to serve  
my new master—

A bachelor  
cynic was he,  
Who quickly saw  
through the  
deception

And made a  
proposal to  
me.

Said he: "You're a

monkey, you rascal,  
And an  
excellent  
type of the  
brood;

Let's play a  
good joke on  
society

By passing  
you off as  
a dude."





So he took me at first to  
his barber,

Who shaved me  
and shortened my  
hair,

And the last tangled  
trace of the jungle  
Was gone when I  
rose from his  
chair.





And then to his tailor  
and hatter—

His hosier and  
all of the rest,  
Till at night I was  
changed from a  
monkey

To a chappie  
most stylishly  
dressed.

And standing alone and  
reflecting

I thought of the

why and the how,  
And I wondered what  
Tusky was doing  
And what would  
the jungle say,  
now.









## **Part Third.**

# THE BUTTERFLY WHIRL.

It was then for the  
triumphs of conquest!

Oh, then for  
the life of the  
swell!

I dwelt like a lord  
with my patron

In a suite of a  
gilded hotel.

And we went out to plays  
and to dinners—

On the ladies he  
took me to call—

And once we received  
invitations

To a beautiful  
fancy-dress ball.





'Twas a famous  
affair and it won me,  
With its  
titter and  
tinsel and  
tune,  
For it carried  
me back to the  
jungle  
And the  
monkey-  
dance  
under the  
moon.



Then I mingled with  
other diversions.

I learned how  
to paint and to  
ride;

I cut a great figure  
at polo—

The science of  
golfing I tried.



As a wheelman I soon  
became famous

And made a great  
score on the track

---

I was known as the  
king of the scorchers,  
With the typical  
bicycle back.

Then a girl who was  
youthful and silly

Made love to  
me just for a  
lark,

And came with an  
elegant turnout

And took me  
to drive in the

park.





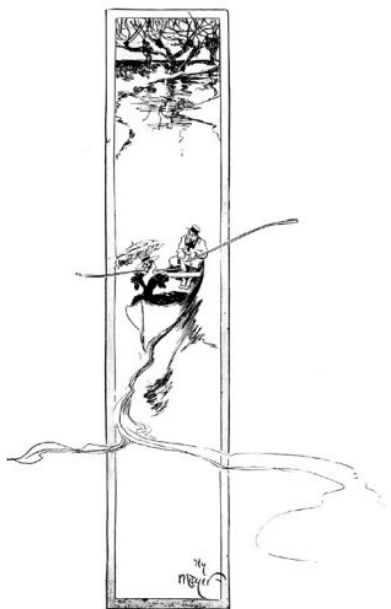


And I took her out  
boating next  
morning,

For the  
face of my  
charmer  
was fair;

It carried me  
back to the  
jungle—

To the  
flow'rs that  
were  
blossoming  
there.





But soon, in the  
midst of my  
pleasure,

In the glow  
of a  
roseate  
dream,  
The boat struck

a rock and  
tipped over  
And  
tumbled us  
both in the  
stream.

Then, ho, for the skill of  
the jungle!

The deftness  
of foot and of  
hand!

For I hung from a  
limb and I saved  
her

And drew her  
at last to the

strand.





And then to her home I  
went proudly

        To claim the  
        fair maid for  
        my own,  
But her father  
demanded a title,  
        And hardened  
        his heart like a  
        stone.

And now came the death  
of my patron,  
        That left me alone  
        in the strife,  
And yearning once  
more for the jungle,



I turned to political  
life.



---

## **Part Fourth.**

## THE RETURN PATH.

Then I studied a week to  
gain knowledge,  
And waded  
through volumes  
of stuff,  
And I found that the  
only requirements  
Were cunning  
and blarney and  
bluff.

And these I had  
brought from the jungle

—

Inherited  
straight from  
my race—  
With a gift for  
political music  
And a truly  
political face.





Thus feeling at home in  
my labors,

My plan was  
successful, of  
course,

And when they  
came round with  
appointments

They gave me  
a job on "the  
force."

And such was my  
skill as a  
roundsman,

And talent  
in keeping

the peace,  
That I rose in a  
year to be  
Captain,  
And then  
to be Chief  
of Police!







And then, as my  
years were  
advancing,

So great  
was their  
honor and  
trust,

That they  
twined me a  
chaplet of laurel

And  
sculptured  
in marble  
my bust.



Yet often I dreamed of  
the jungle—

Its song and  
the rustle of  
wing—

And sometimes  
still talked in my  
slumber

With Tusky,  
our elephant  
king.

When, lo, my political  
party,

That now was in  
power and  
supreme,

Conferred a most  
noble appointment  
That realized all of  
my dream.



For they made me their  
African envoy,

And soon I  
went sailing  
again,

To meet my old  
playmates and tell  
them

The ways and  
the customs of  
men.

To calm the dusk  
native, and gather

My people  
in sun-  
haunted

nooks

To tell them my  
story, and teach  
them

The  
wisdom  
that  
cometh of  
books;



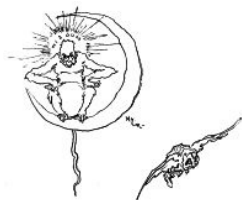




The words and the ways of  
*their fathers,*

And deliver my  
race from its ban,  
For man did not spring  
from the monkey,  
But monkey  
*descended from*  
*man!*





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