

**THE RUNAWAY
BROWNS: A STORY
OF SMALL STORIES**

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The runaway Browns: a story of small stories by H. C. Bunner & C. J. Taylor

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H. C. BUNNER & C. J. TAYLOR

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THE RUNAWAY BROWNS



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THE RUNAWAY BROWNS

A Story of Small Stories

BY

H·C·BUNNER

author of
"Airs from Arcady" "The Midge"
"Short Sixes" etc.

Illustrated by

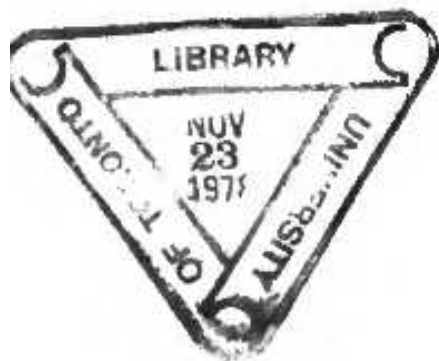
C·J·TAYLOR



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TO
A. L. B.



PROLOGUE.

(Because You Can't Begin a Story in Philadelphia.)



T seems quite natural that the houses in Philadelphia should grow backward; yet a real Philadelphia house is always a surprise to the stranger. From the sidewalk you see what looks like a compressed mausoleum. You enter, wondering if there is going to be room for you and the one tier of defunct. Behold! that house spreads out into the silent hollow of the "square;" back-extension after back-extension, in holy privacy, in a dim and chastened respectability, you see a Philadelphia HOME expand itself.

For many, many years there came forth daily from the door of such a house as this, a gentleman who was at first Oldish, then Old, then Very Old, indeed. He was thin and tall; he wore his old-fashioned beaver hat on one side of his gaunt, old-fashioned head; his clothes had been dandified once, when dandies wore stocks and tied their collars behind. He wore them still so jauntily as to make you think you were wrong in your reckoning — if the disloyal clothes had n't gone threadbare and shiny.