

**THE OLD INFANT,  
AND  
SIMILAR STORIES**

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The old infant, and similar stories by Will Carleton

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**WILL CARLETON**

**THE OLD INFANT,  
AND  
SIMILAR STORIES**



THE OLD INFANT  
AND  
SIMILAR STORIES

BY

WILL CARLETON

AUTHOR OF

"FARM BALLADS" "CITY LEGENDS" ETC.



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1896

By WILL CARLETON.

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THE OLD INFANT



## THE OLD INFANT

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### I

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 5, town of Dover, county of Livingston, was brimful of snow to-day, and the little wooden temple of learning in its centre, crouching and trembling upon old, unreliable timbers, was surrounded by scores of drifts, as white as bleached muslin and colder than shrouds. The wind was never satisfied with them, and, using a diligence not learned from the school within, constantly added to or subtracted from their quantity. The young lady with classical face and large brown eyes who conducted this elementary university wondered where Paul was to-day, wished she were rich, thought of a thousand fairy stories she would make come true in