

Children of the Nineties

By W. E. Hill

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Buster Brown. The pink linen Buster Browns were considered the very last word in picturesque childhood. They do not rightly belong to the mauve decade (although they followed the Fauntleroy), for the Buster Browns came along during what is known in historical circles as the twenty-three skiddoo pre-jazz era.



The early stage child. Child actresses in Victorian days acted all over the stage, in and out of the flies and back drop, chewing up scenery and weeping gallons of real tears. Billed as Baby Irene in "Editha's Burglar" or Little Effie May in "Fanchon, the Cricket," she gave grandpa his first heart tremors.



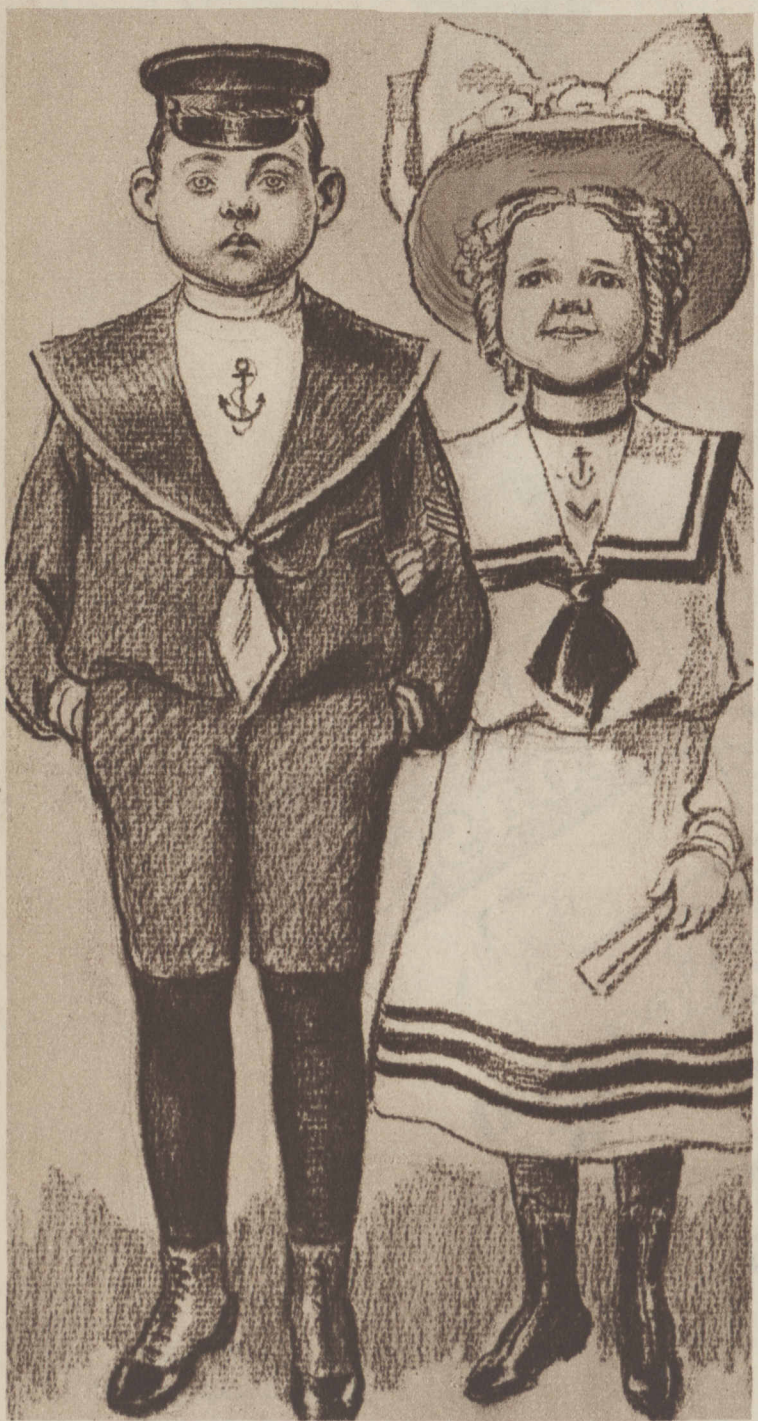
Lord Fauntleroy. The first recorded effort to beautify the growing child of the '90s came early in the period, when every proud mamma for miles and miles around attempted with bewildering success to make over her male offspring into a replica of Miss Annie Russell's interpretation of Little Lord Fauntleroy.



Dressing like the grown-ups. Little girls of the period dearly loved to "dress grown up, just like grandma," which is quite the opposite of the present day game played by the grandmas of today, who dearly love to dress like a little girl.



The tomboy of the '90s. No end of dire and dreadful things were prophesied for the little romp who shocked all her Victorian elders in the mauve decade by doing everything the boys did!



Sailor suits. The children of style conscious parents were very nautical about their attire in the '90s. Juvenile latest hints from Paris were lavishly decorated with anchors, steering wheels, marlin spikes, and other sea emblems.



She's a big girl now! Many a baby photograph held over from the '90s has been dragged forth years later, spreading misery and black despair in its wake.



The upholstered tot. Janice has more clothes on than you'd think one child could bear, but they were very lavish with the materials in the '90s. What you can see is nothing to what there is underneath in the way of flannel and heavy woolen goods. (Janice's adenoid look was considered very fetching and naive in that day and age.)



Late Victorian cuteness. Dolly is saying to Chum: "Can't 'oo talk?" As you can see, she's been gathering Easter eggs that the bunny laid for her. This would have been a prized wall decoration when grandma was a girl.