

Peter Pratewell, *Pretty Tales and Pretty Things for Good Children*. London, [n.d.]. 12mo, 70 pages, 17 woodcuts, (A6–7 and C5–8 lacking).

In this book kind Mrs. Lovewell entertains a group of good children with biblical stories such as the creation, the tower of Babel, Jonah and the whale, amongst which there is a mention of the history of the Freemasons. The children then pass the time by telling the group instructive stories warning of the consequences of fibbing, disobedience, discontent, and the like. The address in four-page advertisement at the end of the book suggests that it may have been published by R. Coster, a printer whose business was located at 42 Long Lane ca. 1780–1788.

This book is from the Douce Collection in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University. Francis Douce (1757–1834) was a British antiquary and the Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum from 1807 to 1811. His bequest of more than 19,000 volumes contained printed books from various periods, including nearly 500 incunables, as well as roughly 425 manuscripts. Eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century children's books numbered among Douce's wide range of collecting specialties. This copy of *Pretty Tales and Pretty Things* is in a contemporary binding of boards covered with Dutch floral paper. One of the front flyleaves is inscribed "M H Haskoll | Oct<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1792"; the title page has the signature "M E Haskoll," and the stamp "EX DONO FR. DOUCE | BIBL. BODL."

Octavo code: **prapre**