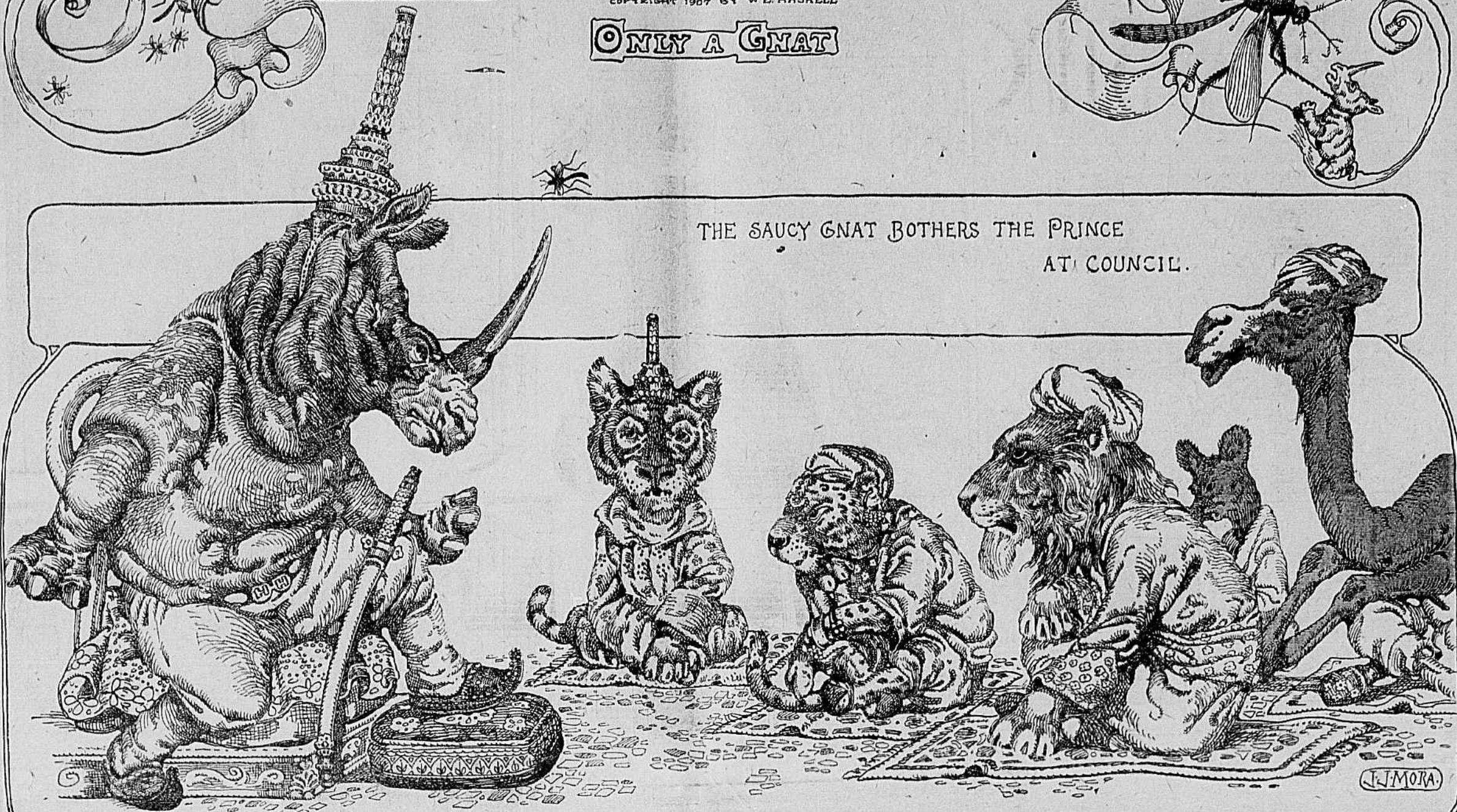


# ANIMALDOM

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## ONLY A GNAT

THE SAUCY GNAT BOTHERS THE PRINCE  
AT COUNCIL.



A monster old Rhinoceros,  
A Prince whose power was great,  
Once sat in council with his Chiefs  
On grave affairs of State.

While thus engaged in argument,  
A teeny little Gnat  
Came buzzing to his Highness, who  
Just frowned and bawled out "Scat!"

But 'round and 'round, with buzzing sound,  
The Gnat kept up his antic;  
Annoying poor old Rhino till  
He had him nearly frantic.

He made a swat with mighty paw  
To nail him on the fly;  
The net result was that he cracked  
Himself upon the eye.

In anger then, he tried again  
But merely smote the breeze;  
He lost his balance suddenly  
And tumbled to his knees.

He made another pass in vain;  
He swatted more and more;  
The furniture and bric-a-brac  
Came crashing to the floor.

With one fell swoop he toppled o'er  
Four Statesmen standing near,  
And, though he fumed and tore about,  
The Gnat was at his ear.

He galloped madly for the door;  
One great bound took him out.  
But Mr. Gnat sat on the horn  
That grew on Rhino's snout.

This was too much! In greatest rage  
He started with a jump,  
And made at top speed for a tree  
To give this Pest a bump.

He landed—BANG! And through the trunk  
The horn was driven clear;  
He sighed, he groaned, he heard a noise.  
The Gnat was at his ear!

And there the big Rhinoceros  
Just lay, worn out at last;  
So great had been his impetus  
The horn now held him fast.

"Alas!" he moaned, "Buzz if you wish.  
The most harm one can do  
Is to himself in noticing  
A tiny Pest like you."

J. J. MORA.