



# FLUFFY RUFFLES

Drawings by Wallace Morgan  
Verses by Charles Battell Loomis



## TRADDLES PLAYS ROMEO

"We're asked to go to tableaux at the home of Stuart Hart  
And Mr. Traddles will be there. He'll also take a part.  
They want to know if I will pose and can suggest a scene."  
"Why can't you pose with some young man and call it Gretna Green?"  
Now, this suggestion of Aunt Mary's was a wily one;  
She had within her honest head no reason 'neath the sun  
Except to make it possible for Joseph to propose  
(For Joe to pose and eke pro-pose will please him, goodness knows!)



Of course Aunt Mary "tipped him off," to use a phrase of slang;  
Of course he promised he'd be there and loud her praises rang.  
"In 'Romeo and Juliet'—the balcony"— "That's fine!"  
Miss Fluffy as sweet Juliet will look almost divine."  
The evening of the tableaux came, and likewise beaux and belles;  
The swagger dames, the swagger men, the swagger damosels.  
And Fluffy posed as Rosalind and Marie Antoinette,  
And Viola before she posed as handsome Juliet.



Now, Joseph was prepared to climb to his adored one's nest,  
And while she bent to help him up he'd do his level best  
To tell her soft he loved her, and 'twould give him greatest pride  
If she would be his Juliet—in short, become his bride.  
(In this he took a liberty with Shakespeare as he's played,  
But if he did not climb the "porch," the most transcendent maid  
Could never hear the words he said unless the audience, too,  
Were privy to his utterance. And that would never do.)

In scene the first fair "Juliet" looked down on "Romeo."  
("How sweet she looks." "Bah Jove, she's fine!" "I wish that I were Joe.")  
In scene the second he had climbed so he could grasp her hand.  
(Now let us hope that ardent Joe has words at his command.)  
"Miss Fluffy, may I take this time to say a word or two?"  
In undertones the lovely girl said, "Mr. Traddles, do."  
(At last his chance has come to him; oh, may his words come fast!  
Romantic is his attitude—a sailor on a mast.)



The audience gave loud applause and "louder" some one cried.  
With shame for fear they'd heard his words dear Fluffy nearly died.  
"I come anon, good nurse," she said, and sought her window sash.  
And just in time. The balcony went down with fearful crash.  
The amateur stage carpenter had not expected Joe  
To try to climb the balcony (he came and told him so.)  
Poor Traddles looked at "Juliet" with melancholy glance:  
With best intentions in the world, he'd lost another chance.

