



FLUFFY RUFFLES

Drawings by Wallace Morgan
Verser by Charles Battell Loomis



JOE TRADDLES ATTEMPTS AGAIN TO PROPOSE.

1—Old farmer Petingale had cows and kept them in a lot ('Twas nearly two miles from his house, a most delightful spot); Each morning he would drive them out and leave them for the day, And in the evening he would go and head them t'other way. One evening when his hired man had gone off on a spree And Farmer Petingale was just as busy as could be He wondered who would get his cows, when Traddles sauntered by "Oh, will you get my cows for me?" Said Traddles, "I will try."

2—Then Fluffy and her maiden aunt came walking by the place (When Traddles saw the lovely girl he checked a bit his pace). He asked her if she would take a walk and help him get the cows She answered him by nodding and by arching of her brows "I do not feel like going there," Aunt Mary sweetly said; "I'll call on Mrs. Petingale." She smiled and off they sped, Dick Traddles in a seventh heaven, Fluffy feeling fit; So o'er the meads and grassy dells their happy way they flit.



3—"I milked a cow when I was small," said Traddles "So did I," Said Fluffy. "Uncle had a farm not far from Tenaffly. "And in the long vacation time I played with country girls "And made up pretty daisy chains and dandelion curls." "Grandfather had a largish farm 'way up in New York State," Said Traddles, swapping reminiscences, "I thought it great "To help him feed the pigs, and pick the apples in the fall, "And mow the grass and shuck the corn; I used to do it all."



4—They reached the cow lot all too soon, and, treading grass and moss, Dick Traddles lifted up his voice and cried, "Co boss, co boss!" And all the cows came flocking up to lick dear Fluffy's hand— A pretty picture, Fluffy there, by evening breezes fanned, With every cow her gentle friend and Dick her friend as well (Why did he fail to seize this chance his love for her to tell?). "I dare you milk his cows for him!" he said, as home they fare. "All right," said Fluffy with a laugh: "I never take a dare."



5—Now while the two sat in the barn (each milked a "gentle" cow, Old Petingale with mouth agape to see they both knew how) Dick Traddles thought the time had come to ask Miss Fluffy's hand. "Miss Fluffy, while you're sitting near I'd like—you understand?—" "I'd like to ask you if you care a little bit for me. "My heart is overflowing now with perfect love for thee"— The pail was overflowing too, for "gentle Daisy" there Cut short his speech and lifted him up through the evening air. —Charles Battell Loomis.