



FLUFFY RUFFLES

Drawings by Wallace Morgan
Verses by Charles Battell Loomis



When Fluffy had rejected Joe it filled him with despair
(If Anglo-Saxons did such things he would have torn his hair).
Before they'd served the costly lunch (the Wades were newly rich)
He vowed he'd be a monk or die, it didn't matter which.
He took the ladies home again, but not a word he spoke,
For Fluffy's simply uttered "No" had pierced his heart of oak.
Next day he left for parts unknown, and Fluffy missed him, too.
"It's dull at Blennerhaven Green; there's nothing much to do."

SHE ENCOUNTERS A STOWAWAY.

Aunt Mary heard that Fluffy had rejected faithful Joe
"Oh, Fluffy, won't you tell me how you came to treat him so?"
Then pretty Fluffy pouted and she tapped her dainty feet.
"To ask my hand upon the roof was surely not discreet.
Lord Aldershot was shingling, not two feet from his side.
Suppose I'd said, 'Oh, thank you, Joe, I'll gladly be your bride.'
What sort of tale would that young lord have taken with him then?
I'm glad I answered as I did. I'd answer so again."

(The summer time was nearly done) "Suppose we take a trip?"
Said Fluffy to Aunt Mary. "Shall it be by train or ship?"
(Now very well Aunt Mary knew just where she meant to go;
She knew where Traddles was, but didn't tell dear Fluffy so).
"Suppose we take a steady boat and go across the sea?"
"Pick out the boat that suits you best," said Fluffy: "you'll suit me."
They took the Caledonia for Erin's verdant isle,
Nor did dear Fluffy e'er suspect her maiden aunt of guile.



Of course, before they'd been a day upon the placid ocean
In manly breasts the lovely girl had stirred up strong emotion.
But never one she heeded as she paced the deck alone.
And often in her berth at night Aunt Mary heard her moan.
The girl was not herself at all, she struggled with some woe,
And yet she never breathed the name of simple hearted Joe.
The captain tried to joke with her, a joker bright was he;
But at his jests she smiled no smile, but gazed into the sea.

Now on the third day out from shore a stowaway they found,
And up and down the noble ship the news went swiftly round.
Dear Fluffy's heart was quickly stirred, she asked to see the lad.
The captain took her down below (to do it made him glad).
"I wish to be alone with him, perhaps I'll do him good."
"If you can't do it, Mistress Fluffy, no one ever could."
So said the captain, then he turned and left her there alone.
In choking voice the fellow spoke to move a heart of stone.

A something in his muffled tones made Fluffy look, and lo!
The stowaway she sought to help was no one else than Joe.
"I hope you will forgive me it I take this splendid chance
To tell you that you really have the very best of aunts."
Dear Fluffy's heart with joy was stirred, and yet she said, "A cad
Would take this chance to tell his love." Said Joe, "I may be bad,
But I am not as bad as that. I only ask today
That when we land on Erin's soil you'll let me have my say."

