



FLUFFY RUFFLES

Drawings by Wallace Morgan
Verses by Charles Battell Loomis



1.—Romantic is the Western coast of Erin's lovely isle,
And in the town of Galway Fluffy rested for awhile.
The dingy houses, crooked streets, the Claddagh and the sea,
The Spanish looking maids and crones, as quaint as quaint can be;
All this appealed to Fluffy's taste, and Aunty liked it, too:
And, what with walks and fishing, there was really lots to do,
(Joe Traddles had not come with them and Fluffy couldn't say
If he was near at hand or many hundred miles away.)

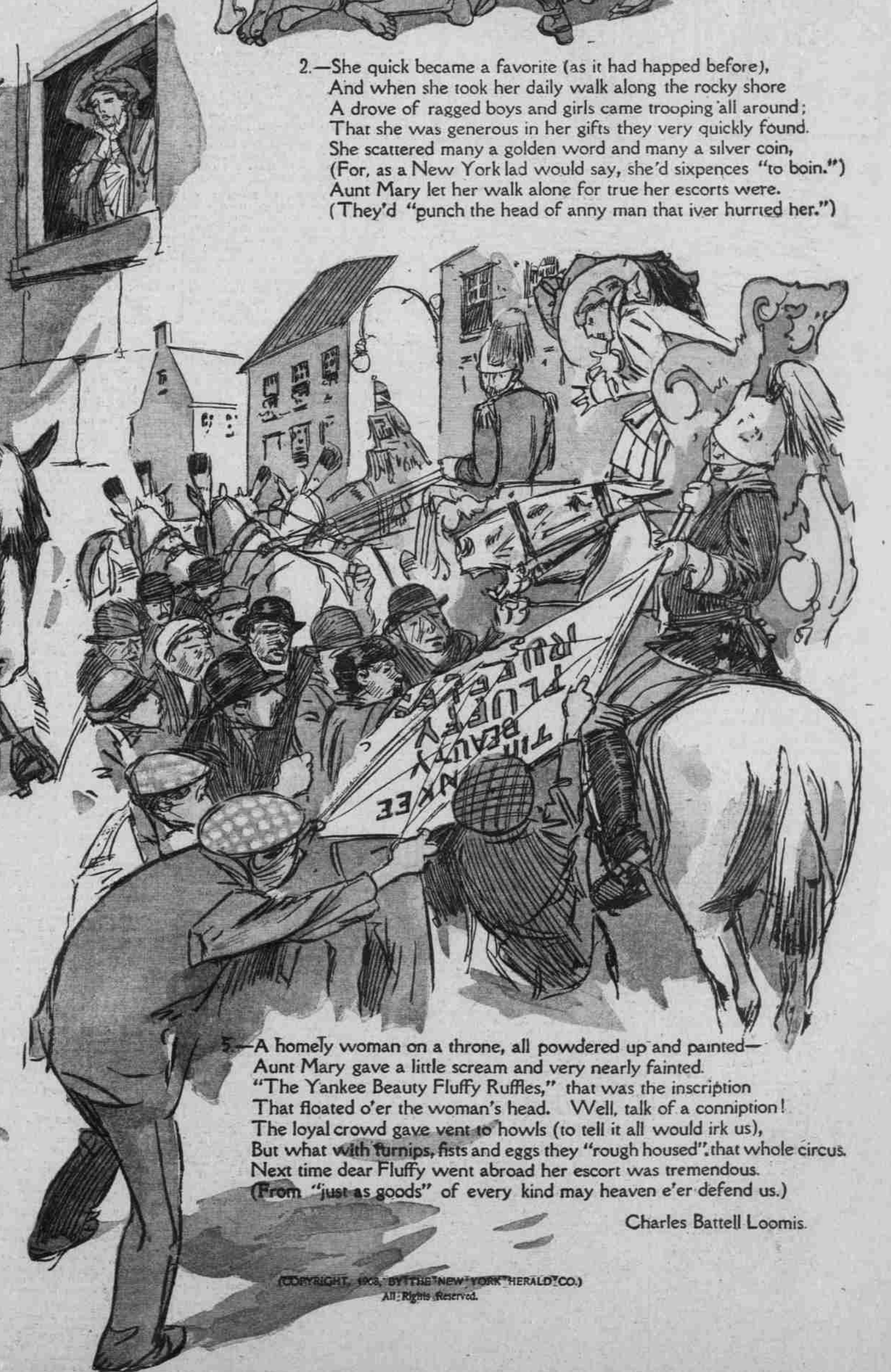


2.—She quick became a favorite (as it had happed before),
And when she took her daily walk along the rocky shore
A drove of ragged boys and girls came trooping 'all around;
That she was generous in her gifts they very quickly found.
She scattered many a golden word and many a silver coin,
(For, as a New York lad would say, she'd sixpences "to boin.")
Aunt Mary let her walk alone for true her escorts were.
(They'd "punch the head of anny man that iver hurtted her.")



3.—One day a circus came to town; "Big Bill's Wild Western Show"
And not an urchin in the streets but hoped that he could go.
The morning of the "great parade" fair Fluffy, from her "windy,"
Enjoyed a chance to safely watch a "rae ould Irish shindy."
And this is how it came about to Galway's lasting credit:
A big brass band on horses' backs (a darky 'twas that led it)
Came tooting, booming down the street to every one's delight.
It played the "Wearing of the Green" and almost played it right.

4.—When Fluffy saw the chief himself, her heart almost stood still.
She thought 'twas Traddles in disguise instead of big Wild Bill.
"He's going to ask my hand again if we should meet at dinner,
And if he says a word to-day I guess he'll be a winner."
(But it was not Joe Traddles—he had missed Miss Fluffy's trail,
And speeding fast to Dublin, he that minute was by rail.)
Some elephants, some camels, with rough riders, half a score—
And then from out the city square there rose a sullen roar.



5.—A homely woman on a throne, all powdered up and painted—
Aunt Mary gave a little scream and very nearly fainted.
"The Yankee Beauty Fluffy Ruffles," that was the inscription
That floated o'er the woman's head. Well, talk of a connoption!
The loyal crowd gave vent to howls (to tell it all would irk us),
But what with furnips, fists and eggs they "rough housed", that whole circus.
Next time dear Fluffy went abroad her escort was tremendous.
(From "just as goods" of every kind may heaven e'er defend us.)

Charles Battell Loomis.