

Arthur Charles Green from Auntie Ann
June 1879

DEAN'S EMBOSSED CHROMO TOY BOOKS.





LADY TABITHA'S CONCERT.



TWO Pussies found a happy home
Beside the same bright fire;
And shared as much of food and fun
As Pussies could desire.



They chiefly led a country life,
Their home was near a wood:
But still, within an easy walk
A city's mansion stood.



Grimalkin was the name by which
The elder Puss was known:
The younger one, as Tabitha,
From kittenhood had grown.



The fur of one was light and
grey,
The other dark and brown ;
And every day the brown and
grey
Went trotting up to town.

They liked to see the busy shops,
And through the streets to roam ;
But still, when they returned, they felt
Contented with their home.

One day, when on a sunny bank
The brown Grimalkin sat,
Dame Tabitha came up the path,
To have a friendly chat.

“Grimalkin dear,” she
softly said,
“My mind’s not quite
at rest ;
I’ll tell you all, then, will
you, please
Advise me for the
best ?





“Well, yesterday we took
a walk,
Dame Tortoiseshell and
I,

And when we felt fatigued,
we sat
Upon a bank close
by.

“And there, to while away
the time,
We sang a new duet;
I think you know the
song, 'tis called—
‘Sweet Pussy don’t for-
get!’





“Our voices are sopranos,
both,

But still, it sounded well:
Dame Tortoiseshell sings
charmingly,
Her voice is like a bell.

“We’d finished when a squeaky voice
Rang shrilly through the wood,
And cried, in mocking tones, ‘Hurrah!
Good, Pussies, very good!’



“We looked around surprised and vexed,
And near us on a twig,
We saw an ugly, spotted Thrush;
A little vulgar prig!





“ Dame Tortoiseshell, I
think might take
The sweetly-sounding
flute ;

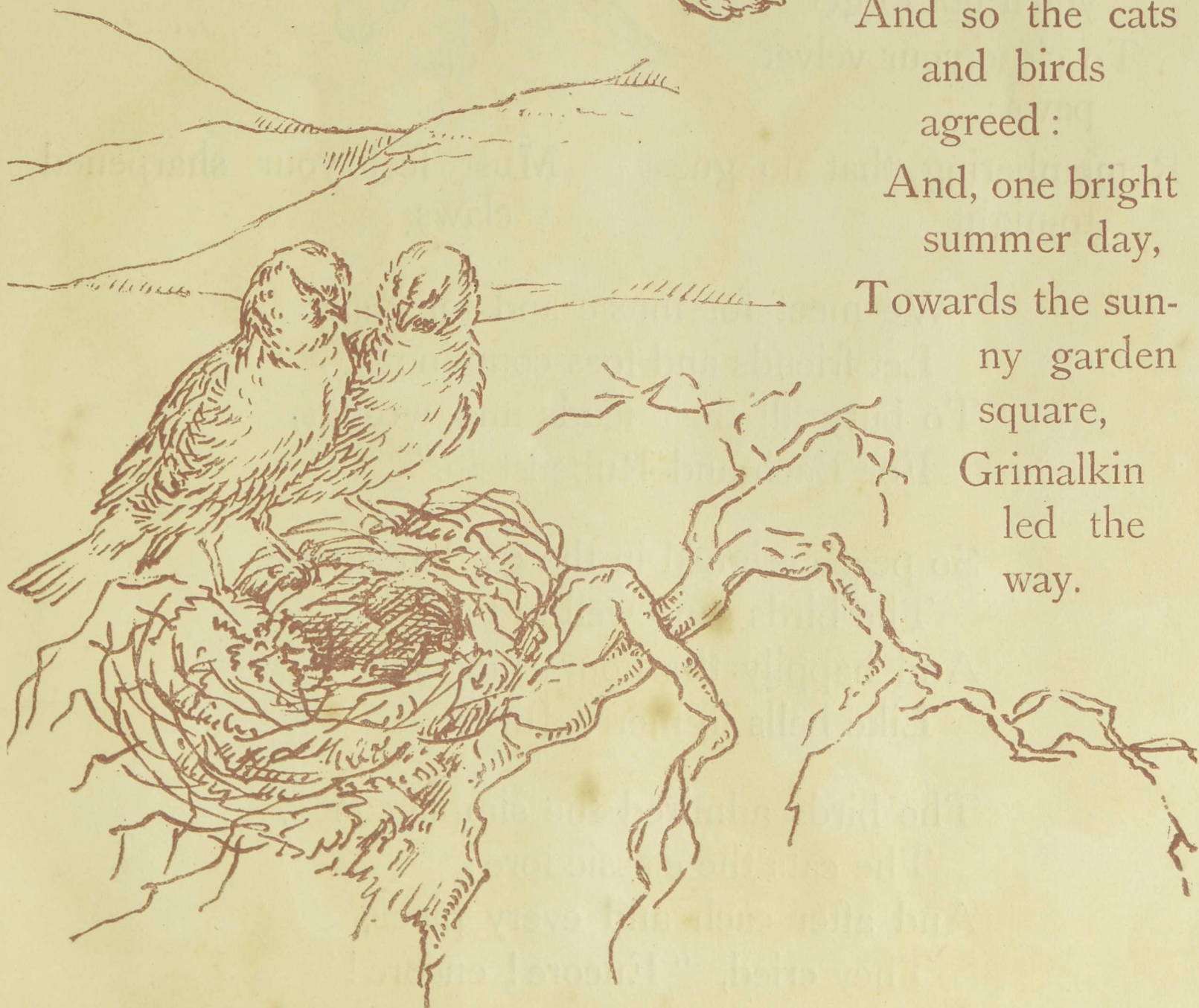
Dear Manx could play the
tambourine,
And you might choose
the lute.”



And so the cats
and birds
agreed :

And, one bright
summer day,

Towards the sun-
ny garden
square,
Grimalkin
led the
way.



And as he walked in solemn state,
He slowly turned his head
Towards the friends who fol-
lowed near,
And, looking at them, said :

‘I hope, my friends,
you’ll not forget
To close your velvet
paws ;

Remembering that no guest
to-night

Must feel your sharpened
claws.

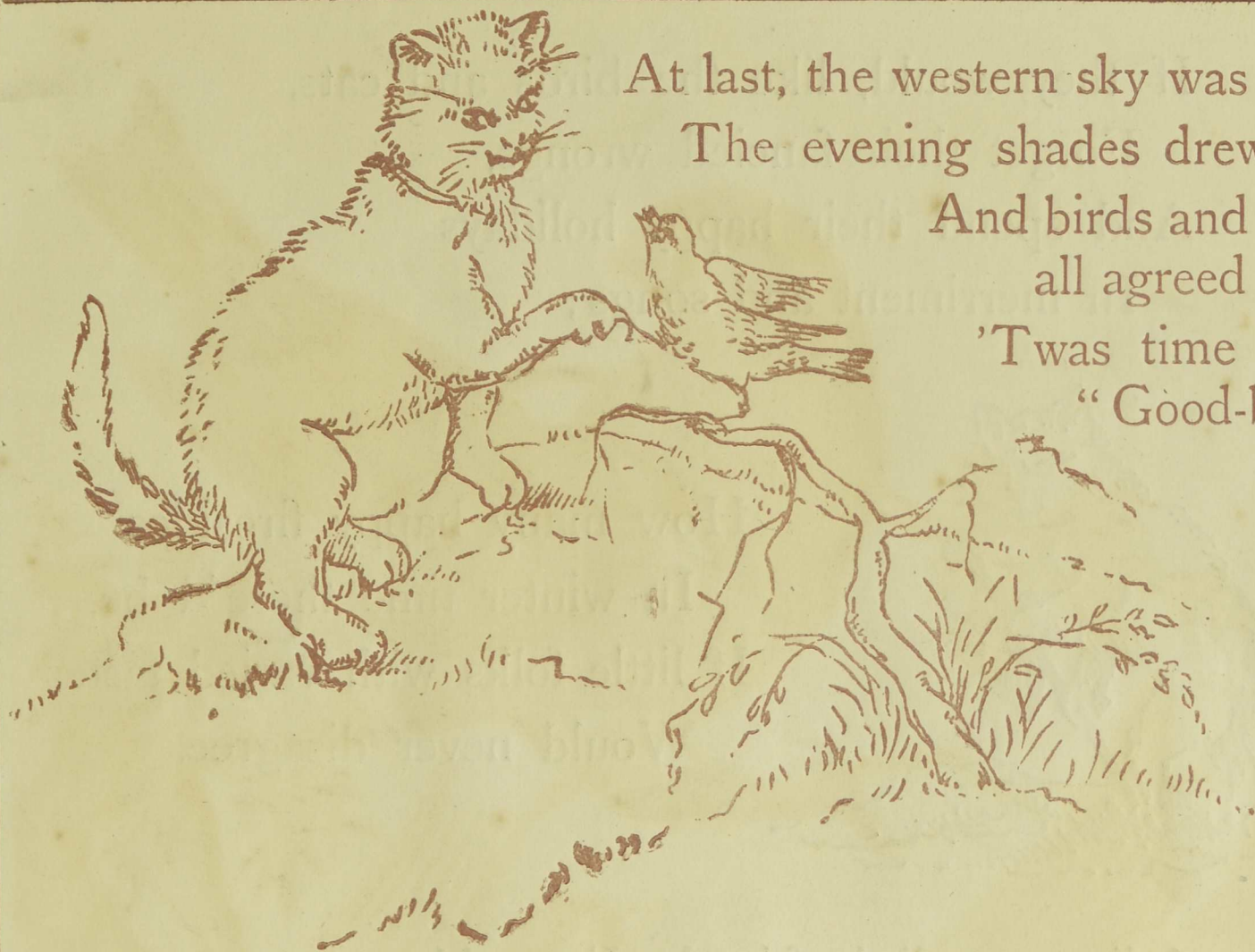
“We meet for music and for song :
Let friends and foes combine
To bury all their feuds and wrongs,
For Bach and Rubenstein.”

So peace reigned in the garden square,
The birds sang well in tune ;
And happily the hours rang out,
Like bells in merry June.

The birds admired the simple songs,
The cats the classic lore ;
And after each and every piece,
They cried, “Encore! encore!”







At last, the western sky was gold,
The evening shades drew nigh ;
And birds and pussies
all agreed
'Twas time to say,
" Good-bye."

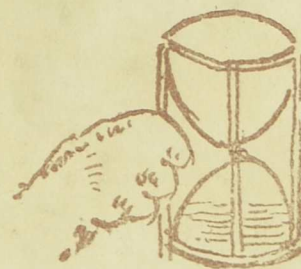
Then all arose with one ac-
cord,
To sing " God save the
Queen !"

And when they parted,
each one said
How happy they had
been.

I know there are some little
things,
Who mostly live in-
doors,

And trot about the busy
world
On twos instead of
fours.

Who would not do so much amiss,
When winter time comes round,
And days are dark with snow and showers,
And jokes and fun abound ;



If they would, like the birds and cats,
Forget their fancied wrongs,
And spend their happy holidays
In merriment and songs;



How many happy firesides
In winter time there'd be,
If little folks with varied tastes
Would never disagree.

Adieu, my little friends, I've told
You all I have to tell.
And now, I hope you'll say with me—
“Dame Tabitha, farewell!”





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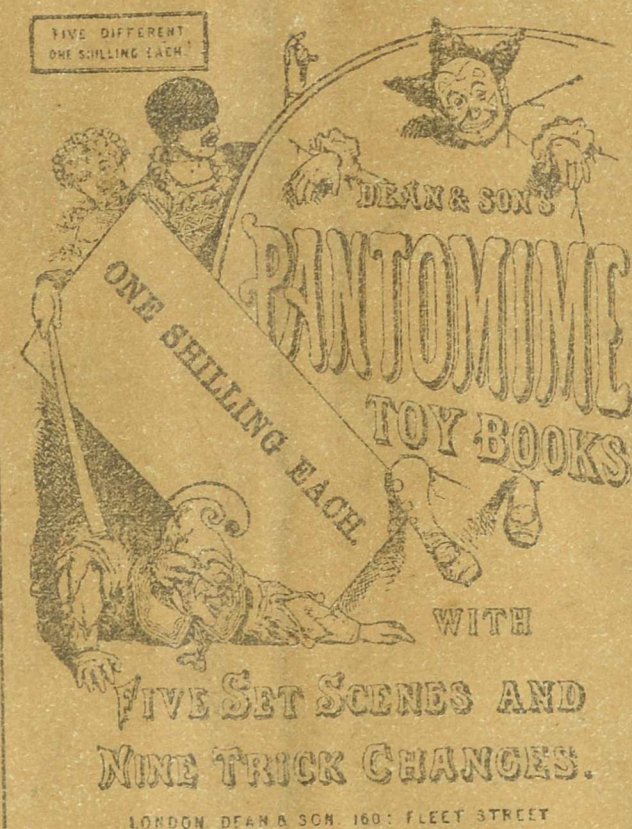
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