

PUSSY'S TEA PARTY

AND
OTHER STORIES



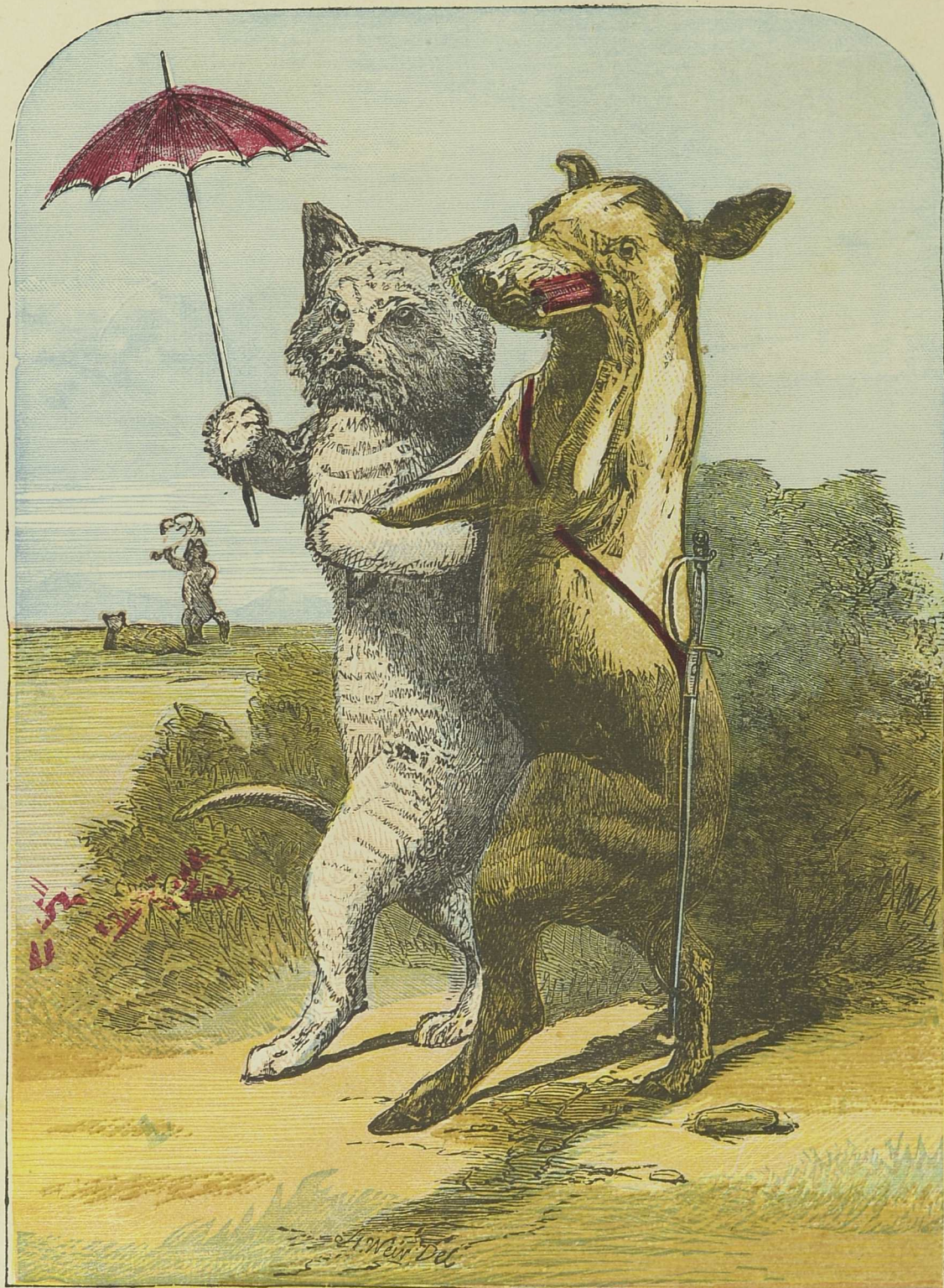
LONDON & T NELSON & SONS EDINBURGH



PUSSY'S TEA PARTY.



WHEN the cat is away the mice will all play,—
So some persons think, and so some persons say;
But Miss Puss too is gay when Miss Brown is away
To see her young friends on a bright summer day.
It is funny to see four cats having tea,
And sitting at table like you or like me.
I think that the artist has made much too free,
For I cannot make out how such parties can be.
Puss Tabby is giving Puss Tiddy a riddle—
“What is that that has neither a north end nor middle?”
Whilst a young lady cat plays a tune in K flat—
A strange key, of course, but the words come in pat.
They are, “Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle;”
I am sure ev’ry cat who learns music knows THAT.



THE WALK.



PIGGIE and Pussie went out for a walk;
 Pussie spoke of the mice she hunted;
 Piggie knew that Miss Puss liked to hear herself talk,
 So he very politely grunted.
 But Puss felt afraid when his cutlass she saw;
 So, to give him no chance to use it,
 She said, "Mister Piggie, pray give me your paw;"
 And how could young Piggie refuse it?



PUSSY'S TROUBLES.



Y dear Mr. Marten, pray what shall I do?
No friend have I left in the field except you;
That bad Tom of mine has gone out on the tiles,—
You know he thinks nothing of running two miles.
Then my three youngest kittens are drowned in a pail.
And that lout of a butcher-boy trod on my tail;
Not a mouse for a fortnight at least have I had,—
Such trouble I'm sure would drive any cat mad.



SLY FOX.



SLY Reynard the Fox fed on chicks, hens, and cocks :
His house was a cave in a wood ;
It was lonely and grim, but it well suited him,
For he never did anything good.
He said, " I like ease, and to do as I please ;
On a soft couch for hours I lie.
No game-cocks I fear, for if they come here,
By my claws and my teeth they shall die."



THE CRUEL TEMPTER.



HE liked to insnare a fine fleshy hare ;
In a week he would coax four or five
To come to his house to see a white mouse—
But no hare ever came out alive.
Young people are apt to be quickly intrapped
By fair words and promises too.
Of the wily beware,—may the Fox and the Hare
Be a lesson of warning to you !





A CASE.



NDEED, Doctor Weasel, my Maggie is bad;
Do, pray, make her better and I shall be glad.
She has a bad tongue, and she has a bad jaw,
And, oh, I can't tell you the weight of her paw!
Last night, shortly after I got into bed,
She knocked her right paw on my poor tender head.
'Twas as hard as a stick, and as heavy as lead;
And, for three hours after, I thought I was dead.



THE DUEL.



IF Dormice fight with swords at night,
It may be wrong, it may be right ;
But till you chance to see the sight,
You need not, dear, believe it quite.
The Moles think not the Dormice brave ;
They stand with spades to dig a grave.
To bury ONE they are not loath,
But they would rather bury BOTH.



CLEVER FROGS.

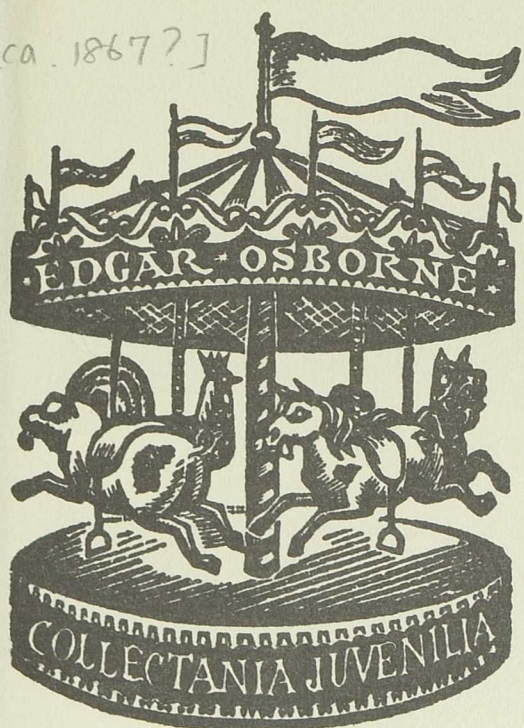


YOUNG Longleap Frog of Greenfield Bog
 Was brave—no frog was braver;
 And what I tell is known full well,—
 He was a clever shaver.
 His brother Tad, a nice frog lad,
 Lived close to where geese cackle,
 Umbrellas sold, and, I am told,
 Made first-rate fishing tackle.

PUSSY'S TEA PARTY...

[ca. 1867?]

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