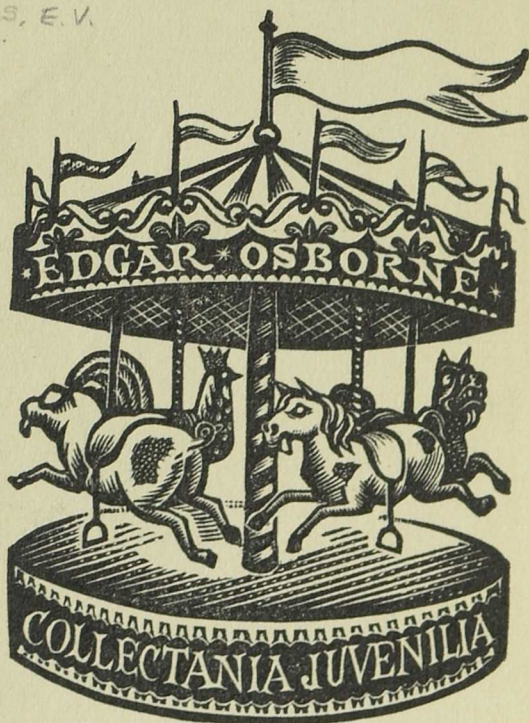


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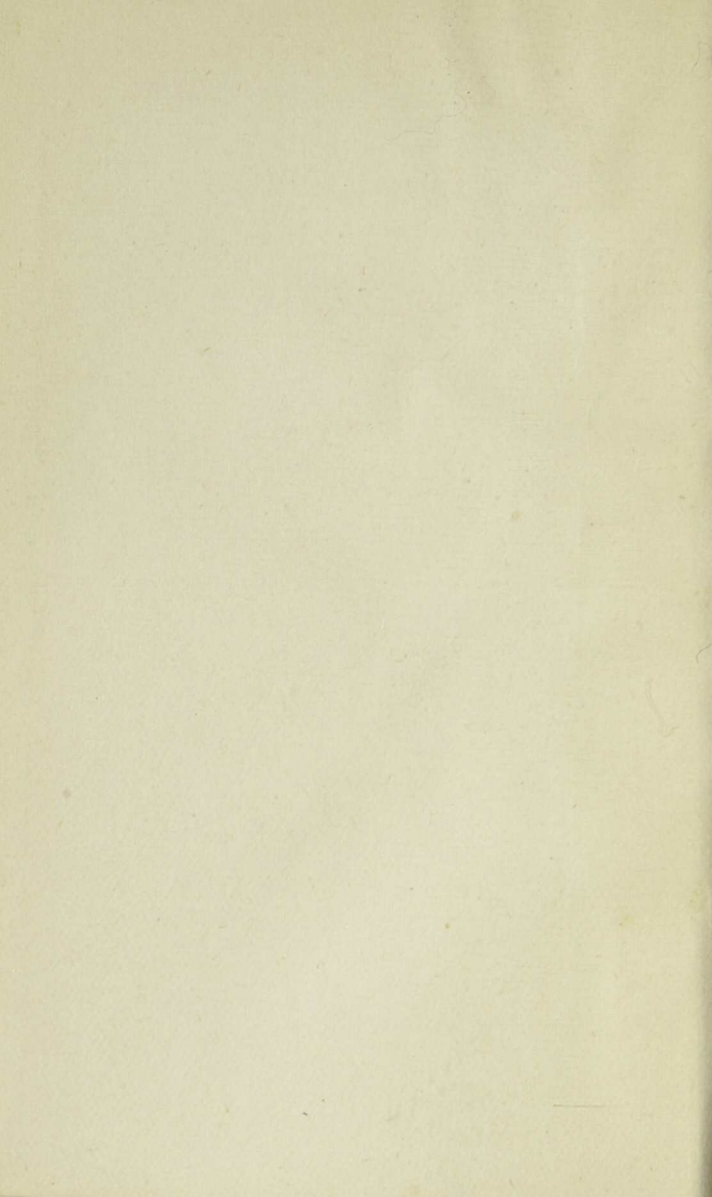
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CHARACTERISTICS BY  
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# A Cat Book

PORTRAITS BY

H. OFFICER SMITH

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E. V. LUCAS

LONDON : GRANT RICHARDS

1900

*First printed July 1900*  
*Reprinted November 1900*



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# A Cat Book





# The Cat's Daintiness

THE cat desirous to be  
fed

Has very little mind for  
bread.

At thick or thin, at new  
or stale,

She waves "No, thank  
you," with her tail.









The  
Cat's Daintiness

*(Continued)*

BUT butter ! she would  
eat a pat.

Such is the nature of a  
cat.





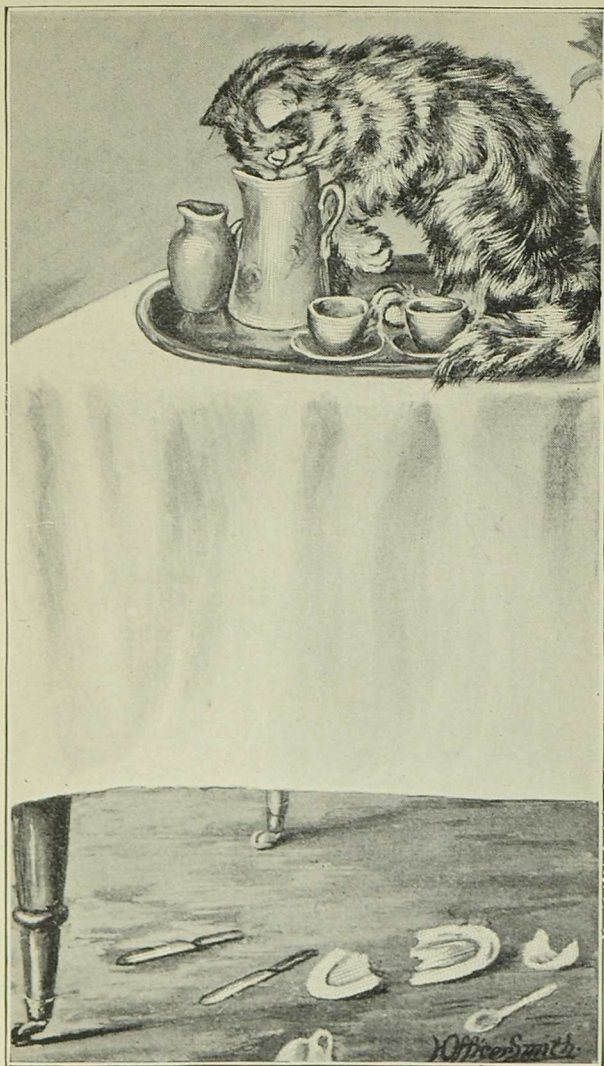




The  
Cat's Greediness

To get at milk a cat will  
do

A hundred things she  
oughtn't to.





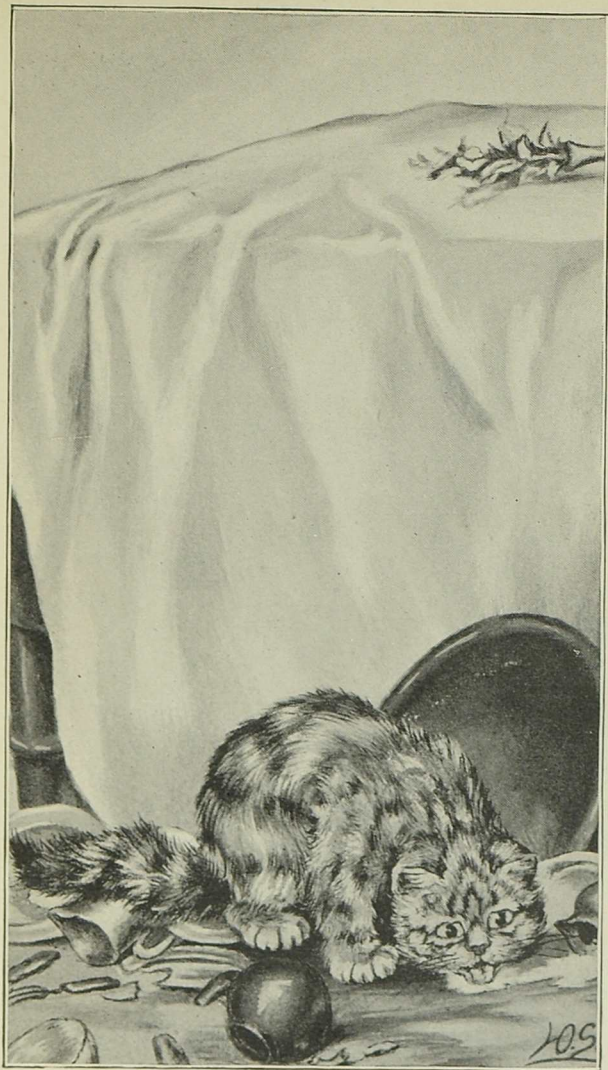


The  
Cat's Greediness

*(Continued)*

BUT if it's cream she  
wants, why then,  
She'll multiply those sins  
by ten.









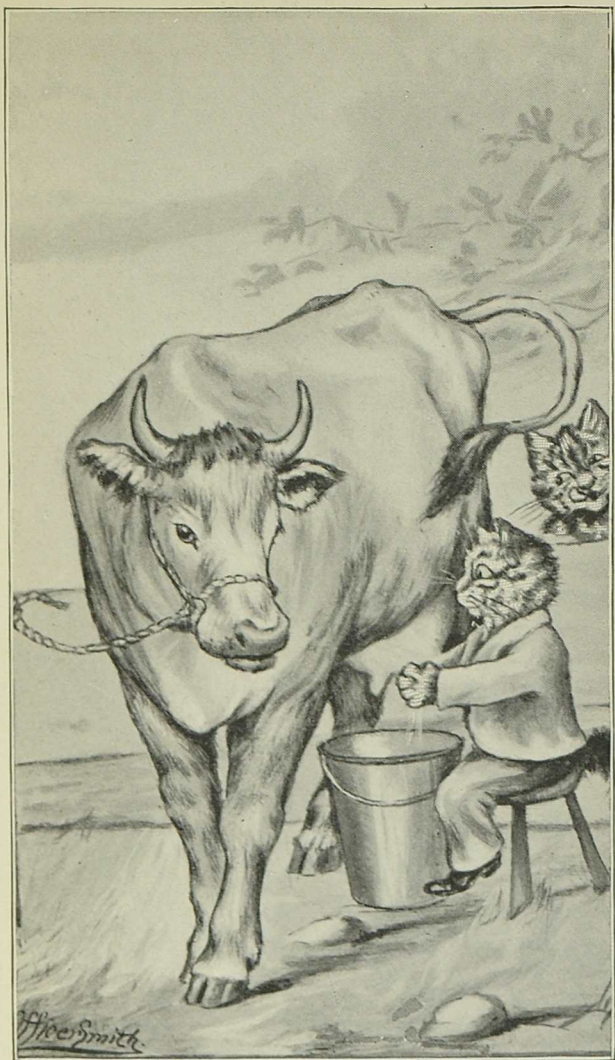
# The Cat's Dream

THE cat (like ourselves)  
has its favourite  
dream,

And the dream it loves  
better than all,

Is to take the large milk-  
pail and fill it with  
cream,

Drawn fresh from the  
cow in the stall.







The  
Cat's Cleanliness

THERE'S nothing by a cat  
desired

So little as a tubbing.









The  
Cat's Cleanliness  
(*Continued*)

ITS tongue does every-  
thing required  
In scrubbing and in  
rubbing.







## The Cat's Conscience

A DOG will often steal a  
bone,

But conscience lets him  
not alone,

And by his tail his guilt  
is known.









# The Cat's Conscience

*(Continued)*

BUT cats consider theft a game,  
And, howsoever you may  
    blame,  
Refuse the slightest sign of  
    shame.

When food mysteriously goes,  
The chances are that Pussy  
    knows  
More than she leads you to  
    suppose.

And hence no need there is  
    for you,  
If Puss should lose a meal or  
    two,  
To feel her pulse and make  
    ado.







# The Cat's Playfulness

HOWEVER you exert your  
wits

To find a plaything meet  
for kits,

You'll never choose a  
better thing

Than ball of worsted,  
wool, or string.









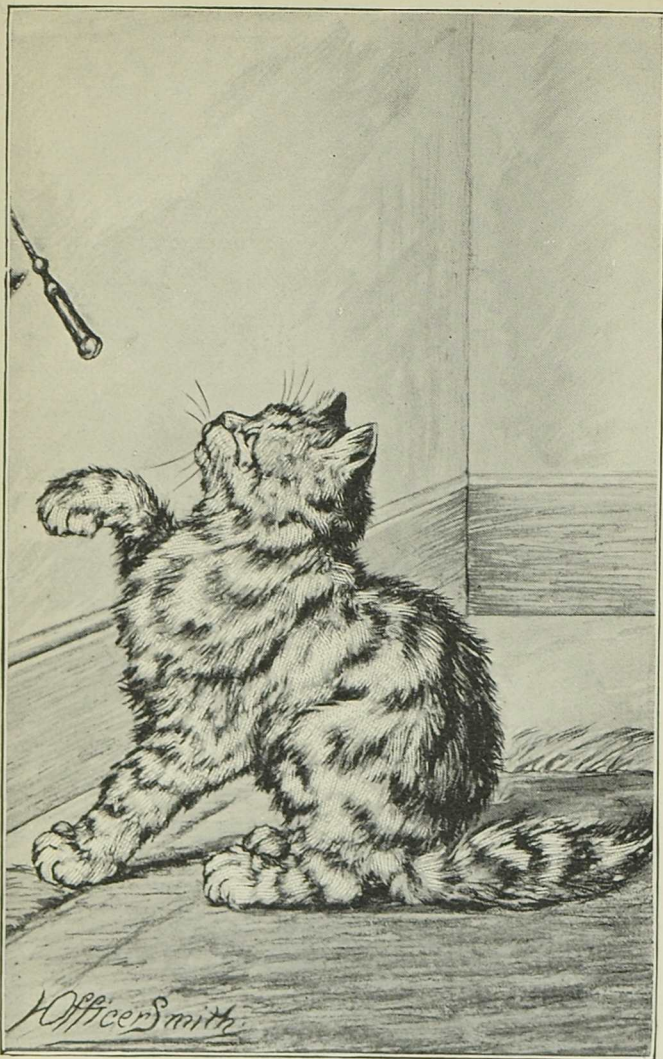
The  
Cat's Playfulness  
(*Continued*)

A COTTON reel is very  
well,

A bell-rope answers for  
a spell ;

But, mark my words, a  
costly ball

Of Berlin wool is best of  
all.



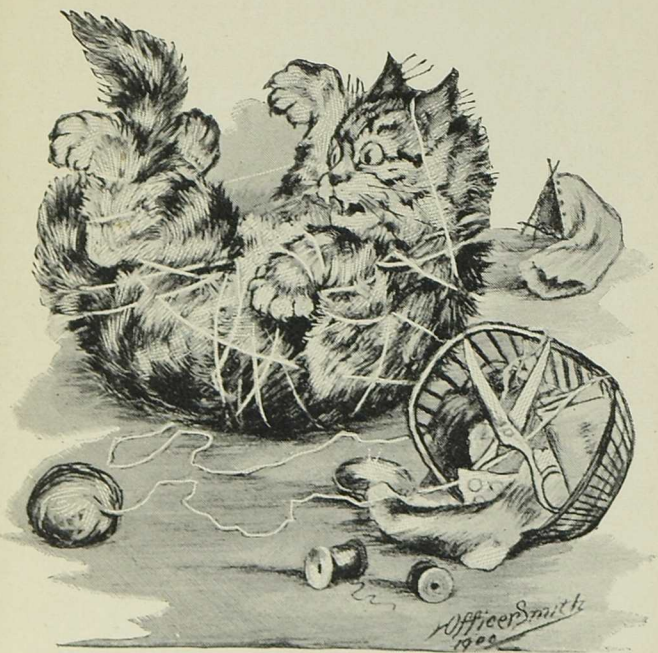




The  
Cat's Playfulness  
(*Continued*)

THEY chase it up and  
down the floor,  
Unwinding more and  
more and more,  
They twist it all about  
the chair,  
And bite and knot it  
everywhere.









The  
Cat's Playfulness  
(*Continued*)

TILL what with twist and  
roll and pull,  
You can't distinguish kit  
from wool,  
And only with another  
skein  
Can knitting be resumed  
again.







# The Cat's Cruelty

Of all the cruel things  
there are,

A cat is cruellest by far.

While other creatures kill  
outright,

To persecute is her de-  
light.





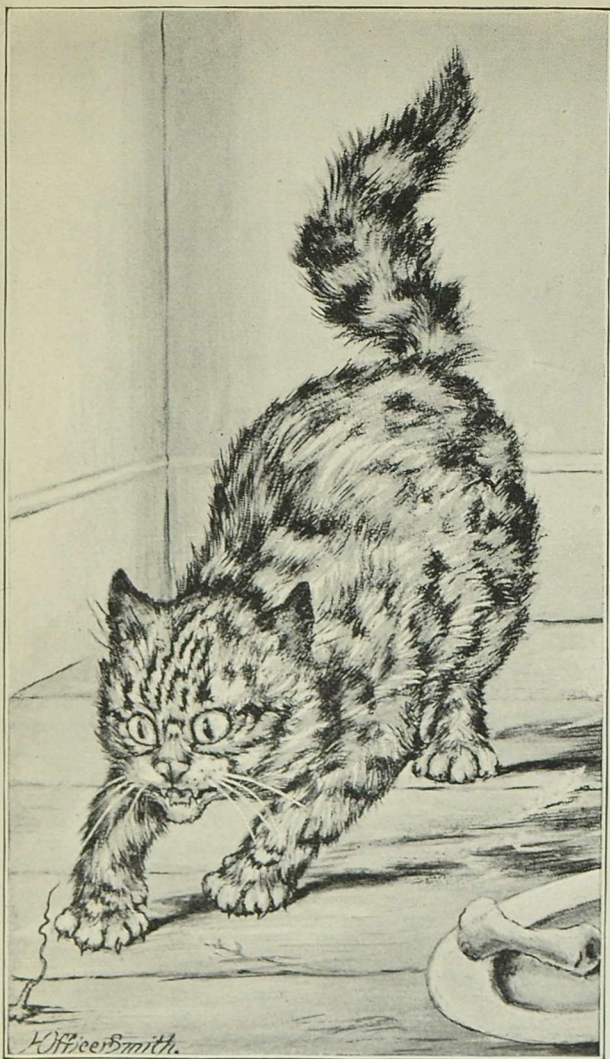




# The Cat's Cruelty

*(Continued)*

So when you hear that  
Pussy's prey  
Successfully has got away,  
You should enthusiastic  
be,  
And ask for marmalade  
at tea.







# The Cat's Fishfulness

ALTHOUGH for milk and mice and  
birds

A cat reserves her choicest words,  
She makes exception in the case  
Of herring, haddock, sole, or  
plaice.

If breakfast should consist of  
these,  
She'll do her very best to please :  
She'll rub against your leg, and  
purr,  
And beg of you to notice her.

This appetite for fish can lead  
To shocking instances of greed ;  
And goldfish in particular  
Dislike to be where pussies are.









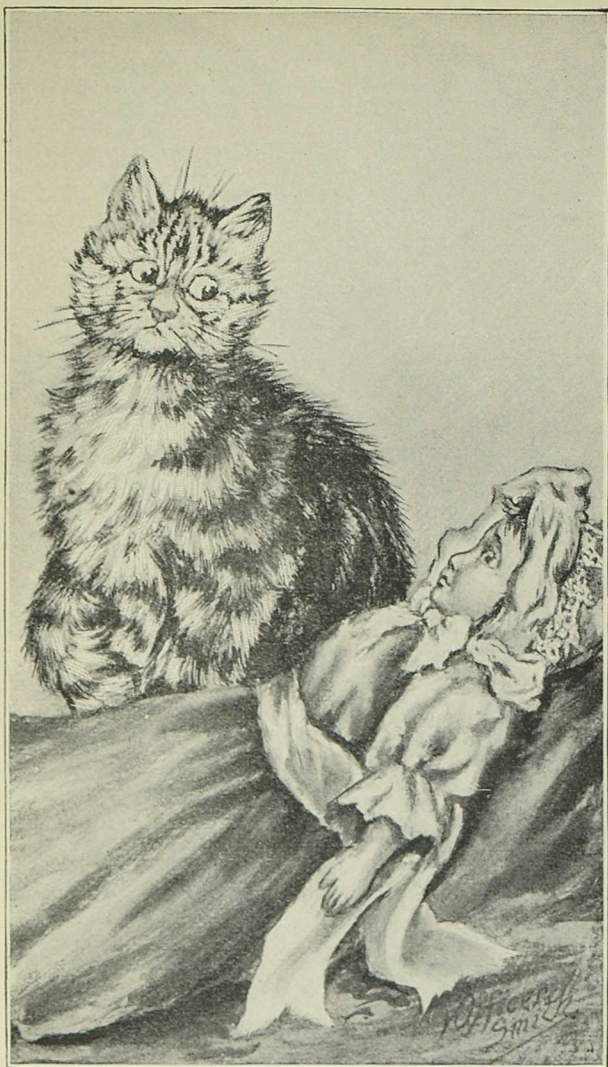
# The Cat's Seriousness

AMONG the things that  
kittens hate,

A doll comes almost  
first :

'Tis bad enough to share  
its plate,

To wear its clothes is  
worst.







The  
Cat's Seriousness  
(*Continued*)

LUXURIOUS or dignified  
No kitten ever looked,  
With bonnet strings  
severely tied,  
And cloak severely  
hooked.







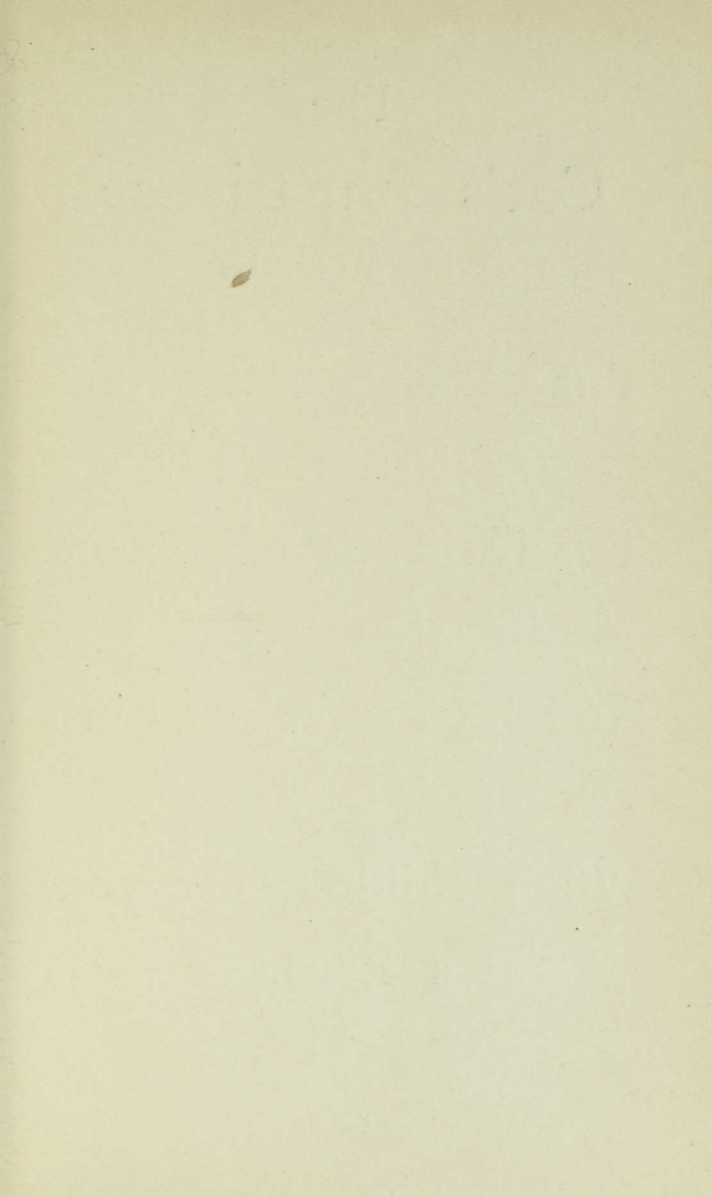


# The Cat's Impatience

AMONG the games a  
Persian cat  
Declines to play with  
rapture at—  
Or join at all except by  
force—  
Is acting as its owner's  
horse.







The  
Cat's Impatience  
(*Continued*)

THE Persian cat's one  
wish is this :

To live a life of perfect  
bliss.

And bliss is far away in-  
deed,

When children use you  
as a steed.









# The Cat's Friends

AMONG the friends that cats  
possess,

Come girls and women first  
of all ;

Unceasingly will they caress  
This comfortable animal.

The man to Puss is also kind,  
But quite the contrary, the  
boy,

Who can, I grieve to mention,  
find,

In teasing her, acutest joy.







# The Cat's Enemies

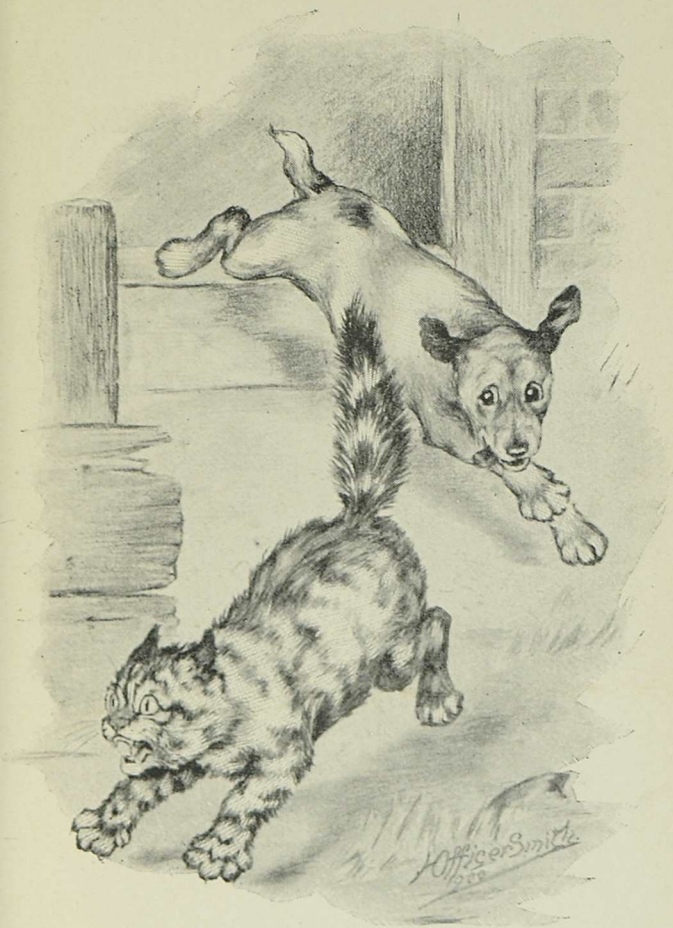
AMONG the cat's persist-  
ent foes,

The dog deserves the  
foremost place :

The moment Puss is  
seen, off goes

The dog in ever-zeal-  
ous chase.







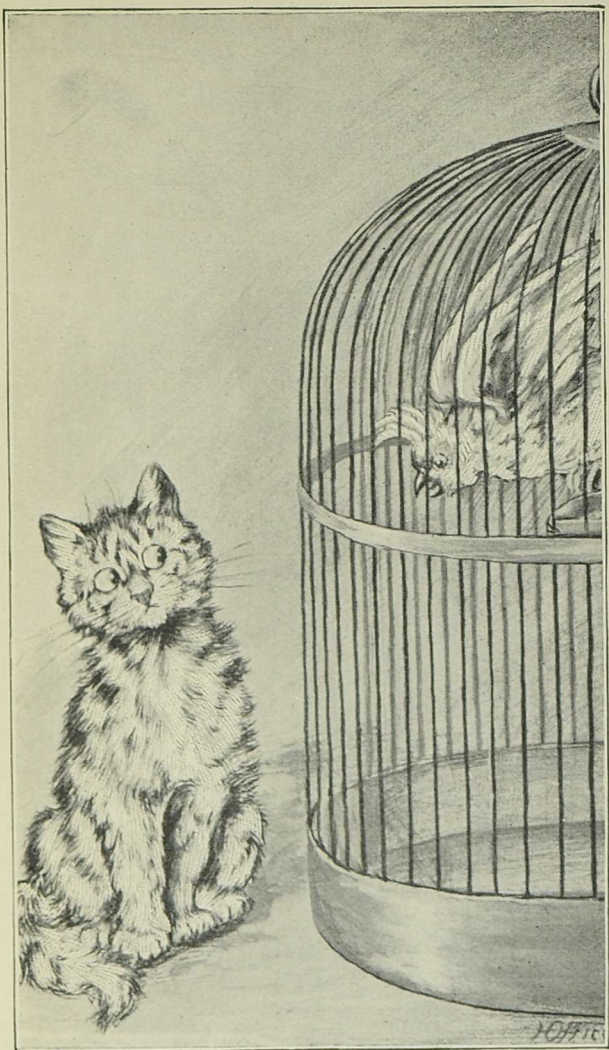


# The Cat's Enemies

*(Continued)*

AND cockatoos and  
parrots hate

The cat, with all their  
strength of beak.







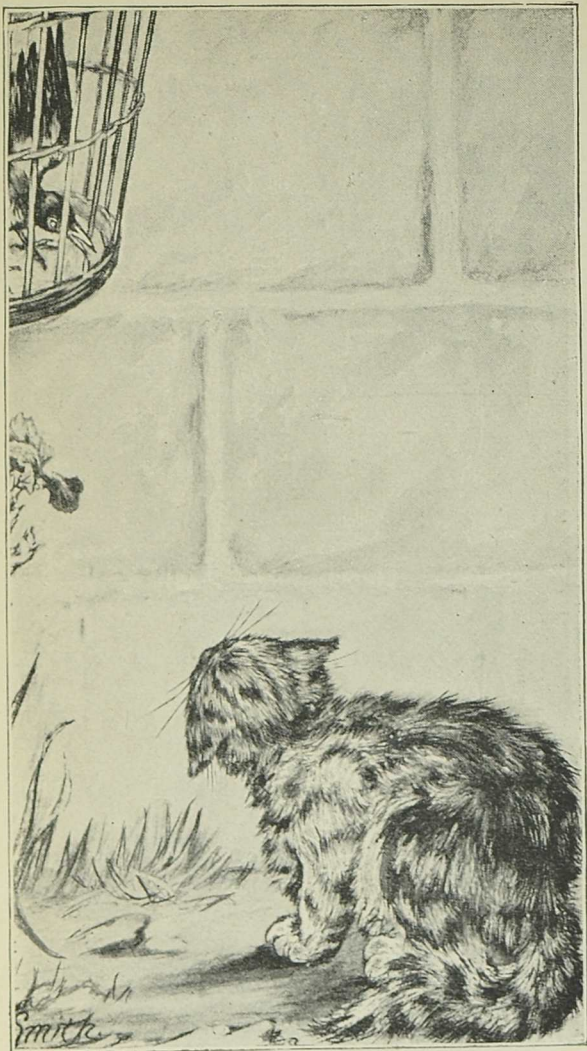
# The Cat's Enemies

*(Continued)*

AND magpies never  
hesitate

To call her coward,  
thief, and sneak.









# The Cat's Short-sightedness

A KITTEN need not be a  
dunce,

Nor specially absurd,  
To see no difference at  
once

Between a bee and  
bird.







The Cat's  
Short-sightedness  
(*Continued*)

IT has to learn by slow  
degrees  
That, though they both  
have wings,  
There's far too little meat  
on bees,  
And far too many  
stings.









## The Cat's Masterfulness

THE hungry child intent to feed  
Is well advised to hide,  
For pussy-cats beset by greed  
Are not to be denied.

Suppose the slice of cake is big,  
Suppose the child's a mite,  
With all the ardour of the pig  
They'll ply their appetite.

One cat alone could be withstood,  
The child could win the day ;  
With two to one it's little good  
To try to get away.







# The Cat's Sleeplessness

By nature's laws

The dog bow-wows,  
The ass hee-haws,  
The cat miaous.

The worst miaous  
Occur at night,  
When cats carouse  
With all their might.

A cat miaous  
Upon the tiles,  
In twenty thous-  
and different styles.









## The Cat's Future

THE dog is really useful, for he  
helps to guard the house,  
And he'll carry your umbrella  
or your glove ;  
But a cat does simply nothing  
save to catch the luckless  
mouse,  
Which no one could account an  
act of love.

In exchange for cream and butter  
and the other things she  
loots,  
'Twould be a just and proper  
thing indeed  
To persuade our friend the Pussy  
to put polish on our boots ;







# The Cat's Future

(*Continued*)

AND—instead of midnight caroling—to read.









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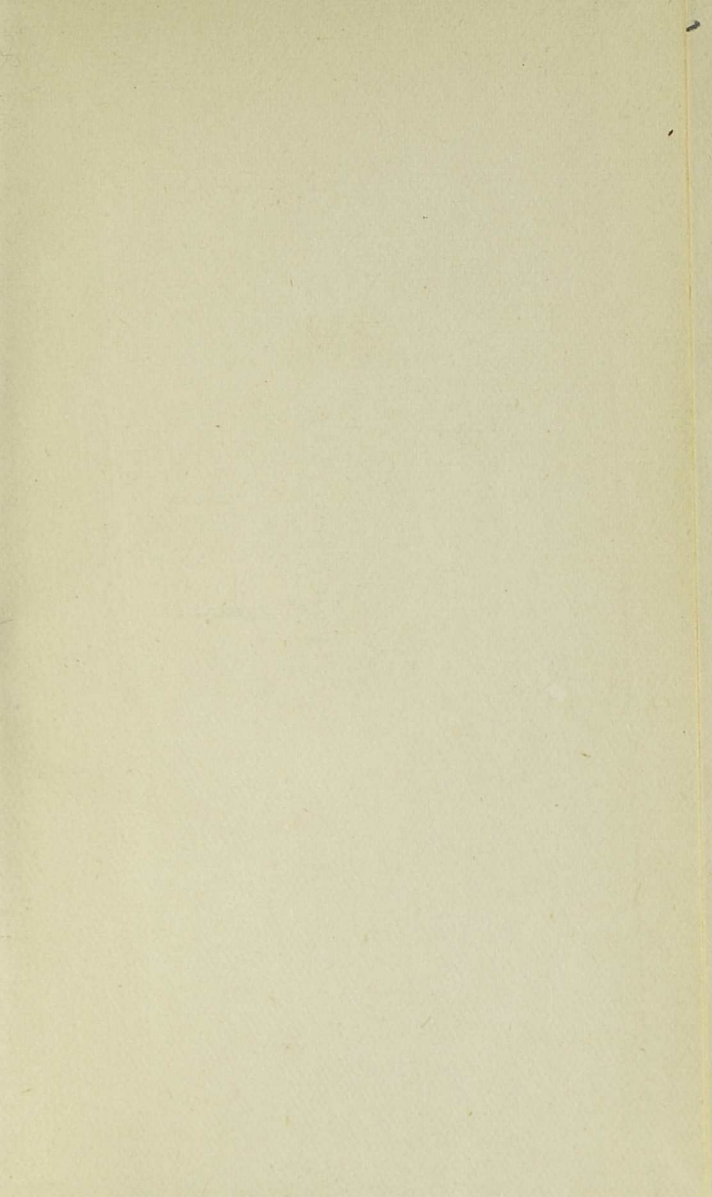
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