THE

HISTORY

OF

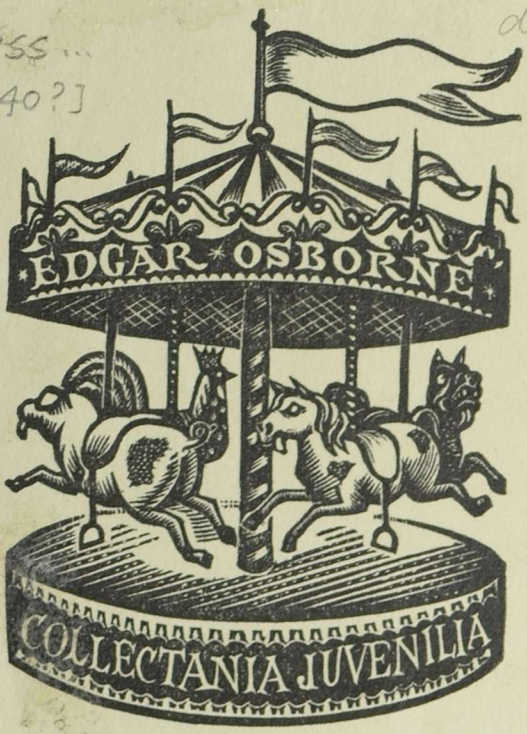
PUSS IN BOOTS.

WITH A

COLOURED ENGRAVING.

DERBY:
THOMAS RICHARDSON.

FT
PUSS...
[1840?]
dr



37131 032 422 032
I,41

This book forms part of
The Osborne Collection of Children's Books
presented to the Toronto Public Libraries by
Edgar Osborne
in memory of his wife
MABEL OSBORNE

Puss presenting a rabbit to the king.

The king offering his daughter in marriage to the marquis.

PUSS IN BOOTS.

THE

HISTORY

OF

PUSS IN BOOTS.

WITH A

COLOURED ENGRAVING.

DERBY:
THOMAS RICHARDSON.

PUSS IN BOOTS.

THERE was a certain miller, who had three sons, amongst whom, at his death, he divided his property in the following manner: to the eldest, he gave his mill; to the second, his ass; and to the youngest, his cat.

Each of the brothers now took his own, for they employed no attorney, their little fortunes being unequal to that expense.

The poor fellow who had nothing but the cat, complained that he was hardly dealt with; "for," said he, "my brothers may join their stocks, and so do well in the world; but, as for me, when I have eaten my cat, and made a fur cap of his skin, I may starve."

The cat, who was all this while, just inside the door of a cupboard, listening, now ventured out, and thus addressed her master: "Do not be so much grieved, my dear mas-

ter; only give me a bag, and get a pair of boots made for me, so that I may scamper through the dirt and the hedges, and you shall see that you are not so badly off as you think yourself."

The cat's master, though he did not put much faith in these assurances, yet, from having repeatedly observed the cunning tricks of Puss, when trying to catch rats and mice, such as hanging by the hind legs, as if he was dead, hiding in the meal, &c. thought it very possible that he might be of some service to him now, in his forlorn condition.

When the cat was furnished with the different things he had solicited, he began to equip himself. He first pulled on the boots; and, next, he slung the bag about his neck, taking hold of the strings with his fore paws. He then begged his master to keep up his spirits, repeating his conviction of speedy and certain success, and stepped boldly forth on his adventurous enterprise.

The first attempt Puss made, was to creep into a warren abounding in exceedingly fine rabbits. He first put some bran and some parsley into his bag; and then stretched himself out at full length, as if he was dead. In

this manner he waited for some young rabbits, who, as yet were not aware of the nature of his cunning tricks, to come and jump into his bag, lured by the scent and appearance of the nice things contained in it.

Soon after he had lain down, every thing happened precisely as he desired it should. A giddy young rabbit crept into the bag, and began nibbling at the parsley, when Puss drew the strings suddenly, and caught him, and killed him at once, without mercy.

Puss, quite proud of his good fortune, went straight to the palace, where he solicited permission, in the name of his master, to speak with the king; whereupon he was ushered into the ante-chamber, which he found crowded with lords and ladies, in the most sumptuous apparel.

When he was shown into his majesty's presence chamber, he made a very low bow, and, addressing the king, in a most courteous tone, said: "I have the honour to be the bearer to you, sire, of this rabbit, from the warren of my Lord the Marquis of Carrabas; who has commissioned me to present it to your majesty, with his most dutiful and humble assurances of the most profound respect."

Now, the Marquis of Carrabas was only a fictitious name, that the cat had thought proper to bestow upon his master.

"Tell my Lord Marquis of Carrabas," answered the king, "that I accept of his present with great pleasure, and that I am exceedingly obliged to him."

Shortly after this, Puss laid himself down, in the same manner, in a field of corn, and had the same good fortune as before; for two fine partridges ran into his bag. He killed them, and carried them instantly to the palace. The king received them as he had done the rabbit, and gave orders to his chamberlain to see Puss was served with some refreshment; and he was accordingly regaled upon the most delicious viands and refreshing wines, served upon the most costly and magnificent plate, a profusion of servants attending him during his repast, and selecting for him the choicest morsels, and the most exquisite draughts, as also the rarest and ripest fruit.

In this way, he carried a great many presents of game to the king, always saying that they came from my Lord Marquis of Carrabas; and never failing to take one, at least, every week.

One day Puss heard that the king was to take a ride that morning, by the river side, with his daughter, who was one of the most beautiful princesses in the world. On this, he said to his master, "If you will only follow my advice, your fortune will be made. Take off your clothes, and bathe yourself in the river, in the spot which I will point out to you, and leave the rest to me."

His master, fully sensible what a good and faithful servant Puss had been to him, did, therefore, just as he desired, though he could not guess what he meant by it. While he was bathing, the king passed by, when Puss set up a loud cry for help, or his master, the Lord Marquis of Carrabas, would be drowned. The king, hearing the cries, put his head out of the window of his carriage, and enquired the cause; when, seeing the very cat who had brought him so many presents, and being told by him that his master was drowning, he desired his servants to run and do all they could for my Lord the Marquis.

Whilst they were busy, taking his master out of the river, Puss ran to the king's carriage, and told his majesty, that, whilst his master was bathing, some thieves had stolen

his clothes, which he had left on the bank of the river. But the fact was, the cunning cat had hid them himself underneath a large stone.

When the king heard this, he dispatched the officers of his wardrobe for one of his best and handsomest suits, which he gave to my Lord Marquis of Carrabas; and, at the same time, he paid him a profusion of compliments. The splendid apparel that was brought, made the cat's master look like a prince; and being, naturally, very handsome, they set him off to such an advantage, that the king's daughter was delighted with him, and, after he had exchanged a few tender glances with her, fell desperately in love with him; and the king invited him into the carriage, to take a ride with them.

The cat, charmed to fancy how well all this would end, ran on before; when, coming to a corn-field, where the reapers were at work, Puss said to the men, "Good people, if you do not tell the king, when he passes this way, that this field belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carrabas, you shall all of you be chopped up as small as minced-meat, and have your bones ground into powder."

The king did not fail to ask the reapers who was the owner of the field. "My Lord the Marquis of Carrabas," said they, all at once; for the words of the cat had frightened them terribly. "A fine piece of land this, my Lord Marquis:" said the king. "Yes, sire," answered he; "and very productive, too."

Puss still went on before; and next came to a field where some men were making the reaped corn into sheaves. He said to them, "Good folk, if you do not tell the king, when he passes this way, that the corn you have reaped in this field belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carrabas, you shall all of you be chopped up, like minced-meat."

The king came by a minute or two afterwards, and asked who was the owner of the corn. "My Lord Marquis of Carrabas," replied they. And the cat still going on, and giving the same orders to all the people he met with, the king imagined the Marquis to be the richest nobleman he had ever known.

At last Puss came to a large stone castle, belonging to an ogre, and the richest one ever told of; for all the lands the king had passed through were really his. Puss had learnt all the ogre's powers beforehand; when, asking

to speak with him, he said: "that he could not pass so near his castle, without doing himself the honour to ask after his health."

The ogre received him as civilly as an ogre could do; asking him to be seated. "I am told," said Puss, "that you are able to change yourself into all kinds of creatures, a lion, or an elephant, for instance?" "True," replied the ogre, gruffly; "and to show you that it is so, I will now take the form of a lion." Puss was so much alarmed, when he found himself so near a lion, that he jumped away, and ran up to the top of the castle, though not without great difficulty, not having been used to boots previously, on similar occasions.

After two or three minutes had elapsed, the cat saw the ogre had returned to his proper shape again; so he came down, owning that he had been greatly alarmed. "I have heard, too," said Puss, "but can scarcely credit it, that you are able to turn yourself into very small creatures also, as often as you like, such as a rat or a mouse; but, indeed, this cannot be true, I think?" "Well, then," said the ogre, "you shall soon see;" and in a moment he changed himself into a mouse, and began to run about the room. As soon as ever Puss

cast his eyes upon the ogre in this form, he sprang upon him, and devoured him, in one mouthful.

In the mean time, the king came near the fine castle of the ogre, and ordered his coachman to drive up to the gates, that he might take a nearer view of it. When Puss heard the noise of the carriage wheels, he came out at the gates, and said, "Your majesty is welcome to the castle of my Lord Marquis of Carrabas." "What!" said the king, turning to the cat's master, "and is this castle yours, too, my Lord Marquis of Carrabas? I never saw any thing finer than the building, nor more beautiful than the park and pleasure-grounds around it; I dare say, the inside is quite as splendid as the outside. Pray, my Lord Marquis, allow me to have a sight of it."

The cat's master gave his hand to the young princess, to help her to alight from the carriage, when they followed the king, who went first, Puss bowing the way. They entered a spacious hall, where they found ready, on the table, a magnificent dinner, which the ogre had prepared for some friends, who were that day to visit him: but, when they heard

that the king and the princess, accompanied by some great personages of the court, were there, they were afraid to come.

The king was highly pleased with the manners and princely fortune of the Marquis of Carrabas, and the young princess, too, had fallen deeply in love with him; so that, when the king had partaken slightly of the ogre's rich banquet, and his spirits were elevated by a few goblets of wine, he said to him, "My Lord Marquis of Carrabas, it will be your own fault, if you do not speedily become my son-in-law." When the cat's master heard this, he bowed, and returned his majesty a thousand dutiful thanks, saying, he was afraid he was not worthy of so high an honour; but, as the king would have it so, he joyfully accepted the hand of the princess, and they were married that very day.

In his good fortune, he did not forget his kind cat, who had been the cause of it all. Puss was made a lord of the bedchamber, and never ran after rats and mice any more, but for diversion.

THE END.

Printed by Thomas Richardson, Friar-Gate, Derby.

RICHARDSON'S

LIBRARY OF AMUSEMENT.

Two Shillings each, neatly half bound.

Choice Poetry.
Edgar and Louis.
Edwin and Henry.
Elizabeth; or, the Exiles of Siberia.
Fourfooted Monarch; or, Anecdotes of the Elephant.
History of Rasselas.
Juvenile Reader.
Original Tales.
Paul and Virginia.
Robinson Crusoe.
Rural Walks.
Shepherd's Boy of Snowdon Hill.
Story of Pigou, a Malay Boy.
Story of Little Ben.

Sixpence Each.

Beauty and Beast.
Blue Beard.
Children in the Wood.
Fables for Children.
Jack and the Bean-stalk.
Natural History.
Pretty Tales for Youth.
Red Riding-hood.
Robin Hood.
Robinson Crusoe.
Select Poetry for Children.
Seven Champions.
Sinbad the Sailor.

PAMPHLETS,

Coloured Frontispieces, 6d. each.

Art of Legerdemain.
Bamfylde Moore Carew.
Baron Munchausen's Travels.
Doctor Faustus.
Dream-book.
Dutchess of C——.
George Barnwell.
Hoggart, the Murderer.
Jane Shore.
Mary, the Maid of the Inn.
Nixon's Propnecies.
Norwood Gipsy.
Turpin, the Highwayman.

Three-pence each.

Children in the Wood.
Cinderella.
Cock Robin.
Goody Two-shoes.
Jack the Giant Killer.
John Gilpin.
Mother Hubbard and her Dog.
Natural History.
Nursery Rhymes.
Richardson's Juvenile Cabinet.
Select Pieces for the Nursery.
Tom Thumb.
Whittington and his Cat.

Two-pence each, with a coloured engraving.

Ali Baba, or the Forty Thieves
Beauty and the Beast.
Blue Beard.
Jack and the Bean-stalk.
Jack the Giant-killer.
Little Jack.
Puss in Boots.
Robinson Crusoe.
Seven Champions.
The White Cat.
Tom Thumb.
Valentine and Orson.