

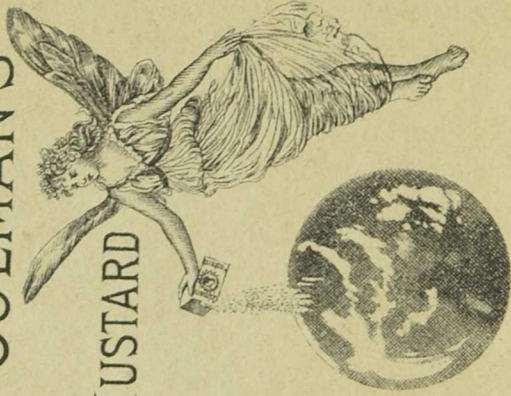


Puss IN BOOTS

Wishing you a bright and Happy Christmas

COLMAN'S

MUSTARD



ALL OVER THE WORLD.

PUSS IN BOOTS

A MILLER lay a-dying, his three sons round him stood,
And listened while he thus disposed of all his worldly good.
'There are but three things I possess, a mill, an ass, a cat,
And when I'm gone, I trust you will not quarrel over that.
My eldest son shall have the mill, my second shall receive
My faithful ass, whilst to the third nought but my cat I leave.'
Soon after this the father died, and thus it came to pass
That the first son turned miller, the second drove the ass.

The youngest son took Pussy, but grumbled at his share,
Thinking he'd starve, but Pussy said, 'Dear master, don't
despair ;

By sitting down and sighing, no good was ever done,
And 'tis well known that "faint heart fair lady never won ;"
But if you let me have a pair of good top boots you'll see
That I will get a living both-for yourself and me.'
At this, the master roused himself, and said, 'There's sense
in that,
More than I ever thought I'd hear by listening to a cat.'



And so, the cat was put in boots, and thus he hunting went,
And every day a load of game unto the King was sent.
And Puss in Boots, the messenger, bowed low, and said 'I bring
This gift from the Marquis of Carabas to his Majesty the King.'
The King received all graciously, and said to Puss one day,
'I'll be glad to see your master next time he comes this way.'
So Puss ran home delighted, and to his master said,
'At Court you'll be presented, and the King's daughter wed.'
The master, who was angry, replied, 'Upon my word,
I really thought you had more sense, pray don't be so absurd.'

'Tis very clear you cannot see an inch beyond your nose,
What would they think of me at Court in this old suit of
- clothes ?'

But Puss vouchsafed no answer, well knowing 'twas no good
To attempt to reason with a man when in an angry mood
But when his master cooled a bit, Puss bravely tried again,
And said, ' I never will believe your fortune's on the wane.
Now listen and I'll guarantee that all will turn out right
If only you will trust me and not get in a fright.

To-morrow you must manage to be bathing in the stream
Just at the time the King drives past, and then begin to scream
“ Help ! help ! for I am drowning ;” and then I too will shout,
“ My lord the noble Marquis. O come and pull him out.”
The King, of course, will stop to save a lord from being
drowned
And when you're safely landed, for your clothes we'll all
look round,



But vainly they'll be sought for, for I'll take good care
That the old clothes you've now got on, don't turn up any-
where.

No doubt his Majesty the King will graciously propose
That you should to the Palace drive, and get a suit of clothes.
Of course you will at once accept, and then I'll humbly say,
"My lord, with your permission, to your castle I'll away."
If fortune favor us thus far, I'll trust her for the rest,
And while I'm gone, to please the King pray do your very
best.'

Now, next day, as the royal coach in state was driven by,
His Majesty was startled by a shrill and sudden cry.
The royal coach at once was stopped, and, very strange to say,
Events turned out as they were planned upon the previous day.
The King drove to the palace, beside the rescued man,
And Puss in Boots then hurried off to carry out his plan.
With his new boots he seemed to fly through fields and over
 stiles,
And in about an hour had travelled fifty miles.

This brought him to the broad estates of an Ogre strong
and grim,

The terror of the neighbourhood, everyone hated him.

His serfs were working in the fields, and Pussy soon found out

They'd like a change of masters if it could be brought about.

Then Puss said, 'Nothing is easier, now just attend to me.

Go tell all men on this estate that when the King they see,

If he ask to whom these lands belong, to say with one accord,

To the noble Marquis of Carabas, our great and gracious
lord.'

This done, our Pussy with one bound crosses the vast estates,
And in another moment stands before the castle gates.
Of course they're closed, but Pussy does not stop to ring
the bell,

But quietly creeps beneath the bars, which answers just as well.
He passes up the castle stairs with quick and noiseless tread,
And hears the Ogre tramping in a chamber overhead.

Puss then confronts the monster, who starts, and says,
'What's that ?

As sure as I'm an Ogre, I think I see a cat !'

Then Pussy bowed, and said, 'My lord, your words are
very true,

I am a cat, but may I ask most humbly, Who are you?'

The Ogre stared in grim surprise, then said, 'If you've not
heard

Who I am, I'll soon let you know, for that you have my word.

I am the Ogre Calaban, and can take any shape,

A lion, tiger, ass, or dog, a baby or an ape.'

Then Puss just smiled and quietly said, 'That may be very
true,

But there is one thing which I don't believe that you can do;

By it I'd like to put your boasted power to the test ;
Just turn yourself into a mouse, and I'll believe the rest.'
The Ogre scornfully replied, ' I'll very soon do that,
Although my word has never yet been doubted by a cat.
E'en as he spoke a mouse appeared in the grim Ogre's place,
And Pussy, without loss of time, immediately gave chase.
He pounced upon the little mouse and ate it in a trice,
So perhaps in future you'll believe that cats in boots catch
mice.



Then Puss summoned the servants, and told them in a word
That the noble Marquis of Carabas thenceforth would be
their lord.

He bade them then bring out at once the Ogre's coach of
state,

And drive to fetch their master, as it was getting late.

When the coach drove to the palace the gates were opened wide.
And Puss in Boots stepped from the coach and quickly went
inside.

When, after due announcement, before the King he stood,
He saw at once his master had done the best he could ;
For lo ! he sat quite lovingly close by the Princess' side,
And the poor King to keep awake, alas ! had vainly tried.
For he found out the truth of what is said by every one,
That two is splendid company, whilst three of course is none.
So Puss in Boots reluctantly disturbed the tête-à-tête
By saying, ' Sir, your coach is waiting at the palace gate ;
And further, in accordance with your lordship's strict behests,
I have prepared your castle to receive your royal guests.'

The Marquis then arose, and bade his Majesty farewell,
And then he kissed the Princess' hand, though really I can't tell
What in her ear he whispered ; but all that I can say
Is that the King and Princess called on him the next day.
And as they both rode thither, they heard that near and far
The woods and fields around belonged to the Lord of Carabas.
At last they reached the castle, and there, of course, they met
Their noble host the Marquis, who scarcely even yet
Could realize the wondrous change which a few hours had
wrought,
For that the King would be his guest, he surely never thought.



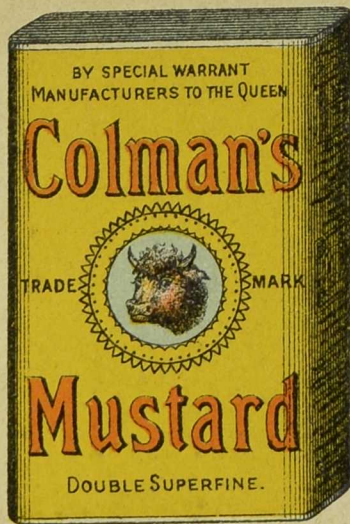
And after luncheon as he sat by the fair Princess' side
He asked the lovely lady if she would be his bride.
She answered 'Yes' and thus, ere long, the peal of wedding bells
To every subject in the land the joyful tidings tells.
The wedding guests came pouring in from north, south, west,
and east,
And Pussy was appointed Major Domo at the feast.

Now I have told the story, hear what I've got to say,
Though Puss in Boots was clever, don't follow in his way.

For though there's nothing wrong in being clever, quick,
and shrewd,
There's nothing worse than being so instead of being good.
Be sure, then, that throughout your life whatever you may do,
You never stoop to say a thing that's not exactly true.
Just follow the old adage, you'll find it a good plan,
Be good, my child, and let all those be clever men who can.

T. E. M.

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