

worthy master and his kind young mistress, and he succeeded beyond his hopes; almost everybody saw that he was desirous to do his duty, and to excel in all he tried to do. Alice was more and more satisfied with his conduct, and heard with pleasure of the great progress he was making in his studies. But the cook continued as surly as ever, although she must have seen he no longer minded her ill-temper as he used to do.

While matters were thus going on at home, Mr Fitzwarren's ship, the *Unicorn*, was slowly pursuing her voyage to a distant part of Africa. In those days the art of sailing was but little known, and much greater dangers were incurred through ignorance in steering vessels than is now the case. The *Unicorn* was unlucky enough to meet with much foul weather, and was so tossed about that she lost her latitude; but what was worse, owing to her being so long away from any port, her provisions were nearly all gone, and every one on board began to despair of their ever returning to England. It was wonderful that, all through this dreadful period of suffering, Whittington's cat should have been kept alive and well; but so it was, and this no doubt was owing to the great care taken of her by the captain himself, who had not forgotten the interest Alice had expressed to him about the cat. Not only was pussy by this means kept alive, but she contrived to bring up a little family of kittens