

## YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT.

## A Letter to Pussy.

I wrote a letter to our cat,  
As there upon the rug she sat.  
Her green eyes gently blinking;  
Her tail waved slowly to and fro,  
She yawned as if to let us know  
That she was deeply thinking.

I wrote a letter to our cat,  
Our precious puss, so sleek and fat:  
I put, "To Mistress Kitty,  
The finest mouser in the town,  
The property of Mrs. Brown,  
Who lives in Chester city!"

I wrote a letter—just a sheet—  
It was not, well—precisely neat,  
For blots were there in plenty;  
I thought she'd guess just what I meant,  
And lots and lots of love I sent,  
With kisses five and twenty.

I wrote a letter to our cat,  
And laid it by her on the mat.  
The sat there without stirring.  
I read to her—only think—  
She simply gave one pensive wink,  
And went on calmly purring.

I said to her, "You naughty thing!  
It's rude, Miss Cat, to sit and sing  
When some one reads a letter."  
At this she rose and walked away,  
And all that I had time to say  
Was that I hoped some future day  
Her manners would be better!

## WHY LITTLE LOUISA CRIED OVER HER NEW DRESS.

She was just a little curly-headed school girl, who wore one shabby black dress such a long time that the children made fun of her when she came and went among them.

"What do you think?" they said to each other, "that little Louisa has only one dress the year round."

But that was not true. It was a winter dress, and one day in spring Louisa blossomed out in pink.

"What do you think?" cried the children, "Louisa's got a new dress."

Children are unfeeling little monsters naturally. One of them discovered that Louisa's new dress was not new, and she took pains to announce the fact to the school in a few scornful comments, says a writer in the Detroit Free Press.

"Made over? Yes, indeed, and so old-fashioned! We could see the old stitches! Some one has given it to her!"

Louisa heard it and cried herself sick. The teacher knew nothing about it. She was doing sums on the blackboard and thumping knowledge into the children's heads.

"Please, teacher, a girl's fainted."

This unusual announcement aroused all, even the lethargic teacher, into a show of interest. The girl was Louisa, she of the pink dress.

"She's been a-crying awful," volunteered one of the other children.

When the child came to herself, she clung sobbing to the teacher's unfriendly hand and told her story.

"Twarrent 'cause it was out of fashion—I didn't care for that, nor 'cause 'twas the only one I've got 'sides the old black, but 'twas made over for me from one of m-m-mother's, and oh, teacher, she is dead."

"I'm sorry," she said. "I will see that the children treat you differently in the future."

And she kept her word.

## SAMARITANS AMONG BIRDS.

Once upon a time a pair of robins built their nest on a fence, and a pair of catbirds (American thrushes that are so called because their cry is like the mewling of a cat) in a bush close by. Baby birds appeared in each nest about the same time, and all went well for a few days, when one morning the parent catbirds were both missing, probably slain. Their young would have starved but for the robins. Whenever the robins lit on the rail with a worm or other food the catbirds set up a hungry squeak, and so the kind birds of the readbreast determined to feed the stranger fledgelings as well as their own. Both families were successfully reared, the catbirds being so strong and lively that they looked as if they had been brought up by their own parents.

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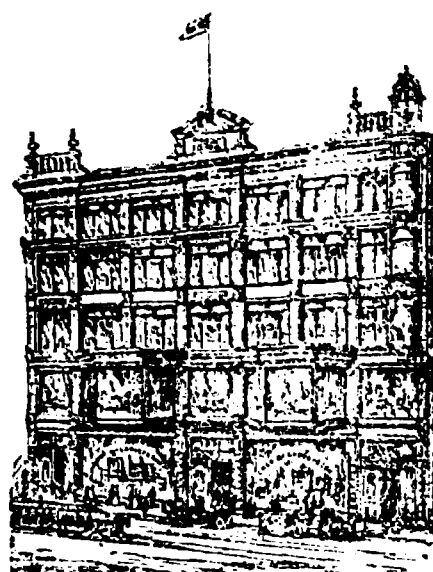
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