

THE FIREMAN'S CAT.

Old Duffy was Tom Field's cat. Tom was a fireman; he lived with his father and mother in a little house in Dean street, just outside the town of B., that is, he lived there during the day-time. At night he staved at the engine house, to be on hand in case of fire.

Although Tom was a great, strong fellow, with a deep, gruff voice, Old Duffy knew that he had a kind, warm heart: for he had picked her up on the streets, one cold, wet night when she was a homeless kitten, hungry and forlorn, and had cared for her ever since. She had grown up to be a fine-looking cat, and you may be sure that she was very fond of her master.

Every morning when Tom came home to breakfast Old Duffy went down to the gate to meet him, and in the evening, when he started for the engine house she would go with him a little way. When her four kittens were born she was not easy until she had coaxed him up into the barn loft and he had properly admired them. What clean, fat little kittens they were! Two jet black, and two yellow, just like their mother.

When Tom wanted to pay these kittens a visit he had to climb a ladder, then cross a beam, open a door, and go through a low, narrow doorway. This door was generally closed, but there was a hole through which Old Duffy came in or went out, as the case might be.

One night Old Duffy was awakened very suddenly. The air was full of smoke, and outside there seemed to be some unusual excitement. There was a sound of many feet running to and fro, and voices were shouting "Fire! Fire! Fire!"

The cat sprang up in a fright,

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