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AUNT LOUISA'S BIG PICTURE SERIES.

# HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE



McLOUGHLIN BROTHERS, NEW YORK.

## THE STORY OF HEY-DIDDLE-DIDDLE.

THERE was once upon a time a little boy named Hey-diddle. He was a pretty little boy and a clever little boy; but there was one thing about him unlike any other little boy who had ever been seen. He had never been heard to laugh or seen to smile. His father and mother—and they were a great lord and a grand lady—were sorely grieved. They sent for one doctor after another, but no good came of any of them: they tickled him all over, even his knees and the soles of his feet, but it was all of no use.

“Oh, my Diddle-diddle, darling,” said his mother, “if you don’t laugh I shall die.” But he didn’t laugh, and the grand lady lived on still, though after that day the young lord went by the name of Hey-diddle-diddle. The great lord offered a reward to the person who should make his boy laugh.

Hey-diddle had a fairy godmother, but she had so many godchildren that she only went to see each of them once in five years. Accordingly, on Hey-diddle-diddle’s fifth birthday, she came in at the nursery window. His nurse was doing out Hey-diddle’s curls.

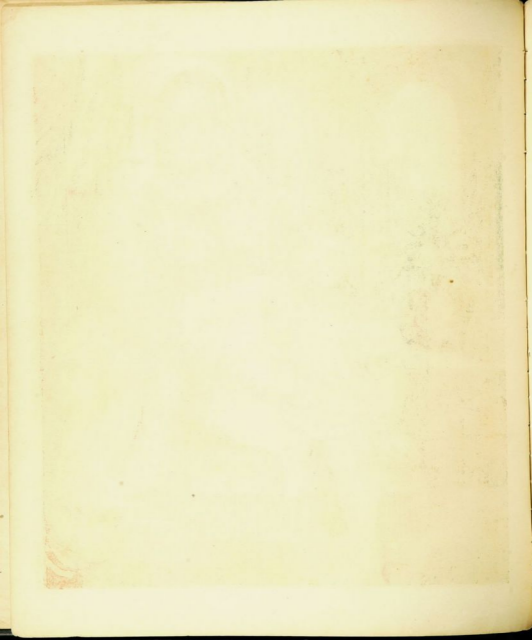
“Well, my boy,” said the Fairy, “I’m your godmother; haven’t you got a smile for me?”

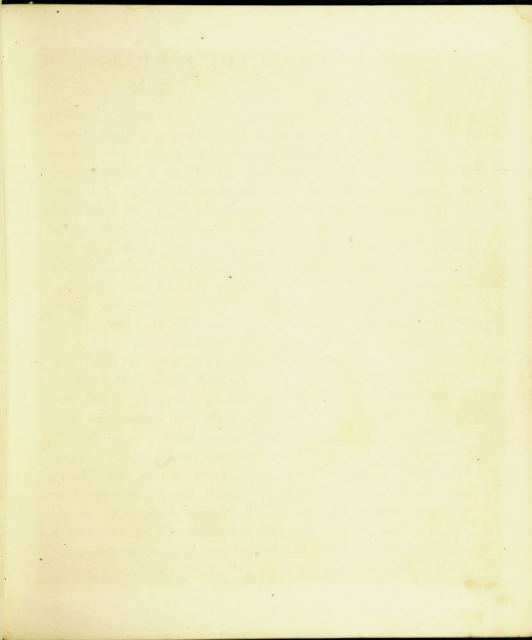
“Please your ladyship,” said the nurse, curtseying, “he don’t do it, nor laugh neither.”

The Fairy stamped her foot; and though she was such a little mite, the nursery shook. “You are a set of donkeys,” she said; “take the child to Dame Nature—she’ll make him laugh.”

“Please, ma’am, where does the lady live?” said the nurse; but the fairy godmother had vanished.







## THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE.

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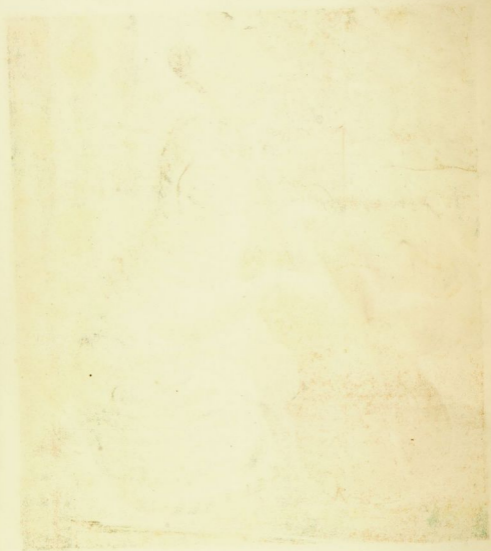
“WELL, to be sure,” said the nurse, “who is Dame Nature, I wonder? I’ve heard of Dame Trot, and Mother Bunch, and Mother Goose, and Mother Hubbard—they are all nursery folk, of course—but I never saw Dame Nature in my young lord’s nursery, and I shouldn’t know her if I did.” And then the nurse thought of the reward. “I shan’t tell any one a word of this,” said she. The only plan she could think of was to take the young lord out with her all day long. Till now he had only had a short walk every day with his tutor, an old gentleman, who was deaf and had the gout. “I may meet this Dame when I least expect it,” said nurse, “and it will be handy to have the young lord for her to try her skill on.”

Hey-diddle-diddle was pleased to go, though he didn’t smile. Nurse took him out the back way, so as not to lose time.

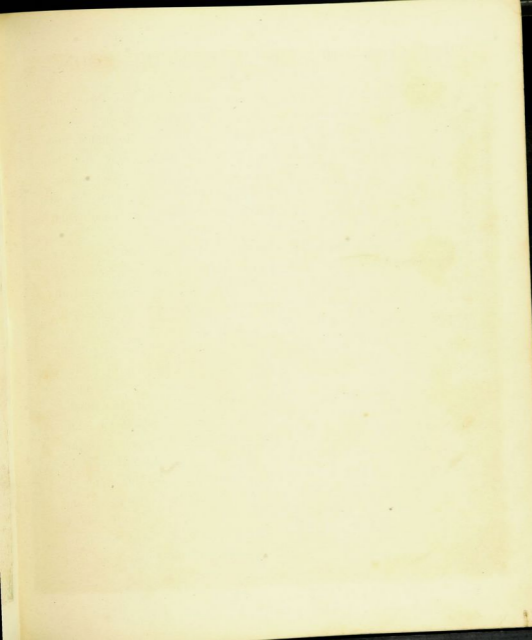
“I shall stay here,” said Hey-diddle-diddle, when he found himself in the court-yard; he had never been there before. “Hark! what’s that?” He held up his finger, and listened. There was a little boy sitting in a corner, playing a cracked fiddle, and opposite him sat a cat, with her tail twice its usual size, miau-ing loudly.

“Stop,” said the boy, “it’s not your turn yet, Pussy; wait.” Pussy waited while he played a tune, and then she miau-ed again louder than before. “Jack, Jack, where are you?” said a cross voice from the kitchen window. Jack was one of the castle scullions, and he ran away in a fright, and left his fiddle behind him. Pussy sprang on it as if it had been a mouse, but her claws got fixed in the strings, and she ran about trying to get free.









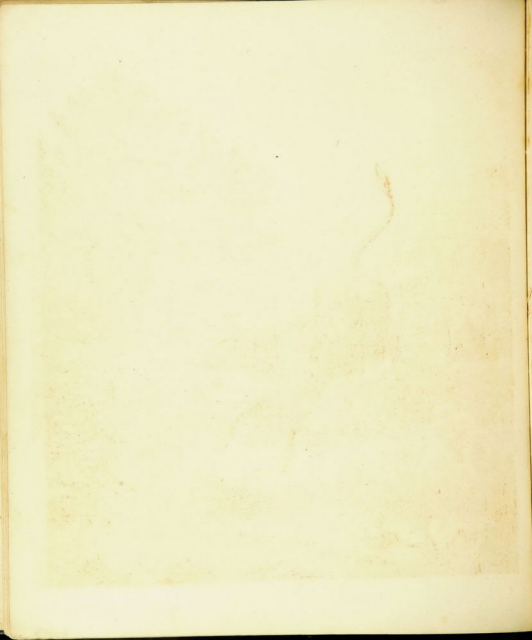
## THE COW SHE JUMPED OVER THE MOON.

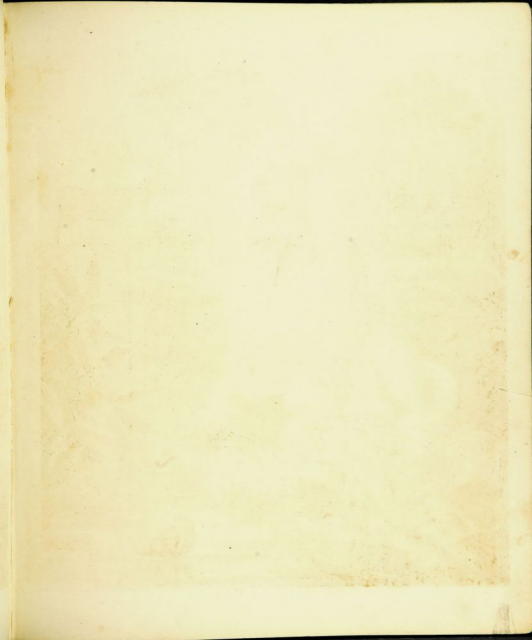
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NURSE laughed till she cried, it was so comic to see Pussy and the fiddle; and when she looked at the little lord she saw his mouth twitch. He would hardly be persuaded to go in to dinner, and protested against his afternoon nap. "I want to see Pussy and the fiddle—I do," he said. "You shall go out again when you wake," said nurse; and he was soon fast asleep. It may have been that so much more air than he was in the habit of getting had made him drowsy; anyway, he slept till the moon rose.

His father and mother had gone to spend a day and a night at Prince Oxgog's castle, or I suppose this long sleep would have frightened them out of their wits; but nurse was so taken up with thinking where she should be likely to meet with Dame Nature, that she was surprised when Hey-diddle woke, and saw how late it was. "I want to go out; put on my hat," he said. Nurse was afraid to disobey him, though it was so late, so she took him down a little staircase which led over a bridge out of the castle into the fields. "What's that great bit of silver up in the sky?" said Hey-diddle-diddle, for the poor child had never seen the moon shining brightly before. "That's the moon;" but nurse was in a great fright at taking him out so late. "It's down on the ground now," said Hey-diddle-diddle, and there was the large round moon shining in the water of a ditch that ran through the field. Just then a cow came up, and directly she saw the moon in the water, she began to jump over it backwards and forwards as fast as she could. Down went her head, up went her heels, and each time her tail gave a flourish as if it would say "Bravo."









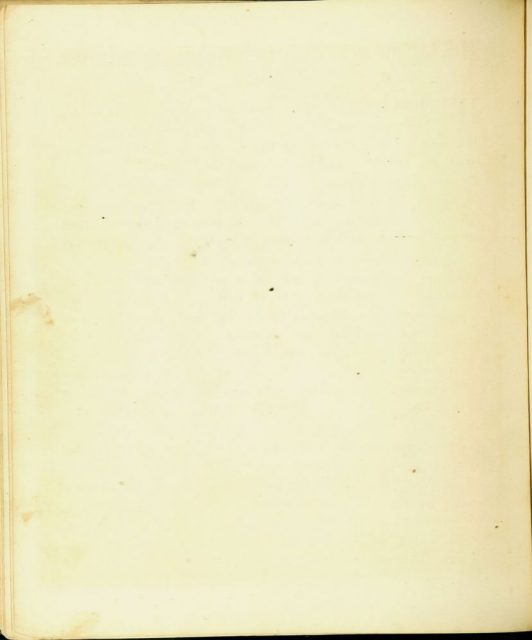
## THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED TO SEE SUCH SPORT.

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HEY-DIDDLE-DIDDLE looked frightened for a minute, but he had a brave heart, and he said, "Well done, Colly!" and clapped his little hands. Nurse laughed so heartily that she thought he must laugh too, and she looked at his serious face. He was pressing his lips very tightly together; it almost seemed as if there was a little laugh, only he would not let it come out. But Snap, Hey-diddle-diddle's little white dog, barked at the cow's heels till she got frightened. She ran away to the bottom of the field. There was a pond there, with some pretty elder bushes growing over it; and when Hey-diddle-diddle got to the pond he saw the moon again, much larger and clearer than she had appeared in the ditch.

"Nurse, nurse, I want that moon; send Snap into the water to fetch it," said Hey-diddle-diddle. And Snap went into the pond.

The cow stood on the opposite side; she had been too frightened when she ran away to see what it was that frightened her; but when she saw the little dog she gave a loud Mo-o-o-o, and dashed to meet him, touching the ground with her horns. She saw the water, and gave one spring to clear the moon again; but, alas! though she could jump over the brook, the pond was quite another matter. Down she came, splash! dash! Mo-o-o-o! all among the water-lilies, and the little dog sat and laughed till he nearly burst. If you never heard a dog laugh you can't fancy what a joke it is; as for nurse, she was forced to hold by a tree to keep from falling down with laughter; when she looked at Hey-diddle-diddle, *there was a smile on his little grave face.*









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## THE DISH RAN AWAY WITH THE SPOON.

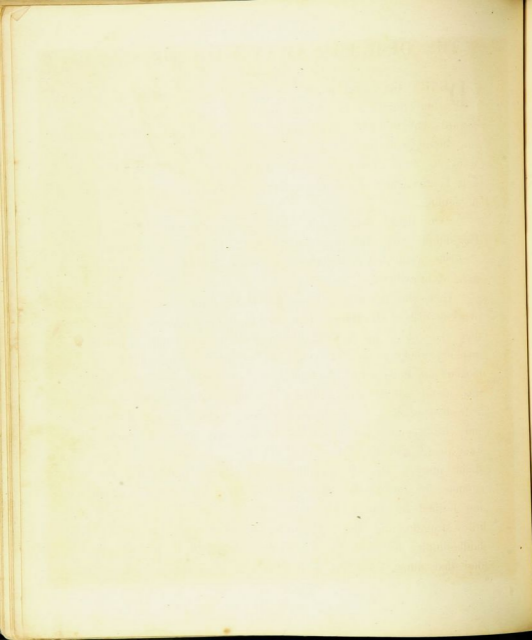
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“DEARY me,” said nurse, “what shall I do? If I can but get him into the castle with that smile on his face, I’ll claim the reward that minute.” She caught Hey-diddle-diddle by the hand, and ran home with him; but, alas! she had undone all her work. “I want to stop,” cried Hey-diddle-diddle; “I want to hear the little dog laugh again;” and when they got home, he was crying instead of smiling.

“Oh, dear! dear!” said nurse, “if you’ll only be good, Lord Hey-diddle, you shall have strawberries and cream for supper.”

She went and brought a china bowl full of cream, and a great dish of strawberries!

Then she put a great spoonful of sugar into the cream, poured it over the dish of strawberries, and gave them to Hey-diddle-diddle. Nurse then fixed some for herself. Presently Hey-diddle-diddle heard a very crackery-crockery sort of voice say, “Don’t, I won’t have it.” He looked for nurse; but she had eaten so many strawberries that she was sound asleep and snoring. Hey-diddle-diddle helped himself to a fresh spoonful. “I shall, if I choose,” said a sweet silvery voice; and this seemed to come out of his own fingers. “Nurse, nurse, wake up!” said the little boy; but the next minute he forgot all about nurse. The spoon jumped out of his hand, and the next moment up started the dish, the flowers in the centre bulged out, and formed an arm which caught hold of the spoon. There was a little struggle, and then the dish ran away with the spoon. Hey-diddle-diddle lay back in his chair, and laughed so long and so loud that nurse woke up in a fright.







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## THE END OF HEY-DIDDLE-DIDDLE.

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NURSE opened her eyes. They were not big eyes, to begin with, but you should have seen how big they grew, from sixpences to shillings, till they looked as big as teacups! Hey-diddle never saw them, not he—he only laughed louder and louder; laughed till it seemed as if he were letting out all the laughs which had been prisoned up inside his poor little body ever since it was born. I expect they had been there all the time, coiled up like a ball of string; and now they came out in hearty ringing peals, like church bells at a festival, as if they wanted to make every one merry with them:—Ha, ha, ha; ha, ha, ha; ha, ha, ha; ha, ha, ha; laughed Hey-diddle-diddle, and he lay back in his chair and kicked his legs up in the air. Nurse ran to the bell-ropes, but she pulled them both down; she dared not leave the little lord alone, and yet she wanted every one to come and hear him laugh. She caught up the shovel and the tongs, flung the lattice-window open, and made an uproar which almost drowned Hey-diddle-diddle's laughter.

Only for a minute, and then she, too, fell backwards into a chair, and up went her heels in the air.

The Fairy godmother stood on the window-ledge, and the father and mother of Hey-diddle-diddle came in at the door.

“There, you foolish people,” said the Fairy, “take your child and make much of him; nurse has got the prescription; and if you give him up to that Mr. Stilts again, I'll take him off to Faryland altogether.”

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