

PUSS IN BOOTS JR.

By David Corv.

In the last story we left little Puss Junior and Mr. Ulysses on a raft which they had made out of the wreck of their good ship, you remember. But, oh, dear me! Another storm came up, and it was a kind-hearted sea nymph hadn't swam up and given Mr. Ulysses a magic girdle to bind around the planks he and Puss would have been drowned, and this would have been the last of the Puss Junior stories.

Well, by and by, a kind wind blew them to a land where the people were skillful sailors, and their ships flew as swiftly as birds and needed no pilots, for they knew every port and steered themselves.

But Mr. Ulysses was so weary that as soon as he sat foot upon shore he lay down to sleep, and while he lay there little Puss walked off for some distance to look about him, and suddenly he came upon a lovely princess with a hand of maidens. They were standing near a fountain, and the princess was singing a beautiful song—

I dreamed that over the stormy sea
A warrior held came sailing to me;
His eyes were bright with the light of truth
And his soul was strong with the might of youth.

And by his side was a brave little cat
With a flaming gold feather in his hat.

Puss waited until she had finished her song, and then he jumped from behind the tree where he had been hiding, and the lovely princess gave a little scream and started to run away.

"Don't go," cried Puss, "for my friend, Mr. Ulysses, is asleep on the shore, weary with a long voyage." And then he told them all the troubles that had befallen Mr. Ulysses and himself. And the lovely princess was so grieved over their misfortunes that she asked Puss to bring Mr. Ulysses to her father's estate.

So Puss returned to the shore and awoke Mr. Ulysses and brought him back to the princess, who then led them to her father's castle. And when the King heard their story he promised to give Mr. Ulysses a ship to carry him home.

And then the princess rose and said, "My king and noble father, but lately I read in a story book about a cat who

brought fame and riches to his master. And the name of this cat was Puss in Boots. He is here with us today," and she walked across the great hall and took little Puss Junior by the paw and led him over to the throne.

Puss bowed very low and said, "What your lovely daughter says is partly true. I am the son of that famous cat." "He has been a good comrade to me," cried Mr. Ulysses, "for without his aid I should have perished." And in the next story you shall hear how Mr. Ulysses and little Puss Junior once more set sail upon the ocean deep and wide—Copyright, 1920.

(To Be Continued.)

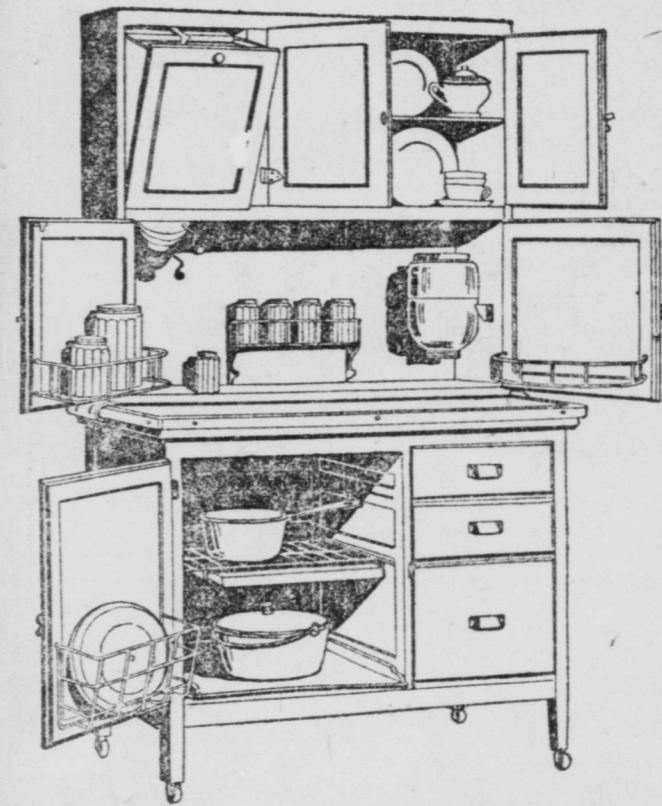
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