



FLUFFY RUFFLES Drawings by WALLACE MORGAN.

1.—On Hallowe'en, as Fluffy slept, her cheeks all rosy red,
She wakened with a start and sat bolt upright in her bed.
A noise of chinking silverware came softly through the gloom—
She knew that there were burglars burgling in the dining room!



2.—In witching silk kimono and without a trace of fright
She stole where they were stealing and switched on the ruddy light.
To their immense amazement, "Come," she said, "the pleasure's mine;
You've worked so hard this evening, won't you have a glass of wine?"



3.—So she handed round the sherry (it was old in '68!)
And declared they must have supper ere they carried off the plate.
Said she, "I think a rabbit with a mug of ale or two
And a bit of Finnan haddie'd be about the thing, don't you?"

4.—So resistless was the magic of her sweet, imperious way
That those genial desperadoes couldn't find a word to say;
And the way they did her bidding and the way she bossed the job
Would make a graven image grin and robbers cease to rob.

5.—With a look of helpless wonder "Bill the Brute" cut up the cheese
While "Blinkers" made the toast Miss Fluffy put him at his ease:
And as she stirred the rabbit "Artful Artie" hovered near
To sprinkle in paprika and add modicums of beer.

6.—After supper they were mellow, they were soulful with the ale,
While a chattering melancholy called up thoughts of home—and jail.
"And now," cooed Fluffy, "after this a song is quite the thing,"
And playing the piano sang as only she could sing.



7.—Ere he knew it "Bill the Brute" was weeping o'er his misspent life,
"Artful Artie's" soul was racked with thoughts of how he beat his wife,
And even hardened "Blinkers" bowed his head in bitter woe
As her tender voice rose softly o'er the minor chords and low.

8.—Then at her feet they threw themselves at last in utter grief
And vowed no man among them e'er again should be a thief.
So they sadly left the silver and filed out like gentle sheep,
But Fluffy, switching off the lights, just cried herself to sleep.