

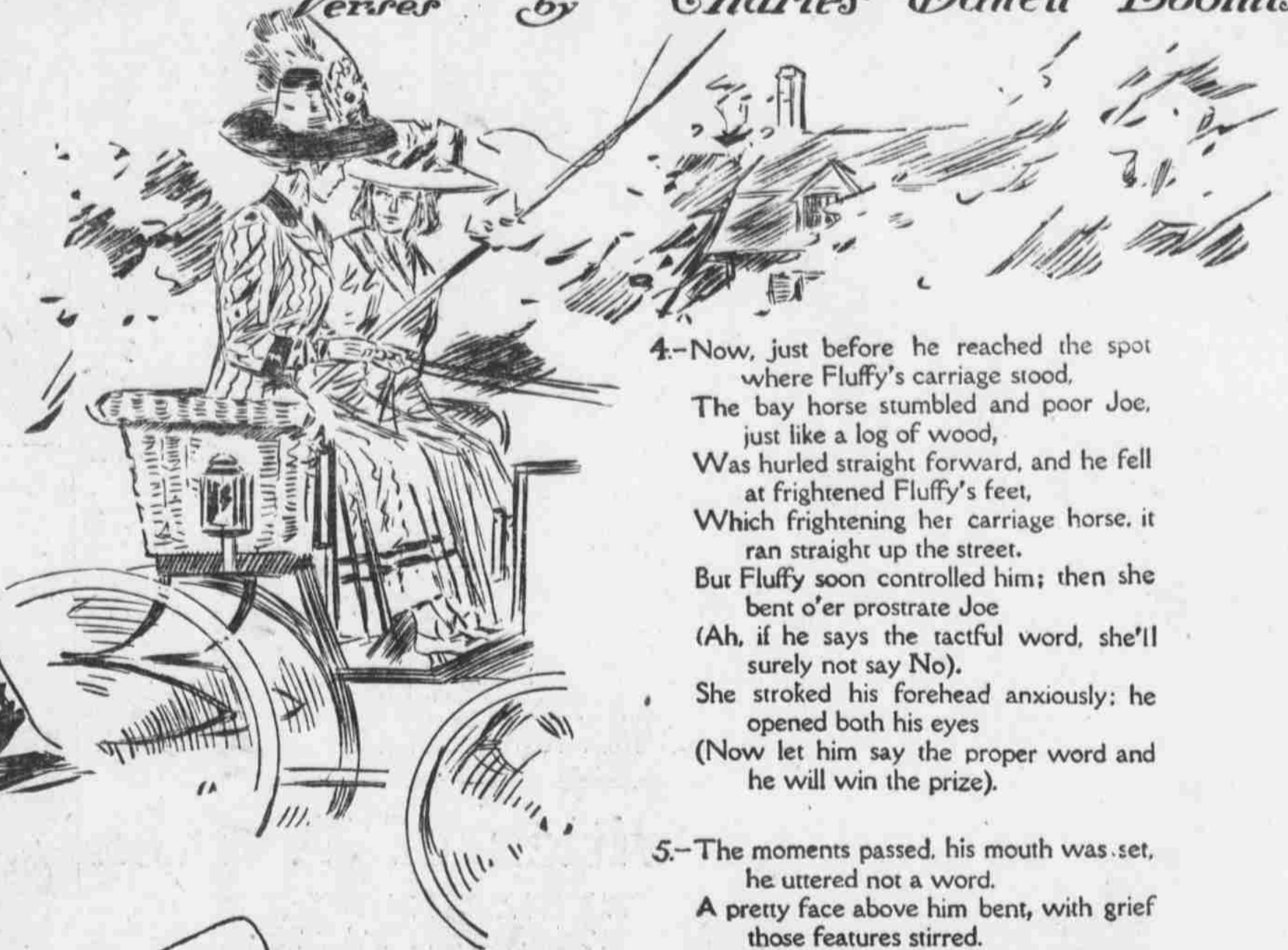
FLUFFY RUFFLES

Drawings by Wallace Morgan
Verses by Charles Battell Loomis



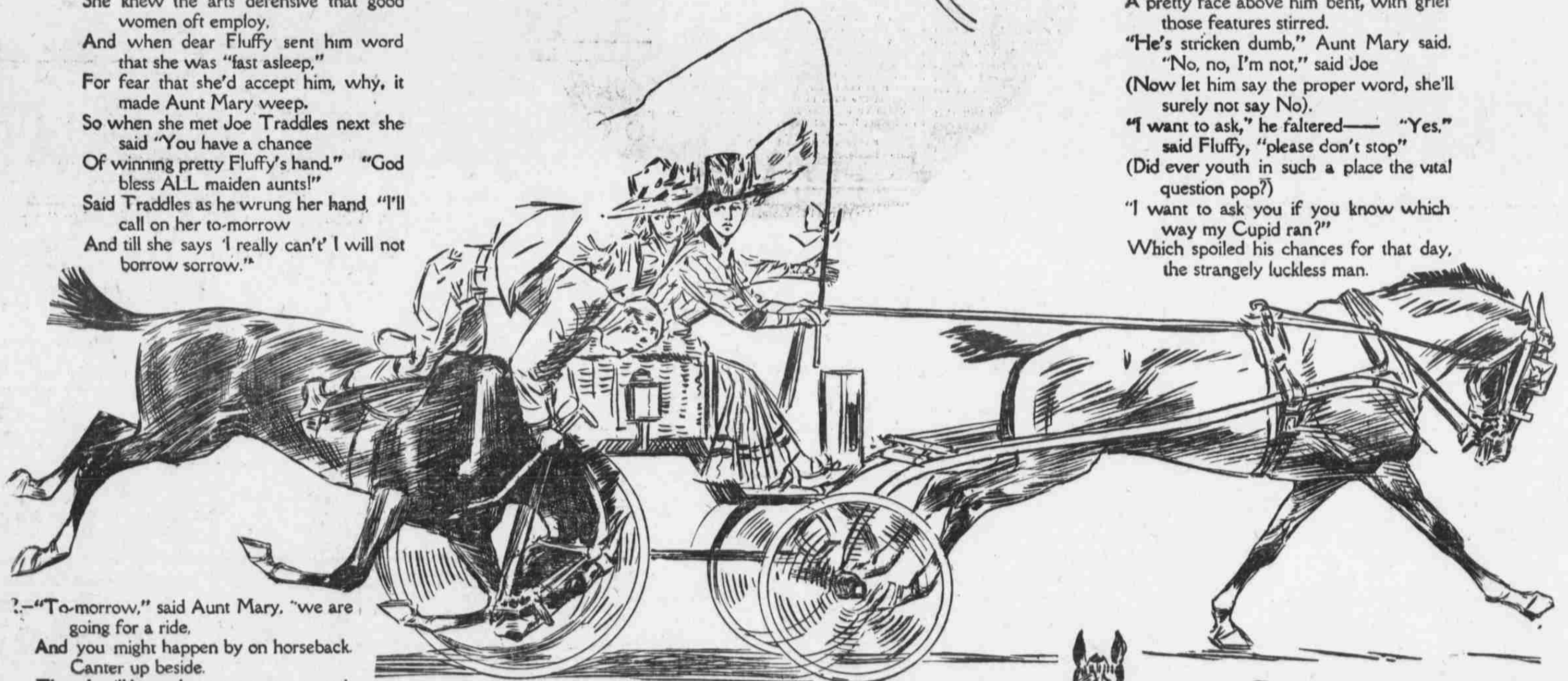
TRADDLES ATTEMPTS TO PROPOSE.

1.—Aunt Mary liked Joe Traddles, he was such a "wholesome boy." She knew the arts defensive that good women oft employ, And when dear Fluffy sent him word that she was "fast asleep," For fear that she'd accept him, why, it made Aunt Mary weep. So when she met Joe Traddles next she said "You have a chance Of winning pretty Fluffy's hand." "God bless ALL maiden aunts!" Said Traddles as he wrung her hand, "I'll call on her to-morrow And till she says 'I really can't' I will not borrow sorrow."



4.—Now, just before he reached the spot where Fluffy's carriage stood, The bay horse stumbled and poor Joe, just like a log of wood, Was hurled straight forward, and he fell at frightened Fluffy's feet, Which frightening her carriage horse, it ran straight up the street. But Fluffy soon controlled him; then she bent o'er prostrate Joe (Ah, if he says the tactful word, she'll surely not say No). She stroked his forehead anxiously; he opened both his eyes (Now let him say the proper word and he will win the prize).

5.—The moments passed, his mouth was set, he uttered not a word. A pretty face above him bent, with grief those features stirred. "He's stricken dumb," Aunt Mary said. "No, no, I'm not," said Joe (Now let him say the proper word, she'll surely not say No). "I want to ask," he faltered— "Yes," said Fluffy, "please don't stop" (Did ever youth in such a place the vital question pop?) "I want to ask you if you know which way my Cupid ran?" Which spoiled his chances for that day, the strangely luckless man.



2.—"To-morrow," said Aunt Mary, "we are going for a ride, And you might happen by on horseback. Canter up beside. Then I will leave the carriage on a search for flowers wild, And while I'm gone just talk up quick and ask the darling child." Next day dear Fluffy and her aunt went driving, far and wide. "I heard young Mr. Traddles say he MIGHT go for a ride; Perhaps he'll happen by; I think he's such a pleasant man." "Let's hurry home," said Fluffy, "just as swiftly as we can."

3.—"I'm very much afraid that I am fond of that odd Dick. So let us turn the carriage round and hasten homeward, quick." Now as they turned the carriage round they heard a rush of feet, And Joe was madly charging down the pretty village street. "Oh, here he comes! My, what a pace! He has his Arab bay. He isn't riding just for fun—why, Cupid's run away." Like thunderbolt or catapult or cannon ball he came. "Blind stagers!" said the maiden aunt. "My faith, the fellow's game!"

