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OF
TOM KITTEN



BY
BEATRIX POTTER

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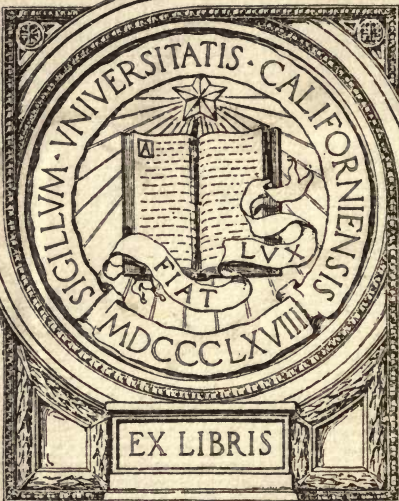
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World Public Library Association
P.O. Box 22687
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THE TALE
OF
TOM KITTEN

DEDICATED
TO ALL PICKLES,
—ESPECIALLY TO THOSE THAT
GET UPON MY GARDEN WALL.



THE TALE OF
TOM KITTEN

BY

BEATRIX POTTER

Author of

"The Tale of Peter Rabbit," &c.



NEW YORK

FREDERICK WARNE & CO.

12 East 33d Street

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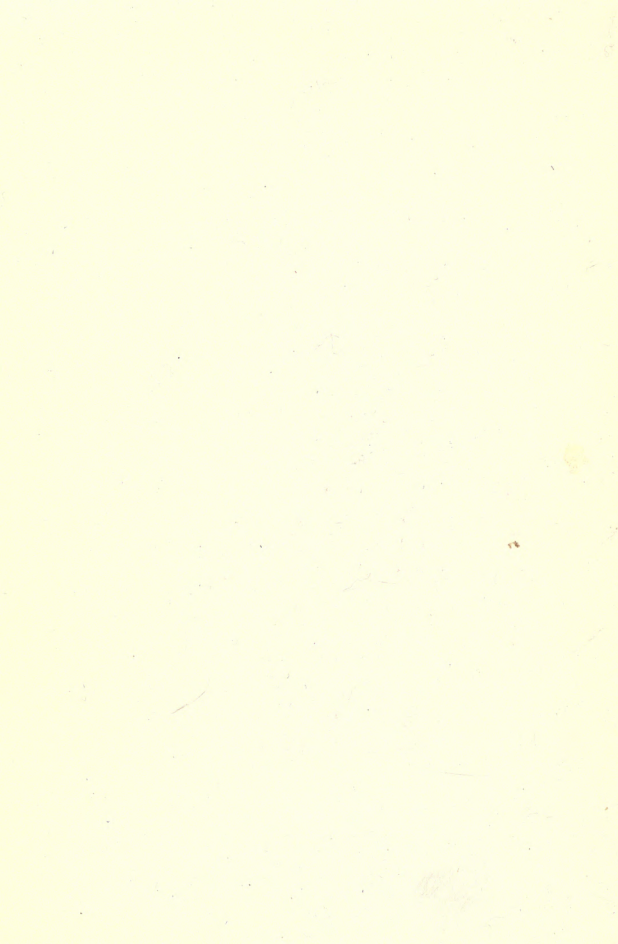
ONCE upon a time there were three little kittens, and their names were Mittens, Tom Kitten, and Moppet.

They had dear little fur coats of their own; and they tumbled about the doorstep and played in the dust.

BUT one day their mother—
Mrs. Tabitha Twitchit—
expected friends to tea; so she
fetched the kittens indoors, to
wash and dress them, before
the fine company arrived.





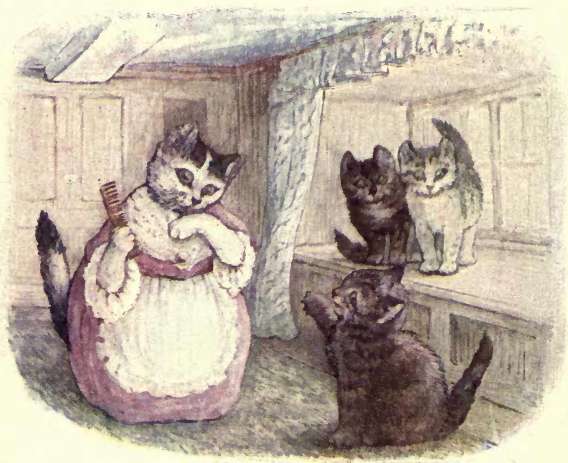




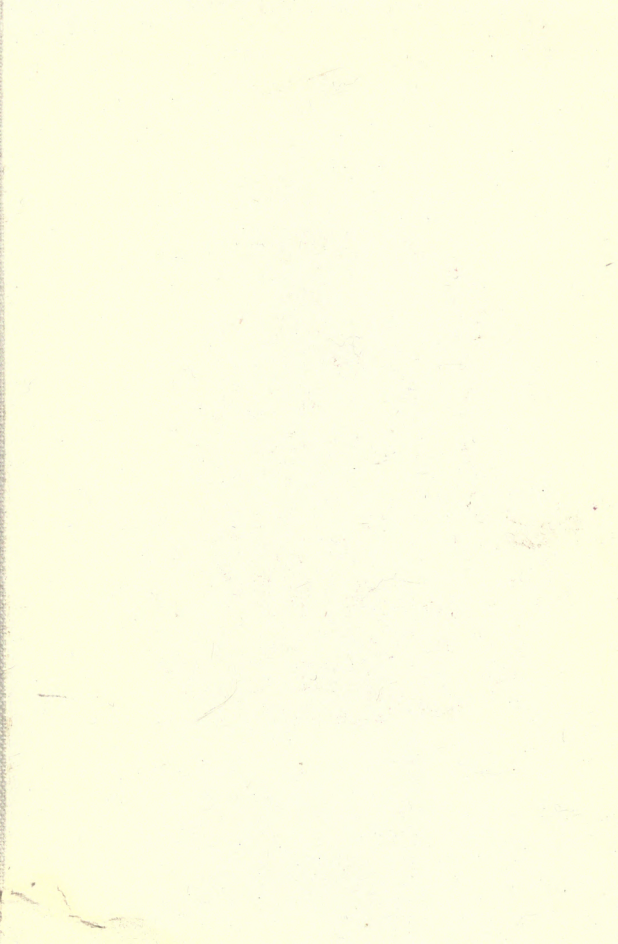
FIRST she scrubbed their
faces (this one is Moppet).

THEN she brushed their fur
(this one is Mittens).















MOPPET and Mittens
walked down the garden
path unsteadily. Presently
they trod upon their pinafores
and fell on their noses.

When they stood up there
were several green smears!

“LET us climb up the rockery, and sit on the garden wall,” said Moppet.

They turned their pinafores back to front, and went up with a skip and a jump; Moppet's white tucker fell down into the road.



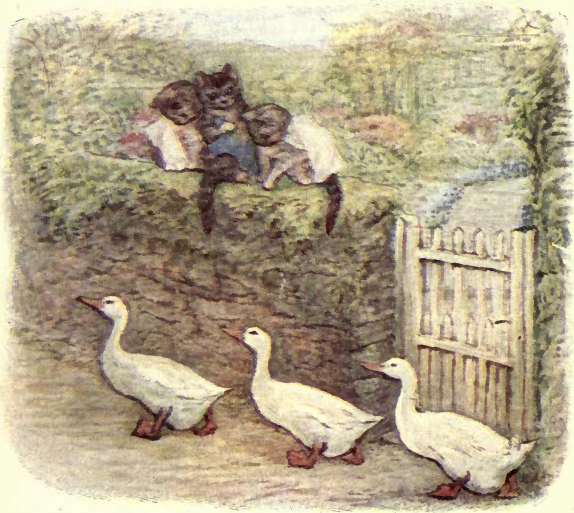


TOM KITTEN was quite unable to jump when walking upon his hind legs in trousers. He came up the rockery by degrees, breaking the ferns, and shedding buttons right and left.

HE was all in pieces when he reached the top of the wall.

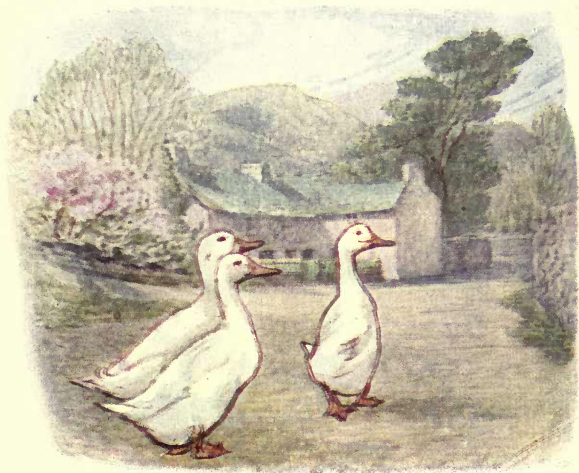
Moppet and Mittens tried to pull him together; his hat fell off, and the rest of his buttons burst.



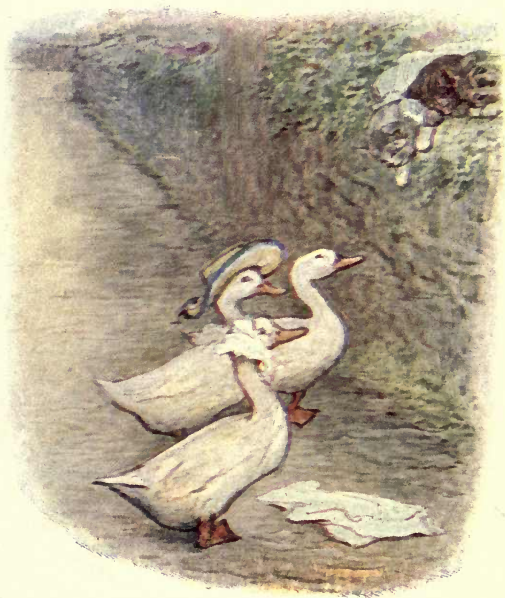


WHILE they were in difficulties, there was a pit pat paddle pat! and the three Puddle-Ducks came along the hard high road, marching one behind the other—and doing the goose step—pit pat paddle pat! pit pat waddle pat!

THEY stopped and stood
in a row, and stared up
at the kittens. They had very
small eyes, and looked sur-
prised.







THEN the two duck-birds,
Rebeccah and Jemima
Puddle-Duck, picked up the
hat and tucker and put them
on.

MITTENS laughed so that she fell off the wall. Moppet and Tom descended after her; the pinafores and all the rest of Tom's clothes came off on the way down.

“Come! Mr. Drake Puddle-Duck,” said Moppet—“Come and help us to dress him! Come and button up Tom!”

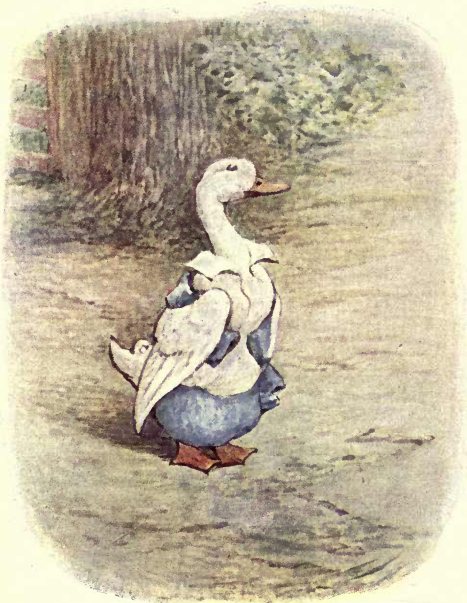




MR. DRAKE PUDDLE-
DUCK advanced in a
slow, sideways manner, and
picked up the various articles.

BUT he put them on *himself!* They fitted him even worse than Tom Kitten.

“It’s a very fine morning!”
said Mr. Drake Puddle-Duck.





AND he and Jemima and
Rebeccah Puddle-Duck
set off up the road, keeping
step—pit pat, paddle pat! pit
pat, waddle pat!

THEN Tabitha Twitchit
came down the garden
and found her kittens on the
wall with no clothes on.





SHE pulled them off the wall, smacked them, and took them back to the house.

“My friends will arrive in a minute, and you are not fit to be seen; I am affronted,” said Mrs. Tabitha Twitchit.

SHE sent them upstairs;
and I am sorry to say she
told her friends that they were
in bed with the measles;
which was not true.



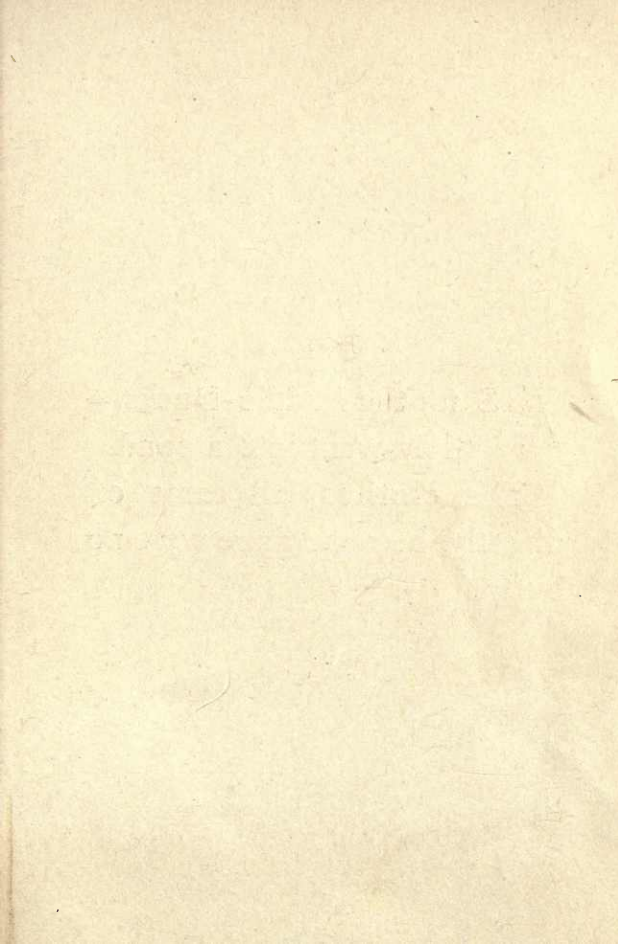


Q UITE the contrary; they were not in bed; *not* in the least.

Somehow there were very extraordinary noises overhead; which disturbed the dignity and repose of the tea-party.

AND I think that some day
I shall have to make
another, larger, book, to tell
you more about Tom Kitten!

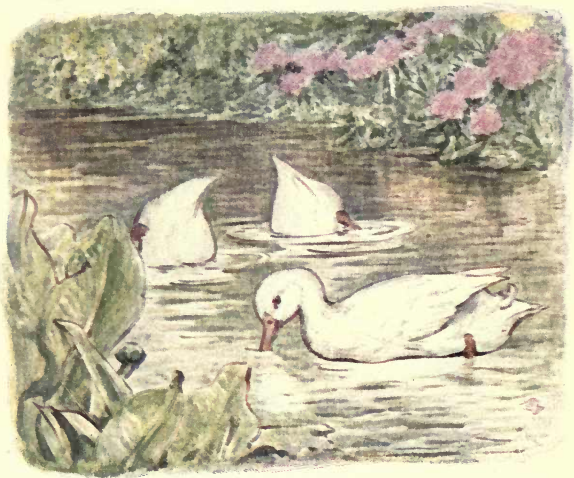




AS for the Puddle-Ducks—
they went into a pond.

The clothes all came off
directly, because there were no
buttons.





AND Mr. Drake Puddle-
Duck and Jemima and
Rebecca have been looking
for them ever since.



