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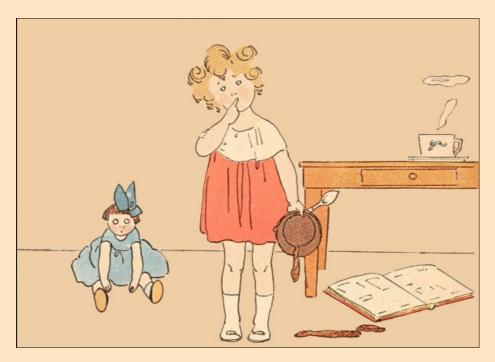
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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK L'ESCAPADE DU MIQUETTE ***

L'escapade de Miquette.



Miquette est une jolie petite fille de cinq ans, rose, vive et gaie; mais il surgit parfois sous sa toison dorée des idées tout à fait singulières; ainsi, ce matin, elle refuse catégoriquement de manger sa soupe.



Miquette jette à terre, avec une moue dégoûtée, le chocolat qui lui est offert pour remplacer la soupe. La poupée Zizi est indignée. Quelle petite capricieuse!



De grosses larmes roulent sur les joues de Miquette: ne veut-on pas maintenant l'obliger à manger ce vilain œuf?

-Qu'on le donne à Zizi!



Non! décidément cela ne peut pas durer ainsi, Miquette est trop malheureuse! Elle jette sa serviette, renverse son tabouret et s'enfuit...



Miquette franchit la porte du jardin en courant. Enfin! elle va être libre comme les petits paysans qui jouent toute la journée dans les champs.



Quelles délices! Le ciel est bleu, les oiseaux chantent, les prés sont remplis de jolies fleurettes. Miquette ne se lasse pas de faire des bouquets.



Frou... frou... Qu'est-ce qui bouge ainsi? Miquette se retourne vivement, un peu effrayée. Un petit nez qui remue drôlement, deux longues oreilles.

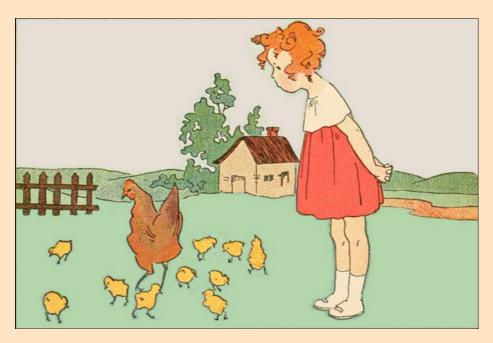
—Bonjour, Jeannot Lapin!



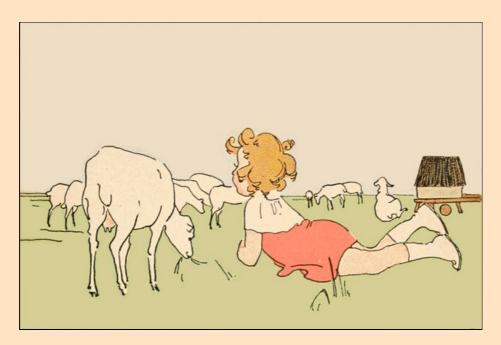
Miquette se roule avec des cris de joie dans l'herbe parfumée; étendue sur ce moelleux tapis, elle contemple les nuages qui courent vite, vite...



Quel gentil carillon! Miquette écoute, elle compte, c'est midi, c'est l'angélus... Au détour d'un sentier, elle aperçoit un clocher et s'élance dans la direction du village.

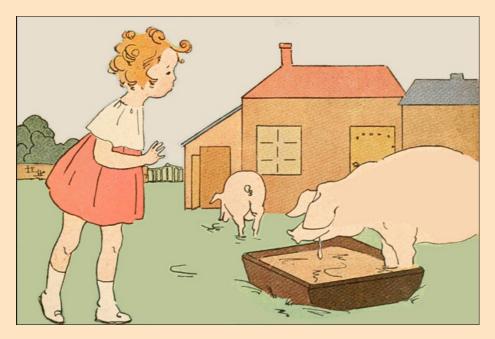


Miquette s'arrête, intéressée; toute une nichée de petits poussins picorent avec ardeur sous la surveillance de maman poule qui leur désigne du bec le grain qu'ils doivent prendre. Ils sont très obéissants, les poussins.



Voici maintenant des moutons; ils broutent sagement l'herbe épaisse du pré; Miquette, pour mieux les considérer, s'étend à plat ventre près d'eux.

-Ça doit être délicieux, des fleurs; mange, petit mouton!



Des grognements féroces attirent Miquette dans la cour d'une ferme. Deux grosses bêtes, les pieds dans leur auge, dévorent gloutonnement leur pâtée. Dieu! qu'ils sont laids; Miquette se détourne, écœurée.



Le grand air, ça creuse, et Miquette se sent tout à coup un grand appétit; elle envie le petit bonhomme qui mord à pleine bouche dans sa tartine. Et Miquette grogne:



Miquette arrête un petit paysan chargé d'une terrine pleine d'un liquide blanc qui lui semble délicieux:

—Donne-moi un peu de ton lait, dis, j'ai très faim.



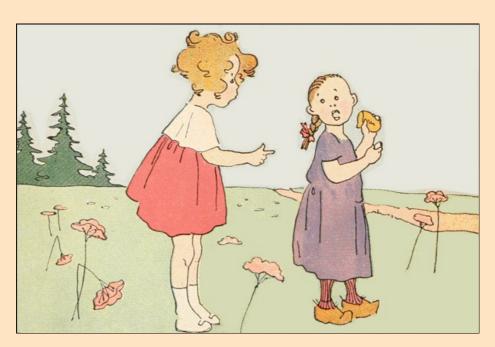
- —C'est point du lait, mam'zelle, c'est du caillé!
- —Pouah! du caillé, c'est mauvais! Tu as donc déjà mangé la crème?
 - —Oh! non, mam'zelle, la crème on l'a vendue au château...



Une toute petite, émue de l'air désolé de Miquette, la tire par sa robe:

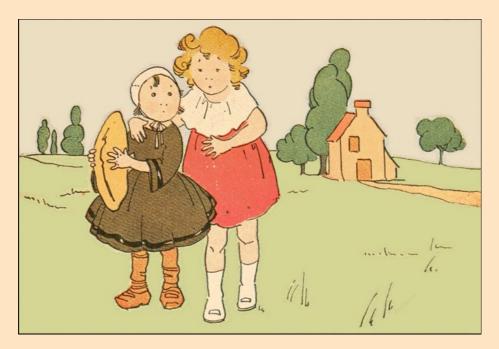
—Pleure pas, voilà un gros morceau de couenne de lard, c'est ça qui est bon!

Miquette refuse.



- —Et toi, qu'est-ce que tu manges?
- —Du pain frotté d'ail, mam'zelle.

Quelle horreur! Miquette reste rêveuse; décidément, les petits paysans ne se régalent pas de bonnes choses.



Une fillette toute ronde passe avec un gros pain sous son bras, Miquette court après:

 $-\mbox{Donne, donne-moi}$ vite du bon pain de seigle; je l'aime beaucoup.



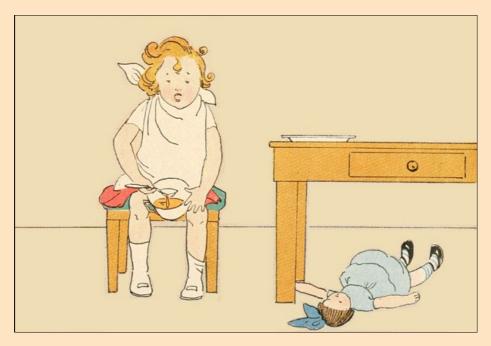
Mais, après l'avoir goûté, Miquette le jette loin d'elle, en faisant la grimace. Ça ne vaut pas la brioche qu'elle dédaignait hier encore. Elle se trouve tout à coup bien ingrate.



Vite, allons retrouver maman. Miquette court à perdre haleine et ne s'arrête que devant la barrière du jardin. Oh! joie, voilà la maison et la petite Blanchette qui se promène tranquillement dans l'herbe.



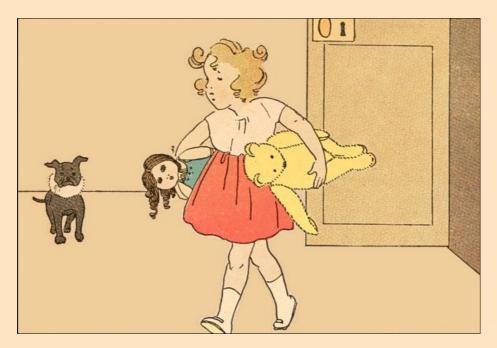
Miquette ne veut plus être capricieuse, comprenant enfin combien elle était choyée, et c'est d'un petit air bien humble qu'elle vient à la cuisine réclamer son déjeuner.



—Ma soupe, ma bonne petite soupe, ne cesse de dire Miquette; puis elle en réclame une seconde fois; jamais elle ne l'a trouvée aussi exquise.



Après la soupe, Miquette accueille avec transport l'œuf dont elle se barbouille jusqu'aux yeux. Turc se demande avec inquiétude s'il en restera pour lui et Zizi enthousiasmée bat des mains et crie bravo!



Miquette a un bon petit cœur; elle veut partager son régal; vite elle court à sa chambre et revient les bras chargés de ses enfants.

—Venez, mes chéris!



Les chéris bien installés en rond, Miquette procède à la distribution avec beaucoup de justice. Chacun son tour.



La tasse est vide. Miquette est radieuse, ses enfants ont certainement fait un délicieux repas. D'un ton grave, elle déclare:

—Et puis, vous savez, pour grandir, il faut toujours bien manger sa soupe.

ALBUMS CAMO

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