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FORTUNATUS

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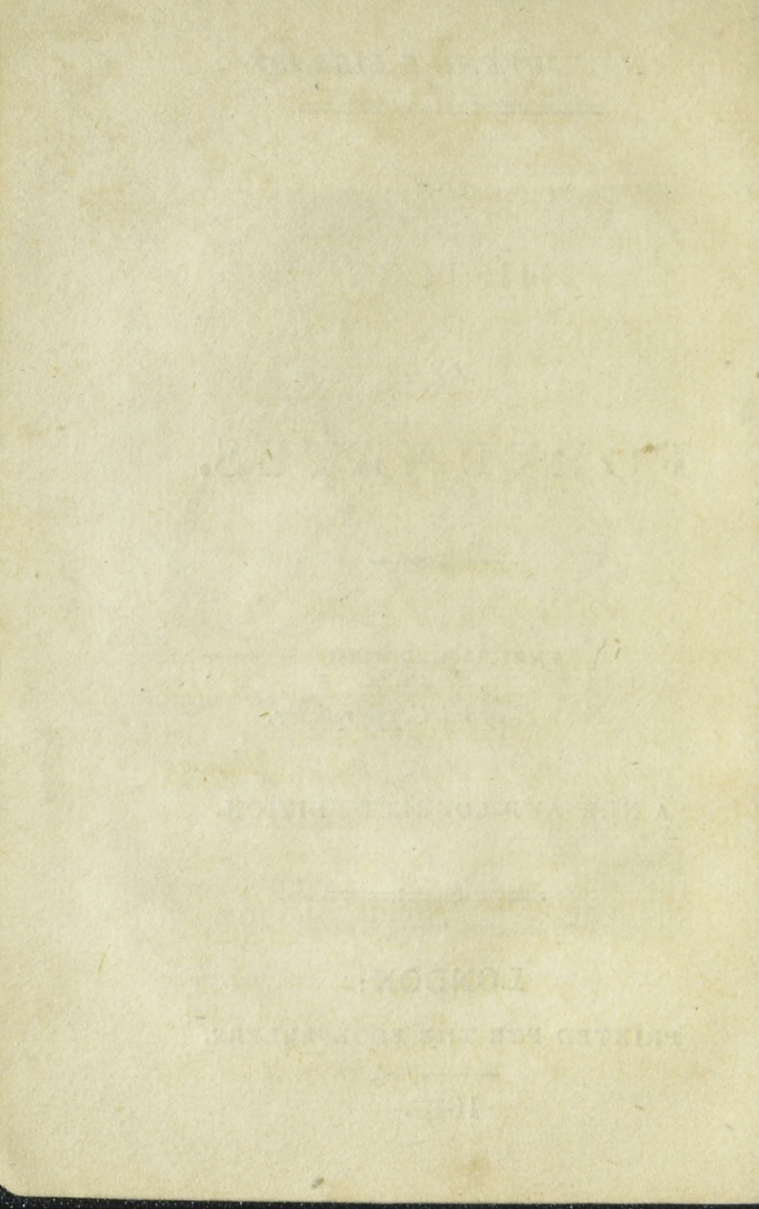
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A NEW AND CORRECT EDITION.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE BOOKSELLERS.

1816.



FORTUNATUS.

IN the city of Famagosta, in the island of Cyprus, there lived a very rich gentleman. His name was Theodorus; he married a lady who was the greatest beauty in Cyprus, and she was as rich as himself; she was called Graciana.

They both had every pleasure that wealth could buy, and lived in the highest style. Besides all this, the Lady Graciana brought her husband a fine little son, who was named Fortunatus; so that one would think nothing could have kept Theodorus from being the

most happy person in the world. But this was not long the case ; for when he had enjoyed all those pleasures for some time, he grew tired of them ; and began to keep company with some young noblemen of the court, with whom he sat up all night, drinking, and playing cards, so that in a few years he spent all his fortune. He was now very sorry for what he had done, but it was too late ; and there was nothing he could do, but to work at some trade, to support his wife and child.

For all this, the Lady Graciana did not speak hard to him, but still loved her husband the same as before ; saying, “ Dear Theodorus, to be sure, I do not know how to work at any trade ; but, if I cannot help you in getting money, I will help you to save it.”

So Theodorus set to work ; and though the Lady Graciana had always been used only to ring her bell for every thing she wanted, she now scoured the kettles and washed the clothes with her own hands.

They went on in this manner till Fortuna-

tus was sixteen years of age. When that time came, one day as they were all sitting at dinner, Theodorus fixed his eyes on his son, and sighed deeply. "What is the matter with you, father?" said Fortunatus. "Ah! my child," said Theodorus, "I have reason enough to be sorry, when I think of the noble fortune which I have spent, and that my folly will force you to labour for your living."

"Father," replied Fortunatus, "do not grieve about it. I have often thought that it was time I should do something for myself; and though I have not been brought up to any trade, yet I hope I can contrive to support myself somehow."

When Fortunatus had done his dinner, he took his hat and walked to the sea-side, thinking of what he could do, so as to be no longer a burden to his parents.

Just as he reached the sea-shore, the Earl of Flanders, who had been to Jerusalem, was getting on board his ship with all his servants to set sail for Flanders. Fortunatus now

thought he would offer himself to be the earl's page. When the earl saw that he was a very smart-looking lad, and heard the quick replies which he made to his questions, he took him into his service; so at once they all went on board.

On their way the ship stopped a short time at the port of Venice; where Fortunatus saw many strange things, which made him wish still more to travel, and taught him much that he did not know before.

Soon after this they came to Flanders; and they had not been long on shore, before the earl his master was married to the daughter of the Duke of Cleves. The wedding was kept with all sorts of public feasting, and games on horseback, called tilts, which lasted many days; and among the rest, the earl's lady gave two jewels as prizes to be played for, each of them the value of a hundred crowns.

One of these was won by Fortunatus, and the other by Timothy, a servant of the Duke of Burgundy; who after ran another

tilt with Fortunatus, so that the winner was to have both the jewels. So they tilted; and at the fourth course, Fortunatus hoisted Timothy a full spear's length from his horse, and thus won both the jewels; which pleased the earl and countess so much, that they praised Fortunatus, and thought better of him than ever.

At this time, also, Fortunatus had many rich presents given him by the lords and ladies of the court. But the high favour which was shown to him made his fellow-servants jealous; and one of them, whose name was Robert, who had always been used to pretend that he had a great friendship for Fortunatus, made him believe that, for all his seeming kindness, the earl in secret envied Fortunatus for his great skill at tilting. Robert said, too, that he had heard the earl give private orders to one of his servants to find some way of killing Fortunatus next day, while they should all be out a-hunting.

Fortunatus thanked the wicked Robert for what he thought a great kindness; and

the next day at day-break he took the swiftest horse in the earl's stable, and left his country.

When the earl heard that Fortunatus had gone away in a hurry, he was much surprised, and asked all his servants what they knew about the matter; but they all denied knowing any thing of it, or what was the reason why he had left them. The earl then said, "that Fortunatus was a lad that he had a great esteem for, and that he was sure some of them must have given him an affront; but if he found it out to be so, he would not fail to punish any person that had been guilty of doing this."

In the mean time Fortunatus, when he found himself out of the earl's country, stopped at an inn to refresh himself; here he began to reckon how much he had about him. He took out all his fine clothes and jewels to look at, and could not help putting them on; he then looked at himself in the glass, and thought that to be sure he was quite a fine smart fellow. Next he took out



his purse, and counted the money that had been given him by the lords and ladies of the earl's court.

He found that, in all, he had five hundred crowns; so he bought a horse, and took care to send back the one that he had taken from the earl's stables. He then set off for Calais, crossed the channel, landed safely at Dover, and went on to London; where he soon made his way into genteel company, and had once the honour to dance with the daughter of a duke at the lord mayor's ball; but this sort of life, as any body may well think, soon made away with his little stock of money.

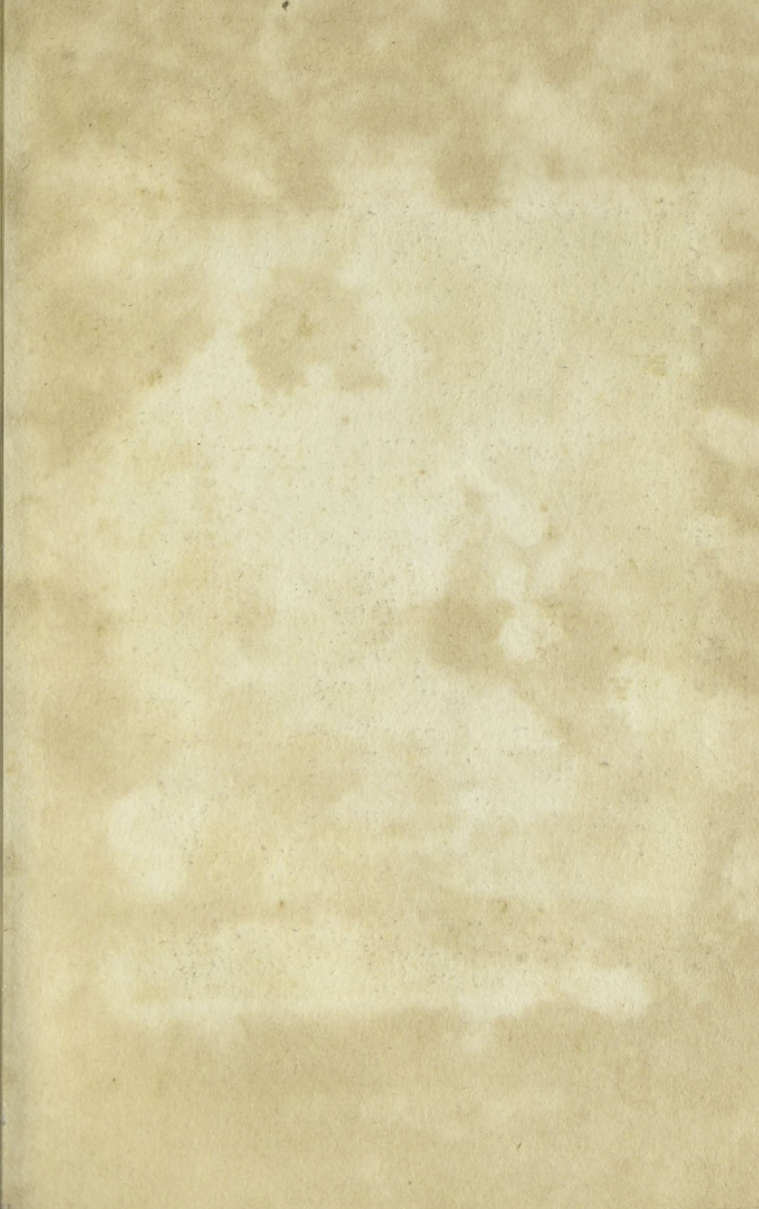
When Fortunatus found himself without a penny left, he began to think of going back again to France, and soon after went on board a ship bound to Picardy. He landed in that country; but finding no employ for himself, he set off for Brittany; when he lost his way in crossing a wood, and was forced to stay in it all night.

The next morning he was but little better

off than before, for he could find no path. So he walked about from one part of the wood to another; till at last, on the evening of the second day, he met with a spring, at which he drank very heartily; but still he had nothing to eat, and was ready to die with hunger.

When night came on, he heard the growling of wild beasts; so he climbed up a high tree for safety; and he had hardly seated himself in it before a lion walked fiercely up to the spring to drink. This made him very much afraid. When the lion had gone away, a bear came to drink also; and as the moon shone very bright, he looked up and saw Fortunatus, and straight began to climb up the tree to get at him.

Fortunatus drew his sword, and sat quiet till the bear was come within arm's length; and he then ran him through the body with it several times. This drove the bear so very savage, that he made a great spring to get at Fortunatus; but the bough broke, and





FORTUNATUS

down he fell, and lay sprawling and making a shocking yell on the ground.

Fortunatus now looked round on all sides ; and as he saw no more wild beasts near, he thought this would be a good time to get rid of the bear at once ; so down he came, and killed him at a single blow. Being almost starved for want of food, he stooped down, and was going to suck the blood of the bear ; but looking round once more, to see if any wild beast was coming, he on a sudden beheld a beautiful lady standing by his side, with a bandage over her eyes, leaning upon a wheel, and looking as if she was going to speak.

The lady did not make him wait long, before she spake these words, “ Know, young man, that my name is Fortune ; I have the power to bestow wisdom, strength, riches, health, beauty, and long life ; one of these I am willing to bestow on you ; choose for yourself which it shall be.”

Fortunatus was not a moment before he answered, “ Good lady, I wish to have riches in such plenty, that I may never again know

what it is to be so hungry as I now find myself."

The lady then gave him a purse, and told him that, in all the countries where he might happen to be, he need only put his hand into the purse as often as he pleased, and he would be sure to find in it ten pieces of gold; that the purse should never fail of yielding the same sum as long as it was kept by him and his children; but that when he and his children should be dead, then the purse should lose this power.

Fortunatus now did not know what to do with himself for joy, and began to thank the lady very much; but she told him that he had better think of making the best of his way out of the wood. She then told him which path to take, and bade him farewell.

He walked by the light of the moon as fast as his weakness and fatigue would let him, till he came near an inn. But before he went into it, he thought it would be best to see whether the lady Fortune had been as good as her word; so he put his hand into his purse,

and to his great joy he counted ten pieces of gold.

Having nothing to fear, Fortunatus walked boldly into the inn, and called for the best supper they could get ready in a minute: "For," said he, "I must wait till to-morrow before I am very nice. I am so hungry now that almost any thing will do."

Fortunatus very soon ate his belly full, and then called for every sort of wine in the house; and after supper, he began to think what sort of life he should now lead. "For," said he to himself, "I shall now have money enough for every thing I can desire."

He slept that night in the very best bed in the house, and the next day he ordered the finest victuals of all kinds. When he rang his bell, all the waiters tried who should run fastest to ask him what he pleased to want; and the landlord himself, hearing what a noble guest was come to the house, took care to be standing at the door to bow to him when he should be passing out.

Fortunatus asked the landlord whether any

fine horses could be got near at hand; also, if he knew of some smart-looking clever men-servants who wanted places. By chance, the landlord was able to provide him with both, to his great liking.

As he had now got every thing that he wanted, he set out on the finest horse that was ever seen, with two servants, for the nearest town. There he bought some grand suits of clothes, and put his two servants in liveries laced with gold; and then he went on to Paris.

Here he took the finest house that was to be got, and lived in great pomp. He invited the nobility, and gave grand balls to all the most beautiful ladies of the court. He went to all public places of amusement, and the first lords in the country asked him to their houses.

He had lived in this manner for about a year, when he began to think of going to Famagosta to visit his parents, whom he had left very poor. "But," thought Fortunatus, "as I am young and have not seen much of the

world, I should like to meet with some person of more knowledge than I have, who would make my journey both useful and pleasing to me."

Soon after this, he fell into company with an old gentleman called Loch Fitty, who was a native of Scotland, and had left a wife and ten children a great many years ago, in hopes to better his fortune; but now, owing to many accidents, was poorer than ever, and had not money enough to take him back to his family.

When Loch Fitty found how much Fortunatus wished to obtain knowledge, he told him many of the strange adventures he had met with; and gave him an account of all the countries he had been in, as well as of the customs, dress, and manners of the people.

Fortunatus thought to himself, "This is the very man I stand in need of:" so at once he made him a very good offer, which the old gentleman agreed to, but made the bargain that he might first go and visit his family.

Fortunatus told him that he should. "And," said he, "as I am a little tired of being always in the midst of such noisy pleasures as we find at Paris, I will, with your leave, go with you to Scotland, and see your wife and children."

They set out the very next day, and came safe to the house of Loch Fitty; and in all the journey, Fortunatus did not once wish to change his kind companion for all the pleasures and grandeur that he had left behind.

Loch Fitty kissed his wife and children; five of whom were daughters, and the most beautiful creatures that were ever beheld. When they had sat down, his wife said to him, "Ah! dear Lord Loch Fitty, how happy I am to see you once again? Now I hope we will enjoy each other's company for the rest of our lives. What though we are poor? we shall be content; if you will but promise you will not think of leaving us again to get riches only because we have a noble title."

Fortunatus heard this with great surprise.

“What,” said he, “are you a lord? Then you shall be a rich lord too. And that you may not think I lay you under any burden in the fortune I shall give you, I will put it into your power to make me your debtor instead. Give me your youngest daughter, Cassandra, for a wife; and let us have the pleasure of your company, as far as to Famagosta; and take all your family with you, that you may have pleasant company on your way back, when you have rested in that place from your fatigue.”

Lord Loch Fitty shed some tears of joy to think he should at last see his family again raised to all the honours which it had once enjoyed. He gladly agreed to Fortunatus being the husband of his daughter Cassandra; and then told him the reason that had forced him to live poor at Paris, and call himself by the plain name of Loch Fitty, instead of Lord.

When Lord Loch Fitty had ended his story, they agreed that the very next morning the lady Cassandra should be asked to

accept the hand of Fortunatus; and that, if she should consent, they would set sail in a few days for Famagosta.

The next morning the offer was made to her, as had been agreed on; and Fortunatus had the pleasure of hearing from the lips of the beautiful Cassandra, that the very first time she cast her eyes on him, she thought him the most handsome and the finest gentleman in the world.

Every thing was soon ready for them to set out on the journey. Fortunatus, Lord Loch Fitty, his lady, and their ten children, then set sail in a large ship; they had a good voyage, and landed safe at the port of Famagosta. They spent a few days after this in making ready for the wedding, and it then took place with all the grandeur and joy that could be.

As Fortunatus found that his father and mother were both dead, he begged that Lord Loch Fitty would be so kind as to stay and keep him and his lady company; so they lived all together in the finest house in the



city of Famagosta, and in the most noble style.

By the end of the first year, the Lady Cassandra had a little son, who was christened Ampedo; and the next year another, who was christened Andolocia.

For twelve years Fortunatus lived a very happy life with his wife and children, and his wife's kindred; and as each of her sisters had a fortune given her from the purse of Fortunatus, they soon married very well. But by this time he began to long to travel again; and he thought, as he was now much older and wiser than when he was at Paris, he might go by himself, for Lord Loch Fitty was at this time too old to bear fatigue.

After he had, with great trouble, got the consent of the Lady Cassandra, who at last made him promise to stay away only two years, he got all things ready for his journey; and taking his lady into one of his private rooms, he shewed her three chests of gold. He told her to keep one of these for herself, and take charge of the other two for their

sons, in case any thing bad should happen to him. He then led her back to the room where the whole family were sitting; embraced them all tenderly one by one, and set sail with a fair wind for Alexandria.

When Fortunatus came to this place, he was told that it was the custom to make a handsome present to the sultan; so he sent him a piece of plate that cost five thousand pounds. The sultan was so much pleased at this, that he ordered a hundred casks of spices to be given to Fortunatus in return. Fortunatus sent these straight to the Lady Cassandra, with the kindest letters that could be, by the same ship that brought him, which was then going back to Famagosta.

Fortunatus soon told the sultan, that he wished to travel through his country by land; so the sultan gave him such passports and letters as he might stand in need of, to the other princes in those parts. He then bought a camel, hired proper servants, and set off on his travels.

He went through Turkey, Persia, and

from thence to Carthage; he next went into the country of Prester John, who rides upon a white elephant, and has kings to wait on him.

Fortunatus made him some rich presents, and went on to Calcutta; and in coming back, he took Jerusalem in his way, and so came again to Alexandria; where he had the good fortune to find the same ship that had brought him, and to learn from the captain that his wife and family were all in perfect health.

The first thing that he did was to pay a visit to his old friend the sultan. He again made a handsome present to him, and was invited to dine at his palace.

After dinner the sultan said, "It must be vastly amusing, Fortunatus, to hear an account of all the places you have seen; pray favour me with a history of your travels."

Fortunatus did as he was desired, and pleased the sultan very much, by telling him the many odd adventures he had met with;

and, above all, the manner of his first becoming known to the Lord Loch Fitty, and the desire of that lord to maintain the honours of his family.

When he had ended, the sultan said he was greatly pleased with what he had heard; but that he had a more curious thing than any thing that Fortunatus had told him. He then led him into a room almost filled with jewels, opened a large closet, and took out a cap, which he told Fortunatus was of greater value than all the rest.

Fortunatus thought the sultan was joking, and told him he had seen many a better cap than that. "Ah!" said the sultan, "that is because you do not know its value. Whoever puts this cap on his head, and wishes to be in any part of the world, will find himself there in a moment."

"Indeed!" said Fortunatus, "and pray, is the man living who made it?"

"I know nothing about that," said the sultan.

“ One would hardly believe it,” said Fortunatus. “ Pray, sir, is it very heavy ?”

“ Not at all,” replied the sultan ; “ you may feel it.”

Fortunatus took up the cap, put it on his head, and could not help wishing himself on board the ship that was going back to Famagosta. In less than a moment he was carried through the winds on board of her, just as she was ready to sail ; and there being a brisk gale, they were out of sight in half an hour ; while the sultan, all the time, began to repent of his folly, for letting Fortunatus try the cap on his head.

The ship came safe to Famagosta after a happy passage, and Fortunatus found his wife and children well ; but Lord Loch Fitty and his lady had died of old age, and were buried side by side.

Fortunatus now began to take great pleasure in teaching his two boys all sorts of useful learning, and also such manly sports as wrestling and tilting. Now and then he thought about the curious cap which had brought him home,

and then he would wish he could just take a peep at what was passing in other countries ; but at those times he always made himself content with staying only an hour or two, so that the Lady Cassandra never missed him, and was not uneasy any more about his love of travelling.

At last, Fortunatus began to get old, and the Lady Cassandra fell sick and died. The loss of her caused him so much grief, that soon after he fell sick too. As he thought he had not long to live, he called his two sons to his bed-side, and told them the secrets of the purse and the cap, which he begged they would not on any account make known to others. " Follow my example," said Fortunatus ; " I have had the purse these forty years, and no living person knew from what source I obtained my riches."

He then told them to make use of the purse between them, and to live together in friendship ; and, embracing them, died soon after.

Fortunatus was buried in great pomp by the side of Lady Cassandra, in his own chapel, and was for a long time mourned by the people of Famagosta.

FINIS.

DIAMONDS AND TOADS.

THERE was, once upon a time, a widow who had two daughters. The eldest was so very much like her mother, both in temper and person, that whoever saw one, saw the picture of the other also; they were both so proud and so ill-natured, that nobody could live with them.

The youngest was just as much like her father, who had nothing but good-nature and sweet temper in him. She was also the most beautiful creature that ever was seen. The mother doated upon the eldest, but she hated

the youngest, and made her eat in the kitchen, and work all day with the servants.

Besides this, the poor girl had to go twice a-day to draw water out of a spring more than a mile and a half from the house; and bring home a large jug full of it as well as she could. One day, while she was at the spring, a poor woman came up to her, and asked her to let her drink. "That I will, Goody, with all my heart," said the sweet little girl. She then washed out the jug, filled it at the clearest part of the spring, and held it up to the old woman's mouth, that she might drink the better.

When the old woman had done, she said to her, "You are so pretty, so kind, and so good, my dear, that I will give you a gift." Now, it was a fairy that had been drinking, who only wanted to see how far the little girl's good-nature would go. "I give you," said she, "that every time you speak, there shall come out of your mouth either a rose or a diamond."

When the little girl got home, her mother

began to scold her for staying so long at the spring. "I beg your pardon, mamma," said she, "for not coming home sooner;" and while she spoke these words, there fell from her lips two roses, two pearls, and two large diamonds.

"What is this I see?" cried the mother, quite lost in wonder; "as sure as any thing she drops diamonds and pearls from her mouth in speaking! My child, how does this happen?" This was the first time she had ever called her by such a fond name as my child. The poor girl told her mother every thing that had passed at the spring; and still kept dropping pearls and diamonds from her mouth all the time she was speaking.

"Upon my word," said her mother, "this is very lucky indeed; I will send my darling there too. Fanny! Fanny! look, do you see what falls out of your sister's mouth when she speaks? Should not you like to have the same gift yourself? Well, only go to the spring; and when a poor woman asks you to

let her drink, do so in as civil and kind a manner as you can."

"It would be very pretty, to be sure," answered the proud creature, "for *me* to go and draw water at the spring! Not I, indeed." "But I insist on your going, and this very moment too," said her mother. When the pert hussy found that she must, she set out; but took the best silver tankard in the house along with her, and grumbled all the way as she went.

As soon as she reached the spring, a lady very richly dressed came out of a wood just by, and asked her to let her drink. This was the very same fairy that had bestowed the rich gift on the youngest sister; but now she had taken the dress and manners of a princess, to see how far the surly airs of the proud creature would go. "Am I come here," said the ill-bred hussy, "to draw water for you? What! the best silver tankard in the house was brought on purpose for your ladyship, I suppose! But you may drink out of it too, if you have a fancy."

“You are not very civil,” said the fairy, without putting herself into a passion; “but since you have behaved with so little kindness, I give you for a gift, that at every word you speak, there shall come out of your mouth either a toad or a snake.”

As soon as her mother saw her coming home, she called out, “Well, daughter!” “Well, mother!” answered the pert creature; and as she spoke, two toads and two snakes dropped from her mouth upon the ground. “Oh, mercy!” cried the mother, “what do I see? It is that jade your sister who is the cause of all this! But she shall pay for it, I warrant her;” and she went straight to look for her, that she might beat her.

The poor little girl ran away as fast as she could, and reached a forest near the house. It happened that the king’s son had just then been hunting, and he met her; and seeing how very beautiful she was, he asked what she was doing all alone in the forest, and why she cried?

“Alas!” said she, sobbing as if her heart would break, “my mother, Sir, has turned me out of doors.” The king’s son now saw the pearls and diamonds fall from her mouth at every word she spoke; and he begged her to tell him how such a strange thing happened. The pretty creature then let him know all that had passed between her and the fairy at the spring.

The prince was so much charmed with her beauty and innocence, that he fell deeply in love with her. He saw that the gift which the fairy had given her was worth more than the largest fortune could be; so he led her to the palace of the king his father, and married her directly.

As for her sister, she grew even perter than before, and behaved in all things so very ill, that her own mother was forced to turn her out of doors. At last, the ill-natured and saucy creature wandered a long way, and tried to get some one to give her food and shelter, but she could not; so she

went into a thick wood, and there died of grief and hunger, without having one person in the world to pity or be sorry for her.

FINIS.

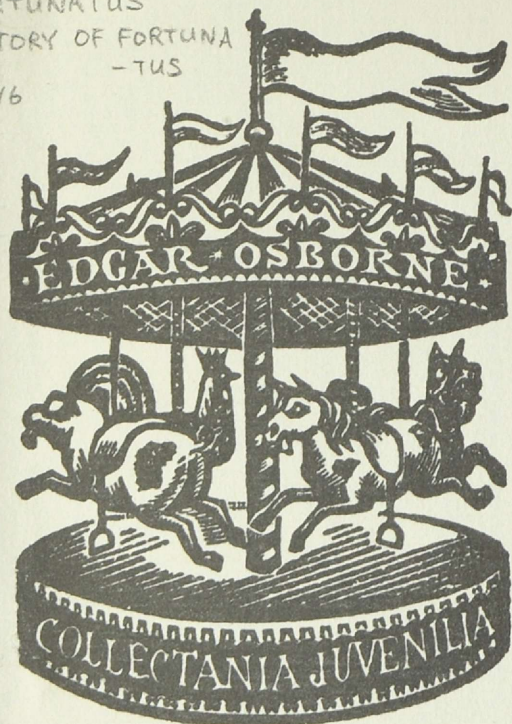
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