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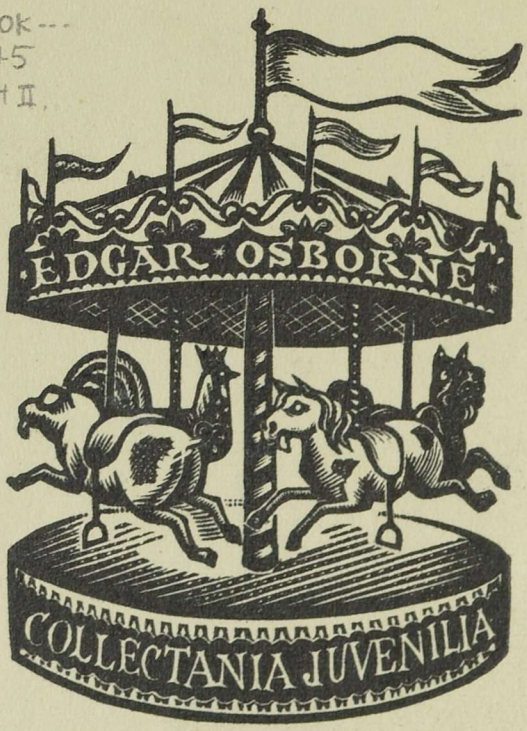

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A Nursery Keepsake.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY ROBSON, LEVEY, AND FRANKLYN,
Great New Street, Fetter Lane.

GOODY TWO SHOES.

Page 27. "The Key was now applied to the door, and on its being opened, little Margery walked forth."

The Book of Nursery Tales.

A Keepsake for the Young.

Second Series.

London:
James Burns
mdccccxlv.

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THE

SLEEPING BEAUTY.

LONDON:

JAMES BURNS.

LONDON:
Printed by S. & J. Bentley, Wilson, and Fley,
Bangor House, Shoe Lane.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY
MANY years ago there lived a king and queen who had an only daughter, and she was
J BURNS
LONDON

so beautiful that, at her birth, the king knew not what to do for joy, and he appointed a great feast to celebrate it. He invited not only his relations and friends, and his whole court, but also the wise women, in order that they might be kind and bestow favours upon the new-born princess. There were thirteen of these women in his kingdom, but as he had only twelve gold trenchers for them to eat off, he could not invite them all; so one was left out. The twelve who were invited came; and when the feast was over, they began to bestow their wonderful gifts upon the child. One gave her virtue, a second beauty, a third riches, a fourth modesty, and so on with everything that is good and valuable in the whole world. But just as the eleventh had finished bestowing her gift, in came the thirteenth, who had not been invited, and began to threaten vengeance for the affront which the king had put upon her. "The maiden," she said, "when she comes to her fifteenth year, shall pierce her hand with a spindle, and shall fall

down dead!" At this the king and queen were grieved beyond measure; but the twelfth fairy, who had not yet bestowed her gift, stepped forward and spoke; she could not indeed, she said, prevent what her sister had determined, but she could mitigate it. "The king's daughter," she continued, "shall not *die*, but she shall fall into a deep sleep, which shall last a hundred years; at the end of which time a king's son shall awaken her, and when she falls asleep the whole palace will sleep with her."

The king, who was very anxious, if possible, to ward off this misfortune from his dear child, made a proclamation, that every spindle should be sent out of the kingdom, and that none should be seen all over the land until the princess had passed her fifteenth year. In the meantime the wishes of the fairies came to pass, for the maiden grew up so beautiful, so modest, so amiable, and so intelligent, that no one who saw her could help immediately loving her. Now it happened one day

when she was nearly fifteen years old, that the king and queen went from home, and the young princess was left quite alone in the palace. She walked about through all the rooms and passages, and wandered hither and thither as her fancy led her, till at last she came to an old tower. Here she saw a narrow staircase, which she mounted, and then she came to a little door. In the lock of the door there was a rusty key, and when she turned it round the door sprang open, and there she saw, sitting in the corner of a little room, a very old woman, who was busily employed with her spinning wheel. "Ah! old granny," said the king's daughter, "what are you about there?"—"I am spinning," answered the old woman: and nodded her head to the princess. "How merrily that thing goes round," spoke the maiden,—taking the spindle in her hand at the same time,—"let me try if I can spin too." But scarcely had she touched the spindle when she pierced her hand with it, and the enchantment took effect. That

moment she fell down and sank into a deep sleep. She was then carried to a chamber and laid upon a beautiful couch, and no sooner was this done than the king and queen, and their servants, and the whole court, and everything about the castle, fell asleep likewise. The horses and grooms slept in the court-yard, or in the stalls, the dogs in the kennel, the pigeons on the roof, and the flies on the walls; even the very fire, which flamed upon the hearth, became still and slept; the roast ceased to hiss; and the cook, who had caught the kitchen-girl by the hair to punish her for some fault, let go her hold and fell asleep; and all that had the breath of life was still, and slept.

And now a hedge of thorns began to grow all round the castle, which every year became higher and thicker, until at last it closed in the whole building, and not even the chimney tops could be seen. And the story of the beautiful sleeping Thorn-rose (for thus was the princess named), was told throughout the land, so that from time to

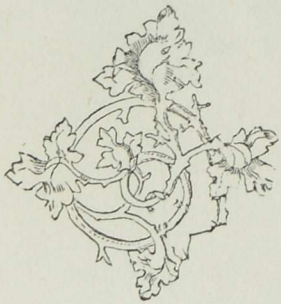
time many kings' sons came, and tried to force their way through the hedge into the castle. But it was all in vain; for the boughs kept together as tightly as if they had clasped each other's hands, so that the youths stuck fast among the thorns and could not get out, and after struggling and tumbling about for a long time, they one by one died.

After many long years had flown by, there came another king's son through the land; and he heard by chance from an old man the story of the thorn-hedge, and the kings' sons who had been killed by it. The old man also told him how it was said, that there stood a castle on the other side of the hedge,—and in the castle the beautiful princess, Thorn-rose, slept, and with her the king and queen and the whole household. Then the youth said to him, "The thorn-hedge shall not frighten me. I will force my way through it, for I am resolved to see the beautiful princess, Thorn-rose, if it should cost me my life."

But the day was now at hand when the hundred years were to expire, and the spell to be dissolved. And when the prince approached the hedge, the thorns appeared to his sight only large beautiful flowers, which separated before him of themselves, and allowed him to pass through unhurt; and when he had passed, he saw them close themselves again and stand up like a great wall behind him. He entered the castle, and looked around him with astonishment. In the court-yard were horses with their grooms fast asleep: the pigeons, too, sat sleeping upon the roof, and hid their little heads under their wings. And when he came into the house, he saw the very flies asleep upon the walls; the cook held her hand as if she would seize the kitchen-girl by the hair, and the maid sat with the black fowl before her which she was going to pluck. He went on farther, and as he went, he saw the guards all asleep at their posts. Then he came into the great hall, and he saw all the courtiers sleeping there. He walked on

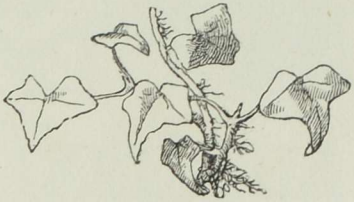
again, and all was so still that he could hear his own breath; and at last he went up a winding stair, and opened the door of the chamber in which Thorn-rose slept, and not far from where she lay were the king and queen themselves. He went near to the princess, and as she lay there, all still and motionless, she looked so beautiful that he could not take his eyes off her; at last he stooped down and gave her a kiss. As soon as he had touched her cheek, Thorn-rose opened her eyes, woke up, and looked round her with a friendly smile. Then she arose, and the prince and she went down the stair together. And now the king and queen, and the whole court, awoke, and rubbed their eyes and looked with wonder at each other. The horses also awoke and neighed and shook themselves; the greyhounds sprang to their feet and wagged their tails; the doves, on the housetop, drew their heads from under their wings, looked round, and flew away into the meadow; the flies on the wall began to creep

along; the fire in the kitchen flickered and flamed up; the roast began to hiss; the old cook gave the kitchen-girl a box on the ear, that made her scream; the maid, too, was seen busily plucking away at the fowl. To crown the whole, the wedding of Thorn-rose and the king's son was celebrated with great feasting and rejoicings; and they lived in peace and happiness all their days.



THE

INVISIBLE PRINCE.



LONDON:
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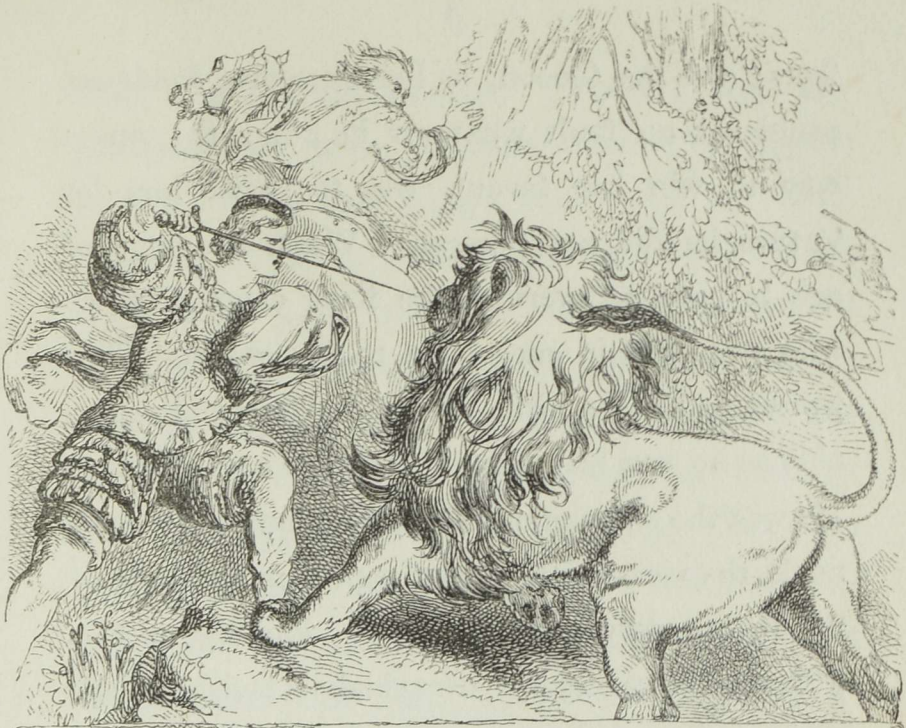


THE INVISIBLE PRINCE.

ONCE on a time there was a King who had an only son, named Furibon. He was dwarfish in stature, and of a malicious disposition, and although the King his father was sensible of his son's de-

fects; yet the Queen, in her excessive fondness, could see no fault whatever in him: the surest way to win her favour, was to praise him for virtues he did not possess. When he came of age to have a governor, the King chose a prince who was next in succession to the crown. This prince had a son, who was as amiable and agreeable as he was handsome: his name was Leander. He was the companion of Furibon, and his virtues made the vices of the latter appear more hideous. "You are very happy," said he, looking on him with a malicious eye; "everybody is lavish in their praises of you; but not one of them has a good word for me."—"Sir," replied Leander modestly, "the respect they have for you restrains them from being familiar."—"It is well for them that it does," said Furibon, "for otherwise I should punish them well, to teach them their duty."

One day, when certain ambassadors arrived from a distant country, Furibon and Leander stood in a gallery to see them pass by; but

when the ambassadors saw Leander, they approached him with profound reverence, supposing him to be the King's son. As for Furibon, he looked so ill-tempered that they turned their backs upon him, and left him unnoticed. Leander was extremely vexed; he told them it was the King's son; but they understood not what he said; and the intrepreter was gone to wait their appearance before the King. Leander, finding he could not make them understand him, redoubled his attentions to Furibon: but the ambassadors and their attendants, thinking he was in jest, laughed at Furibon's anger, and at last, taking him for a dwarf, they began to amuse themselves by playing tricks upon him. This so enraged Furibon, that he drew his sword, and was about to thrust it through the ambassadors, when the King came to meet them. He was greatly surprised at his son's behaviour, and begged them to excuse any insult that had been offered them. They replied, the matter was of

no consequence; for they perceived the little fellow was of a bad disposition. The King was greatly chagrined to find that his son's form, and still more his ill-humours, had made such an impression upon the strangers.

When they were gone, Furibon seized Leander by the hair, plucked off two or three handfuls, and forbade him ever to appear again in his presence. Leander's father, offended with Furibon's behaviour towards his son, sent him to a castle of his in the country, where he always found himself employment. He passed much of his time in hunting, fishing, and walking: he understood painting, read much, and played upon several instruments. His days passed so happily, that he was glad to have escaped the bad tempers of Furibon. One day, he was walking in the garden, and finding the heat oppressive, he retired into a grove, where the thick shade afforded him a cool retreat. Whilst here he began to play upon his flute, when he felt

something wind itself about his leg. On looking to see what it was, he was surprised to find a snake, which he immediately seized by the head, and was about to kill; but the snake wound round his arm, and looking steadfastly in his face, seemed to beg his compassion. At this instant one of the gardeners came to the place where Leander was, and seeing the snake, he cried out to his master, "Kill it, sir; it is the most mischievous creature in the world; he spoils all our walks." Leander looked again upon the snake, which was speckled with a thousand beautiful colours, and perceived the poor creature still looking upon him, as if imploring compassion. "Though you have such a mind to kill it," said he to the gardener, "yet, as it has come to me for refuge, I forbid you to do it any harm, for I will keep it, and when it has cast its beautiful skin, I will let it go." He then returned to the palace, and carrying the snake with him, put it into a large chamber, and ordered it to

be fed with milk and bread. Leander went sometimes to see it, and, as soon as he entered the room, it came up to him, and showed signs of gratitude, which greatly surprised him, though he took no farther notice of it.

All the ladies of the court were extremely troubled at Leander's absence, and they were constantly talking about him. "Alas!" they said, "there is no pleasure at court now Leander is gone; and it is all through the wicked Furibon that he is not here!" Furibon had his companions, who told him what the ladies said, which greatly enraged him; and in his passion he flew to the Queen's chamber, and vowed he would kill himself before her face, if she did not find means to destroy Leander. The Queen, who also hated Leander, because he was better and handsomer than her son, replied, that she had long looked upon him as a traitor, and, therefore, willingly consented to his death. She advised Furibon to go hunting with some of his

confidants, and to invite Leander to accompany him; and then to take revenge on him. Accordingly Furibon went hunting; and Leander, when he heard the horns and the hounds, mounted his horse and rode to see who it was: he was surprised to find that it was the Prince. Leander immediately alighted, and saluted him with respect. Furibon received him more graciously than usual, and asked him to follow him. After riding some distance, Furibon suddenly turned his horse, and rode another way, making a sign to the ruffians to take the first opportunity to kill him; but before he had got out of sight, a ferocious lion of prodigious size sprang upon Furibon. His followers fled for safety, and Leander alone remained to combat this furious animal. He attacked him sword in hand, at the hazard of his own life, and by his valour and agility saved the life of his most cruel enemy. Furibon had swooned from fear, so that Leander was forced to lend him assistance, and help him to remount.

This ungrateful monster did not even thank Leander for his generous services; but immediately rode after his slaves to command them to kill Leander. They returned quickly and surrounded him, and but for his courage he would certainly have been murdered. He stood with his back to a tree, to prevent them attacking him behind, and behaved with so much bravery, that he laid them all dead at his feet. When Furibon supposed him to be slain, he hastened to satiate his eyes with the sight; but he saw Leander alive, and all his ruffians destroyed. When Leander saw him, he advanced to meet him, with submissive reverence; but Furibon exclaimed, "You are an insolent villain! and if ever you come into my presence again, you shall surely die."

Leander made no reply, but retired, sad and pensive, to his own home, where he spent the night in pondering what was best for him to do. He knew it was impossible to screen himself from the malice of the King's son; and

he therefore resolved to travel. Before departing, he recollected his snake, and calling for some milk, he carried it to the poor creature, intending to let it escape; but, on opening the door, he was surprised to see a lady, whose noble and majestic air convinced him that she was a princess of royal birth. She was dressed in purple satin, embroidered with pearls and diamonds. Advancing towards Leander with a gracious smile, she said, "Young Prince, the snake which you brought hither has disappeared, but you find me in its place to requite your generosity; I am the fairy Gentilla, famous for the feats of mirth and dexterity which I can perform. We fairies of the race to which I belong live a hundred years in flourishing youth, without diseases, trouble, or pain; and at the expiration of this term we become snakes for eight days. This is the only time which may prove fatal to us; for then it is not in our power to prevent any misfortune that may befal us; but at the end of eight days, we

resume our usual form, and recover our beauty, power, and riches. You will perceive, therefore, how deeply I am indebted to you; and I am now ready to serve you to the utmost of my power."

The young Prince, who had never before conversed with a fairy, was so surprised that he was a long time before he could speak. But at length, bowing respectfully, "Madam," said he, "I am happy to have had the honour of serving you." —"I should be sorry," replied she, "not to make you some return: it is in my power to make you a great king, to bestow upon you great riches, or to enable you to become invisible."—"Oh, madam!" cried Leander, "give me the power of becoming invisible: I am going to travel in privacy, and prefer this above all the other advantages you have offered me." Gentilla thereupon touched him with her wand, and then presented him with a red cap with a plume of feathers, saying, "When you put on this cap, you shall be invisible; but when you take it off,

you shall again become visible." You can at the same time transport yourself wherever you wish. Leander, overjoyed, put on his red cap, and wished himself in the forest, that he might gather some wild roses which he had observed there; and immediately he passed through the window, and arriving in safety at the rose-bushes, he plucked two roses, and returned immediately to the fairy, and presented them to her, rejoicing in his newly-acquired power. But the fairy bade him keep the roses, telling him that one would supply him with money whenever he wanted it; and that the second would preserve him from sickness. She then wished him success in his travels, and disappeared.

Leander having arranged his affairs, mounted the finest horse in the stable, and, attended by some of his servants in livery, set out for the court. Now Furibon, on his return from hunting, reported that Leander had killed all his attendants, and would have murdered him also, had

he not displayed great bravery. He demanded of his mother, therefore, that Leander should be seized and executed. The Queen, always ready to believe Furibon, and to grant his requests, went at once to the King. Furibon, impatient to know what passed, applied his ear to the keyhole. At that moment Leander entered the hall of the palace with his red cap upon his head, which rendered him invisible: and perceiving Furibon listening at the door of the King's chamber, he took a nail and a hammer, and nailed his ear to the door. Furibon cried out with pain. The Queen, hearing his cries, ran and opened the door, and pulling it hastily, tore his ear. The Queen, distracted with grief, set him in her lap, and caressed him; but the invisible Leander, seizing a handful of twigs, gave the Queen several strokes on her hands, and her son as many on the face; upon which the Queen cried out, "Murder! murder!" The cries of the Queen soon brought the King and all his

courtiers: but as nothing was to be seen, some said that the Queen was mad on account of the loss of her son's ear. The King, believing it to be the case, avoided her, and left the room. Leander then leaving the chamber, went into the garden, and after pulling off his cap, began to pluck the Queen's cherries, apricots, and strawberries, and to pull her flowers by handfuls. The gardeners, amazed at his audacities, came and told their majesties that Prince Leander was destroying all the fruit and flowers in the Queen's garden. "What insolence!" said the Queen: then turning to Furibon, "Forget the pain of thy ear for a moment," said she, "and fetch that vile wretch hither; tell the guards, to seize him, and punish him as he deserves." Furibon, encouraged by his mother, entered the garden attended by a number of soldiers, and seeing Leander under a tree, they ran to seize him, but he put on his cap and disappeared: whilst invisible, he seized Furibon and tied his legs with a

cord, so that he fell on his face on the gravel, and bruised himself sadly.

Leander, satisfied with inflicting this punishment, returned to his servants, who waited for him, and, giving them money, sent them back to his castle, that none might know the secret of his red cap and roses. He then mounted his fine horse, and laying the reins upon his neck, let him go whither he would; at length he arrived at a forest, where he stopped to shelter himself from the extreme heat. He had not been long there before he heard loud lamentations, and, on turning round, he beheld a man crying, tearing his hair, and beating his breast, like a madman. He was young and handsome: his garments had been magnificent, but they were very much torn. The Prince, moved with compassion, mildly accosted him: "Sir," said he, "you appear to be in great trouble; can I render you any assistance?"—"Oh, sir," answered the young man, "nothing can remedy my miseries; this day

my dear lady is to be sacrificed to an old jealous barbarian, who has a great estate, but who will make her the most miserable person in the world."—"Where is she?" asked Leander. "In a castle at the end of this forest," replied he. "Very well," said Leander; "stay here till I come again, and in a little time I will bring you good news." He then put on his red cap, and wished himself in the castle. When he arrived, the castle resounded with all kinds of music. He entered a large room, where the friends and kindred of both parties were assembled. The young lady was lovely and amiable; but her pale face, sorrowful countenance, and the tears in her eyes, showed the troubles of her heart.

Leander, placing himself in a corner of the room, that he might discover who the persons were, soon perceived the father and mother of the lady, privately chiding her for not appearing cheerful and happy as a bride. Leander placed himself behind the mother's chair, and

whispered in her ear: "If you compel your daughter to marry that old fellow, before eight days are ended you shall be punished with death." The woman, terrified at these words, and seeing no person near her, gave a loud shriek, and fell upon the floor. Her husband, in great alarm, asked what was the matter: she cried, that she was to die if the marriage of her daughter took place, and, therefore, she would not consent to it for all the world. Her husband laughed at her weakness; but the invisible Leander accosting him, said, "You incredulous man! believe your wife, or you, too, shall suffer: break off this match, and bestow her on the person whom she loves." These extraordinary occurrences so alarmed all the parties, that the arrangements for the marriage were at once set aside. The distracted lover was then sought for, and was brought to the castle, where Leander waited his arrival. He was overjoyed at this happy and unexpected change; and the entertainment prepared for the

nuptials of the old man served for those of this happy pair. Leander now took off his cap, and appeared at the door. The bridegroom immediately recognized him as his benefactor, and was about to thank him for his kind services, when Leander disappeared.

He then pursued his journey, and on entering an extensive forest, he heard a female voice calling for help. He rode toward the spot, and saw four armed men carrying away a young lady, upon which he hastened to her rescue, and commanded the men to relinquish their hold. The ringleader told him to mind his own business, and not interfere with them. Leander again boldly demanded her release; at which they laughed, and said, "You had better rescue her from our hands." The Prince jumped quickly from his horse, and put on his red cap. The young lady continued her cries and complaints: "Oh, my dear Princess," said she, "how happy was I in your palace! How is it possible for

me to live without your company? Did you know my sad misfortune, you would send to rescue poor Apricotina." Leander without delay seized the ruffian who held her, and bound him fast to a tree, before he had time to help himself. He then seized the second by both arms, and bound him in the same manner to another tree. In the mean time Apricotina fled as fast as she could; but her fear was so great that she knew not where she went. The other two ruffians, alarmed at the strange fate of their companions, ran off without attempting to rescue them.

Leander now mounted his horse to seek after the fair lady, and soon overtook her. On seeing the horse approach her, ready saddled and bridled, and without a rider, (for she could not see Leander with his invisible cap on,) Apricotina said, "I will mount this pretty horse, which will carry me safely to the palace of pleasure." She had no sooner mounted the horse than Leander clasped her in his arms. This embrace of an invisi-

ble being so terrified her, that she shrieked aloud. The Prince then became visible, and said, "Fear not, fair lady, I am the person who delivered you from those ruffians." Apricotina immediately recognized him, and thanked him for his goodness.

He then asked her where she came from, and how she had fallen into the hands of those men. "Sir," replied she, "I will relate to you the whole affair, for I owe you a debt of gratitude as my deliverer."

"There was a powerful fairy," continued she, "who married a prince that soon after fell sick and died; on which she retired with her daughter to the Island of Pleasure. This princess is most beautiful, and has many lovers: among them is one named Furibon, whom she detests. Those ruffians, from whom you rescued me, were sent by him to seize my mistress; they, however, mistook me for her, and, but for your timely aid, would certainly have carried me away. The Princess has been taught to hate men; and no

one can gain access to this island. I am one of her maidens, and had imprudently ventured out of the island in search of her parrot, which had flown away, when I was seized as you saw. Many thanks, noble Prince, for your valour." Leander asked if he could not obtain admission into the island. Apricotina assured him this was impossible. While they were thus conversing, they came to the bank of a large river. Apricotina then alighted, and again thanked the Prince for his services. The Prince now jumped from his saddle, and tied the horse to a tree; then putting on his little cap, wished himself in the Island of Pleasure, and the same instant he found himself in the most beautiful place he had ever seen.

There was a palace of pure gold, with pillars of crystal and precious stones. He entered into the palace, and saw on every side objects so wonderful and beautiful, that he could not take his eyes off them. In some of the rooms there was the most beautiful china: in others the walls

were of porcelain, so very fine, that they appeared quite transparent. Coral, jasper, agates, and cornelians, beautified the rooms of state, and the Princess's presence-chamber appeared as one entire mirror. The throne was one single pearl, whereon she sat, surrounded by her maids-of-honour, whose dress glittered with rubies and diamonds. The beauty of the Princess eclipsed all the splendour which was around her; and Leander gazed on her with surprise. At this moment Apricotina entered the room, and falling at her mistress's feet, gave her a full account of what had befallen her, and described the Prince who had rescued her as the best and handsomest of men.

"I should have hated all men," added she, "had I not seen him! Oh, madam, he is a noble prince!" The Princess then asked Apricotina many questions concerning the Prince; whether she knew his name, his country, his birth, from whence he came, and whither he was going; and after this she fell into deep thought. After

a time the Princess arose, and went to another apartment, in which was set a sumptuous repast.

The magnificence of the room, the splendour of the entertainment, the beauty of the Princess, and the sweet sounds of the music, quite fascinated Leander. He seated himself, and partook of the richest delicacies, unseen by any one.

At the conclusion of the repast, the Princess retired to a room, attended by Apricotina alone; but Leander was there as soon as they. The Princess, believing herself alone with her confidant, said, "Apricotina, tell me truly, did you exaggerate in your description of the unknown prince? Surely it is impossible he should be so noble and handsome?"—"Madam," replied she, "my description falls short of the reality." The Princess sighed, and remained silent for some time; then resuming her speech, "I am glad," said she, "you did not bring him with you."—"But, madam," answered Apricotina, who was a wise girl, and already penetrated her mistress's thoughts,

"suppose he had come to admire the wonders of these beautiful mansions, what harm could he have done us? Will you always live concealed from the rest of human-kind? Of what use is all your grandeur and pomp, if you possess it alone?"—"Hold thy peace," replied the Princess. Apricotina durst make no reply. The Princess was silent and thoughtful during the whole evening, and seemed but little interested by the various diversions which were going on around. When the night was far advanced, the inmates of the palace retired to rest. Leander, delighted to find the report of himself had made some impression on the lovely Princess, slept soundly in an unoccupied apartment. He arose early in the morning, and finding some brushes and colours in the room, he sat down and painted his own likeness: when it was finished, he put it on the toilet of the Princess. On entering in the morning, she was greatly surprised to see a portrait, and turning to Apricotina, she inquired

who placed it there. Apricotina replied, "Indeed, I know not, but it is the exact image of the prince who rescued me." The Princess ordered it to be placed where she could frequently see it, and seemed to take great pleasure in looking at it from time to time.

In the mean time, Furibon, still enamoured of the Princess, whom he had never seen, expected with impatience the return of the four men whom he had sent to the Island of Pleasure. One of them at last came back, and after he had given the Prince a particular account of what had passed, told him that the island was defended by Amazons, and that unless he sent a very powerful army, it would be impossible to get into it. The King his father was dead, and he now lord of all: disdaining, therefore, any repulse, he raised an army of four hundred thousand men, and put himself at the head of them, on a warhorse. Now, when the Amazons perceived his mighty host, they gave the Princess notice of it,

who immediately despatched her trusty Apricotina to the kingdom of the fairies, to beg her mother's instructions what she should do to drive the hateful Furibon from her territories. But Apricotina found the fairy in an angry humour. "Nothing that my daughter does," said she, "escapes my knowledge: I know that the Prince Leander is now in her palace, and that he loves her, and that she has a tenderness for him. All my cares and precepts have not been able to guard her from the tyranny of Love, and she is now under his fatal dominion. Apricotina, begone: say not a word more of a daughter, whose behaviour has so much displeased me."

Apricotina returned with these bad tidings, at which the Princess was almost distracted; and this was soon perceived by Leander, who was near her, though she did not see him, and beheld her grief with the greatest pain. However, he durst not then open his lips; but recollecting that Furibon was exceedingly covetous, he thought

that, by giving him a sum of money, he might, perhaps, prevail with him to retire. Thereupon, he dressed himself like an Amazon, and wished himself in the forest, to catch his horse. He had no sooner called him, than he came leaping, prancing, and neighing for joy, for he was grown quite weary of being so long absent from his master; but when he beheld him dressed as a woman, he hardly knew him, and at first thought himself deceived: but Leander mounted him, and soon arrived in the camp of Furibon, where every body took him for a real Amazon, and gave notice to Furibon, that a lady was come to speak with him from the Princess of the Island of Pleasure. Immediately the dwarf king put on his royal robes, and placed himself upon his throne.

Leander addressed him, and told him that the Princess, preferring a quiet and peaceable life to the fatigues of war, had sent him to offer his majesty as much money as he pleased to demand, provided he would suffer her to continue in peace;

but if he refused her proposal, she would omit no means that might serve for her defence. Furibon replied, that he took pity on her, and would grant her the honour of his protection; but that he demanded a hundred thousand bags of gold, and without that sum paid, he would not return to his kingdom. Leander answered, that if he would say how many rooms'-full he desired to have, the Princess was generous and rich enough to satisfy him. Furibon was astonished to hear that, instead of demanding an abatement, she would rather offer an augmentation; and it came into his wicked mind to take all the money he could get, and then seize the Amazon, and kill her, that she might not return to her mistress. He told Leander, therefore, that he would have thirty chambers of gold, and that then, upon his royal word, he would return. Leander, being conducted into the chambers that were to be filled, took his rose and shook it, till every room was filled with all sorts of gold coin. Furibon was in

an ecstasy, and the more gold he saw, the greater was his desire to seize the Amazon, and get the Princess into his power; so that when all the rooms were full, he commanded his guards to seize and kill her, alleging she had brought him counterfeit money. Accordingly, the guards were going to lay hands upon the Amazon; but Leander put on his little red cap, and disappeared. The guards, believing she had escaped, ran out and left Furibon alone; when Leander, availing himself of the opportunity, drew his sword, and cut off his head in a moment; nor did the wicked King see the hand that killed him.

Leander, upon this, wished himself in the palace, where he found the Princess walking, and with grief considering the message which her mother had sent her, and on the means of repelling Furibon. He immediately laid a billet on the table before her with these words—

"Charming Princess cease your dread,
For Furibon your foe lies dead."

The Princess was surprised and overjoyed to hear the intelligence of her persecutor's death. Leander then took his departure, intending to return as soon as the commotion in Furibon's army, where the report of his death was already spread throughout the camp, had subsided. As soon as Leander appeared there in his usual habit and countenance, every body came about him; all the officers and soldiers surrounded him, uttering the loudest acclamations of joy. In short, they acknowledged him for their king, and that the crown of right belonged to him; for which he thanked them, and, as the first mark of his royal bounty, divided the thirty rooms of gold among the soldiers; so that this great army was enriched for ever. This done, he returned to the Princess, ordering the army to march back into his kingdom.

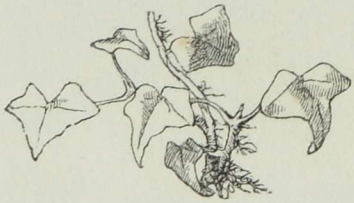
The Princess had gone to her chamber; he retired, therefore, to an unoccupied room; but, by accident forgetting to put on his invisible cap, he fell into a profound sleep. Whilst in this

state, the Princess entered alone in the morning: she started back with surprise on seeing a man in her palace; but recognizing the features of the portrait, she drew near the Prince, and was astonished at his handsome face and figure.

At this moment her mother, the fairy, entered, and seizing her by the hair, was about to drag her from the apartment, when Leander awoke. Seeing the wretched condition of the Princess, and fearing the wrath of the fairy, he threw himself at her feet, and besought her to have compassion on them. The fairy Gentilla also appeared, who had formerly rendered the elder one a great service. And at their united entreaties, the old fairy mother consented to the marriage of the Princess with Leander. The nuptials were celebrated with great joy, and Leander returned to the kingdom. As soon as he appeared, the people unanimously welcomed him as their sovereign, and he and the Princess reigned, for many years, over an affectionate and loyal people.

THE

WHITE CAT.



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THE WHITE CAT

THERE once lived a king who had three sons. They were handsome, brave, and noble, and were beloved by all the people. Among the courtiers were some wicked men, who, envious of the

popularity of the young princes, tried to prejudice the king, their father, against them. In order more effectually to accomplish their base design, they raised a false report that the princes were secretly plotting to deprive him of his kingdom. The king, believing this artful tale, resolved to frustrate the fancied design of his sons, by sending them away on some distant, and difficult errand, which would leave him to pass the rest of his days in peace. For although the king was very old, he had no desire to relinquish his power. He sent for his sons to his closet, and after conversing with them kindly, he said: "You must be aware, my dear children, that my age prevents me from attending so closely as I have done, to the affairs of my kingdom. I must one day place the crown on the head of one of you; but I require you to procure me some amusement in my old age, before I retire. I think, that a handsome, faithful, and engaging little dog, would be a great source of amusement to me; so that without bestowing a

preference on either of you, I declare, that he who brings me the most perfect little dog shall be my successor." The princes were much surprised at this request of their father; they however said nothing; but agreed to the proposal. The king presented them with abundance of money for their journey, and fixed that day twelvemonth for their return; they then took leave of the king and set off on their travels.

Before parting from each other, the three princes met a short way from the city, in an old palace, and here they agreed to meet on their return at the expiration of a year, and go altogether to court, with their presents.

Each took a different road; but what happened to the two elder ones we cannot tell, and must therefore content ourselves with relating the adventures of the youngest, who was one of the most handsome, amiable, and accomplished of princes. As he travelled from place to place, he bought all the beautiful dogs that fell in his way; and as

soon as he saw one that was handsomer than that he had, he purchased it, and gave the other away. At length, after travelling a long way, he found himself in a very thick forest; night came on, and with it a terrible storm: he lost his path, and could find no way out of the wood. After walking a long time, he at last saw a light, from which he supposed that some house was near. He hastened towards it, and after some time found himself at the entrance of a most magnificent palace. The door was made of gold, covered with precious stones, which cast a great brightness around: this was the light the prince had seen afar off. The walls of the building were of transparent porcelain, beautifully colored, and on them were represented all the remarkable histories in the world. After surveying the palace, the prince returned to the door, and espied a deer's foot fastened to a chain of diamonds; he was astonished at the magnificence he beheld, and the security in which the inhabitants seemed to live. He then

pulled the chain, and heard a bell, which resounded most musically. The door was opened; but he saw only twelve hands, each holding a torch. The prince was so astonished that he was afraid to move; but, feeling himself gently pushed on by some invisible hands behind him, he walked on, in great surprise, till he entered a hall inlaid with porphyry, where a melodious voice sang the following words:—

> Welcome, prince, no danger fear,
> Peace and joy attend you here.

The prince, wondering at what he heard, advanced with confidence, the hands still moving him forward towards a large door of coral, which opened, of itself, into a splendid apartment of mother-of-pearl, through which he passed into other rooms so richly adorned with paintings and jewels, and so brilliantly lighted with lamps and lustres, that the prince concluded that it must be a fairy palace. When he had passed through many apartments, all equally magnificent, he was

stopped, and a large chair was seen to advance towards him. The hands now began to remove his wet clothes, and to supply him with the most sumptuous apparel embroidered with gold, and enriched all over with pearls. They next brought him an elegant toilet, and combed his hair so very gently, that he scarcely felt their touch. They held before him a beautiful basin, filled with perfumed water for him to wash with. When his toilet was finished, they led him to another apartment most magnificently fitted up. There was in it a table ready prepared for a repast, and all the dishes upon it were of pure gold. The prince was not sorry to see all this, as he was now faint and hungry after his long wanderings. He observed that covers were set for two persons, and was wondering who was to be his companion at table, when a small figure not a foot high, entered the room, and advanced towards him. It had on a long black veil, and was supported by two cats dressed in mourning, and with swords by their

sides: they were followed by a numerous train of cats, some carrying cages full of rats, and others traps full of mice.

The prince was astonished at this sight, and knew not what to think. The chief figure now approached, and on throwing aside her veil, he beheld a most beautiful White Cat. Addressing herself to the prince, she said, "Prince, you are welcome; your arrival affords me infinite pleasure."—"Madam," replied the prince, "I would fain thank you for your kindness towards me since my arrival in your magnificent palace. I cannot be too highly pleased with my reception." The prince was more than ever astonished, when he heard the White Cat speak; and he felt assured that all he saw was the effect of enchantment. The hands now placed the dishes on the table, and the prince and the White Cat seated themselves. The first dish was a fricassee made of mice! the sight of which so disgusted the prince that he had no longer any appetite. The White

Cat, however, who guessed his thoughts, assured him that there were dishes which had been prepared expressly for him: upon which he at last ate very heartily. When supper was over, the prince perceived a portrait, set in gold, hanging round the White Cat's neck. He begged permission to look at it; judge his surprise when he saw the portrait of a handsome young man, strangely resembling himself! He thought there was something very wonderful in all this: yet, as the White Cat sighed and looked very melancholy, he did not venture to ask any questions. They conversed freely, and the prince was surprised at her intelligence and knowledge of the world. When night was far advanced, she wished him a good night, and he was conducted to his bedchamber, which was different still from anything he had seen in the palace, being hung with curtains of the finest texture mixed with the most curious feathers. The hangings of his bed were of gauze, festooned with bunches of the gayest

ribands: and the walls were covered with mirrors.

The prince was too excited with his adventures to sleep much, and he rose early. Breakfast was ready, of which he partook with the White Cat. She then informed the prince that it was a grand hunting day, and politely asked him to accompany her. She then led him to a window which overlooked the court-yard, where he saw a large number of cats busily preparing for the field. They now descended into the court; and the prince was mounted on a wooden horse, richly caparisoned, and which the White Cat assured him was very swift. The White Cat mounted a monkey, dressed in a feathered cap.

Everything being ready, the horns sounded, and away they went. The day was most agreeable, for they had abundance of game. When the hunting was over, the whole retinue returned to the palace; and the White Cat changed her dress, and sat down to dinner with the prince,

who, being very hungry, ate heartily. After dinner the most costly wines and the most delicious fruits were set before them, and they passed the evening in agreeable conversation. Fresh amusements were prepared daily for the prince—and the time passed so delightfully that he quite forgot his father's court and the little dog he had set out to seek. At last the White Cat reminded him, that he had but three days to look for the dog, and to return to his father's kingdom. The prince, astonished at his own forgetfulness, began to be troubled; when the Cat told him not to be so sorrowful, as she would not only provide him with a little dog, but also the wooden horse which would convey him safely in less than twelve hours. "Look here," said she, showing him an acorn, "this contains what you desire." The prince thought she was jesting. She then begged him to put the acorn to his ear, which he did, when he heard the barking of a little dog. Transported with joy he thanked her a thousand times, and the

next day, bidding her farewell, he set out for his father's kingdom.

The prince arrived first at the place of meeting, and was soon joined by his brothers; they embraced each other, and began to give an account of their success. The youngest showed them, however, only a little mongrel cur, telling them that he hoped it would please the king. The brothers thought to themselves, we have not much to fear from this ugly animal. The next day they went together to the palace. The dogs of the two elder-brothers were lying on cushions and covered with silken quilts. The youngest produced his dirty cur, and all wondered how the prince could hope to receive a crown for such a present. The king examined the two little dogs of the elder princes, and declared he thought them so equal, that he knew not to which he could with justice give the preference. They then began to dispute; when the youngest prince presented his acorn, and soon settled the dispute; for on open-

ing it a little dog appeared of exquisite beauty, and so small that it could with ease go through the smallest ring. The king could not possibly hesitate in declaring his satisfaction; yet, as he was not more inclined than the year before to part with his crown; he devised another occupation for his sons. He thanked them for their diligence, and begged that they would procure him a piece of cambric so fine, that it could be drawn through the eye of a small needle.

The three princes thought this very hard; yet they set out, in obedience to the king's command. The two eldest took different roads, and the youngest mounted his wooden horse, and in a short time arrived at the palace of the friendly Cat, who received him with the greatest joy, while the hands helped him to dismount, and provided him with immediate refreshment. The prince then gave the White Cat an account of all that had passed, and informed her of the new command of his father. "Make yourself quite easy, my

dear prince," said she, "I have in my palace some cats that are very clever in making such cambrics as the king requires! in the meantime we will pass our days in pleasure until the time arrives for you to depart. The prince was delighted with the beautiful Cat and another year passed away insensibly; the Cat, however, reminded the prince of his duty in proper time. "For once, my prince," said she, "I will have the pleasure of equipping you as suits your high rank." On looking into the court-yard, he saw a superb car, ornamented with gold, silver, and diamonds, drawn by twelve white horses, and harnessed in the most costly manner; and behind the car were guards richly dressed to attend on the prince's person. She then presented him with a walnut: "You will find in it," said she, "the piece of cambric I promised you: do not break the shell till you are in the presence of the king, your father;" she then bade him adieu. The snow-white horses speedily conveyed the prince to his father's palace,

where his brothers had arrived just before him. The three princes now hastened to display their presents. The eldest produced a piece of cambric, so fine that every one supposed he would certainly obtain the crown: but when the king tried to draw it through the eye of the needle, it would not quite pass. Then the second prince presented his cambric, but alas! with no better success: for though his piece was also exquisitely fine, yet it could not be drawn through the eye of the needle. The youngest prince then advanced, and opening an elegant little box inlaid with jewels, he took out a walnut, and cracked the shell, expecting immediately to see his piece of cambric; but he found nothing but a filbert! He then cracked the filbert, and found a cherry stone. The lords of the court, who had assembled to witness this extraordinary trial, and the princes his brothers, smiled to think he should be so silly as to claim the crown on no better pretensions. The prince, however, cracked the cherry-stone, which was

filled with a kernel; he divided it and found in the middle a grain of wheat, and in that a grain of millet seed. He was now quite confounded, and could not help saying to himself, "O White Cat, thou hast now deceived me!" Determined however to persevere, he again took courage, and opening the grain of millet seed, he drew forth to the astonishment of all present, a piece of cambric many yards long, and fine enough to be drawn with perfect ease through the eye of the needle. When the king saw this he sighed deeply, and it was easy to be seen that he was sorry for the young prince's success. "My sons," said he, "it is so gratifying to the heart of a father to receive proofs of his children's love and obedience, that I cannot refuse myself the satisfaction of requiring of you one thing more. You must undertake another expedition: and whichever, by the end of a year, brings me the most beautiful lady, shall marry her, and obtain my crown."

So they again took leave of the king and of each other, and in a few hours the young prince arrived in his splendid car at the palace of his beloved White Cat. Things went on as before till the end of another year, when the White Cat said to him: "To-morrow, my prince, you must present yourself at the palace of your father, and give him a proof of your obedience, as well as decide your own fortune. It depends on yourself whether you will conduct thither one of the most beautiful of princesses. You must cut off my head and tail," continued she, "and throw them into the fire."—"I!" said the prince hastily, "I cut off your head and tail! You surely mean to try my regard for you, beautiful Cat." "Generous prince," said she, "I do not doubt your regard; but if you wish to see me in any other form than that of a cat, you must consent to my request, and you will render me a service I shall never be able to repay." The prince's eyes filled with tears as she spoke, for he felt himself com-

pelled, unwillingly, to undertake the dreadful task. The Cat continued earnestly to press him; with a trembling hand he drew his sword, cut off her head and tail, and threw them into the fire. He had no sooner done this, than the most beautiful lady he had ever seen stood before him. This so astonished the prince that he could not speak to her; a long train of attendants, who, at the same moment as their mistress, were also changed to their natural forms, came to offer their congratulations to the queen, and enquire her commands. She received them with the greatest joy; then ordering them to withdraw, she thus addressed the astonished prince: "Dear prince, my father was monarch of six kingdoms! he tenderly loved my mother, and always allowed her to follow her own inclinations. She had a great desire to travel; and, having heard a short time before my birth, of some fairies who were in possession of the largest gardens, filled with the most delicious fruits, she had such a desire to see them and

to eat some of the fruits, that she set out for the country where they lived. She arrived at a magnificent palace, glittering on all sides with gold and precious stones. She knocked a long time at the gates; but no one came, neither could she perceive the least sign of any inhabitant. The palace was surrounded by such high walls that it was impossible to get the fruit: this difficulty, however, only increased her desire; for she saw the tops of the trees above the garden walls, loaded with the richest fruits. The queen ordered her attendants to place tents close to the door of the palace; but, after waiting six weeks without seeing any one pass the gates, she fell sick from vexation, and her life was despaired of.

"One night, as she lay half asleep, she turned herself about, and, opening her eyes, perceived a little old woman seated in a chair by her bedside. 'I and my sisters,' said she, 'are displeased that your majesty should persist in getting some

of our fruit; however, we will allow you to take as much as you can carry away, provided you give us in return what we shall ask.'—'Ah! kind fairy,' cried the queen, 'I will give you anything that I possess, even my very kingdom, if you will but give me some of your fruit.' The old fairy then informed the queen that they required that she should give them her child, as soon as she should be born; adding, that every possible care should be taken of her, and that she should become the most accomplished princess. The queen replied, 'that however cruel the condition, she must accept it, since nothing but the fruit could save her life.' My mother instantly arose from her bed, was dressed by her attendants, entered the palace, and satisfied her desire. When the queen had eaten as much as she could, she ordered several mules to be procured, and loaded with the fruit, which had the virtue of continuing all the year round in a state of perfection. Thus provided, she returned to the king, my father,

who, with the whole court, received her with rejoicings; they imagined she had died from disappointment. The queen said nothing to my father of the promise she had made to give her daughter to the fairies; and when she thought of it, she grew very melancholy; at length she told the truth to the king. Nothing could exceed his affliction, when he heard that his child was to be given to the fairies. He, however, said nothing, for fear of adding to my mother's grief; but resolved to keep me in a place of safety, which the fairies would not be able to approach. As soon, therefore, as I was born, he had me conveyed to a tower in the palace, to which there were twenty flights of stairs, and a door to each, of which my father kept the key; so that none came near me without his consent. When the fairies heard what had been done, they first sent to demand me; and on my father's refusal, they let loose a monstrous dragon, which devoured men, women, and children, and which, by the breath

of its nostrils, destroyed every thing it came near, so that the trees and plants began to wither. The grief of the king at seeing this was very great; and, finding that his whole kingdom would in a short time be reduced to ruin, he consented to give me into their hands. I was accordingly laid in a cradle of mother-of-pearl, ornamented with gold and jewels, and carried to their palace; when the dragon immediately disappeared. The fairies placed me in an apartment of their palace, elegantly furnished, but to which there was no door, so that whoever approached was obliged to enter by the windows, which were a great height from the ground, and overlooked a delightful garden, in which was every sort of fruit. They gave me a parrot, and a little dog which could speak, to be my companions. In this place I was educated by the fairies, who behaved to me with great kindness; my clothes were splendid, and I was instructed in every kind of accomplishment: in short, if I had never seen any one but themselves,

I should have remained very happy. A fairy came to me daily, mounted on a dragon, and supplied me with provisions. One of the windows of my tower overlooked a long avenue shaded with trees. One day, as I was talking at this window with my parrot, I perceived a young man who was listening to our conversation. I thought him very handsome, and he at length bowed in the most respectful manner. When it began to grow dark, he went away, and I could not see which road he took. Next morning, I again placed myself at the window, and had the pleasure of seeing that the young man had returned to the same place. He now spoke to me through a trumpet, telling me he thought me a most charming lady, and that he should be very unhappy if he did not pass his life in my company.

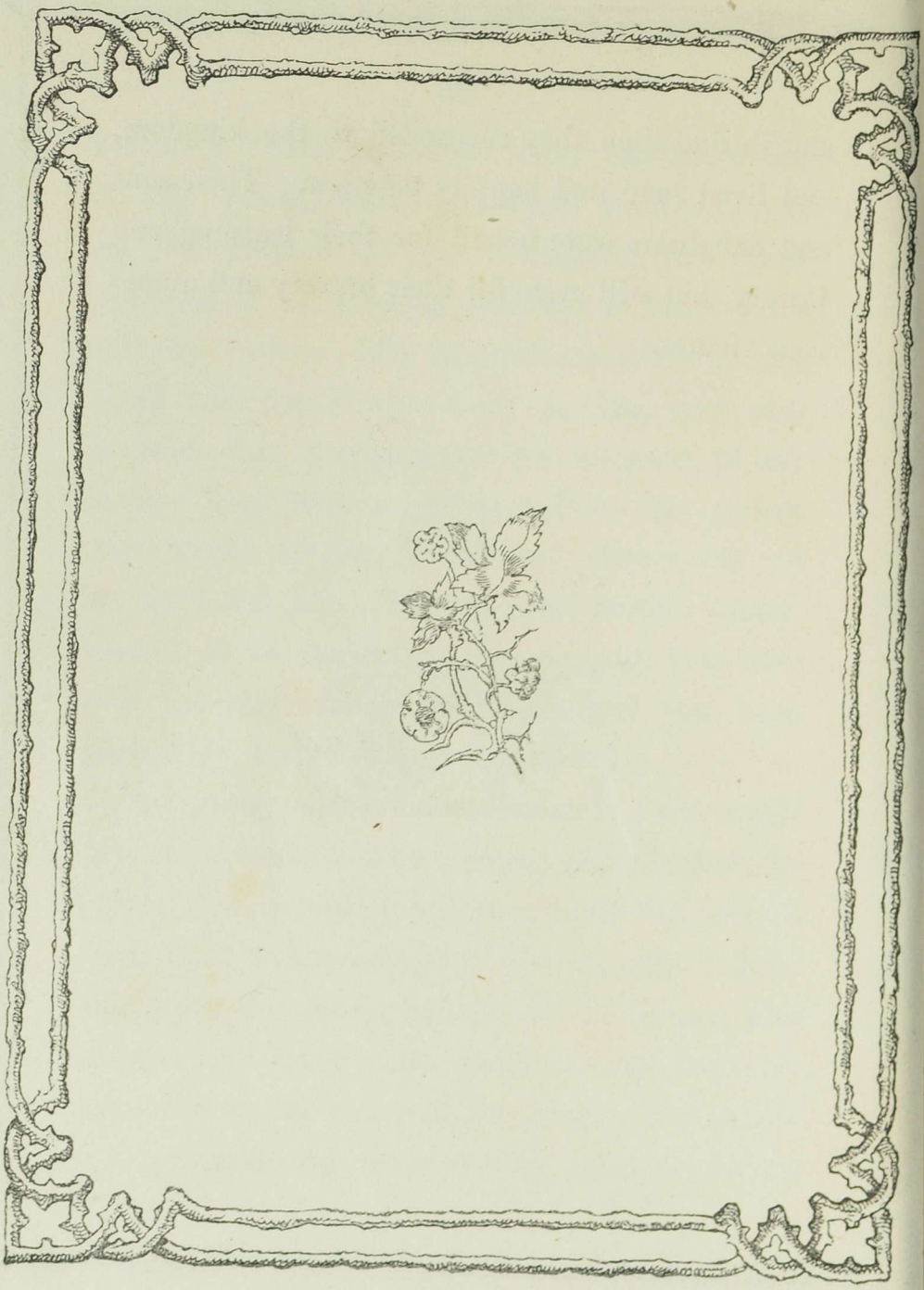
"I determined to find some method of escaping with the prince from my tower. I even devised means for executing my design: I begged the

fairies to bring me a netting-needle, a mesh, and some cord, saying, I wished to make some nets to amuse myself with catching birds at my window. This they readily did, and I soon completed a ladder long enough to reach to the ground. I now sent my parrot to the prince, to beg he would come to the usual place, as I wished to speak with him. He did not fail; and finding the ladder, mounted it, and quickly entered the tower. This at first alarmed me, but his conversation soon drove away my fears. Whilst we were talking the window suddenly opened, and one of the fairies, mounted on the dragon's back, rushed into the tower. My beloved prince thought only of defending me from their fury, for I had related my story to him previous to her arrival; but the fairy commanded the dragon to destroy him. He defended himself long and bravely with his sword, but the dragon at last prevailed, and he was devoured before my eyes. The fairy then touched me with her wand, and I instantly

became a White Cat. She next conducted me to this palace, which belonged to my father, and transformed all the attendants into cats. The rest of my subjects appeared as hands without any bodies. She then informed me of my birth, and the death of my parents, and pronounced that I should not be restored to my natural form until a young prince, the perfect resemblance of him I had lost, should cut off my head and tail. You are that perfect resemblance, as is evident by the portrait you have seen me wear round my neck, and you have accordingly ended the enchantment."

The prince and princess set out in a car of still greater splendour than before, and reached the palace just as the other two princes had arrived with their two princesses. The beauty of these was great, but yet far inferior to the former, who outshone all the queen's daughters that had ever appeared at the court of the king. The prince and princess were wedded with great rejoicings,

and in due time they succeeded to the kingdom, and lived long and happily together. Their sons and daughters were famed for their learning and beauty, but still more for their bravery and numerous virtues.



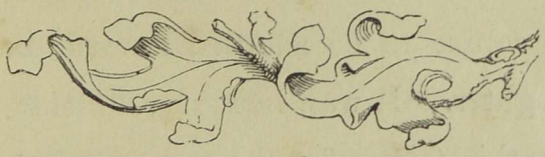
THE

YELLOW DWARF.

LONDON: JAMES BURNS, PORTMAN STREET.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY ROBSON, LEVEY, AND FRANKLYN,
Great New Street, Fetter Lane.

The Yellow Dwarf.



ONCE upon a time there lived a queen, who had an only daughter, whom she loved so excessively that she never corrected her faults, or thwarted her wishes. The consequence of this folly was, the young lady grew up very self-willed and unamiable. Her great beauty made her likewise very proud. She was called All-fair; and the fame of her beauty spread through all the surrounding courts, and many princes became so enamoured as to offer her marriage. But the princess rejected them all, much to the annoyance of the queen her mother, who was very anxious to

see her daughter well married. When she found all her entreaties were of no avail, she resolved to go and consult the Fairy of the Desert respecting the best course to be adopted towards her stubborn daughter. It was, however, difficult to gain access to this fairy; for she was guarded by two fierce lions. The queen, however, knew of a certain cake that would appease their fury, and enable her to pass by them. Providing herself with this, she set out privately towards the fairy's dwelling. After walking several miles, she became so excessively weary that she lay down under a tree, and fell into a sound sleep. Suddenly she was awoke by the roaring of the lions, who were approaching her. She jumped up and seized her basket of cakes to appease their fury; but, alas, it was empty. The poor queen was in an agony of terror, not knowing what to do. It was impossible to escape from the furious lions, and there appeared no other prospect for her than a cruel

death. At this moment she heard a noise in the tree, which attracted her attention; and on looking up, she saw an ugly Yellow Dwarf, about three feet high, picking oranges.

"Ah, queen," said he, "you are in great danger! These lions have devoured many; and how will you escape, seeing you have no cakes?"

"Alas," said the queen, weeping, "I know not; for I have lost my cakes."

"There is but one way," replied the dwarf. "I know what has brought you here; and if you will promise me your daughter in marriage, I will save you from the lions; if not, they shall devour you."

The queen, horrified at the thought of sacrificing her beautiful daughter to such a hideous creature, made him no answer; but a terrible growl from the lions, who were just ready to spring upon her, so terrified her, that she gave her promise, and then fainted away. When the queen came to herself she was in bed in her own palace.

All that had passed seemed as a dream; nevertheless she was so persuaded of its reality, that her spirits gave way, and she sunk into such a state of melancholy that she cared for nothing.

Princess All-fair loved her mother very tenderly, and she grieved to see her in such a state of dejection. After trying in vain to ascertain the cause of the queen's sorrow, that she might comfort her, the princess determined on paying a visit to the Fairy of the Desert, to ask her advice on the subject. All-fair, having provided some cakes for the lions, started secretly on her dangerous journey. It so happened that she took the same road as her mother had taken, and accordingly arrived at the unlucky orange-tree. Attracted by the luscious appearance of the oranges, she put down her basket and plucked some to eat. Whilst the princess was enjoying the fruit, she heard the roaring of the lions, which were advancing towards her. Alarmed at this terrible sight, she hastily

picked up the basket to take out some cake; but she found to her great sorrow that the basket was empty. All-fair, overwhelmed with terror, wrung her hands and sobbed aloud. The hideous Yellow Dwarf now made his appearance, and asked the princess what had brought her to that place. She told him she was going to consult the Fairy of the Desert as to the cause of her mother's sorrow.

"Oh," replied he, "you need not go any further to ascertain that. I can tell you the cause. She has promised you to me in marriage, and now is so ungrateful as to repent of her promise."

"What!" exclaimed the princess; "the queen my mother promised me to such a hideous creature as you! Impossible!"

"Oh, very well," replied the Yellow Dwarf; "as you please, young lady. The lions will soon punish you for your insolence."

The lions were about to seize on poor All-fair, when she cried to the dwarf, "Oh, save me! and

I will promise to marry you, rather than be eaten by these monsters."

On saying these words she fainted from terror. When she recovered from her swoon, she found herself in her own apartment, and round one of her fingers was a ring of red hair, so tightly fastened that she could not remove it. The princess now became as melancholy as her mother. The queen and all her court were greatly distressed at the alteration in the princess, and they concluded that the most likely way of diverting her thoughts would be by urging her to marry. The princess listened to their proposals, and at length consented to marry the King of the Golden Mines, who had long tried to gain her affections. This king was exceedingly rich and powerful.

When all was agreed upon, preparations were made to celebrate the nuptials in the most magnificent style. The King of the Golden Mines expended large sums of money in purchasing all

that was splendid and gorgeous, and the palace glittered with gold and precious stones.

At length the day arrived for the celebration of the marriage; but as the party were proceeding to perform the ceremony, they saw an ugly old fairy approaching them, riding on a box drawn by two peacocks. Coming up to the queen, she shook her crutch in a malicious manner, saying, "Oh, oh, this is the way you perform the promise you made to my friend the Yellow Dwarf. I am the Fairy of the Desert, and I will not allow such unfaithfulness to my friend to go unpunished; therefore decide whether you will marry him or die."

This unexpected appearance of the fairy filled the queen and princess with the greatest alarm. But the King of the Golden Mines drew his sword, and going up to the fairy, he said, "Fly, wretch! or I will strike off thy head."

The king had no sooner uttered these words than the box flew open, and out started the Yellow

Dwarf, seated on a huge wild cat; who, placing himself before the fairy, said, "Hold, rash youth! your rage must be vented against me; I am your rival and enemy. I claim the princess, who is pledged to me by the ring of hair on her finger."

"Hideous monster!" exclaimed the prince; "you are too contemptible to be noticed by me."

The dwarf, enraged at this scornful speech, drew his sword and challenged the king to fight. Immediately the air was darkened; and amidst lightnings and thunder the two peacocks were transformed into giants of enormous size, who stood on each side of the Yellow Dwarf, vomiting fire. All the spectators were terrified at this fearful sight, excepting the King of the Gold Mines, who with undaunted courage attacked his terrible enemy; but his brave heart sank within him when he saw the Fairy of the Desert, mounted on a fiery dragon, advance towards his beloved All-fair and strike her to the ground. The king hastened to the

assistance of his lady; but the dwarf flying before him on his cat, seized All-fair and carried her off.

The fairy, having fallen in love with the king, carried him aloft in the air, and conveyed him to a frightful cavern, and chained him up; hoping thus to make him forget All-fair, and secure him for herself. But finding this plan unsuccessful, she changed herself into a lovely girl, and going to the king she removed his fetters, and placed him by her side in a chariot drawn by swans, which flew rapidly through the air. In their flight they passed over a palace of polished steel, the brilliance of which attracted the king's notice, and on looking down he saw All-fair weeping bitterly in the garden.

The princess, attracted by a noise in the sky, looked up, and saw to her great sorrow the King of the Gold Mines seated in the chariot with the fairy. Stung to the heart at this sight, she inwardly reproached the king with want of fidelity to herself, and piteously bewailed her unhappy

condition. The poor king still loved her tenderly, and would have rejoiced, if he could, to have thrown the fairy from the chariot, and hastened to her rescue. But the chariot passed swiftly on, until they approached a magnificent palace on the sea-coast, at which the swans descended. The fairy then alighted and led the king into the palace, in which was every thing that could delight the eye.

The king knew that his companion was a fairy, and he suspected she was the Fairy of the Desert, although she appeared as a lovely young woman. He resolved, therefore, to ingratiate himself with her if possible, and to conceal his dislike to her, in the hope that he might have some opportunity of escaping. The fairy, supposing her charms had now made some impression upon the prince, allowed him to walk beyond the gardens of the palace.

One day as he was walking by the sea-shore, he was surprised by the appearance of a mermaid, which spake to him in a melodious voice, and said,

"I am aware, O king, of the attachment existing between you and princess All-fair; I know also the misery you endure, and am come to release you from it. I am an enemy to the Fairy of the Desert and the Yellow Dwarf; if you, therefore, will trust to me, I will deliver you and the princess out of their power."

The king gratefully accepted the proffered aid; and seating himself on the mermaid's back, promised to do all that she should direct. They then sailed off; and as they went, the mermaid told him all that had befallen the princess, and that she was now confined in the steel castle of the dwarf.

At length they drew near to the place, when the mermaid told him that he would have many powerful enemies to overcome before he could reach his beloved princess. "But," said she, "if you take this sword," which she then gave him, "and follow my directions, you will be able to destroy them all. Beware lest the sword fall from

your hand; for if you once lose possession of it, you will not be able to recover it, and certain destruction will fall upon you."

The king promised to use the utmost caution; and after warmly thanking the mermaid for her kind services, he started for the castle. The first danger he encountered was two enormous lions, which guarded the outer gate. He advanced boldly towards them, and with one blow laid them dead at his feet. On reaching the inner court the king was assailed by six fierce dragons of prodigious size; but he quickly destroyed them with his magic sword. The king then entered the castle, and was met by a band of lovely females, who forbad his entering, telling him that they were appointed to guard the castle, and that their lives would be forfeited if they allowed any person to enter. The king was so moved by their entreaties that he could not resist them, until he heard a voice say, "Strike, or the princess is for ever

lost." He now saw this was a cunning trick of the dwarf to ensnare him, and without hesitation he attacked and scattered them. The king then advanced to the place where he had seen the princess, and throwing himself at her feet, he declared his unalterable love for her.

The princess drew herself from him and said, "Did I not see you riding with the Fairy of the Desert? Is that your fidelity and love?"

The king related to her all the circumstances; and while talking he thoughtlessly dropped the magic sword, which the Yellow Dwarf seeing from behind a bush, sprung forward and seized.

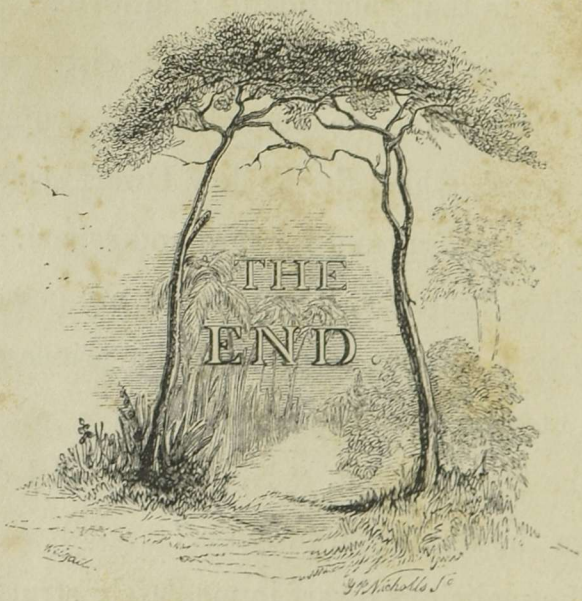
"Now," said he, "you are in my power; and unless you consent to give up the princess to me, I will at once destroy you."

The king replied, "No, never will I do that! I scorn the terms you propose."

The malicious dwarf immediately struck off his head. This dreadful spectacle broke the heart of

the poor princess, and she fell upon the body of her beloved and died.

The kind mermaid grieved over the fate of these faithful lovers; and resolving to unite in death those who were so cruelly separated in life, she transformed them into two trees, which grew side by side, and intertwined their branches.



BEAUTY

AND

THE BEAST.

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A VERY long time ago there lived a rich merchant, who had three daughters, the youngest of whom was

so lovely, that she was always called Beauty. She was not only handsome in person, but so amiable and courteous in her manners, that she was universally beloved.

Her sisters were jealous of the attention paid to Beauty, for they were so proud and disagreeable, that no one liked them. They thought of nothing but dress, and balls, and gay company. Beauty, on the contrary, felt more pleasure in promoting the comfort of her father, and doing good to her neighbours.

It unfortunately happened, that a large fleet of the merchant's ships were wrecked, in a violent storm, on their way home. The merchant was thereby ruined, and was obliged to quit his grand mansion, and reside with his daughters in a small cottage. This reverse of fortune was a heavy blow to them all; especially to the two elder sisters, who were now forced to give up all their gay company. It was a great mortification to their pride, to leave their splendid house, with its

costly furniture, and to take up their abode in a mean little cottage. The amiable disposition of Beauty, soon, however, reconciled her to the change; and she determined to make things as comfortable as she could, and to do all in her power to promote the happiness of her father. Beauty did the work of a servant, for her father could not afford to keep one, and made the little house so neat and tidy, that every body admired it. The two sisters were idle and sulky, and would do nothing to help Beauty; but continually reproached her as being a mean-spirited, vulgar creature. They passed their time in useless regrets, pining after their former grandeur; and were continually annoyed at finding themselves neglected and despised by their old companions.

At the expiration of a year the merchant received intelligence of the arrival of one of his richest ships, which had escaped the storm. He prepared to set off to a distant port to claim his property; but before he went he asked each

daughter what gift he should bring back for her. The eldest wished for pearls; the second for jewels; but the third said, "Dear father, bring me a rose." Now it was no easy task to find a rose, for it was the middle of winter; yet, as she was the kindest daughter, and was very fond of flowers, her father said he would try what he could do. So he kissed all three, and bid them good bye. And when the time came for him to go home, he had bought pearls and jewels for the two eldest, but he had sought every where in vain for the rose; and when he went into any garden and asked for such a thing, the people laughed at him, and asked him whether he thought roses grew in the snow. This grieved him very much, for his third daughter was his dearest child; and as he was journeying home, thinking what he should bring her, he came to a fine castle; and around the castle was a garden, in half of which it seemed to be summer time, and in the other half winter. On one side the finest flowers were

in full bloom, and on the other everything looked dreary and buried in snow. "A lucky chance!" thought he to himself, as he ascended one of the terraces and plucked a beautiful rose off one of the bushes. He was hastening away mightily pleased, when a fierce Lion sprung up, laid his paw upon his arm, and roared out, "Whoever dares to steal my roses shall be eaten up alive." Then the merchant said, "I knew not that the garden belonged to you; I only plucked a rose as a present for my daughter; can nothing save my life?" "No!" said the lion, "nothing, unless you undertake to come back and bring me whatever meets you first on your return home; if you agree to this, I will give you your life, and the rose too for your daughter." But the man was unwilling to do so, and said, "It may be my youngest daughter, who loves me most, and always runs to meet me when I go home." But then he thought again, "It may, perhaps, be only a cat or a dog." And at last the man

yielded with a heavy heart, and took the rose; and said he would give the Lion whatever should meet him first on his return.

And as he came near home, it was his youngest and dearest daughter that met him; she came running, and kissed him, and welcomed him home; and when she saw that he had brought her the rose, she was still more glad. But her father began to be very sorrowful, and to weep, saying, "Alas! my dearest child! I have bought this flower at a high price, for I have said I would give you to a wild Lion, and when he has you, he will, perhaps, tear you in pieces and eat you." And he told her all that had happened, and said she should not go, let what would happen. But she comforted him, and said, "Dear father, the word you have given must be kept; I will go with you to the Lion, and sooth him; perhaps he will let us both return safe home again."

The time now arrived for the merchant to return to the Lion's palace, and he made preparations for

his dreadful journey. Beauty had so fully made up her mind to accompany him, that nothing could turn her from her purpose. Her father, seeing this, determined to take her, and they accordingly set out on their journey. The horse galloped swiftly across the forest, and speedily reached the palace. As they entered they were greeted with the most enchanting music: but no living creature was to be seen. On entering the saloon, the furniture of which was of the most costly kind, they found a rich repast prepared for them, consisting of every delicacy. Beauty's heart failed her, for she feared something strange would soon happen. They, however, sat down, and partook freely of the various delicacies. As soon as they had finished, the table was cleared by invisible hands. Shortly after there was a knock at the door, and the Lion asked permission to come in. "Enter," replied the merchant; and immediately the door flew open, and the same monster that had seized the merchant entered the room. The sight of

his form terrified both the merchant and his daughter,—as for Beauty she almost fainted with fright. But the Lion, having a handsome mantle thrown over him, advanced towards them, and seating himself opposite Beauty, said, "Well, merchant, I admire your fidelity in keeping your promise; is this the daughter for whom you gathered the rose?"

"Yes," replied the merchant, "so great is my daughter's love to me that she met me first on my return home, and she is now come here in fulfilment of my promise." "She will have no reason to repent it," said the Lion, "for every thing in this palace shall be at her command. As for yourself, you must depart on the morrow, and leave Beauty with me. I will take care that no harm shall happen to her. You will find an apartment prepared for her." Having said this, he arose, wished them good night, and departed.

Poor Beauty heard all that passed, and she trembled from head to foot, with fear. As the

night was far advanced the merchant led Beauty to the apartment prepared for her, and she retired to rest. This room was furnished in the richest manner. The chairs and sofas were magnificently adorned with jewels. The hangings were of the finest silk and gold, and on all sides were mirrors reaching from the floor to the ceiling: it contained, in fact, everything that was rich and splendid.

Beauty and her father slept soundly, notwithstanding their sorrow at the thought of so soon parting. In the morning they met in the saloon, where a handsome breakfast was ready prepared, of which they partook. When they had concluded, the merchant prepared for his departure; but Beauty threw herself on his neck and wept. He also wept at the thought of leaving her in this forlorn state. At length, he rushed into the court-yard, mounted his horse, and soon disappeared.

Poor Beauty, now left to herself, resolved to

be as happy as she could. She amused herself by walking in the gardens, reading books, or playing on the harp, both of which she found in her room. On the toilet she found these lines, which greatly comforted her:

> Welcome Beauty! dry your tears,
> Banish all your sighs and fears;
> You are queen and mistress here,
> Whate'er you ask for shall appear.

After amusing herself thus for some time she returned to the saloon, where she found dinner ready prepared. The most delightful music played during the whole of dinner. When Beauty had finished, the table was cleared, and the choicest wines and most delicious fruits were produced. At the same hour as on the preceding day the Lion rapped at the door, and asked permission to enter. Beauty was terrified, and with a trembling voice she said, "Come in." He then entered, and advancing towards Beauty, who dared not look up, he said, "Will you permit me to sit

with you?" "That is as you please," replied she. "Not so," said the Lion, "for you are mistress here; and if my company is disagreeable I will at once retire."

Beauty, struck with the courtesy of the Lion, and with the friendly tone of his voice, began to feel more courageous; and she desired him to be seated. He then entered into the most agreeable conversation, which so charmed Beauty, that she ventured to look up; but when she saw his terrible face she could scarcely avoid screaming aloud. The Lion, seeing this, got up, and making a respectful bow, wished her good night. Soon after, Beauty herself retired to rest.

On the following day she amused herself as before, and began to feel more reconciled to her condition; for she had everything at her command which could promote her happiness. As evening approached she anticipated the visit of the Lion; for, notwithstanding his terrible looks, his conversation and manners were very pleasing. He

continued to visit her every day, till at length she began to think he was not so terrible as she once thought him. One day when they were seated together the Lion took hold of her hand, and said in a gentle voice, "Beauty, will you marry me?" She hastily withdrew her hand, but made no reply; at which the Lion sighed deeply and withdrew. On his next visit he appeared sorrowful and dejected, but said nothing. Some weeks after he repeated the question, when Beauty replied, "No, Lion, I cannot marry you, but I will do all in my power to make you happy." "This you cannot do," replied he, "for unless you marry me I shall die." "O, say not so," said Beauty, "for it is impossible that I can ever marry you." The Lion then departed, more unhappy than ever.

Amidst all this Beauty did not forget her father. One day she felt a strong desire to know how he was and what he was doing: at that instant she cast her eyes on a mirror and saw her father lying on a sick bed, in the greatest pain; whilst her

sisters were trying on some fine dresses in another room. At this sad sight poor Beauty wept bitterly.

When the Lion came as usual he perceived her sorrow, and inquired the cause. She told him what she had seen, and how much she wished to go and nurse her father. He asked her if she would promise to return at a certain time, if she went. Beauty gave him her promise, and he immediately presented her with a rose, like that which her father had plucked, saying, "Take this rose, and you may be transported to whatever place you choose; but, remember, I rely on your promise to return." He then withdrew.

Beauty felt very grateful for his kindness. She then wished herself in her father's cottage, and immediately she was at the door.

Full of joy she entered the house, ran to her father's room, and fell on her knees by his bedside, and kissed him. His illness had been much increased by fretting for poor Beauty, whom he

thought had long since died, either from fear, or by the cruel monster. He was overcome with joy on finding her still alive. He now soon began to recover under the affectionate nursing of Beauty. The two sisters were very much annoyed at Beauty's return; for they had hoped that the Lion would have destroyed her. They were greatly annoyed to see her so superbly dressed, and felt extremely vexed to think that Beauty should have clothes as splendid as a queen, whilst they could not get anything half so fine.

Beauty related all that had passed in the Beast's palace; and told them of her promise to return on such a day. The two sisters were so very jealous that they determined to ruin her prospects if possible. The eldest said to the other, "Why should this minx be better off than we are? Let us try to keep her here beyond the time; the monster will then be so enraged with her for breaking her promise, that he will destroy her at once, when

the returns." "That is well thought of," replied the sister, "we will keep her."

In order to succeed, they treated Beauty with the greatest affection; and the day before her intended departure they stole the rose which she had told them was the means of conveying her in an instant wherever she might wish. Beauty was so much affected by their kindness that she was easily persuaded to remain a few days. In the meantime the envious sisters thought of enriching themselves by means of the rose; and they accordingly wished themselves in some grand place. Instead of being carried as they expected, the rose withered, and they heard a most terrible noise, which so alarmed them, that they threw down the flower, and hid themselves.

Beauty was greatly troubled at the loss of her rose, and sought everywhere for it but in vain. She happened, however, to enter her sisters' room, and, to her great joy, saw it lying withered on the floor; but as soon as she picked it up, it at once

recovered all its freshness and beauty. She then remembered her broken promise; and, after taking leave of her father, she wished herself in the Beast's palace, and in an instant she was transported thither. Everything was just as she had left it; but the sweet sounds of music which used to greet her were now hushed, and there was an air of apparent gloom hanging over everything. She herself felt very melancholy, but she knew not why.

At the usual time she expected a visit from the Lion, but no one appeared. Beauty, wondering what all this could mean, now reproached herself for her ingratitude in not having returned as she promised. She feared the poor animal had died of grief, and she thought that she could have married him rather than suffer him to die. She resolved to seek him in the morning, in every part of the palace. After a miserable and sleepless night, she arose early, and ran through every apartment, but no Lion could be seen. With a sorrowful heart she went to the gardens, saying,

"O that I had married the poor Lion who has been so kind to me; for terrible though he is, I might have saved his life. I wish I could once more see him. At that moment she arrived at a plot of grass where the poor Lion lay as if dead. Beauty ran towards him, and knelt by his side, and seized his hand. He then opened his eyes and said, "Beauty, you forgot your promise; in consequence of which I must die." "No, dear Lion," exclaimed Beauty, weeping, "No, you shall not die. What can I do to save you?" "Will you marry me?" asked he. "Yes," replied Beauty, "to save your life."

No sooner had these words passed her lips, than the lion form disappeared, and she saw at her feet a handsome Prince, who thanked her for having broken his enchantment. He told her that a wicked magician had condemned him to wear the form of a lion until a beautiful lady should consent to marry him; a kind Fairy had however given him the magic rose to help him in his

trouble, which had been the means of releasing him.

At the same instant that the Prince was changed the whole palace was full of courtiers, all of whom had been rendered invisible when the Prince was enchanted.

The Prince now led Beauty into the palace, where she found her father. The Prince related all to him, and asked him to allow Beauty to become his wife, to which he cheerfully assented; and the nuptials were solemnized with great rejoicing.

The good fairy appeared to congratulate the Prince on his deliverance, and on his marriage with Beauty. As for the two sisters, she punished them severely for their jealous and unkind behaviour. But the Prince and his wife Beauty lived happily together for many, many years.

The Renowned History

OF

GOODY TWO-SHOES,

OTHERWISE CALLED

MARGERY MEANWELL:

WITH

SOME ACCOUNT OF HER BROTHER TOMMY.

London:
JAMES BURNS, 17 PORTMAN STREET,
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Goody Two-Shoes.

PART I.

ALL the world has heard of Goody Two-Shoes; so renowned has this little girl become, that her story has been written by more than one author; and we are now about to tell it again.

The real name of Goody Two-Shoes was Margery Meanwell. She had a brother named Tommy; and her parents, who were good industrious people, lived in the parish of Mouldwell. Her father was a farmer, and at one time in very good circumstances; but it pleased Providence to afflict him with so many misfortunes, that he became very poor, and was at last reduced to want. Poor Meanwell's goods were all sold to pay his creditors; for he was too upright to retain any property which was no longer his own. In the midst of his distresses he caught a cold, which threw him into a fever, and this, added to the grief and anxiety he felt for his family, soon caused his death: his poor wife lived but a short time after him, leaving little Margery and her brother Tommy alone and friendless in the wide world.

After their parents were dead, it would have done any one's heart good to have seen how fond

these two little ones were of each other, and how, hand in hand, they trotted about the village. They loved each other, though they were very poor; and having neither parents nor friends to provide for them, they were very ragged: as for Tommy, he had two shoes, but Margery had only one. They had nothing to support them for several days but what they picked from the hedges, or got from the poor people; and they were obliged to sleep every night in a barn.

Mr. Smith, the parish priest, was a very good kind man, but he was not rich enough to do all the good he wished; and though he had known Farmer Meanwell in his prosperous days, and wished much to be of service to his poor orphan children, yet he had but little in his power.

It happened, however, that a relation came on a visit to him from a distant part of the country, who was a charitable as well as a wealthy man; and Mr. Smith, by his desire, sent for the poor

children. This gentleman ordered little Margery a new pair of shoes, gave Mr. Smith some money to buy clothes for her, and said he would take Tommy and make him a little sailor; which he did, and accordingly had a jacket and trousers made for him. He also agreed with an old woman in the village, called Dame Willis, to take care of little Margery until she should grow up, and be fit to maintain herself.

After some days the gentleman went to London, and took little Tommy with him;—of whom you will know more by and by. The parting between the two little children was very affecting; Tommy cried, and Margery cried, and they kissed each other a great number of times; till at last Tommy wiped off her tears with the end of his jacket, and bade her cry no more, for that he would come to her again when he returned from sea. In that case he promised Margery a pocket-full of gold guineas; and although she did not

seem so much comforted by this as Tommy expected, yet she could not help smiling through her tears when she saw him dressed in his new jacket and trousers of coarse blue cloth, with a pair of whole shoes upon his feet; looking, as poor Margery thought, quite like a gentleman. These good children promised each other never to forget to say the prayers night and morning which their father and mother had taught them; and by the advice of Mr. Smith, Tommy, who could read a little, had his mother's Prayer-book given to him to keep, which was accordingly packed up in his bundle with his other things. When night came, little Margery longed for her brother; and after sitting up as late as old Dame Willis would let her, she went crying to bed. She got up in the morning very early, and thought again of poor Tommy; but just at this instant the shoemaker came in with the new shoes, for which she had been measured by the gentleman's order.

Nothing supported little Margery under the affliction she was in, so much as the pleasure she took in her new shoes; she ran out to Mrs. Smith as soon as they were put on, and, stroking down her frock, cried out, "Look, look, two shoes! two shoes now!" and so she behaved to all the people she met, and by that means she obtained the name of Two-Shoes; though her playmates called her GOODY TWO-SHOES.

Little Margery having seen how good and how wise Mr. Smith was, concluded that this was owing to his great learning, and she wished therefore, above all things, to learn to read, but was much at a loss, at first, how to manage, as there was no school for children within ten miles of the village; at last she concluded to ask Mr. Smith to have the goodness to teach her at his leisure moments. This the good man readily agreed to do; and little Margery attended him for half an hour every morning.

By this means she learned to read very correctly; and at last she laid the following scheme for instructing those who were more ignorant than herself. She found that only twenty-six letters were required to spell all the words in the world; some of these letters are large, and some small; so she cut out of several thin pieces of wood ten sets of each. And having got an old spelling-book, she made her companions set up all the words they wanted to spell; and after that she taught them to make sentences. You know what a sentence is: "I will be good" is a sentence, and is made up of several words. The usual manner of spelling, or carrying on the game, was this. Suppose the word to be spelt was PLUM-PUDDING (which is a very good thing), the children were placed in a circle, and the first brought the letter P, the next *l*, the next *u*, the next *m*, and so on till the whole was spelled; and if any one brought a wrong letter, he was to pay a fine, or play no

more. This was getting instruction at their play; and every morning she used to go round to teach the children, with these letters in a basket; and as her terms were very low—only a penny a week—she had many scholars. We will accompany her on one of her rounds, and see how she managed.

The first house she comes to is Farmer Wilson's. Margery stops at the door—tap, tap, tap. "Who's there?" "Only little Goody Two-Shoes, come to teach Billy," answers Margery. "Oh! little Goody," says Mrs. Wilson, with pleasure in her face, "I am glad to see you; Billy is quite ready for you, for he has learned his lesson." Then out came the little boy, "How do, Doody Two-Shoes?" says he, not able to speak plain; and she then goes in, and proceeds in her usual manner to give Billy his lesson.

After leaving Farmer Wilson's, the next place is Farmer Simpson's. "Bow, wow, wow," says the dog at the door. "Sirrah!" said his mistress,

"why do you bark at little Two-Shoes? Come in, Madge; here, Sally wants you sadly; she has learned all the alphabet." And, after giving little Sally her lesson, away she trots to old Gaffer Cook's cottage. Here a number of poor children met to be taught, and they all flocked round little Margery; who, having pulled out her letters, asks the little boy next her what he had for dinner? He answers, "Bread." "Then set up the first letter," she said. He puts up the *B*, to which the next adds *r*, the next *e*, the next *a*, the next *d*, and that spells BREAD. "And what had you, Polly Comb, for your dinner?" "Apple-pie," answers the little girl; upon which the next in turn sets up a great *A*, the two next a *p* each, and so on till the words Apple and Pie were united, and stood thus—APPLE-PIE. Then there were other sentences, such as:—

Love God, for He is good.

Praise God, for all good things come from Him.

Pray to God night and morn.

Be true and just in all your ways.

Speak the truth at all times.

Do to others as you would wish them to do to you.

By and by some part of the Catechism was taught; and when they had said as much of it as they knew, Margery made them repeat after her the answer to a new question, till they all seemed to know it pretty well.

Several other questions, concerning the days of the week, the months of the year, the meaning of particular days or seasons, were asked by the little school-mistress, and answered by some one or other amongst the scholars, who ended by repeating such sentences as these:—

The Lord have mercy upon us, and give us hearts to love and serve Him.

The good God preserve us from all evil, and deliver us from temptation.

God give us grace to honour and obey our parents, and all that are set in authority over us.

May we be kind to every body, even to our enemies, and always ready to return good for evil.

This last was a new sentence, which Margery now made them repeat for the first time after her: they all did so till one of the girls observed, rather pertly, that indeed she was not going to say *that*. "Not say what?" asked Margery, very good humouredly.

"About being kind to one's enemies; as if our enemies would ever be kind to us!"

"If they were kind," answered Margery, smiling, "they would cease to be our enemies, would they not?" No answer. "You *must* be kind and forgiving, Patty, or you are no Christian. Did you never hear read in church these words, *Love your enemies?*"

As she passed through the village one day, she met with some wicked boys, who had a young raven, which they were going to throw stones at. She wished to get the poor creature out of their

hands, and therefore gave them a penny for him, and brought him home. She called him Ralph, and a fine bird he was. Now this bird she taught to speak, to spell, and to read; and as he was particularly fond of playing with the large letters, the children used to call this Ralph's Alphabet:—

A B C D E F G H

I J K L M N O

P Q R S T

U V W

X Y

Z

Some days after she had met with the raven, as she was walking in the fields, she saw some naughty boys, who had taken a pigeon, and tied a string to its legs, in order to let it fly, and draw it back again when they pleased; and by this means they tortured the poor animal with the hopes of liberty and repeated disappointment.

This pigeon she also bought, and taught him how to spell and read, though not to talk; and he performed all those extraordinary things which are recorded of famous birds long ago. This pigeon was a very pretty fellow, and she called him Tom. And as the raven Ralph was fond of the large letters, Tom the pigeon took care of the small ones, of which he composed this alphabet:—

a b c d e f g h

i j k l m n o

p q r s t

u v w

x y

z

PART II.

THE people of Mouldwell were not much in the habit of receiving letters; the few that came were commonly addressed to Mr. Smith or some of his family, and these did not come so often

as to make it worth while sending purposely to the nearest town to fetch them; so when there were letters to be delivered to any one at Mouldwell, they came by some private hand, though very often not till they had lain for several days at the town.

It chanced one market-day that Farmer Groves, before leaving the town, bethought himself to call at the post-office, when, to his surprise, a letter was put into his hand directed for Margery Meanwell, which he accordingly put in his pocket, and, on his return, he stopped at Dame Willis's cottage, and called as loud as he could for "Madge Two-Shoes." Out ran Margery, wondering what could be the matter; and her astonishment was great when the farmer, taking the letter from his pocket, said, "Here's something for you, little Two-Shoes; though who can have sent it, unless it be your brother Tommy, it passes my skill to guess. Take it up to Parson Smith to-morrow,

and see if *he* can make any thing out of it." Margery was better able to make out the contents for herself than Farmer Groves supposed; she contrived to spell over the greater part of the letter, which, as the farmer had rightly guessed, came from her brother Tom, and then went to bed rejoicing in the prospect of telling Mr. Smith in the morning, and of hearing the contents read out more perfectly than she had been able to read them to herself. Next morning she ran up to the parsonage, and waited till Mr. Smith was ready to see her; at last she was told to come into his study; and having put the precious letter into his hand, she waited patiently for him to read it aloud. Mr. Smith first read over Tommy's letter to himself; the words were not all rightly spelt, neither were the stops, where there were any, always put in the proper places; but he was able to make out the sense of the whole, and the letter was as follows:—

"Dear Sister, "Liverpool, Feb. 24, 17—.

"I hope that these few lines will find you, as they leave me at this present time, in good health and spirits; likewise Mr. and Madam Smith, and all friends. It is nigh upon three years since I left my native home; but I doubt not Madge has often thought of her dear brother Tommy, as he has of her, and remembered, too, his promise concerning the prayers. Please, Madge, to give my duty to good Mr. Smith; and tell him that I failed not to read a verse or two in poor mother's Prayer-book, as opportunity served, which I can't say was so often as would have been for my good on board the White Fox. It pleased God, however, to raise me up a true friend whilst on that voyage, who now helps me to indite this letter, being a good scholar, which is more than I can say for myself. We two—that is, I and Jack Steady—are now going to serve on board the Lively Jane, Captain Mills, bound for the West Indies, having been on

shore five days. It would have gladdened my heart to have gone home, and seen my dear sister and all the neighbours; but it was a long run from the town of Liverpool to Mouldwell, and the Lively Jane was ready to sail with the first fair wind; but if I am once more safe back to England, it shall go hard but I see my dear old home again; and when I do come, Margery, you must prepare your mind to hear tell of many strange things. What do you think my Lady Ducklington's coachman would say to see ten or a dozen dogs harnessed to a sledge—a queer sort of carriage, that is, without any wheels—neither like a coach nor a cart,—and these dogs tearing along over the country at the rate, may be, of eight miles an hour? The person who drives has no reins, only a long whalebone whip, to guide the animals with. The steadiest dog of the pack is put foremost as leader, and he knows his name as well as you do yours; and when he hears himself called, looks back over his shoulder, as much as to say, 'What's your will?' or, 'Which way do you

want to go?' But the whalebone whip reminds me of the whale himself. I daresay, Margery, now, you can't fancy any living thing half as big as a whale. Why, it is nothing strange for a whale to measure sixty feet in length — and three feet go to a yard, and so you may reckon him to be twenty yards long. The White Fox was a whale-ship, and pretty good success she had, taking all in all, bringing home a good cargo of oil; for you are not to think, Madge, that these whale-ships go into the frozen seas amongst pieces of ice as high as mountains and fearful to look upon, and attack these great fish,— which, I can assure you, is oftentimes dangerous work, — only to get whalebone for women's stays. I could tell you a deal more about the whales, and also concerning the fierce white bears which inhabit those cold regions; but Jack says that the paper will not hold out much longer; so I will only say that I wish I could send the skin of one of those said bears to Goody Brown, to spread over her bed in cold weather; though, for my part, I don't

think I ever knew what real cold weather meant before I sailed into the North Seas. So now, Madge, God bless you; which is all at present from your loving brother,

THOMAS MEANWELL."

When Mr. Smith had finished reading the letter, he returned it to Margery, saying, he was glad to find that Tommy remembered them all so kindly, and that he did not neglect his duties; he trusted that he would turn out a good man, as his father had been before him; "indeed," added Mr. Smith, "I have great hopes of you both, because you are the children of good parents. King David in his Psalms says, that he never saw the righteous forsaken, or his seed begging their bread; neither, I believe, did any one else, unless such children on their parts forsake God, and give themselves up to evil."

About this time an accident befel Goody Two-

Shoes which may be worth recording. There was, not far from the village of Mouldwell, a large and stately-looking mansion, called the Hall. It stood in a park, and there was a road between two rows of tall trees, called an avenue, which led from a pair of iron gates opening into the public road up to the house. An elderly couple, who had formerly served the family at the Hall as butler and housekeeper, lived there, and had charge of the house and furniture; but the lady to whom it all belonged, Lady Ducklington, seldom came near the place, but lived all the year in London. Once in two years, indeed, she used to come down to Mouldwell Hall in a coach drawn by four horses, where she remained for about a month.

At last the old lady died, and, according to the directions contained in her will, was to be buried in the vault at Mouldwell church. A grand funeral it was, and nearly all the parish went to see it; amongst the rest, our friend Mar-

gery. There were three mourning coaches, each drawn by four black horses; and in one of these coaches was the heir to the property. After the service was ended, and the rest of the company had got into their coaches, this gentleman waited to speak to Mr. Smith, and told him that, although he was obliged just now to return to his family, he hoped soon to take possession of the Hall, and make it his place of abode.

Mr. Smith was much pleased at this news; and all agreed with him in thinking that it would be a fine thing for the parish to have a family living at the Hall.

After Mr. Williams's coach had driven off, most of the villagers left the churchyard; but one or two went into the church to watch the men who were at work in the chancel closing up the vault. Little Margery followed them; for she had often wished to read the inscriptions on some monuments in the church, and thought that she

never should have a better opportunity than the present. There were in the chancel two or three handsome monuments belonging to the Ducklington family; one was ornamented with gilding, mixed with bright crimson and blue colours: this was to the memory of Sir Simon Ducklington, the husband of the lately deceased lady; but the inscription was in the Latin language, so that Margery could not make out a word of it. Then she looked at the other monuments; but the writing upon them was either too old to be legible, or the letters were formed in what is called old English characters, which were not as yet in Margery's stock of alphabets. On one side of the chancel there was a door, which opened into a small sort of chapel, or chantry. Margery had never been within, but she had heard a good deal about the place; and she now asked leave of the old clerk to go in; he said, that she was welcome, if she wished it; that there was no key, for

it had been lost before his time; and so she had only to lift the latch and open the door; which accordingly Margery did.

There was a monument here which had a full-length figure of a lady resting upon the slab. This figure was carved out of the finest marble; which, though not so white as it had once been, seemed to Margery still very beautiful. The head-dress fell down in such natural folds on each side of the face, and the creases in the pillow which supported the head looked also so very like real creases, that you might have fancied it all formed of silk or linen, rather than of cold hard stone. The hands, which were joined together over the breast as if in prayer, were moulded, too, in exact imitation of the natural shape; looking, except in the colour, just like life.

So deeply was Margery engaged with what she saw, that she did not notice the stillness of all around her; she forgot how long she had been

in the little chapel; and when she opened the door into the chancel, she was surprised, and alarmed too, to find that the workmen, having finished their job, were gone, and that she was left alone in the church. She tried the doors, but they were all shut; so she saw that there was nothing for it but to remain where she was until morning. How Margery passed the weary hours of the night we shall hear by and by.

Early in the morning Mr. Smith's servant knocked at his door, to tell him that Farmer Mills was below, waiting to speak with him. Mr. Smith immediately got up, and, with all the speed he could, hastened down stairs. The story the farmer had to tell was nothing more nor less than that one of the church-bells had been tolling for above an hour. Mr. Smith was rather surprised to hear this; but as the farmer's home stood very near to the churchyard, he could not doubt the truth of the statement; so he proceeded with him

to the churchyard. Here they found several persons already met together, and amongst the rest old Dame Willis. The key was now applied to the door, and on its being opened, little Margery walked forth. In a very few words she explained the cause of her having passed the preceding night in the church. But all were anxious to hear a full account of her adventure; so it was agreed that she should go to Farmer Mills' and have her breakfast; and then the party should assemble to hear her story. When they returned, they found Margery quite refreshed by the farmer's hospitality, and ready to answer all questions. The first put to her by Mr. Smith was a very natural one.

"Pray, Margery," said he, "why did not you pull the bell sooner? Had you done so immediately, you might have been spared the necessity of spending the night as you did."

"Sir," said Margery, "I was frightened, and

did not think of it *immediately;* and when it did come into my mind, I found the ropes so short that I could scarcely reach them. If you please, sir, you may remember that there was a talk last Christmas of putting up new bell-ropes, but the churchwardens thought that by taking off the ends that were most worn, they might be made to do another year. The little bell, that we call the *Ting tang*, had, I think, a new rope."

"Then why did you not pull *that?*" asked Mr. Smith.

"Because, sir, though I felt about a good while, I could not find it."

"That," said Farmer Mills, "I'll be bound to say you could not, Madge; for whilst we were all waiting for the hearse, seeing our Jack and one or two other boys making free with the rope of the *Ting tang*, I hitched it up myself out of their reach."

"Well," resumed Margery, "that was it then.

However, I did pull at one of the great bells and made it sound; and although it was not a very loud toll, I yet hoped it might be heard; indeed, I almost think that it was; for after waiting some time, I fancied that I heard footsteps in the churchyard. I went to the church-door and listened; and to find out if any one was on the outside, I knocked upon the door as hard as I could with my fist. Scarcely had I done so, when I heard somebody run away very fast."

Here Bob Mills, who was present, looked very red, and slipping behind his father, left the house in a great hurry. The truth was, that he and another boy, in racking up the horses for the night, had heard the bell; upon which, summoning up all their courage, they left the stable, and went to listen at the church-door. No sooner, however, did they discover that *something*, as they expressed it, was inside the church, than they ran off, as Margery had described, and, what was more fool-

ish still, said not a word of the matter when they reached home.

"Well," resumed Margery, "it seemed to me that the best thing I could do would be to try and go to sleep, that the time might not appear so long; so down by the large tomb I looked about for some place wherein to pass the night. I first found a piece of matting to lay upon the stone-floor, and then a hassock; and by good luck I had my cloak with me. I thought then I could not do better than lie down beside the lady with the clasped hands; so I laid myself down on the mat, with the hassock under my head, and wrapped my cloak round me, to keep myself as warm as I could."

"Thy cloak is but a thinnish one," said Farmer Mills.

"It is what I am used to, sir," continued Margery, "and use is every thing; so it did very well. I had determined, if I could not make the bell

give out a louder sound in the morning, to go up the belfry stairs, and get out upon the tower, where I made sure that some one or other would see me; and so my mind being more at ease, I lay down, as I said before, and presently fell asleep. When I awoke I felt very cold; it was that, I fancy, which prevented my sleeping longer, for I am not used to wake in the night; so I got up, thinking it would be best for me to move about. I did not know how long I had slept, but presently I heard the great clock strike one, so I found I had had a pretty good nap considering. At this time, too, the moonbeams were streaming in through the painted glass in the great window, making the whole place look more beautiful than I can describe; at least so it seemed to me. After that I tried to fill up the time by repeating to myself such Psalms as I knew by heart; and when I came to the christening-font I stopped, and I thought to myself, this is

where Tommy and I were brought to be baptised. Then I tried to reckon how many babies I had seen Mr. Smith baptise; how many of them were now living, and who they were; and so, what with one thing and what with another, the night passed away sooner than I could have thought. When I heard the clock strike four, I began again to pull at the great bell; and by getting upon the hassock, which I had brought into the belfry, I found that I could manage better, and pull harder than I had done before."

Thus ended Margery's story. When she had finished speaking, Mrs. Mills remarked, that it was just like hearing a printed book; but Margery was far better pleased to be commended by Mr. Smith, who told her, in the hearing of them all, that she had behaved herself like a wise girl.

PART III.

BEFORE the termination of the following spring the new squire and his family were settled at Mouldwell. Mr. and Mrs. Williams learnt from Mr. Smith every particular concerning the parish which could aid them in their desire of assisting its inhabitants; and none, of all his pa-

rishioners, was more earnestly recommended by Mr. Smith to the favour of the squire than our friend little Margery, who had now grown into a tall, comely-looking girl. Mr. Williams hearing so excellent a character of her, and understanding from Mr. Smith that, notwithstanding her youth, she was well qualified for the office of school-mistress, determined to establish her as such, and to pay a certain sum per year for the schooling of as many poor children as Margery herself thought she could manage to instruct. Besides this, he gave the necessary orders for building a school-house near the middle of the village, and not far from the church, to which, as soon as it should be perfectly dry and habitable, Margery and old Dame Willis were accordingly to remove.

No sooner was Margery settled than she did every thing in her power to promote the welfare of her neighbours, and especially of their little

ones, in whom she took great delight; and those whose parents could not afford to pay, she taught for nothing but the pleasure she had in their company; for they were very good, or were soon made so by her good management. She not only taught the children in the day-time, but the farmers' servants, and all the neighbours, to read and write in the evening.

The school-room was a large one; and, as Margery knew that nature intended children should be always in action, she placed her different letters or alphabets all round the school, so that every one was obliged to get up and fetch a letter, or spell a word, when it came to his turn; which not only kept them in health, but fixed the letters and the points firmly in their minds.

The neighbours, knowing that Miss Two-Shoes was very good (as, to be sure, nobody was better), made her a present of a little sky-lark. Now, as many boys and girls had learned to lie in bed long

in the morning, she thought the lark might be of use to her and her pupils, and tell her when to get up. "For he that is fond of his bed, and lies till noon, lives but half his days, the rest being lost in sleep, which is a kind of death." Some time after this a poor lamb lost its dam, and the farmer being about to kill it, she bought it of him, and brought it home with her to play with the children, and teach them when to go to bed; for it was a rule with the wise men of that age to

"Rise with the lark, and lie down with the lamb."

This lamb she called Lizzy, and a pretty creature she was. No sooner were Tippy the lark and Lizzy the baa-lamb brought into the school, but that sensible rogue, Ralph the raven, repeated in his croaking voice the following verse, which every good little boy and girl should get by heart:—

"Early to bed, and early to rise,
Is the way to be healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Soon after this a present was made to Miss Margery of a little dog, who was always in a good humour and jumping about; and therefore he was called Jumper. The place assigned for Jumper was that of keeping the door; for he would not let anybody either in or out without the leave of his mistress. Lizzy the baa-lamb was a cheerful companion, and all the children were fond of her; wherefore Miss Two-Shoes made it a rule, that they who behaved the best should have her home at night to carry their satchel or basket on her back, and bring it in the morning.

It happened one day, when Miss Two-Shoes was diverting the children after school-time with some innocent games, and mingling them with entertaining and instructive stories, that a man arrived with the melancholy news of Sally Jones's father being thrown from his horse, and thought past all recovery; nay, the messenger said that he was seemingly dying when he came away. All

the school was in tears, and the messenger was obliged to return; but before he went, Miss Two-Shoes ordered Tom Pigeon to go home with the man, and bring a letter to inform her how Mr. Jones did. Soon after the man was gone, the pigeon was missed; and the concern the children were under for Mr. Jones and little Sally was in some measure diverted, and part of their attention turned after Tom, who was a great favourite, and consequently much bewailed. She then told them a story; and after she had concluded, something was heard to flap at the window. "Bow, wow, wow," says Jumper, and attempted to leap up and open the door, at which the children were surprised; but Miss Margery, knowing what it was, opened the casement, as Noah did the window of the ark, and drew in Tom Pigeon with the letter. As soon as he was placed upon the table, he walked up to little Sally, and dropping the letter, cried, "Coo, coo, coo;" as much as to say, "there,

read it." Now this pigeon had travelled all the way, and brought the agreeable intelligence that Mr. Jones was out of danger.

Miss Margery was always doing good, and thought she could never sufficiently recompense those who had done any thing to serve her. These grateful sentiments naturally led her to consult the interests of Mr. Grove the farmer, and the rest of her neighbours; and as most of their lands were meadow, and they depended much on their hay, which had been for many years greatly damaged by wet weather, she procured an instrument to direct them when to mow their grass with safety, and prevent their hay being spoiled. They all came to her for advice, and by that means got in their hay without damage, while most of that in the neighbouring village was spoiled.

But this good service rendered them occasioned a very great noise in the country; and so provoked were the people who resided in other

parishes, that they accused her of being a witch, and sent old Gaffer Goosecap (a busy fellow in other people's concerns) to find out evidence against her. This wiseacre happened to come to her school when she was walking about with the raven on one shoulder, the pigeon on the other, the lark on her hand, and the lamb and the dog by her side, which so surprised the man, that in astonishment he cried out, "A witch! a witch! a witch!" Upon this she, laughing, answered, "A conjuror! a conjuror!" and so they parted. But it did not end thus; for a warrant was issued against Miss Margery, and she was carried to a meeting of the Justices, whither all the neighbours followed her.

When at the meeting, one of the justices, who knew little of life, and much less of the law, asked her whom she could bring to her character? "Whom can you bring *against* my character, sir?" said she. "There are people enough who

would appear in my defence if it were necessary; but I never supposed any one here could be so weak as to believe that I was a witch. If I am a witch, this is my charm;" and, laying a barometer or weather-glass on the table, "it is with this," said she, "that I have taught my neighbours to know the state of the weather."

All the company laughed; and Sir William Dove, who was on the bench, asked her accusers how they could be such fools as to think that Goody Two-Shoes was a witch! If there were such people at all now-a-days, he was quite sure they were very unlike Miss Margery. He then gave the court such an account of Goody Two-Shoes and her virtue, good sense, and prudent behaviour, that the gentlemen present were delighted with her, and returned her public thanks for the great service she had done to her part of the country.

About this time, just at the conclusion of the

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hay-harvest, Mr. Williams resolved to give an entertainment to the people of the parish of Mouldwell. Long tables, spread under the shade of the noble trees which adorned the park, were loaded with large pieces of boiled or roasted beef, with plum-puddings in every vacant space; and there were Mr. and Mrs. Williams standing to receive their guests, with Mr. Smith and some other gentlemen and ladies. Amongst the number of happy faces that passed in their way to the dinner-table, none were more particularly noticed than a party, consisting of Dame Willis, leaning upon her staff, walking between Margery and a young man in a sailor's dress. This last was Tommy Meanwell, who, to the great delight of his sister, had arrived the evening before. Mr. Williams had also a brother lately come from sea, whom he was as glad to meet again as Margery had been to see Tommy. This gentleman, who was now present, had a good deal of talk with the young sailor,

being pleased both with his countenance and manner.

After the dinner was over, the children had leave to play about, and fine running and racing there was in the park, where a place had been freshly mown for a game of cricket; whilst of the older guests, some sat under the trees, talking to each other, or watching the cricket-players; and others rambled through the pleasure-grounds, which afforded a pleasant stroll on a fine summer's evening, like this on which the Mouldwell feast took place.

Captain Williams, as has been said, took much notice of Tommy Meanwell; he was himself expecting, in the course of a few weeks, to be appointed to the command of one of the king's ships; and before leaving the Hall, where he remained about a month, he engaged Tommy to accompany him in the capacity of his own servant. This was a great advance in the world for a poor lad like

Tommy, whose hopes of making a great fortune had long since left him; so that, after another week, he set off with great joy.

Tommy, or, as we must now call him, Thomas Meanwell, lived for several years in Captain Williams's service. More than once during that time his good master offered to procure him a better situation; but Thomas was too sincerely attached to him to listen to such proposals. At last Capt. Williams received a wound in battle, of which he soon after died, to the great affliction of his faithful servant, who from that time gave up his seafaring life. Thomas Meanwell returned to his native village, where, having saved a little money, in addition to 50*l.* bequeathed him by his kind master, he married, and lived respectably the remainder of his days.

It is not known how long after this Goody Two-Shoes lived, but we know that she continued to live happily with her little family of scholars,

who were all sincerely attached to her; not forgetting Tom Pigeon, Ralph Raven, Tippy the lark, Lizzy the lamb, and, last of all, the little dog Jumper.

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