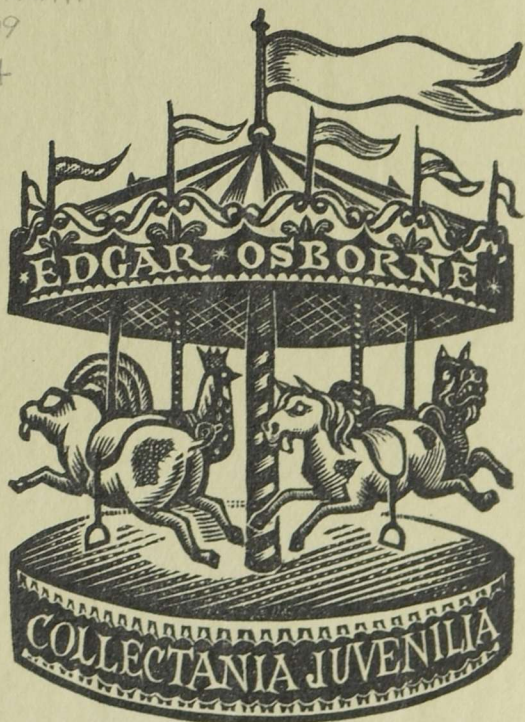




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JACK the GIANT KILLER



Jack blowing his Horn

John Meffoid
THE 1814

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THE
HISTORY
OF
JACK THE GIANT-KILLER.

EMBELLISHED WITH
Three Elegant Copperplates.
A NEW AND CORRECT EDITION.

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THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

THE

BOOK OF HISTORY

OF

THE GREAT BRITAIN

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THE

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JACK THE GIANT-KILLER.

IN the reign of the famous King Arthur, there lived near the Land's-end of England, in the county of Cornwall, a worthy farmer, who had an only son, named Jack. Jack was a boy of a bold temper ; he took pleasure in hearing or reading stories of wizards, conjurers, giants, and fairies ; and used to listen eagerly while his father talked of the great deeds of the brave knights of King Arthur's round table.

When Jack was sent to take care of the sheep and oxen in the fields, he used to amuse himself with planning battles, sieges, and the means to conquer or surprise a foe. He was above the common sports of children ; but hardly any one could equal him at wrestling ;

6 *Jack the Giant-Killer.*

or, if he met with a match for himself in strength, his skill and address always made him the victor.

In those days there lived on St Michael's Mount of Cornwall, which rises out of the sea at some distance from the main land, a huge giant. He was eighteen feet high, and three yards round; and his fierce and savage looks were the terror of all his neighbours.

He dwelt in a gloomy cavern on the very top of the mountain, and used to wade over to the main land in search of his prey. When he came near, the people left their houses; and after he had glutted his appetite upon their cattle, he would throw half a dozen oxen upon his back, and tie three times as many sheep and hogs round his waist, and so march back to his own abode. The giant had done this for many years, and the coast of Cornwall was greatly hurt by his thefts, when Jack boldly resolved to destroy him.

Jack therefore took a horn, a shovel, a pick-axe, and a dark lantern; and early in a long winter's evening, he swam to the

mount. There he fell to work at once ; and before morning, he had dug a pit twenty-two feet deep, and almost as many broad. He covered it at the top with sticks and straw, and strewed some of the earth over them, to make them look just like solid ground. He then put his horn to his mouth, and blew such a loud and long tantivy, that the giant awoke, and came towards Jack, roaring, in a voice like thunder,—“ You saucy villain, you shall pay dearly for breaking my rest. I will broil you for my breakfast.”

He had hardly spoken these words, when he came advancing one step further ; but then he tumbled headlong into the pit, and his fall shook the very mountain.

“ O ho ! Mr Giant,” said Jack, looking into the pit, “ have you found your way so soon to the bottom ? How is your appetite now ? Will nothing serve you for breakfast this cold morning but broiling poor Jack ?”

The giant now tried to rise ; but Jack struck him a blow on the crown of the head with his pick-axe, which killed him at once.

Jack then made haste back to rejoice his friends with the news of the giant's death.

Now, when the justices of Cornwall heard of this valiant action, they sent for Jack, and declared that he should always be called Jack the Giant-Killer; and they also gave him a sword and belt, upon which was written in letters of gold,

This is the valiant Cornish man
Who slew the giant Cormoran.

The news of Jack's exploit was soon spread over the western parts of England; and another giant, called Old Blunderbore, vowed to have his revenge on Jack, if it should ever be his fortune to get him into his power.

This giant kept an enchanted castle in the midst of a lonely wood. Now, about four months after the death of Cormoran, as Jack was taking a journey to Wales, he passed through this wood; and as he was very weary, he sat down to rest by the side of a pleasant fountain, and there he fell into a deep sleep.

The giant came to the fountain for water

just at this time, and found Jack there ; and as the lines on Jack's belt showed who he was, the giant lifted him up, and laid him gently upon his shoulder to carry him to his castle. But as he passed through the thicket, the rustling of the leaves waked Jack ; and he was sadly afraid when he found himself in the clutches of Blunderbore. Yet this was nothing to his fright soon after ; for when they reached the castle, he beheld the floor covered all over with the skulls and bones of men and women.

The giant took him into a large room, where there lay the hearts and limbs of persons that had been lately killed ; and he told Jack, with a horrid grin, that men's hearts, eaten with pepper and vinegar, were his nicest food ; and also that he thought he should make a dainty meal on his heart. When he had said this, he locked Jack up in that room, while he went to fetch another giant who lived in the same wood, to enjoy a dinner off Jack's flesh with him.

While he was away, Jack heard dreadful

shrieks, groans, and cries, from many parts of the castle; and soon after he heard a mournful voice repeat these lines:

Haste, valiant stranger, haste away,

I lest you become the giant's prey.

On his return he'll bring another

Still more savage than his brother—

A horrid, cruel monster, who

Before he kills, will torture you.

O valiant stranger! haste away,

Or you'll become these giants' prey.

This warning was so shocking to poor Jack, that he was ready to go mad. He ran to the window, and saw the two giants coming along arm in arm. This window was right over the gates of the castle. "Now," thought Jack, "either my death or freedom is at hand."

Now, there were two strong cords in the room. Jack made a large noose, with a slip-knot, at the ends of both these; and as the giants were coming through the iron gates, he threw the ropes over their heads. He then made the other ends fast to a beam in

the ceiling, and pulled with all his might, till he had almost strangled them. When he saw that they were both quite black in the face, and had not the least strength left, he drew his sword, and slid down the ropes; he then killed the giants, and thus saved himself from the cruel death they meant to put him to.

Jack next took a great bunch of keys from the pocket of Blunderbore, and went into the castle again. He made a strict search through all the rooms, and in them found three ladies tied up by the hair of their heads, and almost starved to death. They told him that their husbands had been killed by the giants, who had then condemned them to be starved to death, because they would not eat the flesh of their own dead husbands.

“Ladies,” says Jack, “I have put an end to the monster and his wicked brother; and I give you this castle, and all the riches that it contains, to make some amends for the dreadful pains you have felt.” He then very politely gave them the keys of the castle, and went further in his journey to Wales.

As Jack had not taken any of the giant's riches for himself, and so had very little money of his own, he thought it best to travel as fast as he could. At length he lost his way; and when night came on, he was in a lonely valley, between two lofty mountains, where he walked about for some hours without seeing any dwelling-place; so he thought himself very lucky at last, in finding a large and handsome house.

He went up to it boldly, and knocked loudly at the gate; when, to his great terror and surprise, there came forth a monstrous giant with two heads. He spoke to Jack very civilly, for he was a Welsh giant; and all the mischief he did was by private and secret malice, under the show of friendship and kindness. Jack told him that he was a traveller who had lost his way; on which the huge monster made him welcome, and led him into a room, where there was a good bed, to pass the night in.

Jack took off his clothes quickly; but though he was weary, he could not go to

sleep. Soon after this, he heard the giant walking backward and forward in the next room, and saying to himself,

“ Though here you lodge with me this night,
You shall not see the morning-light;
My club shall dash your brains out quite.”

“ Say you so ? ” thought Jack. “ Are these your tricks upon travellers ? But I hope to prove as cunning as you are. ”— Then getting out of bed, he groped about the room ; and at last found a large thick billet of wood. He laid it in his own place in the bed, and then hid himself in a dark corner of the room.

In the middle of the night, the giant came with his great club, and struck many heavy blows on the bed, in the very place where Jack had laid the billet ; and then he went back to his own room, thinking he had broken all Jack’s bones.

Early in the morning Jack put a bold face upon the matter, and walked into the giant’s room to thank him for his lodging. The giant started when he saw him, and began to

stammer out—"Oh! dear me! is it you? Pray how did you sleep last night? Did you hear or see any thing in the dead of the night?"

"Nothing worth speaking of," said Jack, carelessly; "a rat, I believe, gave me three or four slaps with his tail, and disturbed me a little; but I soon went to sleep again."

The giant wondered more and more at this; yet he did not answer a word, but went to bring two great bowls of hasty pudding for their breakfast. Jack wanted to make the giant believe that he could eat as much as himself; so he contrived to button a leathern bag inside his coat, and slipt the hasty pudding into this bag, while he seemed to put it into his mouth. When breakfast was over, he said to the giant—

"Now I will shew you a fine trick. I can cure all wounds with a touch. I could cut off my head one minute, and the next put it sound again on my shoulders. You shall see an example." He then took hold of the knife, ripped up the leathern bag, and all the hasty pudding tumbled out upon the floor.

“Ods splutter hur nails,” cried the Welsh giant, who was ashamed to be outdone by such a little fellow as Jack, “hur can do that hursel;” so he snatched up the knife, plunged it into his stomach, and in a moment dropped down dead.

As soon as Jack had thus tricked the Welsh monster, he went further on his journey; and a few days after he met with King Arthur's only son, who had got his father's leave to travel into Wales, to deliver a beautiful lady from the power of a wicked magician, that held her in his enchantments. When Jack found that the young prince had no servants with him, he begged leave to attend him; and the prince at once agreed to this, and gave Jack many thanks for his kindness.

The prince was a handsome, polite, and brave knight, and so good-natured, that he gave money to every body he met. At length he gave his last penny to an old woman, and then turned to Jack, and said, “How are we to get food for ourselves the

rest of the journey?" "Leave that to me, sir," said Jack; "I will provide for my prince." Night came on now, and the prince began to grow uneasy at thinking where they should lodge. "Sir," said Jack, "be of good heart. Two miles further there lives a large giant, whom I know well; he has three heads, and will fight five hundred men, and make them fly before him."

"Alas!" replied the king's son, "we had better never have been born than meet with such a monster." "My lord," said Jack, "leave me to manage him; and wait here in quiet till I return."

The prince now staid behind, while Jack rode on at full speed; and when he came to the gates of the castle, he gave a loud knock. The giant, with a voice like thunder, roared out, "Who is there?" and Jack made answer, and said, "No one but your poor cousin Jack."

"Well," said the giant, "what news, cousin Jack?" "Dear uncle," said Jack, "heavy news."—"Pooh!" said the giant, "what

heavy news can come to me? I am a giant with three heads; and can fight five hundred men, and make them fly before me." "Alas!" said Jack, "here is the king's son coming with two thousand men to kill you, and to destroy the castle and all that you have."

"Oh! cousin Jack," said the giant, "this is heavy news indeed; but I have a large cellar under ground, where I will hide myself, and you shall lock, bolt, and bar me in, and keep the keys till the king's son is gone."

Now when Jack had made the giant fast in the vault, he went back and fetched the prince to the castle, and they both made themselves merry with the wine and other dainties that were in the house; so that night they rested very pleasantly, while the poor giant lay trembling and shaking with fear in the cellar under ground.

Early in the morning, Jack gave the king's son gold and silver out of the giant's trea-

sure, and set him three miles forward on his journey.

He then went back to let his uncle out of the hole, who asked Jack what he should give him as a reward for saving his castle. "Why, good uncle," said Jack, "I desire nothing but the old coat and cap, with the old rusty sword and slippers, that are hanging at your bed's head." "Then," said the giant, "you shall have them; and pray keep them for my sake, for they are things of great use. The coat will keep you invisible; the cap will give you knowledge; the sword cut through any thing; and the shoes are of vast swiftness; these may be useful to you in all times of danger, so take them with all my heart." Jack gave many thanks to the giant, and then set off to the prince.

When he had come up with the king's son, they soon arrived at the dwelling of the beautiful lady, who was under the power of a wicked magician. She received the prince very politely, and made a noble feast for him; and when it was ended, she rose, and

wiping her mouth with a fine handkerchief, said, "My lord, you must submit to the custom of my palace: to-morrow morning I command you to tell me on whom I bestow this handkerchief, or lose your head." She then went out of the room.

The young prince went to bed very mournful: but Jack put on his cap of knowledge, which told him that the lady was forced, by the power of the enchantment, to meet the wicked magician every night in the middle of the forest. Jack now put on his coat of darkness, and his shoes of swiftness, and was there before her. When the lady came, she gave the handkerchief to the magician. Jack, with his sword of sharpness, at one blow, cut off his head: the enchantment was then ended in a moment, and the lady was restored to her former virtue and goodness.

She was married to the prince on the next day, and soon after went back with her royal husband and a great company to the court of King Arthur, where they were received with loud and joyful welcomes; and the valiant

hero Jack, for the many great exploits he had done for the good of his country, was made one of the knights of the round table.

As Jack had been so lucky in all his adventures, he resolved not to be idle for the future, but still to do what services he could for the honour of the king and the nation. He therefore humbly begged his Majesty to furnish him with a horse and money, that he might travel in search of new and strange exploits. "For," said he to the king, "there are many giants yet living among the mountains in the remote parts of Wales, to the great terror and distress of your Majesty's subjects: therefore if it please you, sire, to favour me in my design, I will soon rid your kingdom of these giants and monsters in the human shape." Now, when the king heard this offer, and began to think of the cruel deeds of these blood-thirsty giants, and savage monsters, he gave Jack every thing proper for such a journey. After this, Jack took leave of the king, the prince, and all the knights, and set off; taking with him

his cap of knowledge, his sword of sharpness, his shoes of swiftness, and his invisible coat, the better to perform the great exploits that might fall in his way.

He went along over high hills and lofty mountains, and on the third day he came to a large and wide forest, through which his road lay. He had hardly entered the forest, when on a sudden he heard very dreadful shrieks and cries. He forced his way through the trees, and saw a monstrous giant dragging along by the hair of their heads a handsome knight and his beautiful lady. Their tears and cries melted the heart of honest Jack to pity : he got down from his horse, and tying him to an oak tree, put on his invisible coat, under which he carried his sword of sharpness.

When he came up to the giant, he made many strokes at him, but could not reach his body, on account of the great height of this frightful creature. But he wounded his thighs in many places ; and putting both hands to his sword, and aiming with all his

might, he cut off both the giant's legs, just below the garter; so that his body tumbled to the ground, and made not only the trees shake, but the earth itself tremble with the force of his fall.

Then Jack set one foot upon his neck, and cried out, "Thou cruel and savage wretch, behold, I am come to give thee the just reward of all thy crimes." And so plunging his sword into the giant's body, the monster gave a loud groan, and yielded up his life into the hands of the brave Jack the Giant-killer; while the noble knight and his lady were both joyful to see his sudden death, and their own escape.

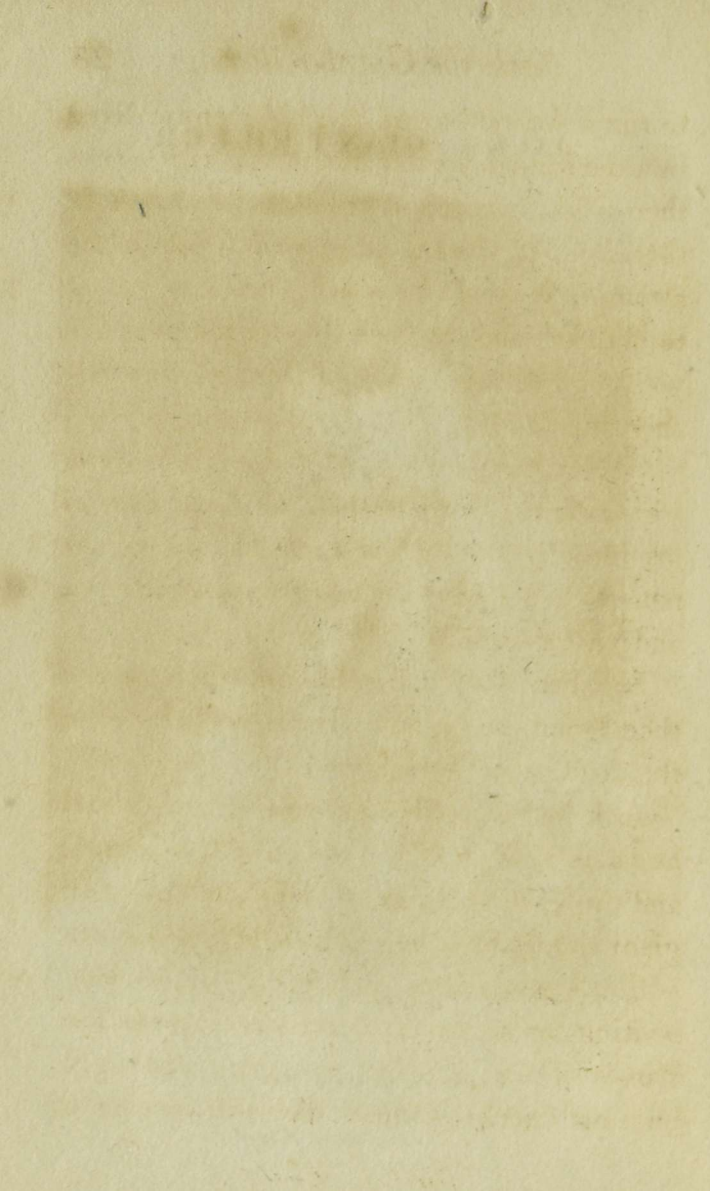
The knight and his lady not only gave Jack hearty thanks for what he had done for them, but also invited him to their house, to refresh himself, and also to receive a reward for his goodness. "No," said Jack, "I cannot be at ease till I find out this monster's dwelling."

When the knight heard this he grew sad, and replied, "Noble stranger, it is too much

JACK the GIANT KILLER



Jack rescues the Knight
and his Lady



to run a second hazard. This monster lived in a den under yonder mountain, with a brother of his, fiercer and crueller than himself: therefore, if you should go and perish in the attempt, it would be a heart-breaking thing to both me and my lady; so let me persuade you to go with us, and not think of any further pursuit."

"Nay," said Jack, "and even if there were twenty, I would shed the last drop of my blood before one of them should escape me. When I have done this task, I will come and visit you."

So when they had told him where to find them again, he got on his horse, and went after the dead giant's brother.

Jack had not rode a mile and a half, before he came in sight of the mouth of the cavern; and nigh the entrance of it he saw the other giant sitting on a huge block of fine timber, with a knotted iron club lying by his side, waiting for his brother. His eyes looked like flames of fire, his face was grim and ugly, and his cheeks seemed like two fitches of

bacon ; the bristles of his beard seemed to be thick rods of iron wire ; and his long locks of hair hung down upon his broad shoulders like curling snakes.

Jack got down from his horse, and turned him into a thicket ; then he put on his coat of darkness, and drew a little nearer to behold this figure ; and said softly, “ O monster ! are you there ? it will not be long before I shall take you fast by the beard.”

The giant, all this while, could not see him by reason of his invisible coat : so Jack came quite close to him, and struck a blow at his head with his sword of sharpness ; but he missed his aim, and only cut off his nose, who then roared like loud claps of thunder. And though he rolled his glaring eyes round on every side, he could not see who had given him the blow ; yet he took up his iron club, and began to lay about him like one that was mad with pain and fury.

“ Nay,” said Jack, “ if this is the case, I will kill you at once.” So he slipped nimbly behind him, and jumping upon the

JACK the GIANT KILLER



Jack pursued by the Giant
with two Heads

block of timber as the giant rose from it, he stabbed him in the back, when, after a few howls, he dropped down dead.

Jack cut off his head, and sent it with the head of his brother, whom he had killed before in the forest, to King Arthur, by a waggon which he hired for that purpose, with an account of all his exploits. When Jack had thus killed these two monsters, he went into their cave in search of their treasure. He passed through many turnings and windings, which led him to a room paved with freestone; at the end of it was a boiling cauldron, and on the right hand stood a large table, where the giants used to dine.

He then came to a window that was secured with iron bars, through which he saw a number of wretched captives, who cried out when they saw Jack, "Alas! alas! young man, are you come to be one among us in this horrid den?" "I hope," said Jack, "you will not stay here long; but pray tell me what is the meaning of your being here at all."

“ Alas !” said one poor old man, “ I will tell you, sir. We are persons that have been taken by the giants that hold this cave, and are kept till they choose to have a feast, then one of us is to be killed, and cooked to please their taste. It is not long since they took three for the same purpose.”

“ Well,” said Jack, “ I have given them such a dinner, that it will be long enough before they have any more.” The captives were amazed at his words. “ You may believe me,” said Jack, “ for I have killed both with the edge of the sword, and have sent their large heads to the court of King Arthur, as marks of my great success.” To show them that what he said was true, he unlocked the gate, and set them all free. Then he led them to the great room, placed them round the table, and set before them two quarters of beef, with bread and wine, upon which they feasted to their fill.

When supper was over, they searched the giant’s coffers, and Jack shared the store in them among the captives, who thanked him

for their escape. The next morning they set off to their own homes, and Jack to the knight's house, whom he had left with his lady not long before.

It was just at the time of sun-rise that Jack mounted his horse to proceed on his journey. He arrived at the knight's house, where he was received with the greatest joy, by the thankful knight and his lady; who in honour of Jack's exploits, gave a grand feast, to which all the nobles and gentry were invited.

When the company were assembled, the knight declared to them the great actions of Jack, and gave him, as a mark of respect, a fine ring, on which was engraved the picture of the giant dragging the knight and the lady by the hair, with this motto round it :

Behold in dire distress were we,
Under a giant's fierce command,
But gain'd our lives and liberty,
From valiant Jack's victorious hand.

Among the guests then present were five aged gentlemen, who were fathers to some

of those captives who had been freed by Jack from the dungeon of the giants. As soon as they heard that he was the person who had done such wonders, they pressed round him with tears of joy, to return him thanks for the happiness he had caused to them.

After this the bowl went round, and every one drank to the health and long life of the gallant hero. Mirth increased, and the hall was filled with peals of laughter and joyful cries.

But, on a sudden, a herald, pale and breathless, with haste and terror, rushed into the midst of the company, and told them that Thundel, a savage giant with two heads, had heard of the death of his two kinsmen, and was come to take his revenge on Jack, and that he was now within a mile of the house, the people all flying before him like chaff before the wind.

At this news, the very boldest of the guests trembled; but Jack drew his sword, and said, "Let him come, I have a rod for him also. Pray, gentlemen and ladies, do me the fa-

your to walk into the garden, and you shall soon behold the giant's defeat and death." To this they all agreed, and heartily wished him success in his dangerous attempt.

The knight's house stood in the middle of a moat, thirty feet deep, and twenty wide, over which lay a draw-bridge. Jack set men to work, to cut the bridge on both sides, almost to the middle; and then dressed himself in his coat of darkness, and went against the giant with his sword of sharpness. As he came close to him, though the giant could not see him for his invisible coat, yet he found some danger was near; which made him cry out,

"Fa, fe, fi, fo, fum,

I smell the blood of an Englishman;

I et him be alive, or let him be dead,

I'll grind his bones to make me bread."

"Say you so, my friend," said Jack, "you are a monstrous miller indeed." "Art thou," cried the giant, "the villain who killed my kinsmen? Then I will tear thee with my teeth, and grind thy bones to pow-

der." "You must catch me first," said Jack; and throwing off his coat of darkness, and putting on his shoes of swiftness, he began to run; the giant following him like a walking castle, making the ground shake at every step.

Jack led him round and round the walls of the house, that the company might see the monster; and to finish the work, Jack ran over the draw-bridge, the giant going after him with his club. But when the giant came to the middle, where the bridge had been cut on both sides, the great weight of his body made it break; and he tumbled into the water, and rolled about like a large whale.

Jack now stood by the side of the moat, and laughed and jeered at him, saying, "I think you told me you would grind my bones to powder; when shall you begin?"

The giant foamed at both his horrid mouths with fury, and plunged from side to side of the moat; but he could not get out to have revenge upon his little foe.

At last Jack ordered a cart-rope to be

brought to him. He then threw it over his two heads, and by the help of a team of horses, dragged him to the edge of the moat, when he cut off the monster's heads, and before he either eat or drank, he sent them both to the court of King Arthur. He then went back to the table with the rest of the company, and the rest of the day was spent in mirth and good cheer.

After staying with the knight for some time, Jack grew weary of such an idle life, and set out again in search of new adventures. He went over hills and dales, without meeting any, till he came to the foot of a very high mountain. Here he knocked at the door of a small and lonely house, and an old man, with a head as white as snow, let him in.

“ Good father,” said Jack, “ can you lodge a traveller who has lost his way ? ” “ Yes,” said the hermit, “ I can, if you will accept such fare as my poor house affords.” Jack entered, and the old man set before him some bread and fruit for his supper.

When Jack had eaten as much as he chose, the hermit said, "My son, I know you are the famous conqueror of giants; now, on the top of this mountain is an enchanted castle, kept by a giant named Galligantus, who by the help of a vile magician gets many knights into his castle, where he changes them into the shape of beasts. Above all, I lament the hard fate of a duke's daughter, whom they seized as she was walking in her father's garden, and brought hither through the air in a chariot drawn by two fiery dragons, and turned her into the shape of a deer. Many knights have tried to destroy the enchantment, and deliver her, yet none have been able to do it, by reason of two fiery griffins, who guard the gates of the castle, and destroy all who come nigh. But as you, my son, have an invisible coat, you may pass by them without being seen; and on the gates of the castle you will find engraved, by what means the enchantment may be broken."

Jack promised that in the morning, at the risk of his life, he would break the enchant-

ment ; and after a sound sleep, he arose early, put on his invisible coat, and got ready for the attempt.

When he had climbed to the top of the mountain, he saw the two fiery griffins, but he passed between them without the least fear of danger ; for they could not see him, because of his invisible coat. On the castle-gate he found a golden trumpet, under which were written these lines :

“ Whoever can this trumpet blow,
Shall cause the giant's overthrow.”

As soon as Jack had read this, he seized the trumpet, and blew a shrill blast, which made the gates fly open, and the very castle itself tremble.

The giant and the conjuror now knew that their wicked course was at an end, and they stood biting their thumbs, and shaking with fear. Jack, with his sword of sharpness, soon killed the giant, and the magician was then carried away by a whirlwind ; and every knight and beautiful lady, who had been changed into birds and beasts, returned to

their proper shapes. The castle vanished away like smoke, and the head of the giant Galligantus was then sent to King Arthur.

The knights and ladies rested that night at the old man's hermitage, and next day they set out for the court. Jack then went up to the king, and gave his Majesty an account of all his fierce battles.

Jack's fame had now spread through the whole country, and at the king's desire, the duke gave him his daughter in marriage, to the joy of all the kingdom. After this, the king gave him a large estate, on which he and his lady lived the rest of their days, in joy and content.

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THE
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1809.

ROBIN HOOD.

THE reign of King Richard the First was very different from the times we now live in. The roads were very bad, and were beset with robbers; and there were a great number of large forests and parks in the country, well stocked with deer. At that time lived the famous Robin Hood: he was born in the village of Locksley, in Nottinghamshire, and his father was very skilful in the use of the cross-bow. His mother had a brother named Gamewell, of Great Gamewell-hall, near Maxwell, in the same county, but at the distance of twenty miles from the house of Robin Hood's father.

When Robin Hood was about thirteen years old, his mother said one day to his father, "Let Robin and me ride this morning to Gamewell-hall, to taste my brother's good cheer." Her husband answered, "Do so, my dear; let Robin Hood take my grey horse, and the best bridle and saddle; the sun is rising, so pray make haste, for to-morrow will be Christmas-day." The goodwife then made no more ado, but put on her holiday petticoat and gown, which were green. Robin got his basket-hilt sword and dagger, and his new suit of clothes; and so rode with his mother behind him till he came to Gamewell-hall.

Squire Gamewell made them welcome twenty times, and the next day six tables were set out in the hall for dinner; and when the company was come, the squire said to them, "You are all welcome, but not a man here shall taste my ale, till he has sung a Christmas carol." They now all clapped their hands, and shouted and sang till the hall and the parlour rung again. After din-

ner the chaplain said grace, and the squire once again bid his friends be merry. "It snows and it blows out of doors," said he, "but we are snug here; let us have more ale, and lay some logs upon the fire." He then called for Little John, "For," said he, "Little John is a fine lad at gambols, and all sorts of tricks, and it will do your hearts good to see him." When Little John came, he was indeed as clever as the squire had said; but Robin Hood got up, and played all the very same tricks, and better still. The squire was quite glad to see this, and he said, "Cousin Robin, you shall go no more home, but shall stay and live with me; you shall have my estate when I die, and till then you shall be the comfort of my age." Robin Hood agreed to this, if his uncle would but give him Little John to be his servant.

One time, when Robin Hood was gone to spend a week with his father and mother, squire Gamewell was taken ill. In those days the people of this country were of the Roman-Catholic religion; there was a con-

vent of priests near Gamewell-hall, called Fountain-Abbey; and the squire sent for one of the priests or monks to come and read prayers by his bed-side. Fountain-Abbey was a very fine building; it had a large mansion in the centre, and a capital wing on the right side; but there was no wing on the left, so that the building was not complete. Now, the monk that came to Gamewell-hall was very sorry about this, and wished very much to have a left wing to his abbey; so he made the squire believe that he could not die like a good man, unless he gave the whole of his estate to Fountain-Abbey. The squire was very ill, and hardly knew what he did; he forgot Robin Hood, and all that he had said he would do for him, and signed a paper that the monk brought him, to give away his estate. As soon as Robin Hood heard that his uncle was very ill, he made haste home; but the squire was dead a quarter of an hour before Robin came. The monks now turned Robin Hood out of the hall; and

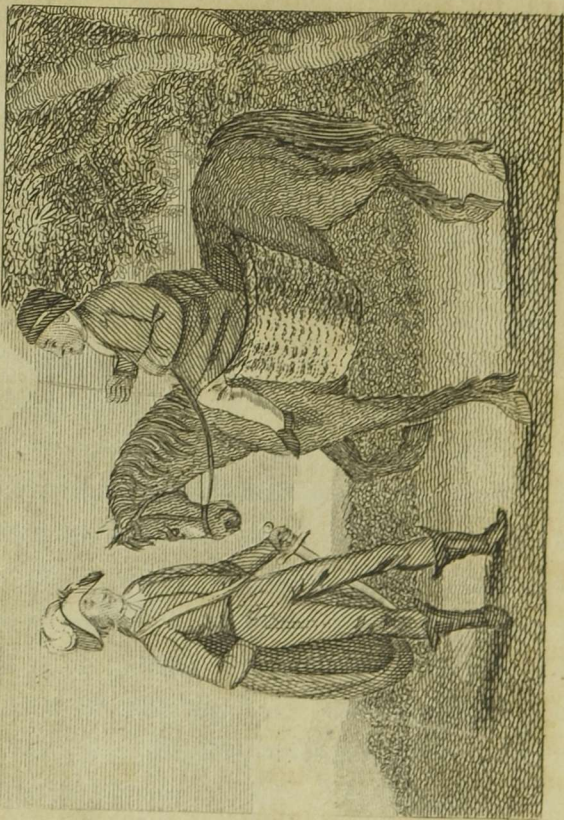
as his father was poor, Robin was thus sent out into the world to seek his fortune.

Robin Hood did not know what to do; he had been used to live like a rich man, and did not know how to work, for he had learned no trade. He now got together a number of young men, who had been brought up like himself, and were just as poor; and they went to live what they called a merry life, in Sherwood forest, near Nottingham. Here there was plenty of deer, and Robin Hood and his company were very excellent marksmen at shooting them with the cross-bow; but they wanted something besides meat to eat, so they at once turned robbers. After this no man could travel alone through Sherwood forest without being stripped of his money. Robin Hood, and his company too, did not confine themselves to Sherwood Forest, but went to plunder other parts of England. His gang soon grew to above a hundred in number, and they were some of the tallest, finest, and boldest men in the kingdom. Robin Hood dressed them in an

uniform; he himself always wore scarlet; and each of his men had a green coat, a pair of breeches, and cap.

Though Robin Hood was a robber, which, to be sure, is a very bad thing, yet he behaved in such a manner as to have the good word and good wishes of almost all the poor people in those parts. He never loved to rob any body but people that were very rich, and that had not the spirit to make good use of their riches. As he had lost his estate by the cunning of a Popish priest, he had a great dislike to the whole set; and the Popish priests at that time behaved in such a manner, that hardly any body liked them; so that Robin Hood was not thought the worse of for his usage of them. When he met with poor men in his rambles, instead of taking any thing from them, he gave them money of his own. He never let any woman be either robbed or hurt; and, in cases of hardship, he always took the part of the weak and the injured against the strong; so

ROBIN HOOD



Robin Hood and the Butcher

that it was truly said, "that of all thieves he was the gentlest and most generous thief."

Robin Hood was fond of doing strange and odd things, and he loved a joke quite as well as he loved a good booty. One day, as he strolled in the forest by himself, he saw a jolly butcher riding upon a fine mare, with panniers on each side filled with meat. "Good morrow, good fellow," said Robin; "whither are you going so early?" Said the other, "I am a butcher, and am going to Nottingham market to sell my meat." "I never learned any trade," said Robin, "I think I should like to be a butcher. What shall I give you for your mare and your panniers, and all that is in them?" "They are not dear at four marks," said the butcher, "and I will not sell them for less." Robin made no words, but counted out the money; and then made the butcher give him his blue linen coat and his apron, in exchange for Robin Hood's fine uniform of scarlet.

When Robin Hood had dressed himself in this manner, he rode straight to Nottingham.

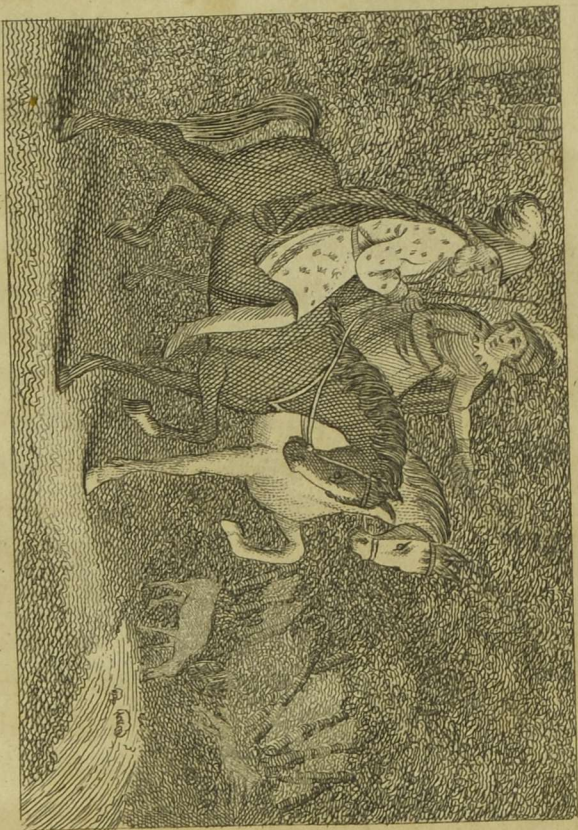
The sheriff of Nottingham was master of the market, and Robin Hood hired a stall there. But we may very well suppose that he did not know much about his trade; and indeed, as long as he had any meat to sell, no other butcher could sell a single joint; for Robin Hood sold more meat for a penny than the others could do for five. "To be sure," said they, "this is some young fellow that has sold his father's land." The butchers then went up to Robin Hood: "Come, brother," said one of them, "we are all of one trade, will you go and dine with us?" "I should be a shabby fellow," said Robin, "if I was ashamed of my calling; so I will go with you." The sheriff was the tavern-keeper, and sat at the head of the table; and after dinner Robin Hood would insist upon paying the bill. The sheriff was a cunning old miser, and when he saw how madly Robin Hood behaved, he thought he would not miss such a chance of turning a penny. "Good fellow," said the sheriff, "hast thou any horned beasts to sell to me?"

“ That I have, good master sheriff,” said Robin Hood, “ I have a hundred or two, if you will please to go and see them.” The sheriff then saddled his good palfrey, and took three hundred pounds in gold, and away he went with Robin Hood.

The road they took led through the forest of Sherwood; and as they rode along, the sheriff cried out, “ God preserve us this day from a man they call Robin Hood !” But when they came a little further, there chanced to come out of the thicket a hundred good fat deer, skipping very near them. “ How do you like my horned beasts, master sheriff ?” said Robin Hood ; “ these are the cattle I told you of.” “ To tell you the truth,” replied the sheriff, “ I wish I were away, for I do not like your company.” Then Robin Hood put his bugle-horn to his mouth, and blew three times ; when suddenly there came out of the wood Little John and Robin Hood’s hundred men, clothed in green, and running all in a row. “ What is your will, master ?” then said Little John. “ I have

brought hither the sheriff of Nottingham," said Robin Hood, "this day to dine with me." "He is welcome," said Little John, "I hope he will pay us well for his dinner." Robin Hood now made the sheriff sit down under a tree; and after they had all eaten and drank enough, he opened the sheriff's bag, and told out his three hundred pounds. He then seated the sheriff on his palfrey again, and led him out of the forest. "Remember me kindly to your wife," said Robin Hood, and so went laughing away.

As Robin Hood was walking one day in the forest, he took notice of a handsome young man, dressed in very fine clothes, frisking over the plain, and singing. When Robin Hood passed the same spot the next morning, he saw this same young man come drooping along; his fine dress was laid aside, his hair was loose about his shoulders, and at every step he sighed deeply, saying, "Alas! and well-a-day!" Robin Hood sent one of his company to bring the young man to him. "What is the distress," said Robin Hood,



Robin Hood and the Sheriff
of Nottingham

“ that hangs so heavy on your heart ? Why were you so merry yesterday, and why are you so sad to-day ? ” The young man now pulled out his purse. “ Look at this ring, ” said he, “ I bought it yesterday ; I was to have married a young maiden whom I have courted for seven long years, and this morning she has gone to church to be married to another. ” “ Do you think she loves you ? ” said Robin Hood. “ She has told me so, ” said Allen-a-Dale, for that was his name, “ a hundred times. ” “ Then she is not worth caring about, ” said Robin Hood, “ for changing in her love. ” “ She does not love him, ” replied Allen-a-Dale. “ Why do you think so ? ” said Robin Hood. “ He is a poor crippled old fellow, ” said Allen-a-Dale, “ and quite unfit for such a young and lovely lass. ” “ Then why does she marry him ? ” said Robin Hood. “ Because the old knight is rich, ” replied Allen ; “ and her father and mother insist upon it, and have scolded and stormed at her till she is as gentle as a lamb. ” “ Where is the wedding to take place ? ” said

Robin Hood. "At our parish," replied Allen, "only five miles from this place; and the bishop of Hereford, who is the knight's brother, is to read the service."

Robin Hood said no more, but put off his scarlet suit, and dressed himself like a harper, with a harp in his hand. He told twenty-four of his company to follow at a little distance; and then went alone into the church, and found the bishop putting on his robes. "What do you want here?" said the bishop. "I am an harper," said Robin Hood, "the best in four counties round: I heard there was to be a wedding, and I am come to offer my service." "You are welcome," said the bishop; "I shall be glad to hear your music." Soon after this the bride and bridegroom came in. The old knight hobbled along, and was hardly able to walk up to the altar; and after him came a maiden as fair as the day, blushing like the summer-morning. "This is not a fit match," said Robin Hood, "and I cannot agree to its taking place; but since we are come to the church, the bride shall

choose for herself." Then Robin Hood put his horn to his mouth, and blew into it; when straight four-and-twenty archers were seen leaping along the churchyard path, and came in at the porch. The first man was Allen-a-Dale, to give Robin Hood his bow.

Robin Hood now turned to the fair maiden, and said, "Now, my love, you are free; tell me whom you will have for your husband. Will you have this feeble and gouty old knight, or will you have one of the bold young fellows you now see before you?"

"Alas!" said the young maid, and dropped her eyes on the ground as she spoke, "young Allen-a-Dale has courted me for seven long years, and he is the man I would choose."

"Then," said Robin Hood, "you and Allen shall be married before we leave this place." "That shall not be," said the bishop, "the law of the land requires that they should be three times asked in the church, and a marriage cannot be huddled up in this way." "That we will try," said Robin Hood; and he then pulled off the bishop's

gown, and put it upon Little John. "Indeed," said Robin Hood, "you make a grave parson." When Little John took the book into his hand, the people began to laugh; and he asked them seven times in the church, lest three times should not be enough. Robin Hood gave away the maiden; the bishop slunk out of the church; and his brother, the old knight, hobbled after as well as he could. The whole company had a dinner upon two fat bucks in Sherwood Forest, and from this day Allen-a-Dale was a friend to Robin Hood as long as he lived.

In the time of Robin Hood, the bishops were under the orders of the Pope of Rome; and they were great officers, and even soldiers. Robin Hood lived in the see of the bishop of Hereford. Now, Robin had a great dislike to the Popish clergy, because one of them had cheated him of his uncle's estate; and the bishop of Hereford had quite as much dislike to Robin, because of the trick Robin had played him in the marriage of Allen-a-Dale, and because he did not think it right

that such a robber should live in his see. The bishop, therefore, made several journeys into the Forest of Sherwood, to take Robin prisoner, and bring him to the gallows.

One time, when Robin was walking alone in the Forest of Sherwood, he heard the trampling of horses; and looking round, he saw his old enemy the bishop of Hereford, with six servants. The bishop was very near Robin Hood before Robin looked round and saw him; and he had nothing to trust to, but the swiftness of his heels, to save him from danger.

As Robin ran along, he chanced to come up to a cottage where an old woman lived all by herself; so he rushed in, and begged her to save his life.—“Who are you,” said the old woman, “and what can I do for you?” “I am an outlaw,” replied he, “and my name is Robin Hood; and yonder is the bishop of Hereford, with all his men, who wants to bring me to the gallows.” “If thou be Robin Hood,” said the old woman, “as I think thou art, I would as soon lose my own life, as not do all in my power to save thee.

Many a time have Little John and you done me a kindness, and brought me venison; and no longer ago than last Saturday night thou gave me a pair of new shoes, and this green kirtle." "Then," said Robin Hood, "give me thy green kirtle, and thy close-eared cap, and put into my hands thy distaff and spindle, and do thou take my scarlet mantle and my quiver and bow."

As soon as they had made this change, Robin Hood left the house, and went to the place where all his company were to be found. He looked behind him a hundred times for the bishop, who had no thoughts of finding him in this disguise. One of the robbers, who was a spiteful fellow, as Robin Hood came near them, cried out, "A witch! a witch! I will let fly an arrow at her." "Hold thy hand," said Robin Hood, "and shoot not thy arrows so keen, for I am Robin Hood thy master." Then he went up to Little John, and said, "Come, kill a good fat deer, for the bishop of Hereford is to dine with me to-day."

While this was going on, the bishop came to the old woman's house ; and seeing a man, as he thought, with a mantle of scarlet, and a quiver and a bow in his hand, he shook his head, and said, " I am afraid you are one of Robin Hood's gang. If you have not a mind to be hanged yourself, shew me where that traitor is, and set him before me." The old woman agreed to this.—" Go with me," said she to the bishop, " and I think I can bring you to the man you want." The bishop then mounted her upon a milk-white steed, and himself rode upon a dapple grey ; and for joy that he should get Robin Hood, he went laughing all the way. But as they were riding along the forest, the bishop saw a hundred brave bowmen, drawn up together under a tree. " Oh ! who is yonder ?" said the bishop, " ranging within the wood ?" " Why," said the old woman, " I think it is a man they call Robin Hood." " Why, who art thou ?" said the bishop ; " for to tell thee the truth, I thought thou hadst been Robin

Hood himself." "Oh! my lord," said she, "I am only an old woman."

By this time Robin Hood and his company came up to the bishop; and Robin Hood, taking him by his hand, said, "My lord, you must dine with me to-day, under my bower in merry Barnsdale. I cannot feast you like a bishop, but I can give you venison, ale, and wine, and I hope you will be content." After dinner Robin made the music to strike up, and would insist upon the bishop's dancing a hornpipe in his boots, and the bishop was forced to submit. The day was now far spent, and the bishop begged leave to go away. "You have treated me very nobly," said he to Robin Hood, "and I suppose I must pay for it. Tell me how much." "Lend me your purse, master," said Little John, "and I will settle it for you." He then spread the bishop's cloak upon the ground, and opening his bag, he counted five hundred pounds out of it. "Now," said Robin Hood, "we thank you for your company; and to shew you that we know how to

be polite, we will see you part of the way home." They then led the bishop and his servants quite through the wood, till they brought him to the high road: then Robin Hood's gang gave three cheers; and told him to remember, that though he had come meaning to hang them all, they had done him no harm.

One day in summer-time, when the leaves grew green, and the flowers were fresh and gay, Robin Hood and his merry men were all in a humour to play. Some would leap, some would run, some would shoot at a mark, and some wrestled with each other on the green. Robin Hood was haughty and proud, and said, "Now, my good fellows, do you think there is a man in the world that could wrestle or play the quarter-staff with me, or kill a doe or buck so sure as me?"

While Robin Hood was boasting in this manner, Will Scarlet stepped out from the rest. Will Scarlet was a little of kin to Robin Hood, and thought he had as good a right himself to be captain of the gang. Besides,

he was rather spiteful: he was just going to shoot an arrow at Robin Hood, when he saw him dressed like an old woman. "If you wish to meet with your match," said Scarlet, "I can tell you where you can find him. There is a friar in Fountain Abbey—" Now, Fountain Abbey was the convent that had been built with the money that Robin Hood's uncle Gamewell's estate had been sold for, and perhaps Will Scarlet choosed to throw it in Robin's teeth for that reason. "I had as soon you had talked of the gallows," said Robin Hood. "No matter for that," said Will Scarlet; "there is a friar in Fountain Abbey, that can draw a strong bow against any man in the world; he can handle a quarter-staff too; and will beat you and all your yeomen, set them in a row."

Robin Hood was a man of a bold spirit, and could not rest till he had seen this friar; so he slung his bow across his shoulder, and took his quarter-staff in his hand, and away he went to Fountain Dale. He had not gone far, before he saw a tall brawny friar walk-

ing by the water-side; and Robin Hood thought this must be the man, the moment he saw him.

Robin got off his horse, and tied him to a thorn. "Carry me over this water, thou brawny friar," said he, "or thou hast not an hour longer to live." The friar did not grumble; but stooped, and took Robin upon his back. The water was deep, and the passage was long and not easy; and neither of these rivals spoke a single word, till they came to the other side. Robin then leaped lightly off the friar's back, and seemed going away. "Stop," said the friar, "carry me over this water, thou fine fellow, or it will breed thee pain." Robin took the friar upon his back, and neither of the two spake a single word, till they came to the other side. The friar then leaped off Robin's back, while Robin said to him again, "Carry me over the water, thou brawny friar, or it shall breed thee pain." The friar once more took Robin upon his back; but this time he did not carry him over, for as soon as he had got to the

middle stream, he threw him into the water. "And now choose, my fine fellow," said he, "whether thou wilt sink or swim." Robin swam to the shore; and when the friar was come to the same place, Robin said to him, "I see by this trial that thou art worthy to be my match." Robin challenged him in wrestling, in shooting, and at the quarter-staff; but Robin could not beat the friar, nor the friar beat Robin in any of these. "I wish from my soul," said Robin, "you would quit this lazy life, and come and be one of us; we range the forest merry and free, and are as happy as the day is long." "I wish from my soul," said the friar, "thou wouldst leave thy rambling and wicked life, and come and live in our convent. Thy thefts will bring thee to a bad end, but I shall live out my days quiet and respected." Robin could not persuade the friar, and the friar could not persuade Robin, so they shook hands and parted.

Robin Hood knew very well that his way of life was against the laws; and that if he

were once caught, it would go very hard with him. He had now been in this way for several years; and began to wish that he could change his way of living for a quiet dwelling in the village where he was born. While he had thoughts of this sort, one time, when he took many rich prizes, he resolved to make a present to the queen. The name of the queen was Eleanor; she was the mother of King Richard the First, who had great power in her son's reign.

Queen Eleanor was very much pleased with Robin Hood's present, and said to herself, "If I live one year to an end, I will be a friend to thee and all thy men."

Soon after this, King Richard made a grand match in his court, of all the bowmen of his guards and his army. Queen Eleanor thought this a good time to do what she had in her mind; so she called her favourite page, whose name was Richard Partington, and gave him his errand. The page set out straight to Sherwood Forest; and when he came to Robin Hood, he said, "Queen Eleanor greets you

well ; she bids you post to London, where there is to be a match at the cross-bow, and she has chosen you and your men to be her champions."

On the day of this great match, the king's bowmen, who were thought the best archers in all England, were ranged on one side. After a time, the queen's champions came in, and were ranged on the other side: they were all strangers, and no man in the court knew any of them. King Richard then declared what the prize was that should be bestowed upon the conquerors, and the lords of the court began to make bets upon the venture. The bets were three to one in favour of the king's men. "Is there no knight of the privy council," said Queen Eleanor, "who will venture his money on my side? Come hither to me, Sir Robert Lee, thou art a knight of high descent." Sir Robert Lee begged the queen to excuse him from such a trial. "Come hither to me, thou bishop of Hereford," said Queen Eleanor, "for thou art a noble priest." Now, this bishop was

ROBIN HOOD



Queen Eleanor begging a boon
from King Richard

Robin Hood's old foe. "By my silver mitre," said the bishop, "I will not bet a penny." "If thou wilt not bet on the queen's side," said Robin Hood, "what wilt thou bet on the king's?"—"On the king's side," said the bishop, "I will venture all the money in my purse." "Throw thy purse on the ground," said Robin Hood, "and let us see what it contains." It was a hundred pounds. Robin Hood took a bag of the same value from his side, and threw it upon the green.

When the match was just going to begin, Queen Eleanor fell upon her knees to the king her son. "A boon, a boon," said she, "I must ask a boon of thee before the trial begins." "What is it?" said King Richard. "Why," replied the queen, "that you will not be angry with any of those that are of my party; and that they shall be free to stay in our court all the days of the match, and shall then have forty days to retire where they like." The king agreed to this. When the keepers of the course were marking out

the distance from which they should shoot at the butt, their captain cried out, like a bold boaster as he was, "Measure no mark for us, we will shoot at the sun and the moon." But he was mistaken; for Robin Hood and his party cleft with their arrows every wand and stick that was set up, and won all the money. Says the bishop of Hereford, "I know very well now who these fellows are; they are Robin Hood and his gang." The king replied, "If I had known that, I would not have granted them leave to depart; but I cannot break my word." Saying this, King Richard ordered a noble feast for Robin Hood and his yeomanry, and then sent them away with honour.

King Richard often thought upon what he had seen of Robin Hood and his fellows. He was very fond of archery; he had heard many generous actions that were told about them, and he admired their gallant spirit and manners. Thought he, "If I could but make these men my faithful subjects, what a pride they would be to my court!" The

king at last fixed upon a plan by which he might see Robin Hood once more.

He called twelve lords of his court, and told his plan to them; and then he and his lords all dressed themselves like so many monks, and away they rode to Sherwood Forest. Robin Hood saw them at a distance, as they were coming, and resolved to rob them. The king was taller than the rest, and Robin Hood judged that he was the abbot; so he took the king's horse by the bridle, and said, "Abbot, I bid you stand: it was a priest that first worked my ruin, and I have sworn to spare none of his fellows."—"But we are going on a message from the king," said Richard. Robin Hood then let go the bridle, and said, "God save the king, and confound all his foes!" "Thou cursest thyself," said Richard, "for thou art a robber, an outlaw, and a traitor." "If you were not his servant," said the other, "I should say, You lie; for I never yet hurt man that was honest and true, but only those who give their minds to live upon other people's earnings.

I never hurt the farmer who tills the ground ; I protect women and children, and the poor for twenty miles round are the better for me."

Robin Hood then asked the strangers to dine with him. " You would not be used so," said he, " if you were not the king's servants ; yet, for King Richard's sake, if you had as much money as ever I told, I would not deprive you of a penny." Then Robin Hood put his horn to his mouth, and blew a shrill blast, when a hundred and ten of his company came marching all in a row. The king thought, this is a fine sight ; these men of Robin Hood's obey their captain better than his people did him.

After dinner, the king said to Robin, " What would you give, my brave fellow, if I could get your pardon from your king ? Would you set your mind firmly in every thing to be a true and useful subject ?"

This was the very thing that Robin wanted ; it was the wish that had haunted his thoughts night and day ; it was with the

hope of this that he made the rich present to Queen Eleanor.

“ My friend,” said Robin, “ I am tired of the lawless life that I lead ; I never loved it. Other men may praise my bold adventures and generous actions ; but I hate my way of living, and every thing that belongs to it. King Richard is a noble prince, and a gallant soldier ; and if he would take me into his favour, he should never have reason to repent it, but should find me the most faithful and loving of all his subjects.”

“ I am King Richard,” said the stranger ; and when he had said this, Robin and all his company fell upon their knees before him.


“ Stand up, my brave fellows,” said the king ; “ you have been robbers, and you ought not to have been such. The greatest miser in my kingdom ought not to be treated with force, but to be persuaded to dispose of his money properly. But you are brave fellows ; you say that you are well inclined, and you have power and skill to do me service. I freely grant to every one of you my par-

don. Not one of you shall be called to account for any thing that is past ; only take care that you behave yourselves in such a manner in future, that I never may have reason to repent the kindness that I now treat you with."

FINIS.

J. Pillans & Sons, Printers, Edinburgh.

THE
SEVEN CHAMPIONS
OF
CHRISTENDOM.



IN former times, a very great while since, when there were giants, enchanters and magicians, who had the power to do wicked actions, it was foretold, that seven worthy champions would arise in Christendom, whose renown for good and valiant deeds should be spread through the whole earth.—The first of these heroes was to be St Denis of France, the second St James of Spain, the third St Anthony of Italy, the fourth St Andrew of Scotland, the fifth St Patrick of Ireland, the sixth St David of Wales, and the seventh and most famous of all the valiant St George of England.

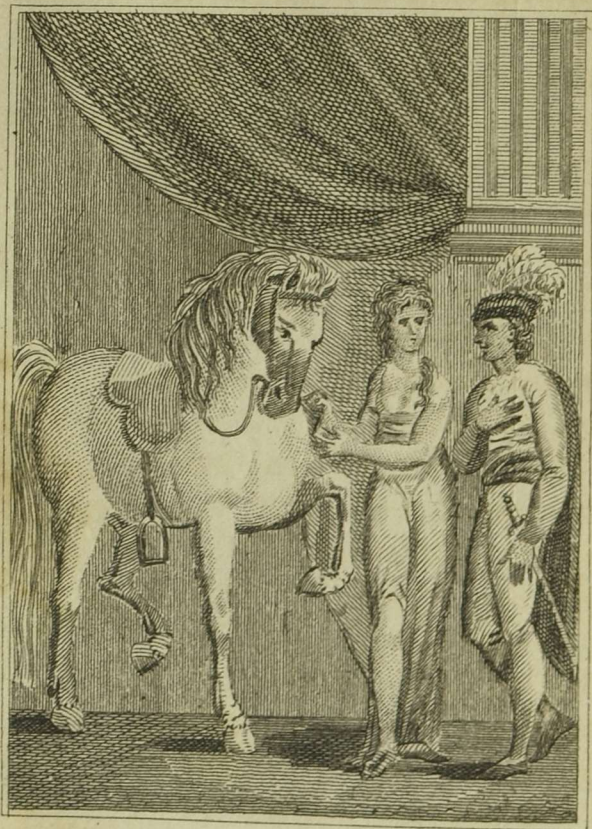
Calyba, a great and most wicked enchantress, now trembled for the downfall of her

power, so she sent the evil spirits under her command to steal six of these heroes while they were yet in their cradles, and bring them to her brazen castle. But she thought she would herself make sure of St George, who was born in Coventry, and son to the lord high steward of England; for she was much more afraid of him than of the others, as St George had at the time of his birth the marks of a green dragon on his breast, a red cross on his right arm, and a golden garter on his left leg. Calyba then made herself invisible, entered the nursery of the lord high steward, and bore away the lovely sleeping babe, leaving his parents to die of grief for the loss of him.

Calyba kept all these youths in her castle till they grew to be men; and then the beauty of St George's person, his manly figure, and pleasing manners, won the heart of Calyba, and she used all her arts to make him marry her.

One day she led him into a lofty stable, almost grand enough to be taken for a palace, where seven of the finest horses that ever were seen, stood in seven stalls made of cedar wood

SEVEN CHAMPIONS.



The Enchantress Calyba presenting the beautiful Steed Bucephalus to St George.

inlaid with silver: one of them was even finer and larger than the rest; his hoofs were of pure gold, and his saddle and bridle were adorned with precious stones.—Calyba led this one from the stall, and gave it to St George: its name was Bucephalus. She then led St George into an armoury, where she buckled a noble breastplate upon him, placed a helmet with a lofty plume of waving feathers upon his head, and gave him a fine and sharp sword. When the young champion was thus armed for battle, he looked so very handsome, that Calyba could set no bounds to her love for him; so at last she put into his hand the silver wand which gave her all her power, and told him to use it just as he pleased.

St George knew and hated the wicked actions of Calyba, so he took the wand with a pleasure which he could hardly conceal. It was then about the hour that Calyba used to retire to a cave dug in the solid rock, to feast upon the bodies of children that she had killed. St George watched her, and when he saw her enter the cave, he waved the wand

three times, and the rock shut upon the wicked wretch for ever.

He then set out for Coventry along with the other six champions; and in that town he built a grand monument to the memory of his beloved parents.

Early in the next spring, the seven heroes bade each other farewell, and they all took different roads in search of adventures; and St George of England, after some tiresome voyages and travels, came into Egypt. That country was then in a most wretched state, on account of a dreadful fiery dragon, which tainted the air with his breath in such a manner, that a plague raged through all the land, and there were hardly people enough left alive to bury the dead. For this reason the king had made it known, that if any valiant knight would come forward to fight with the fiery dragon, and kill him, he should receive the hand of the princess royal in marriage, and on the king's death should reign over Egypt.

When St George heard this, he declared that he would himself fight the dragon, for

the sake of the princess and the whole kingdom.

Early the next morning St George set out to find the fiery dragon. He had not gone far before he saw the princess Sabra, with some of her women, who were loudly weeping for the cruel state of the country. Our hero rode up to them, and told them he was resolved either to kill the dragon, or to perish in the trial. The fair Sabra was struck with surprise on finding that a stranger would engage in an attempt of so much danger, which the stoutest of the Egyptian champions had shrunk from with fear: but she thanked him in a proper manner, and, by St George's advice, she went back to her father's palace, to wait for the issue of the great event.

As soon as our hero had reached the cave, the dragon sent forth such a dreadful roaring as seemed to shake the earth; and at the first onset St George's spear was broken to pieces, and he himself was thrown from his horse. He then boldly drew his sword, and though almost stifled by the monster's noisome breath,

he fought with such fury, that he soon felled his enemy beneath his feet. At this moment the dragon spread his wings in order to take flight; but by so doing, he showed a soft part of his skin, and St George at once stabbed him to the heart. The monster died with a horrid groan; and St George, having cut off his head, rode back in triumph towards the palace.

He had hardly reached the city, when he was basely set upon by twelve armed men, whom the king of Morocco (who courted the princess Sabra) had hired to kill him. St George soon put these villains to flight; and when he came to the court, he was treated with all sorts of honours, and the lovely Sabra gave him a diamond ring as a small mark of her esteem.

In spite of this failure, the Moorish prince still vowed to destroy or ruin St George. For this purpose he asked a private audience of the king, and told him, that St George was an open foe to the religion of Egypt, and had tried to make the princess a Christian. The

SEVEN CHAMPIONS.



St. George destroying the Lions

king was so angry when he heard this, that he declared St George should not live any longer; but as it might not have been safe to put him to death in Egypt, where he had done such a great service to the people in killing the dragon, he wrote a letter to the sultan of Persia, begging him to put the bearer, St George, to death, as he was an enemy to the religion of Persia and Egypt.

St George little thought of this deceit, so he took this letter to the sultan; but as soon as he came into Persia he was taken up, and brought before the sultan, who had him thrown into a deep dungeon till a day should be fixed for his death.

At the end of three days, two fierce and hungry lions were put into the dungeon; but St George having prayed to heaven for strength, burst the cords which he was bound with, and finding an old broken rusty sword in a corner of the dungeon, he laid both the lions dead at his feet.

The sultan of Persia was amazed at this; and was afraid that if he ordered him to be

put to death in public, the people might rise in defence of the noble champion, whose fame had already spread through Persia; so he kept him close in prison, where we will leave him at present, to look after the other champions of Christendom.

St Denis of France took his journey through Arabia. One day when he was tired he sat down to refresh himself under a mulberry-tree, and being very hungry he plucked some of the fruit; as soon as he tasted it he became very faint, dropped on his hands and knees, and in a few minutes found himself turned into a stag. This dreadful change filled him with great trouble, and when he saw his figure in a stream of water nigh at hand, he burst into a flood of tears, and lifted his eyes to Heaven, as if to beg relief in this bitter distress. He then threw himself on the grass, thinking he should never get his proper shape again; when a mournful voice, like that of a woman, came from the mulberry-tree, and spoke to him in this manner:—

“ Brave knight, like mine your case is hard,
Yet patiently endure ;
Oh, trust in Heaven, who will regard,
And send at length a cure.

“ Seven years are number'd as your doom,
All full of bitter woes ;
Then shall you human shape resume,
By eating of a rose.”

The champion of France was amazed at this strange voice, and felt his hopes and his courage return. He listened some time longer, but the voice spoke no more ; and when he thought of the long period of seven years that must pass before he should have his own form again, deep sighs and groans burst from his bosom. His faithful horse seemed to share his sorrow : he walked round and round his grieving master ; and even tore down some branches from the trees, to shield him from the heat of the noon-day sun.

In this manner seven tiresome years passed away ; and on the morning when the seventh was ended, St Denis saw his horse climb a steep rock, and bring down from the top three

full-blown roses in his mouth. His master now thought of the voice that had come from the mulberry tree, and he straight ate one of the roses; and he found himself in his proper shape. While he was giving thanks to heaven for this happy change, he heard the mournful voice in the mulberry tree begging for liberty. St Denis seized his sword, and with one blow cut the tree to the ground, when he saw a handsome young lady there, who told him she was daughter to the king of Thessaly, and that an enchanter had kept her in that place. St Denis placed her behind him on horseback, and took her to her father's court, where she was treated with every mark of gladness and love.

St James of Spain, in the mean time, passed through Sicily, where he had a dreadful fight with a fiery griffin, which lasted seven days, and seven nights, but at last he killed it. He then went further on his journey by sea and land, till he came to Jerusalem. As he drew nigh, he heard the sound of horns, drums, and trumpets; and learnt that the king

and all his nobles were making ready to hunt the wild beasts, with which the country was troubled; and the king had said that he would give a noble reward to him who should kill the first boar.

St James straight rode off to the forest; and before the king and his nobles came, he had slain one of the largest boars that was ever seen in that forest. The king got down from his horse to salute him, and owned him worthy of the reward; but when he heard that the stranger was both a Spaniard and a Christian, he said he should surely die: yet to make some amends for his great service, the king gave him leave to choose his own death. He chose to be shot by the hands of a virgin.

The Spanish champion was then bound to a tree, and his breast laid bare to receive the blow; but none of the virgins who were called forward would do the cruel deed. The princess royal above all was so much moved by the courage of the gallant stranger, that she threw herself at her father's feet, and begged him to repeal his dreadful sentence. The

king granted her request, but declared that if he ever should attempt to enter Palestine again he should suffer death. The princess then untied St James; and gave him a rich diamond ring, as a token of her esteem. He took it with thanks, and got ready to leave the kingdom of her cruel father.

After riding some miles, he got off his horse, to rest in a shady forest, and there began to think that he ought not to have left a princess who had saved his life. He at length resolved to return, and to enter the palace as a stranger in want of employ. He did so, and was straight taken into the service of the princess; and while rival princes were trying which of them should get her for wife, he found means to make himself known to her, and to persuade her to go away with him to Spain, where these faithful lovers arrived in safety.

Mean time St Anthony of Italy pursued his journey till he came to a strong castle, in which a giant lived whom no man had ever dared to attack. In this castle were seven

daughters of the king of Thrace, six of whom were changed into swans, and the other was forced to sing the giant to sleep. St Anthony killed the giant, and then made haste to Thrace, to give the king news about his daughters.

St Andrew of Scotland, in the course of his travels, came at length to this castle, and found the king of Thrace calling to heaven in behalf of his daughters. St Andrew told the king, that if he would become a Christian, his daughters should again appear in their own forms. The king was in a rage at this offer, and ordered his knights to attack the stranger; but he shewed such valour that he made them all submit to him. On this the king agreed to become a Christian, and his daughters got their own shapes again. When the king went back to his palace, St Andrew left the country, and the six young ladies set out to follow him, out of respect for the service that he had done to them.

These royal ladies came to Ireland, where they met with thirty cruel wild men, who

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dragged them through thorns and briars, till the woods rung with their cries. St Patrick, who happened to be in this part of the country, rushed upon the wild men with such fury, that he killed many of them, and forced the others to save their lives by flight. He then listened to the account which the ladies gave him of their travels, and offered to assist them in searching for the brave champion of Scotland.

St David of Wales went to the court of Tartary; and shewed such proofs of his strength and courage, that the emperor made him his champion, and gave several feasts and public games in honour of him. The emperor's son at length happened to be killed by the Welch champion in one of the warlike games, which put the emperor into such a rage against St David, that he resolved to contrive somehow to destroy him: but he thought it would be safest to do this slyly; so he told him to go to the enchanted garden, and bring the head of Ormandine the enchanter. St David went boldly to the enchanted garden, where he

found a sword chained to a rock, and on its handle was written, "He that can lift me up shall conquer all." St David at once grasped the sword, but in a moment he sunk upon the ground, and by the art of the enchanter was thrown into a sleep.

While the other champions were doing these great exploits, St George of England, after being kept seven years in prison, found means one night to break out of his dungeon, and then went onward till he arrived at a castle, where he stopped, and asked for leave to refresh himself. The lady of the castle told him that her husband was a dreadful giant, who would shew him no mercy; and soon after the giant himself came out with a frightful look. St George boldly drew his sword, and after a fierce battle he split the giant's head into two. He then went further on his travels, till he came to the garden of Ormandine, where St David had at that time slept seven years. When St George saw the enchanted sword, he seized it, and pulled it up: the castle then sunk into the ground, and the

wicked enchanter was carried away with it. After this, St David and St George set out different ways; St David went back to the court of Tartary, and St George went to Barbary, where he heard that his beloved Sabra had been put into prison by the king of Morocco.

St George heard, on his journey, that the king of Morocco and his nobles were gone to enjoy the pleasure of hunting. He then laid aside his armour, and putting on a hermit's gown, made haste to the palace, where a number of beggars were waiting to receive alms from the fair Sabra. St George mixed with the crowd; and when he saw the princess, he slipped the diamond ring, which she had given him, into her hand: she then led him into the hall, and gladly agreed to escape from her prison before the tyrant should come back, who had long tried to force her to marry him. Towards the evening of the same day, the princess and a Moorish servant contrived to meet St George at the hermit's cave, where our champion put on his armour, and gave the good man a reward for his trouble. Then

taking the fair Sabra behind him, and being attended by the Moor, he galloped off as quickly as he could through deserts, woods, and many lonely places, till he had got quite out of the kingdom of Barbary.

After a tiresome journey, they found themselves near a large forest; and as they were faint with hunger, St George left his lady with the Moor, and went boldly into the forest to procure some food. He had the good fortune soon to kill a deer, and returned with a haunch of venison; but how greatly was he shocked to find the Moor torn in pieces by two lions, and the creatures asleep on Sabra's lap! After getting the better of his first alarm, he ran them through with his sword, and gave thanks to Heaven for the safety of his beloved princess. He then made a fire to roast his venison by.

St George and his lady at length came to Constantinople, where a great feast was held in honour of the emperor's marriage. In this city they had the good fortune to meet the other six champions of Christendom, who, af-

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ter many strange adventures, had also arrived at Constantinople with their ladies. Here the Christian champions shewed wonders of courage in warlike games, with the knights of Greece, Hungary, and Bohemia. On the last day of these sports, St George of England came into the field on a beautiful black steed, adorned in a grand style. The champion was dressed in a suit of armour of the brightest steel; his helmet shone with a vast number of pearls, diamonds, and gold, and had at its top a plume of purple feathers; and from his breast was hung a plate of gold, bearing the figure of a lion; while the lovely Sabra sat in a car of triumph, to be a witness of his noble exploits. There was hardly any knight to be found who would engage against the hero of England; and when at last some of them did resolve to make trial of his strength, he threw down both men and horses with such ease, that the field was soon cleared. The heralds crowned him with the garland of victory, and Sabra felt the highest pleasure in hearing the shouts of all the people.

But while the Christian champions were happy at Constantinople in the friendship of the emperor, and the enjoyment of their charming brides, the king of Morocco and the pagan princes, whose daughters had followed these champions, declared war against Christendom. On this the emperor of Constantinople made peace with his other foes, and then begged the champions to depart from his country. The Christian heroes and their ladies now left Constantinople; and agreed that every one should repair to his own land, and try to raise forces to subdue the power of their enemies, and make their own names famous in defence of their honour and religion.

When the cause of their return was made known, such vast numbers of people flocked to join them, that by the next spring they had an army of five hundred thousand men, who with one voice chose St George of England to be their leader, and then were eager to press on against their foes.

The Pagans got together an army still

greater, in point of numbers, than that of the Christians ; but when they came to choose a general, they could not agree among themselves, and the dispute rose to such a height, that the kings of Persia, Egypt, and Jerusalem, soon drew off their armies, and went back into their own countries. Those who staid with the king of Morocco, split into parties, and fought a dreadful battle among themselves, which lasted three days with such fury, that the fields were covered with dead bodies, and the rivers were stained with blood. The Christian army at last came to the borders of Egypt ; and when they marched into the inner parts of that country, they found the villages and most of the towns empty. St George was fearful that this was only a plan laid to deceive him ; so he told his soldiers to remain in their ranks, and to have their arms ready in case of a sudden attack. They then marched to the capital in perfect order, till they came near the palace, when the gates were thrown open on a sudden ; and the king of Egypt, in deep mourn-

ing, walked forth at the head of his nobles, and the great officers of the kingdom, with broken swords and lances. On their coming near the Christian champions, they all fell upon their knees, while their king in humble terms begged for peace.

St George was much moved at the speech and the tears of the aged speaker. He straight raised the king from his knees, and said he would freely forgive him, if he and all his nobles should become Christians. The king gladly agreed to this: and made a promise of his own free-will, that the crown of Egypt should belong to St George and Sabra after his death.

Now in all parts of the kingdom there was nothing heard but music and other tokens of joy. But while this mirth reigned in Egypt, an English knight arrived at the court, and told St George that his princess Sabra, who had been left in England, was condemned to be burnt at a stake, unless some champion should appear to take her part against her false accuser, the proud baron of Chester.

When he heard this sad story, St George threw out many a bitter reproach against the ungrateful king and people of England. He then gave the command of the army to St David, and straight set out for England; while the king of Egypt was so much grieved at the thought of his daughter's danger, that he went raving mad, threw himself off the walls of his palace, and was killed on the spot.

The dreadful day fixed for Sabra's death came, and no champion had yet been found to take her part. She therefore made herself ready to meet her sad fate, and walked with a firm step to the stake, to which she was made fast by a chain. Every eye was bathed in tears, while the lovely victim lifted her hands towards heaven, and prayed for the mercy of God, who always makes the good his chief care.

The king of England being seated on his throne, caused the heralds to summon the accuser, who came forward on a proud steed, adorned with gold and precious stones. The lady's champion was then called by sound of

trumpet; but no person came, and orders were given to light the fatal fire. At this moment a banner of defiance was seen waving in the air, and in an instant St George rushed through the crowd, and asked the release of the princess, or that he might fight unto death in her defence.

The heralds sounded a charge, and the two knights engaged one another. At the very first onset, their spears were broken into a thousand pieces, and both horses and men were thrown to the ground. The baron of Chester leaped up, and struck so fiercely with his faulchion, that he cleft his enemy's shield in two. The champion of England now put forth his strength, cut quite through the baron's armour, and smote off his right arm, so that he sunk to the earth, and died with a dreadful groan. All the people now burst out into loud shouts of applause; and when the fair princess found that the strange knight was St George of England, she fainted with a transport of joy. The king gave orders for fire-

works and other marks of public joy through all the kingdom.

After St George had staid about twenty days in England, he set sail with his beloved Sabra for Greece, and from thence went towards Persia; but having lost their way, they sat down by the side of a fountain, where they saw an old hermit who was in search of herbs and fruits. The hermit told them they must cross over the mountains, and pass through part of the Amazons' country, to the borders of Persia. When they had crossed the steep mountains, they came into an open country, but were amazed to find the trees withered, the fruits of the earth spoiled, and all the houses empty of people. While they were thinking on this strange sight, they drew nigh a noble tent, in which sat a beautiful virgin with a crown upon her head, a silver bow in her hand, and a golden quiver of arrows by her side. Several lovely virgins were standing round her chair, but sorrow was seen in every face.

St George felt deep concern at the fate of

these ladies, and spoke to her who appeared to be the chief, begging she would tell him the cause of her sorrow.

The fair lady bowed her head with great grace, and made this reply:—" Brave knight, I am queen of the Amazons; and because I would not marry a wicked necromancer, he has raised an enchanted castle out of the earth, and placed a number of wicked spirits in it, who cast hurtful vapours, with hail and fire, to the farthest borders of my country, which has been thus made quite desolate."

" Where is the castle," said St George, " I will hurl such vengeance on his head, as shall soon make him repent." " Alas!" answered the mournful queen, " he is safe from human vengeance; for though he is now absent himself, he has left behind him a monstrous giant, who has already overcome many knights, and thrown them into a dungeon."

The brave St George told the queen that he would venture both his life and honour to finish the enchantment. Then leaving Sabra

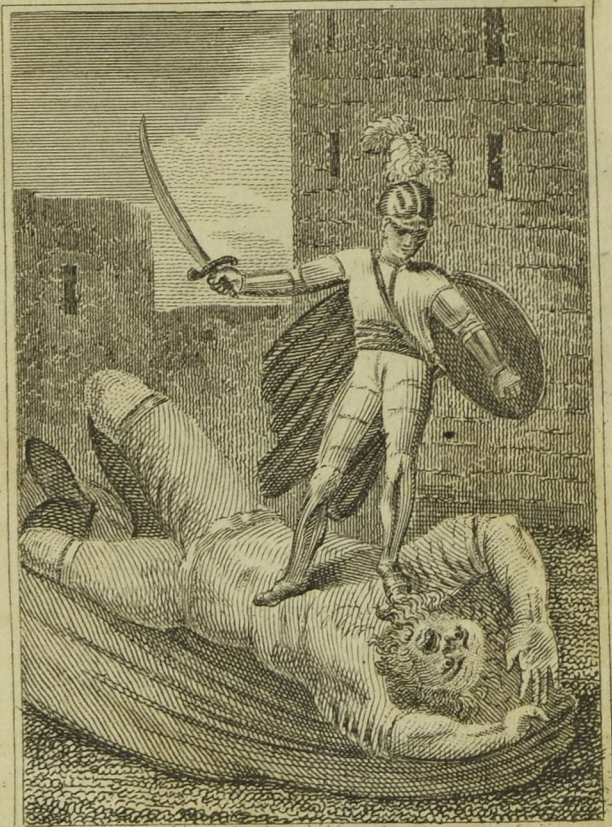
to her care, he rode boldly towards the enchanted castle.

As soon as he entered the dark mist round the castle, he was attacked by a vast number of snakes and other venomous creatures; but he used his sword so well, that most of them were soon cut to pieces, and the rest forced to leave him. He next came nigh a black river, over which there was a narrow bridge, guarded by the monstrous giant. St George pushed forward, smote him to the ground, and was going to strike off his head; but the giant begged for mercy, and promised to reveal the secret of the enchantment; so that he agreed to spare his life.

The giant now told him, that in a cave below the bottom of the castle there was a magic fire springing out of the earth, which made the country of the Amazons desolate; and this fire could never be quenched except by a fountain of black water, that was guarded by many evil spirits.

When St George heard this, he went down a dark flight of stairs, where he heard dread-

SEVEN CHAMPIONS.



St. George's fight with the Giant.

ful shrieks and groans. He opened a door, on which there came out such a smoke and heat that he was almost stifled; but when the smoke cleared away, he saw a fire spouting out of the ground. Close by he beheld the black water, guarded by many ugly fiends, and found himself fiercely attacked; but he drove them back, and put out the magic fire: upon which the castle vanished in a storm of thunder and lightning, and the sun broke out from the clouds with great brightness. The champion then went back to the tent, and spent some days with the queen of the Amazons in mirth and feasting; after which St George and his faithful Sabra went forward again on their journey.

After passing many desert countries, they came to Egypt, and received the compliments of all the nobles, and every thing was made ready for them to be crowned.

While St George was employed in Egypt, the other six champions had laid waste most of Persia, and the sultan was forced to take shelter in a strong city. Osmond the negro-

mancer, who had done so much mischief to the country of the Amazons, now came and told the sultan to sally out the next day with all his forces; and while the two armies were engaged, he went into a dark valley, and used his horrid charms: on which the sky was covered with blackness, lightning flashed round them, and from a pitchy cloud which came down in front of the Christians, there flew out a number of evil spirits, which threw down both men and horses. But on the banner of the cross being displayed, these spirits all vanished, and the Christians drove the Persian troops from the field of battle.

When Osmond found he could not succeed by force, he raised an enchanted tent, and changed several of the spirits into the shapes of beautiful virgins, that they might entice the six champions by their charms. This would have proved the ruin of the Christian army, had not St George by good fortune arrived on the day of battle. He rushed into the enchanted tent, and cut it to pieces with his sword, on which the seeming virgins vanished with a

dreadful noise. Osmond was bound to a withered oak with fetters of adamant; his magic power left him, and he remained mourning and gnawing his flesh, till some evil spirits carried him away.

After making the conquest of Persia complete, the seven champions took shipping for England, where they were received with every mark of joy.

But an accident soon turned the public joy into sorrow and mourning. A stag-hunt being proposed by St George and the other champions, Sabra went with them, mounted on a fine Spanish courser, with a silver bow, quiver, and breast-plate; and straining her horse to keep pace with the foremost, he started suddenly, upon the turn of the stag, and threw her with such force to the ground, that all attempts to recover her were in vain. She was buried with the utmost pomp, and a grand tomb was raised over her, on which were engraved many curious devices, as emblems of her graces and virtues. After the burial, St

George and the other six champions went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

After a tiresome journey, they came nigh Damascus; and seeing a very noble house, they asked for lodging till the morning. An old man welcomed them in, and after letting them refresh themselves, he led them to see the inside of his house, which seemed rather like a palace than the dwelling of a private man, being adorned with a vast deal of gold, silver, and precious stones. The champions were charmed with the beauty of the house, and the curious works of art, and asked him if he was the only person that lived in it. The man heaved a deep sigh, and said, "I once had many sons; fourteen of them have I lost, and only six of the youngest remain with me." He then called these youths out of a room, from which they came, playing finely on silver lutes. The champions now wished very much to know what had become of the other brothers, and at their desire the old man told them his whole history, as follows:

"Having given myself up from my youth

to the study of alchemy, I at last found the means of turning any baser metal into gold in the space of twenty-four hours. I then built a noble castle, and lived happy; but my secret being made known, a mighty giant came from Arabia, and, after an obstinate combat, took my eldest sons prisoners, and seized my castle; while I and my younger sons, being unable to resist him, retired to this place, where I pass my days in sorrow for the misery of my children, who are chained down in a dungeon of the castle, and must remain there till some brave knight shall destroy their monstrous jailor."

Moved by the tears of the old man, the champions told him who they were, and that they would hazard their lives for the release of his sons. He then embraced them, and led them to his armoury, where each of them chose such armour as he thought proper. They now sallied forth against the giant. As they wished that he should fall by only one of them, they cast lots, and the lot fell upon St Denis; but he was soon overcome, and with five more

of them was thrown into a dungeon. St George having seen that the giant's skin was too hard to be pierced by a sword, armed himself with a heavy iron bar, and, after an obstinate conflict, struck him on the head with such force, that he fell to the ground, and died. St George then rushed into the castle, and set all the prisoners free. The old man being now made happy, feasted the champions, and then sent them away with many rich presents.

After passing the deserts of Arabia, the champions wished to meet with some place where they could refresh themselves. On a sudden they saw some smoke on the side of a mountain, and St George rode forward to make the proper inquiries. On his coming near the spot, a huge giant rushed out of a cave, and put himself into a threatening posture; but St George cleft the monster's head with his battle-axe. The other champions now came up, and in the cave they found plenty of meat and drink, and set many unhappy captives free. These prisoners told them also of the cruel deeds of a knight called Leoger, who was pro-

tected by magicians, and who made it a practice to send part of those he seized on to be eaten up by the giant that was just killed.

The champions vowed to take revenge on the wicked Leoger, and straight set off to seek his castle.

The approach to Leoger's castle was very hard; as there was a deep moat round it, and the draw-bridge was always drawn up. Before the gate of the draw-bridge there stood a pillar, to which a silver trumpet was made fast, and over it were placed these words:

“ Who sounds this trumpet shortly will behold
The draw-bridge fall, and yonder doors unfold;
Yet of your entering here you must take heed,
Lest for presuming it you chance to bleed.”

As soon as St George had read this, he put the trumpet to his mouth, and blew it so loud, that the very castle seemed to shake. The bridge now dropped, and the gates flew open. The champions tied their horses at the foot of the bridge, and resolved to force their passage into the castle. On entering the champions

found themselves in darkness; but on their coming to the top of a flight of stairs, the darkness vanished, and they beheld Leoger, with his necromancer and several giants, standing on the roof of the palace. Twelve giants now came down to attack the strangers, but after a bloody battle they were all killed or wounded.

The necromancer then had recourse to magic; and formed a phantom in the shape of a beautiful woman, who seemed to stand in a mournful posture within an iron grate, with her face bathed in tears. While the knights were looking at this lady, they felt several heavy blows; and on turning to look from whence they came, they saw armed men running into the castle at a little wicket. Being resolved to avenge themselves on these cowardly enemies, they pursued them; but as soon as they entered the wicket, they all fell into a dungeon paved with human bones.

After groping about for some time, they found a bed, upon which six of them laid down in order to rest themselves; but the bed being

enchanted, they fell into a sound sleep, from which St George could not awake them.

Soon after this, the magician came into the dungeon in a most dreadful form, his hair looking like a number of snakes, and his breath being like flames of fire. St George drew his sword, and soon forced him to retire. As soon as this foe was gone, a new one came in the shape of a monstrous dragon; but the English champion attacked it with such fury, that it soon took to flight. St George ran after the dragon through vaults and arched passages, till on a sudden he found himself at the entrance of a large hall, lighted up by seven crystal lamps, and on a pillar of jasper were engraved these words: "While seven lamps burn day and night within this hall, no human power can end the enchantment." St George in a moment seized a golden goblet that stood filled with some precious liquor, and poured it on the lamps. A loud hissing noise followed, and after that thunder and an earthquake. The castle tumbled into ruins, and Leoger and his necromancer were buried beneath its walls.

The other six champions being now restored to light and liberty, embraced St George; and they all set out together to return to their native countries, where they lived honoured and beloved; and after their deaths their names were enrolled among the saints of Christendom.

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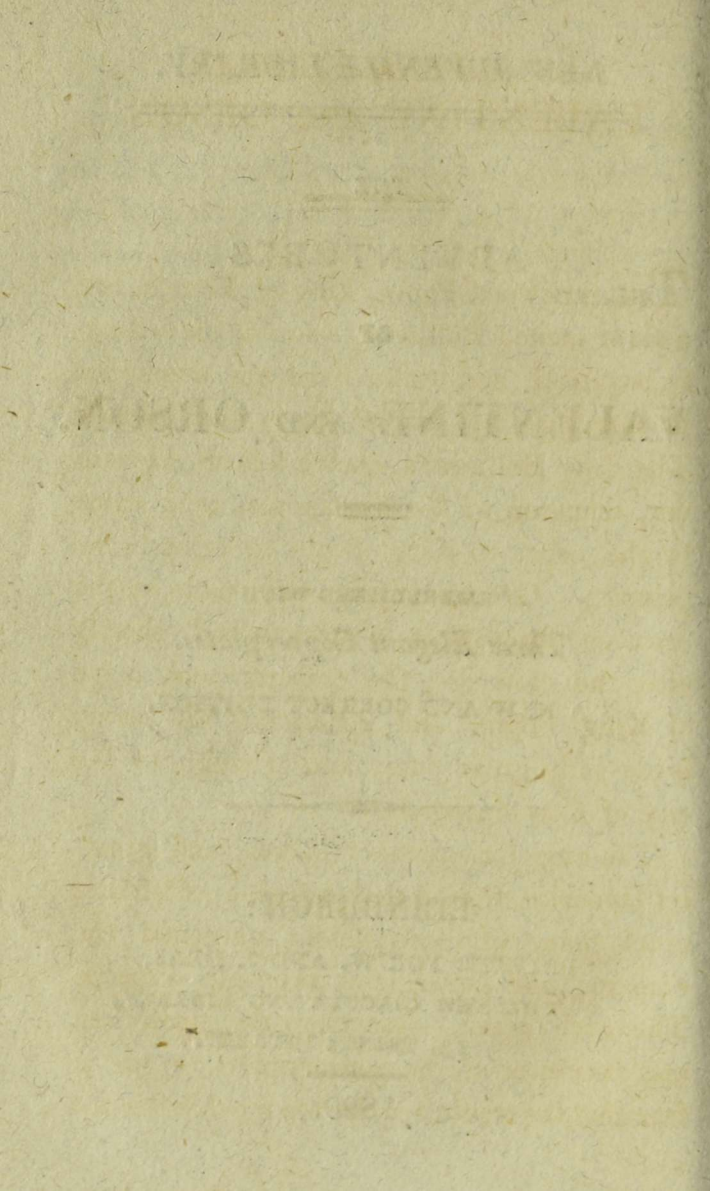
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1809.



VALENTINE AND ORSON.

THE renowned Pepin, king of France, had a sister named Bellisant, who was exceedingly beautiful, and whose hand was demanded in marriage by several kings and princes. The lady Bellisant's choice fell on Alexander, emperor of Constantinople, who came to the court of King Pepin to espouse the princess. Great rejoicings were made on the occasion throughout France; and shortly after the marriage, the emperor took leave of King Pepin, and conducted his lovely bride with great pomp and triumph to the city of Constantinople.

The emperor's prime minister, and greatest favourite, was an arch priest, a selfish and cruel man, who completely governed the emperor, and tyrannized over his subjects. The arch priest, observing the gentleness and sweetness of the new empress, began to fear that she would acquire too much influence

over the emperor, and wickedly resolved to seek the destruction of the innocent and amiable lady. The emperor was of a credulous and suspicious temper, and the arch priest soon found means to infuse into his mind suspicions of the empress. One day, when the emperor was alone, the arch priest entered the apartment, and, prostrating himself at the emperor's feet, said, "High and mighty king, may Heaven guard your Majesty from the base attempts of the wicked and treacherous! I am a holy priest, and may not seek the death of any man; nor may I reveal the name of the criminal who has intrusted to me, in the way of confession, a dreadful secret; but, in the most solemn manner, I conjure your Majesty to beware of the designs of your empress; for that beautiful and dissembling lady is faithless and disloyal, and even now is planning your death. O mighty Emperor! my heart swells with grief and indignation, to think that a lady so unparalleled in beauty and wisdom, and the sister of a

great king, should become so dishonourable and wicked."

The emperor, giving implicit faith to the arch priest's tale, could no longer restrain his fury; and abruptly leaving the arch priest, he rushed into the apartment of the empress, and in the most fierce, rude, and unmanly manner, dragged the fair Bellisant about the chamber by her long and beautiful hair.

"Alas! my dear lord," she cried, "what moves you to this outrage?"

"Base despicable wretch!" he exclaimed, "I am but too well informed of your infamous proceedings;" then dashing her with violence against the ground, he left her speechless.

The attendants of the empress, finding her bleeding and senseless upon the floor, uttered loud screams, which presently brought all the nobles of the court into the chamber of the empress. Every one pitied the sufferings of their amiable queen; and the state-counselors demanded an audience of the emperor, to represent to him the wrongs he had done

to an honourable lady, in whom no one had ever perceived a fault. But the emperor was yet mad with passion, which the arch priest continued artfully to inflame; and to the representations of his state-counsellors he answered—"Let no man presume to defend her who has so basely betrayed me. She shall die; and they who interfere in her behalf shall partake the dreadful punishment that awaits this wretched and disloyal woman."

The empress, being recovered from her swoon, then fell on her knees, and with tears thus addressed the emperor: "Alas! my lord, take pity on one who never harboured an evil thought against your person or dignity. I shall soon become a mother, and I implore your compassion in behalf of my child. Let me be imprisoned in some tower till the time of its birth; and then, if your anger be not appeased, do with me what pleaseth you; but, oh! save my child."

The hard-hearted emperor, bewitched with the false tales of the insidious priest, answered, "Perish, thou and thy child, basest of

women ! Thy child will be to me no joy, but rather great dishonour."

The courtiers, perceiving nothing could mitigate the rage of the emperor, removed Bellisant from his presence. Her faithful servant, Blandiman, now threw himself at her feet, exclaiming, " Ah ! Madam, quit this barbarous monarch, and suffer me to conduct you to your brother, the good king Pepin. Innocent and noble lady, follow my counsel ; for, if you stay here, the emperor will bring you to a shameful death."

" No, Blandiman," the queen replied, " I must not follow thy advice ; should I steal privately from the court, it might be said I had fled, knowing myself to be guilty. Believe me, I had rather die the most cruel death, than bear the blame of that of which I am innocent."

The emperor, still loving his queen, could not bring himself to pronounce the sentence of her execution ; yet, as the base arch priest continually irritated his mind with false accusations against her, he resolved to banish

her from his dominions, and immediately commanded her to quit Constantinople. At the same time, he published an edict, forbidding all persons, on pain of death, to assist or succour the unfortunate lady, allowing her no other attendant than her servant Blandiman, whom she had brought with her from France.

Sentence being thus pronounced, the queen and Blandiman hastened away. As she passed through the city, she was met by multitudes of people lamenting the loss of so good an empress. When she had left Constantinople, "Alas!" cried she, "in what unhappy hour was I born, to fall from so high an estate to so low a condition as I am now in! Woe is me! now all my happiness is fled. Instead of cloth of gold, I am clad in mean attire; my precious stones of inestimable value are all taken from me, and pearls of tears alone now adorn my garments. Ah! my brother, what shouldest thou do with such a woeful sister?" As she was thus complaining, and weeping with anguish, her servant

VALENTINE and ORSON.



*Orson carried off by the She
Bear.*

said to her—" Alas! madam, be not dis-comforted, but trust in Providence, who will keep and defend you!" Having thus spoken, he espied a fountain, towards which he and his lady took their way.

After refreshing themselves at the fountain, they proceeded towards France. Many weary days and nights had they travelled, when, arriving in the forest of Orleans, the disconsolate empress was so much overcome with grief and fatigue, that she sunk down, and was incapable of proceeding further. Her faithful attendant gathered the fallen leaves and the moss to make a couch for her to rest on, and then hastened swiftly away to seek some habitation, where he might procure food and assistance for his unfortunate mistress.

During Blandiman's absence, the royal lady was delivered, in the dreary forest, of two beautiful sons. She pressed the lovely infants by turns to her bosom, and shed tears of joy over them; when, suddenly, a huge bear rushed upon her, and, snatching up one of the babes in its mouth, hastened into the

thickest part of the forest. The wretched mother, distracted at the fate of her child, pursued the bear with shrieks and lamentations; till, overcome with anguish and terror, she fell into a swoon near the mouth of the cave into which the bear had borne her infant.

It happened that King Pepin, accompanied by several great lords and barons of his court, was on that day hunting in the forest of Orleans, and chanced to pass near the tree where the other son of Bellisant lay sleeping on its bed of moss. The king was astonished with the beauty of the child, who opened his eyes as the king stood gazing on him, and, smiling, stretched out his little arms, as if to ask protection.

“ See, my lords,” said King Pepin, “ this lovely infant appears to solicit my favour. Here is no one to claim it, and I will adopt it for my own.” The king little imagined it was his nephew, the son of his sister Bellisant, that he now delivered into the hands of one of his pages, who took the babe to Or-

VALENTINE and ORSON.



Valentine found in the Wood by King Pepin.

leans to be nursed, and gave it, by the king's order, the name of Valentine.

Scarcely had the page rode away with the child, when the king met Blandiman, and demanded, with great surprise, what news from Constantinople. Blandiman, bending one knee to the ground, began to relate the disasters of the empress; but upon King Pepin's hearing that the arch priest had accused her of plotting the emperor's death, he flew into the most violent rage against his innocent sister, and said, "Now, by heaven, I cannot believe that the loyal arch priest would bring a false accusation against any one, and I blame the emperor for sparing the life of his treacherous disloyal queen; but let her beware how she comes within my power; and hear me, nobles, henceforth it is death for any one to name her in my presence." So saying, he turned back, and proceeded towards Orleans.

Blandiman, with a heavy heart, searched the forest for his injured mistress, and at length espied her on the ground, tearing her

dishevelled hair, and uttering piercing cries of grief. "Ah! Blandiman," she exclaimed, "can there exist in the world a being more encompassed with grief and sorrow? But an hour since I was the joyful mother of two beautiful babes. A ravenous bear snatched one from my arms, and some other cruel beast of prey has doubtless devoured the other. At the foot of yonder tree I left it when I pursued the bear; but no traces of either of my children remain. They are gone, gone for ever! and I, wretched mother, have nothing left but to die. Go, Blandiman, leave me here to perish, and tell the mighty emperor of Constantinople to what a horrible fate he, by listening to evil counsel, has destined his innocent wife and children."

Blandiman would not quit the unfortunate queen; and when she became more calm, he prevailed on her to take shelter in a retired monastery that stood on the borders of the forest of Orleans. After some time, he communicated to her his interview with her

brother, and the unjust wrath of King Pepin against her; which renewed the sorrows of the hapless lady, and determined her to continue in the monastery, devoting the rest of her days to the exercises of religion.

The bear that had carried away the infant bore it away to her cave, and laid it down unhurt before her young ones. The cubs, however, did not devour it, but stroked it with their rough paws; and the old bear, perceiving their kindness for the little babe, gave it suck, and nourished it in this manner for the space of a whole year.

The child became hardy and robust, and, as he grew in strength, began to range the forest, and attack the wild beasts with such fury, that they used to shun the cave where he continued to live with the old bear, who loved him with extreme fondness. He passed this kind of life during eighteen years, growing to such wonderful strength, that he was the terror of the neighbouring country. The name of Orson was given to him, because he had been nurtured by a bear; and the re-

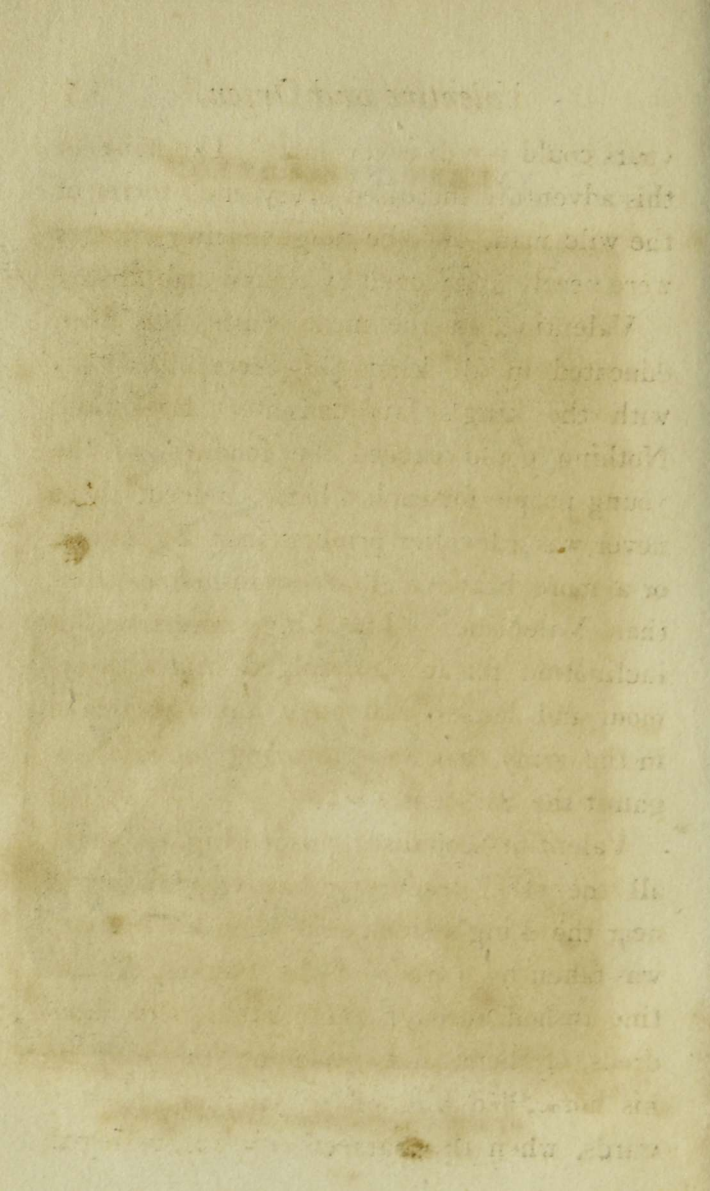
noun of this wild man spread over all France. He went naked, and uttered no other sounds than a wild kind of howl, to express either his anger or his joy.

King Pepin often entertained a great desire to see the wild man of the woods; and one day rode with his retinue into the forest of Orleans, in hopes of meeting him. The king, leaving his train at some distance, rode on and passed near the cave which Orson inhabited. On hearing the sound of the horse's feet, the wild man rushed upon the king, and would have strangled him in an instant, but for a valiant knight, who galloped up, and wounded Orson with his sword. Orson then quitted the king, and running furiously upon the knight, caught him in his arms, and overthrew him and his horse. The king, being quite unarmed, could not assist the knight, but rode away to call the attendants to his rescue. However, before they arrived on the spot, the unfortunate knight was torn in pieces, and Orson had fled into the thickest part of the forest, where all their endea-

VALENTINE and ORSON



Orson overthrows King Pepin.



vours could not discover him. The noise of this adventure increased every one's terror of the wild man, and the neighbouring villages were nearly abandoned by their inhabitants.

Valentine, in the mean while, had been educated in all kinds of accomplishments with the king's fair daughter Eglantine. Nothing could exceed the fondness of the young people for each other. Indeed, there never was a lovelier princess than Eglantine, or a more brave and accomplished cavalier than Valentine. The king, observing his inclination for arms, indulged him with armour and horses, and gave him a command in the army that was preparing to march against the Saracens.

Valentine soon distinguished himself above all the other leaders in battle. He fought near the king's side; and when his Majesty was taken by a troop of the Pagans, Valentine rushed through their ranks, slew hundreds of them, and, replacing the king on his horse, led him off in triumph. Afterwards, when the Saracen city was besieged,

he was the first to scale the walls, and place the Christian standard on the battlements. By his means, a complete victory was obtained, and peace restored to France.

Valentine, having conquered the Saracens, returned to the court of King Pepin, and was received with loud acclamations by the people, and joyfully welcomed by the princess Eglantine. The distinctions and favour showered on him raised the envy and hatred of Henry and Haufray, the king's sons, who plotted together to destroy Valentine. The same day King Pepin presented Valentine to his nobles, saying, "My lords, this brave youth saved my life, and rescued his country from the Saracens; I therefore now create him Earl of Clerimont." Haufray and Henry were more and more irritated against Valentine by this new and honourable distinction, and they determined to watch closely for some opportunity of effecting his destruction.

It happened very shortly after the return of Valentine from his victory over the Sara-

cens, that a petition was presented to the king by a deputation of peasants, praying relief against Orson, the wild man of the woods, the fear of whom was now become so great, that the peasants dared not to go out to till their fields, nor the shepherds to watch their flocks. The king immediately issued a proclamation, saying, If any man would undertake to bring Orson, alive or dead, to the city, he should receive a thousand marks of gold.

“Sire,” said Henry, “I think no person is so proper to undertake this enterprize as the foundling Valentine, on whom your Majesty lavishes such great favours. Perhaps, if he conquers the naked savage with his sword, you will not think it too much to reward him with the hand of our sister Eglantine.”

To this the king replied with a frown, “Away, for thy speech betrays thy envy.”

Valentine, fixing a stern look on the malicious brother, said, “You give this counsel to encompass my death. Be it so. Know that I will not fail of victory here also. I

will go without delay, and alone, to conquer the savage man."

"No, Valentine," said the king, "you shall not rush upon destruction to gratify the ill-will of evil-minded persons."

"Pardon me, my liege," replied Valentine, "it concerns my honour that I go. I will encounter this danger, and every other, rather than not prove myself worthy of your Majesty's favour and protection. To-morrow morning I will depart for the forest at the break of day."

When the Princess Eglantine heard of Valentine's determination, she sought to divert him from his purpose, but finding him inflexibly resolved to attack the wild man, she adorned him with a scarf embroidered with her own hands, and then retired to her chamber, to pray for his safety.

At the first dawn of morning Valentine arose; and putting on his armour, having his shield polished like a mirror, he departed for the forest; and being arrived there he alighted, and, tying his horse to a tree, penetrated

into the thickest part of the wood in search of Orson. He wandered about a long time in vain, and being come near the mouth of a large cave, he thought that might be the hiding-place of the wild man. Valentine then climbed a high tree near the cave; and scarcely was he seated among the branches, when he heard Orson's roar in the forest.

Orson had been hunting, and came with a swift pace, bearing a buck he had killed upon his shoulders. Valentine could not help admiring the beauty of his person, the grace and freedom of his motions, and his appearance of strength and agility. He felt a species of affection for the wild man, and wished it were possible to tame him without having recourse to weapons.

Valentine now tore off a branch of the tree, and threw it at Orson's feet; who looking up, and espying Valentine in the tree, uttered a howl of fury, and darted up the tree like lightning. Valentine as quickly descended on the other side. Orson, seeing him on the ground, leaped down, and, opening his arms,

prepared, in his usual manner, to rush upon and overthrow his antagonist ; but Valentine holding up the polished shield, Orson suddenly beheld, instead of the person he meant to seize, his own naked, wild, and terror-striking figure. Upon Valentine's lowering the shield, he again saw his enemy, and with a cry of transport again prepared to grasp him in his arms. The strength of Orson was so very great, that Valentine was unable to defend himself without having recourse to his sword. When Orson received a wound from the sword, he uttered loud shrieks of anger and surprise, and, instantly tearing up by the roots a large tree, furiously attacked Valentine.

A dreadful fight now ensued between these two brothers, and the victory was a long time doubtful ; Orson receiving many dreadful wounds from the sword of Valentine, and Valentine with great difficulty escaping from being crushed to death beneath the weighty club of Orson. Just at this time the bear who had nursed Orson, and who was now in

the cave, hearing his cries of rage, came out to see what was the matter with her favourite. Valentine, perceiving her approach, aimed a blow at her with his sword, which would probably have killed her on the spot, had not Orson rushed forward, and throwing one arm round the neck of the bear, he with the other hand supplicated for mercy for his old and only friend. Valentine was greatly affected with this generous action, and, laying aside his sword, made signs that he would not hurt the bear; and in token of kindness brought some grapes, and a bottle of strong liquor, which he had deposited for his own refreshment in case of need, and presented them to Orson.

Orson no sooner tasted the delicious flavour of the fruit than he gave it to the bear, and afterwards let her drink the strong liquor, with both of which she seemed much pleased; while Orson, delighted to see her make such a plentiful repast, threw his arm round her and embraced her; and the bear, desirous to testify her affection for him, stroked him with

her huge paw, and uttered a gentle growl, as if to express her satisfaction in his caresses.

Valentine now made many signs to Orson, persuading him to go with him, where he should be fed and clothed, and treated with the greatest kindness; but Orson rejected all his offers with anger and contempt, making signs that he would never quit his beloved bear, nor his wild life in the woods. But it happened that the strong liquor which the bear had drunk so greedily from Valentine's bottle, caused her death; and soon after testifying her love of Orson in the manner we have described, she faintly howled, and fell dead on the ground.

Orson stood for a few moments motionless with alarm and amazement; then supposing his ancient friend might be only asleep, he stooped and endeavoured to rouse her; but finding all his efforts ineffectual, his grief is scarcely to be described. He threw himself upon the body, and uttered piercing shrieks of distress. At length he suddenly sprung up from the ground, and approaching Va-

Valentine, made signs that he would now be his; and while the tears ran down his cheeks for the loss of his bear, he suffered Valentine to bind his hands, and unresistingly followed his conductor.

Valentine took his way towards Orleans; but wherever he passed, the people, perceiving the wild man, ran into their houses and hid themselves. On arriving at an inn where Valentine intended resting during the night, the terrified inhabitants fastened the doors, and would not suffer them to enter. Valentine made signs to Orson, who, placing his shoulder against the door, forced it open in an instant, upon which the people of the inn all ran out at the back door, and would not venture to return. A great feast was in preparation, and there were plenty of fowls and good provisions roasting at the fire. Orson tore the meat off the spit with his hands, and devoured it greedily; and espying a cauldron of water, he put his head into it, and drank like a horse.

In the morning Valentine resumed his

journey, leading Orson as before. On arriving at the city, the inhabitants shut their doors, and ran into the highest rooms to gaze upon the wild man. Being come to the outer court of King Pepin's palace, the porter in a great fright barred the gate with heavy chains and bars of iron, and would not be prevailed on to open it. After soliciting admittance for some time, and being still denied, Valentine made a sign to Orson, who, tearing up one of the large stone-posts that stood by, shattered the gate to pieces.

The queen, the Princess Eglantine, and all their attendants, fled to hide themselves, when they heard that Orson was arrived; and Valentine had the greatest difficulty to persuade them to believe, that Orson was no longer furious and savage as he had been in the woods. At length the king permitted him to be brought in; and the whole court soon gathered in a crowd in the apartment, and were much amused by his wild actions and gestures, although very cautious not to come near to him. On Valentine's making

signs, he kissed the king's robe, and the hand of the Princess Eglantine; for Orson had now become so attached to Valentine that he would obey him in all things, but would suffer no other person to attempt to controul him. If Valentine went for a moment out of his sight, he would utter cries of distress, and overturn every one that stood in his way, while he ran about the palace in search of him. And he slept at night in Valentine's chamber upon the floor, for he could not be prevailed on to lie on a bed.

Very soon after the capture of Orson, a herald appeared at the court of King Pepin from the Duke of Aquitain, summoning all true knights to avenge the cause of the Lady Fezon, daughter to the noble duke, who was held in cruel captivity by Agramont the green knight; the herald proclaiming, That whoever should conquer the green knight should receive the hand of the Lady Fezon in marriage, together with a princely dowry.

This green knight was so famous for his cruelty and his victories, that the young lords

of the court all drew back, and seemed unwilling to enter the lists ; for it was known that he was defended by enchantments, and that it was his practice to hang upon a high tree all the knights whom he had defeated. Valentine, however, offered himself without hesitation, and engaged to get ready and depart the next morning.

The Princess Eglantine secretly resolved, if possible, to prevent the destruction of her beloved Valentine, by combating the green knight herself. She had been accustomed to fence and ride, and was greatly accomplished in all the manly exercises. She contrived to steal away the armour of Valentine while he slept, and, equipping herself in it, mounted a fiery courser ; and, attended by her favourite maid in quality of a page, she proceeded to the castle which the green knight inhabited, and where he kept the lady Fezon a prisoner.

Valentine meanwhile missing his armour when he arose at the dawn of day, and learning that the princess had taken it, and was

gone on this perilous enterprise, was almost distracted with his terrors for her safety. He ordered his horse to be prepared; and, followed by Orson, set out in search of the princess.

Haufray and Henry, disappointed in their former purpose, now resolved to way-lay and kill Valentine. Accordingly, in a narrow alley of a dark wood, they sprung upon him, and seized him before he had power to draw his sword. Orson chanced to be a little way behind; but, on hearing Valentine's voice, he rushed upon Henry, who was about to stab Valentine in the back, and seized him in his arms. Orson's grasp almost crushed Henry to death, and Valentine would have killed Haufray; but first tearing the masks from their faces, and seeing they were the king's sons, he left them to the shame and disgrace their base conduct would bring upon them. He had some difficulty to prevail on Orson to let them live; but having prevailed, they left the wicked brothers in the wood, and continued their journey, fortunately arriving at the castle of Agramont the green knight, just as the

Princess Eglantine was almost overpowered in the combat.

Valentine now rushed with dreadful fury upon the green knight, and the fight was long and equal. At length Agramont demanded a parley. "Knight," said he to Valentine, "thou art brave and noble. Behold, yonder hang twenty knights whom I have subdued and executed; such will be thy fate, I give thee warning."

"Base traitor," replied Valentine, "I fear thee not; come on, I defy thee."

"First," rejoined the green knight, "fetch me yonder shield; for, in pity to thy youth, I tell thee, unless thou canst remove that shield, thou ne'er canst rescue the Lady Fezon, or conquer me."

Valentine approached the shield; but, in spite of all his efforts, he could not loosen it from the tree, though it appeared to hang but on a slender branch. Valentine, breathless with his exertions to pull down the shield, stood leaning against the tree; when Agramont, with a loud laugh, exclaimed, "Fly

and save thyself, fair knight; for, since thou canst not move the shield, thou art not destined to be my victor. Further, know, there is no one living who can subdue me, except he be the son of a mighty king, and yet was suckled by a wild beast." Valentine started on hearing these latter words, and ran to Orson, who had been employed all this time in gazing with looks of delight and admiration on the beautiful lady Fezon. Valentine led him to the enchanted shield; which, on Orson's raising his arm towards it, dropped instantly from its place. A loud blast of wind now rushed through the trees, the ground rocked beneath their feet, and the green knight trembled and turned pale; then gnashing his teeth, he seized his sword, and attacked Orson with desperate fury. At the first blow, Agramont's trusty sword broke in pieces upon the enchanted shield. Next he caught up a battle-axe, which as instantly snapped in two. He then called for a lance, which shivered to atoms in the same manner. Furious with these defeats, he threw aside his weapons, and,

trusting to his wonderful strength, attempted to grasp Orson in his arms; but Orson, seizing him as if he had been a mere child, dashed him on the ground, and would have instantly destroyed him had not Valentine interposed to save his life. Orson continued to hold him down till some chains were brought; when, in despite of the furious struggles of the green knight, Orson bound him in strong fetters to lead him away a prisoner.

Agramont, finding himself entirely subdued, addressed himself to Valentine, and said, "This savage man is my conqueror; therefore, there must be some mystery in his fate. Haste, then, to the castle of my brother Ferragus, where you will find a brazen head that will explain to you who he is." Valentine, having dispatched a herald to acquaint the Duke of Aquitain with the release of his daughter, sent the lady Fezon with the princess Eglantine to the court of king Pepin, while he and Orson proceeded to the castle of the giant Ferragus. This castle was guarded by two lions, who roared with rage against

Valentine ; but when Orson appeared, they lay down and crouched beneath his feet. On entering the castle, a little dwarf approached them, and conducted them to a chamber, abounding with gold, rubies, sapphires, and other precious stones ; in the centre there were four pillars of jasper, two of which were as yellow as the finest gold, a third more green than grass, and a fourth more red than a flame of fire. Between these pillars was an emerald of amazing value ; and in the midst the brazen head rested upon a rich pedestal. Before the pedestal stood an enormous giant, who lifted his club to forbid their approach ; but Orson seized him by the middle, and bore him from the chamber to a dungeon, where he secured him. Valentine fixed his eyes upon the head, anxious to hear what it would say concerning his birth. At length, when Orson had returned, it spake thus :

“ Thou, O renowned knight, art called Valentine the Brave, and art the man destined to be the husband of the princess Eglantine of France. Thou art son to the emperor

of Greece, and thy mother is Bellisant, sister to king Pepin of France. She was unjustly banished from her throne, and took refuge in a monastery, where she has resided these twenty years.

“ The wild man, who hath so long accompanied thee, is thy brother. You were both born in the forest of Orleans. Thou wert found and brought up under the care of King Pepin thy uncle, but thy brother was stolen and nurtured by a bear. Proceed, Valentine, to France, where thou wilt find the innocent empress, thy hapless mother : at the moment when she embraces thy brother, speech will be given to him. Away, and prosper ! These are the last words I shall utter. Fate has decreed, that when Valentine and Orson enter this chamber, my power ends.”

Having thus spoken, the brazen head fell from its pedestal ; thunder shook the foundations of the castle : they were surrounded with thick darkness ; and when the light again burst upon them, they found themselves in an open plain, and no traces of the castle re-

mained. The little dwarf, whose name was Pacolet, at the same time appeared before them on a winged horse, and said, "Noble youths, I go before you to the court of king Pepin, to prepare your royal parents, who are already there, for your reception." And instantly Pacolet mounted into the air on the winged horse, and was presently out of sight. Valentine now fell upon the bosom of his brother Orson, and Orson upon his; they embraced each other with the utmost affection, and joyfully proceeded towards France.

While these transactions were passing, the emperor of Constantinople had lived in great affliction for the loss of his queen. The wicked arch priest continued to represent her as the vilest of women, and to abuse the emperor's confidence in him, till he was on his death-bed; when, repenting of his treachery, he sent for the emperor, and confessed before the whole court, that he had basely slandered the amiable empress.

Nothing could exceed the emperor's grief. He immediately set out with all his nobles

for France, to implore king Pepin to assist him in searching for the injured Bellisant. In every town on his journey, he caused her innocence to be proclaimed, and offered an immense reward to any one who should bring tidings of her to the court of king Pepin.

It happened that Blandiman, who was buying provisions for the monastery at Orleans, as the emperor passed through, heard the proclamation, and hastened with the tidings to his mistress. The empress, overjoyed to have her innocence made known, quitted the monastery, and went to the palace of her brother, where she was received with shouts of triumph,—king Pepin and the emperor both falling at her feet, to implore forgiveness of having believed so unjustly of her.

Scarcely had the reconciliation passed, and the empress related her sorrowful history, when the dwarf Pacolet appeared on his winged horse to announce the wonderful declaration made by the brazen head, and the approach of the royal brothers. At these tidings the

empress thought herself the happiest of women; but the emperor could not forbear to shed tears, when he remembered all the dangers and sufferings he had caused to his amiable queen and his princely sons.

The noble youths now presented themselves to their parents; and no sooner had the empress Bellisant thrown her arms about the neck of her son Orson, than the faculty of speech was given to him, and he expressed his duty and affection to his parents and uncle, in terms of such grace and propriety as at once astonished and delighted the whole court. The duke of Aquitain, having already come to the palace of king Pepin to congratulate his daughter on her deliverance from Agramont the green knight, now took the hand of Orson, and presented him to the lady Fezon as her future husband,—king Pepin at the same time joining the hands of Valentine and the princess Eglantine. Splendid preparations were immediately made for the celebration of these nuptials; and during a whole month nothing

was to be heard of throughout France but tilts and tournaments, feasts and balls, fireworks and illuminations, with every other kind of splendid magnificent entertainment.

FINIS.

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FINETTA.

SOME time ago there lived a king and a queen, who had managed their affairs so ill, that they were driven out of their dominions, and, to support themselves, were forced to sell their crowns, then their robes, linen, and laces, and afterwards all they had; and when they were reduced to the utmost poverty, the king said to the queen, "We are forced out of our kingdoms, and have nothing left, therefore we must think of getting a livelihood both for ourselves and children; think a little what we shall do; for my part, I am entirely at a loss." The queen, who was a woman of good sense and wit, asked eight days time to consider of it; and when they were expired, she said to him, "Come, don't let us vex and torment ourselves; you shall

lay nets and snares for fowls, and lines for fish, while I make them: as for our daughters, they are three proud idle sluts, and fancy themselves still to be great ladies; we will carry them a great way off, that it will be impossible for them to find their way back again; for we can never keep them as fine as they expect we should."

The king, who was a kind father, began to weep when he saw he must part with his children; but the queen being of an imperious haughty temper, and he being forced to acquiesce with her, he told her she might rise early the next morning, and carry her daughters where she thought fit. While they were thus contriving this affair, the princess Finetta, who was the youngest of the three, heard them through the key-hole; and as soon as she was informed of their design, ran as fast as she was able to a large grotto, inhabited by the fairy Meriucha, her godmother; but, before she went, took two pounds of fresh butter, eggs, milk, and flour, to make a cake of, that she might be the more

acceptable guest. When she first set out, she went very chearfully ; but after she had walked some time, and the soles of her shoes were worn away, and her feet began to be galled with the pebbles, she was so weary that she sat herself down on the grass, and fell a-crying ; when a fine Spanish horse passed by, ready bridled and saddled, with diamonds enough on his housings to buy two or three towns ; who, when he saw the princess, he fed by her, bending his knees, seeming to pay some respect to her ; whereupon, taking him by the bridle, she said, “ Pretty horse, if you will carry me to my godmother the fairy, I shall be very much obliged to you, for I am so weary, that I am ready to die away ; I promise you I’ll give you some good corn and hay, and litter you down with clean straw.” The horse bent down before her, and she jumping upon his back, he carried her to the fairy’s grotto as swift as a bird flies in the air ; for Merlucha, knowing of her god-daughter’s coming, had sent him for that purpose.

When she came in, she made three low curtesies, kissed the hem of her garment, and then said to her, " Good morrow, god-mother, how do you do? I have brought you here some milk, butter, flour, and eggs, to make a cake after our country fashion." " You are welcome, Finetta," said the fairy, " come, and let me embrace you." Whereupon she kissed her two or three times, which made Finetta ready to die with joy; for Merlucha was a great and renowned fairy. " Well, my girl," said she, " you shall be my waiting-woman, come dress and comb my head;" which the princess did with all the address imaginable. " I know what brought you hither," said Merlucha; " you heard the king and queen consulting how they might lose you, and you have no mind to be so served. Take this clue of thread, it will not break, and fasten one end of it to the door of your house, and keep the other in your hand; when the queen leaves you, it will be an easy matter for you, by this thread, to find your way back again."

The princess thanked her god-mother, who gave her a sack full of clothes, all covered over with gold and silver, and embracing her, set her upon the same horse again, who carried her home in a moment or two; and when she had thanked her pretty horse for his trouble, and had bid him return, she went softly into the house, and hiding her sack under the bed, laid herself down without taking any notice of what had passed. As soon as it was day, the king awakened his wife, and bid her prepare for her journey; upon which she got up, and put on a pair of strong shoes, a short petticoat, and white waistcoat, and, taking her stick in her hand, went to call her daughters; the eldest of whom was named Love's Flower, the second Fair-Night, and the youngest Auricula, or Fine-Ear, but by way of nick-name, Finetta. "I have dreamed to-night," said the queen, "that we must go and see my sister, where we shall be well treated, and be very merry." "We'll go, Madam, where you please," said Love's Flower, who could not endure to live

in a desert, "so that we go, but 'tis no matter where." The other two said the same, and taking leave of their father, they all four set forward on their journey. They went at last so far, that Fine-Ear began to fear lest her clue should not hold out, for they had gone a great many score miles; however, she was always behind, fastening her thread in the briars. When the queen thought she had carried them so far that they could not find the way back again, she went into a large wood, and said to them, "Come, my little lambs, lie down and take a nap, while I, like a shepherdess, will watch you, lest the wolf should surprise you." Whereupon they laid themselves down, and fell asleep, and the queen, when she thought them fast, took her leave, as she thought, for the last time, when Finetta, who only shut her eyes, and pretended sleep, said to herself, "Was I now of a revengeful temper, I should leave my sisters to perish here, for they have beat and abused me very much; but, however, I will not now forsake them." Whereupon awaken-

ing them, she told them the whole story ; at which they fell a-crying, and begged of her to take them along with her, promising to give her all the fine things they had. “ I know,” said Finetta, “ you will not perform what you promise ; but, nevertheless, I shall act the part of a kind sister.” And there-upon she rose up, and followed her thread, which brought them home almost as soon as the queen.

When they came there, stopping a moment at the door, they heard the king say, “ My heart aches to see you all alone.” “ Indeed,” said the queen, “ we were very much troubled with our daughters.” “ Well,” said the king, “ had you but brought my Finetta back, I should not be so much concerned for the other two.” Just then they knocked at the door : “ Who’s there ?” said the king. “ Your three daughters, Love’s Flower, Fair-Night, and Fine-Ear,” replied they. And at that the queen trembled, and said, “ Don’t open the door, for they are certainly their spirits ; for it is impossible they should

be returned." The king, who was as great a coward as his wife, said, "'Tis false, you are not my daughters." Whereupon Finetta replied, "Look through the key-hole, papa, and if I am not your daughter Finetta, I consent to be whipt." At that the king did as she bid him, and knowing them, opened the door. The queen seemed to be very glad to see them, pretending she came back for something she had forgot, and designed to have gone to them again.

Finetta, when all was over, asked her sisters for what they had promised her, who thereupon beat her with their distaffs, and told her, that it was for her sake that the king was not sorry for them. Afterwards she went to bed; but being not able to sleep for the blows and bruises they had given her, she heard the queen say, she would carry them another way farther off, from whence she was assured they would never return. Upon this she got up softly, went into the hen-house, and wrung off the necks of two pullets and a cockerel, which the queen had

set up to regale herself with; and putting them into a basket, set out to go to see her god-mother again. She had not gone half a mile, being in the dark, and frightened out of her wits, before she heard the Spanish horse whinnying and prancing, who no sooner came to her, but she mounted, and was carried presently to her god-mother's. After the usual compliments, she presented her with the fowls, and desired her good advice, for that the queen had sworn to carry them to the world's end. Merlucha bid her not grieve herself, and gave her a sack full of ashes to carry before her, to sprinkle before her as she went along, telling her, when she returned, she needed but to observe her footsteps, which would conduct her back again; and withal charged her not to take her sisters along with her; assuring her, if she did, she never would see her more. The horse being ready, Finetta took her leave, and with it a great quantity of diamonds in a box, which she put into her pocket. A little before day, the queen called the princesses again, and

told them that the king was not very well, and that she dreamed they must go all four to gather some herbs for him in a certain country, where they were excellent. Love's Flower and Fair-Night, who suspected that their mother's main end in this affair was to lose them, were very much afflicted, but were, notwithstanding, obliged to go. Finetta said not a word all the time, but kept behind them strewing her ashes; and the queen, being persuaded that they would never be able to find the way back, for she had carried them a great distance off, and observing them all asleep one evening, took that opportunity to bid them good-by. When it was day, that Finetta perceived her mother was gone, she awakened her sisters, and told them the queen was gone again, and had left them to themselves. Love's Flower and Fair-Night cried, and tore their hair, and beat their breasts; when Finetta, who was a good-natured girl, pitied them, and told them, though her god-mother, when she informed her how she should find the way back,

charged her not to take them along with her, and said she would never see her more if she did, “yet,” said she, “I will venture this to preserve my sisters.” Whereupon they both fell upon her neck, and kissed her, and all three returned together.

The king and queen were very much surprised to see the princesses again, and talked about it all the night; when Fine-Ear, who had not her name for nothing, heard them lay a new plot, which the queen was to put in execution in the morning, and thereupon ran and awakened her sisters, and acquainted them with it. “Alas!” said she, “we are all lost, the queen without dispute will carry us, and leave us in some desert; for your sakes I have disoblged my god-mother, and dare not go to her as I used to do.” This news put them to their wit’s end, and made them say to one another, What shall we do? “Oh!” said Fair-Night, “do not let us trouble ourselves, there are others who have as much contrivance as the old Merlucha; we need but to take some pease along with

us, and sow them, and we shall easily trace our way back again." Upon Love's Flower's approving of this expedient, they put pease in their pockets; but for Fine-Ear, instead of pease, she took her sack of fine clothes, and her box of jewels; and they were all three ready against the queen called. "I have dreamt to-night," said she, "that there were three princes in a country I need not name, waiting to marry you, and I have a great mind to carry you to see whether my dream is true or not." The queen went first, and the princesses followed after, sowing their pease as they went along, never disturbing themselves, but being satisfied that they, by that means, would find their way home; when one dark night the queen left them again, and went home to the king, both weary of so long a journey, and glad to have got rid of so great a charge.

The three princesses slept till eleven o'clock the next day, when Finetta discovered first the queen's absence, and, though she was well provided, could not forbear crying; but, however, relied more on the fairy Mer-

much than the ability of her sisters. "The queen is gone," said she to her sisters, "let us follow her as fast as we can." "Hold your tongue, you fool," replied Love's Flower, "we can find the way when we please." Finetta durst return no answer; but when they wanted to go home, they could find no tracings or appearance of any pease; for the pigeons, with which that country abounded, had eaten them up, which set them all in tears. After they had been two days without eating, Love's Flower asked her sisters if they had nothing to eat? Whereupon Finetta said she had found an acorn, which they would have had from her; but she said, "What signifies one acorn among three of us? let us set it, it may grow to a large tree, and be serviceable." To which they all consented, though there was no likelihood of any tree in that country, where there was nothing to be seen but cabbages and lettuce, which the princesses lived on; for had they been nice, they must have perished. They had no other covering, when

they slept, than the azure skies, and watered their acorn every night and morning, which they perceived grew apace. When it was got to some size, Love's Flower was for climbing it, but it was too weak to bear her; as was likewise Fair-Night, but she was too heavy; whereupon Finetta tried, and when she was up, her sisters asked her what she saw; she told them nothing. "Alas!" said Love's Flower, "this oak is not yet tall enough." However, they kept watering of it, and Finetta never failed to get up into it twice a-day; and one day when she was up, Fair-Night said to Love's Flower, "I have found a sack which our sister has hid from us, what can there be in it?" "Oh!" said Love's Flower, "she told me she had some old laces." "But I believe she had something better," replied Fair-Night. And being curious, opened it, and found some old laces of the king and queen's, which served only to cover the fine clothes and jewels. "What a sly slut is this!" said she, "let us take them away, and put some pebbles in

their place ;” which the other agreed to. Finetta came down without ever discovering the trick her sisters had played her, for she had no occasion to dress in a desert, all her thoughts being employed on her oak.

One morning when she was up in it, and her sisters asked her, as usual, what she discovered, she told them she saw a house so beautiful, that she could not describe it ; that the walls were of emeralds and rubies, and the roof of diamonds set in gold. “ You tell fibs,” said they, “ it cannot be so.” “ Indeed it is,” answered Finetta, “ come and see yourselves ; my eyes are dazzled with the splendour.” Whereupon Love’s Flower and Fair-Night climbed up, and when they saw the castle, were amazed and overjoyed. “ We must, without dispute,” said they, “ go to this palace ; who knows but we may meet with fine princes, that will think themselves happy to marry us ?” In this manner of discourse they passed away the whole night, when Love’s Flower, perceiving Finetta asleep, said to Fair-Night, “ Let us dress ourselves

in the clothes Finetta has brought along with her." "The thought's very good," replied Fair-Night. Whereupon they rose and dressed themselves, and made themselves as fine as gold, and silver, and jewels could do.

Finetta, who knew not what her sisters had done, opened her sack with a design to dress herself; but how great was her surprise and affliction, when she found nothing but flints and stones! And perceiving, at that very juncture, her two sisters as bright as the sun in her clothes, she cried, and complained of their treachery; who only laughed at her. "How can you," said she to them, "carry me along with you to the castle, without letting me be dressed as well as yourselves?" "We have but clothes enough for ourselves," replied Love's Flower, "and if thou importunest us thus, thou shalt feel our blows." "But," continued the other, "they are my own, my god-mother gave them to me, and you have nothing to do with them." "If you teaze us any longer," said they, "we will kill you, and bury you, and nobody shall

know what is become of you." This struck such an awe upon poor Finetta, that she durst not provoke them, but followed them like their servant-maid, at a distance. The nearer they came to the house, the more wonderful it appeared. "I cannot but think," said they one to another, "how we shall be diverted and entertained; we shall eat at the king's table; but for Finetta, she shall wash the dishes in the kitchen; and if we are asked who she is, let us not make the least mention of her as our sister, but say, she is a poor herdsman's daughter;" which cast Finetta into despair, she being a girl endowed with wit and beauty. When they arrived at the gates of the castle, they knocked very hard, and were let in by a frightful old woman; she was fifteen feet high, and thirty about, had but one eye, and that placed in the midst of her forehead, like a Cyclops, and as large as five others; her nose was flat, her skin black, and her mouth so large that it was very frightful. "O unfortunate creatures!" said she, "what brought you hither? Do you

know that this is a giant's castle, who would eat you all up for his breakfast? But it is well he is not at home; I will eat but one of you at a time, and you will have the comfort of living two or three days longer." When they heard the giantess speak thus, they ran away as fast as they could, thinking to save themselves; but she strid as far at one step as they at five, and soon caught them again; and taking one by the hair of the head, and the others by the arms and necks, threw them all together into a cave, where there was nought but toads, snakes, and the bones of devoured persons. And as she was then for eating Finetta, and was only gone for some oil and vinegar, the giant came; but thinking to keep them for herself as a nice bit, she put them under a great tub, where they had no light but through a little hole.

The giant, who was six times as big as his wife, when he spoke, made the house shake again, and when he coughed, it seemed like thunder; he had but one large eye, and his hair was like bristles; he leaned on a piece

of timber, which he used for a cane, and held a basket in his hand, out of which he took fifteen little children he had taken away from their parents, and swallowed them like poached eggs. When the three princesses beheld this, they shuddered, but durst not cry, for fear they should be heard. The giant said to his wife, "I smell some fresh flesh; give it me." "You always fancy," said she, "that you smell fresh meat, 'tis nothing but some sheep that are going by." "Oh!" said the giant, "I am not to be deceived thus; I am sure I smell fresh flesh, and will look for it." "Aye, do," replied she. "And if I find any," said he, "that you have concealed from me, I'll cut off your head." Frighted at this menace, she said to him, "Be not angry, my dear, and I will tell you the truth; I have got three young girls, that came here to-day; but it is a pity to eat them, for they know how to do every thing, and, as I am old, will be very serviceable to me. You know our house is very much out of order, our bread is not well baked, nor

our beer well brewed, and I appear not so handsome since I have slaved myself with working; they shall be our servants, therefore do not eat them now; but if you have a great desire to them at any other time, you shall have them." The giant, with great reluctance, promised her not to eat them; for she designed, when he was gone abroad, to feast herself with them, and to pretend that they had made their escape.

The giant ordered his wife to bring them to him, at which they, poor creatures, were ready to die with fear; but the giantess encouraged them. When he saw them, he asked them what they could do? They answered, that they knew how to clean a house, and sew, and spin, and make such ragouts, that all that tasted of them generally licked their plates clean; and that for making of bread, cakes, and patty-pans, they were famous. "Well, well," said the giant, who loved a dainty bit, "make good your words; but," said he to Finetta, "how do you know when the oven is hot enough?" "I lay some but-

ter on it, sir," replied she, "and then taste it with my tongue." Thereupon he ordered her to heat the oven, and the princess made a terrible fire; for you must know, the giant's oven was as large as a stable, and he and his wife devoured as much bread as an army; and the giant, who overlooked them, eat an hundred cakes and piggins of milk. Love's Flower and Fair-Night prepared the paste: the giant said the oven was hot enough; Finetta told him she would see whether it was so; and throwing some pounds of butter into the oven's mouth, told him it must be tasted with the tongue, but that she was too little to do it. "Oh!" said he, "I am big enough." And thereupon he thrust himself so far in, that he could not get back again, but was burnt to ashes.

When the giant's wife came to the oven, she was surprised to find such a heap of ashes as proceeded from her burnt husband. Love's Flower and Fair-Night, who saw her very much grieved, did what they could to comfort her, but at the same time, were

afraid her sorrow would be too soon over, and her appetite come upon her. "Madam," said they, "have courage, some king, or great prince, will think himself happy to marry you." Which made her laugh, and shew her long teeth, which were as large as a finger. When they saw her in a good humour, Finetta said to her, "If you will throw off these bear-skins, with which you now clothe yourself, we will dress you a-la-mode, and you shall appear as bright as any star." "Let me see," said she, "what you would be at; but assure yourself, if any ladies look better than me, I will make mince-meat of you." Whereupon the three princesses pulled off her cap, and combed and frizzled her hair; and while the two sisters were amusing her after that manner, Finetta, with a hatchet, severed her head from her body at one blow.

Never was joy equal to theirs; they ran up to the top of the house to ring the golden bells, went into all the chambers of pearls and diamonds, the furniture of which was so

rich, that it was an ecstasy to behold it. They laughed and sung all that day long, and almost glutted themselves with sweetmeats and other dainties. Love's Flower and Fair-Night lay in beds of brocade and velvet, and said one to another, "Our father never was so rich in all his prosperity; but yet we want husbands, and may be assured nobody will ever come here, since this house passes for a place of destruction, for the giant and his wife's deaths are unknown; therefore we must go to the next village to shew ourselves in our finery, and we shall not be long before we find persons enough, who will be glad to marry princesses."

As soon as they were dressed, they told Finetta they were going a-walking, and that she must stay there to take care of the house, and have every thing in order against their return, or else they should make her feel their blows. When they were gone, Finetta, who was forced to scour and wash, was so overpowered with grief, that she burst out a-crying. "How unhappy was I," said she to

herself, “ to disobey my god-mother ! All misfortunes have since attended me ; my sisters have robbed me of my fine clothes, and dressed themselves in them. Had it not been for me, the giant and his wife had been yet alive ; and what am I the better for their deaths ? I should have been as well pleased to have been devoured by them, as to live as I do now.” When she had said all this, she cried so much, that her eyes were almost swollen out of her head ; and when her sisters came, she had the mortification to see them bring with them oranges, sweetmeats, and fine fruits, and to hear them tell what respect was paid to them by a king’s son at a ball they had been at ; and withal, to be bid to come and undress them, and lay up their clothes, which she durst not refuse ; for if ever she complained, they flew upon her, and beat her till they had left her for dead.

The next day they went again, and came back as before, and lived in that manner some time ; when one night, as Finetta was sitting over a handful of fire, not knowing

what to do with herself, raking among the cinders, she found an old rusty cankered little key ; and after having taken a great deal of pains to scour it, found it to be gold ; and thinking it might open some lock in the house, tried them all, and it belonged to a fine box, which she opened, wherein there were rich clothes, diamonds, laces, fine linen, ribbons, and things of great value. Never mentioning a word of this good fortune, she waited impatiently for her sisters going again the next day ; and then, as soon as she saw them out of doors, dressed herself so fine, that she appeared like the sun, and went to the same ball. When she entered, there was heard a murmuring of voices, some out of admiration, and others of jealousy ; and when she danced, she excelled as much therein as in her beauty.

Love's Flower and Fair-Night, who had made there strange havock among the hearts, seeing the favourable reception this stranger met with, were ready to burst with jealousy ; but Finetta, who behaved herself extraordi-

narily well, seemed by her air as if she was made to command. Love's Flower and Fair-Night, who had been used to see their sister dirty and grimy, retained so small an idea of her face, that they knew her not, but paid as much respect to her as the rest; and she, as soon as the ball was over, ran home as fast as she could, and put on her dirty rags again. When her sisters came home, they told her they had seen a charming young princess, whose skin was as white as snow, the colour of her cheeks as fresh as a rose, her teeth as even and as white as ivory; and for her lips, they looked like coral, and that her clothes were all over gold and diamonds. This sport continued some time, and Finetta every ball appeared in a different dress; for the chest was inexhaustible, and the clothes were all so fashionable, that the ladies followed that mode.

One night that Finetta had danced very much, and had staid longer than ordinary, and was anxious to get home soon enough, that she might not be discovered by her sis-

ters, she made so much haste, that she lost her slipper, which was of red velvet, braided with pearls, and was found the next day by the prince of Chery, the king's eldest son, as he was hunting: who admired it so much for its smallness, that he kissed it, and carried it home with him; and from that day grew so melancholy and reserved, that he never would speak, lost his stomach, fell away, and looked so ill, that the king and queen, who loved him to distraction, sent for all the remedies and assistance they could get, but all to no purpose; for the physicians, after they had consulted together, and made their observations for two or three days together, concluded that he was in love, and would die unless he had some relief.

The queen, who doated on him, cried day and night over him, but could make no discovery who the beloved person was. She brought all the most beautiful ladies of the court into his chamber, but he would not so much as look at them. At last the queen said to him one day, " My dear child, you

overwhelm us with grief; we know you are in love, wherefore, then, should you hide it from us? Tell who the lovely person is, and, should she prove a shepherdess, we will not oppose your desires." Hereupon the prince, grown more bold by the queen's promises, pulled the slipper from under his bolster; "This, madam," said he, "is the cause of my illness; I found this pretty little slipper as I was one day a hunting, and am resolved never to marry any but the person who can draw it on." "Alas! child," said the queen, "grieve not, we shall soon find her out." And then she left him, and told the king, who was very much surprised at the strangeness of his passion, and ordered it to be proclaimed by sound of trumpet, that all women should come and try on the slipper, and that the person whom it fitted should be married to the prince. Upon this, all the fine ladies of the court washed and pared their feet, and made choice of the thinnest stockings, that they might put on the slipper; but all to no purpose, since none of them could get it on;

which was no small affliction to the prince. Love's Flower and Fair-Night, upon this, dressed themselves so fine one day, that Finetta was amazed, and asked them where they were going: Who told her, To court, to try on the slipper that the king's son had found, and that whoever succeeded was to marry him. Whereupon Finetta asked if she might not go? Which made them laugh at her, and tell her, they wondered how such a dirty girl as she could have any such thoughts, bidding her water the garden, for she was fit for nothing else.

When they were gone, Finetta had a great mind to try her fortune, having a strong fancy of her success; but was somewhat at a loss, because she knew not the way, for the ball she was at before was not kept at court. However, she dressed herself very magnificently; her gown was of blue satin, covered over with stars of diamonds; a full moon was placed in the middle of her back, and a sun upon her head, which gave such a lustre, as dazzled the eyes of the spectators. When

she opened the door to go out, she was very much surprised to find the Spanish horse there ; she caressed him, and was overjoyed to see him, and mounting on him, appeared a thousand times more beautiful than Helen. The horse went prancing along, and by the noise he made with champing of his bits, made Love's Flower and her sister look behind, to see who was coming after them ; but how great was their astonishment, when they saw it was Finetta ! " I protest," said Love's Flower to Fair-Night, "'tis Finetta ;" and the other was about to make some reply, when the horse passing by, dashed them all over with dirt ; whereupon Finetta told them, that she despised them as they deserved, and so put forward. " Certainly," said Fair-Night, " we dream ; who could have furnished her with this horse and fine clothes ? 'Tis a miracle to me ; she will, without dispute, have the good fortune to get the slipper, therefore it is in vain for us to go any farther."

While they were in the utmost rage and

despair, Finetta arrived at the palace, where she being taken for a queen, the guards were under arms, with drums beating and trumpets sounding. She went into the prince's chamber, who no sooner set his eyes on her, but he was charmed, and wished her foot small enough to put on the slipper; which she not only did do, but also produced the fellow to it. Upon which all persons present cried, Long live the princess; and the prince arose from off his bed, came and kissed her hand, and declared to her his passion. As soon as the king and queen heard of it, they came overjoyed; the queen flung her arms about her neck, and embraced her, and called her daughter. The king and queen made her great presents, the cannons were fired, and there were the most public demonstrations of joy possible.

The prince desired she would consent to his happiness, and that they might be married; but she refused till she had told them her adventures, which she did in few words. Their joy was augmented so much the more,

when they knew her to be a princess by birth; and, upon acquainting them with the names of her father and mother, informed her that they had deprived them of their kingdoms. As soon as she knew that, she vowed never to give her hand to the prince, unless they were restored again to their dominions, which the king her father-in-law made no scruple to grant. In the mean time, Love's Flower and Fair-Night arrived, and the first news they heard was, that their sister had put on the slipper; at which they were so much confused, that they knew not what to say or do, but at last were for going back again; when she, hearing that they were there, sent for them, and, instead of using them as they deserved, met them, and embraced them, and afterwards presented them to the queen, acquainting her that they were her sisters, for whom she desired she would have some respect. They were so much surprised at their sister's goodness, that they stood speechless; but upon her telling them that the prince her spouse would restore the king their

father, and send them into their own country, they fell on their knees before her, and wept for joy.

The nuptials were celebrated with all the pomp imaginable. Finetta wrote a letter to her god-mother, which she sent with great presents by the Spanish horse, desiring her to find out the king and queen, her father and mother, and let them know her good fortune, and that they might return to their own kingdoms; which commission the fairy acquitted herself of, and the king and queen were restored to their dominions. Love's Flower and Fair-Night lived as great and happy as they could desire, and became afterwards great queens, as well as their sister.

The morality of this tale is, that while we act consistently with virtuous principles, however misfortunes may attend, yet in the end happiness will succeed; and such as are good will ever meet a just reward.

FINIS.

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... of the king and queen
... to their ...
... lived as great and
... and became after
... as their sister.

The morality of this tale is, that while we
... with virtuous principles, how
... may attend, yet in the end
... and such as the good
... just towards.

FINIS

