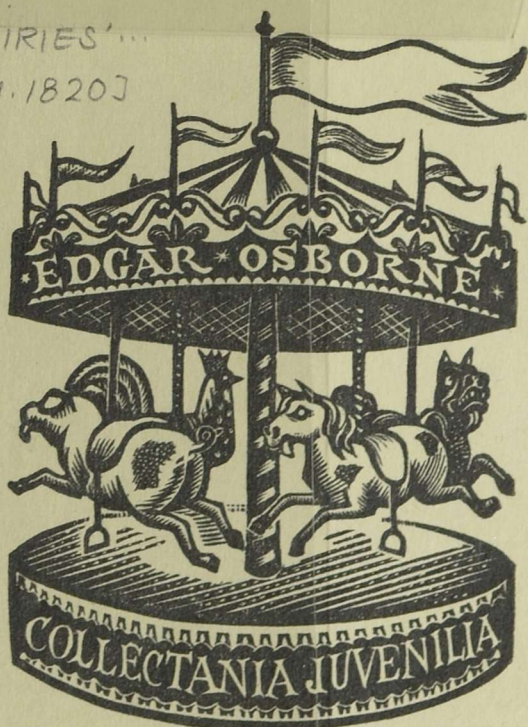


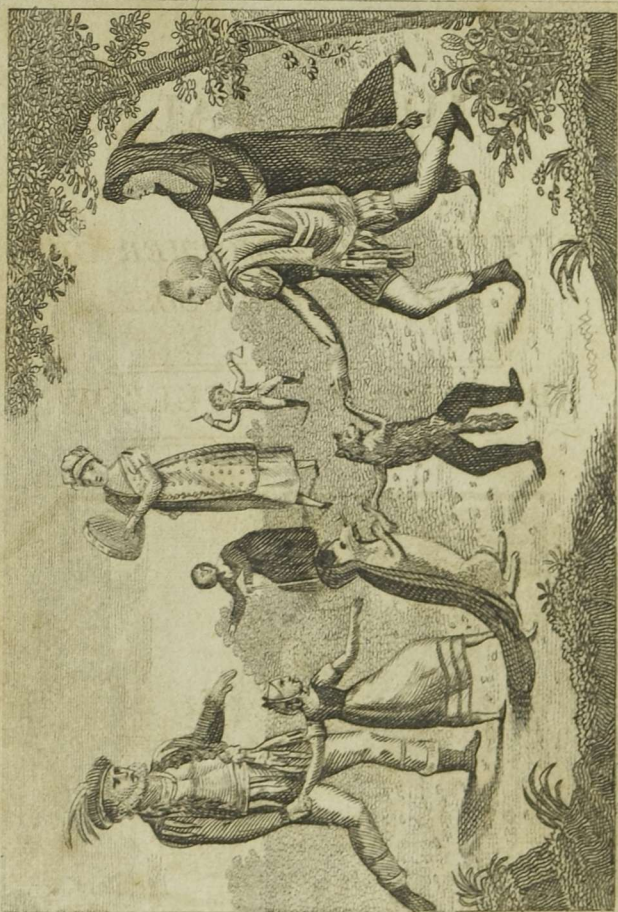


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THE
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CHOICE TALES,

SELECTED FROM
*MOTHER BUNCH, MOTHER GRIM,
AND MOTHER GOOSE.*

BY ROBIN GOODFELLOW.



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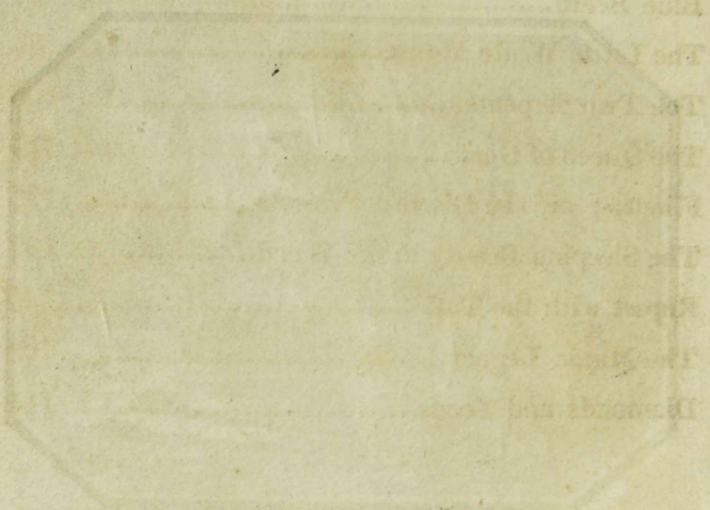
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FAIRY TALES.

THE
STORY
OF
PRINCE LUPIN.

A CERTAIN king had three sons, all handsome, brave, and fine young gentlemen; but being mistrustful that they had formed a design to deprive him of his crown, he thought of a method to divert them from their intended purpose. Having called them one day into his closet, he spoke to them as follows: "My sons, I am now come to a great age, and cannot apply myself to public affairs with so much care as formerly; therefore, I intend to resign my crown to one of you: but, as it is but right to require some proof of your abilities, in order to determine which is the most worthy of so valuable a present, I propose and promise, that he who shall bring me the most beautiful little dog, shall immediately take possession of my throne."

The three princes readily agreed to this proposal, each concluding himself most likely to succeed in fulfilling this extraordinary request. After taking leave of the king they set out, with orders to return that day twelve-month with dogs. Each took a different road, without any attendants; but we shall leave the two eldest at present, and confine our story to the youngest.

This accomplished prince, as he was more desirous to shew his duty to his father than to become a king, was more fortunate in his undertaking than either of the others. One night, having travelled till it was very late, and being overtaken by a storm in a large forest, he discovered a light at a distance, and pursuing his journey with all speed, he arrived at a most stately castle, the gates of which were massy gold, and the walls fine china, whereon were painted the histories of all the fairies that ever appeared on earth. At the door hung a chain of diamonds, with a deer's foot at the end; on pulling which, the prince heard a bell of so pleasing a sound, that he concluded it to be made of gold or silver. Immediately the door opened, and twelve hands, each holding a flambeau, gently conducted him into a hall of mother-of-pearl, and from thence through a vast variety of chambers, all richly covered with paintings and jewels. The beauty of these ornaments were greatly heightened by a number of lights,

that hung from the ceiling in glass sconces of exquisite workmanship.

After having passed through sixty apartments, a fine easy chair moved towards him of its own accord; the fire lighted itself, and the hands pulled off his clothes, which had been drenched in the storm, and dressed him in others so extraordinary fine and rich, that it dazzled his sight to behold himself. While the prince was in the utmost astonishment at this uncommon adventure, he saw a multitude of cats enter the room, and seat themselves on the bench. One held a music-book, and some played on instruments, while others beat time. In the midst of this concert, a small figure came forward in a mourning veil, led by two cats in black cloaks, and followed by a long train of cats, some with rats, and others with mice, in their mouths. The young prince was so surprised, that he had not power to move; when the little figure, lifting up its veil, discovered the prettiest white cat that ever was seen. "Prince," said she, "be not afraid, but give me your company with cheerfulness. It shall be the ambition of me, and all my mewling attendants, to give you pleasure."

On a signal given, supper was brought in; but the prince at first declined eating, till the White Cat, guessing the reason, assured him there were no rats nor mice in any thing that was set before him. As the prince was ad

miring this beautiful cat, he observed a small picture hanging upon her foot. He asked her to shew it him; and how great was his surprise, to see a charming young man very much resembling himself! yet, observing the White Cat to sigh, he was afraid at that time to satisfy his curiosity concerning it, and so endeavoured to divert her by entertaining conversation, in which he found her to be extremely sensible, and acquainted with every thing that passed in the world. He slept every night in an apartment hung with tapestry, made of the wings of butterflies, on a bed of the most delicious flowers; and every day was spent in the most delightful amusement. In this manner almost a year slipped away insensibly; and the prince entirely forgot his native home and the little dog he was to carry to his father. But the White Cat knew when he was to return; and one day, as they were walking together in a grove near the palace, "Do you remember, prince," said she, "the promise you made your father?" Your brothers have already procured some curious little dogs, and there remain but three days for you to find one more beautiful, or lose a kingdom." These words awoke the prince from his dream of pleasure. "Alas!" cried he, "what have I been doing? My honour is lost for ever."—"Do not afflict yourself," said the White Cat; "I will find a horse that will carry you home in less than twelve hours. And as for

the little dog, take this acorn, in which there is one: put it to your ear, and you will hear it bark." The prince did so, and, transported with pleasure, thanked her a thousand times. Bidding her farewell, he mounted the wooden horse, and arrived at his father's palace just as his brothers entered the courtyard. He ran to embrace them; and all three went together to the king.—The two eldest presented their dogs, which were so equally beautiful, that it was impossible to know in whose favour to determine. But the youngest soon put an end to the debate; for, pulling the acorn out of his pocket and opening it, they saw a little dog lying on cotton, so small that it might go through a ring; it was of a mixture of colours, and its ears reached the ground. The king was convinced that nothing could be met with so beautiful; but being unwilling yet to part with his crown, he told his children, that he must make a further trial of their love and diligence, before he performed his promise: they must take another year to find out a web of cloth fine enough to go through the eye of a small needle.

This request, though unjust, they thought it best to comply with: and our prince mounted his wooden horse, and returned with speed to his White Cat, on whom alone he depended for assistance. He found her laid on a quilt of white satin. As soon as she saw him,

she expressed the utmost joy; while the prince caressed her in the most tender manner, and told her the success of his journey. The White Cat redoubled her efforts to render the prince more happy, if possible, than he had been before. He wished for nothing but the hands brought it to him; and the second year rolled away so fast, that the prince would again have forgot his orders, had not the White Cat reminded him thereof: "But make yourself perfectly easy concerning the web," said she, "for I have one wonderfully fine. Take this walnut; be sure to crack it in your father's presence, and you will find in it such a web as you want."

The prince thanked her in the most grateful manner; and was presently carried by the wooden horse to his father's palace, where his brothers had got before him. They pulled out their webs, which were exceeding fine, and would go through the eye of a large needle, but could not be made to pass through the eye of a small one. The king was going to avail himself of this pretext, when the youngest prince unexpectedly entered, and produced a walnut, which he cracked. Finding only a kernel of wax, the king and all present ridiculed him for thinking to find a web of cloth in a nut. However, he broke the kernel, and saw in it a corn of wheat, and in that a grain of millet-seed: he then opened the millet-seed, and, to the utter astonish-

ment and confusion of all the beholders, drew out a web of cloth four hundred yards long. The needle was brought, and the web was put through the eye of it five or six times, with the greatest ease.

The king fetched a deep sigh, and turning towards his sons, "My children," said he, "I am still desirous of putting you to a new trial: go for another year; and he that brings me the most beautiful damsel, shall marry her and be crowned king; and I swear most solemnly, that I will require no other proof of your filial affection and discretion." Our sweet prince heard this tyrannic command without a murmur; and remounting his courser, flew to his dear White Cat; who, knowing the moment of his return, was prepared to receive him in the golden gallery. "Prince," said she, "the king, I find, has refused you the crown; however, I hope you will take care to deserve it, and I will provide you with a beautiful damsel who will gain the prize."

The prince grew more and more fond of her; and in her abode enjoyed every magnificent entertainment that fancy could invent.—When this last year was near expired, the White Cat thus addressed him: "If you are sensible of the favours I have conferred upon you, now is the time to make me amends. Do not hesitate, but cut off my head and tail, and through them into the fire." Tears start-

ed from the prince's eyes at this request, and he was going several times to refuse ; but the White Cat insisted upon it so earnestly, that at last, with a trembling hand, he chopped off her head and tail, and threw them according to order into the fire. In an instant the the body of the White Cat was changed into the most beautiful lady that ever was seen, and immediately a great number of gentlemen and ladies, holding their cats skins over their shoulders, came and fell prostrate at her feet, crying, " Long live our gracious queen ! How great is our joy to see her once more in her natural shape !" The prince was glad beyond description, to behold so charming a creature, but could not help expressing an earnest desire to know the cause of this surprising transformation. " Restrain your curiosity," says the lovely queen, " till we arrive at your father's court, where I am now ready to accompany you, and where I will relate my unheard of misfortunes. Come, see, the carriage waits." So saying, she gave her hand to the prince, who led her into a chariot, the inside of which was fine velvet, set with brilliants, the outside gold ; and the horse harnesses were made of emeralds.

Away they flew, and were presently at the gates of the king's palace, where the two eldest princes were already arrived with their two princesses, in fine calashes of blue, embossed with gold. The courtiers crowded to

present these three illustrious couples to the king. The two eldest princes with their ladies advanced first, and were received very graciously by the monarch, who declared they had brought him two such beauties, that he knew not to which he should give the preference; but the moment the youngest approached with his queen, both full of grace and dignity, the king cried out in extacy, "this is the incomparable beauty, whose worth and excellence claims and deserves my crown!" — "I came not to rob you of your crown," answered the discreet queen; "I was born heiress to six kingdoms. Give me leave to present one of them to you, and one to each of your sons; for which I ask no other return than this amiable prince in marriage."

The king and all the court were struck with joy at this declaration; and the nuptials were celebrated the same day with great magnificence. Never were a pair more happy; and the young prince, to the last moment of his life, blessed the accident that led him to the abode of the sweet White Cat.—The lovely bride took the first opportunity to gratify her husband's curiosity to know her adventures; which follows, in her own words, in the next story.

THE
STORY
OF THE
PRINCESS FRUTILLA,
AS RELATED BY HERSELF.

My father was king of six kingdoms, and loved my mother so tenderly, as to comply with whatever she desired. A little before I was born, my mother was so indiscreet as to venture close to a garden belonging to some powerful fairies, where she saw, and longed for some delicious fruit that grew against a high wall. Finding it impossible to reach it, she fell into the utmost despair; when a little ugly old woman appeared, and thus accosted her: "Your majesty shall eat as much fruit as you please, provided you will make my sister and me one present."—"I will give you my kingdoms," answered the longing queen, "rather than not taste your fruit."—"You must give us your daughter," replied the fairy, "as soon as she is born, and you must never see her again till after she is married."—"It is a hard condition," replied the queen; "but rather than die I accept it."

The fairy then touched my mother with her wand, who immediately found herself able to get at the fruit, of which she devoured vast quantities : and when she had eaten as much as she could, the fairy gave her a basket full to carry home. At length the queen was brought to-bed of me, and began to be very melancholy at the promise she had made the fairies. The king was much concerned, and pressed my mother to declare the cause of her discontent ; and with much difficulty she was prevailed upon to reveal the fatal secret ; at which my father grew so enraged, that he loaded her with reproaches. The poor unhappy queen, unable to bear her husband's anger, and the reflection of her own imprudence, died soon after with grief. The fairies, to whom I was promised, sent to demand me of my father ; and on his refusal, let loose a terrible dragon, that poisoned all the places wherever he came, devouring men, women, and children, and destroyed all the trees with the breath of his nostrils. The king, finding himself reduced to extremity, and overpowered by the advice of his counsellors, consented to deliver me up, on the fairies' promising to take care of me. When I was grown up, they conducted me to a tower that stood by the side of a road, with orders never to look out at any one that passed by ; and they gave me a parrot and a dog to keep me company. One morning, hearing a noise, I was so fright-

ened as to run to the window, where I perceived a gentleman of the most enchanting aspect, who, in a sweet voice, intreated me to hear a few words, for on my consent to this request his life depended. I was going to make a reply, when the fairy Violence entered to bring me my breakfast. The first words she spoke were, "I smell the voice of a man!" Luckily my lover quitted the place as soon as she spoke; and I endeavoured to appease her as well as I could, telling her it was impossible she could smell the voice of a man, for no one would be bold enough to approach that tower. "Well, child," said she, "I am glad to hear you say so, for I intend you shall never speak to any man till you are married to a little king, whom I will bring in a few days to be your husband; and so saying, she left me. Soon after my lover came a second time, and presenting me with his picture, told me that he was a king's son; and made so many protestations of his affection, that I determined never to marry any other.

The next day he came again; and while we were discoursing together, all on a sudden the windows were broken open, and the fairies entered upon their frightful dragon, followed by Merlin in his fiery chariot. This horrid figure had feet like an eagle, no legs, but a head of a monstrous size; and his nose was long enough for twelve birds to perch upon it. The prince, not at all daunt-

ed, clapped his hand to his sword, in order to defend me from this monster; when the barbarous creature set the dragon upon him, which devoured him before my face. In all the horrors of despair, I threw myself into the mouth of this dreadful creature, that he might swallow me as he had done the prince; but the fairies, more cruel than the dragon, would not permit me so quick a death; but instantly, touching me with their wand, changed me into a white cat, and carried me to the palace which belonged to my father, and turned all the lords and ladies into cats. As for the rest of my servants, they left them only the hands which you saw. Then letting me know my father was dead, they departed, telling me that I should never be released from my miserable condition, but by a prince exactly resembling my late lover. You, Sir, have that resemblance; for you it was reserved to restore me to my former figure, to liberty, and to my six kingdoms. These obligations it shall be my study to repay, by making you a fond and faithful wife.

THE
STORY
OF THE
YELLOW DWARF.

THERE was once a Queen, who, though she had born many children, had but one daughter left alive, of whom she was fond to an excess, humouring and indulging her in all her ways and wishes. This Princess was exceedingly beautiful, so that she was called All-Fair, and had twenty kings courting her at one time. Her mother being advanced in years would fain have had her married and settled before she died, but no entreaties could prevail; whereupon she determined to go to the Desert Fairy, to ask advice concerning her stubborn daughter.

Now, this fairy being guarded by two fierce lions, the Queen made a cake of millet, sugar-candy, and crocodile's eggs, in order to appease their fury, and pass by them; and having thus provided herself, she set out. After travelling some time, she found herself weary; and lying down under a tree, fell asleep. When she awoke, she heard the lions which guarded the fairy roaring, upon which, looking for her cake, she found it was gone. This threw her into the utmost agony,

not knowing how to save herself from being devoured by them ; when, hearing somebody cry—Hem ! hem ! she lifted up her eyes and beheld a little yellow man on a tree, half a yard high, picking and eating oranges.

“ Ah ! Queen,” said the Yellow Dwarf, (for so he was called on account of his complexion, and the orange-tree he lived in), “ how will you escape the lions ? There is but one way : I know what business brought you here ; promise me your daughter in marriage, and I will save you.” The Queen thought she could not but look upon so frightful a figure with horror, yet was forced to consent ; whereupon she instantly found herself in her own palace, and all that had passed seemed only as a dream ; nevertheless, she was so thoroughly persuaded of the reality of it, that she became melancholy.

The young Princess being unable to learn the cause of her dejection, resolved to go and inquire of the Desert Fairy ; and, accordingly, having prepared a cake for the lions, she also set off for her abode. It happened that All-Fair took exactly the same track her mother had done before her, and coming to the fatal tree, which was loaded with oranges, she had a mind to pick some ; therefore, setting down her basket wherein she carried the cake, she plentifully indulged herself. The lions now began to roar, when All-Fair, looking for her cake, was thrown into the utmost

trouble on finding it gone. As she was lamenting her deplorable situation, the Yellow Dwarf presented himself to her with these words: "Lovely Princess, dry up your tears, and hear what I am going to say: You need not proceed to the Desert Fairy to know the reason of your mother's indisposition, she is ungenerous enough to repent of having promised you, her adorable daughter, to me in marriage."—"How!" interrupted the Princess; "my mother promised me to you in marriage! you! such a fright as you!"—"Nay, none of your scoffs," returned the Yellow Dwarf, "I wish you not to stir up my anger: if you will promise to marry me, I will be the tenderest and most loving husband in the world—if not, save yourself from the lions if you can." In short, the Princess was forced to give her word that she would have him, but with such agony of mind, that she fell into a swoon; out of which, when she recovered, she found herself in her own bed, finely adorned with ribbons, and a ring of a single red hair so fastened round her finger that it could not be got off.

This adventure had the same effect upon All-Fair, as the former had upon her mother. She grew melancholy; which was remarked and wondered at by the whole court. The best way to divert her they thought would be, to urge her to marry; which the Princess, who was now become less obstinate on that score than formerly, consented to; and,

thinking that such a pigmy as the Yellow Dwarf would not dare to contend with so gallant a person as the King of the Golden Mines, she fixed upon this king for her husband, who was exceedingly rich and powerful, and loved her to distraction. The most superb preparations were made for the nuptials, and the happy day was fixed; when, as they were proceeding to the ceremony, they saw moving towards them a box, whereon sat an old woman remarkable for her ugliness.—“ Hold, Queen and Princess,” cried she, knitting her brows, “ remember the promises you both made to my friend the Yellow Dwarf. I am the Desert Fairy, and if All-Fair does not marry him, I swear by my coif, I will burn my crutch.” The Queen and Princess were struck motionless by this unexpected greeting of the Fairy; but the Prince of the Golden Mines was exceedingly wroth; and holding his sword to her throat, “ Fly, wretch!” said he, or thy malice shall cost thee thy life.” No sooner had he uttered these words, than the top of the box flying off, out came the Yellow Dwarf, mounted upon a large Spanish cat, who placing himself between the King and the Fairy, uttered these words: “ Rash youth, thy rage shall be levelled at me, not at the Desert Fairy; I am thy rival, and claimed her by promise, and a single hair round her finger.”

This so enraged the King, that he cried

out, "contemptible creature! wert thou worthy of notice, I would sacrifice thee for thy presumption." Whereupon the Yellow Dwarf, clapping spurs to his cat, and drawing a large cutlass, defied the King to combat; and so they went into the court-yard. The sun then immediately turned red as blood, and it became dark: thunder and lightning followed, by the flashes whereof were perceived two giants vomiting fire on each side of the Yellow Dwarf.

The King behaved with such undaunted courage, as to give the Dwarf great perplexity; but was dismayed, when he saw the Desert Fairy, mounted on a winged griffin, with her head covered with snakes, strike the Princess so hard with a lance, that she fell into the Queen's arms all over with blood. He left the combat to go to her relief; but the Dwarf was too quick for him, and flying on his Spanish cat to the balcony where she was, he took her from her mother's arms, leaped with her upon the top of the palace, and immediately disappeared.

As the King stood confused, and astonished at this strange adventure, he suddenly found a mist before his eyes, and himself lifted up in the air by some extraordinary power: for the Desert Fairy had fallen in love with him. To secure him for herself, therefore, she carried him to a frightful cavern, hoping he would there forget All-Fair, and tried many artifices to complete her designs. But finding

this scheme ineffectual, she resolved to carry him to a place altogether as pleasant as the other was terrible; and accordingly set him by herself in a chariot drawn by swans. In passing through the air, he had the unspeakable surprise to see his adored Princess in a castle of polished steel, leaning her head on one hand, and wiping away the tears with the other. She happened to look up, and had the mortification to see the King sitting by the Fairy, who then, by her art, made herself appear extremely beautiful. Had not the King been sensible of the Fairy's power, he would certainly then have tried to free himself from her, by some means or other; but he knew it would be in vain, and therefore pretended to have a liking for her. At last they came to a stately palace, fenced on one side by walls of emeralds, and on the other by a boisterous sea.

The King, by pretending to be in love with the Fairy, obtained the liberty to walk by himself on the shore; and, as he was one day invoking the powers of the sea, he heard a voice, and presently after was surprised with the appearance of a Mermaid, which coming up with a pleasant smile, spoke these words:—O King of the Golden Mines, I well know all that has passed in regard to you and the fair Princess. Don't suspect this to be a contrivance of the Fairy's to try you, for I am an inveterate enemy both to her and the Yellow Dwarf; therefore, if you will

have confidence in me, I will lend you my assistance to procure the release not only of yourself but of All-Fair also." The overjoyed King promised to do whatever the Mermaid bid him; whereupon, setting him upon her tail, they sailed away on a rolling sea.

When they had sailed some time, "Now," said the Mermaid to the King, "we draw near the place where your Princess is kept by the Yellow Dwarf. You will have many enemies to fight before you can come to her; take, therefore, this sword, with which you may overcome every thing, provided you never let it go out of your hand." The King returned her all the thanks that the most grateful heart could suggest; and the Mermaid landed and took leave of him, promising him farther assistance when necessary.

The King boldly advanced, and meeting with two terrible sphinxes, laid them dead at his feet with his sword. Next he attacked six dragons that opposed him, and dispatched them also. Then he met with four and twenty nymphs, with garlands of flowers, at sight of whom he stopped, being loath to destroy so much beauty; when he heard a voice say, "Strike! strike! or you will lose your Princess for ever!" upon which he threw himself into the midst of them, and soon dispersed them. He now came in view of All-Fair, and hastening to her, exclaimed, "O my Princess, behold your faithful lover!" But she, drawing back, replied, "Faithful

lover! Did I not see you passing through the air with a beautiful nymph? Were you faithful then?" "Yes," replied the King, "I was. That was the detested Desert Fairy, who was carrying me to a place where I must have languished out all my days, had it not been for a kind Mermaid, by whose assistance it is that I am now come to release you." So saying, he cast himself at her feet; but, catching hold of her gown, unfortunately let go the magic sword; which the Yellow Dwarf no sooner discovered, than, leaping from behind a shrub where he had been concealed, he ran and seized it. By two cabalistical words he then conjured up a couple of giants, who laid the King in irons. "Now," said the Dwarf, "my rival's fate is in my own hands; however, if he will consent to my marriage, he shall have his life and liberty." "No," said the King, "I scorn thy favour on such terms;" which so provoked the Dwarf, that he instantly stabbed him to the heart. The disconsolate Princess, aggravated to the last degree at such barbarity, thus vented her grief: Thou hideous creature! since entreaties could not avail thee, perhaps thou now reliest upon force; but thou shalt be disappointed, and thy brutal soul shall know perpetual mortification from the moment I tell thee I die for the love I have for the King of the Golden Mines!" And so saying, she sunk down upon his body, and expired without a sigh.

Thus ended the fate of these two faithful lovers, which the Mermaid very much regretted; but, all her power lying in the sword, she could only change them into two palm-trees; which, preserving a constant mutual affection for each other, caress and unite their branches together.

THE
STORY
OF
PUSS IN BOOTS.

THERE was a miller who had three sons, and when he died he divided his property among them in this manner: He gave his mill to the eldest, his ass to the second, and his Cat to the youngest.

Each of the brothers took his own share without the help of an attorney, who would soon have brought their little fortune to nothing in law expenses.

The poor fellow who had nothing but the cat, complained that he was very ill used: "My brothers," said he, "may join their stocks together, and do very well in the world; but as for me, when I have eaten my

PUSS IN BOOTS.



cat, and made a fur-cap of his skin, I may soon die of hunger."

The Cat, who was all this time listening just inside the door of a cup-board, now ventured to come out, and spoke to him in these words :

"Do not be so much grieved, my good master ; only give me a bag, and get a pair of boots made for me, so that I may scamper through the dirt and the hedges, and you shall see that you are not so badly off as you think."

Though the Cat's master did not depend much upon these promises, yet he had often seen the cunning tricks of Puss in catching rats and mice ; such as hanging up by the hind-legs, as if he was dead, and hiding in the meal ; so he thought it very likely he might be of some use to him in his forlorn case.

When the Cat had got the things he asked for, he began to dress himself. He first drew on the boots : and next put the bag about his neck, and taking hold of the strings with his fore-paws. He then told his master to keep up his spirits, and walked boldly out to seek for adventures.

The first attempt Puss made, was to go into a warren that had a great number of rabbits in it. He put some bran and some parsley into his bag, and then stretched himself out at full length, as if he was dead. In this manner he waited for some young rabbits, who as yet did not know any thing about his

cunning tricks, to come and get into the bag, for the sake of the nice things in it.

Soon after he had lain down, every thing happened just as he could have wished. A giddy young rabbit crept into the bag; and the cat drew the strings of it directly, so that he was caught, and then killed him without mercy.

Puss was proud of his good luck; and went straight to the palace, where he asked to speak with the king. When he was shown into the room of his Majesty, he made a low bow, and said, "I have brought you, Sire, this rabbit, from the warren of my Lord Marquis of Carrabas, who ordered me to present it to your Majesty, with his most humble respects." Now, the Marquis of Carrabas was only a sham name that the Cat thought proper to give his master. "Tell your Lord Marquis of Carrabas," answered the king, "that I accept of his present with pleasure, and that I am very much obliged to him."

Soon after, the Cat laid himself down in the same manner in a field of corn, and had the same good fortune as before; for two very fine partridges got into his bag. He killed these also, and carried them to the palace. The king received them as he had done the rabbit, and ordered his servants to give the Cat something to drink. In this manner he carried a great many presents of game to the king, saying, that they came from my

Lord Marquis of Carrabas, (as he called his master), at least once every week.

One day, the Cat heard that the king was going to take a ride that morning by the river-side with his daughter, who was the most beautiful princess in the world. Upon this he said to his master, "If you will but follow my advice, your fortune is made. Take off your clothes and bathe yourself in the river, just in the place I shall direct you, and leave the rest to me."

His master knew what a good and faithful servant Puss was to him, and therefore did just as he desired, though he could not guess what the Cat intended. While he was bathing, the king passed by, and Puss directly cried out as loud as he could. "Help, help, or else my Lord Marquis of Carrabas will be drowned." The king heard the cries, and put his head out at the window of his coach to ask what was the matter; when he saw the very cat who had brought him so many presents. He then ordered his servants to run, and do all they could for my Lord Marquis of Carrabas.

While they were busy in taking the Cat's master out of the river, Puss ran to the king's coach, and told his Majesty, That while his master was bathing, some thieves had run away with his clothes as they lay by the river-side. But the truth was, that the cun-

ning Cat all the time had hid them himself under a large stone.

When the king heard this, he sent the officer of his wardrobe to fetch one of the handsomest suits in it, and gave it to my Lord Marquis of Carrabas; and at the same time paid him a thousand compliments. The fine clothes that were brought, made the Cat's master look like a gentleman; and as he was very comely himself, they set him off to the best advantage; so that the king's daughter was very much pleased with him; and as soon as he had cast two or three tender glances upon her, she became quite in love with him.

The king made him get into the carriage, and take a ride with them. The Cat was charmed to see how well it all was likely to end; so Puss ran before, till coming to a field where the corn was reaping, said to the men that were at work, "Good people, if you do not tell the king, when he passes this way, that the field belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carrabas, you shall all of you be chopped as small as minced meat."

The king did not fail to ask the reapers, Who was the owner of the field? "My Lord Marquis of Carrabas," said they all at once: for the words of the Cat had frightened them terribly. "You have got a fine piece of land here, my Lord Marquis," said the king, "Yes, Sire," answered he, "and it brings me a very good harvest every year."

The Cat still went on before; and next came to a field where some men were making the corn they had reaped into sheaves. He said to these people the same as to the other, "Good folks if you do not tell the king, when he passes this way, that the corn you have reaped in this field belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carrabas, you shall all of you be chopped as small as minced meat."

The king came by a minute or two after, and again asked, Who was the owner of this corn? "My Lord Marquis of Carrabas," answered they all; and then the king turned to the Cat's master, and told him he saw he had got a very large estate.

The Cat again went on before, and gave the same orders to all the people he met with, so that the king admired the great fortune of my Lord Marquis of Carrabas.

At last Puss came to a large stone castle that belonged to an Ogre, who was the richest that ever was known: for all the lands that the king had passed through, and asked about, were really his. The Cat took care to learn every thing about the Ogre, and what he could do. He then asked to speak with him; and said, as he came into the room where the Ogre was sitting, "That he could not pass so near his castle without doing himself the honour to ask after his health."

The Ogre received him as civilly as an Ogre could do, and told him to sit down. "I have

heard," said the Cat, "that you are able to change yourself into all sorts of creatures; such as a lion, or an elephant." "It is true," answered the Ogre rather gruffly, "and to shew you that it is so, I will now take the form of a lion." The Cat was so much frightened, when he found himself so close to a lion, that he jumped away, and climbed to the top of the house; but he could not do this without a great deal of trouble, as his boots were not fit to walk upon the tiles with.

After two or three minutes, when the Cat saw that the Ogre had taken his own shape again, he came down from the tiles, and owned that he had been very much afraid. "I have been told too," said the Cat, "but can hardly believe it, that you are able to turn yourself into very small creatures also, as often as you like; such as a rat or a mouse; but indeed I have always thought this cannot be true." "Well, then," said the Ogre, "you shall soon see; and in a moment he changed himself into a mouse, and began to run about the room. As soon as ever Puss cast his eyes upon the Ogre in this form, he sprung upon him, killed him, and ate him up at a mouthful.

In the mean time the king came near the fine castle of the Ogre, and ordered his coachman to drive up to the gates, that he might take a nearer view of it. When Puss heard the noise of the coach near the walls, he

came out at the gates, and said, "Your Majesty is welcome to the castle of my Lord Marquis of Carrabas." "What," said the king, turning to the Cat's master, "and is this castle yours too, my Lord Marquis of Carrabas? I never saw any thing finer than this building, nor more beautiful than the parks and pleasure-grounds round it; I dare say the castle is quite as noble in the inside as out-side. Pray, my Lord Marquis, allow me to have a sight of it."

The Cat's master gave his hand to the young princess as she got out of the coach, and walked after the king, who went first. They came into a large hall, where they found on the table a noble dinner, that the Ogre had got ready for some friends who were to visit him that day; but when these friends heard, that the king and the princess, with some great gentlemen of the court, were there, they were afraid to come.

The king was very much pleased with the manners and the noble fortune of the Marquis of Carrabas, (as he called him); and the young princess, too, had fallen deep in love with him; so that when the king had eaten a little of the Ogre's treat, and drunk a few glasses of wine, he said to him, "My Lord Marquis of Carrabas, it will be your own fault, if you do not soon become my son-in-law." When the Cat's master heard this, he bowed, and gave his majesty a thousand

humble thanks; and said he was afraid he was not worthy of such an high honour; but as the king would have it so, he gladly took the hand of the princess, and they were married that very day.

In his good fortune he did not forget his kind Cat, who had brought him to it all. Puss was made a great lord of his court, and never more ran after rats and mice, but when he chose to have some sport.

ALMERINE and SHELIMAH.

OMARADDIN, a nobleman in the court of Soliman, emperor of the east, had two daughters, Almerine and Shelimah. At the birth of Almerine the fairy Elfarina had presided; and, in compliance with the requests of the parents, had endowed her with every excellence, and decreed that she should be sought in marriage by a sovereign prince. When the wife of Omaraddin was pregnant with Shelimah, the fairy Elfarina was again invoked; at which Farimina, another fairy, was offended. Farimina was inexorable and cruel; Elfarina placable and benevolent; and fairies of this character were observed to be superior in power. Elfarina therefore resolved that her influence should not be wanting; and, as far as she was

able, precluded the influence of Farimina, who had decreed, that the person of Shelimah should be rendered hideous by every species of deformity, and that all her wishes should produce an opposite effect.

The parents dreaded the birth of the infant under this malediction; the moment they beheld it, they were solicitous only to conceal it from the world. They sent her, with only one attendant, to a remote castle, which stood on the confines of a wood.

Elfarina did not thus, however, forsake innocence in distress; but, to counterbalance the evils of obscurity, neglect, and ugliness, decreed, that to the taste of Shelimah, the coarsest food should be the most exquisite dainty; that the rags which covered her should, in her estimation, be equal to cloth of gold; that she should prize a cottage more than a palace, and that in these circumstances, love should be a stranger to her breast.

While Shelimah was immured in a remote castle, neglected and forgotten, every city in the dominions of Soliman contributed to decorate the person, or cultivate the mind of Almerine; yet, amidst all these accomplishments, she was haughty and fierce, and, upon the whole, disagreeable. Among many others by whom Almerine had been taught to investigate nature, Nourassin, the physician, had acquainted her with the qualities of trees and herbs, and of Nourassin she became enamoured to the most romantic excess.

It was the custom of the nobles to present their daughters to the sultan, when they entered their eighteenth year; an event which Almerine had always anticipated with impatience and hope, but now wished to prevent with solicitude and terror. The period at length arrived. Soliman was now in his thirtieth year; he had sat ten years upon the throne, and, for the steadiness of his virtue, had been surnamed the Just.

Soliman having gazed some moments upon Almerine with silent admiration, rose up, and turning to the princes that stood round him, said, "To-morrow I will grant the request which you have so often repeated, and place a beauty on my throne, by whom I may transmit my dominion to posterity: to-morrow the daughter of Omaraddin shall be my wife." The joy with which Omaraddin heard this declaration, was abated by the effect which it produced upon Almerine; who, after some ineffectual struggles with the passion which agitated her mind, threw herself into the arms of her woman, and burst into tears. Soliman immediately dismissed his attendants, and taking her in his arms, inquired the cause of her distress; this, however, was a secret which neither her pride nor her fear would suffer her to reveal. He desisted from further importunity, and commanded that her woman should remove her to a private apartment of the palace, and that she should be attended by his physician, Nourassin.

Nourassin, who had already learned what had happened, found his despair relieved by another interview. The lovers, however, were restrained from condolence and consultation by the presence of the woman, who could not be dismissed; but Nourassin put a small vial into the hand of Almerine as he departed, and told her, that it contained a cordial, which, if administered in time, would infallibly restore the cheerfulness and vigour that she had lost. These words were heard by the attendants, though they were understood only by Almerine; she readily comprehended the contents of the vial was poison, which would relieve her from languor and melancholy, by removing the cause, if it could be given to the sultan before her marriage was completed.

The sultan rose at the dawn of day, and sending for her principal attendants, who had been ordered to watch in her chamber, eagerly inquired what had been her behaviour. He was acquainted, that she had lately fallen asleep, and that a cordial had been left by Nourassin, which he affirmed would, if not too long delayed, suddenly recover her from dejection, and which, notwithstanding, she had neglected to take. Soliman derived new hopes from this intelligence, and, that she might meet him at the hour of marriage with the cheerful vivacity which the cordial of Nourassin would inspire, he ordered that it

should, without asking her any questions, be mixed with whatever she first drank in the morning.

Almerine, in whose blood the long-continued tumult of the mind had produced a feverish heat, awaked parched with thirst, and called eagerly for drink: her attendant, having first emptied the vial into the bowl, as she had been commanded by the sultan, presented it to her, and she drank it off.

As soon as she recollected the horrid business of the day, she missed the vial, and in a few moments learned how it had been applied. The sudden terror which now seized her, hastened the effects of the poison.

Her disorder was now apparent, though the cause was not suspected, Nourassin was again introduced, and made acquainted with the mistake; an antidote was immediately prepared and administered; and Almerine waited the event in agonies of body and mind which are not to be described.

The commotion every instant increased; and in less than an hour she was covered with a leprosy, her hair fell, her head swelled, and every feature in her countenance was distorted.

Soliman, after he had recovered from his astonishment, retired to his own apartment, and, in the interval of recollection, he soon discovered, that the desire of beauty had seduced him from the path of justice, and that he ought to have dismissed the person whose

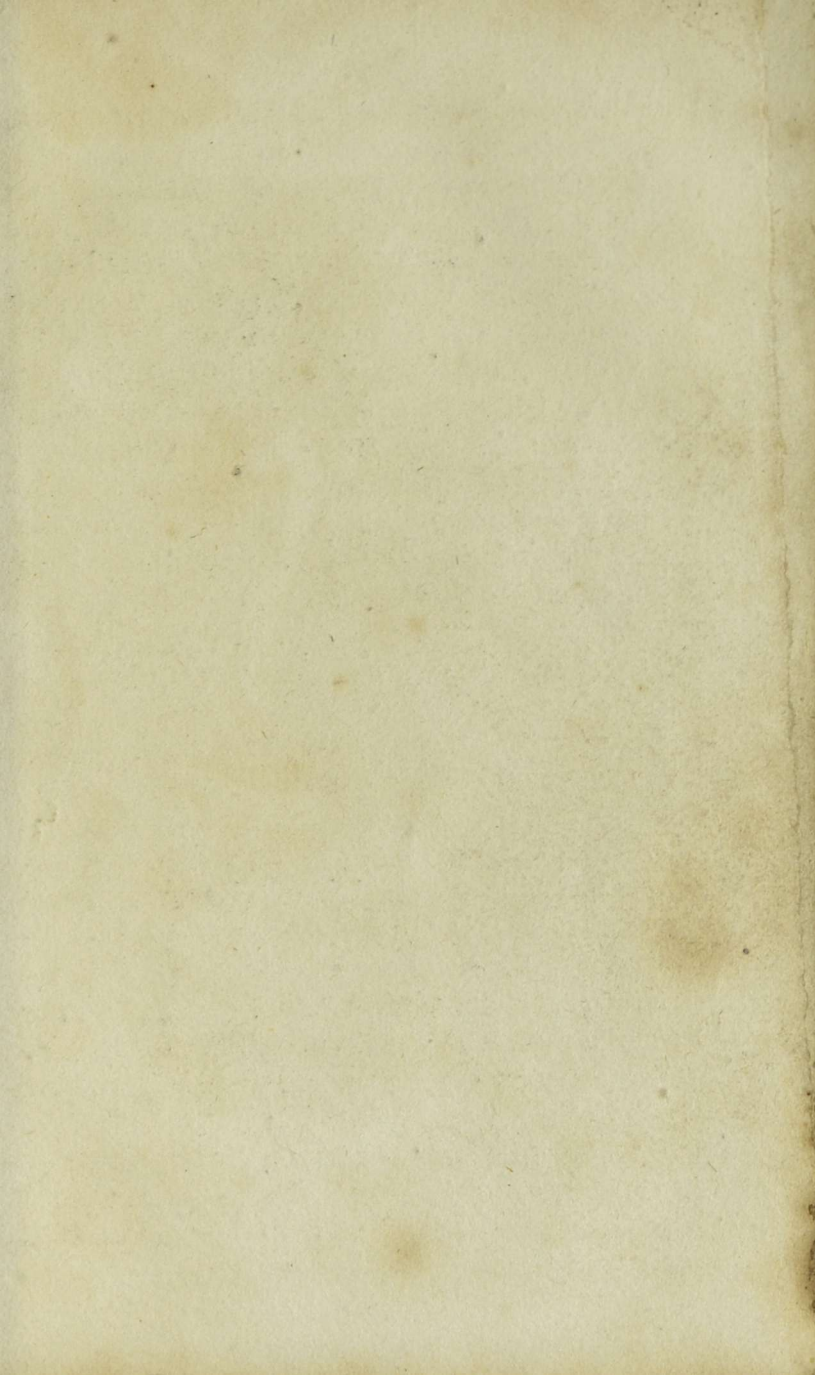
affections he believed to have another object. He did not therefore take away the life of Nourassin, for a crime to which himself had furnished the temptation ; but as some punishment was necessary, as a sanction to the laws, he condemned him to perpetual banishment. He commanded that Almerine should be sent back to her father, that her life might be a memorial of her folly ; and he determined, if possible, to atone by a second marriage, for the errors of the first.

Shelimah, during these events, experienced a very different fortune. She remained till she was thirteen years of age in the castle ; and it happened, that about this time the person to care she had been committed, after a short sickness, died. Shelimah imagined that she slept ; but perceiving that all attempts to awaken her were ineffectual, and the stock of provisions being exhausted, she found means to open the wicket, and wandered alone in the wood ; and at night, not being able to find her way back, lay down under a thicket and slept.

Here she was awakened early in the morning by a peasant. The man asked her many questions ; but her answer rather increasing than gratifying his curiosity, he set her before him on his beast, and carried her to his house in the next village. In this family she was the jest of some, and the pity of others ; she was employed in the meanest offices, and her figure procured her the name of goblin.

In this situation she had continued four years, when the heralds appeared in the village with the proclamation of Soliman. Shelimah ran out with others to gaze at the parade; she listened to the proclamation with great attention, and when it was ended, she perceived that the eyes of the multitude were fixed on her. One of the horsemen at the same time alighted, and with great ceremony entreated her to enter a chariot which was in the retinue, telling her, that she was without doubt the person whom nature and Soliman had destined to be their queen. Shelimah replied with a smile, that if your proclamation be true, I should rejoice to be the instrument of such admonition to mankind; and upon this condition I wish indeed to be the most deformed of my species. The moment this wish was uttered, the spell of Farimina produced a contrary effect. A white robe was thrown over her by an invisible hand, the crowd fell back in astonishment, and gazed with insatiable curiosity upon such beauty as before they had never seen. Shelimah was, with much impurity, prevailed upon by the heralds to enter the chariot, who returned with her to the metropolis, presented her to Soliman, and related the prodigy.

The nuptial ceremony was not long delayed, and the good fairy Elfarina honoured it with her presence, and, when she departed, bestowed on both her benediction.



LITTLE THUMB.



MINET ;

OR,

LITTLE THUMB.

THERE lived formerly in the kingdom of Navarre, a Count who possessed many castles and large domains. His manner of living, however, was so extravagant, that he sold one estate after another to supply his expenses, and he was at last reduced to extreme poverty. It is impossible to conceive any situation more distressful than that of a poor gentleman, who knows no labour or trade by which he can procure bread for his wife and starving family. Such was the case with the Count, and his difficulties were not a little augmented by a scarcity, which then prevailed throughout the land. He had a wife and four children to provide for, who had been accustomed, during his affluence, to every luxury; except the youngest, Minet, called Little Thumb, from the smallness of his sta-

ture ; and who, from some dislike which his parents had conceived for him, had always been treated with extreme harshness and severity. He was at this time about five years old ; and, with an extraordinary sweetness of disposition, possessed a degree of understanding much beyond his age. He tried, by the most affectionate attentions, to soothe the gloomy hours of his father and mother : but his efforts were unnoticed. He often gave up the scanty morsel that was destined for his own meal, to increase the allowance of his sister and brothers ; but they always received it with insolence, as something they had a right to.

It was the custom of their mother to put these children to bed at an early hour, in order to save a meal which she had not the power to give them ; and she generally spent her evening afterwards in contriving with the Count plans for alleviating their distress. They were thus engaged one night, when little Minet, whom hunger kept awake, overheard the Count propose to his wife to take the four children out early the next morning, and to lose them in a distant forest, whence they would not be able to find their way back. ‘ Ah ! (cried the tender mother) can I consent to destroy my children ? I would rather bear to see them die with hunger, which I cannot prevent, than be myself the cause of their death.’ Her husband repre-

sented to her again and again, the chance there was that some charitable person might find and take them home to nourish and keep; whereas, if they remained much longer with him, they must inevitably perish for want of food. These arguments, however, failed to convince the tender-hearted Countess, and he was obliged to lay his commands that it should be done, which she was too good a wife to dispute. It was at last, therefore, agreed, that they should both go with the children early in the morning.

Minet arose before the dawn of day, went to a neighbouring brook, where he filled his pocket with little white pebbles, and returned home before his father and mother got up. When they were all ready to set out, the children received each a small piece of bread, the last which the poor Countess had left. They proceeded a long way, wandering about the country till the sun became too hot for them; and they entered a shady wood to rest themselves. Minet had taken care to drop his little white pebbles occasionally as they went, and he had no doubt that, by their assistance, he should find his way back. The three elder children, who knew nothing of what their parents intended, soon feeling themselves rested, began to gather nosegays of the numberless wild flowers which grew round them in great luxuriance. In doing this, they strayed to a considerable distance

from the Count and Countess, who, as soon as the children were out of sight, immediately returned home, though not without many deep sighs by the way from the mother. When the children found themselves alone, and had sought for their parents, they began to cry bitterly. The little Minet suffered them to cry for some time, knowing well he had it in his power to return home when he chose. At length he said to them, ' Be not afraid, for I can take you home, if you will only follow me.' They followed, as he directed them; and towards evening, arrived safe at their own door; but, as they were afraid to enter, they stood some time to listen what was going forward within.

It happened that the Count and Countess, on their arrival at home, met the servant of a neighbouring farmer, who having once received some favours from the Count in his prosperity, now thought to acknowledge them, and had therefore sent him a present of a cheese and some cakes, together with a basket of dried fruits. This supply was highly acceptable, and they sat down to make a meal of part of it; but the grief of the Countess would not suffer her to eat, though she had not tasted food that day. ' Alas! (said she) if my children were now here, how happy should I be to feed them. Heaven has sent us provision enough for two or three days; let us then return to the forest and bring

them back.' 'It is in vain, (said the Count) they have by this time wandered too far for us to find them, or they are perhaps devoured by the wolves.' 'No, no, no, (said the oldest of the children, at the outside of the door) we are here, and want you to let us in.' The door was immediately opened, the Countess was delighted to embrace her children again, and the Count either really was, or feigned to be, pleased with their return. They sat down together, and made a better meal than any of the family had done for some time.

It might be supposed that, after this instance of care and kindness from Minet to his sister and brothers, they would have treated him with more gentleness and affection; but they did not seem to abate any thing of their former cruelty. Their short supply of provisions was at length exhausted, and the Count once more determined to take his children out for the purpose of losing them. Minet, however, overheard the proposal, and determined to provide accordingly. He got up, therefore, before it was quite day to collect once more a supply of pebbles; but great indeed was his grief and distress, when he found the doors so locked and bolted that he could not get out, and knew not what to do, till recollecting that they should each have a piece of bread before they set out, he resolved to save his portion, and to scatter it in crumbs by the way, instead of pebbles. The

father and mother then took them into a farther and more intricate part of the forest, and then getting by degrees behind them, they suddenly turned into a different path, and left them entirely. The three elder children, when they discovered this, were greatly afflicted, and began to cry: but Minet, who had taken care to scatter his bread as they went, seemed not at all disturbed, trusting that he should be able to find his way home as well as before. His brothers observing his confidence, and supposing from that, that he had some means of assisting them, began to caress him very much, and to call him dear brother, with many other kind expressions: his sister, too, called him dear little Minet, and begged that he would help them. He could not resist their entreaties, and accordingly he set out with them to return home; but no one can conceive the grief of all the party, when they could not find a single crumb of bread any where, to guide their steps; for the birds, who seldom got such a treat, had eaten them all. Thus, then, they were left to wander without a guide, and without food. The night came on, and a terrible wind arose, that filled their little hearts with fear and trembling; they thought, too, they heard the howlings of wild beasts, and this would have seemed sufficient to complete their distress; but they had yet more to suffer, for the rain began to fall in heavy

showers, that soon wet their clothes through, and the ground became so slippery, that they fell almost at every step, till their hands, faces, and garments, were wholly covered with dirt.

In the midst of their difficulties, great as they were, the good sense of little Minet did not forsake him: he climbed up to the top of a high tree, to see if he could discover any sort of habitation; when, having looked around for some time, he perceived a light, though at a great distance. He descended full of the joyful tidings; but to his great affliction, when down, he could see nothing of it. However, he encouraged his brothers and sister; and proceeding with them in the direction from which the light had seemed to come, he perceived it again just as they arrived at the extremity of the wood. After encountering many more difficulties, they at length reached the door of the house; yet it was a long time before any one of them had courage to knock. Minet at last took this upon himself; and having knocked softly, the door was opened by a woman, who asked what they wanted. ‘We are four unfortunate children, (answered Minet) who having lost our way in the forest, are come to beg of you a night’s lodging for charity.’ At this the good woman began to weep bitterly: ‘Alas! my little dears, (said she) my husband is one of those ferocious giants that devour little children, and you cannot escape him if

I admit you here : his smell is so keen, that he can perceive human flesh at a great distance.' 'Ah! madam, (replied Minet) let us try if our helpless state will not move his pity ; for if we remain in the forest, we cannot save ourselves from the wolves that already begin to howl for prey.' The giant's wife, who thought she could perhaps conceal them till the next morning, resolved to let them in. She placed them before a large fire to warm themselves, where they saw a whole sheep roasting for the giant's supper ; but scarcely had they began to feel dried and comforted by the heat, than they heard three great knocks at the door : it was the giant himself, returned before his usual time. The good woman immediately hid the children under the bed, and hastened to open the door. He entered, and having demanded with a frightful voice, if the supper and the wine were ready, sat himself down to table. The sheep was yet raw and bloody, but he liked it better for that, and soon devoured the whole. He then began smelling about on all sides, saying, in an angry tone, 'I smell new flesh.' 'It must be, (said the wife) the calf which I have just killed that you smell.' 'I tell you, (said the giant, still more enraged) it is new flesh, and there is something more in the house than I know of.' With these words he rose, and went straight to the bed. 'This, then, is the way that thou deceivest me, vile

woman, (said he) and if thou wert not so old, I would eat thee up for it. 'These will be a great treat for some of my brothers, that are coming to see me in a day or two.' He then drew the poor children from their concealment, one after another; they threw themselves at his feet, entreating pardon for being in his house; but tears, cries, and supplications, were equally in vain; he felt nothing, except the desire to eat them, and turning to his wife, he cried, 'O, these will be delicate dishes when you have made a good sauce for them.' Full of this idea, he took a large knife, and sharpening it on a stone that he held in his left hand, he advanced towards his trembling victims, one of whom he had already seized; when his wife interrupting him, said, 'What would you do at this time of night? The children are in your power; and will you not have time enough to-morrow?' 'Hold your tongue, (replied the sanguinary monster) they will be thin to-morrow.' 'But, (answered the wife) you have provisions in plenty; here is a calf, two sheep, and half a pig.' 'Right, (said the giant) so give them a good supper, that they may grow fat, and then put them to bed.' The good woman was delighted with the command, and gave to each a large allowance; but fear prevented them from eating. The giant, in the mean time, sat down to his wine, and pleased with the thought of giving so delicate a treat to his

friends, he drank till the wine got into his head.

The giant had four children, that were yet young, and were of a fair and pleasing complexion, though they devoured human flesh like their father; but they had little round grey eyes, flat noses, and long sharp teeth, set wide from each other. They promised already what they would some day grow to be; for at this early age, they would bite little children on purpose to suck their blood. These children were all put to bed at an early hour, in a large bed, having each a night-cap of tiger's skin on its head. The four children who had taken refuge in the house, were placed in another bed of the same size by the good woman, who then went to lie down by the side of her cruel husband.

Minet, who observed that the giant's children had caps on their heads, and thought, perhaps, he might awake, and repent not having eaten his prey before he went to rest, got up in the middle of the night, and taking his bonnet, and those of his brothers and sister, he exchanged them dexterously for the tiger caps of the young giants. The case turned out exactly as little Minet expected: the giant awoke in the night, and thought how foolishly he had acted, in deferring till the morrow an excellent repast, that he might have made the evening before. He sprang out of bed, and taking his great sabre, 'Come,

(said he to himself) let us see how it fares with our little visitors: we will not make two meals of them.'

With these intentions he crept softly into the chamber where the children lay, and approaching the bed in which were those of the Count, he felt at their heads, one by one, of which they were not sensible, except Minet, who lay awake and trembling for fear of discovery. The giant feeling the well-known caps on the heads of all four, said, 'Truly I must have drank too much last night, thus to mistake one bed for the other.' He went then immediately to the bed where his own children were asleep, and feeling on their heads the bonnets of the Count's children, he cut their throats in a moment, and without remorse. Pleased with what he had done, he returned to his wife's bed, and fell fast asleep; but as soon as Minet heard him snore, he awoke his brothers and sister, telling them to dress themselves quickly and follow him. They descended quietly into the garden, and having climbed over the wall, they ran or walked all the night, trembling with apprehension, and knowing nothing of the road they had taken.

The giant as soon as he opened his eyes in the morning, said to his wife, 'Go, and dress our little guests of last night;' which order pleased her so much, that she hastened to comply with it; little thinking what kind of

dressing he meant. Great, indeed, therefore, was the good woman's surprise and grief, when on entering the chamber, she found her own children dead, and covered with their blood. She was near falling to the ground, as senseless as the mistaken victims of her husband's brutal appetite.

The giant, at last, thinking his wife long in executing the task to which he had commanded her, hastened up stairs to assist her, and saw in a moment the shocking sight. 'Ah! what have I done? (he roared out.) Dearly shall they pay for their cunning, and that too in a few minutes.' Then throwing a bason of water in his wife's face, which soon recovered her, he said, 'Give me my seven league boots, that I may overtake them.'

Thus equipped, he set out and traversed the country in different directions, for a long time, without success; till at last, by chance, he took the road in which the poor children were eagerly travelling, and had arrived within half a mile of their home. They saw the giant advancing with great strides from hill to hill, and crossing the largest rivers, as if they were little brooks. Minet, who was the leader and captain of the little band, saw a hollow rock near him, and having made his sister and brothers conceal themselves in it, he crept in likewise after them; but kept frequently peeping out, to see what became of their terrible pursuer. The giant, tired with

the exertions he had made, for the use of the seven league boots was very fatiguing, wished to rest himself awhile, and by accident laid down on the very rock in which the children were concealed. Fatigue begets the want of repose, and in a few minutes he fell fast asleep, snoring so loud that the Count's unfortunate offspring, were little less afraid than when he held his knife to their throats the night before.

Minet having more presence of mind than the rest, told them to make haste home while their enemy was unable to follow them. Having thus kindly provided for the immediate safety of his brothers and sister, he approached the giant with great caution, and pulling off his wonderful boots, which he put on without delay. The boots, it is true, were very tall and very wide, but as they were formed by a fairy, they had the property of adapting themselves to the legs of any one who wore them. Minet then set out, with all the speed his boots could give, for the giant's house, where he found the good mother weeping for her slaughtered children. "Your husband, (said he, addressing her,) is in great peril; he has been taken while asleep, by a band of robbers, who have vowed to kill him, unless he gives them all his gold and silver. In this moment of distress, with the weapons of the robbers at his throat, perceiving me, he prayed me to acquaint you with his danger, and

to desire that you would send him all his money and valuables without reserve, or his life would become the forfeit. As the case does not admit of delay, he has given me his seven-league boots, that I might not be long on the way, and that you might be convinced I do not wish to deceive you." The good woman who knew it was her duty to preserve her husband, notwithstanding his faults, gave Minet all the wealth in the house, which loaded him heavily; yet he departed highly pleased with the burden.

This deceit is certainly not justifiable on any ground; because every word that Minet spoke to the giant's wife was untrue; but his anxiety to relieve the distresses of his parents, made him forget, that we should never do wrong with a view to promote the good of any one. He proceeded instantly to the house of the Count, and found the whole family lamenting his absence; for though the Count had now no further means of supporting his children, than he had some days before, yet he was so moved with the account which he had just received, of the truly fraternal care with which this extraordinary child had preserved his brothers and sister, who now heartily repented the manner in which they had formerly treated him, that he had determined thenceforwards to trust in Providence, and never again think to separate his children from him. In these circumstances, it is not

easy to imagine the great joy that filled every heart, when Minet entering their apartment, and poured out before their astonished eyes, the treasures with which he was loaded.

The Count immediately repurchased the lands and castles that he had before sold; and, instructed by his late sufferings, spent afterwards his time and his wealth in improving the minds of his children, or in acts of benevolence to the surrounding poor. Minet sold his boots for a very large sum of money to the king, who was thereby enabled, in time of war, to convey his commands and instructions to his armies in an instant, and thus became one of the most powerful monarchs in that part of the world.

THE
HISTORY
OF

JACK and the BEAN-STALK.

IN the days of King Alfred, there lived a poor woman, whose cottage was situated in a remote country village, a great many miles from London.

She had been a widow some years, and had an only child, named Jack, whom she indulged to a fault; the consequence of her blind partiality was, that Jack did not pay the least attention to any thing she said, but was indolent, careless, and extravagant. His follies were not owing to a bad disposition, but his mother having never checked him. By degrees, she disposed of all she possessed—scarcely any thing remained but a cow.

The poor woman one day met Jack with tears in her eyes; her distress was great, and, for the first time in her life, she could not help reproaching him, saying, ‘Indeed, dear son, you have at last brought me to beggary and ruin; I have not money enough to purchase food for another day—nothing remains for me but to sell my cow. I am very sorry to part with her; it grieves me sadly, but we must not starve.’

For five minutes Jack felt a degree of remorse, but it was soon over, and he importuned his mother to let him sell the cow at the next village. As he was going along, he met a butcher, who inquired why he was driving the cow from home? Jack replied, it was his intention to sell her. The butcher held some curious beans in his hat; they were of various colours, and attracted Jack’s notice: this did not pass unnoticed by the butcher, who, knowing Jack’s easy temper, thought now was the time to take advantage of it, and

determined not to let slip so good an opportunity, asked what was the price of the cow, offering at the same time all the beans in his hat for her. The silly boy could not express his pleasure at what he supposed so great an offer: the bargain was struck instantly, and the cow exchanged for a few paltry beans. Jack made the best of his way home, calling aloud to his mother before he reached the house, thinking to surprise her.

When she saw the beans, and heard Jack's account, her patience quite forsook her, she kicked the beans away in a passion—they flew in all directions, some were scattered into the garden. The poor woman reflected on her great loss, and was quite in despair. Not having any thing to eat, they both went supperless to bed.

Jack awoke very early in the morning, and, seeing something uncommon from the window of his bedchamber, ran down stairs into the garden, where he soon discovered that some of the beans had taken root, and sprung up surprisingly: the stalks were of an immense thickness, and had so entwined, that they formed a ladder nearly like a chain in appearance.

Looking upwards, he could not discern the top, it appeared to be lost in the clouds: he tried it, found it firm, and not to be shaken. He quickly formed the resolution of endeavouring to climb up to the top, in order to

seek his fortune, and ran to communicate his intention to his mother, not doubting but she would be equally pleased with himself. She declared he should not go; said he would break her heart, entreated, and threatened, but all in vain. Jack set out, and, after climbing for some hours, reached the top of the bean-stalk, fatigued and quite exhausted. Looking around, he found himself in a strange country: it appeared to be a desert, quite barren; not a tree, shrub, house, or living creature to be seen; here and there were scattered fragments of unhewn stone, and, at unequal distances, small heaps of earth were loosely thrown together. Jack seated himself pensively upon a block stone, thought of his mother, and reflected with sorrow on his disobedience in climbing the bean-stalk against her inclination: he concluded that he must now die with hunger.

However he walked on, hoping to see a house where he might beg something to eat and drink: presently an infirm woman appeared at a distance; as she approached, he saw that she was old, her skin much wrinkled, and her tattered garments proved poverty. She accosted Jack, inquiring how he came there; he related the circumstance of the bean-stalk. She then asked if he recollected his father? he replied he did not; and added, that there must be some mystery relating to him, for he had frequently asked his mother

who his father was, but that she always burst into tears, and appeared violently agitated, nor did she recover for some days after; one thing, however, he could not avoid observing upon those occasions, which was, that she always carefully avoided answering him, and even seemed afraid of speaking, as if there were some secret connected with his father's history which she must not disclose.

The old woman replied, ' I will reveal the whole story, your mother must not; but, before I begin, I require a solemn promise on your part to do what I command: I am a fairy, and if you do not perform exactly what I desire, your mother and yourself shall both be destroyed. Jack was frightened at the old woman's menaces, and promised to fulfil her injunctions exactly, and the fairy thus addressed him:—' Your father was a rich man, his disposition remarkably benevolent; he was very good to the poor, and constantly relieving them: he made it a rule never to let a day pass without doing a kindness to some person. On one particular day in the week he kept open house, and invited only those who were reduced and had lived well. He always presided himself, and did all in his power to render his guests comfortable; the rich and the great were not invited. The servants were all happy, and greatly attached to their master and mistress. Your father, though only a private gentleman, was as rich

as a prince, and he deserved all he possessed, for he only lived to do good. Such a man was soon known and talked of. A giant lived a great many miles off; this man was altogether as wicked as your father was good: he was in his heart envious, covetous, and cruel; but he had the art of concealing those vices. He was poor, and wished to enrich himself at any rate.

‘Hearing your father spoken of, he was determined to become acquainted with him, hoping to ingratiate himself into your father’s favour. He removed quickly into your neighbourhood, caused it to be reported that he was a gentleman who had just lost all he possessed by an earthquake, and found it difficult to escape with his life; his wife was with him. Your father gave credit to his story, and pitied him; he gave him handsome apartments in his own house, and caused himself and his wife to be treated like visitors of consequence, little imagining that the giant was meditating a horrid return for all his favours. Things went on in this way some time, the giant becoming daily more impatient to put his plan into execution; at last a favourable opportunity presented itself. Your father’s house was at some distance from the sea-shore, but with a good glass the coast could be seen distinctly. The giant was one day using the telescope; the wind was very high; he saw a fleet of ships in distress off the rocks; he

hastened to your father, mentioned the circumstance, and eagerly requested he would send all the servants he could spare to relieve the sufferers. Every one was instantly dispatched, except the porter and your nurse; the giant then joined your father in the study, and appeared to be delighted—he really was so. Your father recommended a favourite book, and was handing it down: the Giant took the opportunity and stabbed him; he instantly fell dead; the giant left the body, found the porter and nurse, and presently dispatched them. You were then only three months old; your mother had you in her arms in a remote part of the house, and was ignorant of what was going on; she went into the study, but how was she shocked, on discovering your father a corpse, and weltering in his blood! She was stupified with horror and grief, and was motionless. The giant, who was seeking her, found her in that state, and hastened to serve her and you as he had done her husband, but she fell at his feet, and in a pathetic manner besought him to spare your life and her's.

‘The cruel giant, for a short time, was struck with remorse, and spared your life and her's; but first he made her swear solemly, that she never would inform you who your father was, or answer any questions concerning him: assuring her, that if she did he would certainly discover her, and put both of

you to death in the most cruel manner. Your mother took you in her arms, and fled as quick as possible; she was scarcely gone, when the giant repented that he had suffered her to escape; he would have pursued her instantly, but he had his own safety to provide for, as it was necessary he should be gone before the servants returned. Having gained your father's confidence, he knew where to find all his treasure; he soon loaded himself and his wife, set the house on fire in several places, and when the servants returned, the house was burnt down to the ground.

‘ Your poor mother, forlorn, abandoned, and forsaken, wandered with you a great many miles from this scene of desolation; fear added to her haste: she settled in the cottage where you were brought up, and it was entirely owing to her fear of the giant that she has never mentioned your father to you.

‘ I became your father's guardian at his birth; but fairies have laws to which they are subject as well as mortals. A short time before the giant went to your father's, I transgressed; my punishment was a total suspension of power for a limited time: an unfortunate circumstance, as it prevented my succouring your father. The day on which you met the butcher, as you went to sell your mother's cow, my power was restored. It was I who secretly prompted you to take the beans in exchange for your cow. By my

power, the bean-stalk grew to so great a height and formed a ladder. I need not add, that I inspired you with a strong desire to ascend the ladder.

‘ The giant lives in this country ; you are the person appointed to punish him for all his wickedness. You will have dangers and difficulties to encounter, but you must persevere in avenging the death of your father, or you will not prosper in any of your undertakings, but always be miserable. As to the giant’s possessions, you may seize upon all with impunity ; for every thing he has is yours, though now you are unjustly deprived of it. One thing I strictly charge you—never let your mother be made acquainted with your journies beforehand ; the thought of it would kill her, for she has not yet thoroughly overcome the fright she encountered at your father’s death.* Go along the direct road, you will soon see the house where your cruel enemy lives. Remember the severe punishment that awaits you if you disobey my commands.’ So saying, the fairy disappeared, leaving Jack to pursue his journey.

He walked until after sunset, and soon, to his great joy, espied a large mansion. A plain

* Jack could not bear to deceive his mother, and besides, he knew it would make her more uneasy to set off clandestinely, than to inform her of his journey. The fairy, at first, strongly opposed this ; but Jack entreated her so earnestly, that she reluctantly consented : he promised to make it appear as a frolic of his own, and not that he acted by her command.

looking woman was standing at the door, he accosted her, begging she would give him a morsel of bread and a night's lodging. She expressed surprise on seeing him, said it was quite uncommon to see a human being near their house, for it was well known that her husband was a large and powerful giant, and that he would never eat any thing but human flesh, if he could possibly get it; that he did not think any thing of walking fifty miles to procure it, usually being out all day for that purpose.

This account terrified Jack, but still he hoped to elude the giant, and therefore again he entreated the woman to take him in for one night only, and hide him in the oven. The good woman at last suffered herself to be persuaded, for she was of a compassionate disposition. She gave him plenty to eat and drink, and took him into the house. First they entered a large hall, magnificently furnished; they then passed through several spacious rooms, all in the same stile of grandeur, though they appeared to be forsaken and desolate.

A long gallery was next; it was very dark, just light enough to shew, that instead of a wall on one side, there was a grating of iron which parted off a dismal dungeon, from whence issued the groans of those poor victims whom the giant reserved in confinement for his own voracious appetite. Poor Jack

was half dead with fear, and would have given the world to be with his mother again, but that he feared could never be; for he gave himself up for lost, and now mistrusted the good woman. At the farther end of the gallery there was a winding staircase, which led them into a spacious kitchen; a very good fire was burning in the grate, and Jack, not seeing any thing to make him uncomfortable, soon forgot his fears, and was just beginning to enjoy himself, when he was aroused by a loud knocking at the street door; the giant's wife ran to secure him in the oven, and then made what haste she could to let her husband in, and Jack heard him accost her in a voice like thunder, saying, 'Wife, I smell fresh meat.' 'Oh! my dear,' she replied, 'it is nothing but the people in the dungeon.' The giant appeared to believe her, and walked down stairs into the very kitchen, where poor Jack was, who shook, trembled, and was more terrified than he had yet been.

At last, the monster seated himself quietly by the fire-side, whilst his wife prepared supper. By degrees Jack recovered himself sufficiently to look at the giant through a crevice; he was astonished to see how much he devoured, and thought he never would have done eating and drinking. When supper was ended, the giant desired his wife to bring him his hen. A very beautiful hen was brought, and placed upon the table before him. Jack's

curiosity was very great to see what would happen; he observed, that every time the giant said 'lay,' the hen laid an egg of solid gold. The giant amused himself a long time with the hen, meanwhile his wife went to bed. At length the giant fell fast asleep by the fire-side, and snored like the roaring of a cannon. At day-break, Jack finding the giant not likely to be roused, crept softly out of his hiding-place, seized the hen, and ran off with her.

He met with some difficulty in finding his way out of the house, but at last he reached the road in safety, without fear of pursuit; he easily found the way to the bean-stalk, and descended it better and quicker than he expected. His mother was overjoyed to see him; he found her crying bitterly, and lamenting his fate, for she concluded he had come to some shocking end through his rashness.

Jack was impatient to shew his hen, and inform his mother how valuable it was. 'And now, mother,' said Jack, 'I have brought home that which will quickly make you rich without any trouble: I hope I have made you some amends for the affliction I have caused you through my idleness, extravagance, and folly.'—The hen then produced them as many eggs as they desired; they sold them, and in a little time became very rich. For some months Jack and his mother lived happily together; but he being very desirous of travel-

ling,* longed to climb the bean-stalk, and pay the giant another visit, in order to carry off some more of his treasures; for during the time that Jack was in the giant's mansion, whilst he lay concealed in the oven, he learned from the conversation which took place between the giant and his wife, that he possessed some great curiosities. Jack thought on his journey again and again; but still he could not determine how to break it to his mother, being well assured that she would be quite resolved to prevent his going. One day, he told her boldly that he must take a journey up the bean-stalk; she begged he would not think of it, and tried all in her power to dissuade him, saying, that the giant could not fail of knowing him, and would desire no better than to get him into his power, that he might put him to a cruel death, in order to be revenged for the loss of his hen.

Jack, finding that all his arguments were useless, pretended to give up the point, though resolved to go at all events. He had a dress prepared, which would disguise him, and with something to discolour his skin, he thought it impossible for any one to recollect him. In a few mornings after discoursing with his mother, he rose very early, put on his disguise, changed his complexion, and, unperceived by any one, climbed the bean-stalk. He was

* Recollecting the fairy's commands, and fearing, that if he delayed, she would put her threats into execution.

greatly fatigued when he reached the top, and very hungry. Having rested some time on one of the stones, he pursued his journey to the giant's mansion. He reached it late in the evening, the woman was standing at the door as usual; Jack accosted her, at the same time telling her a pitiful tale, and requested she would give him some victuals and drink, and a night's lodging. She told him what he knew before full well, concerning her husband, and also that she one night admitted a poor, hungry, distressed boy, who was half dead with travelling; that he stole one of the giant's treasures, and, ever since that, her husband was worse than before, and used her very cruelly, continually upbraiding her with being the cause of his loss. Jack was at no loss to discover, that he was attending to the account of a story in which he was the principal actor; he did his best to persuade the good woman to admit him, but he found it a very hard task.

At last she consented, and as she led the way, Jack observed that every thing was just as he had found it before; she took him into the kitchen, and hid him in an old lumber-closet. The giant returned at the usual time, and walked in so heavily, that the house was shaken to the foundation. He seated himself by a good fire, saying, 'I smell fresh meat;' the wife replied it was the crows, who had brought a piece of carrion, and laid it at the top of the house upon the leads.

Whilst supper was preparing, the giant was very ill-tempered and impatient, frequently lifting up his hand to strike his wife for not being quick enough; she, however, was always so fortunate as to elude the blow; he was also continually upbraiding her with the loss of his hen.

The giant, at last, having finished his voracious supper, and eaten till he was quite satisfied, said to his wife—‘ I must have something to amuse me—either my bags of money, or my harp.’ After a great deal of ill-humour, and having teased his wife some time, he commanded her to bring his bags of gold and silver. Jack, as before, peeped out of his hiding-place, and presently the woman brought two bags into the room; they were of an immense size, one was filled with new guineas, the other with new shillings. They were both placed before the giant, he reprimanded his wife most severely for staying so long; the poor woman replied, trembling with fear, that they were so heavy she could scarcely lift them, and concluded, at last, that she never could bring them down stairs, adding, that she had nearly fainted, owing to their weight. This so exasperated the giant, that he raised his hand to strike her; she, however, escaped and went to bed, leaving him to count his treasures by way of amusement.

First, the bag containing the silver was emptied, and the contents placed upon the

table. Jack viewed the glittering heaps with delight, and most heartily wished the contents in his own possession. The giant (little thinking himself so narrowly watched) reckoned the silver over and over again, then put it all carefully into the bag, which he made very secure. The other bag was opened next, and the guineas placed upon the table. If Jack was pleased at sight of the silver, how much more delighted he felt when he saw such a heap of gold; he had the boldness even to think of gaining it; but soon recollecting himself, he feared the giant would feign sleep, in order the better to entrap any one who might be concealed. The gold was put up as the silver had been before, and, if possible, more securely. The giant snored aloud; Jack could compare his nose to nothing but the roaring of the sea in a high wind, when the tide is coming in. At last, Jack concluding him to be asleep, and therefore secure, stole out of his hiding-place, and approached the giant, in order to carry off the two bags of money; but, just as he laid his hand upon one of the bags, a little dog, whom he had not perceived before, started out from under the giant's chair, and barked at Jack most furiously, who gave himself up for lost; fear rivetted him to the spot—instead of running, he stood still, though expecting his enemy to awake every minute. Contrary, however, to expectation, the giant continued in a sound

sleep—the dog grew weary of barking; Jack, looking round, saw a large piece of meat, which he threw to the dog, who took it into the lumber-closet which Jack had just left.

He found himself thus delivered from a noisy and troublesome enemy; and, as the giant did not awake, Jack seized both the bags, and carried them away; he reached the street-door in safety, and found it quite daylight. In his way to the top of the bean-stalk, the only difficulty he had to encounter, arose from the weight of the bags, and really they were so heavy he could hardly carry them. Jack was overjoyed when he found himself near the bean-stalk; he soon reached the bottom, and immediately ran to seek his mother. To his great surprise, the cottage was deserted, he went from one room to another; without being able to find any one; he then went out into the street, hoping to see some of the neighbours, who could inform him where he might find his mother. An old woman said she was at a neighbour's, ill of a fever, and directed him to the house where she was. He was shocked on finding her apparently dying, and could scarcely bear his own reflections, on knowing himself to be the cause. On being told of his return, by degrees she revived, and began to recover gradually. Jack presented her with his two valuable bags; they lived happily and comfortably; the cottage

was repaired and well furnished. For three years Jack heard no more of the bean-stalk, but he could not forget it; though he feared making his mother unhappy; she would not mention the bean-stalk, lest it might remind him of taking another journey. Notwithstanding the comforts Jack enjoyed, his mind dwelt upon the bean-stalk;* he could not think of any thing else, it was in vain endeavouring to amuse himself. His mother found that something preyed upon his mind, and endeavoured to discover the cause; but Jack knew too well what the consequence would be to disclose the cause of his melancholy to her. He did his utmost, therefore, to conquer the great desire he felt for another journey up the bean-stalk; however, finding the inclination grew too powerful for him, he began to make secret preparations for his journey, and, on the longest day, arose as soon as it was light, ascended the bean-stalk, and reached the top with some trouble. He found the road, journey, &c. much as it had been the two former times; he arrived at the giant's mansion in the evening, and found his wife standing at the door. Jack had disguised himself so completely, that she did not appear to have the least recollection of him; however, when he pleaded hunger and poverty in

* For the fairy's menaces in case of disobedience on his part, were ever present to his imagination.

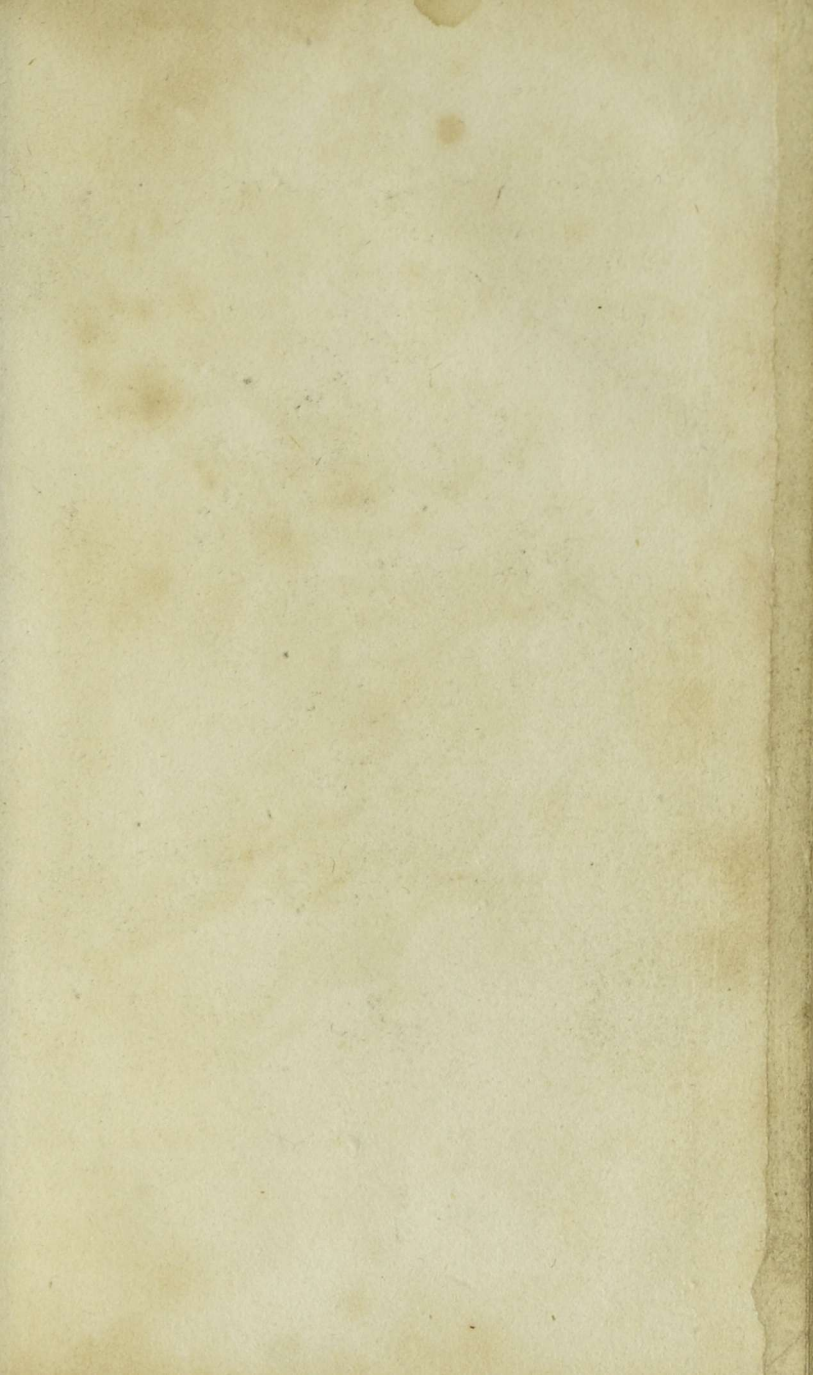
order to gain admittance, he found it very difficult indeed to persuade her. At last he prevailed, and was concealed in the copper. When the giant returned in the evening, he said, 'I smell fresh meat,' but Jack felt quite composed, as he had said so before, and was soon satisfied; however, the giant started up suddenly, and, notwithstanding all his wife could say, he searched all around the room. Whilst this was going on, Jack was terrified exceedingly, and ready to die with fear, wishing himself at home a thousand times; but when the giant approached the oven, and put his hand upon the lid, Jack thought his death-warrant was signed. The giant ended his search there, without moving the lid of the copper, and seated himself quietly. This fright nearly overcame poor Jack; he was afraid of moving, or even breathing, lest he should be heard. The giant at last ate a great supper; when he had finished, he commanded his wife to fetch down his harp. Jack peeped from under the copper-lid, and soon saw the giant's wife return, carrying in her arms one of the most beautiful harps that ever was beheld. The giant immediately ordered her to place it beside him; which having done, she instantly retired to her bed, and left him to amuse himself with his wonderful harp. After some little time, the giant said to the harp, with an audible voice—

“ Play !” when, to the astonishment of Jack, the harp immediately played, of its own accord, the most delightful music that fancy could imagine, without being so much as touched by the giant.—This fine music so much delighted Jack, that he was more anxious to get the harp into his possession, than for all the other treasures he had formerly carried away, and therefore determined, if possible, to make a prize of so wonderful a curiosity. The giant, whose soul was not much attuned to harmony, was soon lulled into a most profound sleep by the sweet sounds of the harp, aided by the enormous quantity he had ate, and the copious draughts he had swallowed after supper, and left Jack at liberty to pursue his wishes.—Now, therefore, was the time to carry away the harp, as the giant appeared to be in a more sound sleep than usual.—Determined, let the consequence be what it would, Jack immediately came out of the oven, took possession of the harp, and was making off with all the haste he could, when, unfortunately for him, the harp, which was a fairy, called out loudly, “ Master ! master ! master !” Upon this the giant awoke, and seeing Jack running off with the harp, stood up, and tried to pursue him ; but he had drank so much that he could not stand. Poor Jack ran as fast as he could ; but in a little time the giant was

sufficiently recovered to walk slowly, or rather to reel, after him; had he been sober, he must have overtaken Jack instantly; but, as he then was, Jack contrived to be first at the top of the bean-stalk, the giant calling to him all the way he went, and sometimes he even got very near him. The moment Jack was near the foot of the bean-stalk, he called out loudly to his mother to bring him a hatchet.—She brought out one directly; and he reached the ground, just at the moment the giant had come to the top of the bean-stalk, and was beginning to descend it; but Jack, with one blow of the hatchet, cut the bean-stalk close by the root; which made the giant fall with a tremendous crash, and the height of the fall killed him.—At that instant the fairy appeared; she first addressed Jack's mother, and explained every circumstance relating to the journies up the bean-stalk. Jack was now fully cleared in the opinion of his mother. The fairy then charged Jack to be dutiful and affectionate to his mother, and to follow his father's good example, which was the only way to be respectable and happy. She then took her leave of them, and disappeared.—Jack's mother was delighted when she saw the bean-stalk destroyed; he heartily begged his mother's pardon for all the sorrow and affliction he had caused her, promising

faithfully to be very dutiful and obedient to her for the future. He proved as good as his word, and was a pattern of affectionate behaviour and attention to parents. His mother and he lived together a great many years, and continued to be always very happy.





BLUE BEARD.



BLUE BEARD.

THERE was some time ago a gentleman who was extremely rich : he had elegant town and country houses ; his dishes and plates were all of gold or silver ; his rooms were hung with damask ; his chairs and sofas were covered with the richest silks ; and his carriages were all magnificently gilt with gold.

But, unfortunately, this gentleman had a blue beard, which made him so very frightful and ugly, that none of the ladies in the neighbourhood would venture to go into his company.

It happened that a lady of quality, who lived very near him, had two daughters, who were both extremely beautiful. Blue Beard asked her to bestow one of them upon him in marriage, leaving to herself the choice, which of the two it should be.

They both, however, again and again refused to marry Blue Beard ; but to be as civil as possible, they each pretended that they refused, because she would not deprive her sister of the opportunity of marrying to her advantage.

But the truth was, they could not bear the thoughts of having a husband with a blue beard; and, besides, they had heard of his having already been married to several wives, and nobody could tell what had afterwards become of them.

As Blue Beard wished very much to gain their favour, he invited the lady and her daughters, and some ladies who were on a visit at their house, to accompany him to one of his country seats, where they spent a whole week; during which nothing was thought of, but parties for hunting and fishing, music, dancing, collations, and the most delightful entertainments; no one thought of going to bed, and the nights were passed in merriment of every kind.

In short, the time had passed so agreeably, that the youngest of the sisters began to think that the beard which had so much terrified her, was not so very blue; and that the gentleman to whom it belonged was vastly civil and pleasing.

Soon after they returned home, she told her mother, that she had no longer any objection to accept of Blue Beard for her husband; and accordingly in a very short time they were married.

About a month after the marriage had taken place, Blue Beard told his wife that he should be obliged to leave her for a few weeks, as he had some bussines to do in the country.

He desired her to be sure to procure herself every kind of amusement ; to invite as many of her friends as she liked, and to treat them with all sorts of delicacies, that the time might pass agreeably during his absence. "Here," said he, "are the keys of the two large wardrobes. This is the key of the great box that contains the best plate, which we use for company : this belongs to my strong box where I keep my money ; and this to the casket in which are all my jewels. Here also is a master-key to all the apartments in my house—but this small key belongs to the closet at the end of the long gallery on the ground floor. I give you leave," continued he, "to open or do what you like with all the rest excepting this closet ; this, my dear, you must not enter, nor even put the key into the lock for all the world. Should you disobey me expect the most dreadful of punishments."

She promised to obey his orders in the most faithful manner ; and Blue Beard, after tenderly embracing her, stepped into his carriage and drove away.

The friends of the bride did not, on this occasion, wait to be invited, so impatient were they to see all the riches and magnificence she had gained by marriage ; for they had been prevented from paying the wedding visit by their aversion to the blue beard of the bridegroom.

No sooner were they arrived, than they im-

patiently ran from room to room, from cabinet to cabinet, and then from wardrobe to wardrobe, examining each with the utmost curiosity, and declaring that the last was still richer and more beautiful than what they had seen the moment before. At length they came to the drawing-rooms, where their admiration and astonishment were still increased, by the costly splendour of the hangings, of the sofas, the chairs, carpets, tables, girandoles, and looking-glasses, the frames of which were silver gilt, most richly ornamented, and in which they saw themselves from head to foot.

In short, nothing could exceed the magnificence of what they saw; and the visitors did not cease to extol and envy the good fortune of their friend, who all this time was far from being amused by the fine compliments they paid her, so eagerly did she desire to see what was in the closet her husband had forbidden her to open. So great indeed was her curiosity, that, without recollecting how uncivil it would be to leave her guests, she descended a private staircase that led to it, and in such a hurry that she was two or three times in danger of breaking her neck.

When she reached the door of the closet, she stopped for a few moments to think of the charge her husband had given her, and that he would not fail to keep his word in punishing her very severely, should she dis-

obey him. But she was so very curious to know what was in the inside, that she determined to venture in spite of every thing.

She accordingly, with a trembling hand, put the key into the lock, and the door immediately opened. The window shutters being closed, she at first saw nothing; but in a short time she perceived that the floor was covered with clotted blood, on which the bodies of several dead women were lying. (These were all the wives whom Blue Beard had married, and murdered one after another.) She was ready to sink with fear, and the key of the closet-door, which she held in her hand, fell on the floor. When she had somewhat recovered from her fright, she took it up, locked the door, and hastened to her own room, that she might have a little time to get into a humour for amusing her visitors: but this she found impossible, so greatly was she terrified by what she had seen.

As she observed that the key of the closet had got stained with blood by falling on the floor, she wiped it two or three times over to clean it; still, however, the blood remained the same as before: she next washed it; but the blood did not stir at all: she then scoured it with brick dust, and afterwards with sand; but, notwithstanding all she could do, the blood was still there; for the key was a fairy, who was Blue Beard's friend; so that

as fast as she got it off on one side it appeared again on the other.

Early in the evening Blue Beard returned home, saying he had not proceeded far on his journey before he was met by a messenger, who was come to tell him that his business was happily concluded without his being present: upon which his wife said every thing she could think of, to make him believe she was transported with joy at his unexpected return.

The next morning he asked her for the keys: she gave them to him; but as she could not help showing her fright, Blue Beard easily guessed what had happened. "How is it," said he, "that the key of the closet upon the ground-floor is not here?"—"Is it not?" said the wife: "then I must have left it on my dressing-table." "Be sure you give it me by and by," replied Blue Beard.

After going several times backwards and forwards, pretending to look for the key, she was at last obliged to give it to Blue Beard. He looked at it attentively, and then said: "How came this blood upon the key?"—"I am sure I do not know," replied the lady, turning at the same time as pale as death. "You do not know?" said Blue Beard sternly, "but I know well enough, you have been in the closet on the ground-floor! vastly well, madam; since you are so mightily fond of this closet, you shall certainly take your place among the ladies you saw there."

His, wife, almost dead with fear, fell upon her knees, asked his pardon a thousand times for her disobedience, and entreated him to forgive her; looking all the time so very sorrowful and lovely, that she would have melted any heart that was not harder than a rock.

But Blue Beard answered: "no, no, madam; you shall die this very minute!"

"Alas," said the poor trembling creature "if I must die, allow me, at least, a little time to say my prayers."

"I give you," replied the cruel Blue Beard, half a quarter of an hour; not one moment longer."

When Blue Beard had left her to herself, she called her sister; and after telling her, as well as she could for sobbing, that she had but half a quarter of an hour to live; "pr'y-thee," said she, "sister Ann," (this was her sister's name) "run up to the top of the tower, and see if my brothers are not in sight; for they promised to come and visit me to-day; and if you see them, make a sign to gallop on as fast as possible."

Her sister instantly did as she was desired, and the terrified lady every minute called out to her: "Ann! Sister Ann! do you see any one coming?" and her sister answered: "I see nothing but the sun, which makes a dust, and and the grass, which looks green."

In the mean while, Blue Beard with a great scymitar in his hand, bawled as loud as he

could to his wife: "come down instantly, or I will fetch you."

"One moment longer, I beseech you," replied she; and again called softly to her sister, "Sister Ann, do you see any one coming?" to which she answered: "I see nothing but the sun, which makes a dust, and the grass, which looks green."

Blue Beard now again bawled out, "come down, I say, this very moment, or I shall come and fetch you."

"I am coming; indeed I will come in one minute;" sobbed his unhappy wife. Then she once more cried out:—"Ann! Sister Ann! do you see any one coming!"—"I see said her sister, "a cloud of dust a little to the left."—"Do you think it is my brothers?" continued the wife. "Alas! no, dear sister," replied she, "it is only a flock of sheep."

"Will you come down or not, madam?" said Blue Beard, in the greatest rage imaginable

"Only one single moment more," answered she. And then she called out for the last time; "Sister Ann! sister Ann! do you see no one coming?"

"I see," replied her sister, "two men on horseback coming to the house; but they are still at a great distance."

"God be praised!" cried she; "it is my brothers; give them a sign to make what haste they can."

At the same moment Blue Beard cried out so loud for her to come down, that his voice shook the whole house.

The poor lady, with her hair loose and her eyes swimming in tears, instantly came down, and fell on her knees to Blue Beard, and was going to beg him to save her life; but he interrupted her, saying: All this is of no use at all; for you shall die: “then seizing her with one hand by the hair, and raising the scymitar he held in the other, was going with one blow to strike off her head.

The unfortunate creature turning towards him, desired to have a single moment allowed her to recollect herself.

“No, no,” said Blue Beard, “I will give you no more time, I am determined. You have had too much already.” And again raising his arm—just at this instant a loud knocking was heard at the gates, which made Blue Beard wait a moment to see who it was: the gates were opened, and two officers, dressed in their regimentals, entered, and with their swords in their hands, ran instantly to Blue Beard; who, seeing they were his wife’s brothers, endeavoured to escape from their presence: but they pursued, and seized him before he had gone twenty steps; and plunging there swords into his body, he immediately fell down dead at their feet.

The poor wife, who was almost as dead as her husband, was unable at first to rise and embrace her brothers. She soon, however,

recovered ; and as Blue Beard had no heirs, she found herself the lawful possessor of his great riches.

She employed a portion of her vast fortune, in giving a marriage dowry to her sister Ann, who soon after became the wife of a young gentleman by whom she had long been beloved. Another part she employed in buying captains' commissions for her two brothers ; and the rest she presented to a most worthy gentleman, whom she married soon after, and whose kind treatment soon made her forget Blue Beard's cruelty.

THE

LITTLE WHITE MOUSE.

ANCIENT history furnishes an example of a king and queen so tenderly attached to each other, that nothing was wanting to make their felicity complete. Their wishes and their sentiments corresponded exactly on all subjects ; they went frequently to hunt, killing various sorts of game, and the stag often became the object of their amusement, or the victim of their exertions ; they visited the rivers for the diversion of fishing ; and, in

short, whatever gratified the one, became a source of real delight to the other. Their subjects followed so amiable an example, and thus the happiness of all the nation consisted in mutual exertions to make others happy.

The king of an adjoining state, whose manners and dispositions were directly contrary, conceived a deadly hatred against the king of the *Land of Pleasure*; for so the nation was called, on account of the tranquillity and joy that constantly prevailed there. He was a declared enemy to pleasure; he sought for nothing but wounds and bruises; his air was stern and forbidding; with a long beard and hollow eyes. He was lean and withered; always dressed in black; his bristly locks were dirty and uncombed; there was no way so secure to obtain his favour, but by committing the most atrocious murders or assassinations; he took upon himself the office of public executioner, because he delighted in the pangs of those who suffered.—This kingdom was therefore called the *Land of Tears*.

This wicked wretch, unworthy to possess a throne, raised an immense army, and determined with it to spread through the territory of this happy neighbour that desolation which was his greatest delight.

When all was ready he began his march; but the news of his intention reached the king of the *Land of Pleasure*, long before the invading army, who put every thing in the

best possible state of defence, and waited the attack with firmness and resolution. But the timid disposition of the queen suggested a thousand fears: "Sir," said she, "let us fly; let us take the wealth we possess, and seek that safety in another quarter of the world which we cannot now find here." "It is my duty, madam," said the king, "to remain and protect my subjects. I am determined, therefore, to share their fate." He then assembled his forces, took a tender leave of the queen, and marched out to meet the enemy.

As soon as he was departed, the queen gave way to the excess of her sorrow, and clasping her hands together, "Alas!" exclaimed she, "if the king, my husband, should fall in battle, I shall be left a widow, in the power of a cruel monster, and the child I now bear will be born a slave." This idea redoubled her affliction. The king wrote to her every day; but one morning, when she was watching for the usual messenger, she saw one coming at full speed, with fear pictured in his countenance. He dismounted immediately, and entering her presence, "Oh! madam," said he, "all is lost; the king is slain, the army defeated, and the ferocious conqueror almost at our backs."

The poor queen fell senseless; her attendants carried her to bed, and all her women stood weeping round; they tore their hair in the bitterness of their affliction, and no

scene in the world could have been more affecting. But their sobs and lamentations were soon drowned, by the cries that every where spread through the palace, of the cruel manner in which the victorious army was desolating the city. The wicked king, at the head of his savage troops, was incessantly employed in exciting them to acts of cruelty and plunder; and, thus directed, they slew, without discrimination, every person they met. He entered the palace, and penetrated, without ceremony, into the most retired apartments, where he found the queen overwhelmed with sorrow and despair. He beheld her distresses unmoved, and by his ferocious manner and brutal threats, added terror to the pangs she felt before. Thus, too much intimidated to answer a word, this monster of a king, supposed her silence to proceed from sullenness and ill humour; he seized her rudely by the hair, which the negligence of grief had suffered to fall loosely on her shoulders, and then dragging her from the bed on which she lay, he threw her across his shoulders, and carried her away without remorse; he then mounted with her on his steed, and rode off. She besought him with tears and supplications, to have pity on her sufferings; but he mocked her cries, and said to her, "Weep on; your complaints are a source of pleasure and diversion to me."

He carried her towards his own capital, and, during the time that he was on the road, he took the most dreadful oaths that he would hang her as soon as he reached it; but he was soon informed, on his arrival, that the queen was pregnant.

When the wicked king knew this, a thought struck him, if she was delivered of a daughter he could marry her to his son, and that he might know whether it was a daughter that she should have, he sent for a fairy who lived on the frontiers of his dominions. When she arrived, he entertained her with much more hospitality than he used to his most intimate friends: he then led her into a tower, in the highest room of which the poor queen was confined. Nothing could equal the misery of the poor queen; and the unpleasantness of her apartment. The broken casements admitted both the wind and the rain, the flooring was broken in several places, and the damps that ran down the walls were dangerous, especially to a person of so weak a constitution as the queen's; the bed was composed of nothing but an old mattress, worse than is found in the habitations of the poorest class of people. In this miserable condition, the queen passed both day and night, weeping bitterly at the thoughts of her own situation, and for the death of the king her husband.

The fairy's heart was touched with pity at

so deplorable a sight; she embraced the queen, and, at the same time, she whispered in her ear the following words: "Take courage, madam, your misfortunes will soon be at an end; I hope soon to contribute to your happiness." The queen was a little consoled by these words, and earnestly entreated her to have pity on a poor unhappy princess, who had once enjoyed the greatest favours of fortune; instead of which, she could now boast of nothing but suffering the greatest misery.

They were thus talking together, when the wicked king, growing impatient, "come, come," said he, "let us not have so many compliments; I brought you here to inform me whether the queen will have a daughter or son?" "She is pregnant of a daughter, replied the fairy, "who will be the most beautiful and most accomplished princess that has ever been seen, and the queen will wish to see her placed in the highest possible situation of rank and honour." "If she is not very beautiful and accomplished," said the king, "I will hang her mother to a tree, with the child at her neck, and nothing shall prevent it." Having said this, he left the place with the fairy, and took no notice of the unfortunate queen, who wept bitterly, thus lamenting her unhappy fate. "Alas! what shall I do? If I have a beautiful little girl, he will give her to his reptile of a son; and if she is ugly, he will hang us both. To

what an extremity am I reduced ! Cannot I conceal it from him somewhere, so that he can never see it ?”

The time approached when the little princess was to come into the world, and the distress of the queen augmented daily : the gaoler who guarded her gave her nothing but three boiled peas and a small bit of black bread for her food during the day ; by which she was reduced so thin as to be little else than skin and bone.

One evening, while she was employed in spinning, (for the wicked king was so avaricious, as to make even his prisoners labour for him) she saw, entering at a small hole, a pretty little mouse as white as snow. “ Ah ! pretty creature,” exclaimed the queen, “ what do you come here to seek ? I have but three peas to last me all day ; begone, if you wish not to fast.”—The little mouse ran about here and there, and danced and skipped like a little monkey : the queen was so pleased with it, that she gave it the only pea that remained for her supper. “ Here,” said she, “ here, poor little thing, eat this ; I have got no more ; but I give it thee willingly.” The instant she had done this, to her great surprise there appeared upon the table two partridges, cooked most wonderfully well, and two pots of preserves. “ Really,” exclaimed she, “ a good turn is never lost.” She ate a little ; but with fasting so long, her appetite was almost

gone. She threw some sweets to the mouse, who having nibbled them away, began to leap about with more glee than before.

The next morning very early the gaoler brought the queen three peas, which he had put as usual in a large dish, to mock her sufferings; the little white mouse came softly and eat them all three, as well as the bread. When the queen wished to dine, she found nothing there; at which she was very angry with the mouse. "What a wicked little beast," cried the queen, "if he continues thus, I shall die with hunger." As she was going to cover the plate which the mouse had left empty, she found it full of all the sorts of things good for to eat: she was very glad, and eat of them; but while she was eating, a thought came into her head, that, in a few days, the king would perhaps kill her child, and she quitted the table to weep. "Ah!" ejaculated the disconsolate queen, "is there no way of saving it?" At the same time that she pronounced these words, she perceived the mouse playing with some straws; she took some of them and began to work: "If I have enough of straw," I will make a covered basket to put my little daughter in, and I will give it out of the window to the first charitable person who will take care of it."

She then began to work very diligently: she never wanted straw; for the mouse always brought some into the chamber, and as

at usual meal-time, the queen always gave her the three peas, she found in exchange a number of dishes of the most delicate meats.

One day the queen was looking out of the window, to see how long she should make the cord to tie the basket to, when she should let it down, and she perceived an old woman below, leaning upon a stick, who spoke to her thus:—"I know your trouble, and if you wish I will serve you." "Alas! my dear friend," replied the queen, "you will very much oblige me, if you will come every evening to the bottom of the tower, to receive my child, whom I will let down to you: you must feed and nurse it, and if ever I am rich I will repay you well." "I wish for no pecuniary reward," answered the old woman, "but I am very nice in my eating, and wish for nothing so much as a fat and plump mouse. If you find such a one in your prison, kill it and throw it me; your infant will be the better for it."

When the queen heard this, she began to weep without answering, and the old woman, after having waited a little, asked her why she cried? "It is," replied the queen, "that there only comes into my chamber one little mouse, so pretty and so engaging, and I cannot find in my heart to kill it." "How," replied the old woman, with great anger, "do you like a little rogue of a mouse, who steals and eats every thing, better than your

own child? Very well, madam, you are not much to be pitied; remain in the good company you have chosen; I can have plenty of mice without you; so I care but little about it;" and scolding in this manner, she hobbled away.

Although the queen had a good repast, and the mouse played about before her as usual, she never raised her eyes from the ground where she had fixed them, and tears ran down her cheeks.

On this same night the little princess came into the world; her beauty surpassed any thing the queen had ever beheld; instead of crying at her birth, as other children do, she smiled on her affectionate parent, and extended her little hands, as if she had already a good understanding. The queen caressed and kissed her fondly, at the same time sorrowfully reflecting, "Alas! my dear child, if you fall into the hands of the wicked king, it will cost you your life;" she shut it up in the basket, with a paper attached to the clothes, on which was written:

O! you, whose steps the fav'ring pow'rs direct
 To these lone scenes, your gen'rous aid I claim;
 My hapless child, in infant years, protect
 From sorrow's grasp—and Juliet be her name.

and having turned away for a moment, she looked again, and found the infant dressed in the finest linens and laces: she then kissed

it, and shed a torrent of tears, not knowing how to part with her treasure.

At this moment in came the little mouse, and jumped into the basket. "Ah! little creature," said the queen, "how much it costs me to save your life! I shall perhaps lose my dear Juliet. Any other than me would have killed you to the dainty old woman; but I could not consent to it." "You will not repent it, madam," replied the mouse, "I am not so unworthy your friendship as you suppose." The queen was like one thunderstruck, when she heard the mouse speak; but her surprise augmented, when she perceived its little visage change to that of a woman, and the paws become hands and feet. At length the queen, hardly daring to look up, discovered the figure to be the fairy that had visited her before, and who had promised to put an end to her misfortunes and sufferings. "I wished to try the goodness of your heart," said the fairy; "I know now that you are virtuous and worthy of my friendship. Fairies like me, who possess treasures and riches more than I can relate, do not seek so much for the luxuries of life, as for friendship, and we seldom find it." "Is it possible, great fairy," exclaimed the queen, "that you who are so powerful and wealthy, find it such a great trouble to gain a friend." "Yes," replied she, "because persons seldom love us but for interest,

but when you loved me as a little mouse, and it seemed from a disinterested motive, I wished to put you to a still greater trial: I took the figure of an old woman, and it was me who spoke to you at the bottom of the tower: you have always answered my best expectation." At these words she embraced the queen, then she kissed the little vermilion mouth of the infant princess, and said, "My pretty little girl, you shall henceforth be your mother's consolation; you shall be richer than your father; you shall live an hundred years without illness, wrinkles, or old age." The enraptured queen returned thanks, and begged that the fairy would take Juliet away, and be careful of her, adding, at the same time, "I give her to be your daughter."

The fairy accepted the offer, and thanked her: she put the little one in the basket, which she let down to the bottom of the tower, and having waited a little to again take the form of a mouse, she descended by the cord: but when she got down, she could not find the child any where, and remounting in a fright, "All is lost," cried she to the queen, "my enemy Cancellorine has just carried away the princess. You must know that she is a cruel fairy, who hates me, and, unhappily, she is older than I am, by which she has more power. I know not by what means to get the child out of her wicked hands."

When the queen heard this melancholy account, she almost died with grief; she wept

bitterly, and beseeched her good friend to save her child, at whatever price it might be done.

When the gaoler entered the chamber of the queen, he perceived that she had been delivered, and he went and told the king of it, who came in a great passion to ask for the child; but she told him that a fairy, whose name she knew not, had entered the prison, and carried it away by force. At this the wicked king stamped and bit his lips, with every expression of the most violent rage. "I promised to hang thee," said he to the unfortunate queen, "and now I will keep my word. He then dragged her by the hair from the place of her confinement to a neighbouring wood, mounted a high tree, and was going to hang the queen, when the fairy, having rendered herself invisible, pushed him rudely down, and by the fall struck out four of his teeth. Before he had time to recover herself, she had carried away his intended victim to a secure retreat in her magnificent palace. She was there treated with every attention and kindness, and if it had not been for the thoughts of her little daughter, she had once more been happy; but she was unable to procure any intelligence of the infant, though the little white mouse made every exertion in her power for that purpose.

At length, by the progress of time, the queen's grief abated, and fifteen years passed

away without any change in her situation.— At this period there was great talk all over the kingdom, that the son of the wicked monarch had fallen in love with the keeper of the poultry, and that the young woman refused to accept of him for a husband. This extraordinary refusal surprised every one; however, the nuptial dresses were prepared, and the marriage ceremony was soon expected to take place. The little white mouse determined to see this extraordinary damsel, who had resolution enough to refuse the son of a king, and immediatly transported herself to the capital. She entered into the poultry yard, and found her there, dressed in a coarse woollen gown, with her feet bare, and a cap of goat skin on her head; lying by her side were magnificent dresses, embroidered with gold and silver, and ornamented with a number of precious stones; the turkeys and other fowls that surrounded her, trampled on and spoiled them.

Thus habited, and thus careless of the splendour that awaited her, the keeper of the poultry sat on a large stone in the middle of the yard, when the king's son arrived: he was crooked and hump-backed, and marked with every kind of deformity. "If you persist in refusing me," said he, "I will order you to be put to death instantly." She answered him with disdain, "I will never marry you; you are too ugly and too wicked. I

prefer poverty with my turkeys and pullets, to all the honours you have power to bestow."

The little white mouse observed her with wonder and admiration; for, though in so humble a dress, she appeared to possess an incomparable beauty. As soon therefore as the prince retired, the fairy assumed the figure of an old shepherdess. "Good day, fair damsel," said she, "the fowls do credit to your care of them."—The young woman raised her eyes, and looked at her with a countenance full of sweetness: "they wish," answered she, "to persuade me to quit my present employment, for a crown which I do not want, and for a husband whom I should despise; pray, good mother, what is your advice?" "My child," returned the fairy, "a crown is a dazzling object; but you cannot imagine the care and trouble it is to those who wear it." "But suppose I do know all this," quickly answered the keeper of the king's poultry; "still I would refuse to accept it, though I am without friend or relation, and know not even the name of those who gave me birth." "You have both beauty and virtue, my child," returned the wise and benevolent fairy, "which are worth more than a thousand kingdoms; tell me then, who placed you here, since you are without parents and without friends." "A fairy, named Cancellorine, is the cause that I have been placed here," replied the young woman:

“she beat me till she almost killed me, without the least provocation. Tired of my sufferings, one day I ran away from her, and, not knowing where to go, I stopped to rest myself in a wood, where the son of the wicked king came by chance to walk : he asked if I would enter his service. I consented, and was placed to take care of his poultry ; where he came constantly to see them, and always took great notice of them. Alas ! he soon conceived a violent love for me, and has ever since so teased me with expressions of it, that I have no comfort left in the world.”

This recital made the fairy suspect she had at last met with the princess Juliet, and she therefore asked to know her name. “ I am called Juliet,” added she, modestly ; “ but who gave me that name I never knew.” The doubts of the fairy were thus instantly removed ; she threw herself on the neck of the princess, exclaiming, “ Juliet, I have known you long ; I am delighted to find you so sensible and so lovely ; but I wish you was better dressed ; take the clothes that are before you, and put them on.” The princess obeyed immediately, and taking from her head the cap of goat’s skin, her beautiful golden hair fell in curls upon her shoulders ; then taking some water from a fountain that ran through the yard, she washed her hands and face, and discovered a complexion more bright and transparent than the choicest pearls

of India; roses seemed to bloom fresh on her cheeks; coral seemed to form her beautiful mouth; and her eyes shone like the most brilliant diamonds. When she had finished dressing herself, the gracefulness of her form appeared equal to the beauty of her countenance, and the fairy gazed on her with wonder and delight.

“ Pray, who do you suppose yourself to be now, my dear child?” said the fairy. “ Really,” answered she, “ I could fancy myself to be the daughter of some great king.” “ Should you be glad of it?” demanded the fairy. “ Yes, certainly, my good mother;” replied the princess, “ for it would give me the power of assisting many that are in distress.” “ Be happy then,” exclaimed the fairy, “ for you are born of royal parents: to-morrow you shall know more.”

The fairy then returned immediately to her palace, where she had left the queen. “ I bring you, madam,” cried she, “ the happiest tidings.” “ Alas!” answered the queen, “ what tidings of joy can come to me, who have lost both my husband and my child?” “ It is always right to hope,” replied the little white mouse, for the fairy had again taken that figure; “ I have seen the princess your daughter, and she is more beautiful than the blushes of the dawning day.” She then related the whole of her discovery, at which the queen wept with joy. “ Who would of

have thought," said she, "in the days of my prosperity, that I should ever bear a daughter to become the keeper of hens and turkeys!" "It is the cruel Cancellorine," said the fairy, "who, knowing how I love you, has brought this misery on your child, purposely to vex me; but she shall come gloriously out of it, or I will burn my books." "I am determined," said the queen, "that she shall not marry the prince; pray go and seek her immediately, and bring her to me."

The son of the wicked king left Juliet in a great rage at her obstinate refusal, and went into the gardens of the palace to consider what he should do; here he cried and groaned so loud, that his father overheard him, and leaning through the window, inquired the cause of his distress. "How can I be otherwise than afflicted," answered he, "to be thus set at defiance by a keeper of poultry?" "What, will not she love you?" said the king; "I am determined she shall love you, or be put to death." He then called his guards. "Go," said he, "and bring her here immediately; I will punish her so severely, that she shall soon repent of her obstinacy."

They went to the poultry yard, and found Juliet there, magnificently dressed, as the fairy left her; they had never seen so lovely a figure, and taking her for some princess, they were afraid to speak to her. She said

to them, in a sweet and condescending voice, "pray whom do you seek here?" "Madam," said they, "we seek an unfortunate creature, named Juliet." "I am the person you seek," replied she; "what do you want?" Hearing this, they seized her, and having tied her hands and feet with cords, lest she should escape, they carried her into the presence of the king. "Well, insolent wretch," said he, "and so you are determined not to love my son? He is a thousand times handsomer than you; love him therefore immediately, or I'll have you flayed alive." The princess, trembling like an affrighted dove, kneeled before him, and tried to inspire pity in a heart that never felt any; but she pleaded in vain, as the prince insisted upon it, that his father should order her for immediate execution. However, they determined at last, as a punishment more severe than death, to shut her up for life in a tower, where she would never more see the light of the sun.

At this moment the fairy and the good queen arrived in a flying chariot, and the affectionate mother began to weep bitterly, on hearing the sad fate to which her long lost daughter was just condemned. "Be of good comfort," said the fairy, "you shall in the end be made happy, and your enemies be amply punished." The princess was conveyed to the tower, and the king retired to bed; the fairy then resumed the form of the little

white mouse, and got upon his pillow. Whenever he attempted to sleep she bit his ear; at which, being much disturbed, he turned the other side, and she bit at that also, without mercy: he cried out for assistance, and when his attendants came, they found his ears bleeding so fast, that they were unable to stop his wounds. While they were seeking about the apartment to find the mouse, she was gone into the prince's room to inflict the same vengeance upon him; he likewise called his attendants, and having shewn his wounded ears, made them put a plaster on each. The little white mouse, in the mean time, returned to the king, and she bit his nose and gnawed his face in several places: he put up his hands to defend his face, and she bit his fingers: he cried out, "Mercy! mercy! I am lost;" and, while his mouth was thus open, the little white mouse entered it, and bit a piece off his tongue: his attendants came in once more, but he was now unable to speak to them, his tongue was so severely wounded; so he made signs that it was a mouse that had thus wounded him, and every corner of the room was immediately examined to find the offender, but in vain, she was gone to pay a visit to the prince, and to treat him much worse than she had treated his father.—She eat out one of his eyes, which left him in total darkness; for he was blind of the other before. He leaped out of bed in-

stantly, seized his sword, and ran to the apartment of his father, who also had taken his sword, storming and swearing that he would kill every one that came in his way till the mouse was found.

When he saw his son in such a passion, he scolded him, and the prince, whose ears were burning with pain, not knowing the voice of his father, attacked him furiously; the king exceedingly irritated, made a violent cut at him with his sword, and received a severe wound from his son at the same moment; so that they both fell to the ground bleeding profusely. All their subjects, who hated them mortally, and who only served and submitted to them through fear, now dreading them no longer, tied cords to their feet, and dragged them into the river, saying they were happy thus to get rid of their tyrants.

Thus ended the days of the wicked king and his son. The good fairy, who had seen all that passed, went immediately to seek the queen, and they went together to the black tower, where the princess Juliet was confined under more than forty locks. The fairy struck three times with a little ring on the great door, which opened instantly, as did all the rest; they found the poor princess very thoughtful, and with scarcely spirits to speak a word. The queen ran to embrace her; "My dear child, I am thy mother, the queen of the Land of Pleasure," exclaimed she;

and then gave her an account of her birth. When Juliet heard these happy tidings, she was as near dying with joy, as she had been near dying with grief: she threw herself at the feet of the queen, embraced her knees, and wet her hands with the tears that she shed upon them. She likewise caressed the good fairy, who had conferred so many obligations on them both. The fairy said to them, "It is not time now to think of amusing ourselves; let us go to the great hall of the castle and harangue the people."

She walked the first with a grave and majestic air, and dressed in splendid robes; next came the queen in robes suitable to her rank; the princess followed, decorated in a splendid habit, which the fairy had brought her for the occasion; but distinguished much more by her native modesty and the lustre of her beauty, which had never before been equalled. They moved gracefully to every one they met by the way, whether rich or poor, and by this condescension attracted the notice of every one. When the great hall was full, the good fairy said to the subjects of the deceased tyrant, that she would recommend them to chuse for their sovereign the daughter of a neighbouring king, whom she then presented to them. "Under so amiable a queen," said she, "you cannot fail to live in state of continual happiness and tranquillity." At these words the people cried out with one

voice, "Yes! yes! we chuse her for our queen, and we trust she will make us amends for the miseries we have so long endured." As soon as the intelligence was generally known, joy spread throughout the city, and every sort of business was laid aside, to give place for feasting and merriment. Thus the efforts of the little white mouse were sufficient to reward suffering innocence, and punish the cruelties of an implacable tyrant.

THE TWO SERPENTS.

THE learned Saib, who was intrusted with the education of the son of the sultan of Carizma, was ordered every day to relate to his pupil a history which might tend to improve the morals of the young prince. He one day told him this, which is taken from the annals of Persia, but which will not appear the less incredible.

A magician presented himself to king Zohak; and, in the eyes of his whole court, performed several prodigies with which this prince

was equally delighted and surprised. "King of kings," then said the enchanter to him, "these ordinary tricks of my art are hardly worth your attention, but if you will permit me to blow twice in your sacred ear, you will presently see a most astonishing wonder. He obtained the permission, and had no sooner made use of it, than Zohak, after some little giddiness, felt an extraordinary motion in his body. This motion was more violent than painful, and finished by the sudden eruption of two serpents heads from the region of the heart. "Perfidious wretch!" cried the king, "what had I done to thee? Wherefore has thy envenomed breath produced within my entrails these two monsters which are going to devour me?" "Fear not, prince," replied the magician, "and return me thanks for the precious gift you thus mistake. These two serpents are the unequivocal tokens of the happiness of your life, and the glory of your reign. Every thing depends on your allaying their hunger, by furnishing them the only aliment that agrees with them. Chuse from time to time, a certain number of your subjects, which you may take from the lowest class of your people; nourish these divine animals with their flesh, and quench them with their blood. Above all avoid listening to a dangerous and cowardly pity; remember well, that whatever pleases you is just, and that he is not a king, who,

when necessary, does not dare to do a little evil to mankind." Zohak was at first shocked at this execrable counsel; but as his happiness was attached to it, he no longer hesitated, and soon this inhuman prince even felicitated himself for having taken it. The hunger of the two monsters that had been incorporated with him was become his own, and he could not appease it, he said, without experiencing a delicious sensation. He regarded not the sighs nor the tears, the blood and the life of these unhappy Persians. He only saw in his people a vile herd, that existed merely to be sacrificed to his smallest caprices. The people only saw in Zohak a monster bent on their destruction; and, by dint of suffering, they ceased to fear him. They revolted against the tyrant, dragged him from the throne which he profaned, and shut him up in the dismal cavern of the mountain of Damavend. There, accompanied by his two serpents, and no longer able to appease their voracity, the pitiless Zohak became himself their prey.

What a horrible history! cried the young prince, when his preceptor had ended it. Pray tell me another that I can hear without shuddering. Willingly, my lord, replied Saib; here is a very simple and a very short one: A young sultan placed his confidence on an artful and abandoned eunuch. This wicked man filled his mind with false ideas

the glory and happiness of monarchs. He introduced pride and voluptuousness to his heart, the father and mother of all crimes. Absorbed by these two passions, the young monarch sacrificed his people to them: he placed his glory in despising mankind, and his happiness in making them wretched. What was the consequence? He lost his crown, his treasures, and his flatterers; his pride and voluptuousness only remained; and being wholly incapable of satisfying them, he died through rage and despair.

The prince of Carizma did not appear dissatisfied with this history. I like it much better than the other, said he; at least it is less revolting and less atrocious. Alas! prince, replied his preceptor, it is nevertheless the same.

THE QUEEN OF GOR.

KATIFA, queen of Gor, possessed every virtue and every failing; or, more properly speaking, she had all the capriciousness possible. She even piqued herself on wisdom, and said one day to the learned Zulbar: I am seriously endeavouring to gain a real knowledge of myself; but am much in want of some friendly aid in a study so worthy of

a reasonable woman. Examine my character yourself, and form me such a picture of it, that it may strike me at the first glance. Your character! replied Zulbar, but which sublime majesty? Does your modesty lead you to imagine you have but one character? The flowers of the spring are less numerous and less varied, than the virtues with which your soul is each instant embellished. In observing those virtues suddenly burst forth and shine, then disappear, then reappear; in perceiving them mix, agree, and dispute with each other, I can admire them like another; but who can possibly describe, or merely enumerate them? I have some where or other read, added the philosopher, that the moon wished to have a robe fitted to her shape, and of a colour suited to her complexion. The tirewoman she had sent for ingeniously said to her: O queen of the stars! you charm us at all times, and under every form: but you are sometimes large, and sometimes small; sometimes bright, sometimes pale, and sometimes crimson. What measure can I possibly take of a shape which is never the same? What colour can I suit to a complexion which varies each night?

THE DISCREET PRINCESS.



FINETTA ;

OR, THE

DISCREET PRINCESS.

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 so 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 Merlucha, 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 cheerfully ; 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 stopped 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 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 Auricla, 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 but go, '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 scores of 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. Then Finetta, who only shut her eyes, and pretended sleep, said to herself, "Was I now of a revengful 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, awakening 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 thereupon 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 from her sisters 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 not being 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 could 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 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, than 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 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 still greater distance off, observing them all asleep one evening, took that opportunity to bid them good-bye. When it was day, and Finetta perceived her mother was away, 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 once 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 Merlucha 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 upon; 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 arose 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 tease 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 maid-servant 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 strode 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 butter 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." He then thrust himself in, while Finetta giving him a push, he lost his balance, and 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 bearskins, 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, they bid her 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 extraordinarily 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 sisters, 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 Cherry, 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, but 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 got 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 every woman 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: They 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 too? 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, 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, 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 mar-

ried; but she refused till she had told them her adventures, which she did in a 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.

THE

SLEEPING BEAUTY

IN THE WOOD.

THERE were once upon a time a king and queen who had no child, which made them very unhappy indeed. But they hoped, by some means or other, to have one in time; and so they went to consult all the fairies they could hear of; and, besides this, they tried every thing they could, but in vain.

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At last, however, notice was given that the queen was going to have a child, and soon after, indeed, she had a princess. The christening was the grandest that could be. There were only seven fairies in the country, and all these were to be her godmothers; so that each of them might give her a gift, as it was the custom in those days, to make her fortunate and happy all her life.

When the baptism was over, all the company went back to the king's palace, where a most noble feast was got ready for them. Every one of the fairies had a golden plate set on the table, with a knife, a fork, and a spoon, set with diamonds, and all of the finest and most curious patterns.

When the company were going to sit down at the table, an old fairy came into the room, who lived in a tower that she had not come out of for fifty years before, so that every body thought she was dead long ago; and that was the reason why she had not been asked to this christening. The king ordered a seat to be brought for her, and also a plate, but it could not be a golden one, because only seven of that sort had been made, for the other seven fairies.

As soon as the old fairy saw that her plate was not above half so fine as the plates set before the rest of the fairies, she thought the king did not shew her proper respect, and she muttered that she would have her revenge.

One of the young fairies who sat next to

her, and heard what she said, was afraid that she would give the little princess some unlucky gift. So when she left the table, she went and hid herself behind the window-curtains, that it might come to her turn to speak last; for then she thought she should perhaps be able partly to undo the mischief the old fairy might have in her head.

In the mean time, the fairies began to make their gifts to the young princess. The first said, she should be the most handsome lady in all the world; the next said, she should have the greatest wit; the third said, she should do every thing she took in hand with the utmost grace; the fourth said, she should dance so as to delight all who saw her; the fifth said, she should sing with the sweetest voice that ever was: the sixth said, she should play most charmingly on all sorts of music.

It was the old fairy's turn to speak next; and she came forward, with her head shaking all the while, more out of spite than with old age, and said, "The gift I bestow on the princess shall be, that she shall hurt her hand with a spindle, and die of the wound."

This cruel speech made all the company tremble, and every body but the old fairy began to cry and lament. Just at this moment the young fairy came out from behind the window-curtains, and in a kind voice gave them some comfort, by saying, "Do not, O king and queen, be in so much grief for your

daughter ; she shall not die of the wound she is to receive ; for, though I am not able to hinder what an older fairy than myself has ordered, yet I can make her spite to be not quite so bad for the princess. Your daughter indeed shall hurt her hand with a spindle ; but instead of dying of the wound, she shall only fall into a deep sleep, which shall last for a hundred years, and at the end of that time she shall be waked by a young prince."

The king now thought it might perhaps be possible to hinder the accident from happening at all ; so he ordered it to be made known every where, that any person who should spin with a spindle, or even keep one in their house, should be put to death.

About sixteen years after this time, when the king and queen were at one of their palaces in the country, it happened that the young princess was one day running from room to room to amuse herself ; and at last found her way to a small chamber at the top of a tower, in which an old woman sat spinning with a spindle ; for the poor old creature had never heard of the law that had been made against keeping spindles.

"What are you doing, Goody?" said the princess. "I am spinning, my pretty lady," answered the old woman ; for she did not know who it was that she was speaking to. "Ah ! how I should like to do such pretty work !" said the princess : "pray let me try?" She then took the spindle into her hand ; but

as soon as ever she did so, being very lively and giddy, (and indeed it was ordered so by the old fairy), she ran the point of it into her hand, and fell down in a sound sleep. When the old woman saw this, she was very much frightened, and did not know what to do. She called out for help, and a great number of people came running up stairs. They threw cold water on the princess's face, cut the lace of her stays, and rubbed her hands and temples with hartshorn; but it was all of no use, for she still kept fast asleep.

In the mean while the king had heard the news, and hastened to the old woman's room; but, when he remembered the spiteful gift that the old fairy had made to his daughter, he thought it was best to bear it all with patience, since he could not hinder the will of a fairy. So he ordered the people to carry his daughter to the finest room in the palace, and lay her on a bed made of rich silk and velvet, and adorned with gold and silver.

When the princess was laid in this place, she looked so charming, that she might almost have been taken for an angel; for the deep sleep that she had fallen into did not hurt her beauty at all. The colour of her cheeks were still as the finest roses, and her lips the reddest coral that ever was seen; and the only change was, that her eyes used before to sparkle like diamonds, but were now shut and could not be seen. But still the

people that stood round her could hear her breathe softly, so that they were quite sure that she was not dead, but only asleep, as the king had told them. The king ordered that no one should disturb her, or try to wake her, till the proper time for it should come; though, in his own mind, he thought it very hard and cruel that it should be so long first.

The good fairy, who had saved her life by this sleep of a hundred years, was in the kingdom of Matakin, at the distance of twelve thousand leagues, which is thirty-six thousand miles, when the princess ran the spindle into her hand. But the news of it was carried to her in a short time by a dwarf who was her friend, and who put on his seven-league boots to go the journey in. These were boots that could stride over seven leagues of ground, or twenty-one miles at once.

As soon as the fairy heard of it, she set off in a fiery chariot, drawn by dragons; and in less than an hour she was in the yard of the king's palace. The king came out to welcome her, and help her to get down from her chariot; and then told her what had happened to the princess.

The fairy said all that the king had done was right; but that it was very likely that when the princess waked, she would be frightened to find herself alone in such a dark old palace. After thinking in a few minutes what could be done to hinder this, she hit upon a way. She touched all the persons in the pa-

lace, except only the king and queen, with her wand; and directly the maids of honour, governesses, waiting-women, gentlemen of the court, grooms of the bed-chamber, lords in waiting, stewards, cooks, scullions, guards, pages, and footman, were all thrown into as sound a sleep as the princess herself was in.

She touched also with her wand all the horses in the stables; all the grooms; all the dogs in the stable yard; and even the princess's favourite, a little lapdog, who was lying on the bed by her side. They all fell fast asleep, till the time should come for the princess to wake, when they would be ready at a moment's warning to wait upon her. Even the very spits in the kitchen, and the partridges and pheasants that were roasting on them, as well as the fire, were laid asleep; and all this was done in a moment, for fairies are never long in performing their wonders.

The king and queen now kissed their daughter tenderly without waking her, and left the palace; and the king gave strict orders, that whoever should dare to come near her should be put to death. But the king need not have taken this trouble; for in a quarter of an hour there sprung up round the palace a vast number of trees of all sorts and sizes, bushes and brambles, all twisting one in the other, so that neither man nor beast could have made a way through them. Indeed, nothing but the spires of the palace were to be seen over the thick wood formed by the trees, and even these on-

ly at a great distance. The fairy, in doing this, no doubt employed the whole skill of her art, to keep the princess from the view of all the world, while her long sleep lasted.

In the course of time the king and queen died ; but on their death-bed they trusted that the good fairy, who had always yet been so kind to their daughter, would keep her promise in taking care of her still.

At the end of the hundred years, the son of the king who then ruled over the country, but who was not of the same family as the father and mother of the sleeping princess, happened to pass near the palace as he was hunting, and asked the people that were along with him, who was the owner of this wood, and of the building that he saw in the inside it. They all told him what they had heard about the place. Some of them said it was an old castle that was haunted by ghosts ; others said, that all the witches in the country met in it to hold their nightly councils : but the most common opinion was, that an ogre lived in it, who hid himself there, to eat up all the children he ran away with ; because he could eat them without fear there, for no one but himself could get through the wood.

The prince did not know which of these stories he should believe, when an old man came up to him, and said, “ May it please your Royal Highness, I was told more than fifty years ago by my father, who heard it

from my grandfather, that there was hidden in this palace a princess of very great beauty, who was condemned by a fairy to sleep a hundred years; and was then to be waked by a king's son, who was to be her husband.

The young prince listened to this account with surprise, and then thought that he must himself be the king's son who was to wake her as the fairy had said; and so, pushed on by his courage and love, resolved to make his way to the palace.

As soon as he had reached the wood, he found the trees, the bushes, and the brambles, move aside of themselves, and let him pass. He went on towards the palace, which he saw at the end of a long gravel walk, and soon entered it. But he thought it very strange that none of the lords nor people that were along with him had been able to follow him; for the trees, bushes, and brambles, twisted with each other again as soon as ever he had passed through them. He did not care for this, but made the best of his way to the palace; for a young prince in love is always brave.

He came first into a large court, where every thing he saw was enough to startle the stoutest heart in the world. All the men and creatures that the fairy had laid asleep were stretched along on the ground, and seemed as if they were dead; and there was a dreadful silence through all the place. But after a little time, he saw by the red faces of the men-servants, that they were only asleep;

and there were still some beer left in the bottom of their cups, so he knew that they fell asleep while they were drinking.

The prince next went through a large court paved with marble, which led to a pair of stairs. He walked up these, and came to the room of the guards; who were all standing in ranks with their muskets on their shoulders, and snoring quite loud. He went on through a great many other rooms, that were full of ladies and gentlemen, some of them sitting at table, and some standing, but all of them fast asleep.

At last he came to a room gilt all over with gold, in which was a very grand bed, with the curtains drawn back. In this bed he saw a young lady about sixteen years of age, more beautiful than any thing he had ever beheld, lying in a sound sleep; indeed he almost thought it was an angel.

The prince went up close to the bed, but trembled at every step he took; and when he had looked at her two or three minutes with delight and wonder, he could not help falling upon his knees to her, as if she had been awake.

This at once broke the charm that the fairy had put upon the princess; and she opened her eyes, and cast them on the prince with a tender look, as if she had known him before, or had seen him in her sleep. "Is it you, my prince?" said she; "what a long time you have made me wait for you."

The prince was in rapture at these words,

and still more at the sweet tone of voice that she spoke them in; and was at a loss how to express his joy. He assured her he loved her better than he did himself; and he said this a thousand times, with a great many other things of the same kind.

The princess, on her part, was quite as much pleased as he was; for though history does not speak of any such thing, yet we may very well suppose that her good friend the fairy had given her the most pleasant dreams in all her long sleep. In short, they talked together more than four hours, without telling half of what they had to say to one another.

“What a joy, beautiful princess!” said the prince, looking at her all the time with the utmost tenderness, “what a joy it is to be able to do you such a service, to see you smile so sweetly, and to be thus made happy by your love! to think that the greatest princes in the world could not have done what I have, when I broke the cruel charm that laid you in such a long sleep!”

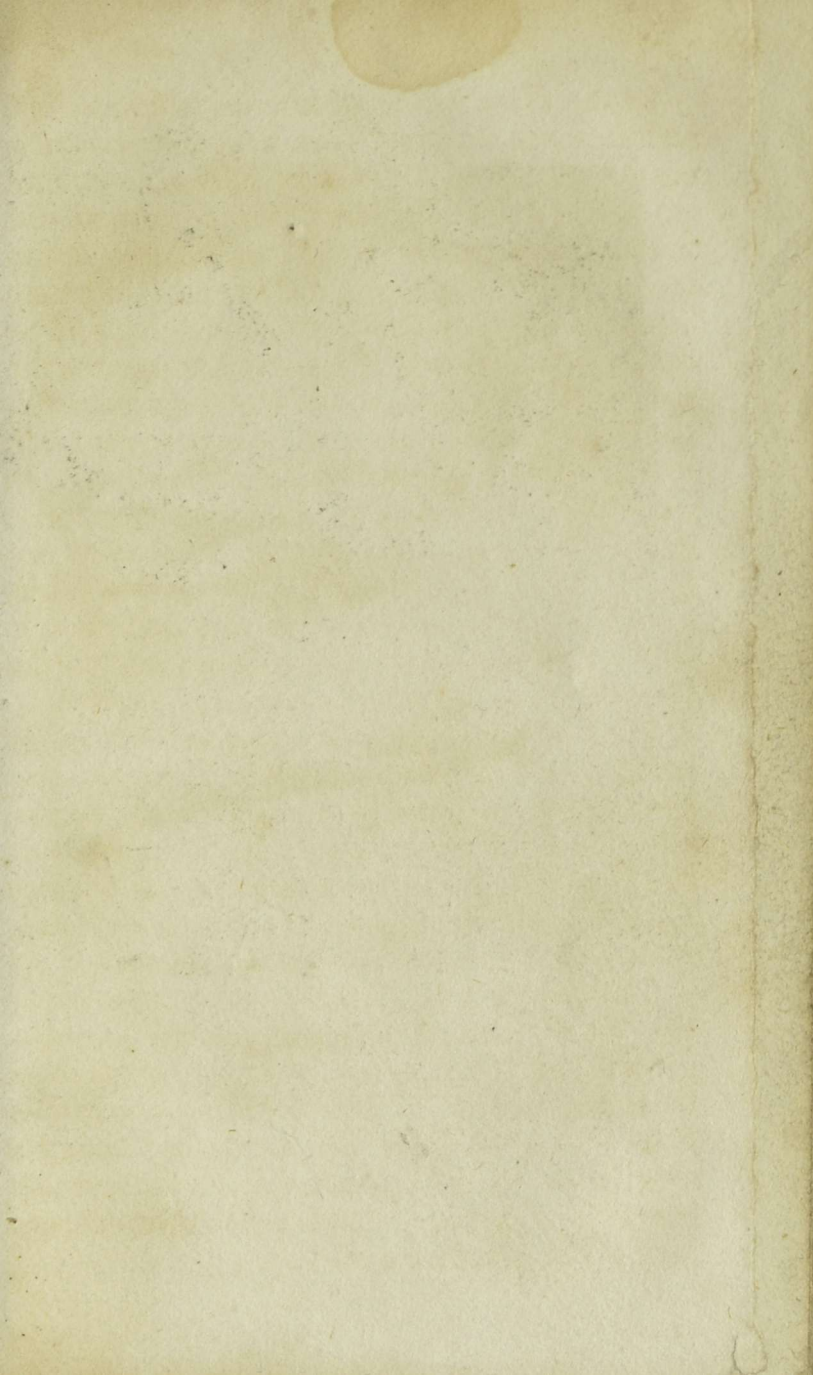
“Ah! dear prince,” answered she, “I feel that we were made for each other. It was you I saw in my dream, it was you who kept with me, and in all my long sleep I thought of nobody but yourself. I knew very well that the prince who was to wake me would be the handsomest man in the world; that he would love me more than himself; and the moment I cast my eyes upon you, I knew you at once.”

In the mean while all the lords and ladies, and servants who had been laid asleep at the same time as the princess, now waked, and set about their business; but they were not in love, as the princess was, and so they found themselves very hungry, for it was a long time indeed since they had tasted any thing. The first maid of honour, who was as hungry as the rest, even made bold to tell the princess, without being asked, that dinner was ready for her.

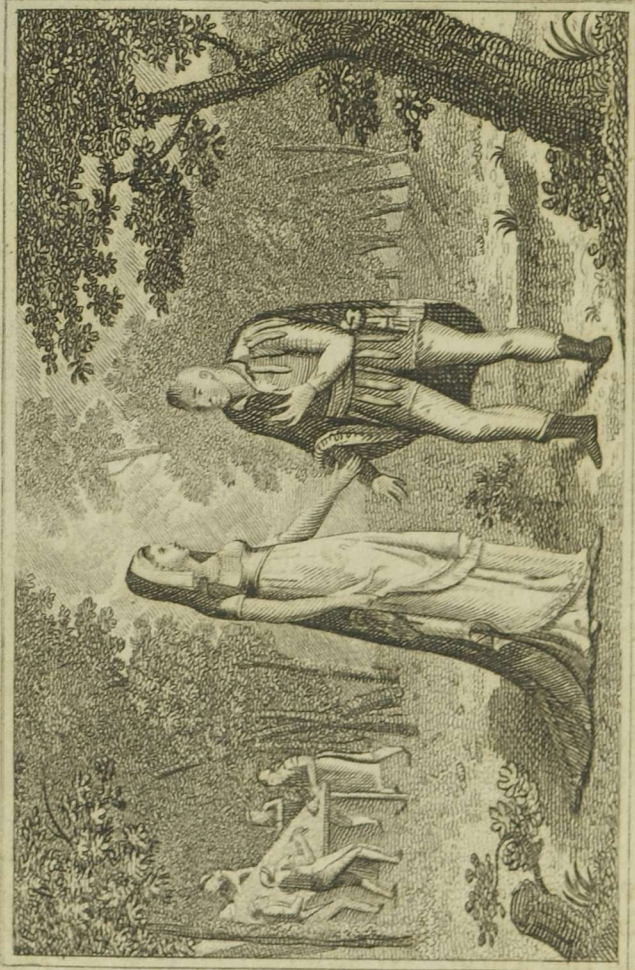
The prince then helped the princess to rise. She was ready drest, and in the finest clothes that could be; but he took care not to tell her that they were as old as his great-grandmother's clothes: and she had even a ruff round her neck; but this did not in the least hurt her beauty.

He then took her hand, and led her to the room where the dinner was on the table. As soon as they had seated themselves, the music, which was all placed ready in the gallery at the upper end of the room, began to play some tunes, which were pretty, though they were now quite old and out of fashion.

The prince and princess spent the evening very much pleased with one another; and agreed that the chaplain should marry them that very night. The wedding then took place; and the next day the prince took his new bride to his father's palace, where her beauty and grace gained her the notice and love of the whole court.



RIQUET WITH THE TUFT.



RIQUET WITH THE TUFT.

THERE was once upon a time a queen, who had a little son ; but he had a hump upon his back, which made him be named Riquet with the Tuft; and he was besides so very ugly, that people hardly knew for a long time whether he had the form of a human creature.

A fairy, who by chance was present at the prince's birth, told his parents, that for all his ugliness, he would make himself pleasing to every one by his great wit and talents ; and she said too, that this was not all, for she would also bestow on him the power of giving the very same charms to the person he should love best.

All this was some comfort to the queen, who was in great grief at the thought of having brought such a frightful little creature into the world. It is true, as soon as ever he began to talk, he said the most charming things that could be ; and all that he did was in so clever and pleasant a manner, as made every body love and admire him.

Seven years after this, the queen of another kingdom was brought-to-bed of twin daughters. The one that was born first was more beautiful than the day; which caused the queen so very much joy, that it was like to put her health in danger.

The same fairy, who had been present at the birth of little Riquet with the Tuft, now chanced to be with this queen also at her lying-in; and to lessen the danger of her too great joy, she told her that the new-born princess should have no sense at all, but be as silly and stupid as she was handsome.

This grieved the queen very much; but in a few minutes she had a still greater sorrow; for the second princess, when born, was the ugliest little thing that was ever beheld.

When the fairy saw the queen's distress at this, she said to her: 'I entreat your majesty, do not thus afflict yourself; your daughter shall possess so much wit, that nobody will perceive her want of beauty.'

'This would be a great comfort to me, indeed,' replied the queen; 'but cannot you bestow a small share of the same charming talent on the princess who is beautiful?'

'This is not in my power,' replied the fairy; 'I cannot meddle with her mind, but I can do all I please with respect to her beauty; and therefore, as there is nothing that I would not do for your sake, I will bestow on her for a gift, that she shall be able

to make the person whom she loves as handsome as she pleases.'

As the two young ladies grew up, nothing was talked of but the beauty of the eldest, and the wit and talents of the youngest. It is true, their defects grew in the same degree; for the youngest became every day more ugly, and the eldest more senseless and stupid; she either did not reply at all to the questions that were asked of her, or spoke in as silly a manner as could be. She was so very awkward too, that if she had to place half-a-dozen tea-cups on the chimney-piece, she was sure to break one of them; or if she tried to drink a glass of water, she spilt half of it upon her clothes.

Though beauty is a great charm to a young lady, yet the youngest princess was thought more of by every one than the eldest. To be sure, people went first to the eldest to see and admire her; but they soon left her, to hear the clever and pleasant talk of her sister: so that in less than a quarter of an hour the eldest always found herself alone, while all the strangers got as near as they could to the youngest.

Though the eldest was very stupid, yet she minded all this, and would gladly have parted with her beauty to gain but half the wit of her sister. The queen, for all her good nature, could not help scolding her now and then for being so stupid; which made the poor princess ready to die of grief.

One day having walked to a wood not far off, where she might sit down and cry at her ease for her hard fate without being seen, she saw a young man of small size, and very ugly, coming near to her; he was at the same time finely dressed. This was the young Prince Riquet with the Tuft, who had fallen deeply in love with this princess from the portraits he had every where seen of her, and had now left his father's kingdom to have the pleasure of seeing and talking to her.

He was charmed at meeting her alone, and went up to her, and spoke to her with great respect. Finding, after the first compliments were over, that she seemed very mournful, he said, 'I cannot think, madam, how a lady with so much beauty as you have, can be so unhappy; for though I can boast of having seen a great number of handsome ladies, none of them could in the smallest degree compare with you.'

'You are pleased to flatter me,' replied the princess, without saying a word more. 'Beauty,' answered Riquet with the Tuft, 'is so great a charm, that it supplies the place of every thing else; and she who owns so great a blessing, ought to be careless of every kind of misfortune.'

'I would much rather,' said the princess, 'be as ugly as you are, and possess wit, than have the beauty you praise, and be such a fool as I am.'

‘Nothing, madam,’ replied the prince, ‘is a surer mark of good sense, than to believe ourselves in want of it: indeed, the more sense we possess, the plainer we see how much we fall short of being perfect.’

‘I know nothing of what you are talking of,’ answered the princess, ‘I only know that I am very foolish, and that is the cause of my grief.’

‘If this is all that makes you unhappy, madam,’ said the prince, ‘I can very soon put an end to that sorrow.’

‘By what means, pray?’ asked the princess.

‘I have the power,’ said Riquet with the Tuft, ‘to bestow as much wit as I please on the person I am to love best in the world; and as that person can be no other, madam, than yourself, it depends only on your own will to be the wittiest lady upon the earth. I shall ask of you in return but one thing; which is, that you will consent to marry me.’

The princess looked at him with great surprise, but did not speak a word.

‘I see,’ added Riquet, ‘that my offer makes you uneasy, and I do not wonder at it; I will, therefore, give you a whole year to think of what answer you will give me.’

The princess was so very stupid and silly, at the same time so much wished to be witty, that she resolved to accept the offer made her by Prince Riquet with the Tuft; she even

thought a whole year a very long time, and would gladly have made it shorter if she could. She therefore told the prince she would marry him on that day twelvemonth; as soon as she had spoken these words, she found herself quite another creature: she said every thing she wished, not only with the greatest ease, but in the most graceful manner. She at once took share in a pleasing discourse with the prince; in which she showed herself so witty, that Riquet began to fear he had given her more of the charming talent, for which she so much longed, than he had kept to himself.

When the princess went back to the palace, the whole court was thrown into the utmost surprise, at the sudden change they found in her; for every thing she now said, was as clever and pleasing as it had before been stupid and foolish.

The joy of this event was the greatest ever known throughout the court; the youngest princess was the only person who did not share in it; for as her wit no longer served to set her above the beauty of her sister, she now seemed to every one a most ugly and frightful creature.

The news of this great change being every where talked of, it soon reached the ears of the princes in other kingdoms; who all hastened to gain her favour, and demand her for a wife.

But the princess would hardly listen to what they had to say; as not one of them had wit enough to make her think of his offer for a moment.

At last there came a prince so great, so rich, so witty, and so handsome, that she could not help feeling a great liking for him. When the king, her father, saw this, he told her she had only to choose for a husband whom she liked best, and that she might be sure of his consent to her marriage.

As the most sensible persons are always the most careful how to resolve in such serious matters, the princess, after thanking her father, begged him to allow her time to think of what she should do.

Soon after this, the princess chanced in her walks to wander towards the very wood in which she had met Riquet with the Tuft; and wishing to be free from disturbance, while thinking of her new lover, she strolled a good way into it.

When she had walked about for some time, she heard a great noise under ground, like the sound of many persons running backwards and forwards, and busy on some great affair. After listening for a moment, she heard different voices: one said, 'Bring me that kettle;' another said, 'Fetch the great boiler;' another, 'Put some coals on the fire.' At the same moment the ground opened, and the princess saw, with the greatest wonder, a

large kitchen filled with vast numbers, and every sort of thing fit for making ready a noble dinner; some had rolling-pins, and were making the most dainty sorts of pastry; others were beating the syllabubs and turning the custards; and at one end of the kitchen she saw at least twenty men-cooks, all busy in trussing different sorts of the finest game and poultry, and singing all the time as merry as could be.

The princess, in the utmost surprise at what she beheld, asked them to whom they belonged.

‘To Prince Riquet with the Tuft, madam,’ said the head cook, ‘it’s his wedding-dinner we are making ready.’

The princess was now in still greater surprise than before; but in a moment it came into her mind, that this was just the day twelve-month on which she had promised to marry Prince Riquet. When she thought of this, she was ready to sink on the ground. The reason of her not thinking of it before was, that when she made the promise to the prince she was quite silly; and the wit which the prince had given to her, had made her forget all that had happened to her before.

She tried to walk away from the place, but had not gone twenty steps, when she saw Riquet with the Tuft before her, dressed finely, in the grandest wedding-suit that ever was seen.

‘ You see, madam,’ said he, ‘ that I have kept my promise strictly ; and I dare say you are come for the same purpose, and to make me the most happy of men.’

‘ I must confess,’ replied the princess, ‘ that I have not yet made up my mind on that subject ; and also, that I fear I can never consent to what you desire.’

‘ You quite surprise me, madam,’ answered Prince Riquet.

‘ That I can easily believe,’ replied the princess, ‘ and to be sure I should be greatly at a loss what to say to you, if I did not know that you possess the best sense in the world. If you were a silly prince, you would say, “ the promise of a princess should not be broken, and therefore you must marry me.” But you, Prince Riquet, who have so much more sense than any body else, will, I hope, excuse me for what I have said.

‘ You cannot forget, that when I was only a silly stupid princess, I would not freely consent to marry you ; how therefore, now that I am blessed with sense, and for that reason must of course be the more hard to please, can you expect me to choose the prince I would not then accept ?

‘ If you really wished to marry me, you did very wrong to change me from the most silly creature in the world to the most witty, so as to make me see more plainly the faults of others.’

‘If, madam,’ replied Riquet with the Tuft, ‘you would think it right in a prince without sense to blame you for what you have said, why should you deny to me the same power, in an affair in which the welfare of my whole life is at stake? Is it just, that persons of sense should be worse treated than those who have none?’

‘Can you, my princess, who are now so very clever, and who so much wished to be so, indeed resolve to treat me in this manner? But let us reason upon it a little: Is there any thing in me besides my being ugly that you dislike? Do you object to my birth, my sense, my temper, manners, or rank?’

‘No; none of these,’ replied the princess; ‘I dislike nothing in you but your being so very ugly.’

‘If that is the case,’ answered Riquet, ‘I shall soon be the most happy man alive; for you, princess, have the power to make me as handsome as you please.’

‘How can that be?’ asked the princess.

‘Nothing more is wanting,’ said Riquet, ‘than that you should love me well enough to wish me to be handsome. In short, my charming princess, I must inform you, that the same fairy, who at my birth was pleased to bestow upon me the gift of making the lady I loved best as witty as I pleased, was present also at yours, and gave to you the power of making him whom you should love best as handsome as you pleased.’

‘If this is the case,’ said the princess, ‘I wish you with all my heart, to be the handsomest prince in the world; and as much depends upon me, I bestow on you the gift of beauty.’

As soon as the princess had done speaking, Riquet with the Tuft seemed in her eyes the most handsome, the best shaped, and most pleasing person that she had ever beheld.

Some people thought that this great change in the prince was not brought about by the gift of the fairy, but that the love which the princess felt for him was the only cause of it; and in their minds, the princess thought so much of the good-faith of her lover, of his prudence, and the goodness of his heart and mind, that she no longer thought of either his being so ugly in his face, or so crooked in his shape.

The hump on his back, such people thought, now seemed to her to be nothing more than the easy gait in which men of rank sometimes indulge themselves; and his lameness seemed a careless freedom, that was very graceful; the squinting of his eyes, in those of the princess, did but make them seem more sparkling and more tender; and his thick red nose, in her mind, gave a manly and warlike air to his whole face.

Let this be as it may, the princess promised to marry Prince Riquet with the Tuft directly, if he could obtain the consent of the king her father.

When the king was told, that his daughter felt a great esteem for Riquet with the Tuft, as he had already heard of the goodness of the heart and mind of that prince, he agreed with pleasure to have him for a son-in-law; so that next day, as the prince had long hoped for, he was married to the beautiful and no less witty princess.

THE MAGIC LEGACY.

A CERTAIN king had one son, named Alindor, whom he had made an accomplished prince. A few minutes before his death, which took place after a long illness, he addressed him in the following words:—

‘ Son, the spirits of my ancestors beckon me to them; I am aged, and it is time I should make room for thee. The crown which I bequeath, has been a burden to my head. Thou, my son, will wear it with joy and honour. Know, that I have long possessed a treasure, which enchantment has prevented me from enjoying; but nothing restricts thee from the use of it. Take this key, and open a chest that thou wilt find buried beneath the fountain before the eastern front of thy palace. Possess thyself, as soon as I am in the land of spirits, of this inestimable prize, and let

justice and generosity guide thee in the application of it. Once more embrace me, and receive the last breath of thy expiring father in a prayer for thy prosperity.'

With these words the old King breathed his last. Alindor, sunk in deep grief, hung long, sorrowing over the lifeless corpse. His grief was genuine, and flowed from the sensibility of a tender and grateful heart.

He caused his father to be interred with pomp suited to his worth, and fulfilled every duty to his remains. He then set fifty labourers to dig under the fountain, which was constructed of enormous masses of marble, that rendered the work slow of execution. At length, after some weeks labour, a vault was discovered many feet under the earth.

The prince, whom curiosity often led to inspect the industry of the workmen, was present when it was broken. All that it was found to contain was a chest of ebony, which Alindor, to his amazement, found so light, that he could raise it in his arms, and carry it without difficulty.

But what a new shock to the expectations of the prince, when, on opening the chest, he found nothing but an empty leather purse, a horn of metal, and a girdle of coarse hair. His sudden disappointment was so great, that he stood for some time motionless, meditating in silent agony on the insulting mockery of his father.

Alindor examined the chest with more attention, and in one corner discovered a roll of parchment, on which he read these words:—

‘ When thou hast need of gold, open the purse, and thou wilt find whatever thou hast occasion for.

‘ If soldiers be necessary to thee, blow the horn three times, and an army will stand up at thy command, whom thou mayest dismiss with a word.

‘ Wouldst thou be transported from one place to another, gird thyself with the belt, and it will convey thee instantly to the place where thou wishest.

‘ These, wisely employed, may make thee the most powerful of monarchs; but be careful to preserve them; for they will possess the same virtues in the hands of another; and what may conduce to thy prosperity may also be employed for thy destruction.’

The son of a poor king, debarred from the magnificence of his rank, will desire gold: and gold was accordingly the first wish of Alindor. The purse was required to do its office; and scarcely had the young king opened it with the wish, than it swelled in his hands to such a bulk and weight, that he was constrained to let it fall to the floor, which was covered with gold of every species.

The prince then blowing the enchanted horn inconsiderately, he found himself surrounded with soldiers, who disappeared at his

order. These proofs satisfied him, that his girdle would not fail when brought to a trial, and he soon found occasion to employ it. He had long languished with a secret passion for Zenomia, the daughter of a califf. Zenomia was selfish, vain, haughty, and ambitious, but, at the same time, an admirable creature; since in beauty and accomplishments she was unrivalled among her sex.

Zemonia's beauty, which was the more seductive, as she knew how to vary it with every form of sentiment, held a crowd of young princes in her chains. Alindor sighed in solitude for her, while his richer rivals, by magnificent offerings, openly contended for her favour. That he had never declared his love, proceeded from his inability to support an expense equal to his rivals, and he felt that, in courage, address, and personal accomplishments, he was inferior to none. This made him confide in his power to attract the attention of Zenomia, if he were enabled to present himself with suitable splendour.

The treasure which he possessed in the magic purse, now furnished him with the means of surpassing every competitor in expense. As soon as he entered the realms of the califf, he spared no cost to extend the fame of his wealth and liberality. His entrance into the capital excited the amazement of the people, and his appearance at court awakened the

jealousy of all the rival princes, who dreaded in him a formidable antagonist.

The califf and his consort, encouraged the addresses of so rich a monarch to their daughter, and Zenomia gradually displayed a marked preference for him over his rivals. Alindor was benevolent, sincere, and consequently unsuspecting and credulous; he thought himself master of the princess's heart, when, in fact, he had only excited her avarice and vanity.

The violence of his passion at length brought from him a formal declaration, when his efforts to please her had seemed to render her peculiarly favourable to him.

‘How canst thou expect acceptance of my love?’ said the princess, ‘when it is too plain thou hast reposed no confidence in me: The title thou hast assumed is an imposition; since the petty kingdom, of which thou callest thyself the ruler, could never suffice for thy profusion. In short, prince, there is somewhat mysterious in your appearance, which must be explained before I can make any answer to your offers.’

Alindor protested, that his name and title were what he professed them; and as Zenomia was still incredulous, and persisted to maintain the contrary, to remove from himself the unjust suspicion, the too ingenious prince revealed to his beloved fair the secret source of his riches

Zenomia was not content with his assurance; she would see the purse, and make experiment of its virtues.

Alindor long refused to part, for a moment, with so inestimable a treasure, the care of which had been so solemnly enjoined on him by his father; but Zenomia's reproaches, and insinuating entreaties, at length triumphed over his constancy, and he gave the purse, reluctantly, into her hands.

No sooner was it in her power, than she flew out of the apartment, and shut the door on the prince; who, considering her only in a jest, expected her return with impatience, but without uneasiness.

After some time, a slave came in the name of the princess, to thank him for the present, and announce to him, that Zenomia, in company with the califf and her mother, was about to set off for one of their country palaces.

The plot now stood revealed to the prince, and he saw that the father, mother, and daughter, had been engaged in a conspiracy to plunder him. He had no resource, but to return to his kingdom for the most potent of his father's gifts, to revenge the injury, and to obtain restitution of what had been so treacherously won from him. In two months he appeared before the capital of the califf, provided with his horn and girdle. No sooner had he given three blasts, than an army of fifty thousand men stood at each of the four

gates of the city, while a large body of horsemen scoured the country. Amazement and fear seized the inhabitants; none thought of attacking, or were prepared for resistance; they threw themselves at the mercy of the victor, and the califf sought to save himself and family by flight.

The fugitives were intercepted by the prince's cavalry, and brought captives into the tent of Alindor.

Zenomia wiped away the tears that dimmed her eyes, and recognized Alindor, whom his helmet and arms had at first concealed from the knowledge of the califf and herself.

'Scarcely can I trust my eyes,' said she, 'when I behold in thee, prince, the disturber of our peace, and the ravager of our city and empire. Alas! I see, that thy vows of love and esteem were words devoid of sentiment! Shame on thee,' proceeded she, scornfully, 'who to revenge a woman's frolic, wastes kingdoms, and, sword in hand, assails his mistress! Blush, prince, this conduct disgraces you.'

Zenomia concluded her address with a voice of such tenderness, that Alindor, wholly subdued, cast himself at her feet, and swore with the most solemn imprecations, to disband his troops, and think no more of vengeance, as soon as his purse was restored to him.

'Here is the unhappy cause of all this mischief,' said she, throwing a leathern purse

to him, 'receive the fatal treasure, of the possession of which thou art so jealous. Take it, and know that I feel no more pain in parting with it, than I do in flying a lover whose humours are so impetuous and fatal!'

Alindor lost all government of himself; he mistook the reproaches of Zenomia for offended love, and fancying he had really possessed the princess's heart, the fear of having lost her esteem drove him almost to desperation. He would willingly, to excuse himself, rather by actions than words, have made a voluntary offering of the purse to Zenomia, had she deigned to wait his answer; but with the last words she had retired hastily from his presence.

Alindor now turned to the califf, and conjured him to reconcile him with the princess. He dismissed his army, which, during this time, had collected about his tent, and which he annihilated by a word. The califf thanked the prince for his generosity, and besought him to accompany him to the city, where a banquet should solemnize the peace, and consign all enmity to oblivion.

He now renewed with more fervour his vows of love, and his wish to possess the heart of the princess.

'Willingly,' said she, 'would I obey a voice that speaks too eloquently for thee in my heart, were not thy power so tremendous. I shudder at the thought of belonging

to a man, who stands in such close relation to supernatural beings. Disclose to me the means by which thou hast brought so innumerable a host before our gates, 'ere we knew of thy arrival. Explain to me the possibility of such a surprise, which is not less miraculous than the sudden disappearance of so many, whom I myself saw vanish into air in an instant. Speak, prove thyself of a mortal nature like myself, that I may not be weighed down with thy superiority, and from that moment I will chase awe and terror from my soul, and all within me shall be Love's and Alindor's.'

Zenomia uttered these words with so true a tone of affection and tenderness, that the prince consented to gratify her curiosity. He produced his magic horn, and informed Zenomia of the manner and effects of its operation. The artful beauty soon found means to gain this precious instrument; and as soon as it was in her hands, she gave three blasts, and in an instant an army, that filled the palace, attended her orders. Alindor's confidence in his beloved was so entire, and his shame of his former distrust was so great, that he had not the least suspicion of any insidious design, and he only regretted the alarm and confusion which her inconsiderate experiment might cause in the city. He requested her to dismiss the magic host into air, when, to his amazement and horror, the

princess, instead of listening to his words, turned to the nearest soldiers, and bade them seize the prince, and convey him to her father.

Fortunately Alindor had girded himself, beneath his robe, with the magic belt ; and this, with his first wish, transported him instantaneously to his own kingdom. His indignation was so incensed at this second deceit of his perfidious mistress, that he vowed eternal hatred, and menaced the most severe vengeance on her head. But what words can speak his phrenzy, when recurring to his purse to replenish his exhausted coffers, he found it remain empty. Then, on closer inspection, he found it totally different from his own, and he perceived the black fraud and perfidy of Zenomia.

Stung by resentment, he was not long in inventing the plan of his revenge, and the means of executing it were found in the magic girdle, the sole remaining and apparently most worthless legacy of his father. On this he reposed all his hopes of restitution and vengeance ; and waiting only for midnight, he bound the girdle about his waist, and wished himself in the princess's apartment.

The belt fulfilled its office in an instant, and placed him beside the couch of his false mistress, who, sunk in a sound sleep, apprehended nothing from her enraged lover.

Alindor's design had been to surprise Ze-

nomia during her sleep, to extort from her, by menaces of instant death, his magic purse and horn; then by means of the latter to collect a numerous army, and carry away the califf with his perfidious family captives. But the poor prince soon felt that the execution of this splendid scheme was impossible, and he renounced a triumph for which his too weak and susceptible heart incapacitated him. The charms of his false, but beautiful Zenomia, whom he saw by the light of a lamp reclining before him, more enchanting and irresistible than ever, and whom he contemplated too long to remain constant to his design, raising his passion in full force, made him forget his wrongs, and left him no care but to excuse his temerity. A deep sigh, which stole from his lips, disturbed her; she leaped terrified from the sofa, and cried aloud for help. Alindor embraced her, and besought her to be tranquil.

‘Who art thou, rash man?’ exclaimed Zenomia, struggling to extricate herself, ‘what means thy insolence? unhand me!’

‘Forgive my temerity, Zenomia,’ said the prince, ‘as I forgive thee greater offences. I conjure thee to banish every fear, and give me a patient audience.’

Zenomina now recollected the voice and features of her injured lover, foreboded his design, and prevented his declarations, by thus addressing him: ‘I am culpable, prince, I own. I urged too far the proud design of

robbing you of every thing, that from my hand you might receive all. You have mistaken my sentiments, and must have argued meanly of me. I will not now inquire by what new charm you have penetrated through the numerous guards of my palace: I revere the mysterious powers that obey you, and search not into their ways. Yet you need not their assistance to recover your treasures, before morning they shall be restored. But prince,' continued she, with a tone of insinuating tenderness, 'there is a reparation owing me, which, if thou hast ever loved me, thou wilt not scruple to acquit thyself of. Thou hast endangered my honour, and exposed my name to calumny, by this intrusion into my apartment; from this hour thou art my husband, and to-morrow must solemnize our nuptials.'

'Is it possible,' cried Alindor, 'that thou canst return my rashness with such generosity? Yes, beloved Zenomia, I am thine, and nothing henceforth shall disturb our harmony.'

Zenomias, meanwhile observed his girdle, whose shaggy texture rendered it sufficiently perceptible on the silken robe which the prince wore beneath, and her penetration suggested to her that some new magic was concerned with this uncouth ornament. Hoping to win the secret from her lover, she loosed the belt gradually from his waist; and when

she had so far effected her purpose, that another touch would detach it, she drew back, in the midst of a tender address of the prince, pretending to have been hurt by some part of his apparel. She now feigned to perceive the magic girdle, and ridiculing it for its ungraceful appearance, begged him to divest himself of so odious an ornament.

‘Do not despise this belt,’ replied Alindor, ‘of all the wonders I possess it is the most precious. To this girdle I owe all the happiness of my future life.’

To support his words, Alindor related how he had made a journey of many weeks, by means of this girdle, in an instant: and unsuspectingly informed her, it had the virtue of transporting him wheresoever he would.

No sooner was the artful Zenomia acquainted with the precious secret, than she approached the amorous prince, threw him off his guard by her caresses, and loosed from his body the girdle, which now scarcely hung to his side. Instantly binding it round her waist, she wished herself conveyed to the califf’s apartment, and vanished in a moment from the arms of her deluded lover.

Alindor’s astonishment at this treachery was so great, that he lost all consciousness, and was near falling into the hands of the guards, whom she had despatched to seize him. Fortunately the rattling of the gates awakened him from the stupefaction in which

the base perfidy of the princess had left him, and he had just time to save himself by a staircase that led into the gardens.

Death was his sole wish; and to rid himself of life, which had become insupportable to him, he sought the haunts of lions and tigers, to find in their fangs refuge from the thoughts of a mistress more inhuman than all the savages of the wild.

For two days he wandered about the rough cliffs of a horrid wilderness, to meet that death which he could never find. Fatigued beyond sufferance, and tormented by the most raging thirst and hunger, he resolved to terminate all his miseries; and accordingly, mounting to the summit of the steepest precipice, he threw himself headlong down. The fall must have proved immediate death to him, had not his robe caught in the projecting branch of a tree. This broke the force of his fall, and let him down gently on a bed of moss, that preserved him free from any fracture; but he had lost his breath and sense during the fall, and he lay some time motionless on the ground.

When his reason returned, he found himself tormented by such a burning thirst, that he strove to raise himself from the earth, that he might search for some spring water; but all his struggles were ineffectual, and he seemed held to the ground by some vast weight. Looking for the impediment that restrained

him, he perceived that a vast branch, which he had by the violence of his fall detached from the tree, lay under him, and was entangled with his garment. With joy he saw the branch covered with ripe figs of extraordinary size and beauty. He gathered some, and devoured them with avidity.

Scarcely had the prince appeased his thirst with the delicious fruit, than he was disturbed in his enjoyment by a frightful prodigy.

With every fig he had eaten, his nose extended itself the length of a thumb; but occupied with the cravings of hunger and thirst, he did not remark the deformity, till the disproportion was monstrous. He observed it with amazement, but without terror, and almost with indifference. 'Perhaps,' said he, it is a brand of ignominy for my folly and credulity, in losing the precious donations of my father.

During these reflections, the prince wandered about the valley, into which he had precipitated himself, in search of an outlet. Noontide advanced, the sun shot more burning rays, and Alindor's thirst returned on him with new fury. Happily he heard the gushing of water, and perceiving a spring, he lay down beside it, to drink with more facility the clear liquid. He swallowed the cool water out of his palms for want of a better cup, and observed, that with every draught, the monstrous exuberance of his nose diminished.

He profited by the discovery, and continued his draughts till his deformed feature had recovered its natural dimensions.

This unexpected good fortune inspired him with a transient joy, which nothing can extinguish wholly in the human breast, and again revived his hopes. Meditating on the possibility of regaining his lost treasures, the ludicrous accident that had befallen his countenance suggested to him a stratagem which promised to restore his losses, and revenge him on his false mistress.

Alindor delayed not an instant the execution of his plan. He broke off a branch of the finest figs, and returning to the spring with an earthen vessel, which he procured from a forester, he filled it with the miraculous water. Exchanging his rich vestments for a dress of inferior stuff, he entered the city in the disguise of a peasant, bearing his figs neatly disposed in a basket, and proceeded with them to the palace of the califf.

As the fruit was of uncommon beauty, they were immediately purchased for the table of the sultanness and her daughter.

Alindor retired hastily from the palace, when the bargain was concluded, and disguising himself anew in a long beard and a black mantle, he hired a house in one of the suburbs, and assumed the character of an Egyptian physician. The mother and daughter, allured by the delicious flavour of the fruit,

devoured it with an eagerness, that did not suffer them to perceive its consequences, till the noses of both were enlarged to an enormous bulk of deformity. Each perceived the alteration in herself and in the other, at the same moment, and both burst out in exclamations of surprise and horror.

Mother and daughter ran affrighted to a mirror, and, seeing their faces thus hideously disfigured, brought all their attendants about them with their lamentations. The rumour of this miraculous event spread thro' the whole palace, and the califf came to satisfy himself of this extraordinary incident.

The califf summoned all the most celebrated physicians of his capital, and promised a kingly recompence to him who should relieve his wife and daughter from their odious incumbrances. After long consultations, it was unanimously agreed, that the misfortune was not to be relieved by medicine, and that as its cause was not in natural circumstances, neither was its remedy in nature.

Alindor now thought it time to hasten the progress of his stratagem. He accordingly announced himself as a sage, experienced in all the mysteries of medicine, and he boasted of possessing a magical secret, of infallible efficacy, to restore the princesses to their pristine beauty.

He was received with every mark of respect, and an apartment was assigned him

in the palace, that he might be nearer his patients.

The water from the fount, of which he had made in his own case the successful experiment, effected on the sultanness all she could wish. Her nose was reduced with every draught, and it depended on the prince alone, to have at once freed her from the loathsome incumbrance; but he purposely delayed the accomplishment of her cure, to give it greater value from its apparent difficulty.

When the cure was perfected, and he had no longer an excuse for deferring to devote his labour to the princess, Alindor one morning was introduced to her apartment, and addressed her in these words:—

‘Your aspect, princess, moves me at once to mirth and compassion. Should you ever appear with this frightful proboscis in the world, will it not be thought you are decended from an elephant? Of what use are your graces, now that this monstrous redundance counteracts the lustre of your complexion and the splendour of your eyes? The wretches whom you once subjected to your caprice by the magic of your beauties, now triumph in their turn, and deride your deformity. But compose your anguish; your mother ceases to be an object of horror, and perhaps by the success of my efforts you may be so no longer.’ Then, after pronouncing many strange words and using various gestures, he administered

to her a cup of common water, which was of no use, but only served to irritate the hopes of the princess. Feigning surprise and disappointment, at the failure of his pretended medicine, he prepared another cup of the same potent remedy, into which, to render it still more infallible, he pressed the juice of some flowers and herbs, amidst a multitude of magical ceremonies, and this the princess was directed to drink with her face turned towards the east.

The nose of the princess was not lessened a hair's breadth by this tantalizing process.

Zenomia was in the utmost despair, and the pretended sage confessed himself embarrassed at the failure of his remedies. He retired with the assurance, that he would renew his endeavours the ensuing morn.

Alindor repeated three days successively this pantomime, till the anguish and tears of the princess had become almost insupportable. He then appointed the hour of midnight for a grand and final attempt.

Zenomia waited the instant of his arrival with the most agonizing palpitations. It was now to be decided, whether she should remain a monster, or should be again the most beautiful of creatures. Her whole soul hung on the event; she received the astrologer with tears in her eyes, and conjured him to exhaust all his skill, to free her from so hateful a deformity.

‘If the magnificent rewards promised by my father be insufficient to excite your diligence and ardour, know,’ said she, ‘that I possess treasures of inestimable value, with which, on the instant you effect my cure, I will demonstrate to you my gratitude.’

‘I am familiar with the promises of the sick,’ said the false physician, with indifference and coldness, ‘and know how little we can trust to their performance.’

Zenomina, without answering, stepped into her chamber, and returned to the sage with her magic purse, together with the horn and girdle, that she might excite his avarice and establish his confidence in her.

‘These three insignificant utensils,’ said she, ‘possess such miraculous virtues, that it depends only on my use of them, to become the richest and most powerful of all mortals. From this instant they are your own, and I will instruct you to employ them, when you have restored me to my proper form.’

‘I need not thy directions,’ interrupted Alindor, throwing away his disguise, and seizing the precious prize; ‘I resume what thou hast robbed me of, and leave thee thy false heart and monstrous nose.’

While he spoke these words, he girded himself in his magic belt, and wishing himself in his own kingdom, left the false fair one to deplore the loss of her ill-gotten gains and her beauty.

DIAMONDS AND TOADS.

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

The youngest was just like her father, who had nothing but good-nature and sweet-temper in him. She was also the most beautiful creature that ever was seen. The mother doated upon the eldest; but she hated the youngest, and made her eat every day in the kitchen, and work all day with the servants.

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

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

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

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

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

to let her drink, do it in as civil and kind a manner as you can.'

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

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

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

As soon as her mother saw her coming home, she called out, 'Well, daughter!

‘Well, mother!’ answered the pert creature; and as she spoke, two toads and two snakes dropped from her mouth to the ground. ‘Oh, mercy!’ cried the mother, ‘what do I see? it is that jade your sister who is the cause of all this! but she shall pay for it, I warrant her;’ and she went straight to look for her, that she might beat her.

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

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

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

As for her sister, she grew even more pert than before, and behaved in all things so very ill, that her mother was forced to turn her out of doors. At last, the ill-natured and saucy creature wandered a long way, and tried to get some one to give her food and shelter, but she could not: so she went into a thick wood, and there died of grief and hunger, without having one person in the world to pity or to be sorry for her.

FINIS.

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