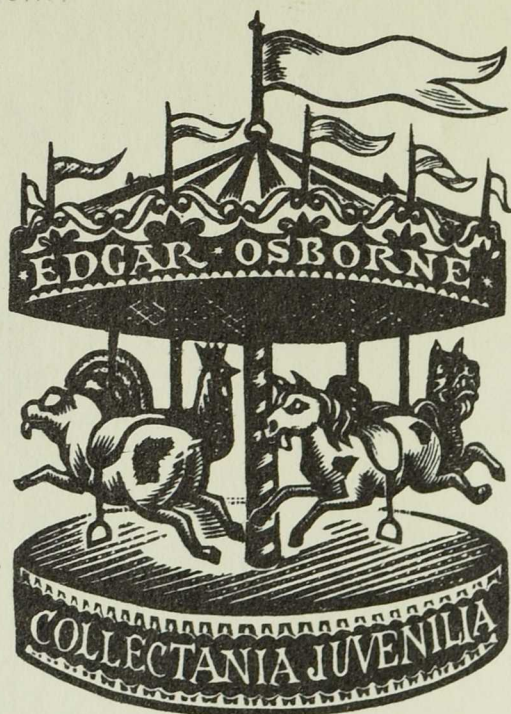


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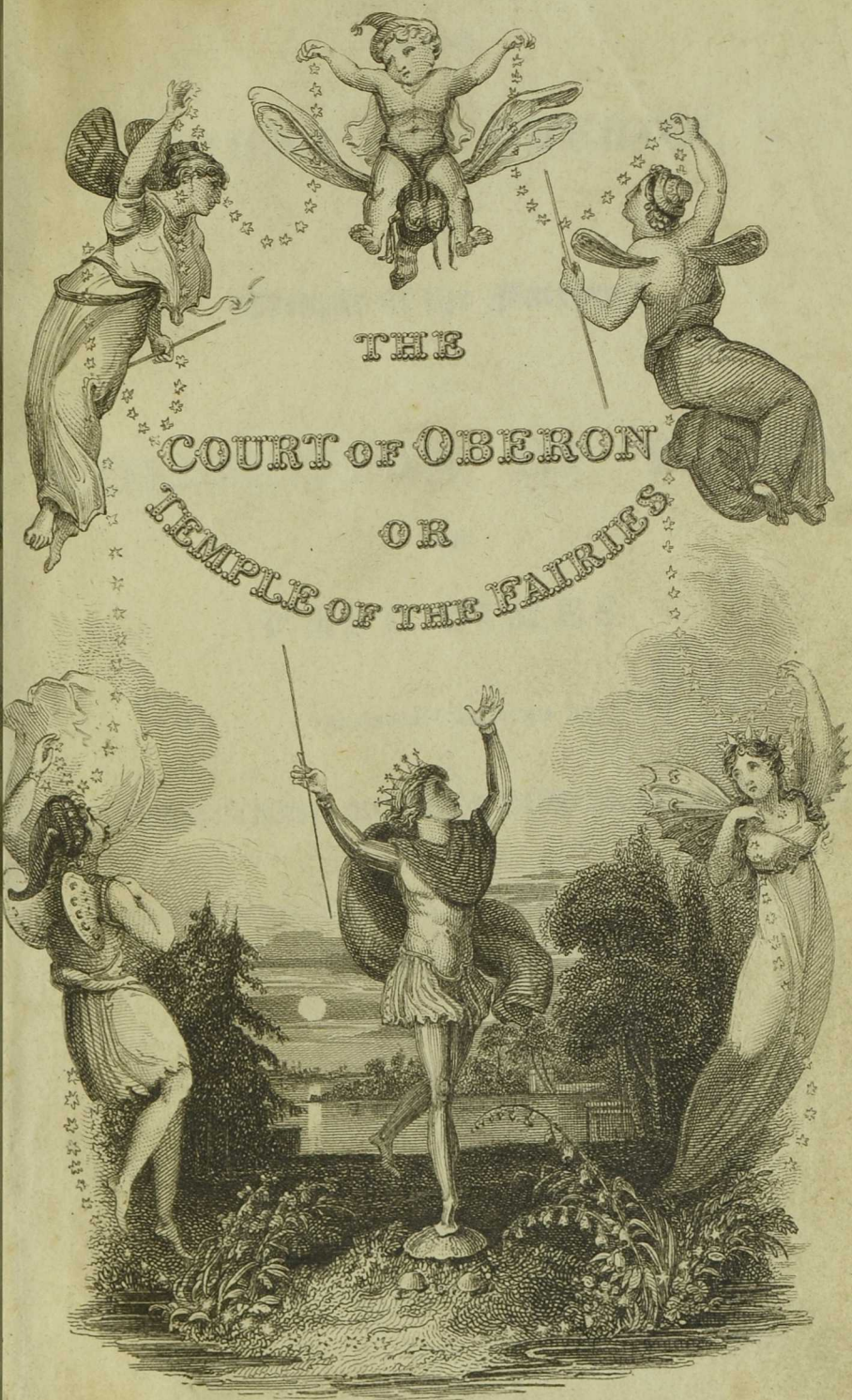


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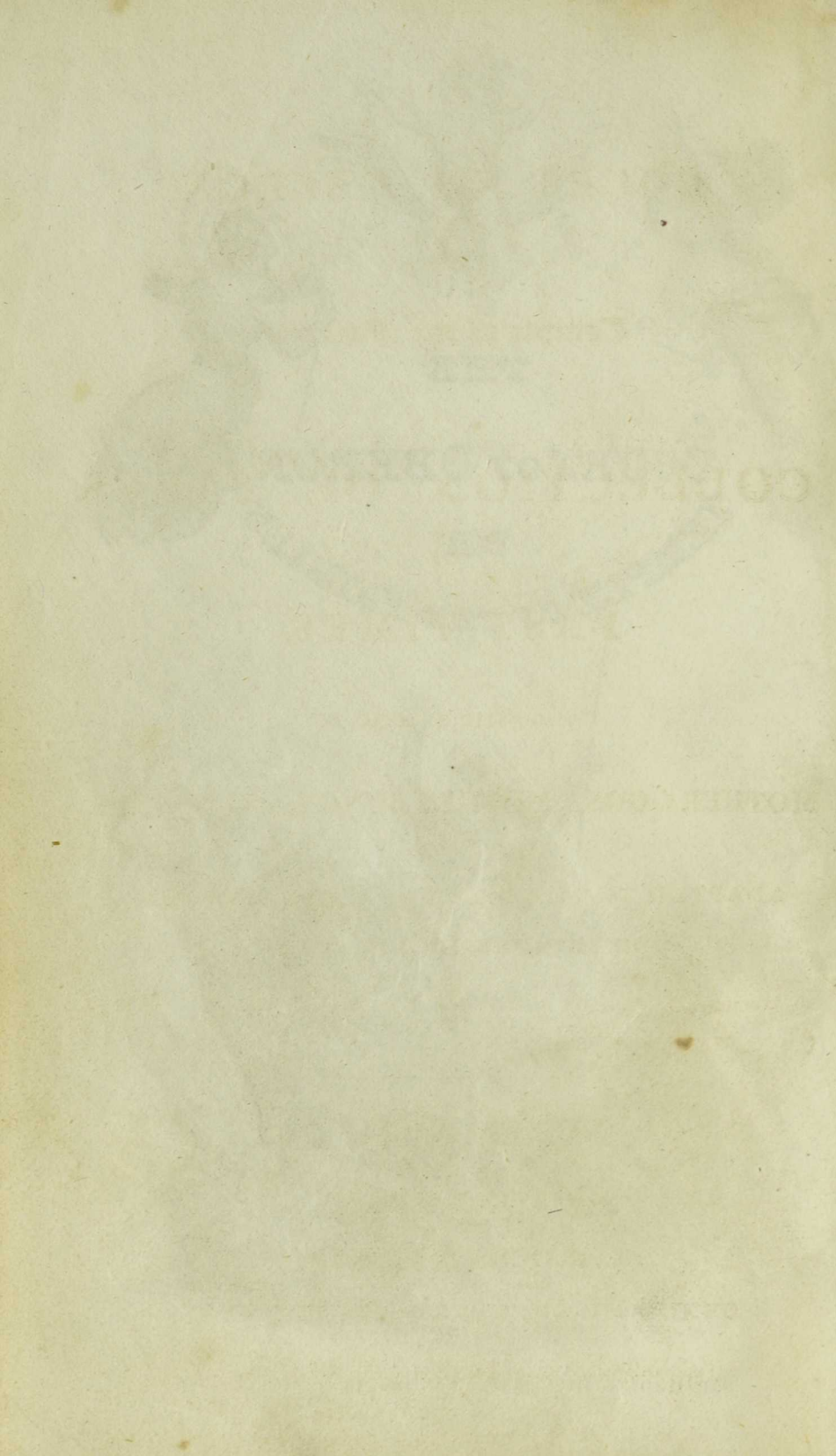
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Alexander Bruce
1828.

Margaret E. Neilson
from her cousin
Christina Bruce
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THE
COURT OF OBERON,
OR
Temple of the Fairies :
A
COLLECTION OF TALES
OF
PAST TIMES.

ORIGINALLY RELATED BY
MOTHER GOOSE, MOTHER BUNCH, AND OTHERS,
ADAPTED TO THE LANGUAGE AND MANNERS
OF THE PRESENT PERIOD.

LONDON:
J. HARRIS AND SON,
CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

1823.

COURT OF COMMONS

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE

LAND REVENUE

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MOTHER GOOSE'S TALES.



Little Red Riding Hood. part 1. page 1.

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FAIRY TALES.

Part the First.

THE CELEBRATED TALES OF MOTHER GOOSE.

LITTLE RED RIDING-HOOD.

ONCE upon a time, there lived, in a certain village, a little country girl, the prettiest creature ever seen. Her mother was extremely fond of her, and her grandmother doted on her much more. This good woman presented her with a little riding-hood of red cloth, which became the girl so extremely well, that every body called her Little Red Riding-Hood.

One day, her mother, having made some custards, said to her, "Go, my dear, and see how your grand-mamma does, for I hear she has been very ill: carry her a custard and a little pot of butter." Little Red Riding-Hood set out immediately to go to her grand-mother, who lived in another village. As she was going through the wood, she met with Gaffer Wolf, who had a very great mind to eat her up, but he durst not, because of some faggot-makers who were at work at a little distance.

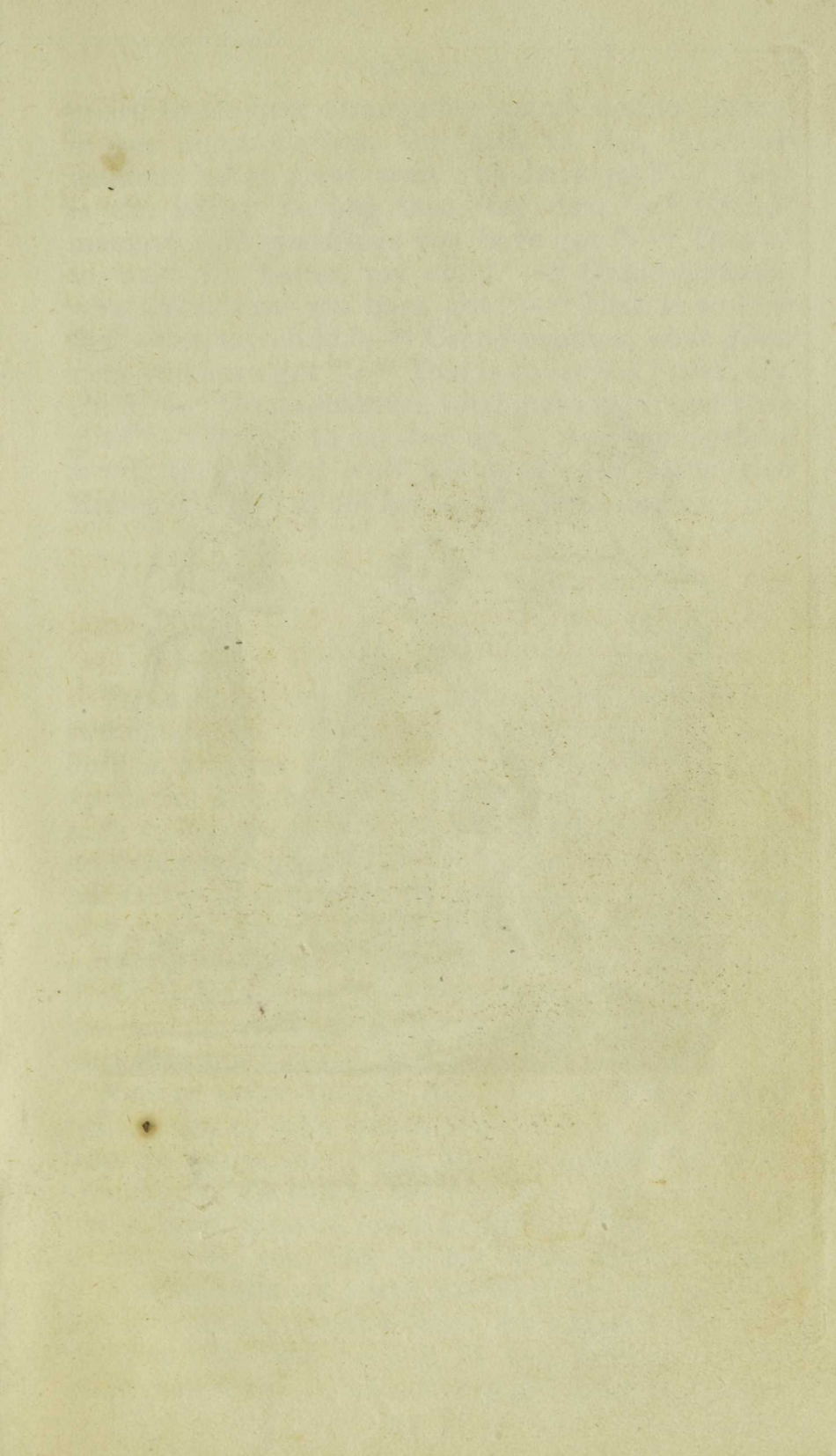
He asked her, however, whither she was going; and the poor child, who did not know that it was dangerous to stay and hear a wolf talk, readily replied "I am going to see my grand-mamma, and carry her a custard, and a little pot of butter, from my mamma." "Does she live far off?" enquired the wolf. "O! yes," answered Little Red Riding-

Hood, "it is beyond that mill which you see there, at the first house in the village." "Well," said the wolf, "I will go and see her too; I will go this way, and if you go that, we shall see who will be there soonest."

The wolf began to run as fast as he could, taking the nearest way; and the little girl went by that farthest about, diverting herself in gathering nuts, running after butterflies, and making nosegays of such flowers as she met with. The wolf was not long before he got to the old woman's house. He knocked at the door, tap, tap. "Who's there?" "Your grand-child, Little Red Riding-Hood" (replied the wolf, counterfeiting her voice,) "who has brought you a custard and a little pot of butter, sent you by mamma."

The good grand-mother, who was ill in bed, cried out, "Pull the bobbin, and the latch will go up." The wolf pulled the bobbin, and the door opened, and then presently he fell upon the poor old woman, and ate her up in a moment; for it was above three days since he had touched a bit of food. He then shut the door, and went into the grand-mother's bed, expecting little Red Riding-Hood, who came sometime afterwards, and knocked at the door, tap, tap. "Who's there?" Little Red Riding-Hood, hearing the hoarse voice of the wolf, was at first afraid; but, supposing her grand-mother had got a cold, she answered, "It is your grand-child, Little Red Riding-Hood, who has brought you a custard, and a little pot of butter, which mamma has sent you." The wolf cried out to her, softening his voice as much as he could, "Pull the bobbin, and the latch will go up." Little Red Riding-Hood pulled the bobbin, and the door opened.

The wolf, seeing her come in, said to her, hiding himself under the bed-clothes, "Put the custard and the little pot of butter upon the stool, and come and lie down by me." Little Red Riding-Hood undressed herself, and went to bed; but, being greatly sur-





The Fairy. part 1. page 3.

prised to see how strange her grand-mother looked in her night clothes, she said to her, "Grand-mamma, what great arms you have got!"—"That is the better to hug thee, my dear."—"Grand-mamma, what great legs you have got!"—"That is to walk the better, my child."—"Grand-mamma, what great ears you have got!"—"That is to hear the better, my child."—"Grand-mamma, what great eyes you have got!"—"That is to see the better, my child."—"Grand-mamma, what great teeth you have got!"—"That is to eat thee up." And saying these words the wicked wolf fell upon poor Little Red Riding-Hood, and ate her up in a few minutes.

THE FAIRY.

THERE was, once upon a time, a widow who had two daughters. The eldest was so much like her, both in features and temper, that whoever looked upon the daughter, saw the mother. They were both so disagreeable and so proud, that there was no living with them. The youngest, who resembled her father in courtesy and sweetness of temper, was also one of the most beautiful girls ever seen. As people naturally love their own likeness, the mother doted on her eldest daughter, and at the same time had such an aversion for the youngest, that she made her eat in the kitchen, and work continually.

Among other things, this poor child was forced twice a day to draw water, above a mile and a half from the house, and bring home a pitcher full of it. One day, as she was at the fountain, there came to her a poor woman, who begged of her to let her drink; "O, yes, with all my heart, Goody;" said this pretty little girl; and washing out the pitcher, she took up some water from the clearest place in the fountain, and gave it to her, holding up the pitcher all the while, that she might drink the easier.

The Fairy (for such she was who had assumed the form of a poor country woman, to see how far the civility and good manners of this pretty girl would go,) had no sooner drunk than she said, "You are so pretty, so mannerly, and so good, my dear, that I cannot help bestowing a gift upon you, and I now promise you that whenever you speak a word, there shall come out of your mouth either a flower or a jewel."

When this pretty girl returned home, her mother scolded her for staying so long at the fountain. "I beg your pardon, mamma," said the poor girl, "for not making more haste," and in speaking these words, there came out of her mouth, two roses, and four pearls, and four diamonds. "What is it I see there?" said her mother quite astonished; "I think I see pearls and diamonds come out of the girl's mouth! how happens this, child?" This was the first time she had ever called her child.

The artless girl told her frankly all that had passed, not without dropping out great numbers of diamonds. "In good faith," cried the mother, "I must send *my* child thither. Come hither, Fanny, look what comes out of your sister's mouth when she speaks! would not you be glad, my dear, to have the same gift bestowed on you? you have nothing to do but to go and draw water out of the fountain, and when a certain poor woman asks you to let her drink, give it her very civilly." "It would be a very fine sight, indeed," said this ill-bred minx, "to see me draw water!"—"You shall go, hussy," said the mother, "and go this minute." So away she went, taking with her the best silver tankard in the house, but grumbling all the way.

She had no sooner arrived at the fountain, than she saw, coming out of the wood, a lady, most superbly dressed, who came up to her, and asked to drink. This, you must know, was the same Fairy who had appeared to her sister, but had now assumed the dress of a princess, to see how far this girl's

rudeness would go. "Am I come hither," said the proud saucy slut, "to serve you with water, pray? I suppose the silver tankard was brought purely for your ladyship, was it? however, you may drink out of it, if you choose."

"You are not very mannerly," answered the Fairy, without putting herself in a passion; "well, then, since you have so little breeding, and are so disoblighing, I give you to understand, that, at every word you speak there shall come out of your mouth a snake or a toad."

So soon as her mother saw her coming home, she cried out, "Well, daughter!"—"Well, mother!" answered the pert hussy, throwing out of her mouth a viper and a toad. O! mercy," cried the mother, "what is it I see? O! it is that wretch, her sister, who has occasioned all this; but she shall pay for it!" and immediately she ran to beat her. The poor child however ran away from her, and concealed herself in the neighbouring forest.

The King's son, on his return from hunting, met her, and seeing her so very pretty, asked her what she did there alone, and why she cried? "Alas! sir," she replied, "my mamma has treated me so severely, that I was obliged to seek shelter here from her cruelty." The King's son, who saw nine or ten diamonds and as many pearls come out of her mouth, desired her to tell him how that happened; she therefore told him the whole story; and so the King's son, considering with himself that such a gift was worth more than any marriage portion in another, conducted her to the palace of the King his father, and there married her.

As for her sister, she made herself so much hated that her own mother turned her off; and the miserable wretch, having wandered about a considerable time, without finding any body to take her in, went to a corner in a wood and there died.

BLUE BEARD.

THERE was once a man, who had most elegant houses, both in town and country, a great deal of silver and gold plate, the most sumptuous furniture, and coaches gilded all over with gold. But this man had the misfortune to have a blue beard, which indeed made him so frightful, that all the women and girls ran away from him.

One of his neighbours, a lady of quality, had two daughters, who were perfect beauties. He desired of her one of them in marriage, leaving to her the choice which of the two she would bestow upon him. They would neither of them have him, and sent him backwards and forwards from one to another : not being able to bear the thoughts of marrying a man who had a blue beard. And what besides gave them disgust and aversion, was, his having already been married to several wives, and nobody knew what had become of them.

Blue Beard, in order to engage their affection, took them, with their mother, and three or four ladies of their acquaintance, with other young people of the neighbourhood, to one of his country-seats, where they staid all the week ; the whole of which time was devoted to hunting, fishing, feasting, and other amusements. Nobody went to bed, but all passed the night in rallying and joking with each other ; in short, every thing so well succeeded, that the youngest daughter began to think the master of the house a very civil gentleman, and even his beard began to lose its former disgusting appearance, so that on her return home, she consented to become his wife.

About a month after his marriage, Blue Beard told his wife, that he was obliged to take a journey for six weeks at least, about affairs of very great consequence ; desiring her to divert herself in his absence, to send for her friends and acquaintance, to carry



Blue Beard. part 1. page 6.

them into the country, if she pleased, and to treat them with the choicest delicacies. "Here," said he, "are the keys of the two large wardrobes;—this is the key of the chest which contains the gold and silver plate which is only used for company;—this belongs to the strong box, where I keep my money and my jewels;—and here is a master key, which opens all the apartments except the closet at the end of the great gallery on the ground floor, to which this little key belongs. Open all the rooms and examine them at your leisure, except that little closet, which I forbid you, and forbid it in such a manner, that if you open it, there is nothing but what you may expect from my resentment." She promised to observe exactly whatever he had ordered; when after embracing her with much seeming affection, he got into his carriage and commenced his journey.

The friends and neighbours of the new-married lady did not wait to be invited, so great was their impatience to see all the rich furniture of her house, though they had not dared to visit her while her husband was there, because of his blue beard, which frightened them. They ran through all the rooms, wardrobes, and cabinets, which were all so magnificent, that they seemed to surpass one another. After that they went up into the great drawing-rooms, which were furnished in the most costly manner; they could not sufficiently admire the number and beauty of the hangings, sofas, chairs, tables, and looking glasses, the frames of which were of silver gilt, and the plates were so large that the company could see themselves from head to foot. They ceased not to extol and envy the happiness of their friend, who in the meanwhile no way diverted herself in looking upon all these rich things, because of the impatience she had to go and open the closet on the ground-floor. So great, indeed, was her curiosity, that, without considering how uncivil it would be to leave her company, she went down a little back stair-case,

with such excessive haste, that she was twice or thrice in danger of breaking her neck.

Being come to the closet-door she made a pause for some time, thinking upon her husband's orders, and considering what unhappiness might attend her if she were discovered, but the temptation was so strong that she could not overcome it; she therefore took the little key, and opened it with a trembling hand; but could not at first see any thing plainly, because the windows were shut. After some moments she began to perceive, that the floor was covered over with clotted blood, and that the bodies of several dead women were ranged against the walls. (These were all the wives whom Blue Beard had married and murdered one after another.) She now thought she should have died for fear, and the key, which she had pulled out of the lock, fell from her hand.

After having somewhat recovered from her surprise, she took up the key, locked the door, and went up stairs into her chamber, to recover her spirits; but this she found to be impossible, so severely was she frightened. Having observed that the key of the closet was stained with blood, she tried two or three times to wipe it off, but the blood would not come out; in vain did she wash it, and even rub it with soap and sand, the blood still remained, for the key was a fairy, and she could never make it quite clean; when the blood was gone off from one side, it came again on the other.

Blue Beard returned from his journey the same evening, and said, he had received letters upon the road, informing him that the business he went about was ended to his satisfaction. His wife did all that she could to convince him that she was extremely glad of his return. Next morning he asked her for the keys, which she gave him, but with such a trembling hand that he easily guessed what had happened. "What," said he, "is not the key of my

closet amongst the rest?" "I must certainly," she replied, "have left it up stairs, upon the table." "Fail not," said Blue Beard, "to bring it me presently."

After going several times backwards and forwards she was obliged to bring him the key. Blue Beard, having looked at it very attentively, said to his wife, "how came this blood upon the key?" "I do not know," cried the poor lady, turning as pale as death. "You do not know?" replied Blue Beard, *I* know very well; you resolved to go into the closet, did you not? Mighty well, madam, you *shall* go in and take your place among the ladies whom you saw there."

She now threw herself at her husband's feet, and begged his pardon with all the signs of unfeigned repentance, promising that she would never more disobey his orders; and looking so sorrowful and lovely that she might have melted a savage: but Blue Beard had a heart harder than any rock.

"You must die, madam," said he, "and that presently."

"Since I *must* die," (she replied, looking upon him with her eyes all bathed in tears) give me some little time to say my prayers."

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

When she was alone, she called out to her sister, and said to her, "Sister Ann, (for that was her name) go up I beg you, upon the top of the tower, and look if my brothers are coming; they promised me that they would come to-day, and if you see them give them a sign to hasten as fast as possible." Her sister went upon the top of the tower, and the poor afflicted wife cried out from time to time, "Ann, sister Ann, do you see any one coming?" but her sister Ann replied, "I see nothing but the sun, the dust made by the wind, and the grass which looks green."

In the mean while, Blue Beard, holding a great

scimitar in his hand, cried out as loud as he could bawl to his wife, "Come down instantly, or I shall come up to you."

"One moment longer, if you please," said his wife, and then she cried out very softly, "Ann, sister Ann, do you see any body coming?" and her sister answered, "I see nothing but the sun, the dust, and the grass looking green."

"Come down quickly," cried Blue Beard, "or I will come up to you." "I am coming," answered his wife, and then she cried, "Ann, sister Ann, do you see any one coming?" "I see," replied her sister, "a great dust which comes on this side." "Are they my brothers?"—"Alas! no, my dear sister, it is only a flock of sheep."

"Will you not come down?" cried Blue Beard in a voice almost stifled by rage.

"One *moment* longer," said his wife; and then she cried out, "Ann, sister Ann, do you see any body coming?" "Yes," said she, "I see two horsemen coming, but they are a great way off."

"God be praised!" replied the poor wife, joyfully, "they are my brothers, give them a sign as well as you can, to make haste." At the same moment, Blue Beard bawled out so loud, that he made the whole house tremble.

The distressed lady came down, and threw herself at her husband's feet, all bathed in tears, with her hair about her shoulders. "This signifies nothing," said Blue Beard, "you must die;" then, taking hold of her hair with one hand, and lifting up his scimitar with the other, he was going to strike off her head. The poor creature, turning about to him, and looking at him as with dying eyes, earnestly desired him to afford her one moment to recollect herself. "No, no," said he, "it is in vain to ask for further delay." He then raised his arm, but just as he was ready to strike, there was such a loud knocking at the gate, that Blue Beard made a sudden stop. The gate was instantly opened, and presently entered



Sleeping Beauty. part I. page II.

two horsemen, who, drawing their swords, ran directly to Blue Beard. He knew them to be his wife's brothers, one a dragoon, the other a musqueteer; so that he ran immediately to save himself; but the two brothers pursued him so close, that they overtook him before he could get to the steps of the porch, when they ran their swords through his body, and left him dead.

The poor wife was, for some time, almost as dead as her husband, and had not strength enough to rise and welcome her brothers. By the application of a cordial, however, she soon revived; and as Blue Beard had no heirs, she became the mistress of all his estate. One part of her fortune she gave with her sister Ann to a young gentleman who had loved her a long while; with another part she purchased captains' commissions for her brothers; and the rest she reserved till, after waiting a suitable time, she gave her hand to a most worthy character, whose uniform kindness and attention soon made her forget the cruelty of Blue Beard.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY IN THE WOOD.

THERE were formerly a King and Queen, who were so extremely sorry that they had no children, that it would not be easy to describe their grief on this account. At last, however, the queen had the unspeakable satisfaction of presenting her royal consort with a daughter. There was, of course, a very fine christening; and the Princess had for her godmothers seven fairies, each of whom was to bestow upon her some peculiar gift, as was the custom of fairies in those days. By this means the Princess had all the perfections imaginable.

After all the ceremonies of the christening were over, all the company returned to the king's palace, where was prepared a magnificent feast for the

fairies ; and before each of them was placed a magnificent cover, with a case of massive gold, containing a knife and fork, and spoon, all of pure gold, set with diamonds and rubies. But as they were all sitting down at table, they saw come into the hall a very old fairy, whom they had not invited, because it was above fifty years since she had been out of a certain tower, and she was believed to be either dead or enchanted. The King ordered her a cover, but could not furnish her with a case of gold as the others, because they had seven only made for the seven fairies. In consequence of this, the old fairy imagined she was slighted, and muttered some threats between her teeth. One of the young fairies, who sat by her, overheard how she grumbled, and fearing that she might bestow on the royal infant some unlucky gift, went, as soon as they rose from the table, and concealed herself behind the hangings, that she might speak last, and repair, as much as possible, the evil which the old fairy might intend.

In the mean time, all the fairies began to present their gifts to the Princess. The youngest gave her for a gift, "that she should be the most beautiful person in the world ;" the next, "that she should have the wit of an angel ;" the third, "that she should have a peculiar grace in every thing she did ;" the fourth, "that she should dance in the most enchanting style ;" the fifth, "that she should sing like a nightingale ;" and the sixth, "that she should play admirably upon all kinds of musical instruments."

The old fairy's turn coming next, with a head shaking more with spite than age, she said, "that the Princess should have her hand pierced with a spindle, and die of the wound." This terrible gift made the whole company tremble, and every body, except the ill-natured fairy, began to weep bitterly.

At this instant the young fairy came out from behind the hangings, and said with a loud voice,

“Assure yourselves, O King and Queen, that your daughter shall not die of this disaster: it is true, I have not power to undo entirely what an elder fairy has purposed; but though the Princess shall indeed pierce her hand with a spindle, instead of dying, she shall only fall into a profound sleep, which shall last a hundred years; and at the expiration of that time, a King’s son shall come and awaken her.”

The King, hoping it might be possible to avoid the misfortune foretold by the old fairy, caused a proclamation to be made, by which every body was forbidden, on pain of death, to spin with distaff and spindle, or even to have a spindle in their houses.

About fifteen or sixteen years after, the King and Queen having gone into the country, the young Princess happened one day to divert herself in running up and down the palace; when going from one apartment to another, she came into a little room on the top of a tower, where an old woman, who, it seems, had never heard of the King’s proclamation, sat spinning with her spindle.

“What are you doing, Goody?” enquired the Princess, “I am spinning, my pretty child,” said the old woman, who did not know who she was. “Ah! said the Princess, this is very pretty; how do you do it? give it to me, that I may see if I can do so.” She had no sooner taken the spindle in her hand, than, being somewhat unhandy, and the decree of the fairy having so ordained it, it ran into her hand, and she fell down apparently in a swoon.

The poor old woman, not knowing what to do in this affair, cried out loudly for help; and a number of persons came in from every quarter; they threw water upon the Princess’s face, unlaced her, rubbed the palms of her hands and her temples with Hungarian water; but nothing would bring her to herself.

In the mean time the King, having returned from the country, entered the old woman’s apartment, and recollecting the prediction of the fairies, he caused

the Princess to be carried into the finest apartment in his palace, and to be laid upon a bed, the curtains of which were richly embroidered with gold and silver. Here she appeared like a little angel, she was so extremely beautiful; for her complexion had undergone no change: her cheeks were carnation, and her lips like coral; and though her eyes were closed, she was heard to breathe softly, which satisfied those about her, that she was not dead. The King commanded that nobody should disturb her, but that she should sleep quietly till her appointed hour of waking was come.

The good fairy, who had saved her life by condemning her to sleep a hundred years, was in the kingdom of Matakín, many hundred leagues off, when this accident befell the Princess; but she was instantly informed of it by a little dwarf, who had boots of seven leagues, that is, boots with which he could stride over seven leagues of ground at once. The fairy came away immediately, and arrived about an hour after, in a fiery chariot, drawn by dragons. The King handed her out of the chariot, and she approved of every thing he had done; but as she had a very great foresight, she thought when the Princess should awake, she might not know what to do with herself, being all alone in an old palace. She therefore touched with her wand every person in the palace, except the King and Queen; governesses, maids of honour, ladies of the bed-chamber, gentlemen officers, stewards, cooks, under-cooks, scullions, guards, pages, and footmen; she likewise touched all the horses in the stables, the great dogs in the outer court, and pretty little Dido, the Princess's little spaniel, which lay by her side on the bed.

Immediately upon her touching them, these all fell fast asleep, that they might not awake before their mistress, and that they might be ready to wait upon her when she wanted them. Nay, the very spits at the fire, as full as they could hold of partridges and pheasants, were laid asleep also; and

all this was done in a moment; for fairies are not long in performing such wonders.

The King and Queen, having kissed their dear child without awaking her, quitted the palace, and put forth a proclamation that nobody should dare to come near it. This however was not necessary; for in a quarter of an hour's time, there grew up, all round about the palace, such a vast number of trees, bushes and brambles, twining round each other, that neither man nor beast could pass through. Indeed nothing could be seen but the towers of the palace, and even these were only discernible at a great distance. This contrivance demonstrated the extraordinary skill of the fairy, and effectually defended the sleeping Princess from the intrusion of the curious.

When a hundred years had elapsed, the son of the reigning King, who was of another family from that of the Sleeping Princess, being out a hunting on that side of the country, asked what those towers were which he saw in the middle of a thick wood? His attendants answered according as they had heard; some said it was a ruinous old castle, haunted by spirits; others, that all the sorcerers and witches of the country kept their nocturnal meetings there, but the most common opinion was, that an Ogre, or a giant with long teeth and claws lived there, and that he carried thither all the little children he could catch, that he might eat them up at his leisure, without any one being able to follow him, as none but himself had the power of passing through the wood.

The Prince knew not what to believe, when a very aged countryman spoke to him thus: "May it please your Royal Highness, it is now above fifty years since I was told by my father, who heard it from my grandfather, that there was then in this castle the most beautiful Princess ever seen; who was destined to sleep there a hundred years, to be awakened by a King's son, to whom she would be united in marriage." The young Prince on receiv-

ing this intelligence immediately concluded, that he could put an end to the enchantment, and, instigated at once by love and honour, resolved that moment to attempt it.

Scarcely had he reached the wood, when all the trees, the bushes, and brambles, gave way of themselves to let him pass through. He walked up to the castle, which he saw at the end of a large avenue, which he went into; but he was much surprised to find that none of his attendants followed him, because the trees closed again, so soon as he had passed through them. However, he continued to walk forward till he came to a spacious court, where every thing he saw might have petrified the most fearless person with horror. Nothing was to be seen but the bodies of men and animals, all apparently dead, and a dreadful silence reigned through all the place. He perceived, however, by the red faces of the men-servants that they were only asleep; and their goblets still containing some drops of wine, shewed plainly that they fell asleep whilst drinking.

He next crossed a court paved with marble, went up a flight of stairs, and came into the guard chamber, where the guards were standing in their ranks with their muskets upon their shoulders, and snoring as loud as they could. From thence he passed through several rooms full of gentlemen and ladies all asleep, some standing, and others sitting. At last he came into a chamber gilded all over with gold, where he saw, upon a bed, the curtains of which were open, the finest sight he had ever beheld; a Princess who appeared to be about fifteen or sixteen years of age, and whose resplendent beauty resembled that of an angel. He approached with trembling and admiration, and fell down before her upon his knees.

And now, as the enchantment was at an end, the Princess awaked, and looking upon him with eyes more tender than the first view might seem to admit of, she said to him, "Is it you, my Prince? you

have waited a long while!" From this expression it was possible, though it is not related in history, that the good fairy during so long a sleep had given the Princess agreeable dreams.

Whilst the Prince and Princess were conversing together in the most affectionate manner, all the persons in the palace awaked; every one thought upon their particular business; and as all of them were ready to die with hunger, the chief lady of honour, being as sharp set as other folks, grew very impatient, and ordered supper to be served up immediately. The Prince helped the Princess to rise; she was entirely dressed, and very magnificently; but his Royal Highness took care not to tell her, that she was dressed like his great grand-mother.

The Prince now conducted this beautiful lady into the great hall of looking-glasses, where they supped, and were served by the Princess's officers; the violins and hautboys played old tunes, but they were very excellent, though a hundred years had elapsed since they had been played; and after supper the royal lovers were married by the Lord Almoner, in the chapel of the castle. Next morning, the Prince returned to the city; and informed his father, who had been alarmed by his absence, that he had lost his way in the forest, while he was hunting, and that he had slept at the cottage of a collier, who gave him cheese and brown bread.

The King, his father, who was a good man, believed him, but his mother could not be persuaded this was true; and seeing that he went almost every day a hunting, and that he always had some excuse ready for so doing, though he had slept out three or four nights together, she began to suspect he had some engagement, for he lived with the Princess above two whole years, and had in that time two children; the eldest, who was a daughter, was named *Morning*, and the youngest, who was a son, they called *Day*, because he was more beautiful than his sister.

The Queen spoke several times to her son on the cause of his frequent absence, and in this he ought in duty to have satisfied her: but the fact was, he never *dared* to trust her with his secret, though he loved her; he knew she was of the race of the *Ogres*, and the King would never have married her, had it not been for her vast riches; nay, it was even whispered about the court, "that she had *Ogreish* inclinations, and that whenever she saw little children passing by, she had all the difficulty in the world to refrain from killing and eating them." The Prince, therefore, would never tell her one word respecting his adventure.

But when the King was dead, which happened about two years afterwards, and he saw himself lord and master, he openly declared his marriage; and went in great ceremony to conduct his Queen to the palace. They made a magnificent entry into the capital city, she riding between her two children.

Some time after, the King went to make war with the Emperor *Cantalabutte*, his neighbour. He left the government of the kingdom to the Queen, his mother, and earnestly recommended to her the care of his wife and children. He was obliged to continue his expedition all the summer, and as soon as he departed, the Queen-mother sent her daughter-in-law, and her children, to a country house among the woods, that she might with the more ease gratify the horrible longing which the sight of her little grand-children had excited.

Some few days afterwards she went thither herself, and said to her head cook, "I have a mind to eat little *Morning* for my dinner to-morrow." "Ah! madam," cried the cook, "consider she is your grand-daughter." "I will have it so," replied the Queen, in the tone of an Ogress, who had a strong desire to eat fresh meat, "and I will eat her with my favourite sauce." The poor man, knowing very well that he must not play tricks with Ogresses, took his great knife, and went up into little *Morning's*

chamber. She was then four years old, and came up to him laughing and jumping, to take him about the neck and ask him for some sugar-candy. This affected him so much that he began to weep; the knife fell out of his hand, and he went into the back-yard, and killed a little lamb, and dressed it with such good sauce, that his mistress assured him she had never eaten any thing so good in her life. He had at the same time taken up little *Morning*, and carried her to his wife, to conceal her in the lodging which he occupied at the bottom of the court-yard.

About eight days afterwards, the wicked Queen said to the head cook, "I will sup upon little *Day*." He answered not a word, being resolved to cheat her as he had before. He went to find out little *Day*, who was but three years old, and saw him playing with a favourite dog. He immediately took him up in his arms, and carried him to his wife, that she might conceal him in her chamber along with his sister; and in the room of little *Day* he cooked a young kid, which the Ogress found to be extremely good and tender.

This was hitherto all mighty well: but one evening this wicked Ogress said to her cook, "I will eat the young Queen with the same sauce I had with her children." The poor cook despaired of being able to deceive her. The young Queen was turned of twenty, not reckoning the hundred years she had been asleep: her skin was somewhat tough, though very fair and white; and how to find in the yard a beast so firm was what puzzled him. He therefore considered that he must take the life of the young Queen in order to save his own; and going up into her chamber, with intent to do it at once, he put himself into as great a fury as possible, and came into the young Queen's presence with a dagger in his hand: he would not, however surprise her, but told her with a great deal of respect, the orders he had received from the Queen-mother. "Do it, do it," said she, stretching out her neck, "execute your

orders, and then I shall go and see my children, my poor children, whom I so much and so tenderly loved ;” for she thought them dead ever since they had been taken away without her knowledge. “ No, no, madam,” cried the poor cook all in tears, “ you shall not die, and yet you shall see your children again : but then you must go home with me to my lodgings, where I have concealed them, and I shall deceive the Queen once more, by giving her, in your stead, a young hind. He then conducted her to his chamber ; and leaving her to embrace and weep over her children, went and dressed a hind, which the Ogress had for her supper, and devoured it with the same appetite as if it had been the young Queen. Exceedingly was she delighted with her cruelty, and she resolved to tell the King, at his return, that the wolves had eaten up the young Queen, and her two children.

One evening as she was, according to her custom, rambling round about the courts and yards of the palace, to try if she could smell any fresh meat, she heard in a small room, little *Day* crying, because his mamma was going to chastise him, because he had been naughty ; and she heard at the same time, little *Morning* begging pardon for her brother.

The Ogress presently knew the voices of the Queen and her children, and being enraged that she had been thus deceived, she commanded, next morning by break of day, with a most horrible voice, which made every body tremble, that they should bring into the middle of the great court a large tub, which she caused to be filled with toads, vipers, snakes, and all sorts of serpents, in order that the Queen and her children, the head cook, his wife, and maid, to whom she had given orders, should be thrown in thither, with their hands tied behind them.

The tub was immediately filled with venomous creatures ; the victims were brought out, and the executioners were just going to throw them into the



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tub, when the King, who was not expected for a considerable time, entered the court on horseback, and asked with the utmost astonishment, "what was the meaning of that horrible spectacle?" No one dared to tell him; and the Ogress, enraged to see what had happened, threw herself head-foremost into the tub, and was instantly devoured by the ugly creatures which she had ordered to be thrown into it for others. The King could not but regret the fate of his mother, notwithstanding her wickedness, but he soon comforted himself for her loss, in the society of his charming Queen and his lovely children.

THE MASTER-CAT, OR PUSS IN BOOTS.

A CERTAIN miller, at the time of his death, had nothing to bequeath to his three sons, except his mill, his ass, and his cat. The partition was soon made, without the assistance of an attorney, for law expenses would have eaten up all the patrimony. The eldest had the mill, the second the ass, and the youngest had nothing but the cat.

The poor young fellow who had the last lot, felt quite comfortless, and complained of his hard destiny. "My brothers," said he, "may get their living well enough, by joining their stocks together; but, for my part, when I have eaten up my cat, and made me a cap of his skin, I must die with hunger." The cat, who heard all this, but made as if he did not, said to him, with a grave and serious air, "Do not thus afflict yourself, my good master; you have nothing to do but to give me a bag, and get a pair of boots made for me, that I may scamper through the dirt and brambles, and you shall see that you have not so bad a portion as you imagine."

Though the cat's master did not depend much upon this promise, yet as he had often seen puss play a great many cunning tricks, to catch rats and mice, as when he used to hang by the heels, or hide

himself in the meal, and pretend to be dead; he did not altogether despair of his affording him some help in his miserable condition.

When the cat had obtained what he asked for, he booted himself very gaily, and putting his bag about his neck, he held the strings of it in his fore-paws, and went into a warren, abounding with rabbits. He then put bran and parsley into his bag, and stretching himself out at length, as if he had been dead, he waited for some young rabbits, not yet acquainted with the deceptive arts of the world, to come and rummage his bag for what he had put into it.

Scarcely had he closed his eyes, before he had what he wanted; a rash and foolish young rabbit jumped into his bag, and Monsieur Puss immediately drawing close the strings, took and killed him without pity. Proud of his prey, the cat went with it to the palace, and asked to speak with his Majesty. He was shewn up stairs into the King's apartment, and, making a low reverence, said to him, "I have brought you, Sire, a rabbit from the warren, which my noble Lord, the Marquis of Carabas (for that was the title which Puss was pleased to give his master) has commanded me to present to your Majesty." "Tell your master," replied the King, "that I accept his present with pleasure."

Another time Puss went and hid himself among some standing corn, holding still his bag open; and when a brace of partridges ran into it, he drew the strings, and caught them both. He went and made a present of them to the King, as he had done before of the rabbit, which he had taken in the warren. The King received the partridges with great pleasure, and ordered him some money to drink. In this manner Puss continued for two or three months to carry his Majesty, from time to time, game of his master's taking.

One day, when he knew that the King was to take the air, along the river side, with his daughter, the most beautiful princess in the world, he said to

his master, "If you will follow my advice, your fortune is made; you have nothing to do, but to go and bathe in that part of the river which I shall shew you, and leave the rest to me. The Marquis of Carabas did what the cat advised him to, without knowing why or wherefore.

While he was bathing, the King passed by, and the cat began to cry out as loud as he could, "Help, help, or my Lord Marquis of Carabas will be drowned." At this noise the King put his head out of the coach-window, and finding it was the cat who had often brought him such good game, he commanded his guards to run immediately to the assistance of the Marquis of Carabas.

While they were drawing the poor Marquis out of the river, the cat came up to the coach, and told the King, that, while his master was bathing, some rogues had taken away all his clothes, though he had cried out thieves! thieves! several times, as loud as he could. This cunning cat, however, had hidden them under a great stone. The King immediately commanded the officers of his wardrobe to run and fetch one of his best suits for the Lord Marquis of Carabas.

The King caressed him after a very extraordinary manner; and as the fine clothes he had given him extremely set off his person, which was naturally handsome, the King's daughter took a secret inclination to him, and the Marquis of Carabas had no sooner cast two or three respectful glances, than she fell in love with him. The King now desired the Marquis to get into the coach, and partake of the airing. The cat, overjoyed to see his project begin to succeed, marched on before, and meeting with some countrymen who were mowing in a meadow, he said to them, "Good people, you who are mowing, if you do not tell the King, that the meadow you now mow belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carabas, you shall be chopped as small as herbs for the pot."

The King did not fail of asking the mowers to whom the meadow they were mowing belonged; "To my Lord Marquis of Carabas," answered they altogether; for the cat's threats had made them terribly afraid. "You see, Sire," said the Marquis, "this is a meadow which never fails to yield a plentiful harvest every year." The cat, who still went on before, soon met with some reapers, and said to them, "Good people, you that are reaping, if you do not tell the King that all this corn belongs to the Marquis of Carabas, you shall be chopped as small as herbs for the pot."

The King, who passed by a few moments after, enquired to whom all that corn belonged, which he then saw. "To my Lord Marquis of Carabas," replied the reapers; and the King was very well pleased with it, as well as the Marquis, whom he congratulated on the extent of his possessions. The cat still went before, and said the same words to all he met; so that the King was quite astonished at the vast estates of my Lord Marquis of Carabas.

Puss at length came to a stately castle, the master of which was an Ogre, the richest that had ever been known; for all the lands which the King had passed through belonged to him. The cat who had taken care to inform himself who this Ogre was, and what he could do, desired to speak to him, saying, "he could not pass so near the castle without having the honour of paying his respects to him."

The Ogre received him as civilly as an Ogre could do, and desired him to sit down. "I have been assured," said the cat, "that you have the gift of transforming yourself into all sorts of creatures at your pleasure; you can, for example, change yourself into a lion, an elephant, and the like. "This is true," answered the Ogre, very briskly, and to convince you, I will immediately assume the form of a lion." Puss was so sadly terrified at the sight of a lion so near him, that he immediately got into the gutter, not without abundance of trouble and danger,

because of his boots, which were of no use to him in walking upon the tiles. A little while after, when Puss saw that the Ogre had resumed his natural form, he came down, and owned he had been very much frightened.

"I have been also informed," said the cat, "but I know not how to believe it, that you have the power to take upon you the shape of the smallest animals; for example, to change yourself into a rat or a mouse; but I must confess this appears to be impossible."

"Impossible!" cried the Ogre, "you shall see that presently;" and at the same time he changed himself into a mouse, and began to run about the floor. Puss no sooner perceived this, but he fell upon him and ate him up.

In the mean time the King, who saw, as he passed, this fine castle of the Ogre, felt desirous of viewing the interior of it. Puss, who heard the noise of his Majesty's coach passing over the draw-bridge, ran out, and said to the King, "Your Majesty is welcome to this castle of my Lord Marquis of Carabas." "What! my Lord Marquis," cried the King, "and does this castle also belong to you? There can be nothing finer than this court, and all the stately buildings which surround it; let us go into it if you please." The Marquis gave his hand to the Princess, and followed the King, who went up first. They passed into a spacious hall, where they found a magnificent collation, which the Ogre had prepared for his friends, who were that very day to visit him, but dared not enter, knowing the King was there. His Majesty was perfectly charmed with the good qualities of my Lord Marquis of Carabas; and seeing the vast estate he possessed, said to him, after having drunk five or six glasses of wine, "It will be owing to yourself only, my Lord Marquis, if you are not my son-in-law." The Marquis making several low bows, accepted the honour which his Majesty con-

ferred upon him with the most grateful acknowledgments, and that very same day married the Princess.

Puss became a great Lord, and never ran after mice any more, except it were for his diversion.

CINDERELLA,

OR THE

LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.

THERE was once a gentleman, who married, for his second wife, the proudest woman that ever was seen. She had, by a former husband, two daughters of her own humour, and exactly resembling her in all particulars. He had likewise by a former marriage, a young daughter, of unparalleled goodness and sweetness of temper, which she derived from her mother, who was the best creature in the world.

No sooner were the ceremonies of the wedding over, than the mother-in-law began to shew herself in her true colours. She could not bear the good qualities of this pretty girl; and the less because they made her own daughters appear the more odious. She therefore employed her in the most servile work, such as scouring the floors, washing the dishes, and rubbing the chairs and tables. She also compelled her to sleep in a back garret, upon a wretched straw bed, while her own daughters lay in fine rooms, with floors all inlaid, upon beds of the very newest fashion, and where they had looking-glasses so large that they might see themselves at full length, from head to foot. The poor girl bore all patiently, and dared not tell her father, who would probably have scolded her, as his wife governed him entirely. When she had done her work, she used to go into the chimney-corner, and sit down among the cinders and ashes, which made her commonly be called

Cinderbreech ; but the youngest, who was not so rude and uncivil as the eldest, called her Cinderella.

However, notwithstanding her mean apparel, Cinderella was a hundred times handsomer than her sisters, though they were always dressed very superbly.

It happened that the King's son gave a ball, and invited all persons of fashion to it : our young misses were also invited ; for they made a very grand figure, and their bad dispositions were not known. They were greatly delighted with this invitation, and wonderfully busy in choosing out such dresses as might best become them. This was a new trouble to Cinderella ; for it was she who ironed her sister's linen. All the day long they talked of nothing but how they should be dressed. "For my part," said the eldest, "I will wear my scarlet velvet, with French trimming." "And I," said the youngest, "shall only have the petticoat which I wore at the last ball ; but then, to make amends for that, I will put on my gold muslin train, and will display my jewels to the greatest advantage." They sent for the most fashionable hair-dresser that could be obtained, and bought all their ornaments at the most celebrated shops.

Cinderella was likewise called up to them, to be consulted in all these matters, for she had excellent notions, and advised them always for the best ; nay, she readily offered to assist in adjusting their head-dresses, which they were very willing she should do. As she was doing this, they said to her, "Cinderella, would you not be glad to go to the ball ?" "Ah !" said she, "you only jeer me ; it is not for such as I am to go thither." "You are right," replied they, "it would make the people laugh to see a Cinderbreech at a ball." Any one but Cinderella would have dressed their heads awry ; but she was very good, and dressed them perfectly well. They were almost two days without eating, so much were they transported with joy : they broke above a dozen of laces in trying to be laced up close, that

they might have a fine slender shape, and they were continually at their looking-glass. At last the happy hour came ; they went to court, and Cinderella followed them with her eyes as long as ever she could, but when she had lost sight of them she began crying.

Her godmother, who happened to call while she was in tears, asked her "what was the matter?" "I wish I could,—I wish I could"—She was not able to speak the rest, being interrupted by her tears and sobbing. This godmother of her's, who was a fairy, said to her, "You wish you could go to the ball—is it not so?" "Y—es," cried Cinderella, with a heavy sigh. "Well," said her godmother, "be a good girl, and I will contrive that you shall go." She then took her into her chamber, and said to her, "Run into the garden, and bring me a pompion." Cinderella went immediately to gather the finest she could get, and bring it to her godmother, not being able to imagine how this pompion could make her go to the ball. Her godmother scooped out all the inside of it, leaving nothing but the rind ; she then struck it with her wand, and the pompion was instantly turned into a fine coach, gilded all over with gold.

She then went to look into her mouse-trap, where she found six mice, all alive, and ordered Cinderella to lift up the door of the trap very softly, when giving each mouse, as it went out, a little tap with her wand, the mouse was that moment turned into a pretty horse, which altogether made a very fine set of six horses, of a beautiful mouse-coloured dapple grey. Being at a loss for a coachman, Cinderella said, "I will go and see if there be a rat in the rat-trap, we may make a coachman of him." "You are in the right," replied her godmother ; "go and look." Cinderella brought the trap to her, and in it there were three large rats. The fairy made choice of one of the three, which had the largest beard, and having touched him with her wand, he was turned into a

jolly coachman, who had the finest pair of whisks ever beheld.

After this, she said to Cinderella, "Go again into the garden, and you will find six lizards behind the watering-pot; bring them to me." She had no sooner done so but her godmother turned them into six footmen, who skipped up behind the coach, with their liveries laced with gold and silver, and stood side by side so cleverly, as if they had done nothing else all their whole lives. The fairy then said to Cinderella, "Well, you see here an equipage fit to go to the ball with; are you not pleased with it?" "O, yes," she exclaimed, "but must I go thither as I am, in these nasty rags?" Her godmother only just touched her with her wand, and, at the same instant, her clothes were turned into cloth of gold and silver, all beset with jewels. She then gave her a pair of glass slippers, the prettiest in the whole world, and told her to get into the carriage, but she charged her not to stay till after midnight, telling her, at the same time, that if she stayed at the ball one moment longer, her coach would be a pompion again, her horses mice, her coachman a rat, her footmen lizards, and her clothes become just as they were before.

Cinderella promised her godmother, that she would certainly leave the ball before midnight; and then away she drove, scarcely able to contain herself for joy. The King's son, who was told that a great Princess, whom nobody knew, was come, went out to receive her; he gave her his hand as she alighted out of the coach, and led her into the hall, among all the company. There was immediately a profound silence; the company left off dancing, and the violins ceased to play; so attentive was every one to contemplate the singular beauties of this unknown lady. Nothing was then heard but a confused whisper of "How handsome she is!" The King himself, old as he was, could not help admiring her, and tell-

ing the Queen softly, that it was a long time since he had seen so lovely a creature. All the ladies were busied in examining her clothes and head-dress, that they might have some made by the next day, after the same pattern, provided they could meet with such fine materials, and as skilful hands to make them.

The King's son conducted Cinderella to the most honourable seat, and afterwards took her out to dance with him; she danced so gracefully that every one admired her more and more. A fine collation was then served up, but the young Prince ate not a morsel, so intently was he busied in gazing on her. She seated herself by her sisters, shewing them a thousand civilities, and giving them part of the fruits and sweetmeats which the Prince had presented her with; which very much surprised them, as they did not know her. While Cinderella was thus entertaining her sisters, she heard the clock strike three quarters past eleven, and, immediately rising, she curtsied to the company, and hasted away as fast as she could.

As soon as she got home, she ran to her godmother, and after having thanked her, she said, "She could not but heartily wish she might go next day to the ball, because the King's son had desired her." As she was eagerly telling her godmother all that had passed at the ball, her two sisters knocked at the door, which Cinderella ran and opened. "How long you have stayed!" cried she, gaping, rubbing her eyes, and stretching herself, as if she had been just awakened out of her sleep. She had not, however, felt any inclination to sleep since they went from home. "If you had been at the ball," said one of the sisters, "you would not have been tired with it; there came thither the most beautiful Princess that was ever seen; she shewed us a thousand civilities, and gave us oranges and citrons." Cinderella seemed very indifferent about the matter; however, she asked them the name of that Princess; but they



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told her, they did not know it; and that the King's son was very uneasy on her account, and would give all the world to know where she was. At this Cinderella smiling replied, "She must then be very beautiful, indeed. Dear! how happy you have been! could not I see her? Ah! dear Miss Charlotte, do lend me your yellow suit of clothes which you wear every day."—"Ay, to be sure," cried Miss Charlotte, "lend my clothes to such a dirty cinderbreech as thou art; who would be the fool then?"—Cinderella, indeed, expected some such answer, and was very glad at the refusal; for she would have been sadly put to it, if her sister had felt disposed to grant her request.

The next day the two sisters went again to the ball, and so did Cinderella, but she was then dressed more magnificently than before. The King's son remained continually by her side, and engaged her attention so completely by his conversation and compliments, that she entirely forgot what her god-mother had recommended to her; so that at last she counted the clock striking *twelve*, when she thought it had been no more than eleven; she therefore rose up, and fled as nimbly as a deer. The Prince followed, but could not overtake her. She left behind one of her glass slippers, which the Prince took up most carefully. She got home safely, but quite out of breath, without coach or footmen, and in her nasty old clothes, having nothing left her of all her finery, but one of her little slippers, the fellow to that which she had dropped. The guards at the palace-gate were asked if they had not seen a Princess go out? but they said they had seen nobody go out, but a young girl, very meanly dressed, and who had more the air of a country-wench, than a gentlewoman.

When the two sisters returned from the ball, Cinderella asked them if they had been well diverted, and if the Princess had been there? They told her yes; but that when the clock struck twelve, she retired with so much haste, that she dropped one of

her little glass slippers, the prettiest in the world, and which the King's son had taken up; that he had done nothing but look at her all the time of the ball, and that most certainly he was very much in love with the beautiful person who owned the little slipper.

What they said was very true; for a few days after, the King's son caused it to be proclaimed by sound of trumpet, that he would marry the female whose foot this slipper would just fit. The persons whom he employed began to try it upon the Duchesses, and all the ladies of the court, but in vain; it was then brought to the two sisters, who did all they possibly could to thrust their foot into the slipper, but they could not effect it. Cinderella, who saw all this, and knew her slipper, said to them, laughing, "Let me try if it will fit *me*?" Her sisters burst into laughter, and began to banter her. But the gentleman who was sent to try the slipper, looked earnestly at Cinderella, and, finding her very handsome, said, it was but just that she should try, as he had orders to let every one make trial. He then desired Cinderella to sit down, and putting the slipper to her foot, he found it went on very easily, and fitted her as if it had been made of wax. The astonishment of her two sisters was excessively great, but still greater when Cinderella pulled out of her pocket the other slipper, and put it on her foot. At this juncture her godmother entered the room, and by applying her wand to Cinderella's clothes, made them richer and more magnificent than any of those she had previously worn.

Her sisters now perceived that she was the beautiful lady whom they had seen at the ball. They therefore threw themselves at her feet, to beg pardon for all the ill-treatment they had made her undergo. Cinderella took them up, and as she embraced them, said, that she forgave them with all her heart, and desired them always to love her. She was then conducted to the young Prince, who



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thought her more charming than ever, and a few days after married her. Cinderella, who was no less good than beautiful, gave her two sisters lodgings in the palace, and they were afterwards united to two great lords of the court.

RIQUET WITH THE TUFT.

THERE was, once upon a time, a certain Queen, who had an infant son, but he was so hideously ugly, that it was long disputed whether his form were that of a human being. A Fairy, however, who happened to be present at his birth, asserted, that, notwithstanding his deformity, he would be extremely witty and amiable, and that, in consequence of a gift now communicated to him, he would be able to bestow talents similar to his own upon that person who should be the object of his warmest affection.

This assurance afforded some consolation to the Queen, who was overwhelmed with grief at the idea of being the mother of such an ugly creature; and when the child began to prattle and run about, he said and did so many pretty things, that those who had formerly looked at him with feelings of disgust, now began to discover something very pleasing in the propriety of his conduct and the wittiness of his remarks. As the name of his father was Riquet, and this boy was born with a little tuft of hair on his head, he was called Riquet with the Tuft.

Seven or eight years after this the Queen of a neighbouring kingdom had two daughters at a birth. The first-born of these was more beautiful than the day; which elated the Queen's spirits in such a manner, that it was feared the excess of her joy might prove dangerous. The same Fairy who had been present at the birth of little Riquet with the Tuft, was here also: and to moderate the Queen's transports, she declared, that this little Princess should

have no wit at all, but be as stupid as she was pretty. This mortified the Queen extremely; but some moments afterwards she had far greater sorrow; for, the second daughter proved to be very ugly. "Do not afflict yourself so much, madam," said the Fairy; "your youngest daughter shall have so great a portion of wit, that her want of beauty will scarcely be perceived." "Heaven grant it!" replied the Queen, "but is there no way to make the eldest, who is so pretty, possess any wit?"—"I can do nothing for her, madam, as to wit," answered the Fairy, "but every thing as to beauty; and as there is nothing but what I would do for your satisfaction, I decree, that she shall have the power of rendering handsome the person who shall best please her."

In proportion as these Princesses grew up, their perfections grew up with them; all the public talk was of the beauty of the eldest, and the wit of the youngest. It is true, also, that their defects increased considerably with their age; the youngest visibly grew uglier, and the eldest became more stupid every day; she either made no answer to what was asked her, or said something very silly; she was also so unhandy, that she could not place four pieces of china upon the mantel-piece without breaking one of them, nor drink a glass of water without spilling half of it upon her clothes. Though beauty is a very great advantage in young people, yet here the youngest sister was, almost in all companies, preferred before the eldest; people would, indeed, go first to the beauty, to look upon and admire her, but they soon turned aside after the wit, to hear her entertaining and agreeable remarks; and it was amazing to see, in less than a quarter of an hour's time, the eldest left entirely alone, whilst all the company were crowding about the youngest. The eldest, though she was unaccountably dull, took particular notice of this, and would have given all her beauty to possess half the wit of her sister. The Queen, prudent as she was, could not sometimes re-

frain from reproaching her, so that the poor Princess was ready to die with grief.

One day as she retired into a wood to bewail her misfortune, she saw, coming towards her, a little man, very disagreeable, but most magnificently dressed. This was the young Prince Riquet with the Tuft, who, having fallen in love with her, by seeing her picture, had left his father's kingdom to have the pleasure of seeing and conversing with her. Overjoyed to find her thus alone, he addressed her with all imaginable politeness and respect. Having observed, after he had made her the ordinary compliments, that she was extremely melancholy, he said to her, "I cannot conceive, madam, how a lady so beautiful as you are, can be so sorrowful as you seem to be; for though I can boast of having seen numbers of females exquisitely charming, I certainly never beheld any one whose beauty approaches yours."

"You are pleased to say so," answered the Princess, and here she stopped.

"Beauty," replied Riquet with the Tuft, "is such a great advantage, that it ought to take place of all things; and since you possess this treasure, I see nothing that can possibly afflict you."

"I had much rather," said the Princess, "be as ugly as you are, and have a tolerable share of wit, than have the beauty I possess, and be so stupid as I am."

"There is nothing, madam, shews more that we have wit, than to believe we have none; and it is the nature of that excellent quality, that the more people have of it, the more they believe they want it."

"I do not know that," said the Princess, "but I know that I am very foolish, and thence proceeds the vexation which almost destroys me."

"If that be all, madam, which troubles you, I can very easily put an end to your affliction."

"Ah!" cried the Princess, "how will you do that?"

"I have the power, madam, to bestow on that person whom I love best, as much wit as can be possessed by a human creature; and as you, madam, are that person, it will be your fault, if you have not as great a share of wit as any one living, provided you will be pleased to marry me."

The Princess remained quite astonished, and answered not a word.

"I see," said Riquet with the Tuft, "that this proposal makes you very uneasy, and I do not wonder at it; but I will give you a whole year to consider of it."

This Princess had so little wit, and at the same time so great a desire to possess some, that she thought the end of the year would never arrive, so that she accepted the proposal which was made her. She had no sooner promised Riquet with the Tuft, that she would marry him that day twelve-month, than she found herself quite otherwise than she was before; she had an incredible facility of speaking whatever she pleased, after a polite, easy, and natural manner; she began that moment a very interesting conversation with Riquet with the Tuft, in which she talked at such a rate, that Riquet believed he had given her more wit than he had reserved for himself.

When she returned to the Palace, her parents knew not what to think of such a sudden and extraordinary change; for her remarks were now as witty and pleasing, as they had formerly been stupid and impertinent. The whole court was overjoyed beyond imagination; and all were pleased except her younger sister; who, having no longer the advantage in respect of wit, appeared, in comparison, very homely and disagreeable. The King governed himself by the advice of his beautiful daughter, and would even sometimes hold a council in her apartment. The noise of this change spreading every where, all the young princes of the neighbouring kingdoms strove all they could to gain her favour,

MOTHER GOOSE'S TALES.

part 2^d



Riquet with the Tuft. part 2. page 37.

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and almost all of them asked her in marriage ; but not one of them had wit enough for her, and though she gave them all a hearing, she would not engage herself to any.

At length, however, there came a prince so powerful, rich, witty, and handsome, that she could not help feeling a degree of attachment towards him. Her father perceived it, and told her, that she was her own mistress as to the choice of a husband, and that she might freely declare her intentions. As the more wit we have, the greater difficulty we find in resolving upon such affairs, this made her desire her father, after having thanked him, to give her time to consider of it.

One day she retired to the same wood where she had met Riquet with the Tuft, to reflect at leisure upon what she had to do. While she was walking in a profound meditation, she heard a confused noise under her feet, as it were of a great many people, who went backwards and forwards, and were very busy. Having listened more attentively, she heard one say, " Bring me that pot ;" another, " Give me that kettle ;" and a third, " Put some wood upon the fire." The ground at the same time opened, and she saw beneath her feet, a large kitchen full of cooks, scullions, and all sorts of officers necessary for a magnificent entertainment, who were busily employed, and singing merrily at their respective avocations.

The Princess, astonished at this sight, asked them the name of their employer.

" Prince Riquet with the Tuft," said they, " who is to be married to-morrow."

The Princess was more surprised at this answer than ever, and recollecting that it was now that day twelvemonth on which she had promised to espouse Riquet with the Tuft, she was ready to sink on the ground.

What made her forget this was, that when she made this promise, she was very silly, and having obtained the vast stock of wit which the Prince had

bestowed on her, she had entirely forgotten her stupidity. She continued walking, but had not taken thirty steps before Riquet with the Tuft presented himself to her, magnificently dressed, like a Prince who was going to be married.

"You see, madam," said he, "I am very exact in keeping my word, and I doubt not but you have come hither to perform yours, and to make me, by giving me your hand, the happiest of men."

"I freely own to you," answered the Princess, "that I have not yet taken any resolution on this subject, and I believe I never shall take such an one as you desire."

"You astonish me, madam," said Riquet with the Tuft.

"I believe it," said the Princess, "and if I had to do with a clown or a man of little or no wit, I should find myself very much at a loss. Such a person would probably tell me that a princess always observes her word, and I *must* marry him since I had promised to do so. But as he to whom I talk is a man of the world, and master of the greatest sense and judgment, I am sure he will listen to reason. You know that when I was a fool, I could not easily come to a resolution to marry you; why then, after bestowing so much judgment upon me, will you press me to come to a resolution which I could not then determine to agree to? If you sincerely thought to make me your wife, you have been greatly in the wrong to deprive me of my dull simplicity, and cause me to see things more clearly than I did."

"If a man of no wit and sense," replied Riquet with the Tuft, "would be well received, as you say, in reproaching you for a breach of your word, why will you not let me, madam, have the same privilege in a matter in which all the happiness of my life is concerned? Is it reasonable that persons of wit and sense should be in a worse condition than those who have none? can you pretend this; you who have so great a share, and desired so earnestly to possess it?

But let us come to facts if you please. Setting aside my ugliness and deformity, is there any thing in me which displeases you? are you dissatisfied with my birth, my wit, humour, or manners?"

"Not at all," answered the Princess; "I love and respect you in all you mention."

"If it be so," said Riquet with the Tuft, "I am happy, since it is in your power to make me the most amiable of men."

"How can that be?" said the Princess.

"It is done," said Riquet with the Tuft, if you love me enough to wish it were so; and that you may not doubt, madam, of what I say, know that the same Fairy, who, on my birthday, gave me the power of making the person, who should please me, extremely witty and judicious, has, in like manner, given you the power of rendering him whom you love, extremely handsome."

"If it be so," said the Princess, "I wish, with all my heart, that you may be the most beautiful Prince in the world, and I bestow it on you so far as I am able."

The Princess had no sooner pronounced these words, but Riquet with the Tuft appeared to her the finest Prince upon earth; the handsomest and most amiable man she had ever beheld. Some affirm that this was not owing to the charms of the Fairy, which wrought this change, but that love alone caused this metamorphosis. They say, that the Princess, having duly reflected on the perseverance of her lover, his discretion, and all the good qualities of his mind, his wit, and judgment, saw no longer the deformity of his body, nor the ugliness of his face; that his hump seemed to be no more than the grand air of one who has a broad back; and, that whereas, till then, she saw him limp horribly, she found it nothing more than a certain mode of walking which charmed her. They say also, that his eyes, which were very squinting, seemed to her most bright and sparkling; that their irregular turn passed, in her

judgment, for a mark of tenderness; and, in short, that his great red nose gave him a martial and heroic appearance.

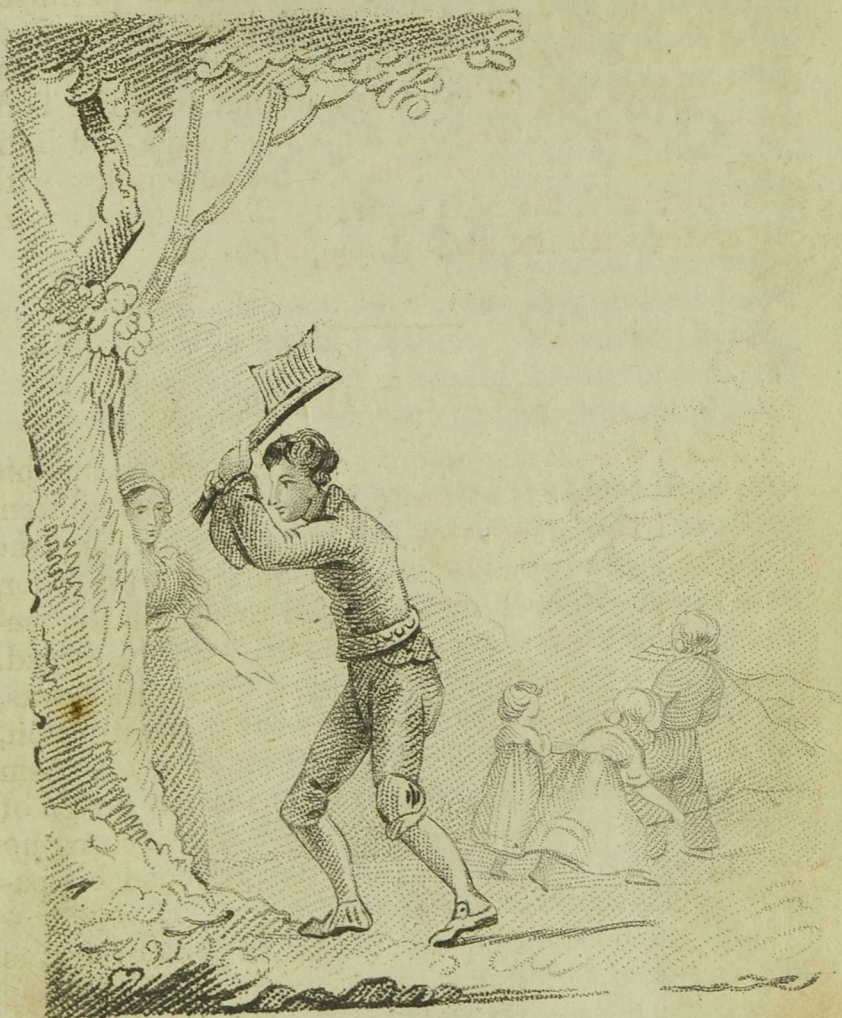
However this might be, the Princess promised immediately to marry him, on condition he obtained her father's consent. The King, being informed that his daughter highly esteemed Riquet with the Tuft, whom he knew otherwise for a most sage and judicious Prince, received him for his son-in-law with pleasure; and the next morning their nuptials were celebrated with the utmost magnificence.

LITTLE THUMB.

THERE was, once upon a time, a man and his wife, faggot-makers by trade, who had seven children, all boys. The eldest was but ten years old, and the youngest only seven. As the parents were poor, these seven children incommoded them greatly, because not one of them was able to earn his bread. That which gave them still more uneasiness, was, that the youngest was of a very weakly constitution, and scarcely ever spoke a word, which made them take that for stupidity, which was, in fact, a sign of good sense: he was very little, and when born, no bigger than a man's thumb; which induced his parents to call him Little Thumb.

This poor child bore the blame of whatever was done amiss in the house, and guilty or not, he was always considered in the wrong: he was, however, more cunning, and had a far greater share of wisdom, than all his brothers put together; and, if he spoke but little, he heard and thought the more.

There happened now to come a very bad season for potatoes and corn, and the scarcity of food was so great, that these poor people resolved to rid themselves of their children. One evening, therefore, when the boys were all in bed, and the faggot-maker



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was sitting with his wife at the fire, he said to her, with his heart ready to burst with grief, "You see plainly that we are not able to keep our children, and I cannot see them starve to death before my face; I have therefore resolved to lose them in the wood to-morrow, which may be very easily done; for while they are busy in tying up the faggots, we may run away and leave them, without their taking any notice." "Is it possible," cried his wife, "that you can be so cruel as to take your children out along with you, on purpose to lose them?" In vain did her husband represent to her their extreme poverty; she would not consent to it; she was indeed poor, but still she was their mother. However, having considered what a grief it would be to her to see them perish with hunger, she at last consented, and went to bed all in tears.

Little Thumb heard every word that had been spoken; for observing, as he lay in his bed, that they were talking very busily, he got up softly, and hid himself under his father's stool, that he might hear what they said, without being seen. He went to bed again, but did not sleep a wink all the rest of the night, thinking on what he had to do. He got up early in the morning, and went to the side of the river, where he filled his pockets with small white pebbles, and then returned home. They all went abroad, but Little Thumb never told his brothers a syllable of what he knew. They went into a very thick forest, where they could scarcely see one another at the distance of ten paces. The faggot-maker began to cut wood, and the children to gather up the sticks to make faggots. Their father and mother seeing them busy at their work, retired from them insensibly, and then ran away through an intricate path, among the winding bushes.

When the children saw that they were left alone, they began to cry as loud as they could. Little Thumb was for some time silent; knowing very well how to get home again; for on leaving home he had

taken care to drop all along the way the little white pebbles he had in his pocket. At last, he said, "Be not afraid, my brothers; our father and mother have left us here, but I will lead you home again, if you follow me." They did so, and he brought them home by the same way they came into the forest. They dared not go in, but sat themselves down at the door, listening to the conversation of their father and mother.

The very moment the faggot-maker and his wife were got home, the lord of the manor sent them ten crowns, which he had owed them a long while, and which they never expected. This gave them new life; for the poor people were almost famished.—The faggot-maker sent his wife immediately to the butcher's. As it was a long while since they had eaten a bit of meat, she bought three times as much as would sup two people. Having filled their bellies, the woman said, "Alas! where are now our poor children? they would make a good feast of what we have left; but it was you, William, who resolved to lose them; I told you we should repent of it: what are they now doing in the forest? Alas! the wolves have, perhaps, already eaten them up; Oh! it was very inhuman to desert your children!" As the poor woman declared above twenty times that they should repent of their cruelty, and insisted that she was right in saying so, the faggot-maker soon became impatient, and threatened to beat her if she did not hold her tongue. It was not that the faggot-maker was less vexed than his wife, but that she teased him, and that he was of the humour of a great many others, who love wives who speak well, but think those very troublesome who are continually doing so. She was half drowned in tears, crying out, "Alas! where are now my children, my poor children?"

She spoke this so very loud, that the children, who were at the door, began to cry out altogether, "Here we are, mother; here we are." She ran immediately to open the door, and hugging them in

her arms, said, "I am glad to see you, my dear children; you are very hungry and weary; and my poor Peter, you are horribly dirty: come in, and let me clean you." Now you must know that Peter was her eldest son, whom she loved above all the rest, because he was somewhat like herself. They sat down to supper, and ate with such a good appetite as pleased both father and mother, whom they informed how frightened they were in the forest. The good folks were extremely glad to see their children once more at home, and this joy continued while the ten crowns lasted; but when the money was all gone, they experienced again their former uneasiness, and resolved to lose the boys again; and, that they might do it more effectually, they determined to carry them to a much greater distance than before.

They could not talk of this so secretly, but they were overheard by Little Thumb, who hoped to get out of this difficulty as well as the former: but though he got up early in the morning to go and pick up some little pebbles, he was disappointed; for he found the house-door double locked, and was at a loss what to do. When their father had given each of them a piece of bread for their breakfast, he fancied he might make use of this bread instead of pebbles, by throwing it in little bits all along the way they should pass; and for this purpose he put it into his pocket.

The father and mother took them into the thickest and most obscure part of the forest; when, stealing away into a bye-path, they there left them. Little Thumb was not very uneasy; for he thought he could easily find the way again, by means of his bread, which he had scattered all along as he came: but he was very much surprised, when he could not find so much as a single crumb; the birds having eaten up every bit. They were now in great affliction, for the further they went, the more they were out of their way, and were more and more bewildered in the forest.

Night came on, and there arose a terrible high

wind, which made them dreadfully afraid. They fancied they heard on every side of them the howling of wolves coming to eat them up; so that they scarcely dared to speak or turn their heads. After this, it rained very hard, which wetted them to the skin; their feet slipped at every step they took, and they fell into the mire, whence they got up in a very dirty condition, and their hands were quite benumbed. Little Thumb climbed up to the top of a tree, to see if he could discover any thing; and having turned his head about on every side, he saw at last a glimmering light, like that of a candle, but a long way from the forest. He came down, and when upon the ground, he could see it no more, which grieved him sadly. However, having walked for some time with his brothers towards that side on which he had seen the light, he perceived it again as he came out of the wood.

They came at last to the house where this candle was, not without much fear and anxiety, for they lost sight of it every time they came to a low ground. Having knocked at the door, a woman came and opened it, and asked them what they wanted? Little Thumb told her, they were poor children who had been lost in the forest, and earnestly intreated her to give them a lodging.

The woman seeing them very pretty, began to weep, and said to them, "Alas! poor children, whither have ye come? This house belongs to a cruel Ogre, who eats up little children."

"Ah! dear madam," answered Little Thumb, who trembled in every joint, as well as his brothers, "what shall we do? to be sure the wolves of the forest will devour us to-night, if you refuse us to lie here; and so we would rather the gentleman should see us; as he may, perhaps, take pity on us; especially if you please to beg it of him."

The Ogre's wife, who believed she could conceal them from her husband till morning, permitted them to come in, and brought them to warm themselves

at a good fire, where there was a whole sheep upon the spit, roasting for the Ogre's supper.

When they began to get a little warm, they heard three or four loud raps at the door. This was the Ogre, who was come home; and his wife immediately hid the boys under the bed, and went to open the door. The Ogre presently asked, "if supper were ready, and the wine drawn," and then sat down to the table. The sheep was, as yet, all raw and bloody; but he liked it the better for that; he then snuffed about to the right and left, saying, "I smell fresh meat."

"What you smell," said his wife, "must be the calf which I have just killed and flayed."

"I smell fresh meat, I tell thee once more," replied the Ogre, looking fiercely at his wife, "and there is something here which I do not understand."

As he spoke these words, he got up from the table, and went directly to the bed. "Ah!" said he, "I see then how thou wouldest cheat me, thou wicked woman; I know not why I do not eat thee up too; but it is well for thee that thou art a tough old carrion. Here is good game, which comes very luckily to entertain three Ogres of my acquaintance, who are to pay me a visit in a day or two." And saying this, he dragged them out from under the bed, one by one.

The poor children fell upon their knees, and begged his pardon; but they had to do with one of the most cruel Ogres in the world, who, far from having any pity on them, had already devoured them with his eyes, and told his wife they would be delicate eating, when tossed up with some savoury sauce. He then took a great knife, and coming up to these poor children, sharpened it upon a great whetstone, which he held in his left hand. He had already taken hold of one of them, when his wife said to him, "Why should you do it now? will it not be time enough to-morrow?" "Hold your prating," said the Ogre; "they will eat the tenderer."

"But you have so much meat already," rejoined his wife, "that you have no occasion; here are a calf, two sheep, and half a hog."

"That is true," said the Ogre, "well, give them their belly full, that they may not fall away, and put them to bed."

The good woman was overjoyed at this, and gave them a good supper; but they were so much afraid, they could not eat a bit. As for the Ogre, he sat down again to drink, being highly pleased that he had got something to treat his friends. He drank a dozen glasses more than ordinary, which got into his head, and obliged him to go to bed.

The Ogre had seven daughters, all little children, and these young Ogresses had all of them very fine complexions, because they used to eat fresh meat like their father; but they had little grey eyes, hooked noses, wide mouths, and very sharp teeth, standing at a great distance from each other. They were not as yet, very mischievous, but they promised fair for it, as they were already in the habit of biting little children, that they might suck their blood. They had been put to bed early, with each of them a crown of gold upon her head. There was, in the same chamber another bed of the same size, and it was into this bed the Ogre's wife put the seven little boys; after which she retired to rest with her husband.

Little Thumb, who had observed that the Ogre's daughters had crowns of gold upon their heads, and was afraid lest the Ogre should repent his not killing them, got up about midnight; and taking his brothers' hats and his own, went very softly, put them upon the heads of the seven little Ogresses, after having taken off their crowns of gold, which he put upon his own head and his brothers, that the Ogre might take them for his daughters, and his daughters for the little boys whom he wanted to kill. All this succeeded according to his desire; for the Ogre waking about midnight, and feeling sorry that he had deferred to do that till morning, which he might

have done over night, he threw himself hastily out of bed, and taking his great knife, "Let me see," said he, "how our little rogues do, and not make two jobs of the matter." He then went up, groping all the way, into his daughters' chamber, and came to the bed where the little boys lay, and who were every soul of them fast asleep, except little Thumb, who was terribly afraid when he found the Ogre fumbling about his head, as he had done about his brothers'. The Ogre, feeling the golden crowns, said, "I should have made a fine piece of work of it, truly; I find I tippled too much last night." He then went to the bed where the girls lay; and having felt the boys' little hats, "Ha!" said he, "my merry lads, are you there? let us work as we ought;" and saying these words, he immediately cut the throats of all his seven daughters.

Well pleased with what he had done, he went to bed again to his wife. But as soon as little Thumb heard the Ogre snore, he waked his brothers, and bade them put on their clothes, and follow him. They stole down stairs softly into the garden, and got over the wall. They then kept running almost all the night, trembling all the while, without knowing which way they went.

The Ogre, when he waked, said to his wife, "Go up stairs and dress those young rascals, who came here last night."

The Ogress was very much surprised at this order, not dreaming after what manner her husband intended she should dress them; but thinking that he had ordered her to go and put on their clothes, she went up, and was strangely astonished, when she perceived her seven daughters killed, and weltering in their blood. Indeed she was so overwhelmed with horror that she fainted away. The Ogre, fearing his wife would be too long in doing what he had ordered, went up himself to help her, when he was equally amazed at this frightful spectacle.

"Ah! what have I done?" he cried; "but these

little wretches shall pay for it, and that instantly." He then threw a pitcher of water upon his wife's face, and having brought her to herself, "Give me quickly my boots of seven leagues," said he, "that I may go and catch them." He then went out; and having run over a vast deal of ground, he came at last into the very road where the poor children were, about a hundred paces from their father's house. They espied the Ogre, who went, at one step, from mountain to mountain, and over rivers as easy as the narrowest kennels. Little Thumb, seeing a hollow rock near the place where they were, made his brothers hide themselves in it, and crowded into it himself, anxiously watching to see what would become of the Ogre.

The Ogre, who found himself much tired with his long and fruitless journey (for these boots of seven leagues extremely fatigued the wearer), felt inclined to rest himself, and by chance went to sit down upon the very rock where these little boys had concealed themselves. As it was impossible he could be more weary than he was, he fell asleep; and after reposing himself some time, began to snore so frightfully, that the poor children were no less afraid of him than when he held up his great knife, and was going to cut their throats. Little Thumb, however, was not so much frightened as his brothers, but told them, that they should run away immediately towards home, while the Ogre was asleep so soundly, and that they should not be in any pain about him. They took his advice, and got home presently. Little Thumb then came up to the Ogre, pulled off his boots gently, and put them upon his own legs. The boots were very long and large, but as they were fairies they had the property of becoming large and little, according to the legs of those who wore them; so that they fitted his feet and legs as well as if they had been made on purpose for him. He went immediately to the Ogre's house, where he saw his

wife crying bitterly for the loss of her murdered daughters.

"Your husband," said Little Thumb, "is in very great danger, being taken by a gang of thieves, who have sworn to kill him if he does not give them all his gold and silver. The very moment they held their daggers at his throat, he perceived me, and desired me to come and tell you the condition he is in, and that you should give me whatever he had of value, without retaining any thing, for otherwise they will kill him without mercy; and, as his case is very pressing, he desired me to make use of his boots, that I might make the more haste, and to shew you that I did not impose upon you."

The good woman, being sadly frightened, and seeing the boots, gave him all she had; for this Ogre was a very good husband, though he used to eat up little children. Little Thumb having thus got all the Ogre's money, came home to his father's house, where he was received with abundance of joy.

Some historians, however, pretend that Little Thumb never went to the Ogre's house for money, but that he only thought he might very justly, and with a safe conscience, take off his boots of seven leagues, because he made no other use of them than to run after little children. These folks affirm that they are well assured of this, having eaten and drunk repeatedly at the faggot-maker's house. They assert that when Little Thumb had taken off the Ogre's boots, he went to court, where he was informed that they were in great anxiety about a certain army, which was two hundred leagues off, and the success of a battle. He went, they say, to the King, and told him, that if he desired it, he would bring him news from the army before night. The King promised him a great sum of money upon that condition. Little Thumb was as good as his word, and returned that same night with the news; and this first expedition causing him to be known, he got whatever he pleased; for the King paid him very

well for carrying his orders to the army, and many ladies gave him large sums to bring them news from their lovers, and this was his greatest gain. There were some married women, too, who sent letters by him to their husbands, but these paid him so poorly, and turned to such a small account, that he scorned to reckon what he got in that way. After having for some time carried on the business of a messenger, and amassed great wealth, he went home to his parents, and acted with such liberality towards them and his brothers, that they all became highly respectable.

THE DISCREET PRINCESS.

IN the time of the first crusades, a certain king resolved to make war against the infidels in Palestine. Before he undertook so long a journey, he put the affairs of his kingdom into such good order, and placed the regency in the hands of so able a minister, that he was entirely easy upon that account.

One thing, however, disquieted this prince, and this was the care of his family. His queen had not been long dead; she left him no son; but he saw himself father of three princesses, all marriageable. The eldest of these young princesses was named Drona, signifying idle; the second Pratilia, implying talkative; and the third Finetta, names which had all of them a just relation to the characters of the three sisters.

Never was any person known more indolent than Drona; she never waked till one in the afternoon; she was dragged along to church in the same condition as when she got out of her bed; her clothes all tumbled, her gown loose, and very often with one slipper of one sort, and one of another. They used to rectify this mistake before night; but they could never prevail upon this princess to go any

otherwise than in slippers ; it was a most insupportable fatigue to put on shoes. So soon as she had dined, she sat down to her toilet, where she continued till evening ; the rest of her time, till midnight, she employed at play and eating her supper ; after that, they were almost as long in pulling off her clothes, as they had been putting them on ; she could never be persuaded to go to bed till it was daylight.

Pratilia led quite another sort of life. This princess was brisk and active, and employed very little time about her person ; but she had such a strong propensity for talking, that, from the very moment she waked to the time she fell asleep again, her mouth was never shut. She knew the history of all things ; the ill-management of one, the engagements of another, and the intrigues of a third. She kept a register of all those wives who pinched their families at home to appear the finer abroad, and was exactly informed what such a countess's woman, and such a marquis's steward, gained. The better to be instructed in all these important affairs, she gave audience to her nurse and mantua-maker with greater pleasure than her father did to any ambassador ; and when she had got any thing new, she tired every body with repeating to them these fine stories, from her sisters down to the footmen ; for provided she could but talk, she did not care to whom it was. This love of talking produced another bad effect to this princess ; for, notwithstanding her high rank, her familiarity emboldened the young men about the court to talk of love to her. She listened to their speeches without any reluctance, merely that she might have the pleasure of answering them ; for, from morning till night, whatever it might cost her, she must either hear others talk, or tattle herself. Never did Pratilia, any more than Drona, employ herself in thinking, reflecting, or reading. She never troubled herself about household matters, or the amusement of her needle.

In short, these two sisters lived in perfect idleness, as well of mind as of body.

The youngest of the three princesses was of a very different character. Her thoughts and hands were continually employed: she was of a surprising vivacity, and she applied it to good uses. She danced, sang, and played upon music to perfection, and excelled in all those works which generally amuse those of her sex. She also put the King's household into exact order, and, by her care and vigilance, prevented the pilferings of the lower officers; for even in those days princes were cheated by those about them.

In addition to these excellent qualities, Finetta possessed a great share of judgment, and such a wonderful presence of mind, that she immediately found means of extricating herself out of the greatest difficulties. This young princess had, by her penetration, discovered a dangerous snare which a perfidious ambassador had laid for the King her father, in a treaty just ready to be signed by that prince. To punish the treachery of this ambassador and his master, the King altered the article of the treaty, and, by wording it in the terms his daughter dictated to him, he in his turn deceived the deceiver himself. The Princess likewise discovered a vile piece of roguery which a certain minister attempted to practise on the King; and by the advice she gave her father, he so managed it that the perfidy of that traitor fell upon his own head. And on several other occasions, she gave such marks of her penetration, and fine genius, that she proved herself to be deserving of the name of Finetta.

The King loved her far beyond his other daughters, and depended so much upon her good sense, that if he had had no other child but her, he would have commenced his journey without any uneasiness; but he as much distrusted the conduct of his other daughters as he relied upon that of Finetta. And therefore, to be assured of the steps his family might

take in his absence, he adopted such measures as I am now going to relate.

I make no doubt but the reader, who has perused the preceding part of this volume, is perfectly aware of the wonderful power of fairies. Now it happened that the King was very intimate with one of these skilful persons, to whom he went, in order to state the uneasiness he felt concerning his daughters. "It is not," said he, "that the two eldest, whom I am uneasy about, have ever done the least thing contrary to their duty ; but they have so little sense, are so imprudent, and live in such indolence, that I fear, in my absence, they will engage in some foolish intrigue or other, merely to amuse themselves. As for Finetta, I am secure of her virtue ; however, I shall treat her as her sisters, to make no distinction ; for which reason, fairy, I desire you to make three distaffs of glass for my daughters, to be made with such art, that each of them may not fail to break, so soon as she to whom it belongs does any thing inconsistent with her honour."

As this fairy was peculiarly skilful, she immediately gave the King three enchanted distaffs, so made as to answer his design ; but he was not content with this precaution. He put the princesses into a high tower, which stood in a very solitary and desert place. The King told his daughters, that he commanded them to take up their residence in that tower during his absence, and charged them not to admit into it any person whatsoever. He took from them all their officers and servants of both sexes ; and after having presented them with the enchanted distaffs, the qualities of which he explained to them, he kissed the princesses, locked the doors of the tower, took away the keys, and departed.

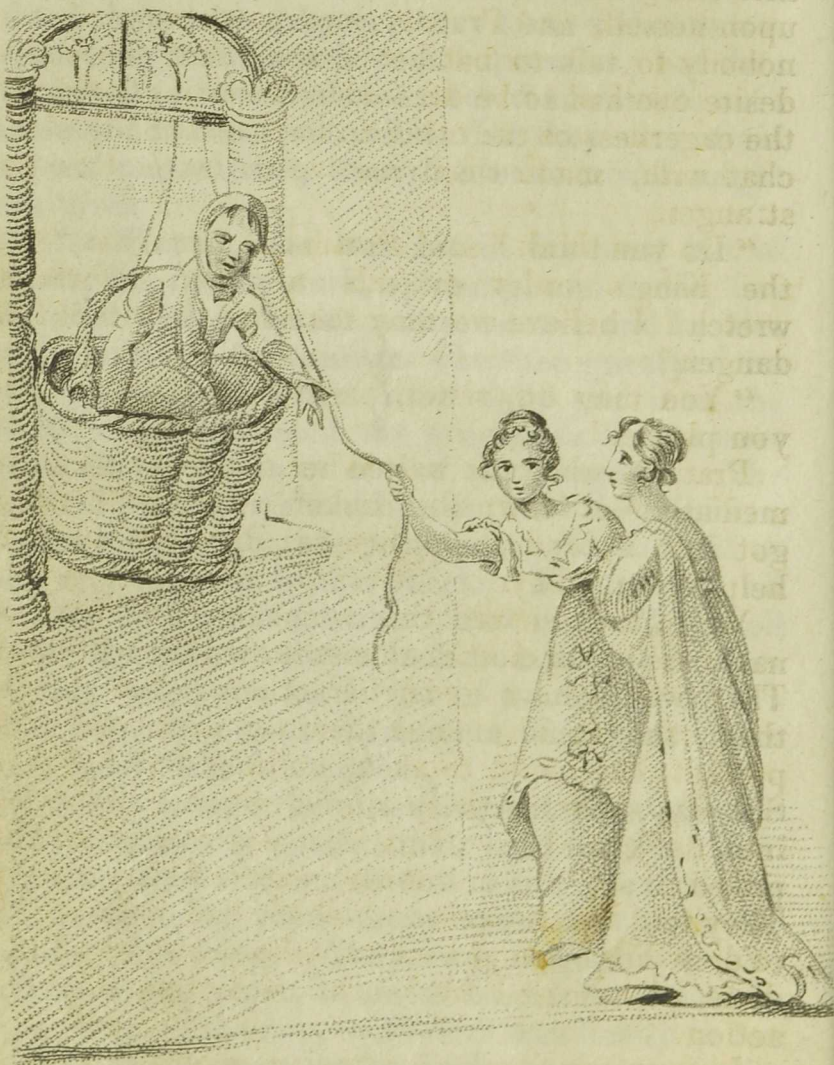
The reader may suppose, that these princesses were now in danger of perishing with hunger. Care was taken, however, to fix a pulley to one of the windows of the tower, and a rope ran through it, to which the princesses tied a basket, which they let down

daily. In this basket was put, every day, provisions, which, when they had drawn up, they carefully carried away the rope to their chamber.

Drona and Pratilia led such a life, in this solitude, as filled them with despair; they fretted themselves to such a degree as was beyond expression; but they were forced to have patience; for their distaffs were represented to them so terrible, that they were afraid the least misconduct, though ever so trivial, might break them.

As for Finetta, she was not in the least out of humour; her needle-work, spinning, and music, furnished her with sufficient amusements; and besides this, by order of the minister who then governed the state, papers and letters were daily put into the basket, which informed the princesses of whatever passed either within or out of the kingdom. The King had ordered it should be so; and the minister, to make his court to the princesses, did not fail of being very exact as to this article. Finetta read all the news with great attention, and diverted herself with it; but her two sisters took no notice of it; they said they were too much out of humour, and too melancholy, to amuse themselves with such trifles during their father's absence.

Thus they passed their time in great disquiet, murmuring continually against their hard fortune; and, I suppose, they did not fail of saying, that it was much better to be born happy than to be born the daughter of a king. They were frequently at the windows of the tower, to see at least what passed in the country. One day, as Finetta was busied in her chamber about some pretty work, her sisters, who were at the window, saw, at the foot of the tower, a poor woman clothed in rags and tatters, who cried out to them in a sorrowful tone, and in a very moving manner complained to them of her misery. She begged of them, with her hands joined together, that they would let her come into the castle, telling them, that she was a wretched stranger, who knew how to



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do a thousand things, and would serve them with the utmost fidelity. At first, the princesses called to mind their father's orders, not to let any one come into the tower; but Drona was so weary of waiting upon herself, and Pratilia was so uneasy at having nobody to talk to but her sisters, that the earnest desire one had to be dressed by a waiting-maid, and the eagerness of the other to have somebody else to chat with, made them resolve to let in this poor stranger.

"Do you think," said Pratilia to her sister, "that the King's order extends to this unfortunate wretch? I believe we may take her in without any danger."

"You may do, sister," answered Drona, "what you please."

Pratilia, who only waited her sister's consent, immediately let down the basket. The poor woman got into it, and the princesses drew her up by the help of the pulley.

When they viewed this woman nearer them, the nastiness of her clothes almost turned their stomachs. They would have given her others; but she told them, she would change them the next day; but at present, she could think of nothing but her work. She was speaking these words, when Finetta came into the chamber. This princess was greatly surprised to see this unknown creature with her sisters. They told her the reasons which had induced them to draw her up, and Finetta, who saw it was a thing done, dissembled her vexation at this imprudent action.

In the mean time, this new servant of the princesses took a hundred turns about the castle, under pretence of doing her work; but in reality to see how things were disposed in it. For this pretended beggar-woman was as dangerous in this castle, as Count Ory was in the nunnery where he entered, being disguised like a fugitive abbess.

To keep my reader no longer in suspense, I shall

tell you, that this creature, in tatters, was the son of a powerful king, a neighbour of the princesses' father. This young prince was one of the most artful and designing persons of his time, and governed entirely the King his father; which, indeed, required, not much address; for that prince was of so sweet and easy a disposition, that he had the surname of Mild, or Gentle. And as for this prince, who always acted with artifice and cunning, he was by the people surnamed Rich-in-Craft, but in shortness Rich-Craft.

He had a younger brother who was as full of good qualities as he was of bad; however, notwithstanding their different tempers, there was between these two princes such a strict union, that every body wondered at it.—Besides the good qualities which the youngest prince was possessed of, the beauty of his face and the gracefulness of his person were so remarkable, that he was generally called Bel-a-voir. It was Prince Rich-Craft who had put the ambassador of the King his father upon that wicked turn in the treaty, which was frustrated by the address of Finetta, and fell upon themselves. Rich-Craft, who before that had no great love for the princesses' father, since then bore him the utmost aversion; so that when he had notice of the precautions which that prince had taken, in respect to his daughters, he vindictively resolved to deceive, if possible, the prudence of so careful a father. Accordingly, upon some pretence, he obtained permission to travel for a certain time, and took such measures as gained him entrance into the tower where these princesses were confined, as you have been already informed.

In examining the castle, Rich-Craft observed that it was very easy for the princesses to make themselves heard by people passing in the road; and he concluded that it was best for him to continue in his disguise all day; because they could easily call out to passengers, and have him chastised for his rash enterprise. He therefore remained all day long in his tatters, and counterfeited a professed beggar-wo-

man ; but at night, after the princesses had supped, he threw off his rags, and shewed himself dressed like a cavalier, in rich apparel all covered with gold and jewels. The poor princesses were so much frightened at this sight, that they began to hasten from him with all possible precipitation. Finetta and Pratilia, who were very nimble, soon got to their chambers ; but Drona, who scarcely knew how to move, was soon overtaken.

Rich-Craft immediately threw himself at her feet, declared who he was, and told her that the report of her beauty and the sight of her picture had induced him to leave a delightful court to come and offer her his faith and vows. Drona was so much at a loss, that she could not answer one word to the prince, who was still kneeling ; but as, amidst a thousand protestations, he ardently conjured her to receive him that very moment for her husband ; her natural softness not suffering her to contend, she told Rich-Craft in a very indolent and dronish tone, that she believed him sincere, and accepted his vows. She observed no greater formalities than these, which were the conclusion of this marriage ; but at the same time she lost her distaff, for it broke into a thousand pieces.

Pratilia and Finetta in the mean time were suffering the greatest uneasiness. They had got away separately into their apartments, and locked themselves in. These apartments were at some distance from each other ; and, as all three of these princesses were ignorant of their sister's fate, they did not sleep one wink all night long.

Next morning, the deceitful Prince led Drona into a ground apartment which was at the end of the garden, where this princess told him how greatly she was disturbed about her sisters, though she dared not see them, for fear they should blame her for her marriage. The Prince told her, he would undertake they should approve of it ; and, after some discourse, went out, and locked Drona in, without her per-

ceiving it, and then searched carefully every where to find out the other princesses. It was some time before he could discover in what chamber they had secured themselves; but at last the strong inclination which Prätalia had to be always prattling, causing this princess to talk and bewail her destiny to herself, Rich-Craft heard her, and coming up to the door, saw her through the key-hole.

Rich-Craft spoke to her through the door, telling her, as he had previously told her sister, that it was only a desire of offering her his hand and heart which had caused him to undertake the enterprise of entering the tower. He praised, not without excessive exaggeration, her wit and beauty; and Prätalia, who was fully persuaded in herself, that she was possessed of infinite merit, was foolish enough to believe all the Prince told her. She answered him with a torrent of words, which were not very disobliging.—Certainly this princess must have had a strange talent of speech, to acquit herself as she did; for she was extremely faint, not having tasted a morsel all day, as she had nothing fit to eat in her chamber. As she was extremely indolent, and had no thought of any thing but endless talking, she had not the least foresight: when she wanted any thing, she had recourse to Finetta; and that amiable princess, who was as laborious and provident as her sisters were the contrary, had always in her chamber an abundance of fine biscuits, pies, macaroons, and sweetmeats of all sorts, and of her own making. Prätalia, who had not a similar advantage, finding herself at that time much pressed with hunger, and affected by the protestations which the Prince made through the door, opened it at last to that artful seducer.

They then both went out of this apartment, and came into the office of the castle, where he found all sorts of refreshments; for the basket furnished the princesses every day with more than enough. Prätalia could not help being still in pain for her sisters, and what might become of them; but it came into

her head, I know not upon what foundation, that they were both locked up in Finetta's chamber, where they wanted for nothing. Rich-Craft used all the arguments he could to confirm her in this belief, and told her, that they would go and find out the princesses towards evening. She could not agree with him in that, but said, they would go and see after them so soon as they had done eating.

In short, the Prince and Princess began eating very heartily; and when they had done, Rich-Craft desired to see the finest apartment in the castle: he gave his hand to the Princess, who led him thither; and when they were there, he began to exaggerate the love he had for her, and the advantages she would have in marrying him. He told her, as he had done her sister Drona, that she ought to accept of his faith immediately, because if she should see her sisters before she had accepted him for her husband, they would not fail to oppose it; and being one of the most powerful of the neighbouring princes, he would most probably seem to them a person fitter for her eldest sister than her, who would never consent to a match she herself might desire with all imaginable ardour. Pratalia, after a deal of discourse which signified nothing, was as unguarded as her sister had been: she agreed to become the wife of Rich-Craft, and never thought of the effects of her glass distaff, till after it was shattered in a hundred pieces.

Towards evening, Pratalia returned to her chamber with the Prince, and the first thing she saw was her glass distaff all broken to bits; she was much troubled at this sight. The Prince asked her the reason of her concern. As her passion for talking made her incapable of being silent on any subject, she foolishly told Rich-Craft the mystery of the distaff, at which this prince was wickedly overjoyed, since the father of these princesses would by this means be entirely convinced of the bad conduct of his daughters.

However, Pratalia was no longer in the humour of going to look for her sisters. She had reason to fear

they would not approve of her conduct; but the Prince offered himself to undertake this office, and told her he should find means to persuade them to approve of it. After this assurance, the princess, who had not closed her eyes all night, grew very drowsy; and while she was sleeping, Rich-Craft turned the key upon her, as he had previously done to Drona.

Is it not true, reader, that this Rich-Craft was a wicked rogue, and those two princesses weak and imprudent females? I am very angry with such sort of folks, and doubt not but you are so too in a high degree; but do not be uneasy, they shall all be treated as they deserve; no one shall triumph, but the sage and courageous Finetta.

When this perfidious Prince had locked up Prætilia, he went into all the rooms of the castle, one after another; and as he found them all open but one, which was fastened in the inside, he concluded that thither Finetta had retired. As he had composed a string of compliments, he went to retail out at Finetta's door the same things he had made use of to her sisters. But this princess, who was not a dupe, like her elder sisters, heard him a good while, without making the least answer. At last, finding that he knew she was in that room, she told him, if it were true that he had so strong and sincere an affection for her, as he would persuade her, she desired he would go down into the garden, and shut the door upon him, and after that she would talk to him as much as he pleased out of the window of the apartment which looked into the garden.

Rich-Craft would not agree to this; and as the princess resolutely persisted in refusing to open the door, this wicked prince, mad with impatience, went and got a large log of wood, and broke it open. He found Finetta armed with a great hammer, which had been accidentally left in a wardrobe near her chamber.

Emotion raised Finetta's complexion; and, though her eyes sparkled with rage, she appeared to Rich-Craft a most enchanting beauty. He would have

cast himself at her feet : but she said to him boldly, as she retired, " Prince, if you approach me, I will cleave your head with this hammer."

" What ! beautiful princess," said Rich-Craft, in his hypocritical tone, " does the love I have for you inspire you with such cruel hatred ?" He then began to describe the violent ardour which the report of her beauty and wonderful wit had inspired him with ; adding, that the only motive he had to put on such a disguise, was that of offering her his hand and heart ; and reminding her, that on this account she ought to pardon his boldness in breaking open her door. He then endeavoured to persuade her that it was her interest to receive him for her husband as soon as possible, and he assured her he did not know whither her sisters had retired, as his thoughts were wholly fixed upon her.

The discreet princess, feigning herself entirely pacified, told him, that she must find out her sisters, and, after that, they would take their measures altogether : but Rich-Craft answered, that he could by no means resolve upon that, till she had consented to marry him, because her sisters would not fail to oppose the match, on account of their right of seniority.

Finetta, who with good reason distrusted this prince, found her suspicions redoubled by this answer. She trembled to think what might have happened to her sisters, and resolved to revenge them with the same stroke which might enable her to avoid a misfortune like that which she judged had befallen them. This young princess then told Rich-Craft, that she readily consented to marry him ; but as she was of opinion that marriages which were made at night were always unhappy ; she desired he would defer the ceremony of plighting to each other their mutual faith till the next morning. She added he might be assured she would not mention a syllable of this to the princesses her sisters, and begged him to give her only a little time to say her prayers ; that

afterwards she would lead him to a chamber where he should have a very good bed, and then she would return to her own apartment till the morning.

Rich-Craft, who was not very courageous, seeing Finetta still armed with the great hammer, which she played with like a fan, consented to what she proposed, and went away to give her some time to meditate. He was no sooner gone, but Finetta hastened to make a bed over the hole of a sink in one of the rooms of the castle. This room was as handsome as any of the rest; but they threw down the hole of that sink, which was very large, all the dirty water and filth of the castle. Finetta put over the hole two weak sticks across, then very handsomely made the bed upon them, and immediately returned to her chamber. A few moments after, Rich-Craft made his appearance, and the princess conducted him into the room where she had made his bed, and retired.

The Prince, without undressing, threw himself hastily upon the bed, and his weight having all at once broken the slender sticks, he fell down to the bottom of the sink, without being able to stop himself, receiving twenty blows on his head, and being all over severely bruised. The fall of the Prince made a great noise as he was descending; and besides, being not far from Finetta's chamber, she soon knew her artifice had the success she promised herself, and she felt a joy which was extremely agreeable to her. It is impossible to describe the pleasure it gave her to hear him muttering in the sink. He well deserved that punishment; and the princess had abundant reason to rejoice at it.

But her joy was not so great as to make her unmindful of her sisters; her first care was to seek for them. It was no hard matter to find out Prætilia; Rich-Craft, after double-locking that princess in her chamber, having left the key in the door, Finetta went hastily in; and the noise she made caused her sister to start. At the sight of her she

was in great confusion. Finetta related to her after what manner she had got rid of the wicked Prince, who was come to insult them. Pratilina at this news was as one thunderstruck ; for she was silly enough to have ridiculously believed every word of what Rich-Craft had told her. She contrived, however, to dissemble the excess of her sorrow, and went out of her chamber with Finetta, to look after Drona. They went into all the rooms of the castle, but could not find her. At last, Finetta bethought herself that she might be in the apartment of the garden, where, indeed, they found her half dead with despair and faintness ; for she had not tasted any thing all that day. The princesses gave her all the necessary assistance ; after which they told each other their adventures, which affected Drona and Pratilina with mortal sorrow. Then they all three went to take repose.

In the mean time Rich Craft passed the night very uncomfortably, and when day came he was not much the better. This prince was groping among dismal dungeons, the utmost horror of which he could not see, because the least glimpse of light could not enter. However, at last, with a great deal of painful struggling, he came to the end of the drain, which ran into a river at a considerable distance from the castle. Here he found means to make himself heard by some men who were fishing in the river, by whom he was drawn out in such a state as excited the compassion of those good people.

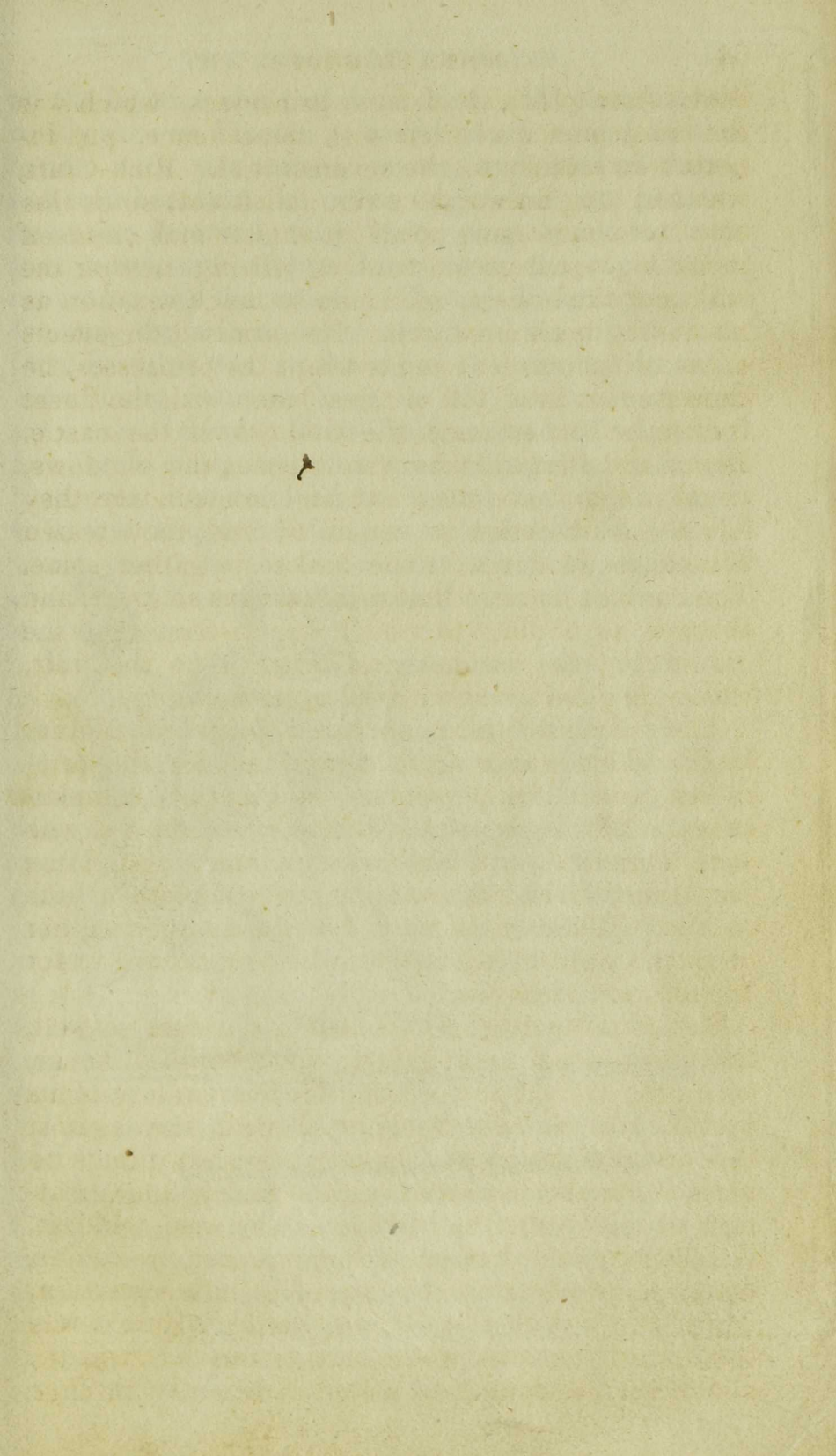
He caused himself to be carried to his father's court to get cured ; and this disgrace inspired him with such an inveterate hatred to Finetta, that he thought less on his cure than on revenge.

That princess passed her time but very sadly ; honour was a thousand times dearer to her than life, and the shameful weakness of her sisters had thrown her into such despair, that she had much difficulty to get the better of it. At the same time

the ill state of health of those princesses, which was the consequence of their own imprudence, put Finetta's constancy to the severest trial. Rich-Craft, who had long been a deceiver, failed not, since this adventure, mustering up all his wits, to make himself in the highest degree a tricking villain; neither the sink, nor the bruises, gave him so much vexation as his having been outwitted. He surmised the effects of his two marriages; and to tempt the princesses, he caused great tubs full of trees laden with the finest fruit to be carried under the windows of the castle. Drona and Pratilia, who were often at the windows, could not but see the fruit; and immediately they felt a violent desire to eat of it, and they teased Finetta to go down in the basket to gather some. The complaisance of that princess was so great, and she was so willing to oblige her sisters, that she did as they desired her, and brought up the fruit, which they devoured with the utmost avidity.

The next day there appeared fruits of another kind. This was a fresh temptation for the princesses, and a fresh instance of Finetta's complaisance. But, immediately, Rich-Craft's officers, who were in ambush, and had failed of their design the first time, were not wanting to complete it the second. They seized upon Finetta, and carried her off in the sight of her sisters, who tore their hair for anguish and vexation.

Rich-Craft's guards executed his orders so well, that they soon took Finetta to a country house, where the Prince was residing for the recovery of his health. As he was transported with fury against this princess, he said a hundred brutish things to her, which she answered with firmness and greatness of soul worthy a heroine as she was. At last, after having kept her some time prisoner, he caused her to be brought to the top of a high mountain, whither he followed immediately after. Here it was that he told her they were going to put her to death, and in such a manner as would sufficiently revenge





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all the injuries she had done him. He then barbarously shewed Finetta a barrel stuck round in the inside with pen-knives, razors, and hooked nails, and told her, that, in order to give her the punishment she deserved, they were going to put her into that vessel, and roll her down from the top of the mountain into the valley. Though Finetta was no Roman, she was no more afraid of the punishment than Regulus was at the sight of a similar destiny. This young princess kept up all her firmness and presence of mind. Rich-Craft, instead of admiring her heroic character, grew more enraged against her than ever, and resolved to hasten her death; and with that design he stooped to look into the barrel, which was to be the instrument of his vengeance, to examine if it were well provided with all its murderous weapons.

Finetta, who saw her persecutor very attentive in looking in the barrel, lost no time, but very dexterously pushed him into it, and rolled him down the mountain, without giving him any time to know where he was. After this she ran away, and the Prince's officers, who had seen with extreme grief in what a cruel manner their master would have treated this amiable Princess, made not the least attempt to stop her; besides, they were so much frightened at what happened to Rich-Craft, that they thought of nothing but stopping the barrel; but their endeavours were all in vain; he rolled down to the bottom of the mountain, where they took him out wounded in a thousand places.

This accident of Rich-Craft threw the gentle King and Prince Bel-a-voir into the utmost despair. As for the people, they were not at all concerned, Rich-Craft being universally hated; and they were even astonished to think that the young prince, who had such noble and generous sentiments, could love this unworthy elder brother; but such was the good-nature of this prince, that he was strongly attached to all the members of his family; and Rich-Craft

always had the address to shew him such marks of affection, that this prince could never have forgiven himself had he not repaid them with interest. Bel-a-voir, was therefore, touched with excessive grief at the wounds of his brother, and he tried all means to have him perfectly cured ; but notwithstanding all the care of him by all about him, nothing could do Rich-Craft any good : on the contrary, his wounds seemed every day to grow worse, and to prognosticate that he would linger on a long while in misery.

Finetta, after having disengaged herself from this terrible danger, returned safely to the castle, where she had left her sisters ; but it was not long before she had new troubles to encounter with. Each of her sisters became the mother of a male infant ; at which Finetta was exceedingly perplexed. However the courage of this princess did not abate ; the desire she had to conceal the shame of her sisters made her resolve to expose herself once more, though she very well knew the danger. To accomplish her design, she took all the measures prudence could suggest. She disguised herself as a man, put the children of her sisters into boxes in which she had bored little holes to admit the air ; and getting on horseback, with these boxes and some others, she set out for the capital city of the gentle King, where Rich-Craft then was.

So soon as Finetta came into the city she was told of the generous manner in which Bel-a-voir paid for the medicines which were given to his brother, which had brought to court all the mountebanks in Europe ; for at that time there were a great many adventurers, without knowledge or capacity, who pretended to have received from heaven the gift of curing all sorts of distempers. These people, whose whole science consisted in effrontery, found great credit among the people : they knew how to impose upon them by their exterior appearance, and by the odd names they assumed. Such doctors never stay in the place of their nativity ; and the circumstance

of coming from a distant place frequently supplies the want of merit.

The ingenious princess, who knew all this, caused it to be reported that the Chevalier Sanatio was come to town with wonderful secrets, to cure all sorts of wounds, however dangerous and inveterate. Bel-a-voir sent immediately for this pretended knight. Finetta came with all the airs of a quack doctor, and after conversing some time with the amiable Prince Bel-a-voir, respecting the wounds of Rich-Craft, she told him she would go and fetch a bottle of incomparable water, and in the mean while leave two boxes she had brought thither, which contained some excellent ointments, very proper for the wounded prince.

As the pretended physician did not return, Bel-a-voir and his friends began to feel very impatient. At last, as they were going to send to him, they heard the crying of young children in Rich-Craft's chamber. This surprised every body, for there was no appearance of any children: however, they listened attentively, and they found that the cries came from the doctor's boxes.

The noise was, in fact, occasioned by Finetta's little nephews. This princess had given them a great deal to eat before she came to the palace; but as they had been there now a long time, they wanted more, and explained their necessities by singing this doleful tune. The attendants opened the boxes, and were greatly amazed to find in them two beautiful little babes. Rich-Craft concluded immediately that this was a new trick of Finetta's. He therefore threw himself into such a rage, and his pains were so greatly increased, that his friends concluded he must unavoidably die.

Bel-a-voir was penetrated with the most lively sorrow; but Rich-Craft, perfidious to his last moment, studied how to abuse the tenderness of his brother. "You have always loved me, prince," said he, "and you lament your loss of me: I can

have no greater proofs of your love in relation to my life : I am now dying ; but if ever I have been dear to you, I hope you will grant one thing which I am going to ask of you."

Bel-a-voir, who found himself incapable of refusing any thing to a brother on a death-bed, promised, with the most solemn oath, to grant him whatever he should desire. So soon as Rich-Craft heard this, he said to his brother, embracing him, "I now die contented, since I shall be revenged; for that which I beg of you is, to ask Finetta in marriage immediately on my decease; you will undoubtedly obtain this wicked princess; and the moment she shall be in your power, plunge your poniard into her heart."

Bel-a-voir trembled with horror at these words: he repented the imprudence of his oath; but it was not now the time to recall it, he had no wish that his repentance should be taken notice of by his brother, who expired soon after. The gentle King was very sensibly touched at his death. His subjects, however, far from regretting Rich-Craft, were extremely glad that his death secured the succession of the crown to Bel-a-voir, whose merit was dear to all.

Finetta, who had once more returned to her sisters, heard, soon after, of the death of Rich-Craft; and some time after that, news came to the three princesses, that the King their father had returned home. This prince came in haste to the tower, and his first wish was to see the distaffs. Drona went and brought that which belonged to Finetta, and shewed it to the King; then making a very low courtesy, carried it back again to the place whence she had taken it. Pratalia did so too; and Finetta, in her turn, brought her distaff; but the King, who was very suspicious, resolved to see them all together. No one could shew hers but Finetta: and the King fell into such a rage against his two eldest daughters, that he sent them away that mo-



Discreet Princess. part 2. page 68.

ment to the Fairy who had given him the distaffs, desiring her to keep them with her as long as they lived, and punish them according to their deserts.

To begin the punishment of these princesses, the Fairy led them into a gallery of her enchanted castle, where she had caused to be painted the history of a vast number of illustrious women, who made themselves famous by their virtues and laborious lives. By the wonderful effects of fairy art, all these figures moved, and were in action from morning till night. There were seen every where trophies and devices to the honour of these virtuous ladies; and it was no slight mortification for the two sisters to compare the triumph of these heroines with the despicable situation to which their unhappy imprudence had reduced them. To increase their vexation, the Fairy told them, very gravely, that if they had been as well employed as those whom they saw in the pictures, they would not have fallen into the errors which had ruined them; but that idleness was the mother of all vice, and the source of all their misfortunes. The Fairy added, that to hinder them from falling into the like misfortune, she would give them thorough employment; and, indeed, she obliged the princesses to employ themselves in the coarsest and meanest of work; and, without having any regard to their complexion, she sent them to gather peas in the garden, and pull up the weeds. Drona could not help falling into despair at leading a life which was so little suited to her inclinations, and soon died with fatigue and vexation. Pratilia, who, some time after, found means to make her escape by night out of the Fairy's castle, broke her skull against a tree, and died in the arms of some country people.

Finetta's good-nature made her bitterly grieve over the fate of her sisters; and in the midst of these troubles, she was informed that Prince Bel-a-voir had demanded her in marriage of the King her

father, who had consented to it, without giving her any notice; for in those days the inclination of the parties was the last thing considered in marriage-contracts. Finetta trembled at the news; she had reason to fear, lest the hatred which Rich-Craft felt towards her might infect the heart of a brother who was so dear to him; and she had apprehensions that this young prince only desired to make her a sacrifice to his brother. Full of these thoughts, the princess went to consult the sage Fairy, who esteemed her as much as she despised Drona and Pratilia.

The Fairy would reveal nothing to Finetta; she only said to her, "Princess, you are sage and prudent; you would not hitherto have taken such measures in your conduct, had you not always borne in mind, that distrust is the mother of security. Continue to think earnestly on the importance of this maxim, and you will eventually be happy without the assistance of my art." Finetta, not having been able to get any farther intelligence from the Fairy, returned to the palace in extreme agitation.

Some days after, the princess was married, by an ambassador, in the name of Prince Bel-a-voir, and she set out to go to her spouse in a magnificent equipage. She made, in the same manner, her entry into the gentle King's frontier town, and she, soon afterwards, found Bel-a-voir, who was come to meet her by order of his father. Every body was surprised to see the sadness of this prince at the approach of a marriage for which he had shewn so great a desire: the King himself was forced to interpose, and sent him, contrary to his inclination, to meet the princess.

When Bel-a-voir saw her, he was struck with her charms; but he complimented her in so confused a manner, that the courtiers, who knew how much eloquence this prince was master of, knew not how to account for it. The populace, however, shouted for joy; there were every where concerts of music

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part 2^d



Finetta. page 70.

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and exhibitions of fire-works; and, after a magnificent supper, preparations were made for conducting the royal pair to their apartment.

Finetta, who was always thinking on the maxim which the Fairy had revived in her mind, had a design in her head. This princess had gained one of the women, who had the key of the closet belonging to the apartment which was designed for her; and she had privately given orders to that woman to carry into the closet some straw, a bladder, some sheep's blood, and the entrails of some of the animals which were dressed for supper. The princess, on some pretence, went into that closet, and made an image of the straw, into which she put the entrails and the bladder full of blood; and then dressed it up in a woman's night-clothes. Finetta returned to her company; and, after some time, she and her spouse were conducted to their apartment. When they had allowed as much time at the toilet as was necessary, the ladies of honour took away the flambeaux, and retired. Finetta immediately placed the image of straw in the bed, and went and hid herself in one of the corners of the chamber.

The prince, after heaving two or three deep sighs, drew his sword, and ran it through the body of the supposed Finetta; at the same instant he found the blood trickle about, and the body without motion. "What have I done!" exclaimed Bel-a-voir, "What! after so many cruel conflicts—after having so maturely weighed with myself if I should keep my oath at the expence of a dreadful crime, have I taken away the life of a charming princess, whom I was born to love! Her beauty charmed me the moment I saw her, and yet I had not the power to free myself from an oath, which a brother, possessed with fury, had exacted from me by an unworthy surprise! Ah, Heavens! could any one even think of punishing a woman for having too much virtue? Well! Rich-Craft, I have satisfied thy unjust ven-

geance ; and now I will revenge Finetta by my own death. Yes, beautiful princess, my sword shall—" At these words the prince, who in his transport had dropped his sword, began feeling for it, in order to thrust it through his body ; but Finetta, resolving he should not be guilty of such a folly, cried out, " My prince, I am not dead ; the goodness of your disposition made me anticipate your repentance, and by an innocent deception, I have prevented you from committing the worst of crimes."

She then related to Bel-a-voir the foresight she had had, in relation to the figure of straw. The prince, transported to find Finetta alive, admired the prudence she was mistress of on all occasions ; expressed his obligations to her for preventing him from committing a crime which he could not think on without horror ; and confessed his weakness in not having sooner discovered the futility of those wicked oaths which had been exacted from him by artifice.

However, if Finetta had not been always persuaded that distrust is the mother of security, she would have been killed, and her death would have occasioned that of Bel-a-voir ; and then, afterwards, people would have reasoned at leisure upon the oddness of this prince's sentiments. Happy prudence and presence of mind ; which preserved this princely pair from the most dreadful misfortunes, for a destiny the sweetest and most delightful !—They always retained for each other the greatest tenderness, and passed through a long succession of years in the utmost felicity.

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Prince Lupin. page 73.

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FAIRY TALES.

Part the Second.

THE CELEBRATED TALES OF MOTHER BUNCH.

PRINCE LUPIN AND THE WHITE CAT.

A CERTAIN king had three sons, all handsome, brave, and fine young gentlemen; but, being apprehensive 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 just 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 twelvemonth with their 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 stately castle, the gates of which were massy gold, and the walls of fine china, covered with paintings, illustrative of 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 silver. Immediately the door opened, and twelve hands, each holding a flambeau, 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 was also greatly heightened by a number of lights that hung from the ceiling in glass chandeliers 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 wetted in the storm, and dressed him in others, so extraordinarily fine and rich, that it dazzled his sight to behold them. 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 a bench. One held a music-book, and some played on instruments, while others employed themselves in beating 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 my ambition, and that of all my mewing attendants, to afford 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 neither rats nor mice in any thing that was set before him. As the Prince was admiring 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 some delightful amusement.

In this manner almost a year had passed away insensibly ; and the Prince had entirely forgotten his 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, she said, "Do you remember, Prince, the promise which you gave to your father ? Your brothers have already procured some curious little dogs, and there remain but three days for you to find one more beautiful than theirs, 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 his benefactress a thousand times. Then bidding her farewell, he mounted the wooden horse, and arrived at his father's palace just as his brothers entered the court-yard. 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 in 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 farther 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 reposing 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 result 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 forgotten his orders, had not the White Cat refreshed his memory. " 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 pre-

sence, 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, and pulled out their webs, which were exceedingly 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: he then opened the millet-seed, and, to the utter astonishment of all beholders, drew out a web of cloth four hundred yards long. The needle was brought, and the web was passed through the eye of it five or six times, with the greatest ease.

The King heaved a deep sigh, and turning towards his sons, said, "I am still desirous, my children, 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."

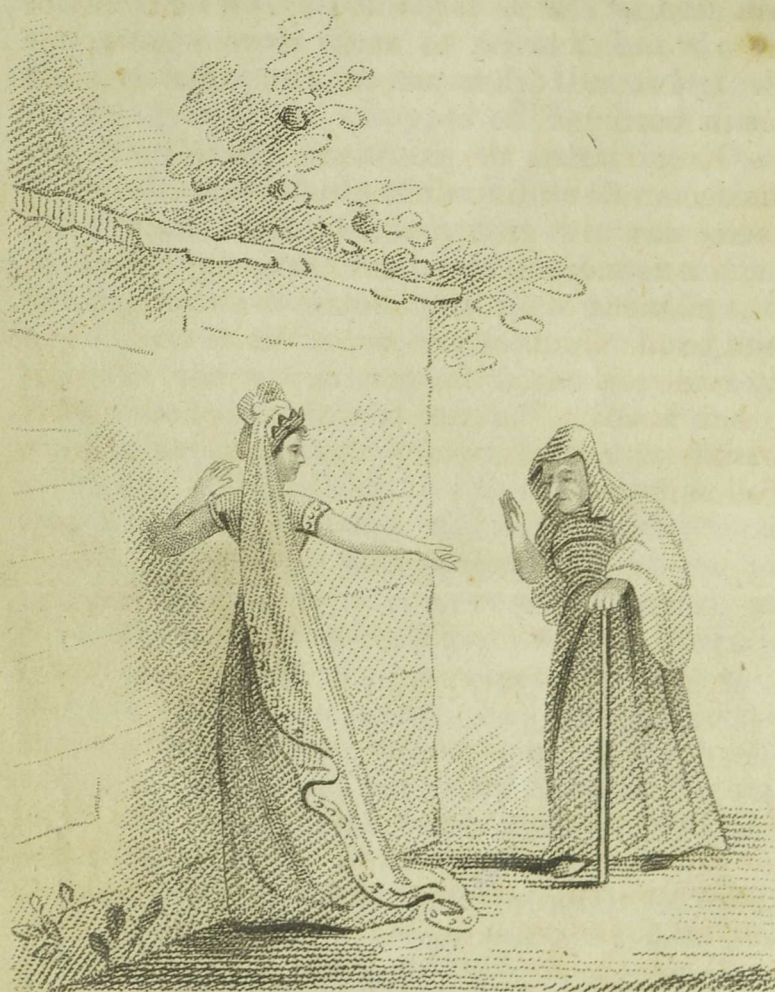
Our obedient Prince heard this command without a murmur; and, remounting his courser, hastened to his dear White Cat, who knowing the moment of his return, was prepared to receive him in a chamber covered all over with gold.

"Prince," said she, "the King, I find, has refused you the crown; however, I hope you will take care to deserve it, and then I will provide you with a beautiful damsel who will gain the prize."

The Prince grew more and more fond of his kind hostess; and in her abode enjoyed every magnificent entertainment that fancy could invent. When the third year was nearly 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 throw them into the fire." Tears started 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 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 cat-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 rejoiced 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," said 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 harness of the horses sparkled with 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 coaches painted blue, and 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 of them 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



Frutilla. page 79.

ecstasy, "This is the incomparable beauty, whose worth and excellence claim and deserve 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 that same day with great magnificence. Never were man and wife 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 embraced the first opportunity of gratifying her husband's curiosity with a recital of her surprising adventures, which the reader will find in the following tale.

ADVENTURES OF THE PRINCESS FRUTILLA.

AS RELATED BY HERSELF.

My father was king of six kingdoms, and loved my mother so tenderly, as readily to grant whatever she desired. A little while 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 sisters and me one present."

"I will give you my kingdoms," replied the longing queen, "rather than not taste your fruit."

"You must give us your daughter," said 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," rejoined the queen; "but I find I must 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 some baskets full to carry home. After some time I was born, and the queen began to be very melancholy at the promise she had made to the fairies. The king was much concerned, and pressed my mother to declare the cause of her sorrow, and with much difficulty she was prevailed upon to reveal the fatal secret; at which my father was so enraged that he loaded her with reproaches. The unhappy queen, unable to bear her husband's anger, and the reflection of her own imprudence, soon after died 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, devoured men, women, and children, and killed all the trees with his pestilential breath. 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 dog to keep me company. One morning hearing a noise, I was so frightened as to run to the window, where I perceived a gentleman of most enchanting aspect, who in a sweet voice entreated me to hear a few words, for on my consent to this request his life depended.

I was going to reply, when the fairy Violence entered to bring me my breakfast. The first words she spoke were, "I hear 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 hear 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 presented 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 long enough for a dozen birds to perch upon it. The prince, not at all daunted, 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, they 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 telling me that my father was dead, they departed,

with the assurance 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 six kingdoms. These obligations it shall be my study to repay, by a life of fidelity and affection.

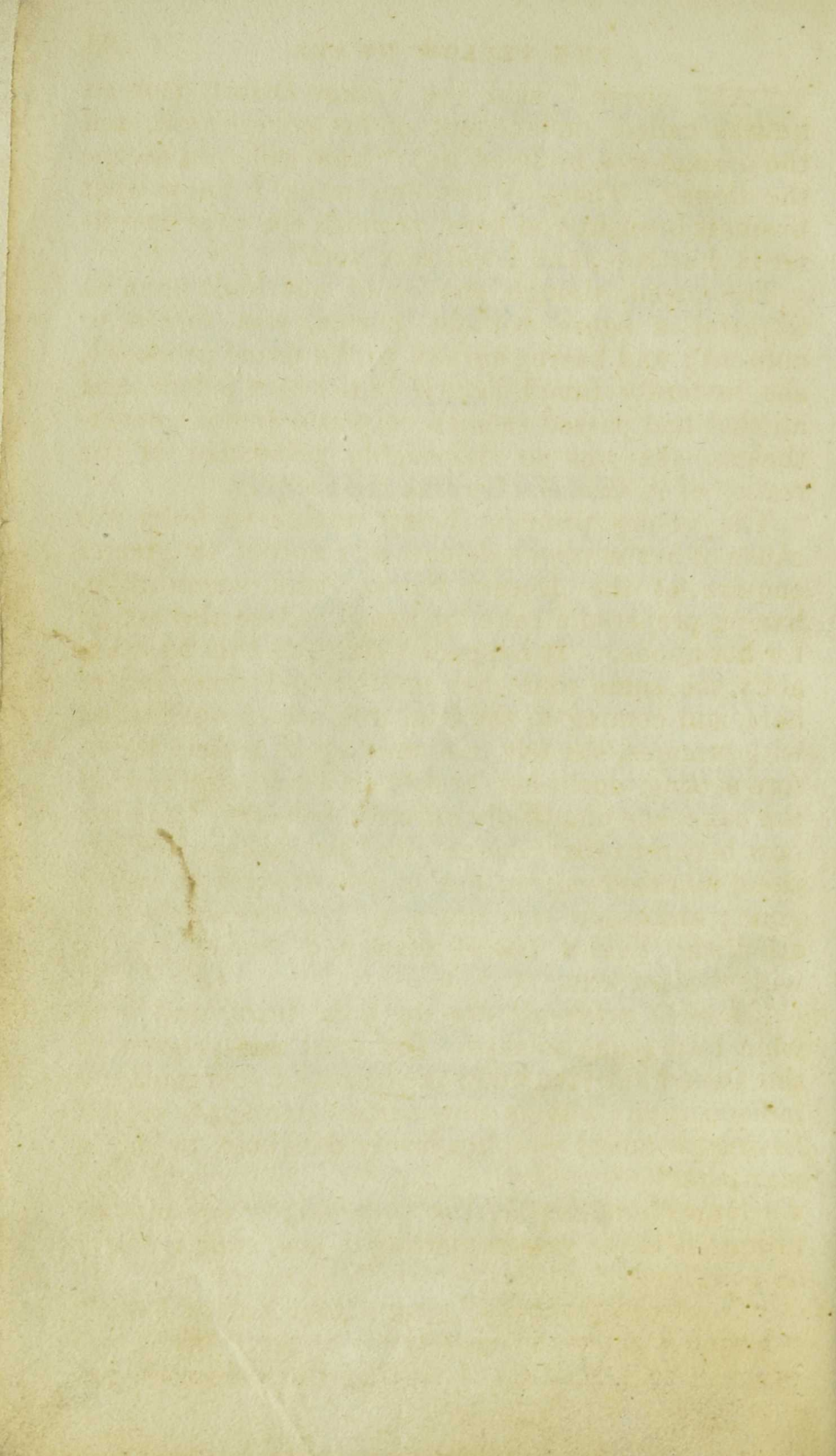
THE YELLOW DWARF.

THERE was once a queen, who, though she had been the mother of several children, had buried them all except one daughter, of whom she was excessively fond, humouring and indulging her in all her ways and wishes. This princess was so extremely beautiful, that she was called All-Fair, and twenty kings were, at one time, paying their addresses to her. Her mother, being advanced in years, was anxious to see her married and settled before she died; but as no entreaties could prevail, 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 crocodiles' 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 roaring of the lions which guarded the fairy, and on 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; when, hearing somebody approach, she raised her eyes, and saw a little yellow man in a tree, half a yard high, picking and eating oranges.



The Yellow Dwarf. page 82.



“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, though she could not look upon so frightful a figure without horror, was forced to consent; and having agreed to the terms proposed, 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 mother's dejection, resolved to go and enquire 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 route her mother had done before her; and coming to the fatal tree, which was loaded with oranges, she felt inclined to pick some; therefore setting down her basket, in which 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 to find it gone; and 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 having promised you, her lovely daughter, to me in marriage.”

“How!” interrupted the princess; “my mother promised me to you in marriage! *you*, such a fright as *you*!”

“None of your scoffs,” returned the Yellow Dwarf; “I wish you not to rouse 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.”

The princess felt the full force of this shock, and was compelled to give her word that she would have the Dwarf ; but such was the agony of her mind, that she fell into a swoon, and, when she recovered, she found herself in her own bed, finely adorned with ribbons, with 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 point 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 that prince for a husband, who was exceeding 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, upon which sat an old woman, remarkable for her ugliness.

“ Hold, queen and princess,” cried she, knitting her brows ; “ remember the promises you have both made to my friend the Yellow Dwarf. I am the Desert Fairy ; and unless All-Fair consent to marry him, I solemnly swear I will burn my crutch.”

The queen and princess were struck almost motionless by this unexpected address of the fairy ; but the Prince of the Golden Mines was exceeding angry, and holding his sword to her throat, he said, “ Fly, wretch ! 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, exclaimed, "Rash youth, thy rage shall be levelled at me, not at the Desert Fairy; I am thy rival, and claim 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." The Yellow Dwarf, clapping spurs to his cat, and drawing a cutlass, now defied the king to combat; and down they went into the court-yard. The sun was immediately turned as red as blood, the air became dark, it thundered heavily, and the flashes of lightning discovered two giants vomiting fire on each side of the Yellow Dwarf.

The king behaved with such undaunted courage, as to give the Dwarf great trouble; but he was dismayed when he saw the Desert Fairy, mounted on a winged griffin, and with her head covered with snakes, strike the princess so hard with a lance, that she fell into the queen's arms, covered with blood. He immediately 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 felt 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 placed him by herself in a chariot drawn by swans. In passing through the air, he was unspeakably surprised to see his

beloved princess in a castle of polished steel, leaning her head on one hand, and wiping away her 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 an attachment to 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 pleasing smile, spoke to this effect:

"O King of the Golden Mines, I well know all that has passed in regard to you and the fair princess. Do not suspect this to be a contrivance of the fairy to try you, for I am an inveterate enemy both to her and the Yellow Dwarf; therefore, if you will place 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 should direct, and seating himself, by her desire, upon her fish's tail, they sailed away, in a rolling sea.

When they had sailed some time, "Now," said the mermaid to the king, "we draw near to 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

greatful heart could suggest; and the mermaid landed and took leave of him, promising him further assistance when necessary.

The king boldly advanced, and, meeting with two terrible sphinxes, laid them dead at his feet with the 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 the sight of whom he stopped, being unwilling to destroy so much beauty; when he heard a voice say, "Strike! strike! or you lose your princess for ever!" He now threw himself into the midst of the nymphs, and soon dispersed them, and he soon came in view of All-Fair, when he exclaimed, "O my princess, behold your faithful lover!"

"*Faithful* lover!" she exclaimed, drawing herself back: "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 having uttered these words, he threw himself at her feet; but, catching hold of her gown, he 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." The Dwarf was so exasperated by this reply, that he instantly stabbed the king 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 that 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 as all her power lay in the sword, she could only change them into two palm-trees, which, preserving a constant and mutual affection for each other, fondly unite their branches together.

THE PIGEON AND DOVE.

THE queen of the country of Deserts, having lost the king her husband, and finding herself to draw nigh her end, earnestly entreated her old friend the Sovereign Fairy to take under her care the only child which fate had left her; a princess of incomparable beauty, and the darling of her heart. The fairy undertook the charge; and the queen, after most tenderly embracing Constantia, which was her daughter's name, expired in peace.

Upon consulting her books, the Sovereign Fairy foresaw that great misfortunes would happen to the princess, if she happened to be seen by a certain giant before she was sixteen years of age; and therefore carried her to a solitary place, at a great distance, where she thought it most likely that her fair charge might remain completely concealed. The fairy informed Constantia of the reason for bringing her to this retirement, and ordered her never to stray from home, which injunction she very cheerfully promised to comply with.

To amuse herself whilst in this retreat, the prin-



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cess had bred up a ram, named Ruson, which ate out of her hand and played a thousand pretty tricks, so that she became extravagantly fond of it. With this companion she remained, for a considerable time, in perfect security; but one day, hearing her favourite ram make the most pitiable bleatings, she ran out to see what was the matter; and had the mortification to see a wolf running off with poor Ruson. Forgetting the fairy's order, she pursued him, crying out, A wolf! a wolf! and throwing stones at him; till at last passing by a grove, out started a giant, who immediately laid hands on her, exclaiming, "Long have I sought for a goddess to marry her, and now I have found one!" The terrified Constantia making no reply, he put her into a large sack, where she met with the wolf and Ruson, a dog, a parrot, and a cat.

It happened that the giant was obliged to go and fight a duel with another giant, and the princess was unwilling to lose this opportunity of escaping; so taking out her scissors, she cut the bag, and let out all but the wolf. These creatures were very sensible of the obligations they lay under to the princess for their deliverance, and rendered her all the service in their power; for it being night-time, the cat's glaring eyes served as a light, the dog acted as a sentinel, the crowing of the cock kept off the lions, and the parrot, by talking as much as twenty people, prevented their being attacked by thieves. When morning came, Constantia found herself by a river's side, but suddenly deserted by all her attendants, except Ruson.

Here, after reflecting upon her unfortunate situation, she laid herself down to rest, but she had not slept long before Ruson awoke her by his bleatings; and, looking round, she beheld, behind some bushes, a youth uncommonly handsome, and very magnificently dressed. Though this stranger was a prince, yet he was so struck with Constantia's beauty, that he could not forbear speaking to her; and, as she

seemed full of anxiety, desired to know if he could render her any service. She thanked him, and expressed her wish to take the charge of a flock of sheep. This he promised to procure from the queen his mother; but the discovery of his rank greatly confused the princess.

Constantio (for this was the prince's name) obtained the care of a flock for Constantia, and became so passionately fond of her, that he was continually going to see her, under pretence of visiting the flock.

Constantia had conceived an equal affection for the prince; but this she dissembled, and, notwithstanding his constant protestations of the sincerity of his love, she could not be prevailed upon to promise him any return. This threw him into such grief that he was seized with a fever, which, in spite of all his physicians, brought him almost to the grave. Constantia was conscious of being the cause of his illness, and, after some time, informed one of his attendants that she knew of a preparation of simples that would cure him. Accordingly she was introduced to the palace; and taking a few herbs in her hand, was conducted to the prince's apartment. No sooner had she entered the room than he found himself relieved, not from any effect of the herbs, but from the sight of his charming shepherdess, whose kindness he began to hope for, as she had invented such a pretence for coming to see him; and, not finding himself deceived in this hope, he grew better every hour, and quickly recovered.

Constantia was then introduced to the king and queen, the former of whom received her very kindly; but the queen was so struck with her appearance, that she could not help uttering a violent shriek; recollecting herself, however, she thanked her for the cure of her son, and, by way of recompense, appointed her to take care of the flowers in her garden.

The queen had dreamed that the prince her son

was married to a shepherdess, whose person exactly corresponded with that of Constantia; and this was the reason of her shrieking out so violently at the sight of her. In consequence of this dream, she determined to watch them both narrowly, to see whether she could discover any fondness between them. A short observation convinced her that the prince was passionately attached to Constantia, and she to him. She therefore resolved to break off their acquaintance, if possible, by a separation. With this view she told the prince he must go to the court of a neighbouring king, there to contract a friendship with his daughter, in order to marry her; with which the prince, after many excuses, promised to comply. Full of sorrow at this unexpected resolution of his mother, he hastened to acquaint his dear Constantia with it, who was almost overwhelmed with grief at the news. However, she took the opportunity of acquainting him that she was born a princess; which was an inexpressible pleasure to the prince, who assured her he would take care to avoid an engagement with the princess designed for him by his mother; and both thinking it best to obey the queen's order, they parted, after vowing the most constant fidelity towards each other.

The queen, not content with having sent her son to another court, tried several stratagems to take Constantia off, but in vain. Exasperated at her disappointment, she resolved to send the princess on board some ship bound for foreign parts; and accordingly sold her as a slave to the master of a vessel that was then just going to set sail. Our heroine was exceedingly terrified at this proceeding, but could make no resistance, and was hurried on board by three ruffians.

The prince Constantio's behaviour (as had been agreed on) was rather disgusting than otherwise at the court where he was sent; and the queen, pretending by a letter to him, that Constantia was at

the point of death, he set off in great agony of mind to return home, without taking any leave. When he arrived, the first thing he heard was that Constantia was dead and buried ; which threw him into such despair, that he shut himself up in his room, and would neither see nor speak to any body. At last he resolved to go to her grave ; where, having spent some time in uttering every exclamation of distress, he drew his sword, and was going to fall on its point, when the queen, who had accompanied him, interposed ; and, in order to make him desist, was obliged to confess the vile deed she had been guilty of, in having sold Constantia and sent her abroad.

The prince was thunderstruck at this intelligence, and loaded his mother with a thousand reproaches. But as he found his beloved princess was not dead, he resolved to go in quest of her, and actually embarked on board a vessel the next day. He left no means untried to discover the object of his pursuit ; for he even made every shore which he approached resound with the name of Constantia. One night, the ship coming to an anchor behind a large rock, he landed, and perceiving a great light, made up to it, which proved to be a vast forge where thirty cyclops were making arms. Presently he heard a most delightful symphony of music ; and, looking towards a furnace that was in the forge, he saw a beautiful child coming out of it, whom he soon knew to be Cupid, and who accosted him in these words ;—“ The Sovereign Fairy and myself have engaged to protect Constantia, whom you seek ; but before we inform you where she is, you must give some proof of the sincerity and purity of your affection, by casting yourself into this furnace. If you love faithfully, you will be saved ; but if not, you will be lost.” “ Be it so,” rejoined Constantio ; and immediately threw himself into the furnace ; where having lost all sense for thirty hours, he at last seemed to awake as from sleep, and found himself changed into a beautiful

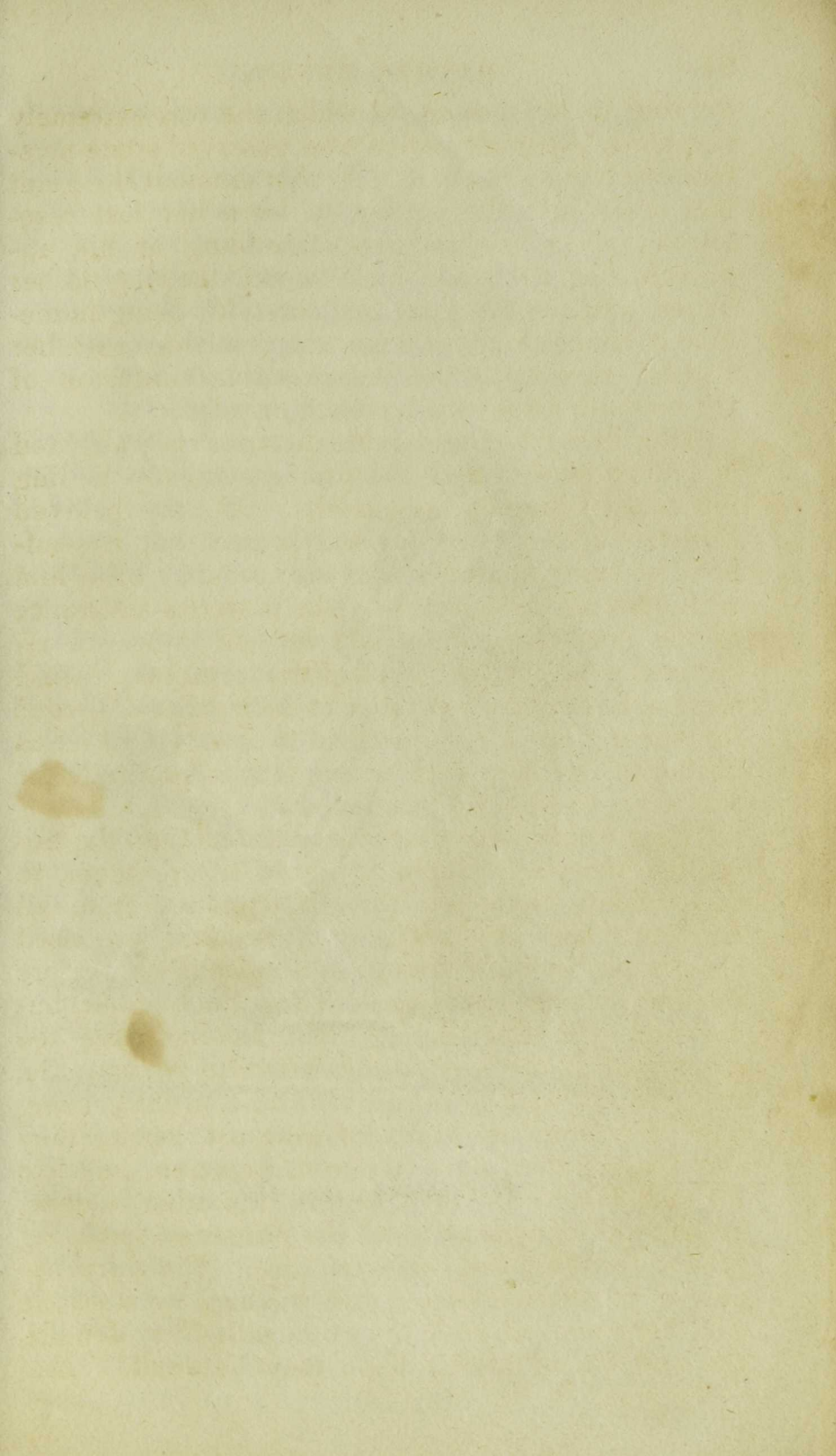
pigeon, and reposing on a bed of roses. Nothing could equal his surprise at this transformation; but he had lost the use of his speech, and this made him so disconsolate, that he determined to put an end to his life, since he could no longer inquire for Constantia. With this intent, he cast himself off from a high rock, but was kept up by his plumage. He therefore plucked out most of his feathers, and was going to make a second attempt, when he was surprised and caught by two young damsels who belonged to the Sovereign Fairy, to whom they carried him. As soon as she saw him, she knew who he was; and touched with compassion, spoke to him to the following purport. "Prince, I love you for the sake of my Constantia, of whom I will now give you some account. The ship on board which your cruel mother had embarked your love, was bound for the Indies; but being overtaken by a storm, was forced to make for the first haven that could be got to. It happened to be in the territories of a giant who had formerly fallen in love with her, and from whom she had escaped. He saw and instantly carried her to a high tower, where he has kept her a prisoner ever since. 'Twelve months,' said he, 'I will allow you for consideration, and, if you will not then marry me, I will compel you.' There is only one day of these twelve months to come; and the only way to save the princess is for you to fly to her with this little ring, which, being put on her finger, will change her into a dove; and then you may fly away together."

The overjoyed prince bowed his head three times in token of thanks; and the fairy having placed the ring in his mouth, and rubbed him with an essence that instantly replumed him with feathers, away he flew to the place where Constantia was confined. He soon saw her come into the garden, bewailing her unhappy fate, which she resolved to put an end to by her death, rather than comply with the giant's desires. The prince flew upon her shoulder, and put

the ring in her bosom, at which she was extremely surprised, especially when she observed some mysterious characters on it. At this moment the giant had come into the garden to learn her last resolution; when the princess, trembling at his approach, had the good luck to slip the ring on her finger, and, as the fairy had foretold, being immediately changed into a dove, she flew away with her faithful pigeon, to the inexpressible confusion of the monster whom she so much dreaded.

After flying a considerable distance they alighted in a shady wood; and the prince suddenly finding his tongue loosed, exclaimed, "See, my beloved Constantia, see your devoted prince that has suffered so many anxieties on your account; bless him with your affection, since by the powerful assistance of the good Sovereign Fairy he has at length recovered you." "Ah!" replied the princess, "am I then so happy as once more to be with you?—you! for whom only I have wished to live?—Oh, let us hasten to the fairy with hearts full of gratitude for this never-to-be-forgotten favour."

These words were no sooner uttered than the Sovereign Fairy and Cupid appeared before them, to congratulate them on their deliverance from all dangers; and the fairy, in particular, promised always to be their friend, and offered to restore them to their former shapes. They thanked her, but declined her offer, saying, that having made too much trial of the misfortunes attending human life, they did not wish to return into it; and that, being now free from the cares of crowned heads, they could spend their days free from ambition, and live for each other, the one a pigeon, the other a dove, in peaceful enjoyment of all the pleasures springing from a constant and virtuous love. The fairy approved of their choice; and having, by a stroke with her wand, adorned the wood with every delight, she and Cupid kindly bade them farewell. And





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"I cannot bear the thought of taking your life away."

Her faithful little dog Tintin then cried out, that he could not bear the thought of any one but himself dying for his beloved mistress. In short, after a long dispute between Patypata, Grabugeon, and Tintin, which of them should suffer death instead of the princess, Grabugeon nimbly climbed up to the top of a tree, and throwing himself down, broke his neck. The captain of the guard, with much persuasion, got leave of the princess to cut out his tongue; but it proved too small to venture to cheat the king with.

"Alas! my poor little ape," said the princess; "thou hast lost thy life without doing me any service!"

"That honour," interrupted the Moor, "is reserved for me;" and instantly cut her throat with the knife which had taken out Grabugeon's tongue. But here the intended service failed again; as the poor Moor's tongue was too black to pass for Miranda's. The princess bursting into bitter lamentation for the loss of the Moor and the ape, her little dog Tintin exclaimed, "If you had accepted of my offer, there would have been none to regret but myself, and real service had been done you." Miranda, however, was by this time so completely overpowered with grief, that she fainted away; and when she came to herself, she found the captain gone, and the little dog lying dead by the side of the ape and the Moor.

Having buried her three favourites in a hole under a tree, she began to think of her own safety; and, as the forest was not far from her father's court, she travelled, for fear of being discovered, till she was almost ready to expire with weariness. At last, hearing the bleating of sheep, she supposed she drew near some shepherds with their flocks, and exerted all her strength to reach the place, in hopes of finding some relief. But how great was her surprise, when she came to a spacious plain, to see a large

Ram, as white as snow, with gilded horns, a garland of flowers about his neck, and his legs adorned with bracelets of pearl, of a prodigious size, lying on orange flowers, and shaded from the heat of the sun by a pavilion of cloth of gold! A hundred sheep, richly adorned, were in waiting about him; some regaling themselves with the choicest herbage, while others diverted themselves with play. Miranda became motionless with astonishment, and looked about for the shepherd of so extraordinary a flock; when the beautiful Ram, bounding and skipping, came up and said, "Approach, lovely princess, and be not afraid of such gentle pacific creatures as we are."

"What!" exclaimed the princess, stepping back, "is it possible that sheep can speak?"

"Alas! madam," resumed the Ram, "your ape and dog spoke by gift of a fairy; and why may not the same happen to sheep? Be not surprised, therefore; but tell me, my princess, what has brought you hither?"

"A thousand misfortunes," answered Miranda; "I seek shelter from the rage of a cruel father."

"Come, then, with me, madam," rejoined the Ram, "and I will conduct you to a place where you shall be secure from discovery, and be absolute mistress."

The Ram then ordered his chariot, which proved to be a gourd-shell, large enough to hold two persons with ease, and lined with velvet, which was drawn by six goats. The princess placed herself in it, admiring the novelty of such an equipage; and the Ram got in after her, and drove to a cavern's mouth, which, though stopped by a large stone, opened on the Ram's touching it with his foot.

Miranda having descended a very numerous flight of steps, was exceedingly surprised to behold a vast plain enamelled with flowers, in the midst of which were fountains of wine and other exquisite liquors forming cascades and pleasant purling brooks. Here and there clumps of trees formed an habitation

for a variety of choice birds and fowls; and in other parts the air was darkened with showers of biscuits, tarts, cheesecakes, and all manner of sweetmeats; in short, there was every necessary of life, besides great plenty of gold and silver coin, pearls, and diamonds.

The princely Ram told Miranda that he had reigned here several years, and had sufficient cause for grief; but that he refrained, being unwilling to renew her misfortunes. To which the princess courteously replied, that she could not sufficiently express her acknowledgment of the kindness of his treatment; but every thing seeming uncommonly strange to her, she should be glad to hear some particulars of his history. The gentle Ram, after endeavouring to remove every uneasiness that remained in the mind of Miranda, complied, and related as follows:—

“Born and educated as a prince, I came into the possession of one of the most beautiful kingdoms in the world, and was beloved by my subjects and revered by foreigners. Being extremely fond of hunting, as I was one day pursuing a stag, he took to a pond, into which I very imprudently plunged my horse after him. Instead of finding the water cold, I found it extraordinarily hot; and the pond becoming dry all of a sudden, there issued out of a cliff a terrible fire, and I fell to the bottom from off a precipice, where I could see nothing but flames. At the same time I heard a voice exclaim, ‘They must be fiercer flames that warm thy heart, ungrateful man!’

‘Alas!’ cried I, ‘who complains of my coldness?’

‘An unfortunate wretch,’ returned the voice, ‘who adores you without hope.’

“The fire then disappeared, and I saw a frightful fairy, whom I had known from my youth. ‘What!’ cried I, ‘Ragotte, was all this done by your orders?’

‘By whose orders else do you think?’ said she, ‘have you never known my sentiments till now? Consider how low I stoop, and remember it is a fairy who addresses you.’

‘But what do you ask?’ enquired I; ‘is it my crown, my cities, or my treasure?’

‘Neither,’ answered she, somewhat disdainfully; ‘but I ask your heart. Ah! grant me your affection, let me be your beloved Ragotte, and,’ added she, contracting her mouth to look the more agreeable, and rolling her eyes about, ‘I will give you twenty kingdoms beside your own, a hundred towers of gold, five hundred filled with silver, and every thing else you can possibly desire.’

“In this dilemma I knew not how to act, but resolved to dissemble, and, pretending a regard for her, begged she would restore me to liberty, when I would endeavour to please her. But this gave her such offence that she called me a traitor, and very angrily told me I should stay and keep her sheep. She afterwards brought me into this plain, and shewed me her flock; but all my regard was taken up by a young slave of incomparable beauty, who was loaded with chains of gold. My eyes betrayed me; which the cruel Ragotte observing, flew upon the unfortunate female and deprived her of life, by stabbing her in the eye with a bodkin. At this shocking sight I clapped my hand upon my sword, and was going to make an instant sacrifice of Ragotte; when by her wicked arts, she rendered me motionless, and with an ironical smile said, ‘I will make you feel my power: you are at present as a lion, but shall, ere long, become a sheep, and continue so for five years.’ Then touching me with her wand, I became such as you now see me, retaining my speech; and she presently disappeared. The sheep she spoke of acknowledged me for their king, and I comfort them under their several misfortunes, which are in some respects like my own.”

Miranda was so forcibly struck with the remarkable history of the Ram, that she could not tell what reply to make; however, paying him some civilities, she congratulated him upon the prospect of soon recovering his former shape and liberty. Indeed,

the royal Ram, who was passionately in love with Miranda, had made such an impression upon her mind by his wit and delicacy, that she began to feel a tender regard for him, especially when she considered that he was a king who would soon be restored to his throne. Thus the princess passed many days in sweet anticipation of a more happy fate, while the Ram, who completely idolized her, made a variety of entertainments, and did every thing in his power to divert her.

It is natural to suppose that the royal Ram was very fond of news, the best of which was constantly brought him by his courtiers. One evening they informed him that the eldest sister of the princess Miranda was going to marry a great prince, and that great preparations were making for the nuptials. Miranda was so vexed at the thought of not being present at so splendid an event, that she could not forbear dropping some expressions of regret, which so affected the royal Ram, that he cried out in great anxiety, "Madam, why do you complain? you shall have my consent to go to your sister's wedding, if you will but promise me to come back again; yet I cannot endure to live without you." The princess faithfully gave her word that nothing should prevent her return; and accordingly she set off in a chariot of mother-of-pearl, drawn by six creatures that were half griffins, and attended by a very numerous train of officers.

With this equipage, Miranda arrived at her father's court just as the marriage ceremony was beginning, when the lustre of her beauty and jewels surprised the whole assembly. She observed the king to look at her with particular attention, which made her fearful of his knowing and ordering her to be stopped; and, therefore, remembering her promise to the Ram, who had so kindly treated her, she suddenly stole away before the ceremony was over, in order to repair to him. The king being very desirous to know who she was, appeared quite disap

pointed when he found she was gone, and ordered his officers, the next time she came to court, to shut the doors and detain her.

The royal Ram waited with the utmost impatience for the return of his beloved Miranda; and as soon as he saw her, he ran towards her, skipping and bounding, casting himself at her feet, and licking her hands: in short, he gave so many tokens of the most passionate fondness for her, that the princess was completely charmed with him.

It happened, some time afterwards, that the king married his second daughter, and Miranda begged leave to go again. This request touched the royal Ram to the heart, for he had a foreboding that she would never return: however, to shew his unfeigned desire of doing every thing to please the princess, he said, "My beloved lady! I consent to your going, though some secret feeling intimates to me that you will never return: but if you do not, you shall see your royal Ram expire at your feet; since he never can make you a greater sacrifice!" Miranda assured him she would be as punctual in coming back as she had been before, and set off again for her father's court with the same equipage. As soon as she entered, there was a general shout, and the king immediately gave orders to have the doors shut. When the ceremony was over, the princess thought to have retired as before, but she found the doors closed; and the king, coming up, entreated her to stay and honour his court with her presence. He then led her into a very fine hall, and held a golden basin full of water for her to wash her hands in. Miranda immediately threw herself at his feet, saying, "See, sire, my dream is fulfilled; you hold a golden basin, and bid me come and wash at my second sister's wedding."

The king immediately recollected the features of Miranda, and shedding tears, cried out, "O my dear daughter! forgive the cruelty of a father who would have deprived you of life, because he thought



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your dream denoted the loss of his crown ; but it shall still be so ; both your sisters have crowns, and mine shall be yours ;” and with that he put his crown on the princess’s head, exclaiming, “ Long life and happiness to the queen Miranda.”

Time now passed rapidly with the princess, whilst the royal Ram waited with the most anxious eagerness for her return, but in vain. At last, having lost all patience, he resolved to venture to the court, where he asked admittance to the princess Miranda, but was scornfully refused by the soldiers who kept the gates. Thus disappointed, his grief vented itself in deep sighs, and lamenting his hard lot, he stretched himself upon the ground, and died ; after stating, with his last breath, that Miranda’s cruelty had broken his heart !

The next day it was proposed, after dinner, that the princess should ride in her chariot through all the streets of the city, in order to shew herself to the people ;—but, alas ! she had no sooner passed out of the gates, than she cast her eyes on the Ram, who had so lately expired for her sake. She was instantly seized with remorse for having neglected him, jumped from her chariot, kissed and bathed him with her tears, and, in short, was so overwhelmed with grief that she fell into a succession of fainting-fits, and soon met with the same fate as her disconsolate lover.

THE STORY OF

FORTUNIO.

A CERTAIN king, who had been deprived of the greatest part of his dominions by an unjust and oppressive emperor, published an ordinance, requiring all gentlemen, who were his subjects, either to come and serve him in their own persons, or to send somebody in their room, well mounted and armed. This order proved very perplexing to an aged noble-

man, who, from a state of grandeur, had, by ill fortune, been reduced almost to poverty; for he could neither go himself, on account of his infirmities, nor could he afford to hire a person to go for him. He had three fine daughters, who did every thing in their power to comfort him; and in this dilemma the eldest offered to assume a military dress, and go to the army. The father opposed it at first; but, not knowing what else to do, he was afterwards forced to consent. The best clothes and horse their circumstances would allow were accordingly bought, and she set out.

After travelling several hours, she met with a shepherdess, who was endeavouring to pull a sheep out of a ditch.

"What are you doing there, shepherdess?" she enquired.

"Alas!" answered the shepherdess, "I am striving to save a sheep that is almost drowned; but I am so weak, I cannot draw her out."

"I pity you," replied the nobleman's daughter; but, without offering any assistance, rode away: whereupon the shepherdess called out, "Good-bye, disguised fair!" This put our heroine into such surprise, that, thinking she should certainly be discovered, she resolved to return home.

When she got home, and told what had happened, the second daughter offered her service, and accordingly set out; but meeting with the shepherdess, and the same having passed between them as we have related in the account of her sister, she also returned back and went home.

The youngest, who was of a much better disposition than the others, now proposed to try her luck; and, after many arguments, persuaded her father to let her go. She soon came to the place where the shepherdess was pulling out her sheep, and asked her what she was doing. "I have been ever since daybreak," said she, "trying to get this sheep out, but in vain; and nobody will help me."

"Indeed, that is very hard," replied our young warrior; "let me try": and with that, jumping off her horse into the ditch, she worked till she got the sheep out.

"Now, charming maid," said the shepherdess, "since you have so much good nature, I will henceforth be your friend. I am a fairy, and know who you are, and where you are going; and I will provide you with a horse and clothes, for those you now have are not worthy of you."

The fairy then struck the ground, and immediately there appeared a most beautiful horse, covered with the finest trappings that ever were seen.

"Superb as this horse is," resumed the fairy, "you must least value him on that account; for he is chiefly to be esteemed for the wonderful qualities with which he is endowed: he eats but once in eight days, and knows what is present, past, and to come; so that you must look upon him as a friend rather than a horse, and consult him whenever you are at a loss."

When the fairy had thus spoken, she again struck the ground, and there immediately arose a Turkey leather trunk, containing some dozen suits of the richest apparel, and a vast quantity of money and jewels. "Take what you like at present," said the fairy, "and as often as you would have more, only stamp with your foot upon the ground, and the trunk shall instantly attend you." Our young warrior expressed her obligation by casting herself at the fairy's feet, who kindly raised her up, and giving her the name of Fortunio, set her upon the horse, which she called Comrade, in order to pursue her journey.

Fortunio (whom we are now to consider as a man) entered into some pleasing reflections upon what had passed, and thought how lucky it was that he had helped the sheep out of the ditch. At last he arrived at a great city, and his splendid appearance attracted the notice of all the people; even the governor offered him an apartment in the

castle. Our knight, being willing his father and family should partake of his good fortune, retired to his chamber, and stamping upon the floor, had the pleasure to see an immediate appearance of the trunk. But now he found himself at a loss how to open it, for he had no key: he therefore went to his horse, and said, "Comrade, pray tell me where I shall find the key of the Turkey leather trunk."—"In my ear," answered the horse; and sure enough there it was, tied to a green riband. The knight then opened the box, and taking out three little chests of diamonds and guineas, sent them by one of the governor's men as presents, one to his father, and one to each of his sisters.

Fortunio, being in haste to obey the king's edict, took leave of the governor the next day, and pursued his journey. As they travelled, they came to a large forest, when Comrade said to the knight, "Master, here lives a man who is gifted by fairies, and you must engage him to go with you." The knight, looking about, perceived a man making up a prodigious load of trees which he had cut down, whom he thus accosted:

"Where are your waggon and horses, good man, to carry that load?"

"Oh, sir," answered Strongback, (for that was his name,) "if I could not carry twice as much as this, I should not get salt to my broth."

"Say you so?" replied the knight; "why then, if you will go with me, you shall eat of the best without working half so hard."

Strongback thought this a good offer, and readily accepted of it.

In like manner, by advice of Comrade, our knight engaged six other gifted men, each one being most astonishing in his own way, viz. a man named Light-foot, who was obliged to tie his legs, that he might not run too fast when he hunted stags, hares, &c.; another man named Marksman, who could see game four leagues off, and who always bound up his

eyes when he shot, lest he should kill more than he wanted ; another named Fine-ear, who could even hear the grass grow ; another called Boisterer, who worked windmills by blowing at a vast distance from them ; another named Tippler, who could drink up a lake at a draught ; and another whose name was Grugeon, or great eater, who could devour sixty thousand loaves at one meal.

By the time our young knight had engaged all these extraordinary men, he arrived at the place where the army was ordered to rendezvous. The elegance of his person, and the grandeur of his appearance, attracted the notice of the king and queen, who professed a great regard for him, and promised to promote him. It must now be remembered, that Fortunio was a lady, and, as such, she received an impression from the king, who was very handsome, and extremely engaging, which she found herself forced to give way to. On the other hand, the queen, who was the king's sister, supposing the knight really to be, as in appearance, a man, conceived an affection for him, which the great difference of their situations was not sufficient to remove ; nay, it increased to such a degree, that she even made advances to him, and gave him hints in such plain terms, as left no room for him to doubt of her attachment. But our knight always returned evasive answers, pretending to consider her kindnesses in the light of friendship ; till at last the queen, supposing his cold behaviour to proceed from contempt, formed a resolution of being revenged upon him. A proper opportunity, as she thought, soon offered. There was in the king's dominions a terrible dragon, which spread desolation far and wide, and which the king had offered great rewards to have destroyed, but in vain. The queen, therefore, persuaded the king to let Fortunio go against this monster, secretly hoping that he would perish in the undertaking. The king refused for some time, but the queen falsely tell-

ing him it was the knight's own desire, he at length consented.

Fortunio, though he saw through the evil design of the queen, cheerfully complied; and going to the horse, said, "Comrade, I have promised to go against a terrible dragon; how must we proceed?"—"Get the king's commission," replied the horse, "set out directly, and we will do our duty."

These words afforded great comfort to our knight, who immediately took leave of the king, and set out, followed by the gifted men he had hired; for now was the time to try their services. When they drew near to the place where the dragon frequented, Fortunio consulted his horse what was to be done. "Sir," answered the horse, "let Fine-ear listen whether the dragon be nigh at hand or not." Fine-ear laid himself upon the ground, and heard the dragon about seven leagues off. Comrade, being informed of this, said, "Let Tippler drink up all the water out of a large pond, and Strongback carry wine enough to fill it; and let there be peppered meats and dried raisins set by it; then order every body to keep within their houses, and see what will happen." Every thing was done accordingly, and the knight with his attendants went into a house where he could see the pond. In a short time the dragon came, and drank a little; then ate some of the meat and raisins, and afterwards drank so much, that he became completely intoxicated. Fortunio, seeing him in this condition, attacked him sword in hand, and having disabled him from resisting, ordered his servants to bind him, in order to carry him to the capital, that the king might kill him with his own hand. This being done, Fortunio returned in triumph to the king, to whom he now became more dear than ever. The queen, also, pretended to be highly pleased with his success; but this was only to devise some new plot for his destruction with the less suspicion.

Some time afterwards, she informed the king that Fortunio had been soliciting her for permission to go and make the Emperor Metapa restore back the treasures he had taken from them, and that without an army. The king at first thought she joked; but the queen assuring him Fortunio would pine with grief if he were refused, he consented. Fortunio was above exposing this artifice of the queen to the king; and, as he was willing to die in the service of a prince whom he so much loved, he began to prepare for his journey without a murmur. Going to his horse, he said, "Faithful Comrade, I believe the queen will be too crafty for us at last; she has now plunged us in an expedition in which we have no likelihood of succeeding."

"Do not be cast down, master," answered the horse. "Take your people with you; and we will perish, one and all, or be successful."

They all set out together, and, being well mounted, soon arrived at the emperor's palace, of whom Fortunio demanded an audience. This was granted; and our knight, with great address, declared his embassy. The emperor replied with a smile, "Were you at the head of five hundred thousand men, one might hearken to you; but what do you think to do with seven? However, an odd thought has just come into my head; if you can find a man who will eat as much bread for his breakfast as serves this city for a day, you shall have what you demand." This proposal was agreed to; and the next day was appointed for a trial.

When the audience was over, Fortunio told Grugeon, the great eater, what had passed, who bade his master not be uneasy, for he would eat till they were tired. However, Fortunio thought it best for him to eat no supper, that he might have the keener appetite for his breakfast. The morning being come, the emperor, with his consort and daughter, appeared in a balcony; and Fortunio came with his little train to the place appointed, where he saw six

great mountains of bread, at which he turned pale. But it was quite otherwise with Grugeon; for he longed for the signal to be given, that he might fall to; whilst the emperor laughed and jested with all his court at the extravagant attempt of our knight and his little retinue. At last, the drum beat; and Grugeon fell upon one of the heaps, which he devoured in a quarter of an hour; and afterwards all the rest, one after another, in about the same time. Never was greater astonishment! But the emperor was nettled as well as surprised; for he refused to keep his word with Fortunio, saying, "You, or some one of your train, must drink all the water in the aqueducts and fountains of the city, and all the wine in the cellars, before I shall grant what you demand." This proposal was also agreed to: and all the spectators repaired to a fountain of seven marble lions, which threw up as much water as formed a large river. Tippler ran up to the basin, and, without even fetching his breath, drank it up; likewise all the water in the aqueducts, and all the wine in the cellars.

The emperor was now very much embarrassed: he was very unwilling to restore the treasures; and yet he could not refuse with honour. He therefore called a council, and after mature deliberation, a third proposal was made to Fortunio; namely, that if he could produce a person who should exceed the emperor's daughter in running, the utmost satisfaction should be given to the king his master. Fortunio thought it best to agree; and the emperor appointed the time to be within two hours.

The princess accordingly appeared most curiously dressed, and Lightfoot was proposed by our knight as her antagonist. Before they started the princess drank some liquor to heighten her spirits; and Lightfoot demanded the same; but as he was not used to it, it got into his head, and he lay down, and fell asleep. In the mean time the signal was given, and the princess set off with wonderful swiftness, leaving

Lightfoot asleep. This circumstance Fortunio was ignorant of, being at the other end of the walk ; and, when he saw the princess within half a mile of the goal, and Lightfoot not appearing, he exclaimed, " O Comrade, we are lost ! I see nothing of Lightfoot ! "—" Sir," answered the horse, " let Fine-ear listen whereabouts he is." Fine-ear did so, and said he was snoring at the starting-place, three miles off. " Then," said Comrade, " let Marksman let fly an arrow into the tip of his ear." This was immediately done, and Lightfoot awoke with the pain. Opening his eyes, he saw the princess almost at the goal, and heard great shoutings ; but being now pretty well roused, he immediately started up, and seemed as if he had been carried on the wind ; in short, he arrived first at the goal, with the arrow in his ear.

The emperor could not for shame make more proposals, so ordering Fortunio into his presence, he said, " I consent that you take along with you as much of your master's treasures as any one man can carry." The knight bowed, and desired him to give orders for their delivery, which was complied with ; and Strongback going to the place where the treasures were kept, carried away the whole, consisting of five hundred gigantic statues of gold, besides coaches, chariots, &c. and walked as nimbly with them as if he had not above a pound weight upon his back.

When it was told the emperor, that one man had taken away the whole of the treasures, his anger was equal to his astonishment ; and he ordered his guards to fetch him back. Fortunio, with Strongback, and the rest of his attendants, were now got above ten miles on their return, when Fine-ear declared he heard a large body of cavalry coming after them full speed. Being come to a large river, Fortunio having no boats, ordered Tippler to drink it up, that they might pass, which he did ; and then the knight consulted his horse, who bade him not be uneasy, but

let the enemy approach. By the time they also had come up to the river, it was full again, and they instantly embarked in boats, in hopes, no doubt, of destroying every individual of our knight's company; but Boisterer swelled his cheeks, and with a sudden blast overset the boats; so that every one of them was drowned.

The enemy being thus destroyed, Fortunio met with no further opposition in his return. When he arrived at the city, the people all gathered about him, astonished and overjoyed at seeing the treasures; and followed him with loud acclamations to the king's palace. His Majesty was surprised beyond expression at our knight's wonderful success, and embraced him with open arms; and even the queen, though she had designed his destruction in proposing the undertaking, could not help admiring him the more, from the result of it. In short, her fondness for Fortunio was now so strong, that she took occasion to enter into a conversation with him, and in direct terms proposed marriage. This he of course declined, in the most gentle manner; but the queen was so violently incensed, that she fell into the most frantic fury, raving, and scratching, not only the knight, but herself also, till the blood ran in streams. She then went to the king, and, pretending that Fortunio had attempted to use her ill, insisted on his being prosecuted with the utmost rigour.

The king was thunderstruck at this account; but, fearing the violent spirit and power of the queen, he was constrained to give up Fortunio to trial, notwithstanding his great love for him, and his obligation for so many services. The judges, at the instigation of the queen, found Fortunio guilty of the accusation, without allowing him to plead for himself, and he was sentenced to receive three stabs in the heart.

The king was so incensed against the judges for this cruel sentence, that he banished them out of his

dominions; but he could not save Fortunio, who was soon hurried to the place of execution, where the queen had posted herself, in order to feast her eyes with his death. The executioners had bound him, and were opening his breast; when, to the unspeakable surprise of all present, they beheld the delicate bosom of a female, and all present were immediately convinced of the innocence of the interesting prisoner. The queen was now overwhelmed with such confusion, that she poisoned herself to avoid approaching disgrace; and as for the king, his joy may be better imagined than expressed, when he found that his favourite knight was a young lady. He resolved to marry her, and the most magnificent preparations were made for the wedding; and our female knight having acquainted her father and sisters with her happy fortune, and requested their presence, the ceremony was performed with universal demonstrations of joy, which was rendered more brilliant by the unexpected appearance of the fairy our heroine met with on first setting out; who came to congratulate her, not in the character of a shepherdess, indeed, but rather resembling an angel, in the lustre of her beauty and the magnificence of her ornaments.

Our young queen, being thus elevated to the summit of felicity, did not, like too many others, forget old friends and acquaintances; for she had a stable built on purpose for Comrade, that was paved with ivory; and mats of satin, instead of straw, were placed for him to lie upon: and Strongback, Light-foot, Marksman, Fine-ear, Boisterer, Tippler, and Grugeon, were all knighted, and made happy with places of honour and emolument.

THE HISTORY OF
ELMEDORUS AND ALZAYDA.

ELMEDORUS, or, as he was sometimes called, The Knight of the Flaming Sword, was the son of the king of Granada and his queen Ermendina. Having, with many entreaties, obtained leave to travel, his mother, for his better security, gave him a ruby ring, which had the power of destroying enchantments. After visiting several courts, Elmedorus came to that of Leon, where he fell in love with the incomparable princess Alzayda; and having performed wonders in a war which the king her father was engaged in, he had a prospect of obtaining the object of his desires. At this time Zoroaster, the prince of Maroc, sent a challenge to all knights who would not acknowledge Zamea, the princess of Fez, whom he was in love with, to be the most beautiful person in the world; and this challenge arriving at Leon, where Elmedorus was, this prince determined to go and maintain against Zoroaster the charms of the princess Alzayda. Accordingly, taking leave of the court, he set forward on his journey.

Being obliged to pass over a sea, he embarked on board a vessel, which he was told was bound for Fez; and here the knight was presently seized with such a drowsiness, that his utmost efforts could not prevent him from falling asleep. When he awoke, he found himself in a magnificent palace, surrounded with gardens and woods, the elegance of which is not to be described. While Elmedorus was reflecting on his strange situation, he was accosted by a beautiful lady in words to this effect:—"The Fairy Desideria, valiant prince, foreseeing the tournaments at Fez would have been fatal to you, has kindly conducted you to this happy abode. She desires your presence, in order to partake of the amusements of the place."



Elmidorus. page II 5.

Elmedorus was exceedingly mortified at thus being prevented from asserting the honour of Alzayda; but yet judged it best to attend Desideria. She received him very courteously, and entering into conversation, proposed to him a race with one of her nymphs, which she said was customary for every knight who came to the island. The knight, unwilling to break the custom of the place, consented; and a race was accordingly begun, which was won by our hero, who, becoming very thirsty, drank plentifully of a fountain of water that stood at the end of the walk. But, alas! such was the quality of the water, that Elmedorus had no sooner drunk of it than he forgot Alzayda, and thought of nothing but rendering himself agreeable to the fairy Desideria. Thus the fairy's plot was crowned with success; for, having fallen in love with Elmedorus, she took the opportunity of his setting out for Fez, by sending the vessel on board which he embarked, to get him into her own mansions. Our knight seemed quite charmed with the fairy's beauty, and spent his time in hunting, fishing, dancing, and, in short, every diversion that could be thought of; when one day, as he was seeking the fairy in a grove of myrtles, he was addressed by a man of majestic appearance in the following manner:—

“How can you stay here, Elmedorus, when the beautiful Alzayda is in so much need of your help, being the prisoner of Asmonadus, who has conquered the kingdom of Leon? Look at her picture and tell me; do not her charms infinitely surpass those of the fairy, with whom you are now so infatuated? Rouse! turn the point of the ring given you by your mother, and fly to assist Alzayda.”

Elmedorus, struck with this reproach, looked at his ring, and saw the point downwards. Upon turning it up, he found himself the same as when he was at Leon; and, blushing with shame at his late conduct, departed from that enchanted habi-

tation immediately. The fairy sent a knight to force him to return; but Elmedorus engaged and vanquished him, granting his life, however, as some acknowledgment of Desideria's hospitality.

As he was travelling, he heard a most dismal account of his dear Alzayda; how that Asmonadus, a wicked magician, falling in love with the princess, but being refused by the good king her father, had laid siege to, and made himself master of Leon, and that he had put the king and queen to death, and kept the princess a prisoner. Elmedorus, pierced with grief, immediately despatched his squire to ascertain the truth of these tidings, and to inform the princess that he was hastening to her assistance. The squire found the palace in confusion, and went to Alzayda's apartment without hindrance, where she lay, to all appearance dead. However, on his saying that he came from Elmedorus, her faithful lover, she just opened her eyes, and spoke the following words:—"Tell Elmedorus, that as I die for my fidelity towards him, I would have him live to revenge me," and then sunk into her former lethargy; and as the squire was going down stairs, he heard an outcry that the princess was dead.

When the squire returned and related what had passed, Elmedorus said and did all that rage could inspire and invent; but as soon as his passion had somewhat subsided, "Yes," said he, "dear unhappy Alzayda, you shall be revenged; I will preserve this life till I have obeyed your dying wish."

Thus resolved, his fury gave way to grief, which manifested itself in the most heart-rending sighs. He pursued his journey, however, to Leon, to see what was become of the body: there he learnt that the tyrant Asmonadus had taken Alzayda's body away with him, but nobody could tell whither. Elmedorus, nevertheless, determined to find him out, if possible; and imagining he was probably gone to bury her in some strange country, set out in search of him, and travelled through all Spain,



Zamea. page 117.

passing his nights in forests, and his days in places best suited to indulge his melancholy.

He had spent almost a twelvemonth in this manner, when one night, having entered a thick grove, he heard a voice exclaim, "Forbear, Adelinda, to persuade me to seek relief, since I can hope for none but from my despair."

Our knight immediately advanced towards the spot whence the sound proceeded, and presently beheld two women sitting on the grass, one of whom was so extremely beautiful, that she seemed little inferior to his Alzayda.

"Madam," said he, "from the plaintive words you have uttered, I judge you are suffering under some grievous misfortune. I am Elmedorus of Granada; if my service can in the least contribute to your relief, please to command it."

"Sir," answered the unknown lady, "your name is so justly celebrated in the world for your valiant achievements, that I believe nothing is impossible to you. With gratitude, therefore, I accept your offer; and, the better to inform you of my enemies, give me leave to relate my adventures."

HISTORY OF THE
PRINCESS ZAMEA
AND THE
PRINCE ALMANZON.

I AM daughter to Zamur king of Fez, and the queen Zamara; who, having been for several years without children, looked upon me as the richest gift of heaven. Among the great number of princes and knights who crowded to pay their addresses to me, at our court, was Zoroaster, prince of Maroc,

to whom my father promised his consent, if he could obtain mine; but I could not endure him, from the extraordinary height of his stature, and the fierceness of his looks. Zoroaster, however, in order to obtain my favour, published a tournament, and sent challenges to the courts of Spain and Africa for all the knights to come and confess the princess of Fez to be the greatest beauty in the world. This brought great numbers to Fez on the day appointed; and the king, queen, and myself, having taken our places, Zoroaster entered the lists with a fierce and lofty air, in gold armour, set with emeralds, and posted himself at one end, to wait for any antagonist that should offer. Several presented themselves, but were easily vanquished by Zoroaster, who doubted not that he should gain the prize, which was my picture set in diamonds. At last, a confused noise excited new attention, which was occasioned by a young knight asking to enter the lists, clad in silver enamelled with blue, and mounted upon a horse as white as snow. How fatal was the sight to me! and what tears has that day cost me! The whole court seemed to admire this unknown knight; and I candidly confess I never felt such emotions of joy as when I saw him, in the second career, throw the terrible Zoroaster to the ground. He was declared victor; and he received the prize from me in so noble a manner, as made me feel a secret satisfaction in bestowing it.

This stranger proved to be Almanzon, prince of Tunis; and I observed he took every opportunity, by tender looks and sighs, to indicate an attachment which he wished to reveal. One afternoon, when none were by but my woman, he made an open declaration of his love, which he urged with such warmth and protestations of sincerity, that he made a very strong impression on my heart. However, I told him I could afford him no hope till he ob-

tained the approbation of those who had the right to dispose of me.

I was now in a very perplexing situation ; my father had promised me to Zoroaster, whom I hated ; and I found myself to have the same affection for Almanzon as he had declared for me ; but what infinitely increased my anxiety, was an order I received from the king to prepare to marry Zoroaster within eight days. The queen my mother had always behaved to me with the most endearing kindness ; and, having previously acquainted her with the dislike I had to Zoroaster, I resolved, in the present crisis, to acquaint her with the mutual affection that subsisted between myself and Almanzon. The queen sighed at my grief, but said it was out of her power to relieve me, for she had used all her interest with the king to set aside the marriage with Zoroaster, since it was so disagreeable to me ; but that the king, having given his promise to that prince, could not possibly be induced to break his word.

In the midst of this distress, news was brought me, that Almanzon, having fought a duel with Zoroaster, had dangerously wounded and disarmed him ; that Almanzon himself had received some hurt in the shoulder, and had retired to a short distance from Fez ; and that the king had ordered Zoroaster to be taken care of, and set a guard over him ; but he was so enraged against Almanzon as to forbid him the court.

At this sad account I fell into a swoon ; but was recovered from it by the tender care of the queen, who did every thing in her power to comfort me : she even sent privately to Almanzon, to inquire after his health. This gave him such encouragement, that, charmed with her goodness, he wrote to her, begging leave to come to the palace next day disguised, as his wound was but slight ; which the queen consented to, with a design to

persuade him to leave the kingdom, for fear Zoroaster should cause him to be assassinated.

Almanzon came accordingly at the hour appointed. After some pathetic discourse relative to our hard fortune, the queen told him that Zoroaster was perfectly cured of his wound by an enchanter; and therefore she advised him, if he regarded my safety, to depart from the kingdom immediately, lest another duel should happen between him and Zoroaster, which in all probability would be attended with destructive consequences to me.

“Ah! Madam,” replied Almanzon, “it is impossible for me to follow your advice: for I love the beautiful Zamea to such excess, that I would sooner suffer a thousand deaths than be banished from the sight of her. But, if I were to return to Tunis, how would that preserve the princess? Would it not prove her destruction to be forced to give her hand to a person, for whom she has a decided aversion? Consider, dear Madam, before it be too late; and, if you are willing to grant her the only chance of avoiding the mischiefs which threaten her, suffer me to take her away privately to my own country, where I promise to place the crown of Tunis upon her head.”

The queen was at first very angry with Almanzon for making so bold a proposal: yet, fearing that melancholy consequences would otherwise ensue, she at length consented to his earnest entreaties; and that very night was fixed upon to put the design in execution.

Almanzon, overjoyed, went to prepare for the journey, but my preparations were made with a strange mixture of willingness and reluctance; for, at the same time that I would have gone any where to avoid Zoroaster, I was very much troubled at the thought of leaving my dear mother. Almanzon coming at the hour agreed on, I, with a flood of tears, took leave of the good queen, attend-

ed only by Adelinda. At the gate was the prince's squire with horses, which we mounted, congratulating ourselves on not being discovered.

We passed through the kingdom of Fez without any remarkable adventure; but one day, going through a dark forest, we heard somebody making most bitter lamentations; and Almanzon, riding up to the place, was addressed by a beautiful woman, seemingly in great affliction.

"Generous knight," said she, "come and deliver a princess out of the hands of a monstrous giant, who keeps her as a prisoner in a castle a mile distant."

I dissuaded Almanzon from this enterprise; but he, eager to prove his courage, accompanied the woman. I followed, and saw, as soon as they were over the ditch which surrounded the castle, the bridge draw up, and the gates, after opening for the entrance of the unhappy prince, immediately shut up again. Judge of my distraction at this adventure. I called aloud on Almanzon all the remaining day and the next night, but in vain. However, I was determined not to leave that fatal place, till in the morning I saw a knight, who told me that I should no where find an end to my misfortune but on the banks of the river Tagus, and then disappeared. I followed his advice, and came hither, where I have been almost a twelvemonth without meeting with any thing to abate my woe. But, generous Elmedorus, I confess I now feel a secret joy from the offer of your service, which seems to forebode some happy event.

Here the princess Zamea finished her history, which greatly affected Elmedorus, and engaged him warmly in her behalf.

"Whatever may be the success," said he, "beautiful Zamea, I will not fail to attempt the release of Almanzon."

He then desired to be informed where the castle was, which Zamea promised to conduct him to the next morning, desiring him, till that time, to take some refreshment in a hut which she had made the place of her residence since the loss of her prince.

The morning being come, they set out for the miserable Almanzon's abode. After riding some hours, they stopped in a pleasant meadow to regale themselves, when suddenly Zamea, with a violent scream, cried out, Zoroaster! Elmedorus, turning round, saw a knight advancing towards them, whom he rightly judged to be the same that Zamea had named in her fright. Arming himself, therefore, he met and stopped him short with these words:—

“Knight, I come to tell you, that you no longer deserve that title, since you use dishonourable means to possess a princess who loves you not.”

“Who are you,” answered Zoroaster, “who take upon yourself to censure me?”

“If I prove victor,” replied Elmedorus, “I will tell you, but I shall not waste time at present.”

With these words, he pushed at him with his lance, which shivered to pieces; and Zoroaster, in return, broke his against Elmedorus. Then they took to their swords. Zamea trembled for her defender during a long and furious combat, till at last Zoroaster, pierced with wounds, fell at his antagonist's feet, and eased her of her fear.

This caused so much delay, that the day was almost spent; and Elmedorus having received a wound in his rencontre with Zoroaster, they took up their abode for that night at a little village a few miles further on the road. Our knight was here thrown into new agitations, on account of his beloved Alzayda. He dreamed that he saw her in a chamber of the same castle where Almanzon was confined, and that she seemed to be covered with a veil of black gauze. In the morning he told his dream to Zamea, who insisted upon it that Alzayda was not dead, but confined in the same prison with

her dear prince. Elmedorus could not but allow that the dream naturally suggested such a notion; yet he was so firmly persuaded of the reality of his charmer's death, that all thoughts of that kind presently vanished.

As the wound which Elmedorus had received was not sufficiently healed to allow them to pursue their journey, the princess Zamea retired to a wood in the neighbourhood, in order to indulge her reflections. The sound of two female voices presently surprised her; and, drawing nearer towards it, she heard distinctly this exclamation:—

“No, Phenisa, I will never see the happy Canary isles again, till I have punished the prince of Numidia for his infidelity!”

Zamea, advancing forwards, saw two young knights sitting on the grass; but being certain, from what she had heard, that they were ladies in disguise, and guessing the one who appeared chief to be some princess, she ran up with open arms, and addressed her as follows:—

“Madam, I am happy in being thus brought into your company. You seem to be in distress, I am so likewise; let friendship, therefore, unite us, and let us endeavour to assuage each other's misfortunes.”

“Dear Madam,” returned the stranger, “I believe nothing would so much contribute to my relief as your sympathy, were not my grief of such a nature as not to be removed but by the death of him who is the cause of it.”

“Pardon me,” replied Zamea; “but, if I guess rightly, the death of the person you think your enemy would prove no remedy. At present, however, come with me, and take some refreshments after your fatigues.”

So obliging an offer could not be resisted; and they accordingly went together to the cottage.

Elmedorus was surprised to see so genteel a knight return with Zamea; but, being told the ad-

venture, he politely offered his arm and sword to revenge her.

“No, generous Elmedorus,” said our young knight, “he that has injured me must fall by my own arm, otherwise his death would be a trouble to me.”

“Ay,” interrupted Zamea, “I am sure I am not mistaken: love is at the bottom; the sighs and repentance of the delinquent will sooner abate your passion than his blood.”

The surgeon now came to dress the prince’s wound, which occasioned the ladies to retire; and Zamea having requested the stranger to relate her history, she readily complied; and the following are the words in which she delivered it.

THE HISTORY OF

ZALMAYDA AND ALINZOR.

I AM Zalmayda, princess of the Canary Islands. My mother died at the time of my birth; and grief for her loss soon brought on the death of my father also. I was left to the care of an aunt; and my dominions, till I should come of age, were committed to Zenorus, prince of the Summer Islands. As I grew towards maturity, he endeavoured to gain my affection, and paid his addresses to me; but I could not like his person; and had still a greater aversion to him as knowing him to be a sorcerer.

Being desirous of going to the temple of Diana, which stood upon the main land, I took an opportunity of so doing, whilst Zenorus was gone to quell an insurrection in his own dominions. Here a young knight, who proved to be Alinzor, prince of Numidia, fell in love with, and paid his addresses to me. I thought I discovered in him every quality that could recommend him to my regard; and accordingly fixed it upon him. When I was about to



Zalmayda. page 124.

return home, he was very desirous of accompanying me to our court; but being afraid of the anger of Zenorus, I could only permit him to come there on the day when we celebrated the feast of the sun.

When that day arrived, I was much surprised at not seeing Alinzor at the feast; but, nevertheless, thought he would certainly be present at a tournament Zenorus had given out of compliment to me. At the appointed hour we took our seats; and a knight very much resembling Alinzor entered the lists. I had no doubt of it, when I saw him victor, and pleased myself with the thoughts of bestowing on him the prize: but when he pulled up his vizor, and I saw it was not Alinzor, I had scarcely spirits enough left to give it him. I retired hastily to my apartment, and there rage and grief succeeded each other by turns.

Zenorus perceived my situation, and knowing that, so long as I loved Alinzor, he never would be able to persuade me to marry him, employed all his art to wean my affection from that prince. "Madam," said he, "if Alinzor deserved your love, I would desist from my remonstrances; but you sigh for a false prince—a prince who at this very moment is at the feet of another person not possessed of half your charms; and of this you may have instant proof if you please." Jealousy made me consent; and Zenorus took me in his chariot, which being drawn by flying dragons with an incredible swiftness through the air, we alighted in the gardens of Alinzor's palace, where, indeed, I saw that prince at the feet of a young Numidian. I wished to have spoken to him, but Zenorus would not permit me; the chariot flew away, and I had only time to drop my picture as near my false lover as I could.

Though the infidelity of Alinzor seemed to be demonstrated, yet Zenorus derived no advantage from it, for in the passion I sometimes fell into on that account, I used to blame him for making me acquainted with it. One evening, as I was walking

in the garden with Phenisa, my attendant, I saw a man lying on the grass, and attentively looking at a picture ; I turned into another path without further notice, when, in a moment, I beheld the inconstant Alinzor at my feet.

“ My dear Zalmayda,” cried he, “ am I at last permitted to see you ? ”

“ Hold, Alinzor,” said I, “ think not that my heart can be the prize of your return, which is only owing to the picture I let fall, to remind you of what you have lost.”

He seemed utterly astonished, protested his innocence a thousand times over, and begged to be heard ; but, for fear of being discovered, I deferred to hear what he had to say till every body was retired, when Adelinda should conduct him to my apartment.

I was impatient to hear Alinzor’s justification, which made me retire sooner than ordinary. I sent Adelinda to introduce him ; but what was the state of my mind, when, after having waited almost the whole night, I saw her return without him ! Love, rage, and jealousy, attacking me all at once, threw me into a fever, which for a considerable time confined me to my apartment. Zenorus endeavoured to avail himself of the perfidy of his rival, whom he represented in the blackest colours ; and, indeed, I began to try all I could to forget him. But one day Phenisa coming to me, with some confusion in her looks, informed me, that she had been surprised in the garden by the presence of Alinzor ; and that he had begged of her to procure him an interview with me ; adding, that, if he could not recover my esteem by demonstrating his innocence, he would appease my rage by his death.

I was thrown into great agitation by this account. However, notwithstanding my eyes had been witness of his falsehood, love still biassed me in his favour, and I resolved to give him a hearing. Phenisa attended me ; and, as we were going to the place of

meeting, whom should I behold but Alinzor galloping off with a fine young lady behind him! I could not forbear shrieking out; for it was impossible to restrain my indignation. "What!" cried I, "is it not enough for the ungrateful wretch to prefer another? Must he insult me with her presence also? Most surely will I be revenged, and my own arm shall give the blow."

Poor Phenisa said every thing she could think of to moderate my anger; but in vain. I disguised myself in a suit of armour, and obliging Phenisa to do the same, set out, determined not to return till I had taken ample vengeance on the traitor Alinzor. In order to know where to find him, I consulted the Magnificent Fairy, who told me, that I should find an end to my troubles in the kingdom of Granada, whither I directed my course. Yesterday I came into the wood, where, as some alleviation of my sorrows, I had the pleasure, my dear Alzayda, of falling into your company.

Zalmayda having ended her narration, the princess Zamea was returning the compliment paid her at the conclusion, saying, fortune had done her a greater favour in bringing her acquainted with the princess of the Canary Islands; when a message was sent to them from Elmedorus, that he wished for their company, and should be able to pursue his journey the next day. They passed the remainder of that day with more cheerfulness than they had known for a long time before; for disclosing troubles to sincere friends always produces an alleviation of sorrow.

The next day they all set off together, and met with no extraordinary occurrence, till, in the evening, as they were entering upon the king of Granada's territories, they saw two knights fighting with great animosity. Elmedorus spurred on his horse to separate them; but before he could get up, one of them had thrown the other to the ground, and putting the point of his sword to his throat, exclaimed,

"Thou traitor, Zenorus, tell me what thou hast done with my princess?"

"Here I come to punish thee for thy crimes," exclaimed Zalmayda, at the same time darting at him a javelin she had in her hand, which pierced him.

Alinzor (for such the knight was) fell senseless by his enemy; when the hasty Zalmayda, believing she had really killed him, regretted that her revenge had succeeded so well. Zamea employed herself in comforting Zalmayda, while Elmedorus and his 'squire were trying if they could discover signs of life in Alinzor. The princesses' maids did also what they could to stop the bleeding of the miserable Zenorus, whose guilt now filled him with remorse not to be endured.

"Forbear," said he, "to spare my life, which I desire not to be continued longer than to confess my wickedness. Your hatred, beautiful Zalmayda, is due to me; for I have been the cause of all Alinzor's seeming perfidy. His not coming to the feast of the sun was owing to a letter I sent to him as from you, and I raised a phantom in your shape, which Alinzor, supposing to be yourself, rode away with, and so innocently excited that spirit of revenge in you so contrary to your nature. For these deceits I am this day punished by the hand of the amiable prince I have injured; but I have asserted his innocence, to make the best reparation in my power; and may you both live happy together the remainder of your days!"

In uttering these words, Zenorus breathed his last; when the attention of the whole company was attracted by an affecting scene between Zalmayda and Alinzor; for the princess being now pierced with grief for what she had done, was bathing his wounds with her tears, and assisting Zamea to bind them up.

"Why, madam," said he, "do you oppose a death inflicted by your own hand?"

"Ah! Alinzor," said she, "since you are innocent, how guilty am I!"

"These marks of your tenderness," replied the prince, "are too precious for your fault."

Here the company interrupted their conversation, thinking it improper for Alinzor's present weak condition; so putting him upon a litter which they had provided, they carried him to the next habitation, where a skilful shepherd assured them he could apply some herbs that would cure him in two or three days, provided he were not disturbed. The company therefore retired, and walking down by the side of a river, in order to amuse themselves, they saw a knight coming towards them, whose horse's weariness shewed the little rest his master gave him. Casting his eyes on Elmedorus, he alighted, and addressed him thus:

"Generous knight, permit me to express the joy I feel at this meeting; for I cannot be mistaken in the description of the knight whom the Magnificent Fairy bade me seek in this place, as the only person in the world who can break the fatal enchantment by which the cruel Amerdin keeps my princess confined in a castle a few days' journey from hence."

"If my own misfortunes would admit of any alleviation," answered Elmedorus, "it would be from relieving those of other persons. Be assured then, most obliging stranger, that I shall be truly rejoiced, if I can restore your princess to you, in fighting for the charming Zamea; on whose account I am going to undertake the adventure you propose, as soon as the wound of a worthy prince will permit him to accompany us. In the mean time it may be proper that you instruct me, by reciting your history, in what manner my arms can be best employed to your service." The stranger approved of the proposal; and the company having seated themselves, he thus began.

HISTORY OF
PRINCE ZALMANDOR
AND THE
PRINCESS AMANDINA.

I AM son to the king of Mauritania, and my name is Zalmandor. As it is customary with princes, I set out on my travels, and arriving at the court of the king of Castile, was very cordially received. Armandus, the prince of Arragon, was also there, whom I found to be in love with Amandina, the king's daughter, at which I felt a secret vexation; but why I could not tell, not having as yet seen that princess; for the king would not suffer her to appear but on particular occasions. This unaccountable vexation, however, soon explained itself; for a grand festival happening, at which Amandina appeared, I never was more astonished than at the sight of her beauty, and in an instant felt the most violent affection for her. I perceived she was sensible of Armandus's attachment to her, and looked upon him with some kindness; and I also observed him to take every opportunity of ingratiating himself into her favour. But as I learned that every thing must be kept a secret from the king, I took a method different from that of my rival: I pretended to admire Celdina, a young lady of the court, and, in honour of her, gave a variety of entertainments.

This project answered my expectations; for Amandina used to come to be a spectator of these diversions, which I thought she beheld with a jealous eye, that seemed to reproach me for wearing any chains but hers. I could hardly restrain myself from declaring my love; but was still afraid, knowing that, if the prince of Arragon's passion were not received with kindness, it was heard without anger, as he had often private interviews with

the princess, by means of one of her maids, and closely followed her wherever she appeared in public. This proceeding of Armandus was remarked by the king, who, notwithstanding his friendship for him, desired him to leave the court.

One evening, after having danced some time at a ball I had given for Celdina, I went into the garden to repose myself a little; when the sound of the princess's voice excited my attention.

"No, Phedima," said she to her attendant, "I cannot see Celdina preferred before me, without emotion. The prince of Arragon I esteem as a friend, but I cannot look upon Zalmandor without a sensation which I could wish him to be equally inspired with; in short, I love him, and envy the happiness of Celdina."

I could forbear no longer; but casting myself at her feet, I exclaimed, "Adorable princess! it is not Celdina that I love; the courtship paid to her is only designed to cover that which I burn to make to you: you, and you only, are the object for whom I have long sighed in secret."

Amandina was excessively confused at the suddenness of this event; but as she could not retract her words, told me the only way to prove the truth of my assertions, and to preserve her good will, was to slight Celdina as much as I had paid her respect. This I readily promised; and that very night I was the first to quit the assembly, that I might not hand Celdina to her apartment.

I mentioned before that Armandus was forbidden the court; nevertheless one night, as I was reflecting in the garden on the most proper method of proceeding, I saw him talking to the princess, who looked out of a window, for half an hour. Twenty times I thought I must have sacrificed my respect to jealousy; however, I restrained myself till I saw him out of the palace, and then, stopping him, I said, "You cannot disobey the king's commands, Sir, without making me your enemy."

"I could not have thought," answered the prince of Arragon, "that Zalmandor was one of the king's spies, especially as being a lover of the princess."

"Whether I be one or the other," replied I, drawing my sword, "you shall no longer stay here."

"Let me see then," said he, putting himself on his guard, "if you can prevent it." And with these words a combat began, which perhaps would have proved fatal to me, if the sword of Armandus had not broken; but that circumstance put an end to our duel.

This affair was kept a secret for a long time; but at last it reached the court, and the king sent to make Armandus a prisoner, and confined him in a castle. The princess Amandina reproached me for what I had done; but forgave me on the consideration of its having happened from the violence of my love, and on my promising to do my utmost to procure the release of Armandus. But the prince soon found means to release himself out of a window; and the first use he made of his liberty was, by means of Phedima, to visit the princess. Amandina was glad to see him out of the king's power; and reflecting on the danger he was in of being retaken, begged him to leave the kingdom.

"Alas! madam," said the prince, "I did not expect so cruel an injunction from you; but, without doubt, Zalmandor"—

"Zalmandor," interrupted the princess, "has no part in the entreaty I make; though, perhaps, I may prefer that prince to all the world besides."

"Then I have nothing to do but to die," replied Armandus; and with that he drew his sword, and would have run himself through the body, had not Amandina and Phedima taken it from him; but being discovered, he ran out of the apartment in great disorder of mind.

The next morning he sent me a challenge, and ap-

pointed the place ; where, without mentioning the occasion of this second duel, we engaged, and I was so happy as to be victorious again ; for Armandus having received two wounds, fainted and fell with the loss of blood. My 'squire and I carried him to the nearest house, and ordered him to be taken care of. Going to his bed-side, as soon as he was come to himself, I said,

“ Generous prince, since fortune has favoured me with the victory, of which you was as deserving as myself, suffer me to shew the esteem I have for you, by supplying you with all necessaries in a place where every one is your enemy.”

“ Brave Zalmandor,” returned he, “ your generosity is worthy of my warmest acknowledgments ; but as you have robbed me of the heart of Amandina, leave me to die, for I cannot live to witness your happiness.”

“ I do not know,” replied I, “ whether you have not a greater share of that princess's esteem than myself ; but however that be, let us be determined by her choice, and not by our duels deprive her of two faithful lovers.”

Armandus having promised to comply with every thing necessary for his cure, I returned to the palace, where I found the king in great anger at the escape of the prince of Arragon, whom he had issued strict orders to have apprehended wherever he should be met with. This made me beg of Amandina to send Phedima to the prince, with a desire that he would suffer himself to be carried into his dominions ; which, after many arguments, he at last consented to.

Things now assumed a very different aspect, for the king fell sick and died ; and the queen fell a prey to her sorrow within a month. The princess was for a long time inconsolable for their loss ; but, at length, the desires of the people corresponding, I prevailed upon her to appoint a day for our marriage.

It is natural to suppose, that the slight I had shewn Celdina filled her with the most malicious desire of revenge; this lady, therefore, seeing no obstacle to our happiness, had recourse to the sorcerer Amerdin, who makes a rivulet of the tears of the unhappy persons he gets into his possession, by which he performs his wicked enchantments. That wretch, at the instigation of Celdina, stole my princess away, and carried her to his castle, where he torments so many princes and princesses. I became distracted, and should have made Celdina's life pay for her cruel revenge, but was ashamed to lay violent hands on a woman. I ran to the castle, but could not, either by entreaties or threats, get any body to answer me. At last I went to the Magnificent Fairy, who delights in assisting the unfortunate, and who ordered me to wait here for a certain knight, telling me, that the power of punishing Amerdin, and setting so many illustrious personages at liberty, was reserved for him alone. This knight, as an inward impulse assures me, I have now the happiness to be in company with.

The Prince of Mauritania having finished his narration, Elmedorus again promised to expose his life to restore him his beloved Amandina, and release the other captives confined in Amerdin's detestable castle. Then Zalmayda, (who, since she had been convinced of Alinzor's innocence, was more in love than ever, and thought every minute of absence an hour,) making a proposal to return to their habitation, they all got up, and being arrived there, presented their new companion, Zalmandor, to the wounded prince.

The herb which the shepherd applied had the effect he foretold; so that, on the third day, the whole company proceeded on their journey towards the enchanted castle; the princess of the Canaries and her attendant having put on apparel suitable to

their sex, as there was no farther occasion for their appearing in disguise.

It is but natural to suppose, they made all possible haste in accomplishing so interesting an undertaking; and as they travelled rapidly, and met with no interruption, on the morning of the second day they came in sight of the wicked Amerdin's castle. Elmedorus now seemed elated with joy, and making a pause, he thus addressed his companions:—

“My dear friends, the hour is come to prove the foundation of our hopes. You are only to accompany me farther with your good wishes; for I must now advance alone; and inflamed as I am with the idea of my adored Alzayda being still living in yon horrid mansion, I pledge my honour that I will fulfil the promises I have made to you, or perish in the attempt.” Then, desiring them not to wander from the place they were in, and recommending it to the princes to take care of the ladies, he saluted and left them.

Elmedorus soon got up to the castle, and after he had knocked loudly at the gates, a knight came forth, whom he knew to be Almanzon; therefore, he would not make use of his sword, but presented the ring, which in the beginning of the knight's history we mentioned to have been given to him by his mother, and which had the power of breaking all enchantments. Almanzon, being immediately released from his enchantment, let fall his lance and threw himself at the feet of Elmedorus, who raising and embracing him, said, “Accept from me, brave knight, both liberty and your princess,” pointing to the place where he had left her; at which Almanzon, transported with joy, ran to his beloved Zamea.

A second enemy now came out, whom Elmedorus knew to be Asmonadus, and advanced towards him with his sword in his hand.

“What rash youth art thou,” enquired Asmonadus, “that comest here to seek thy death?”

“I am Elmedorus of Granada,” answered the

prince, "and come to punish thee and the tyrant Amerdin, and to deliver the princess Alzayda, and other innocent captives, out of the hands of their enemies."

At these words they engaged, and fought with such fury, that the princesses trembled for their valiant hero, and the princes, forgetting they were not to concern themselves with this adventure, ran to his assistance; but before they could get to him, he had brought his antagonist to the ground. Elmedorus thanked the knights for their readiness to assist, but begged them to return and protect the princesses.

Asmonadus was no sooner dispatched, than there came out of the castle a roaring lion to attack the prince; but, after an hour's fight, he fell lifeless by Asmonadus. Then appeared a knight, mounted on a griffin, with his vizor half lifted up, and his haggard eyes full of fury.

"Think not, Elmedorus," said he, "to accomplish thy rash undertaking; for though thou hast hitherto been victorious, thou canst not escape my revenge."

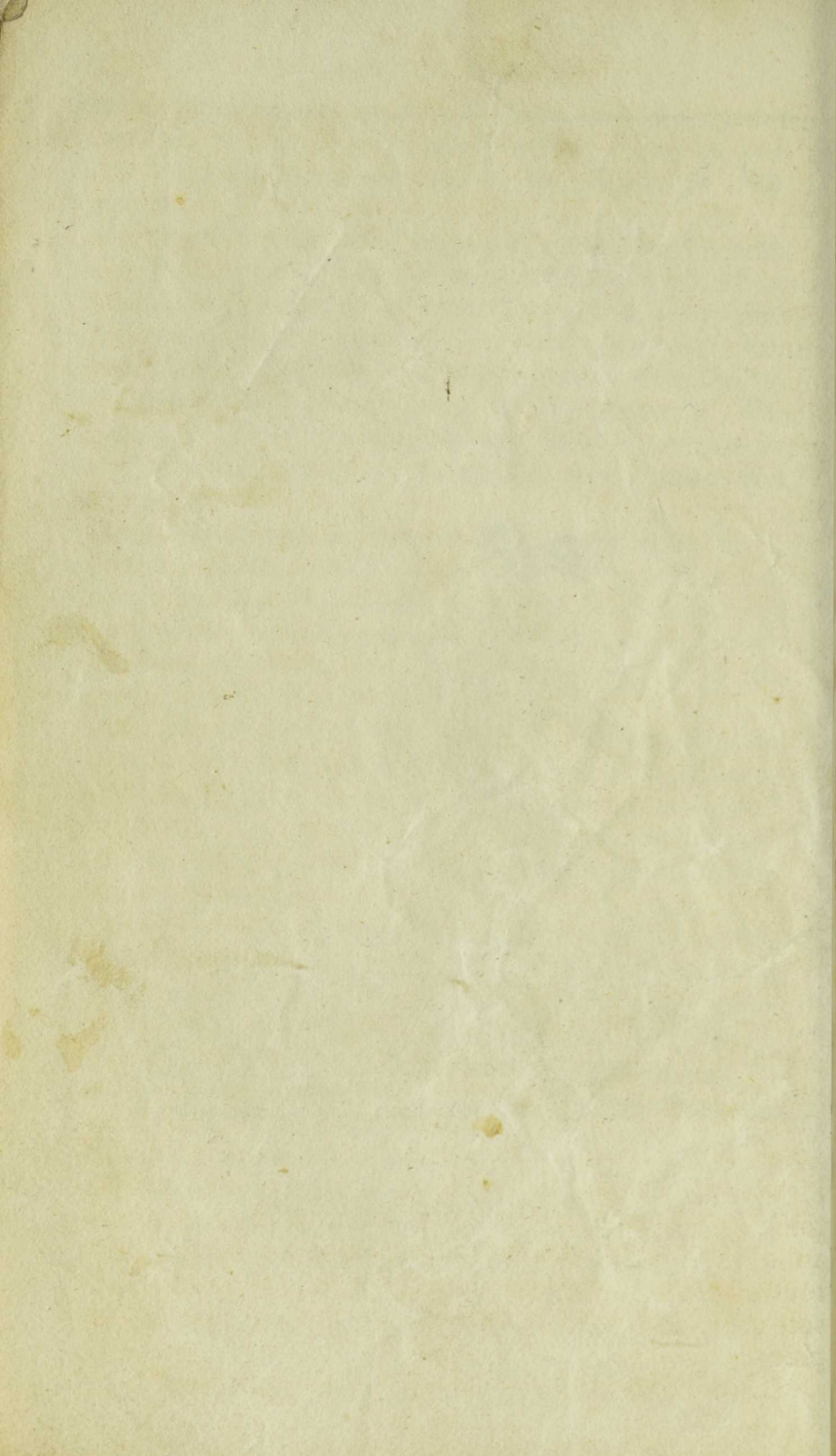
"That is yet to be tried," answered the knight; "we shall soon see whether thou art more invincible than thy defenders."

A dreadful combat now ensued, in which the flying griffin gave the knight great annoyance; but he, becoming outrageous, aimed so furious a stroke at Amerdin's sword-arm, that he cut it off; when that vile magician, finding himself no longer able to make resistance, flew away. From his venomous blood there immediately sprung up numberless snakes and serpents, which turned their murderous tongues against Elmedorus. At these he thought proper to point his ring, as they were so many; and so passed through the midst of them directly to the castle.

The entrance was guarded by two enormous bears, whose fierceness, perhaps, would have proved fatal to our knight, had they not, by virtue of the ring, been



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compelled to run away. The gates now opened, and a very stately knight advanced to defend the entry. It was the prince of Arragon, Zalmandor's rival. Elmedorus, willing to spare a prince who had many good qualities, desired him to desist from his opposition; but he, having been told by the wicked magician, that Elmedorus was come to deliver Amandina, struck our knight on the helmet with his sword; upon which he immediately attacked him, and, though none was more brave than the prince of Arragon, laid him lifeless at his feet.

After this, Elmedorus, impatient to find out his dear Alzayda, rushed in; and, having passed through several dismal apartments, came to a tower which had neither door nor window. Here he heard the moanings of those confined within, and, among the rest, thought he could distinguish the voice of his own princess. Striking his ring against the wall, it immediately opened, and disclosed to him a great number of illustrious personages, who by their tears formed a brook, which ran out at the bottom of the place, and with which, as we have said before, the villainous Amerdin performed all his enchantments. But what were his feelings, when he beheld his beautiful and beloved Alzayda, sitting by a tomb, on which was an exact image of himself, and bedewing it with her tears! He presented his ring, and in an instant the tomb disappeared, and the walls of the tower were changed into a magnificent triumphal arch, on which the names of Elmedorus and Alzayda were written in golden letters, supported by Cupids. All the knights and ladies who had been kept prisoners there for several years, came to throw themselves at the feet of their deliverer, who raised them up in so obliging a manner, that they received an additional pleasure at being released by so generous a knight; and perceiving his impatience to console Alzayda, they retired to the farther part of the place.

"O my beloved princess," said Elmedorus, "how

great the grief your supposed death caused me! but how well am I requited by the unspeakable happiness which the present scene affords me!

"Prince," replied Alzayda, "you see by my punishment how dear you was to me, since for my disdain of Asmonadus, on your account, I was condemned to bewail your death all my days. But tell me how you have effected this happy deliverance—how you entered this castle—and how you preserved yourself from the wicked Amerdin and Asmonadus, your rival?"

"My rival," replied the prince, "has paid for the injuries done us, by the loss of his life, and as to the Magician Amerdin, finding he was unable to defend himself against me, he flew away on his winged griffin."

He was proceeding to give an account of his adventures; but Alzayda, representing the impropriety of conversing longer in the presence of so many illustrious personages, said, "Let us now leave this fatal place; and be assured, that the affection of Alzayda is the same as when you left her at Leon."

Then going to the princes and princesses, who were still praising him for the liberty he had procured them, Elmedorus inquired which of the amiable ladies was Amandina; and upon her advancing forward, the prince told her, he only desired her pardon for the death of Armandus, which it was not in his power to prevent; but that he could make amends by restoring Zalmandor to her. The princess could scarcely believe this good news; but Elmedorus assured her she should soon be convinced of the truth of it; and then, presenting his hand to Alzayda, led her out of the place, followed by the rest of the company.

As they passed through the porch, Amandina perceived the dead body of Armandus, which much affected her; and his 'squire, casting himself at her feet, begged of her to allow him to erect a

tomb to the memory of his master. This favour she readily granted; at the same time inquiring of the 'squire what had brought Armandus to the castle.

"The prince, madam," he replied, "after being cured of the wounds received in the last duel with Zalmandor, hearing that Amerdin had confined you in this fatal place, came to find you out; and here the wicked magician received him, promising, if he could defend the castle against Elmedorus, to deliver you up to him: in the attempt of which undertaking, alas! he has this day lost his life."

Leaving the 'squire to bury his master, the company went on, but were no sooner got over the moat that surrounded the castle, than the air appeared all on fire, accompanied with lightning and terrible claps of thunder; and an infinite number of demons having destroyed that dismal place, took their flight through the midst. This storm put an end to the enchantments: for shortly afterwards the day became perfectly clear, and not a vestige of the late horrible mansion remained.

Elmedorus then politely took leave of the strangers he had released; and the illustrious little company, who had attended Elmedorus to the castle, seeing its total destruction, came in haste to testify their joy; when Elmedorus taking Zalmandor by the hand, presented him to the lovely Amandina, saying, "You see, madam, I perform my promise:" upon which the princess gave her hand to her prince, and was made happy in receiving every testimony of his sincere love. Thus was every one blessed, and mutual congratulations passed between them; but, above all, health and happiness were invoked upon Elmedorus, because to him the rest were indebted for their own felicity.

Nothing now remained to complete the bliss of all, but for the amiable couples to go to their respective kingdoms, there to pledge their vows at Hymen's altar. Accordingly, after these heroes

and heroines had travelled together as far as the different situations of their dominions would allow, the princesses embraced each other, and vowed an everlasting friendship; whilst the princes promised to enter into an alliance against all kings who should be their enemies.

Elmedorus was the first who reached his own dominions, where the king and queen of Granada, overjoyed to see a son again, whom they had supposed finally lost, united him in wedlock to his charming princess, and resigned to them the crown.

After some time Elmedorus received the welcome intelligence that all those princes, who had been the companions of his fortune, were in peaceable possession of their crowns and charming princesses; that the queen of Fez had crowned Almanzon and Zamea, the king being dead; that the prince of Numidia was resolved to stay in the Canaries, that he might not witness the inconstancy for which his own country was remarkable; and that Zalmandor, in order to be as near as possible to the friend to whom he owed the restoration of Amandina, had established his court at Castile.

THE STORY OF LITTLE GEORGE.

As a number of boys were one morning diverting themselves with play, they were interrupted by a wrinkled old woman, at whom some were so frightened that they ran away, whilst others treated her with rudeness and called her old witch. The tallest of them, whose name was Henry, had been taught to respect her; and Little George, who was the youngest, laid hold of Henry's hand for protection, as he had always been his particular friend. This old woman was a fairy, named Instruction; and bidding Henry and Little George take courage, she

invited them to her castle, where she promised to make them as happy as the day was long.

The castle was an ancient, venerable building, and the path which led to it was almost covered with briars. Being arrived, the old woman put a large key, on which were engraven several strange words, into the door, which opened immediately, and admitted them into a large hall. Then they sat down to a collection of cakes, biscuits, and sweetmeats, which were brought in by four beautiful damsels, called Innocence, Health, Mirth, and Good-humour.

The hall was supported by pillars of adamant, and the intermediate niches were adorned with statues. The principal one was Truth; which seemed to be of one entire diamond, and represented a beautiful woman. The fairy having touched her with her wand, she stepped down from the pedestal, and addressing Little George, gave him some wholesome admonitions, and warned him particularly against telling lies. She then presented him with a little catechism bound in silver; a pocket Bible, with ruby clasps; and a small looking-glass in a gold case. "These books," said she, "will teach you how to be good, great, and happy; and whenever you look into the glass, if you continue true to me, you will behold yourself in your own natural shape; but if you see the resemblance of some monster, shudder to think that you have turned aside into the ways of Falsehood. In this case, call aloud upon me, and cease not till I come to your assistance." So saying she withdrew to her former station.

Four other statues which stood on each side, being touched by the fairy's wand, now came down towards Little George. The first was a young woman, dressed in a snow-white robe, who changed colour every minute. She advanced slowly, and accosted him in a very low voice, as follows:—

"My name is Modesty; you will find the advice and assistance which I now offer you, very necessary

in your progress to the top of this castle. Above all things fear Disgrace, which is a filthy puddle in this neighbourhood, and beware of the enchantress Flattery, who will offer you a pleasant cup. As, perhaps, you will be obliged to taste of it, take this nosegay, by smelling to which your head will be preserved from dizziness, and your senses from stupefaction. Smelling to this nosegay will also defend you against the magician Pride, who will attempt either to effect your fall into the pool of Disgrace or puff you up to so monstrous a size, that you will not be able to pass through the narrow ways which lead to True Honour."

Little George, with many thanks, took the nosegay, and put it into his bosom.

Natural Affection approached next. She wore rings on every finger, which had been given her by friends and relations.

"Dear George," said she, "I love you for the sake of your parents and friends, whose pictures are painted on this little enamelled box. It is gifted by a fairy; take it; and whenever you are in doubt how to act, look upon the paintings, and as your friends seem to smile or frown, you may judge whether your conduct be right or wrong."

Then Good Temper presented herself before our little hero. She was formed entirely of sugar, but as fine and as clear as crystal. She gave him a small phial, filled with a particular kind of honey and oil. With this she charged him to touch his lips every morning, by which means he would be enabled to refrain from saying any thing peevish, or tending to breed quarrels.

The last figure was Diligence, dressed like a huntress, and remarkable for her activity. She ran nimbly towards George, and fixed two wings on his shoulders, saying, "These will be of great service to you by and by; but, as they will droop whenever the old witch Laziness comes near, with the wish to change you into a dormouse, you must gently run

this golden spur into your side, on which they will immediately resume their vigour."

Little George and Henry were then conducted by the good old fairy into a small neat room, where they went to bed. In the morning Henry got up and dressed himself before George awoke; but a gentle touch with the spur, made him jump up in an instant, all alive and merry. Presently after, as he was busily employed with the presents he had received, in came a sober-looking man named Application, who offered George a staff, without which he would not be able to make sure footing; but George disregarded what he said, and flew away to a large staircase, where he saw a great many little folks, like himself, going up. He stretched his wings, and made several attempts to attain the top; but when he thought he had just reached it, he constantly slid back, as if upon sloping ice, to the bottom. Those boys who had succeeded, laughed at his disappointment, at which he was so mortified, that he could not help crying; and what aggravated his misfortune, was, upon looking at his box, to see his parents and friends frowning, and very angry with him. In this dilemma his friend Henry gave him the nosegay, phial, and staff; by the proper use of which, Little George was enabled to get to the top.

And now a variety of rooms opened to his view, every one of which had delightful prospects. One long gallery was hung with pictures, that represented a thousand agreeable stories. It was called the Gallery of Fiction, and was chiefly allotted to Poetry.

Next Little George entered the apartment of History; which, though not quite so gay, deserved examination better than the former. The master of it was very good-natured, and ready to satisfy our little hero in any inquiries; so that he was here at once both improved and delighted. A window, however, standing open, that overlooked a delight-

ful play-field, little George could not help casting a longing eye upon it. At this moment the fairy Instruction appeared, and, with a smiling look, spoke to him as follows:

"I know your thoughts, my dear, and am willing to indulge you in every thing that is reasonable. I give you leave to go home to divert yourself with your friends; but, that you may return safely, take this key, which you see is now bright, and has letters upon it. Be sure you rub it every morning, and keep it bright, so that the letters may be read, and then you will meet with a cordial welcome when you return to this happy seat of learning; but take notice, if you let the key grow rusty, you will be in the utmost danger of falling into disgrace."

She had scarcely done speaking, before there was a loud cry of "The holidays are come! The holidays are come!" Immediately a number of little cherubims appeared in the air crowned with garlands, and away with them flew Little George; but unluckily, in his haste, he left both the staff and the spur behind him.

His friends were extremely glad to see him, and listened with delight to his account of the surprising things he had seen. Little George, however, gave himself up so much to play, that he soon forgot his key; nay, when he was one day reminded of it by seeing Henry very busy in brightening his, he called him a stupid, moping boy, and told him to come to play, for it was time enough yet to do that slavish work. Henry, however, refused to move till he had cleaned his key; for he was a steady and diligent boy, and knew the bad consequences of omitting to rub the key, though but for a single day. Little George, also, to his great sorrow, was soon convinced of the same; for the time ran away rapidly, and, the last of the holidays being at hand, he tried and tried to stretch his wings; but alas! they drooped, and he now found, and lamented the

want of his spur. Poor George could not think of any means by which he should return to the old fairy. At length, however, he met with unlooked-for assistance; a cloud hung almost over his head, which he feared would every minute burst in thunder, when out of it flew a black eagle, who seized him in her talons, and in a moment carried him to the gates of the castle of Instruction.

It is true, little George was at the Castle, but how could he get in? He looked at his key, but had the mortification to find it rustier than ever. This threw him into the deepest trouble, and gave him a thorough sight of his folly; and he beheld many of his companions, and his friend Henry among the foremost, fly over his head with their polished keys, and enter with joyful acclamations into the apartments. Stung to the quick at his own situation, he wept bitterly, and at length, in the deepest distress, he cried out, "O Truth! Truth! come to my help; I have been very idle, but I am very sorry. Truth! Truth! come to my help." He fainted away with terror as he spoke; but when he recovered, he found himself within the Castle, though a little stiff and sore with some rough methods that had been used to bring him to himself. Truth and Forgiveness then put him under the care of Amendment, who promised never to forsake him till he got to the top of the castle. As he was going on, he found himself struck a pretty hard blow by an angry-looking man; but, it being only to return him his staff and spur, George thanked him for his care and correction. Little George now doubled his speed, to make up for his lost time. Indeed, he was so eager, that he soon overtook his companions; and when he came up with his old friend Henry, it is impossible to tell how glad they were to meet with one another again. "My dear George," said Henry, "I rejoiced to see you under the care of Amendment, by whose direction I knew you would be able to overcome all

difficulties.”—“ Ah, dear Henry,” answered George, “ what I have suffered for my idleness and folly will, I am sure, keep me from being guilty of the same again.”

And now being arrived at those wonderful rooms they had just had a view of before the holidays, they were immediately admitted. The fairy Instruction appeared to bid them welcome, and tenderly kissed them. Then presenting them with a most curious cabinet of pearl, she spoke as follows:—

“ As you are now going to search into the inestimable treasures of these apartments, you will have need of this cabinet. It is called the Cabinet of Memory, and contains an innumerable variety of boxes and drawers. They have this peculiar property, if you store them with things that are valuable, the more you put in, the more they will hold; but if you put in nothing but trash, they will soon become clogged, and full of cobwebs. Mind the advice I give you; for it is your own welfare that I wish to promote. Farewell !”

The fairy spoke these last words in so affectionate a manner, that both Henry and Little George burst into tears; and, falling on their knees, they kissed her hand, and gave her the thanks of hearts overflowing with gratitude. She gently raised them up, and, kissing them once more, left them to pursue their studies.

Little George and Henry immediately began to examine the curiosities, books, &c. and were every now and then calling out, to let one another know when they found any thing more remarkable than ordinary, which they placed very carefully in their Cabinet of Memory. In this delightful, as well as profitable manner, they passed from room to room, each one being a step higher than the former, till at last they entered the Temple of Honour at the top. The interior was studded with numberless precious gems, every one of which shone like a sun; and the outside consisted of the most transparent crystal,

that dazzled the eyes of all beholders. It commanded a boundless prospect; and though it was so high as to be seen in all parts by every body, yet very few were able to come near it; for there was but one entrance, and that could only be discovered by the good fairy Instruction. In this beautiful abode Little George and Henry passed the residue of their days, happy in themselves, beloved by their friends, and admired by the whole world besides.

FAIRY TALES.

Part the Third.

POPULAR TALES,

BY VARIOUS CELEBRATED AUTHORS.

TOM THUMB.

DURING the celebrated reign of king Arthur, the learned enchanter Merlin, being one day fatigued with a long journey, stopped at the cottage of an honest ploughman, and asked for some refreshment. The ploughman's wife, being a good-natured woman, immediately begged him to sit down by the fire-side, and presented him with a slice of brown bread and a draught of new milk, both of which were truly acceptable.

In the course of conversation Merlin discovered that his kind hostess and her husband were very unhappy in consequence of having no children; and the former declared with tears in her eyes, that the birth of a son would render her the happiest creature in the world, even if the child should never be any bigger than his father's thumb.

Pleased with the hospitality he had received, and highly amused by the thought of a boy being no larger than a man's thumb, Merlin hastened home, and sent for his old friend the queen of the fairies, to whom he explained the wish of the ploughman's wife.

After enjoying a hearty laugh with Merlin, the queen

of the fairies said the good woman's desire should certainly be accomplished. Accordingly the hero of our story was born some time afterwards; and the fairy queen summoned her attendants to dress the infant in a becoming manner, with a shirt formed of a spider's web, a frock made of the down of thistles, a hat cut out of an oak leaf, and a pair of shoes made of the skin of a young mouse.

Though Tom increased rapidly in strength, he never was any bigger than his father's thumb; but as he grew older, he became very sly and cunning; and as his mother would never correct him, when he was old enough to play with the boys for cherry-stones, and had lost all his own, he used to creep into the bags of the other boys, fill his pockets, and come out again to play.

But one day as he was getting out of a bag of cherry-stones, the boy to whom it belonged happened to see him. "Ah ha, my little Tom!" said the boy, "have I caught you at your sly tricks at last? Now I will reward you for thieving." Then drawing the string tight round his neck, and shaking the bag, the cherry-stones bruised Tom's legs, thighs, and body sadly; which made him beg to be let out, and promise never to be guilty of such conduct again.

Some time afterwards, Tom's mother was making a batter pudding, and, that he might see how she mixed it, he climbed on the edge of the bowl; but his foot happening to slip, he fell over head and ears into the batter, and his mother not observing him, stirred him into the pudding, and popped him into the pot.

Feeling the effects of the hot water, Tom began to kick and struggle so violently that the pudding jumped about as if it had been bewitched, and Tom's mother was so dreadfully frightened, that she felt happy in the opportunity of giving it to a travelling tinker, who, coming by just at the time, put it into his budget and walked on.

As soon as Tom could get the batter out of his mouth, he began to cry aloud ; which so terrified the poor tinker, that he flung the pudding over the hedge, and ran away as fast as he could run. The pudding being broken to pieces by the fall, Tom was happily liberated, and went home to his mother, who was so rejoiced at his escape that she gave him twenty kisses, and then put him to bed.

Another time, Tom's mother took him with her when she went to milk the cow ; and it being a very windy day, she tied him with a needleful of thread to a thistle, that he might not be blown away. The cow, seeing his oak-leaf hat, took him and the thistle up at one mouthful. But when she began to chew the thistle, Tom was so sadly terrified at her great teeth, which seemed ready to crush him to pieces, that he cried out, " Mother, mother !" as loud as he could bawl.

" Where are you, Tommy ?" said the mother.

" Here, mother," he replied, " here in the cow's mouth."

The poor woman, supposing her dear child must be killed, began to cry and wring her hands ; but at this juncture the animal fortunately opened her mouth and let Tom drop out. His mother clapped him into her apron, and ran home with him.

Tom's father made him a whip of a barley straw to drive the cattle with, and being one day in the field, he slipped into a deep furrow. A raven flying over, picked him up with an ear of wheat, and flew with him to the top of a giant's castle, by the sea-side, where he left him ; and old Grumbo the giant, coming soon after to walk upon his terrace, took up poor Tom, to swallow him like a pill ; but his fingers were so large and clumsy, that he let our hero fall into the sea, where he was snapped up by a salmon. This fish was soon after caught, and sent as a present to king Arthur. When it was cut open, every body was delighted with the appearance and deportment of Tom Thumb. The king made him his dwarf ; he was the favourite of the whole court ; and his merry

pranks afforded much amusement to the queen and the knights of the round table.

When his majesty rode on horseback, he frequently took Tom in his hand; and, if a shower of rain came on, he used to creep into the king's waistcoat pocket, and remain there till the rain abated.

The king also sometimes conversed with our hero respecting his parents; and when Tom informed his majesty they were very poor people, the king led him into his treasury, and told him he should pay his friends a visit, and take with him as much money as he could carry.

Charmed with this proof of his benefactor's generosity, Tom procured a little purse, and, putting a threepenny piece into it, with much labour and difficulty got it upon his back; and, after travelling two days and nights, arrived at his father's cottage.

His mother was in raptures at the sight of her son; but Tom was almost tired to death, having in forty-eight hours travelled almost half a mile with a huge silver threepence upon his back. His parents gave him a thousand thanks for bringing them such an amazing sum of money; and after having placed him in a walnut-shell by the fire-side, feasted him for three days upon a hazel-nut; this, however, made him sick, as a whole nut generally served him a month.

Tom soon got well, but could not travel because it had rained: his mother therefore took him in her hand, and with one puff of her mouth, blew him into king Arthur's court; where Tom entertained the king, queen, and nobility, at tilts and tournaments; but his exertions were so great, that he brought on a fit of sickness, which threatened his life.

The queen of the fairies being apprised of her favourite's illness, came to court in a chariot drawn by flying mice, placed Tom by her side, and drove through the air, without stopping till they arrived at her palace; when, after restoring him to health, and

permitting him to enjoy all the gay diversions of Fairy Land, the queen commanded a fair wind, and, placing Tom before it, blew him back to the palace of king Arthur. But just as Tom should have alighted in the court-yard, the cook happened to pass along with the king's dish of hasty-pudding, and poor Tom Thumb fell plump into the middle of it, and splashed the hot pudding into the cook's eyes.

"Oh dear! oh dear!" cried Tom. "Murder! murder!" bellowed the cook. Down went the dish, and his majesty's favourite dinner mingled with the dirty water of a kennel.

The cook was a red-faced, cross fellow, and declared to the king, that Tom had done it out of mere mischief; so he was taken up, tried, and sentenced to be beheaded. Tom hearing this dreadful sentence, and seeing a miller stand by with his mouth wide open, took a good spring, and jumped down the miller's throat, unperceived by all, even by the miller himself.

Tom being lost, the court broke up, and the miller returned to his mill. But Tom did not leave him long at rest; he began to roll and tumble about, so that the miller thought himself bewitched, and sent for a doctor. When the doctor came, Tom began to dance and sing; the doctor was as much frightened as the miller, and sent in great haste for five more doctors, and twenty learned men.

While all these were consulting upon so mysterious a case, the miller became tired with their long speeches, and happened to yawn, and Tom, seizing the opportunity, made another jump, and alighted on his feet in the middle of the table.

The miller, provoked to be thus tormented by such a little creature, fell into a great passion, caught hold of Tom, and threw him out of the window, into the river. A large turbot swimming by, snapped him up in a minute.

The turbot was soon caught and sold in the market to the steward of a lord. The nobleman, thinking

it an uncommonly fine fish, presented it to the king, who ordered it to be dressed immediately. When the cook cut open the turbot, he found poor Tom, and ran with him directly to the king; but his majesty being busily employed with some state affairs, desired that he might be brought another day.

The cook resolving to keep him safely this time, as he had so lately given him the slip, clapped him into a mousetrap, and left him to amuse himself by peeping through the wires for a whole week, when the king not only forgave him for throwing down the hasty-pudding, but he graciously invested him with the order of knighthood; and ordered him an entire new suit of clothes; gave him a white mouse instead of a horse, and furnished him with a tailor's needle, which supplied the place of a sword.

Thus dressed and mounted, he rode a hunting with the king and nobility, who all laughed heartily at Tom and his beautiful steed.

One day as they were riding by a farm-house, a cat jumped from behind the door, seized the mouse and little Tom, ran up a tree, and began to devour the mouse; however, Tom drew his sword and attacked the cat so courageously that she was obliged to let him fall.

The king and his nobles, who had witnessed this adventure, hastened to our hero's assistance, and one of the lords caught him in his hat; but poor Tom was sadly scratched, and his fine clothes were torn by the claws of the cat.

In this condition he was carried home, when a bed of down was made for him in a little ivory cabinet.

The queen of the fairies came, and took him again to Fairy Land, where she kept him several years; and then, dressing him in a suit of bright green, sent him flying once more through the air to the earth, in the days of king Thunstone. The people flocked far and near to look at him; and the king, before whom he was carried, asked him who he was,

whence he came, and where he resided? Tom bowed most respectfully to his majesty, telling him that he was formerly well known in the court of king Arthur, as Sir Thomas Thumb; but, since his last illness, he had lived in Fairy Land with his kind benefactress, the queen of that place.

The king was so charmed with Tom's answer and manners, that he ordered a little chair to be made, in order that our little hero might sit on his table, and also a palace of gold a span high, with a door an inch wide, for little Tom to live in. He also gave him a gilded chariot, drawn by six white mice.

This made the queen angry, because she had not a new carriage too; therefore, resolving to ruin Tom, she complained to the king that he had behaved very insolently to her. The king appeared so angry when Tom was called in to answer this charge, that, in order to escape his fury, the poor fellow crept into an empty snail-shell, and there remained till he was almost starved. At length peeping out of the shell, he saw a fine butterfly settled on the ground; he now ventured out, and, getting astride, the butterfly took wing, and mounted into the air with little Tom on his back. Away he flew from field to field, from tree to tree, till at last he flew back to the king's court.

The king, queen, and nobles, all strove to catch the butterfly, but in vain. At length poor Tom, having neither bridle nor saddle, slipped from his seat, and fell into a cup of milk, where he was found almost drowned. The queen vowed he should be beheaded; but while the block and the axe were getting ready, he was secured once more in a mouse-trap; when the cat seeing something stir, and supposing it to be a mouse, patted the trap about till she broke it, and set Tom at liberty.

This, however, was the last escape which fell to the lot of our unfortunate knight; for, a few days afterward, a spider, mistaking him for a fly, rushed upon him, and overcame him with her poisonous

breath, though Tom drew his sword, and made a gallant resistance as long as he was able to stand.

King Thunstone and all his courtiers, went into mourning for little Tom Thumb. They buried him under a rose-bush, and raised a pretty marble monument over his grave, with the following inscription :

Kind stranger, pause, and drop a tear,
Sir Thomas Thumb lies buried here,
Of Arthur's days the glory ;
Fairies presided at his birth,
His exploits fill'd the court with mirth,
And long they 'll live in story.

His face was bold, his sword was bright,
And, mounted on a mouse, this knight
Appear'd a skilful rider ;
But skill and courage all proved vain,
For poor Sir Tom was one day slain,
Whilst fighting with a spider.

PRINCE FATAL AND PRINCE FORTUNE.

A CERTAIN Queen had two pretty little boys ; and a fairy, that was the queen's intimate friend, was invited to the christening, that she might make them some gift. "I endow the eldest," said she, "with all manner of misfortunes, till he is five-and-twenty years of age ; and I name him Fatal." At these words the queen uttered a loud cry, and in-treated the fairy to change her gift. But she replied, "You do not know what you ask ; if he does not meet with misfortunes he will be very wicked."

The queen would not venture to say any more, but begged the fairy to let her choose for her second son. "Perhaps you will choose wrong," replied the fairy ; "but no matter, I am willing to grant

whatever you ask me for him." "I wish," said the queen, "that he may succeed in whatever he undertakes; for that is the way for him to be perfect." "Perhaps you may be mistaken," said the fairy, "and for that reason I grant him this gift no longer than till he is five-and-twenty."

Nurses were provided for the two young princes; but on the third day the nurse of the eldest prince was seized with a fever: he had another, and she fell down and broke her arm: a third lost her milk as soon as prince Fatal was put to the breast: and it being spread abroad that prince Fatal was unfortunate to his nurses, nobody would suckle, or even come near him. The poor child therefore suffered severely from hunger, and cried bitterly, without obtaining any help: at last a mean country-woman, who was very poor, and had a large family of children, which she could scarcely maintain, came and offered to bring him up, on the condition of receiving a large sum of money: this was readily granted, and as the king and queen did not love prince Fatal, they told her to take him home to her village. The youngest prince, who was named Fortune, on the contrary, thrived surprisingly: his papa and mamma doted upon him, and never thought of the eldest. The wicked woman to whom they had given poor Fatal, no sooner got home, than she took off his beautiful clothes, to bestow them on a son of her own about Fatal's age; and having wrapped the poor prince in an old petticoat, she carried him into a wood, and left him to be devoured by the wild beasts: but a lioness, that had three young whelps, brought him to her den, and gave him suck; which made him grow so fast and strong, that at six months he could run alone. In the mean time the nurse's son, who was to have personated the prince, died, and the king and queen were glad they had got rid of him. Fatal remained in the woods till he was two years old; when a nobleman, an officer of the court, as he was hunting,

was astonished to find a lovely boy in the midst of wild beasts. Pitying his situation, he took him home; and, hearing that a child was wanted as a companion to play with prince Fortune, he presented Fatal to the queen.

Fortune had a master to teach him to read; but this master was charged, above all things, not to make him cry. The young prince being acquainted with this, cried every time he took his book in hand,—so that at five years of age he could hardly tell his letters; while Fatal, on the contrary, read extremely well, and had already made some progress in writing. To frighten the prince, his master was ordered to whip Fatal whenever Fortune neglected his lesson; so that it was in vain for Fatal to be good, and apply himself to his studies,—he could not escape punishment: besides, Fortune was so wilful and ill-natured, that he used his brother very ill, though indeed he did not know he was his relative. If Fatal had any fruit or play-things, Fortune would snatch them away. He obliged him to be silent when he wanted to speak, and would make him talk when he wished to hold his tongue; in a word, he was a little martyr to his brother's temper, and was pitied by no one.

They lived together in this manner till their eleventh year, when the queen felt both surprised and hurt at her son's ignorance. "Certainly," said she, "the fairy has deceived me. I imagined my son would be the most learned boy that ever lived, since I wished him to succeed in whatever he undertook." Accordingly she went to consult the fairy, who said to her: "Madam, you should have desired a willing mind and virtuous inclinations for your son, rather than great talents; all his endeavours are to be wicked, and your majesty is a witness of the proficiency he has made." After having said this, she turned from her, and the poor queen returned to her palace in the deepest distress.

She hastened to reprove Fortune, in order to make him better; but instead of promising amendment, he told her, that if they vexed him, he would starve himself. The queen was so much frightened by this threat, that she immediately took him upon her knee, kissed him, gave him sweetmeats, and assured him he should not learn any thing for a whole week, if he would but eat his victuals as usual.

Fatal, in the mean time, made the most surprising improvement, and exhibited the greatest mildness of temper: he had been so used to be contradicted, that he seemed to have no will of his own, and thought himself happy if he could but prevent the ill effects of Fortune's capricious humours: but this sad child, enraged to see that Fatal improved more than himself, could not bear the sight of him; and the tutors, to please their young master, chastised poor Fatal continually. At last this wicked boy told the queen, that he would not let Fatal live with him any longer, and that he would not eat a morsel till he was sent away; the poor prince was, therefore, turned into the street, no one daring to take him in, for fear of displeasing his brother.

He passed the night under a tree, half dead with cold (as it was winter), with only a slice of bread for his supper, which some humane person had given him out of charity. As soon as it was daylight, he said to himself, "I will not stay here doing nothing, but try if I cannot get my living till I am big enough to enlist in the army. I remember to have read, in history, of several common soldiers, who have afterwards become great generals; and, perhaps, if I behave well, I may have the same good fortune: it is true, I have neither father nor mother; but that kind Providence which induced a lioness to become my nurse, will surely not forsake me now." Having said this, he kneeled down to say his prayers, for he never missed repeating them night and morning, and always, when he prayed,

he fixed his eyes on the ground, with his hands joined together, and neither turned his head one way nor the other, till he had concluded.

While Fatal was on his knees, a countryman happened to be going by; and hearing him pray earnestly, he said to himself, "This must certainly be a good child; I have a great mind to take him home, and employ him in tending my sheep." So he waited till Fatal had ended his prayer, and then said to him: "Little boy, will you come and live with me, and mind my sheep? I will keep you, and take care of you." "With all my heart," said Fatal; "and I will do all in my power to serve you honestly."

This countryman proved to be a wealthy farmer, who was sadly wronged, not only by his servants, but even by his wife and children. These, however, were mightily pleased when they saw Fatal; "for," said they, "this is but a child, and we can do as we please with him."

One day the farmer's wife said to him, "Child, my husband is a miser, and never gives me any money; let me take a sheep, and you shall tell him the wolf ran away with it."

"Madam," replied Fatal, "I would do any thing to serve you, but I had rather die than tell a falsehood, and become accessory to a theft."

"You are a blockhead," said she; "who will know it?"

"Oh, madam," Fatal answered, "God will know it; for he sees whatever we do, and punishes those that steal and tell lies."

At these words his mistress lost all patience; she flew upon him, beat him severely, and tore the hair off his head. The farmer, hearing Fatal scream, came and asked his wife "what made her beat the boy so unmercifully?"

"Why truly," said she, "because he is a glutton: the little greedy rogue has this morning eaten up a pot of cream which I had intended to carry to

market." "O fie," said the farmer, "I cannot bear greedy people;" and immediately he called one of his servants, and ordered him to whip Fatal: and all that the poor boy could say to justify himself signified nothing; his mistress insisted that she saw him eat the cream, and her word was believed.

The next day he went again to the fields to tend the sheep, and his mistress followed him, and said, "Well! will you give me one of the sheep now?"

"No indeed," replied Fatal, "I should be very sorry to do any such thing; you may use me as you please, but you shall never induce me to tell an untruth."

So, finding him resolute, this wicked woman, out of revenge, set all the other servants against him: they made him stay out late in the fields, and instead of giving him victuals like the rest, she only sent him bread and water, and, when he came home, laid to his charge all the mischief that was done in the family.

He staid at the farmer's about twelve months; and though he slept on the ground, and was but very indifferently fed, yet he grew so strong and tall, that at thirteen years of age any one would have supposed him to be fifteen; besides, he was become so patient, that he bore every kind of ill usage with the utmost calmness and meekness. One day, while he was at the farm, he heard that the king of a neighbouring country was going to war, and wanted soldiers. Fatal immediately asked his master to let him go; and having got permission, he travelled on foot to this prince's territories, where he enlisted himself under a captain, who, though he was a great nobleman, behaved more like a drayman than a person of quality; he swore, beat his soldiers, and cheated them of their pay; and with this officer Fatal was more miserable than he had been at the farmer's. He had engaged for ten years; and though he saw the greatest number of his comrades desert, yet he would never follow their example;

“For,” said he, “I have received money to serve ten years, and it would be wronging the king to go away before the expiration of my time.” Notwithstanding this captain was a bad man, and used Fatal no better than the rest, yet he could not help esteeming him, because he saw that he always did his duty; and he would send him on his messages, and entrust him with money, and give him the key of his room whenever he dined abroad, or went into the country; and though he did not love reading, he had a large library, to make people believe he was a man of sense and learning; for in that country they despised an ignorant officer, and looked upon such as did not know something of books, as unfit for any military station of importance.

When Fatal had done his duty as a soldier, instead of going to game and drink with his comrades, he would retire to the captain’s room, and there endeavour to become acquainted with the military profession, by reading the lives of celebrated warriors, till at last he became capable of commanding an army.

A considerable time after he had enlisted, his regiment was ordered to the field: and on that occasion his captain took him and six others, and went to reconnoitre a wood. But when they were in the midst of it, the soldiers said to each other, “Let us kill this wicked fellow, who is always beating us, and cheats us of our pay.” Fatal represented the baseness of such an action, and dissuaded them from it; but instead of hearkening to him, they said they would kill him and the captain too, and immediately drew their swords. Fatal placed himself before the captain, and fought with so much bravery that he alone slew four of the soldiers. His captain seeing that he owed his life to Fatal, asked his pardon for all the injury he had done him; and having informed the king of what had happened, Fatal was made a captain, and the king gave him a considerable pension. Now none of the soldiers ever wished to kill Fatal;

for he loved them as if they were his children, and they had the same affection for him as for a father : instead of defrauding them of their pay, he gave them money out of his own pocket, to encourage them when they behaved well ; he was also particularly careful of them when they were sick or wounded, and never found fault with them out of caprice or ill humour. About that time a severe battle was fought, and the commander-in-chief being slain, all the officers and soldiers commenced a hasty retreat ; but Fatal cried out, that he had rather die fighting, than fly meanly like a coward ; and his soldiers told him they would not forsake him ; and their example had so good an effect with the others, that they all came back, ranged themselves round Fatal, and fought with such success, that the son of the king of their enemies was taken prisoner. The other king was greatly rejoiced when he heard he had gained the victory, and rewarded Fatal by appointing him commander-in-chief of all his troops. Afterwards he presented him to the queen, and to the princess his daughter, who gave him their hands to kiss : but at sight of the princess, Fatal was struck motionless like a statue : she was so beautiful, that he fell in love with her to distraction ; and then he was unhappy indeed, for he thought that such a one as he must never entertain a hope of marrying a great princess : he resolved, for that reason, to conceal his affection, and daily underwent the utmost torture. But it was much worse when he was informed that Fortune was also in love with the princess Graciosa (for that was her name), having seen her picture, and that an ambassador had already arrived to demand her in marriage. Fatal was ready to die with grief ; but the princess, who knew that Fortune was a base and wicked character, intreated her father, with such earnestness, not to force her to the match, that the ambassador was told, the princess was not, at present, inclined to change her condition. Fortune, who had never been used to be contradicted, fell into

a most violent passion when they returned with the princess's answer; and his father, who could not deny him any thing, declared war against the father of Graciosa. He, however, was not much concerned about it; "for," said he, "while Fatal is at the head of my army, I am not afraid of being overcome." So, having sent for his general, he told him the affair, and bade him prepare for war. Fatal, hearing this, threw himself at his majesty's feet, and said, "that having been born in the dominions of prince Fortune's father, he could not take up arms against his sovereign." But the king was very angry, and threatened to put him to death if he refused to obey him; and, on the contrary, promised to give him his daughter in marriage if he defeated Fortune. This was a sad temptation to poor Fatal. However, at last he resolved to do his duty; and therefore, without saying any thing to the king, he quitted the court, and forsook all his riches, and splendid expectations.

Fortune, soon after, put himself at the head of the army, and took the field; but before five days were at an end, he fell sick with fatigue, for he was very delicate and tender; and having never been used to any hardships, or to take any exercise, he could not bear the vicissitudes of heat and cold; in short, the least exertion made him ill.

About this time, the ambassador who had been sent to demand Graciosa for Fortune, in order to make his court to the prince, told him, that he saw the little boy that had been turned out of his palace, at the court of Graciosa's father, and that it was generally reported he had promised him his daughter in marriage. Fortune, at this piece of intelligence, fell into a most terrible fit of passion; and as soon as he was recovered he set out, fully resolved to dethrone the father of Graciosa, and promised a great reward to whoever should take Fatal either dead or alive. Fortune gained several victories, though he did not fight himself—for he was afraid of being killed—but

he had several able and experienced commanders. At last he besieged the capital of the enemy, and was preparing to take it by storm, when, on the eve of the intended assault, Fatal was brought before him, loaded with heavy chains. Fortune rejoiced at this opportunity of exercising his revenge, and gave orders for him to be beheaded, before they stormed the town, in sight of the enemy. That very day he gave a grand entertainment to his officers, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of his birth. The garrison, hearing that Fatal was taken, and was to have his head struck off in an hour, resolved to deliver him or perish, for they remembered how kind he had been to them while he was their general: they therefore asked the king's leave to sally out, and proved victorious. Fortune's gift of prosperity was now at an end, and in his flight from the enemy he was killed. The conquerors ran to unbind Fatal; and at the same moment they saw two glittering chariots appear in the air, in one of which was seated the fairy, and in the other Fatal's father and mother, who were both in a profound slumber. They did not awake till just as the chariots touched the ground, and were greatly surprised to find themselves in the midst of an army. The fairy then addressing herself to the queen, and presenting Fatal to her, said, "Madam, in this hero, you see your eldest son: the misfortunes which he has undergone have corrected the defects of his temper, which was naturally violent and unruly; whereas Fortune, who, on the contrary, was born with excellent inclinations, has been utterly ruined by indulgence and flattery; and Heaven would not permit him to live any longer, because he would only have grown more wicked every day he lived. He is just now killed; but to comfort you for his death, know that, impatient of ascending the throne, he was on the point of dethroning his father." The king and queen were greatly astonished, and embraced Fatal very affectionately, having heard great commendations of him. Princess Graciosa and

her father were also delighted with the discovery of prince Fatal's rank. He married Graciosa, and they lived together to a good old age, completely happy in themselves, and a pattern of virtuous excellence to all around them.

JACK AND THE BEAN-STALK.

IN the days of the celebrated king Alfred, there lived a poor woman, whose cottage was situate in a remote country village, a great many miles from the metropolis.

She had been a widow some years, and had an only child, named Jack, whom she treated with such fond indulgence, that he soon became inattentive to every thing she said ; and, though his disposition was not naturally bad, he gave himself up to habits of idleness and extravagance, till his mother was reduced to the brink of complete penury, and by degrees she disposed of all she possessed ; nothing, in fact, remained but a cow.

One day the poor woman met Jack with tears in her eyes ; and, for the first time in her life, she could not help reproaching him. "Alas ! my son," she exclaimed, "you have at last brought me to ruin ; I have not money enough to purchase food for another week—nothing therefore remains for me but to sell my cow. I am very sorry to part with her ; it grieves me to the heart ; but we must not starve."

For a few minutes Jack felt a degree of remorse, but this soon subsided, and he begged 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 it. The butcher held some curious beans in his hat ; which being of various colours, 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. He accordingly asked what was the price of the cow, offering at the same time all the beans in his hat in exchange for her. The silly boy could not express his pleasure at what he supposed so great an offer; the bargain was instantly concluded; the cow was driven forward by her new master, and Jack made the best of his way home, calling aloud to his mother before he reached the house, thinking to surprise her with his extraordinary good fortune.

When she saw the beans, and heard Jack's account, her patience quite forsook her; she dashed the beans out of his hat, in which he had proudly exhibited them; and, being in an agony of despair at the loss of her cow, and the gloominess of her prospects, she retired to bed without tasting a morsel of supper.

Several of the beans had been scattered about the little garden belonging to the widow's cottage; and when Jack awoke in the morning, he saw something uncommon from the window of his bed-chamber. He therefore hastened 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 entwined in such a manner as to form a sort of rope-ladder.

Looking upwards, he could not discern the top, it appeared to be lost in the clouds; he then tried to step upon it, and 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 willing with himself. She declared, however, that his absence would break her heart, and intreated him to desist; but all in vain. Jack began to ascend, and after climbing several hours, he reached the top of the bean-stalk, completely exhausted with fatigue. Looking around, he found himself in a strange country, which seemed to be a barren desert, without either trees, shrubs, houses, or inhabitants; here and there were scat-

tered fragments of unhewn stone, and, at unequal distances, small heaps of earth were loosely thrown together. Jack seated himself pensively upon a block of stone, thought of his mother, and reflected with sorrow on his disobedience in climbing the bean-stalk against her inclination; concluding that he must now inevitably perish with hunger.

Whilst he was musing on his unfortunate situation, an old woman appeared at a distance, and as she approached he discovered that her face was covered with wrinkles, and her clothes were extremely mean. Walking up to our young adventurer she enquired how he came there; and on hearing his account of the bean-stalk, she asked if he recollected his father? He replied he did not; and added there must be some mystery relating to him, for he had frequently asked his mother who his father was, but she always burst into tears, and appeared greatly agitated, nor did she recover herself for some hours 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 was compelled to conceal.

The old woman replied, "I will inform you of the particulars, though 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, you shall suffer the worst effects of my displeasure." Jack was frightened at the old woman's menace, and promised to fulfil her injunctions exactly; and the fairy thus addressed him:—

"Your father was a rich man; his disposition was remarkably benevolent; and he was so good to the poor, that 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,

for persons who had been reduced in their circumstances. He always presided himself, and did all in his power to render his guests comfortable. The servants, as you may suppose, 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; and as he had become poor through his own extravagance and folly, he resolved to enrich himself at any rate.

“Hearing your father spoken of, he determined to become acquainted with him, hoping to ingratiate himself into his favour. He accordingly removed into your neighbourhood, and caused it to be reported that he was a gentleman who had recently lost all he possessed by an earthquake, and found it difficult to escape with his life. Your father readily believed his story, gave him handsome apartments in his own house, and caused both him and his wife to be treated like visitors of consequence, little supposing that the giant was meditating a horrid return for all his favours. Things went on in this way for 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 library, and

expressed a wish to amuse himself by reading. Your father recommended a favourite book, and was handing it down, when the barbarous wretch stabbed him to the heart, and laid him lifeless at his feet. He then sought out the porter and nurse, and presently despatched 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 had passed, but on going into the library, how was she shocked, on discovering your father a corpse and weltering in his blood! She was so completely stupified with horror and grief that she remained motionless. The giant, who was seeking her, found her in that state, and prepared to serve her and you as he had done her husband; but she fell at his feet, and besought him so pathetically to spare your life and her's, that the cruel giant for a short time was struck with remorse, and granted her request; but first he made her swear solemnly, 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 then took you in her arms, and fled as quick as possible; and though the giant was afterwards inclined to pursue and murder her, he found he had no time to spare, 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, therefore, soon loaded himself and his wife, set the house on fire in several places, and when the servants returned, the edifice was entirely burnt down to the ground.

“Your poor mother, distracted, forlorn, and abandoned, wandered with you a great many miles from this scene of desolation; till at last she settled in the cottage where you were brought up, and it was entirely owing to her fear of the giant that she never mentioned your father to you.

“I became your father's guardian at the time of

his birth; but fairies have certain laws to which they are subject as well as mortals. A short time before the giant went to your father's, I transgressed one of our rules, and was punished with a total suspension of power for a limited time. This unfortunate circumstance effectually precluded me from succouring your father. The day on which you met the butcher, however, as you went to sell your mother's cow, my power was restored; and it was I who secretly prompted you to take the beans in exchange for the cow. By my power the bean-stalk grew to so great a height and formed a ladder; and, by inspiring you with an earnest desire to ascend that ladder, I have introduced you to this country where the murderer of your parent resides, and where you will have an opportunity of punishing him for his horrid 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 your's, though now you are unjustly deprived of it. Now proceed along the road which lies before you, till you see the house where your cruel enemy lives. And remember the severe punishment that awaits you if you disobey my commands."

The fairy now took leave of Jack, who continued to walk forward till after sun-set, when he discovered a large mansion. A plain-looking woman was standing at the door, whom he respectfully accosted, begging she would give him a morsel of bread and a night's lodging. She expressed great 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, who would never eat any thing

but human flesh, if he could possibly get it; and he did not regard the fatigue of walking fifty miles to procure it.

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, and conceal him in the oven. The good woman at last suffered herself to be persuaded, for she was of a humane disposition. She gave him something to eat and drink, and then took him through the house.

First they entered a large hall, magnificently furnished; they then passed through several spacious rooms, all in the same style of grandeur, though they appeared to be forsaken and desolate. Next appeared a long gallery, which was but 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, 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 this he feared could never be; for he gave himself up for lost, and now doubted the truth of what he had heard from the old 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 house-door. The giant's wife ran to secure Jack in the oven, and then made what haste she could to let her husband in; and Jack heard him exclaim, in a voice like thunder, "Wife, I smell fresh meat." "O! 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 trembled from head to foot, 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 sufficient courage to look at the giant through the crevice; he was astonished to see how much he devoured, and thought he would never 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 with the hen, while his wife went to bed. At length he fell fast asleep by the fire-side, and snored like the roaring of distant cannon. At daybreak, Jack finding the giant not likely to be soon 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 much quicker than he expected. He found his mother crying bitterly, and lamenting his fate, for she concluded he had come to some shocking end through his rashness; but she was in transports of joy to see him return in safety.

Jack was impatient to shew his hen, and inform his mother how valuable it was. He therefore produced it, and said, "Now, mother, I have brought home that which will soon make you rich without any trouble. I hope I have made you some amends for the affliction I have formerly caused you through my indolence, extravagance, and folly."—The hen produced as many eggs as they desired; they sold them, and in a little time became very comfortable. For some months Jack

remained with his mother without once recollecting the Fairy's injunctions; but when they recurred to his mind, he became desirous of again climbing the bean-stalk, and paying the giant another visit, in order to carry off some more of his treasures; for during the time that 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 he could not determine how to name it to his mother, fearing that she would be resolved to prevent his going: and in this conjecture he was perfectly right; for when he told her one day 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 nothing 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 then procured a dress very different from that in which he took his first journey, and having discoloured his face and hands with a certain juice, so that he could not be easily recognised, he rose very early in the morning, and, unperceived by any one, ascended the bean-stalk. He was 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; and on his arrival, in the evening, he found the woman standing at the door, as at the time of his previous visit. Jack accosted her in a feigned voice, relating a most piteous tale, and earnestly soliciting some victuals and drink, and a night's lodging. She told him what he knew before, concerning her husband, and also that she had one night admitted a poor 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 as having been the occasion of his loss. Jack knew that he was attending to the account of a story in which he was the principal actor; and though he exerted all his eloquence to persuade the good woman to admit him, he found it no easy matter to succeed.

At last, however, she consented, and as she led him along, Jack observed that every thing was just as he had seen it before: she took him into the kitchen, and concealed 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 then seated himself by the fire, saying, "I smell fresh meat;" but his wife replied, it was merely a piece of flesh which the crows had brought and deposited upon the leads at the top of the house.

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

At length supper was served up; and when the giant had eaten till he had completely satisfied his voracious appetite, he said to his wife, "I must have something to amuse me, either my bags of money or my harp." For some time he knew not which to choose; but, at last, after a great deal of ill humour, 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. When they were placed before the giant, he reprimanded his wife 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 ; but she luckily stepped aside, and soon after went to bed, leaving him to amuse himself by counting over his treasures.

First, the bag containing the silver was emptied, and the contents placed upon the table. Jack viewed the glittering heaps with delight, and heartily wished the contents were in his own possession. The giant (little supposing that any person was watching him) reckoned the silver over and over again, then put it all carefully into the bag, and made it very secure. The other bag was opened next, and the guineas placed upon the table. If Jack were pleased at beholding the silver, he was much more delighted when he saw such a heap of gold ; he had the boldness even to think of seizing it ; but soon recollecting himself, he feared the giant might 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 then fell asleep and snored so loud, that Jack could compare his noise to nothing but the roaring of the sea in a high wind, when the tide is coming in. At last, concluding him to be really asleep, Jack crept out of his hiding-place, and approached the giant, in order to carry off his money ; but, just as he laid his hand upon one of the bags, a little dog which he had not perceived before, started out from under the giant's chair, and barked at Jack most furiously. Our little adventurer now gave himself up for lost, and was so completely stupified by fear, that, instead of running back to his hiding-place, he remained motionless, though expecting his enemy to awake every minute. Contrary to expectation, however, the giant continued in a sound sleep, and the dog grew weary of barking : Jack then looked round, and seeing a large piece of meat, he threw it to the dog, who took it into the lumber-closet which Jack had just left.

Finding himself thus delivered from a noisy and troublesome enemy, and perceiving that the giant did not awake, Jack seized both the bags, and carried them through the apartments till he reached the street-door, which was fortunately unlocked, and it also proved to be moon-light. In his way to the top of the bean-stalk, therefore, the only difficulty he had to encounter, arose from the weight of the bags, for they were so heavy that 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. At last, 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 to find her apparently dying, and could scarcely bear his own reflections, as knowing his absence to have occasioned her illness. 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; and they lived together in perfect felicity for about three years; during which time the bean-stalk was never mentioned either by Jack or his mother; though it frequently occupied the thoughts of both. At length, notwithstanding all the comforts which our hero enjoyed, he found it impossible to conquer the inclination which he felt for another excursion. His mind now dwelt incessantly upon the bean-stalk; he could not think of any thing else; and it was in vain that he endeavoured 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 desire he felt for another journey ; however, finding the inclination grow too powerful for him, he began to make secret preparations for setting out on a third expedition, and, on the longest day, arose as soon as it was light, ascended the bean-stalk, and reached the top with some trouble. 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 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 the remonstrances of his wife, he searched all around the room. Whilst this was going on, Jack was exceedingly terrified, and wished himself at home a thousand times ; but when the giant approached the copper, and put his hand upon the lid, Jack thought his destruction was inevitable. The giant, however, discontinued his search, without moving the lid of the copper, and seated himself quietly by the fire-side, whilst poor Jack remained in such terror, that he was afraid of moving, or even breathing, lest he should be discovered.

The giant at last sat down to supper ; and when he had finished, he ordered his wife to fetch down his harp. Jack peeped under the copper-lid, and soon saw the most beautiful harp that could be imagined, placed by the side of the giant. He said " Play," and it instantly played of its own accord, without being touched. The music was so uncommonly fine that Jack was completely delighted, and felt more anxious to get the harp into his possession, than either of the former treasures. Though the giant's soul was not attuned to harmony, the music

soon lulled him into a profound sleep. Now therefore was the time to carry off the harp, and the giant appeared to snore much louder than usual. Jack therefore quickly got out of the copper, and seized the instrument to carry it off. The harp, however, was a fairy; and called out loudly, "Master! master! master!" The giant awoke, stood up, and tried to pursue Jack, but he had drunk so much that he could scarcely stand. Poor Jack ran as fast as he could, and in a little time the giant was sufficiently recovered to reel after him. Had he been sober, he must soon have overtaken him, but as he was tipsy, Jack contrived to arrive first at the top of the bean-stalk, the giant calling to him all the way he went. The moment Jack set his foot on the bean-stalk, he called for a hatchet, which was brought directly. He then came down into his mother's garden; and just as his enemy began to descend after him, he cut the bean-stalk asunder with his hatchet, so that the giant instantly fell to the ground and was killed by the fall.

Jack's mother was delighted when she saw the bean-stalk destroyed; and her pleasure was abundantly increased when she was made acquainted with the reasons which had induced her son repeatedly to absent himself from the cottage. Our hero also begged pardon for all his former indolence and extravagance, and assured his dear parent, that his future life should be uniformly marked by affection and dutiful obedience. This promise was fully realized by his subsequent behaviour, and Jack and his mother lived together many years in the enjoyment of every comfort.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.

THERE was once a certain merchant who had six children, three boys and three girls; and, as he was extremely rich, and blessed with an excellent under-

standing, he spared no expense for their education, but provided them with all sorts of masters, and adopted the wisest plans for their improvement. The three daughters were all pretty ; but the youngest was so extremely handsome, that every one, during her childhood, called her *The Beauty* ; and, as the charms of her person increased with her years, she retained the same appellation when she was grown up ; which made her sisters extremely jealous.

External beauty, however, was not the only advantage which the youngest daughter possessed over her sisters, for she was of a better temper : the two eldest girls were extremely proud of being rich, and spoke to their inferiors with the greatest haughtiness : they gave themselves the most disdainful airs, and refused to visit the daughters of other merchants ; nor would they indeed be seen with any but persons of the highest quality. They went every day to balls, plays, and public walks, and constantly jeered their youngest sister for devoting so much time to needle-work, reading, and other useful employments.

As it was understood that each of these young ladies would come into the possession of large fortunes, several wealthy merchants demanded them in marriage ; but the two eldest always replied, that they had no intention of marrying any one below a duke, or an earl at least. As for *Beauty*, who had quite as many offers as her sisters, she always answered with the greatest civility, that she felt much honoured by the attentions of her suitors, but preferred living for some years longer with her father, as she considered herself too young to marry.

After some time, the merchant received the afflicting intelligence that several vessels in which he was deeply interested had been wrecked at sea ; and a second communication informed him of the failure of his banker ; so that he found himself suddenly stripped of all his fortune, and had nothing left but a small cottage in the country. He therefore said

to his daughters, while the tears ran down his cheeks, "My dear children, we must now go and live in the cottage, and try to get a subsistence by labour, for we have no other means of support left!" The two eldest replied, that for their part, they knew not how to work, and would not leave town; for they had lovers enough who would be glad to marry them, though they had no longer any fortune. In this, however, they were sadly mistaken; for the suitors hearing what had happened, said, they were so haughty and ill-humoured, that they were rightly served, and every one would be glad to see their pride humbled. On the other hand, every one pitied Beauty, because she was so sweet-tempered and kind to every one; and several gentlemen offered to marry her, though she had not a penny; but Beauty still refused, saying, she could never think of quitting her poor father in his misfortunes, but would go with him and assist his labours in the country.

Beauty at first could not help sometimes weeping in secret for the poverty she was now obliged to endure; but in a very short time she said to herself, "All the crying in the world will do me no good, so I will even try to reconcile myself to my circumstances."

When they had removed to their cottage, the merchant and his three sons employed themselves in tilling and sowing the fields, and working in the garden, that they might have both corn and vegetables for their support. Beauty on her part rose by five o'clock, lighted the fires, cleaned the house, and got the breakfast for the whole family. She at first found all this very fatiguing; but she soon became used to it, and the exercise greatly improved her health. When she had done her work, she generally amused herself with reading, playing on her piano-forte, or singing as she sat at her spinning-wheel. The two eldest sisters, on the contrary, were at a loss how to pass the time; they breakfasted in bed, and did not rise till ten o'clock, when they

commonly walked out, but, finding themselves soon fatigued, they would frequently sit down under a shady tree, and lament the loss of their carriage and fine clothes, and say to each other, "What a mean-spirited, stupid creature is our youngest sister, to be so contented in our miserable situation!" But their father thought very differently; and admired the patience of this sweet young creature.

The family had lived in this manner about a year, when the merchant received a letter, which informed him that one of his richest vessels had escaped when the others were lost, and had just arrived in port. This intelligence made the two sisters almost frantic with joy; for, said they, "we shall now leave this dismal retirement, and return to our former splendour." When they found that this news made it necessary for their father to take a journey to the ship, the two eldest daughters earnestly begged that he would not fail to bring them on his return some new gowns, caps, and jewellery. But Beauty asked for nothing; for she thought in herself that the whole cargo of the ship would scarcely purchase all the articles which her sisters wished for.

After a short pause, the merchant said to his youngest daughter, "How is it, Beauty, that you ask for nothing? what can I bring you, my child?"

"Since you are so kind as to think of me, dear father," answered she, "I should be obliged to you to bring me a *rose*, for we have none in our garden." Now this amiable girl had no particular wish for a rose, but she was unwilling to condemn, by her example, the conduct of her sisters, who would have said she refused only to be praised. The merchant took his leave of them, and set out on his journey: but, on arriving at the port, some dishonest persons went to law with him about the merchandize; so, after a great deal of trouble, he was returning to his cottage as poor as he had left it. When within thirty miles of his home, and thinking of the happiness he should enjoy in again embracing his children,

his road lay through a thick forest, and he had the misfortune to lose himself. The evening proved very tempestuous; it rained terribly, and the wind was so high as almost to throw him off his horse, and when it grew dark, he fully expected he should die of cold or hunger, or be torn to pieces by the wolves which howled in every direction around him. At length, however, happening to look down a long avenue, he discovered a light; and on pursuing his way towards it, he soon found that it proceeded from a splendid palace. He quickened his pace, and soon arrived at the gates which he opened, and was greatly surprised to find no person in any of the outer yards. His horse, which followed him, finding a stable with the door open, entered without ceremony; and the poor creature, being nearly starved, helped himself to a plentiful meal of oats and hay. His master then tied him up, and walked towards the house, which he entered, without seeing a living creature: he pursued his way to a large hall, in which was a good fire, and a table plentifully provided with the most delicate dishes, on which was laid a single cover.

As the rain had wetted him to the skin, he approached the fire to dry his clothes: "I hope," said he, "the master of the house, or his servants, will excuse the liberty I take, for it surely will not be long before they make their appearance." He waited a considerable time, and still nobody came: at length the clock struck eleven; and the merchant, overcome with hunger and thirst, helped himself to a chicken, and then to a few glasses of wine: all the time trembling with fear. He sat till the clock struck twelve, and not a creature had he seen. He now took courage, and began to think of looking a little farther about him: accordingly, he opened a door at the extremity of the hall, and entered an apartment magnificently furnished, which he found opened into another, in which there was an excellent bed; and finding himself completely exhausted with fatigue, he resolved to shut the door, undress, and retire to rest.

The clock had struck ten, the next morning, before he thought of rising; when he was greatly astonished to find that his own clothes had been taken away, and replaced by a new and elegant suit. "No doubt," said he to himself, "this palace belongs to some good fairy, who has taken pity on my unfortunate situation." He looked out of the window; and saw the most delightful arbours embowered with all kinds of flowers. He returned to the hall where he had supped, and found a breakfast-table, with some chocolate ready prepared. "Truly, my good fairy," said the merchant, "I am extremely indebted to your kindness;" and having made a hearty breakfast, he took his hat, and was going toward the stable, when, in passing under an arbour which was almost covered with roses, he suddenly recollected Beauty's request, and gathered a bunch of them to carry home.

At this instant he heard a most horrible noise, and saw such a hideous Beast approaching him, that he was ready to sink with fear.

"Ungrateful man!" said the Beast in a terrible voice: "I have saved your life by receiving you in my palace, and in return you steal my roses, which I value more than all my other possessions. But your life must atone for this offence!" The merchant fell on his knees to the Beast, and, clasping his hands, said, "My lord, I humbly intreat your pardon: I did not think it could offend you to gather a rose for one of my daughters, who desired to have one."

"I am no lord, but a Beast," replied the monster; "I am not fond of compliments, but wish that people should say what they think: so do not imagine you can move me by your flattery. You say, however, that you have daughters; I will therefore pardon you, on condition that one of them shall come hither and die in your place: do not attempt to argue with me, but go; and if your daughters should refuse, swear to me that you will return in three months."

The tender-hearted merchant had no intention to let one of his daughters die in his stead ; but he thought to himself, that, by seeming to accept the Beast's condition, he should at least have the satisfaction of once more embracing them. He accordingly took an oath as directed ; and the Beast told him he might then set off as soon as he pleased : " but," added he, " I will not permit you to go empty-handed. Return," continued he, " to the chamber in which you slept, where you will find an empty chest : fill it with whatever you like best, and it shall be conveyed to your house." The Beast having said this, went away ; and the good merchant consoled himself with the thought, that if he must die, he should be enabled to leave some provision for his beloved children.

He returned to the chamber in which he had slept ; and having found an immense quantity of guineas, he filled the chest with them to the very brim, locked it, and, mounting, his horse, left the palace with a heavy heart. He knew nothing about the road ; but his horse took a path directly, and in a few hours reached the merchant's house. His children gathered round him as he dismounted ; but the merchant, instead of embracing them with joy, could not look at them without bursting into tears. He held in his hand the bunch of roses, which he gave to Beauty, saying, " Take these roses, Beauty ; but little do you think how dear they have cost your unhappy father." He then gave an account of all that had happened in the palace of the Beast ; and when he had concluded, the two eldest sisters immediately began to reproach Beauty as the cause of her father's death.

" See," said they, " the consequence of the pride of the little wretch : why did she not ask for fine things as we did ? But, forsooth, miss must distinguish herself ; and though her father will perish through her folly, she does not even shed a tear."

" It would be useless," replied Beauty, " to weep

for the death of my father, since he will not die. As the Beast will accept of one of his daughters, I will give myself up to his fury; and most happy do I think myself in being able at once to save his life, and to evince my affection for the best of fathers."

"No, sister," said the three brothers, "you shall not die; we will go in search of this monster, and either he or we will perish."

"Do not hope to kill him," said the merchant; "for his power is too great for this to be possible. I am charmed with the kindness of Beauty, but I will not suffer her life to be exposed. I myself am old, and cannot expect to live much longer: I shall therefore lose but a few years of my life; and these I shall only regret for my children's sake."

"No, my father," cried Beauty, "never shall you go to the palace without me: for you cannot prevent my following you: though young, I am not particularly attached to life, and I had much rather be devoured by the monster than die of the grief which your loss would occasion me."

The merchant in vain endeavoured to reason with Beauty, for she was resolved to go; and her sisters secretly rejoiced at her determination, as they were jealous of her amiable qualities.

The merchant was so afflicted with the thought of losing his child, that he never once thought of the chest filled with gold; but retiring to his chamber at night, to his great surprise, he perceived it standing by his bed-side. He now determined to say nothing to his eldest daughters of the riches he possessed; for he knew they would immediately wish to return to town: but he told Beauty; who informed him, that two gentlemen had been visiting at their cottage during his absence, and had expressed a great affection for her two sisters. She therefore intreated her father to marry them without delay; for she was so sweet-tempered, that she loved them notwithstanding their unkind behaviour.

When the three months were expired, the merchant and Beauty prepared to set out for the palace of the Beast; upon which occasion the two sisters rubbed their eyes with an onion, to make themselves appear as if they cried bitterly: but both the merchant and his sons shed tears in reality: there was only Beauty who did not weep; for she thought this would only increase their affliction.

They reached the palace in a few hours: when the horse, of his own accord, entered the stable, and the merchant with his daughter proceeded to the large hall, where they found a table magnificently provided with every delicacy, and with two covers laid on it. The merchant had but little appetite; but Beauty, the better to conceal her sorrow, placed herself at table, and, having helped her father, began to eat, thinking all the time that the Beast had resolved to fatten her before he ate her up, since he had provided such good cheer.

When they had finished their supper, they heard a great noise; and the good old man began to bid his poor child farewell, for he knew it was the Beast coming to them. Beauty, on seeing his hideous form, could not help being terrified, but she tried as much as possible to conceal her fear. The monster asked her if she had come willingly; and though she trembled from head to foot, she readily answered, "Yes." "You are a good girl," replied he, "and I think myself much obliged to you. Good man," continued he, "you may leave the palace to-morrow morning, and take care to return to it no more. Good night, Beauty." "Good night, Beast," said she; and the monster withdrew.

"Ah! my beloved child," said the merchant, embracing his daughter, "I am half dead already, at the thought of your being sacrificed to this frightful monster; believe me, you had better go back, and let me stay in your place."

"No," answered Beauty firmly, "to this I will never consent, you must go home to-morrow morn-

ing." They now wished each other a good night, and went to bed, thinking it would be impossible for them to close their eyes; but they soon fell into a profound sleep, from which they did not awake till eight o'clock in the morning. On quitting their apartments, Beauty told her father she had dreamed that a lady approached her, who said, "I am much pleased, Beauty, with the generous affection you have shown, in being willing to devote your own life to save that of your father; and it shall not go unrewarded." But though this dream was considered an omen of good, the merchant could not refrain from the bitterest lamentations whilst he took leave of his darling child.

When her father was out of sight, Beauty sat down in the large hall, and gave vent to her own feelings by a flood of tears; but as she had a great deal of courage, she soon resolved not to make her condition still worse by useless sorrow, but to wait with as much tranquillity as she could till the evening; when she supposed the Beast would not fail to come and devour her. She determined on taking a view of the different parts of the palace, with the beauty of which she was much delighted. But what was her surprise at coming to a door on which was written "*Beauty's Apartment!*" She opened it hastily, and was completely dazzled by the splendour of every thing it contained: but what more than all the rest excited her wonder, was a large library filled with books, a grand piano-forte, and a choice selection of music. "The Beast is determined I shall not want amusement," said she. The thought then struck her, that it was not likely such a provision would have been made for her, if she had but a single day to live, and she began to hope all would not end so tragically as she had anticipated. She then opened one of the book-cases, and perceived a book, on which was written, in letters of gold:

“Beauteous lady, dry your tears,
Banish all your groundless fears;
Name your wishes, charming maid,—
Ev’ry wish shall be obeyed.”

“Alas!” said she, with a heavy sigh, “there is nothing I so much desire as to see my poor father, and to know what he is doing.” Scarcely had Beauty uttered these words, when, casting her eyes on a looking-glass that stood near her, she saw her home, and her father riding up to the cottage in the deepest affliction. Her sisters had come out to meet him, who, notwithstanding all their endeavours to look sorry, could not help betraying their joy. In a short time all this disappeared; but Beauty began to think that the Beast was very kind to her; and that she had nothing to fear from him.

About noon she found a table prepared for her, and a delightful concert of music played all the time she was eating her dinner, though she could not discover a single performer. At supper, when she was going to seat herself at table, she heard the noise of the Beast, and could not help trembling with terror.

“Will you allow me, Beauty,” said he, “the pleasure of seeing you sup?”

“That is as you please,” answered she, dreadfully frightened.

“Not in the least,” said he, “you alone command in this place. If my company will be disagreeable, you have only to say so, and I will immediately leave you. But tell me, Beauty, do you not think me extremely ugly?” “I certainly do,” she replied: “for I am incapable of uttering a falsehood; but then I think you are very good.” “You are right,” rejoined the Beast; “and, besides my ugliness, I am also extremely ignorant; I know well enough that I am but a Beast.”

“You cannot, I should think, be ignorant,” said Beauty, “if you yourself perceive this.”

"Pray do not let me interrupt your eating," said he: "and be sure you do not want for any thing, for all you see is your's, and I shall be extremely grieved if you are not happy."

"You are very kind," replied Beauty: "I must needs confess that I think very highly of your disposition; and then I almost forget your ugliness."

"Yes, yes, I trust I am good-tempered," said he, "but still I am a monster."

"There are many men who are greater monsters than you," replied Beauty; "and I am better pleased with you in that form, ugly as it is, than with those who, under the form of a man, conceal the most wicked hearts."

"If I had any understanding," resumed the Beast, "I would thank you for what you have said; but I am too stupid to say any thing that could afford you pleasure."

Beauty supped with an excellent appetite, and had nearly got the better of her dread of the monster; but she was ready to sink with horror, when he said to her: "Beauty, will you be my wife?" She remained for a few moments without answering; for she was afraid of rousing his anger by refusing. At length she answered, "No, Beast."

The Beast made no reply, but sighed deeply, and made so loud a hissing, that the whole palace echoed with the sounds; but Beauty was soon relieved of her alarm, for the Beast said, in a melancholy tone, "Adieu, Beauty!" and left her, turning his head two or three times as he went away, to look at her once more. Beauty, finding herself alone, began to feel the greatest compassion for the poor Beast. "Alas!" said she, "what a pity it is he should be so frightful, since he is so good-tempered!"

Beauty lived three months in this palace, very contentedly: the Beast visited her every evening, and entered into conversation with her while she supped; and though what he said was not very clever, yet perceiving in him every day new virtues,

instead of dreading the time of his coming, she was continually looking at her watch, to see if it were almost nine o'clock ; at which time he punctually visited her. There was but one thing that made her uneasy ; which was, that the Beast, before he retired, constantly asked her if she would become his wife, and appeared extremely sorrowful at her refusal.—One day she said to him, “ You distress me exceedingly, in obliging me to refuse you so often : I wish I could prevail on myself to marry you, but I am too sincere to flatter you that this will ever happen : I shall always be your friend, however, and I hope you will be satisfied with my friendship.” “ Alas !” said the Beast, “ I know well enough how very horrible I am ; but I love you exceedingly : however, I think myself very fortunate in your being pleased to stay with me : promise me, Beauty, that you will never leave me.” Beauty was quite confused when he said this, for she had seen in her glass that her father had fallen sick of grief for her absence, and pined to see her. “ I would willingly promise you,” said she, “ never to leave you entirely ; but I have such a longing desire to see my father, that if you refuse me this pleasure I shall die of grief.”

“ I would rather die myself, Beauty,” replied he, “ than cause you any affliction. I will send you to your father’s cottage ; you shall stay there, and your poor Beast will die with grief.”

“ No,” said Beauty, weeping, “ I esteem you too highly to be the cause of your death : I promise to return in a week ; you have shown me that my sisters are married, and my brothers are gone to the army ; my father is therefore all alone. Allow me to pass one week with him.”

“ You shall find yourself with him to-morrow morning,” answered the Beast ; “ but remember your promise. When you wish to return you have only to put your ring on a table when you go to bed. Adieu, Beauty !”

The Beast, as usual, sighed piteously as he pro-

nounced those words ; and Beauty went to bed deeply affected to see him so distressed. When she awoke in the morning, she found herself in her father's cottage ; and ringing a bell that was at her bed-side, a servant entered, and on seeing her, gave a loud shriek ; upon which the merchant ran up stairs, and, on beholding his daughter, was completely overcome with joy. They embraced again and again : at length, Beauty began to recollect that she had no clothes to put on ; but the servant told her she had just found in the next room a large chest filled with beautiful dresses, trimmed with the most costly lace, and ornamented with pearls and diamonds.

Beauty thanked the kind Beast for his attention, and dressed herself in the plainest of the gowns, telling the servant to put away the others very carefully, for she intended to present them to her sisters ; but scarcely had she pronounced these words, when the chest disappeared. Her father then observed, that no doubt the Beast intended she should keep the whole for herself ; and immediately the chest returned to the same place. While Beauty was dressing herself, the news of her arrival was carried to her sisters, who lost no time in coming with their husbands to pay her a visit. They both lived very unhappily with the gentlemen they had married. The husband of the eldest was extremely handsome ; but so vain of his own person, that he thought of nothing else from morning till night, and wholly disregarded the company of his wife. The second had married a man of excellent understanding ; but he made no other use of it than to torment and affront all his acquaintance, and his wife more than any one. The two sisters were ready to die with envy when they saw their younger sister dressed like a princess, and look so very beautiful ; not all the kindness she showed them produced the least effect ; their jealousy was but increased, when she told them how happily she lived at the palace of the

Beast. The envious creatures went secretly into the garden, where they cried with spite, to think of her good fortune.

"Why should the little minx be better off than us?" said they. "We are surely handsomer than she is."

"Sister," said the eldest, "a thought has just come into my head; let us try to keep her here beyond the week allowed her by the Beast; he will then be so enraged he will probably eat her up in a moment."

"A good thought," replied her sister; "but to accomplish this, we must appear extremely kind to her."

Having determined on this, they rejoined her in the cottage, and behaved with so much apparent affection, that Beauty could not help crying for joy.

At the expiration of the week, the artful sisters began to tear their hair, and counterfeited so much affliction at the thought of her leaving them, that she consented to stay another week; though during that time she could not help reproaching herself for the unhappiness she knew she must occasion the poor Beast, whom she really esteemed, and whose company she greatly desired. The tenth night of her being at the cottage, she dreamed she was in the garden of the palace, and that the Beast lay expiring on a grass-plot, and in a dying voice reproached her with ingratitude and cruelty. Beauty awoke in the greatest agitation, and burst into tears. "Am I not very wicked," said she, "to violate my promise with a Beast who has treated me with so much kindness? It is not his fault that he is so ugly and so stupid; and then he is extremely good, which is far better than all external qualifications. Why do I refuse to marry him? I should certainly be happier with him than my sisters are with their husbands; for it is neither the person nor understanding of a husband that makes his wife happy, but

kindness, virtue, and an obliging temper; and all these the Beast possesses in an eminent degree. It is true I do not love him, but I feel for him the sincerest friendship, esteem, and gratitude. I am resolved he shall no longer be unhappy on my account, for I should do nothing but reproach myself during the rest of my life."

She immediately rose, put her ring on the table and got into bed again, and soon fell asleep.

The next morning our heroine rejoiced to find herself once more in the palace of the Beast. She dressed herself with great magnificence, that she might please him the better, and thought she had never passed so long a day. At length the clock struck nine, but no Beast appeared. Beauty then began to think she had really occasioned his death. She ran from room to room all over the palace, calling in the utmost despair upon his name; but still no Beast came. After seeking him for a long time, she recollected her dream, and instantly ran towards the grass plot on which she had seen him; and there she found the poor Beast extended, and to all appearance lifeless. She threw herself upon his body, thinking nothing of his ugliness, and finding his heart still beat, she ran hastily and fetched some water from an adjacent fountain, and threw it on his face. The Beast opened his eyes, and said:

"O, Beauty! you forgot your promise. My grief for the loss of you was so violent, that I resolved to starve myself to death; but I shall now die contented, since I have had the pleasure of seeing you once more."

"No, my dear Beast," replied Beauty, "you shall not die; you shall live to become my husband: from this very moment I promise you my hand, and declare that I will be only your's. Alas! I thought I felt only friendship for you; but I am now convinced that I could not live without you."

Scarcely had Beauty pronounced these words, when the palace was suddenly illuminated; fire-

works of superior brilliancy were seen rising in the air, and several bands of music began to play in the most fascinating manner. All this, however, had no effect on Beauty, who watched over her beloved Beast with the most tender anxiety. But what was her amazement when the monster disappeared and a most beautiful prince threw himself at her feet to thank her with the utmost tenderness for having broken his enchantment! Though this handsome prince was deserving of her whole attention, she could not refrain from asking him what had become of the Beast. "You see him, Beauty, at your feet," answered the prince. "A wicked fairy had condemned me to wear the form of a beast till a beautiful young lady should consent to marry me, and had forbidden me on pain of death to show that I had any understanding. You alone, dearest Beauty, have had the generosity to judge of me by the goodness of my heart; and, in offering you my crown, the recompense falls infinitely short of what I owe you."

Beauty, in the most pleasing surprise, assisted the prince to rise, and they proceeded together to the palace; when her astonishment was increased by finding that her father and all her family had been conveyed thither by the beautiful lady she had seen in her dream.

"Beauty," said the lady, (who was a great fairy,) "receive the reward of the virtuous choice you have made. You have preferred goodness of heart to sense and beauty; you therefore deserve to find these qualities united in the same person. You are now about to occupy a throne, and I hope the dignity to which you will be raised, will not prove injurious to your virtue. As for you, ladies," said the fairy to the eldest sisters, "I have long witnessed the malice of your hearts, and the injustice you have committed. You shall become two statues; but under that form you shall preserve your reason, and shall be fixed at the gates of your sister's palace;

nor will I inflict on you any greater punishment than that of witnessing her happiness. You will never recover the use of your limbs, or the faculty of speech, till you are fully sensible of your faults; and, to say the truth, I sadly fear you will ever remain statues. I have sometimes seen that pride, anger, and idleness, may be conquered; but to amend a malignant and envious temper would be absolutely a miracle."

At the same instant the fairy, with a stroke of her wand, transported all who were present to the young prince's dominions, where he was joyfully received by his subjects. Having married Beauty, he caused her to be solemnly crowned, and the virtues of her mind reflected the highest lustre upon her exalted situation.

JACK THE GIANT-KILLER.

AT a certain village, near the Land's-End, in Cornwall, there lived, in the reign of king Arthur, a worthy farmer, who had an only son, named Jack. He was a boy of a bold and enterprising spirit; he delighted in reading or hearing about fairies, conjurers, magicians, and giants; and used to listen with the greatest attention while his father talked of the valiant deeds of the famous knights of king Arthur's round table.

His usual employment was that of tending his father's sheep and cows; and whilst they were feeding around him, Jack would frequently amuse himself with planning battles, sieges, and the means of defeating or surprising an enemy. He had no taste for the common sports of children; but at wrestling scarcely any one could equal him; or, if by chance he met with an adversary whose strength was superior to his own, his skill and address always ensured him the victory; for that

which he was unable to perform by force and strength, he effected by wit and policy.

St. Michael's Mount of Cornwall, which rises out of the sea at some distance from the main land, was, at that time, inhabited by an enormous giant. He was eighteen feet high, and three yards in circumference; his savage countenance also was so furious, that he was the terror of all the neighbouring towns and villages.

This monster resided in a gloomy cavern on the very top of the mountain, and used to wade over to the main land in search of his prey. At his approach the people forsook their habitations; and when he had glutted his appetite with some of their cattle, he would throw half a dozen oxen upon his back, and tie twice as many sheep and hogs round his waist, and return to his gloomy dwelling. The giant had followed this practice during many years, and the coast of Cornwall was greatly impoverished by his ravages, when Jack formed the valiant resolution of destroying the monster, or of perishing in the attempt.

Jack furnished himself with a pick-axe, a spade, a horn, and a dark lantern; and in the beginning of a long winter's evening, he swam to the mount, where he began working with such avidity and perseverance, that, before the morning, he had dug a pit twenty feet deep, and almost as many broad; this he covered on the surface with sticks and straw; and lightly strewing some of the earth over them, gave it the appearance of solid ground. He then put his horn to his mouth, and blew so loud and long, that the giant awoke, and came towards Jack, exclaiming in a voice like thunder—"You impudent rogue, you shall pay dearly for disturbing my repose. I will broil you for my breakfast."

Scarcely had he spoken these words, when, advancing a few steps further, he tumbled headlong into the pit, and his fall shook the very foundations of the mountain.

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

Stung to madness by his accident, and by the taunting language of his enemy, the giant made a violent effort to rise; but Jack gave him such a terrible blow on the crown of the head with his pick-axe, that he fell backward, and expired with a single groan. Jack immediately threw the earth on him as he lay in the pit, and so buried him.

On searching the cavern where this monster had resided, he found much treasure; but he did not stay to secure it, so eager was he to return, and congratulate his countrymen on the destruction of their cruel foe.

When the magistrates of Cornwall received intelligence of this valiant exploit, they sent for Jack, declaring that he should henceforth be called Jack the Giant-Killer, and presented him with a sword and belt, upon which was embroidered in letters of gold:

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

The news of Jack's victory was soon spread over the Western parts of England; and another giant, named Blunderbore, vowed to be revenged on our hero, if it should ever be his fortune to get him into his power.

This giant kept an enchanted castle, situated in the midst of a lonely wood; and about four months after the death of Cormoran, as Jack was travelling towards the principality of Wales, he passed through this wood; and being very weary, he sat down to rest by the side of a pleasant fountain, and soon fell into a profound sleep.

The giant, coming to the fountain for water, found Jack there; and having discovered who he was,

by the lines on his belt, he lifted him up very gently, and laid him upon his shoulder to carry him to his enchanted castle. As he passed through the thicket, the rustling of the leaves awakened Jack; who was seriously alarmed at finding himself in the clutches of Blunderbore; and his terrors were increased ten-fold when he entered the castle, and beheld the pavement completely covered with human skulls and bones.

The giant carried him into a large parlour, where lay the heads, hearts, and quarters of persons recently slain; and he told Jack, with a horrible grin, that men's hearts, eaten with pepper and vinegar, were his favourite food, and also that he expected to make a delicious repast on his heart. He then locked Jack up in that room, while he went to fetch a brother giant who lived in the same wood, to enjoy with him the destruction of our hero.

During the giant's absence, Jack's ears were assailed by the most piteous groans, and dreadful shrieks and cries; and presently he heard a mournful voice repeat these lines:

“Haste, valiant stranger, haste away,
Lest you become the giant's prey.
On his return he 'll bring another
Still more ferocious than his brother—
A savage, who will torture you,
And in your blood his hands embrue;
One moment dare not to delay,
But, valiant stranger! haste away.”

This warning so seriously alarmed poor Jack, that he was ready to run distracted. He flew to the window, and saw the two giants, walking arm in arm, at a considerable distance, and earnestly conversing together. At this moment, however, a thought popped into his head, on perceiving that the window was immediately over the great door of the castle; and he exclaimed aloud, “My death or deliverance is now at hand.”

There happened to be in the room two strong cords, at the end of each of which he made a large noose with a slip knot; and as the giants were standing before the door, he threw the ropes over each of their heads, and then fastening the other end to a beam in the ceiling, he pulled with all his might till he had nearly strangled them. Seeing that they were both black in the face, and incapable of making the least resistance, he drew his sword, and, sliding down the ropes, slew both the giants, and thus delivered himself from their intended cruelty.

He now drew a large bunch of keys from the pocket of Blunberbore, and entered the castle; where, in some of the apartments, he found three ladies tied up by the hair of their heads, and almost starved to death, who told him that their husbands had been murdered by the cruel giants, who had afterwards condemned them to be starved, because they had refused to partake of the flesh of their murdered husbands.

“Ladies,” said Jack, “I have destroyed the monster and his wicked brother; and this castle, and all the wealth that it contains, I give to you, in consideration of the dreadful sufferings you have undergone.” He then politely presented them with the keys of the castle, and proceeded on his journey to Wales.

As Jack had taken nothing belonging to the giants, and was, at this time, rather low in cash, he thought it prudent to travel with the utmost speed. At length, losing his way, he was benighted in a lonely valley between two lofty mountains, where, after wandering for some hours without seeing any human creature, he thought himself very fortunate in finding a large and handsome house.

Passing through the court-yard, he knocked boldly at the gate, when to his amazement and consternation there came forth a monstrous giant with two heads. He accosted Jack, however, with great civility; as all the mischief he did was by private and secret

malice, under the show of friendship and complaisance. Jack told him he was a benighted traveller, who had lost his way, and he was immediately welcomed in by the giant, and conducted into a chamber where there was a very good bed.

Jack undressed himself quickly; but, weary as he was, he could not go to sleep; and presently he heard the giant walking backward and forward in the next apartment, and repeating to himself the following lines:—

“ Though here you lodge with me to-night,
You shall not see the morning light,
This massy club shall crush your head,
And number you among the dead.”

“ Say you so!” thought Jack. “ Are these your tricks upon travellers? But I hope to prove as cunning as you are.”—Then, getting out of bed, he groped about, till at length he found in the chimney a large thick billet of wood, and, laying it in his place, concealed himself in a dark corner of the apartment.

In the middle of the night the giant came with his enormous club, and struck several heavy blows on the bed, in the very place where Jack had cunningly laid the billet, and then returned to his own room, supposing he had broken all our hero’s bones.

Early in the morning Jack put a bold face upon the matter, and walked into the giant’s apartment to thank him for his lodging. The giant started at his approach, and with great difficulty stammered out—“ Dear me! is it you? How did you sleep last night? Did you hear or see any thing in the dead of the night?”

“ Nothing of any consequence,” said Jack carelessly. “ A troublesome rat, I believe, gave me three or four slight blows with his tail and disturbed me a little; but I soon went to sleep again.”

The giant more and more confused, did not answer a word, but went to bring two great bowls of hasty-

pudding for their breakfast. Jack, unwilling to let the giant know that he was not able to eat as much as himself, contrived to button a leathern bag within his coat, into which he slipped the hasty-pudding, while he pretended to put it into his mouth; and when breakfast was done, he said to the giant—"Now I will show you a most extraordinary trick. I can heal all wounds with a touch. I could cut off my head one minute, and the next place it sound again on my shoulders. I will give you an example:"—and seizing the knife, he ripped up the leathern bag, and all the hasty-pudding tumbled out upon the floor.

"Ods splutter hur nails," cried the Welsh giant, who could not bear the idea of being outdone by such a little fellow as Jack; "hur can do that hurself:"—and snatching up the knife, he cut open his stomach, and immediately dropped down dead.

Jack, having thus outwitted this monster, proceeded on his journey; and a few days afterwards he met with the king's only son, who had obtained his father's permission to travel into Wales, to deliver a beautiful lady from the power of a wicked magician, who held her in his enchantments. Finding that the young prince was travelling without attendants, Jack solicited the honour of becoming his servant; and his request was graciously granted.

The prince was a handsome, courteous, and accomplished knight, and so extremely generous that he could not refuse money to any applicant: he therefore continued to give to one and another, till at length, an old woman having begged of him the last shilling he had, he turned to Jack and said—"How are we now to subsist in my intended journey?"

"Leave that to me, sir," answered Jack: "I will provide for my prince."—Night, however, came on, and the prince began to grow uneasy to think where they should lodge. "Sir," said Jack, "make your mind perfectly easy. Two miles further there lives a

giant, who has three heads, and will fight five hundred men in armour, and make them all fly before him."

"Alas!" replied the king's son, "we had better never have been born than encounter such a monster. We shall scarcely suffice to fill one of his hollow teeth."

"My lord," said Jack, "leave me to manage matters with him, and wait here patiently till I return."

The prince promised to remain where he was, and Jack rode forward at full speed. On coming to the gates of the castle, he knocked so loud that he made the neighbouring hills resound with the noise.

The giant roared out in a voice like thunder, "Who is there?"

"No one," said our hero, "but your poor cousin Jack."

"Well," said the giant, "what news with my poor cousin Jack?"

He replied, "Dear Uncle, heavy news."

"Prithee, what heavy news can come to me? I am a giant with three heads; and besides, I can fight five hundred men in armour, and make them fly like chaff before the wind!"

"Alas!" rejoined Jack, "here is the king's son coming with three thousand men in armour to kill you, and to destroy the castle and all your possessions."

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

The proposal was highly gratifying to our adventurer, who having secured the giant in the vault, returned, and fetched the prince to the castle, and they both regaled themselves with the wine and other dainties which were in the house. So that night they rested in very pleasant lodgings, whilst the poor giant lay trembling and shaking with fear in the vault under ground.

Early in the morning, Jack furnished the king's son with a large supply of gold and silver, and went with him three miles forward on his journey, concluding at that distance he would be out of the smell of the giant.

He then returned to let his uncle out of the cavern, who asked Jack what he should give him as a reward for the preservation of his castle. "Why, uncle," said Jack, "I desire nothing but the old coat and cap, together with the old rusty sword and slippers that are hanging at your bed's head." "Then," said the giant, "you shall have them; and pray keep them for my sake, for they are things of incomparable value. The coat will render you invisible; the cap will furnish you with knowledge; the sword will cut asunder whatever you strike; and the shoes will enable you to go to any distance with extraordinary swiftness." Jack returned many thanks for this valuable present, and, quitting the castle, followed the prince.

Jack having overtaken the king's son, they soon arrived at the dwelling of the beautiful lady who was under the power of a wicked magician. She received the prince very courteously, and prepared a magnificent banquet for him; which being ended, she rose, and taking an embroidered handkerchief, wiped her mouth and said, "My lord, you must submit to the custom of my palace: to-morrow morning I command you to tell me on whom I bestow this handkerchief, or lose your head." She then put the handkerchief in her bosom, and retired.

The young prince went to bed very sorrowful; but Jack put on his cap of knowledge, which instructed him, that the lady was obliged by the power of the enchantment to meet the wicked magician every night in the middle of the forest. Jack instantly put on his coat of darkness, and his shoes of swiftness, and was there before her. When the lady came, she presented the handkerchief to the magician. Jack with his sword of sharpness instantly

cut off his head : the enchantment was immediately dissolved, and the lady being restored to her former virtue and goodness, was married to the prince with great pomp and solemnity on the following day, and soon after returned with her royal husband and a numerous company to the court, where they were received with loud and joyful acclamations ; and the valiant hero Jack, for the great and numerous exploits which he had performed for the benefit of his country, was immediately made one of the knights of the round table.

Having been hitherto successful in all his undertakings, Jack resolved not to be idle for the future, but to perform some additional services for the honour of the king and the nation : he therefore intreated his majesty to furnish him with a horse and money, that he might set out in search of new adventures. “ For,” said he to the king, “ there are many giants yet living among the mountains, in the remote parts of Wales, to the unspeakable terror of your majesty’s subjects ; but should it please you, sire, to encourage me in my enterprises, I will speedily rid the kingdom of these monsters in human shape.” When the king heard his proposition, and had duly considered the mischievous practices of these blood-thirsty giants, he furnished him with every necessary for his progress ; after which Jack took leave of the king, the prince, and all the knights of the round table, and departed, taking with him his cap of knowledge, his shoes of swiftness, his sword of sharpness, and his invisible coat, the better to perform the important enterprises which lay before him.

For two days he travelled over high hills and lofty mountains ; and on the third day he entered a large and spacious forest, where he heard the most dreadful shrieks and cries. He pressed on through the trees, and beheld a monstrous giant dragging along a handsome knight and a beautiful lady by the hair

of their heads. Their tears and cries melted the heart of our hero to pity and compassion: he therefore alighted from his horse, and tying him to an oak, put on his invisible coat, under which he carried his sword of sharpness.

When he came up to the giant, he aimed several strokes at him, but could not reach his body, on account of the enormous height of the terrible creature; but he wounded his thighs in several places; and at length, putting both hands to his sword, and aiming with all his might, he cut off both the giant's legs, just below his knees; and the trunk of his body tumbling to the ground, caused the trees to shake, and the earth to tremble with the force of his fall.

Jack then placed his foot upon the giant's neck, exclaiming, "Thou barbarous and savage wretch! I am come to execute upon thee the just reward of all thy crimes," and instantly plunged his sword into the giant's body. The huge monster uttered a hideous groan, and yielded up his life into the hands of the victorious Giant-Killer, whilst the noble knight and his virtuous lady were joyful spectators of his sudden death and their own deliverance.

This amiable couple not only expressed the warmest gratitude to their brave deliverer, but also invited him to their house, that he might refresh himself after this dreadful encounter, and likewise receive a reward for his services; he, however, declined the invitation, and stated his resolution of finding out the den which had been the giant's habitation.

The knight hearing this appeared very sorrowful, and said, "Noble stranger, it is too much to run a second hazard; this monster lived in a den under yonder mountain, with a brother of his, more fierce and cruel than himself; therefore, if you should go thither and perish in the attempt, it would be a heart-breaking thing to both me and my lady; so let me earnestly persuade you to go with us, and desist from any further pursuit."

"No," replied Jack, "you must not attempt to check me; for were there twenty giants instead of one, I would shed the last drop of my blood before one of them should escape my fury. When I have finished this task I will come and pay my respects to you."

He then politely bade them farewell, after writing down their direction, and mounted his horse, leaving the knight and his lady to return home, while he went in pursuit of the deceased giant's brother.

Jack had not proceeded above a mile and a half, before he came in sight of the mouth of the cavern; near to the entrance of which he beheld the other giant sitting on an immense block of stone, with a knotted club lying by his side, waiting for the return of his brother with his barbarous prey. His eyes appeared like flames of fire; his countenance was grim and terrific; his cheeks looked like two flitches of bacon; the bristles of his beard resembled iron wire, and his long locks of hair hung down upon his broad shoulders like curling snakes.

Jack alighted from his horse, and put him into a thicket; then, with his invisible coat, he approached somewhat nearer to behold this figure; and said softly, "O monster! are you there? It will not be long before I shall take you by the beard."

The giant was greatly provoked at this language, and was much surprised that he could see nobody; but on receiving a blow from Jack's sword of sharpness, which cut off his nose, he roared like a peal of thunder. He rolled his glaring eyes round on every side, but could not see whence the blow came that had done him such mischief; however, taking up his club he began to lay about him like one that was frantic with pain and fury.

"Nay," said Jack, "if this be the case, I had better dispatch you at once." So slipping dexterously behind him, and jumping nimbly upon the block of stone as the giant rose from it, he stabbed him in the back; when after a few groans he dropped down dead.

Jack cut off his head, and sent it with that of his brother, whom he had killed in the forest, to king Arthur, by a waggon which he hired for that purpose, together with an account of all his adventures.

Jack, having thus dispatched these two monsters, resolved to enter into the cave in search of the giant's treasure. He passed through many turnings and windings, which led him at length to a spacious apartment, paved with freestone, at the upper end of which was a boiling cauldron, and on the right hand stood a large table on which the giants used to dine.

Our hero then proceeded to an iron grate, where a window was secured with bars of iron, through which he beheld a number of miserable captives, who, seeing Jack at a distance, cried out, "Alas! alas! young man, are you come to be one amongst us in this horrible den?"

"I hope," said Jack, "you will not remain here long; but what is the cause of your captivity?"

"Alas! sir," said one poor old man, "I will tell you; we are persons that have been taken by the giants who live in this cave, and we are kept till they feel inclined for an extraordinary feast; and then the fattest of us is slaughtered, and prepared for their dinner. It is not long since they took three persons for the same purpose. Many a time have they feasted upon murdered men."

"Well," said Jack, "I have given them such a dinner, that it will be long enough before they want another. I see," he added, "that you are surprised at what I say; but you may believe me when I tell you, that I have slain them with my sword; and have sent their monstrous heads in a waggon to the king, as trophies of my glorious victory."

Having said this, Jack unlocked the iron gate, and liberated all the captives, who rejoiced like condemned malefactors at the arrival of a reprieve. Then leading them to the great room, he seated them round the table, and placed before them two

quarters of beef, with bread and wine; upon which they feasted plentifully.

After supper they searched the giants' coffers, the store of which Jack equally divided among the captives, who gratefully thanked him for their happy deliverance. The next morning they departed to their respective habitations, and Jack to the house of the knight whom, together with his lady, he had also delivered from the hands of these monstrous giants.

It was early in the morning that Jack mounted his horse to proceed on his journey; and about noon he arrived at the knight's house, where he was received with all possible demonstrations of joy by the grateful knight and his beautiful lady, who, in honour of Jack's victory, gave a splendid entertainment, which lasted several days, and to which all the neighbouring nobility and gentry were invited.

When the company were assembled, the knight related the noble exploits of Jack, and presented to him, as a token of gratitude, a very costly ring, with a beautiful device, representing the giant dragging the knight and the lady by the hair, with this motto round it:

“Our lives and liberty we owe, renown'd Sir John,
to thee.”

Among the guests were five aged gentlemen, who were fathers to some of those miserable captives who had been liberated by Jack from the dungeon of the giants. As soon as they understood that he was the person who had performed such wonders, the venerable men, with tears of gratitude, pressed round him to return him thanks for the happiness he had procured them and their families.

After this, the glass went merrily round, and every one drank health and long life to the gallant conqueror. But in the midst of the general festivity, whilst the hall resounded with peals of

laughter and joyful acclamations, a herald, pale and almost breathless with haste and terror, rushed into the midst of the company, and told them that Thunderberg, a ferocious giant with two heads, having heard of the death of his relations, had sworn to be revenged on Jack; that he was now within a mile of the house; and that the country people were flying before him, like chaff before the wind.

At these tidings the most courageous of the guests were overwhelmed with terror and confusion; but Jack undauntedly brandished his sword, and said, "Let him come, I have a rod to chastise him also. Pray, gentlemen and ladies, do me the favour to walk into the garden, and you shall soon be spectators of the giant's death and destruction." To this they all readily consented, and expressed the most fervent wishes that he might succeed in his dangerous enterprise.

The knight's mansion was situated on an island encompassed with a moat thirty feet deep, and twenty wide, over which lay a draw-bridge. Jack employed two men to cut the bridge on each side, almost to the middle; and then dressing himself in his invisible coat, he went against the giant with his sword of sharpness. As he came close up to him, though the giant could not see him, yet he was sensible of the approach of an enemy, and exclaimed in a terrible voice,

"The blood of an Englishman surely I smell,
I am not mistaken, I know it too well;
So if he be living, or if he be dead,
His bones and his gristles I'll grind for my bread."

"Say you so, my friend?" said Jack. "You are a terrible miller indeed."

"What!" exclaimed the giant, "are you the villain who killed my relations? Then I will tear your flesh with my teeth, and grind your bones to powder."

"You must catch me first," said Jack; and throw-

ing off his invisible coat, and putting on his shoes of swiftness, he began to run, the giant following with such heavy steps that he caused the earth to tremble.

Jack led him several times round the walls of the house, that the company might have a good view of this terrific monster; and to finish the work, Jack ran over the draw-bridge, the giant pursuing him with his club: but coming to the middle, where the bridge had been cut on each side by Jack's order, with the great weight of his body, and the vast steps he took, it broke, and he tumbled into the moat, and floundered about like a whale in shallow water.

Jack now folded his arms quietly, and said to the giant, "I think you told me you would grind my bones to powder: when will you begin?"

The giant foamed at his horrid mouths with fury, and plunged from side to side of the moat; but he could not get out to be revenged upon his adversary.

Jack at length ordered a cart-rope to be brought to him. This he threw over the giant's two heads, and by the help of a team of horses he dragged him to the edge of the moat, where, in the presence of the knight and his guests, he cut off the monster's heads, and sent them both to the court of king Arthur. He then returned to table with the rest of the company, and the remainder of the day was spent in mirth and conviviality.

After being hospitably entertained by the courteous knight for some time longer, Jack resolved to set out again in search of new conquests. He travelled over many hills and dales, through gloomy forests and pleasant groves, without meeting with any adventure; till arriving at the foot of a remarkably high mountain, he knocked at the door of a small and lonely house, when an old man, with his hair as white as snow, arose and let him in.

"My good father," said Jack, "can you accommodate a benighted traveller who has lost his way?"

"Yes," replied the venerable hermit, "I can, if you will accept of such refreshment as my poor house affords." Jack therefore entered the hermitage, and the old man set before him some brown bread, some dried fruits, and a jug of spring water, for his supper.

When Jack had satisfied his hunger, the hermit said, "I perceive, my son, by your embroidered belt, that you are the celebrated conqueror of giants, and on the top of this mountain is an enchanted castle, maintained by a giant, named Gallimaufry, who, by the assistance of a vile magician, decoys many knights into his castle, where he transforms them into the shape of beasts. Above all, I lament the hard fate of a duke's daughter, whom they seized as she was walking in her father's garden, and brought hither through the air in a chariot drawn by two fiery dragons, and transformed her into the shape of a deer. Several knights have endeavoured to destroy the enchantment and effect her deliverance; yet none have been able to accomplish it, by reason of two fiery griffins, who guard the gates of the castle, and destroy all who approach it. You, my son, being furnished with an invisible coat, may pass by them, and on the gates of the castle you will discover by what means the enchantment may be broken."

Our hero was charmed with this intelligence, and solemnly assured the hermit, that, if he lived till the morning, he would either break the enchantment, and deliver the unhappy captives, or lose his life in the attempt.

Jack awoke about sun-rise, after a refreshing sleep, and putting on his coat of darkness, prepared for the enterprise.

When he had ascended to the top of the mountain, he discovered the two fiery griffins, between which he passed without the least danger, for they could not see him, because he was clothed in his invisible

coat. On the castle-gate he found a brazen trumpet, under which it was written,

“The knight who can this trumpet blow
Shall cause the giant’s overthrow.”

Jack had no sooner read this couplet, than he seized the trumpet, and blew a shrill blast, which made the gates fly open, and the foundations of the castle tremble.

The giant and the magician, knowing that their power was now at an end, stood biting their nails, and trembling with fear. Jack, with his sword of sharpness, soon dispatched the giant; and the magician immediately ascended into the air, and was carried away by a whirlwind.

Thus was the whole enchantment dissolved, and the valiant knights and the beautiful lady, who had been transformed into beasts, returned to their former shapes. The castle, though apparently of great strength, gradually vanished away like smoke, and the head of the giant Gallimaufry was immediately conveyed to the court of king Arthur.

The knights and ladies rested that night at the old man’s hermitage, and on the next day set out for the court; where Jack had the honour of an interview with his majesty, and related to him the particulars of all his victories.

His royal patron was so highly gratified with the services which Jack had rendered to the nation, that he immediately raised him to the rank of a nobleman, and soon afterwards persuaded the duke, whose daughter had been rescued from Gallimaufry’s castle, to give him that amiable and accomplished lady in marriage. The wedding was accordingly solemnized with all imaginable splendour, and our hero and his bride enjoyed the utmost felicity to a good old age.

ALADDIN;

OR, THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

ALADDIN was the only son of Mustapha, an indigent tailor in one of the provinces of China. When he was old enough to learn a trade, his father took him into his own workshop; but Aladdin unfortunately loved play more than work, and neglecting his business, spent the greatest part of his time in the company of rude and idle boys. This conduct hastened the death of his father, who had been for some time in a declining state; and his poor widow was obliged to spin cotton night and day, to procure even the coarsest fare for their support. She did this the more willingly, however, as she was fondly attached to her son, and always promised herself that as he grew older, he would be ashamed of his idleness, and become a worthy and industrious man.

One day as Aladdin was playing as usual amidst a number of idle lads, a stranger passing by stood still to observe him. This stranger was a famous African magician, who, requiring the assistance of some ignorant person, no sooner beheld Aladdin than he perceived, by his manners and appearance, that he was a thoughtless, careless boy, and very fit to be made a tool of. The magician then artfully inquired of some person standing near, the name and character of Aladdin, and their answers confirmed the opinion which he had already formed.

The stranger now pressing in among the crowd of boys, clapped his hand on Aladdin's shoulder, and said; "My good lad, are you not the son of Mustapha, the tailor?"

"Yes, sir," said Aladdin; "but my father has been dead several months."

"Alas!" exclaimed the stranger, "what sad intelligence! I am your father's brother, and have been many years travelling in foreign countries,

and now that I expected to be happy with my brother at home, I am told he is no more!"

Aladdin, who had never heard of any brother of his father, stood like one stupified, till his pretended uncle pulled him out two pieces of gold, and gave them to him, bidding him run home and desire his mother to get a supper ready, as he intended to spend a few hours with her that evening. Aladdin, having pointed out the house, hastened home with the gold and the tidings to his mother, who was no less amazed than himself: she had never heard her husband mention more than one brother, and he was a tailor by trade, and had died previously to Aladdin's birth. She could not, however, doubt the word of a gentleman who had sent her two pieces of gold; and she went joyfully to market, where she bought some excellent provisions, and was preparing them for supper, when the magician knocked at the door. He entered, followed by a porter bringing all kinds of delicious fruits and sweetmeats for the dessert, and plenty of good wine. Having saluted his dear sister-in-law, as he called her, and having spoken most affectionately of his deceased brother, they sat down to supper, after which the magician, looking round the house, said: "My dear sister, it grieves me much to see such an appearance of poverty about you; I hope my nephew Aladdin does his duty by you? it is time that he should be able to supply you with many comforts."

At these words Aladdin hung down his head in evident confusion. He could not utter a syllable in his justification; on the contrary, he felt quite ashamed of himself. His mother also remained silent a few moments, but at length she said, "Indeed, my brother, it almost breaks my heart to be obliged to tell you, that Aladdin, though now fourteen years of age, regards nothing but play; and all my earnings are scarcely sufficient to procure us bread. I almost despair of his amendment,

and in the event of my death, Heaven only knows what would become of him!"

At the close of this sentence, the poor woman burst into a flood of tears, and the magician, turning to Aladdin, said, "This is a sad account, nephew; but it is never too late to mend. You must think of getting your own living, and I will assist you to the utmost of my power. What think you of keeping a shop?" Aladdin was overjoyed at this proposition, for he thought there was very little trouble in keeping a shop; and he told his uncle he had a greater inclination to that business than any other. "Well," said the stranger, "I will keep my promise, and you shall have a shop well-stocked with all sorts of merchandise. To-morrow morning I will take you with me, and clothe you handsomely, and then we will look out for a suitable situation."

Aladdin's mother fell on her knees to thank the magician for his kindness to her son, and after he had taken his leave, the mother and son sat up together the greater part of the night, talking of the generous uncle, the anticipated new clothes, and the profits likely to result from the opening of a shop in a respectable line of business.

The next morning, the magician came for Aladdin at an early hour, and carried him to a warehouse where all sorts of clothes were sold ready made. Aladdin was presently equipped in a neat suit, for which his uncle paid liberally. He then led the boy through the principal streets of the city, pointing out to him the finest shops and many rarities, till they came to the extremity of the town. As it was a fine day the magician proposed they should continue their walk; and they passed through the public gardens, Aladdin becoming more and more delighted every instant with the fine things he saw, and the conversation of his uncle, who at length invited him to sit down by the side of a

beautiful fountain, and regale himself with some cakes and fruit which he had brought with him.

After feasting for some time on these dainties, they rose up, and pursued their walk, crossing innumerable gardens and fine meadows, the magician all the while telling a number of diverting stories, till they arrived at the entrance of a narrow valley, bounded on each side by lofty and barren mountains. "Dear uncle," exclaimed Aladdin, "where are we going now? We have left all the pretty gardens a long way behind us; and this place is very frightful; pray let us go back."

"No, no," said the magician, seizing hold of Aladdin's arm, "no going back at present. I will show you more extraordinary things than any you have seen yet, and what no person ever saw before."

Aladdin followed his uncle still farther into the valley, till they seemed to be surrounded with high and black mountains, and the country behind them was entirely concealed from their view. Suddenly the magician stood still, and in a rough tone of voice, very different from his former mode of speaking, commanded Aladdin to gather together some loose sticks for a fire. Aladdin obeyed trembling, and when he had collected a large heap, the magician set them on fire. Presently the blaze rose high, and the magician threw some powder into the midst of the fire, and pronounced some mystical words, which Aladdin did not understand. Instantly they were surrounded by a thick smoke; the earth shook beneath their feet, the mountain burst asunder, and discovered a broad flat stone with a large brass ring fixed in the middle of it.

Aladdin was now so seriously alarmed, that he attempted to run away, but the magician perceiving his design, gave him such a box on the ear, that he knocked him down. Poor Aladdin got up again, and with tears running down his cheeks, said, "What have I done, uncle, to deserve this cruel treatment?"

The magician immediately softened his voice to a tone of kindness, and said, "I did not intend to strike you so hard, my child; but you should not think of leaving me when I have merely brought you to this place to render you an important service. Know, Aladdin, that under this stone lies a treasure, which will make you richer than the greatest monarch on the earth, and of which I alone can put you in possession." Aladdin immediately dried up his tears, on hearing of the treasure, and promised to do whatever he was desired to perform. "Come, then," said the magician, "take hold of that brass ring, and lift up that stone."

When the stone was pulled up, there appeared a deep hollow cave in the earth, and a narrow flight of steps. "Go, child," said the magician, "go down into that cavern. At the bottom of the steps you will find a door open, which will lead you into a large vaulted place, divided into three great halls, full of silver and gold coin. Pass through them quickly, for if you touch any thing they contain, you will be punished with instant death. At the end of the third hall, you will see a fine garden; cross the garden by a path that will bring you upon a terrace, where you will see a lighted lamp, standing in a niche. Take the lamp down, and put out the light, and when you have thrown away the wick and poured out the oil, put the lamp into your bosom, and bring it to me. If you wish for any of the fruit of the garden, you may gather as much as you please." Having said this, the magician put a ring on Aladdin's fore-finger, and told him it would be a preservative against all evil, if he faithfully obeyed his directions. "Go down boldly, my son," he added, "and we shall both be rich and happy for the residue of our lives."

Aladdin immediately entered the cave, went down the steps, and found the three halls just as the magician had described them. He went through

them without touching any thing; crossed the garden without stopping, took down the lamp from the niche, threw out the wick and the liquor, and, as the magician had directed, put the lamp into his bosom. As he came down from the terrace he was greatly surprised to observe that the branches of the trees were loaded, as he thought, with beautiful pieces of glass of all colours, that dazzled his eyes with their lustre; and though he would rather have found peaches, figs, and grapes, yet these pieces of glass were so extremely pretty, that he could not help filling his pockets with them. He likewise wrapped as many as he could in the skirts of his coat, and thus loaded, he hastened to return to the magician, who was expecting him at the mouth of the cave with extreme impatience.

"Pray, uncle," said Aladdin, when he came to the top of the stairs, "give me your hand to assist me in getting out."

"Yes, yes, but give me the lamp first," said the magician.

"I cannot, uncle, till I am out of this place," replied Aladdin.

"Wretch!" roared the magician in a fury, "deliver it this instant."

"No, I will not," said Aladdin, "till you have helped me out of the cave."

The magician's eyes flashed fire. "Villain," said he, "you shall repent your obstinacy!" But, on his stretching out his arm to strike Aladdin, some powder which he still held in his hand, dropped into the fire; the rock shook with thunder, the great stone moved again into its place, and Aladdin remained buried alive in this cavern of treasure. In vain he wept and wrung his hands; his cries could not be heard; the doors of the halls were closed by the same enchantment that had closed the rock, and he was left to perish in total darkness.

In this deplorable state Aladdin remained for two days, without tasting food, and on the third day

looked upon death as inevitable. Claspings his hands with agony, to think of his own destruction and his mother's unavailing sorrow, he happened to press the ring which the magician had put on his finger. An enormous genie immediately stood before him, surrounded by a flood of light, and said, "What dost thou wish me to do? I am ready to obey thy commands—I, and the other slaves of that ring."

Aladdin trembled like a leaf at the sight of this being; but he summoned up courage enough to say, "Deliver me, I beseech thee, from this place, if thou art able." He had no sooner spoken than the earth opened, and he found himself on the very spot where he had been brought by the magician. He remembered the way he had come, and made all the haste he could to get back to the city; but when he reached his mother's door, joy to find himself at home again, and the fatigue he had undergone, so completely overcame his strength, that he fainted at the threshold.

When Aladdin had recovered, and had been embraced a hundred times by his fond mother, he related all the circumstances that had befallen him. "Ah! my son," she cried, "I see clearly now, that man was no brother of thy father's. He was some wicked enchanter, who wished to render thee useful to him in some bad purpose or other. Let it be a warning to thee, Aladdin, to work for thy own subsistence, and then thou wilt not want the assistance of pretended uncles, or deceitful strangers."

Aladdin having assured his parent that he would attend to her good advice, intreated her to bring him some food, as he was almost starved. Alas! the poor old woman had neither food nor money in the house, for while her son had been absent she had neglected her spinning to run up and down the city in search of him.

"Well, mother," said Aladdin, "dry your tears, and give me the lamp which I put on the shelf just now, and I will go and sell it. The old woman took

down the lamp, and thinking it would sell better if it were cleaner, she began to rub it with sand. Instantly a hideous genie stood before her, and said in a voice like thunder, "What wouldst thou have with me? I am ready to obey thy commands—I, and the other slaves of that lamp."

The poor woman was so terribly alarmed that she immediately sunk down upon the floor in a swoon; but Aladdin, remembering that he owed his liberation to another genie, said boldly, "My mother and I are very hungry; bring us some refreshments." The genie disappeared, and soon returned with twelve large silver plates, full of the most savoury meats, six white loaves, two bottles of wine, and two silver drinking-cups. These he placed in order on a table, and then vanished.

Aladdin, sprinkling some water on his mother, intreated her, as she recovered from her swoon, to sit down at the table, and partake of the provisions with which it was so plentifully covered.

"What!" exclaimed the old woman, in the utmost astonishment, "has the sultan been informed of our poverty, and sent us these costly things from his own table?"

"My dear mother," said Aladdin, "let us eat now, and talk after we have done dinner." Accordingly they helped themselves to what they liked best, and having dined plentifully, set aside enough to serve them for two days more.

Aladdin's mother had such a dread of every thing connected with enchantment, that when she heard how so sumptuous a repast had been provided, she intreated her son to sell the lamp, and to have nothing to do with genies; but Aladdin was resolved not to part with the lamp, which he perceived to be of infinite value, both from the service he had just received, and from the eagerness of the magician to get it into his possession.

He assured his mother, however, that he would never use it but in cases of necessity, but would en-

deavour to obtain some employment, or learn some trade. At night they were greatly surprised to see a brilliant light issue from the heap of pieces of coloured glass which Aladdin had laid on a shelf in one corner of the room ; but though they were astonished at it, they were not in the least aware that instead of pieces of glass, they were in reality jewels of immense value, and the mother and son went as quietly to sleep as if no such treasures had been reposed beneath their roof.

The next morning Aladdin sold one of his silver plates to a Jew, to purchase a few necessary articles of furniture. He would have sold another to buy his mother some new clothes ; but he knew she would not wear any that were not procured by her own industry. Aladdin next went about among the merchants and shop-keepers, seeking employment. At first they were afraid to trust him ; but, as he appeared serious and well-behaved, they at length employed him in trifling errands, and by degrees he gained a very comfortable livelihood.

One day, while Aladdin was walking through the streets of the city, he heard a proclamation commanding all the people to retire into their houses, as the beautiful princess Zamea, whom no one must look upon, was coming to the public baths. Aladdin was a long way from home ; people were running this way and that, and he was quite at a loss where to go ; and hearing the drums and trumpets that preceded the princess approaching, he ran into a large hall, and concealed himself behind a folding door. Now it happened that this very hall was the entrance to the baths ; and as soon as the princess had passed the gate she pulled off her veil, supposing she was only surrounded by her own slaves. There was a crevice in the door, which permitted Aladdin to see the princess just as she uncovered her face ; and her uncommon beauty made so deep an impression on him, that he could think of nothing else for several days afterwards, but neglected both his

employment and his meals. At length he could not conceal his love any longer; but candidly told his mother he was in love with the princess Zamea, and intended that she should ask her for him.

The old woman left off spinning to gaze upon her son, whom she naturally supposed to be deranged; but upon his repeating that he was resolved to be the husband of the princess, she burst into a loud fit of laughter, and told him to remember that he was but the son of a poor tailor, and that none of inferior dignity to a prince or wealthy governor could aspire to become the son-in-law of the sultan.

“Mother,” said Aladdin, “I am not so poor as you imagine. Since I have frequented the jewellers’ shops I have learned the value of those things I formerly used to call pieces of glass; and with those things I intend to purchase the good-will of our sovereign.”

Aladdin’s mother laughed again, and begged him to say no more about such foolish projects.

For some time after this conversation, Aladdin remained silent on the subject which lay so near to his heart. His health, however, declined so visibly and rapidly, that his mother one day promised she would go to the sultan if that would restore him to health. Aladdin, overjoyed at her consent, sent her to borrow a large china dish, which he filled with the finest jewels from his heap, and having tied it up carefully in two napkins, the old woman set out for the sultan’s palace with a heavy heart, fearing she might incur some punishment by her presumption. On arriving at the divan, where the sultan was administering justice, she placed herself opposite the throne, and waited in silence till her turn should come to be called forward. When the court was nearly empty, the vizier bade her approach. She instantly fell on her knees, and besought the sultan’s pardon, who commanded her to speak freely and fear nothing. She then related the story of her son’s falling in love

with the princess, and the advice she had given him, stopping at every sentence to intreat the sultan's forgiveness. He, however, only smiled, and asked what was tied up in the napkin. She presented the dish to the vizier, who handed it to the sultan.

When the dish was uncovered, the sultan was completely astonished at the size and lustre of the jewels. "Your son," he said, "can be no ordinary person if he can afford to make such presents as these." The vizier now approached, and whispered something to the sultan, who nodded, and then turning to Aladdin's mother, said, "Go, tell your son that he shall have my daughter in marriage as soon as he sends me forty basins of massy gold filled with such jewels as these, carried by forty black slaves, who shall be led by forty white slaves, all magnificently clothed. Return now, and communicate this message to your son."

Aladdin's mother retired in the greatest consternation, and was much surprised to see that her son only smiled at the sultan's demand. She concluded, however, that he had got the better of his foolish passion, and with this idea went joyfully to market to buy provisions for their dinner. As soon as she was gone, Aladdin rubbed the lamp, and the genie stood before him, whom he commanded to bring the basins of gold, the jewels, and the slaves, as the sultan had required ; and presently the house was filled with this splendid train of slaves, most magnificently dressed, bearing basins of massy gold, filled with the rarest jewels.

When Aladdin's mother returned from market, she trembled to see these wonderful things ; but as her son intreated her to hasten back to the divan, she stayed to ask no questions, but put herself at the head of the procession, which drew after it all the idle and curious people of the city. When she entered the divan, she prostrated herself at the foot of the throne, and said, "Sire, my son Aladdin

is sensible that the present which he sends your majesty is infinitely beneath the worth of the princess Zamea; but he hopes your majesty will accept it as a token of his submission to your royal commands."

The sultan was for some time unable to reply, he was so taken up with the beauty of the slaves, who looked like so many kings, and whose habits were even richer than his own; at length he said, "Go, and bring your son hither, that I may bestow on him the hand of my daughter."

Aladdin again summoned the genie of the lamp, who transported him invisibly to a bath of rose-water. Afterwards he was dressed by the hands of the genie in the most sumptuous apparel; and a magnificent courser was provided for him, whose saddle and bridle were of crimson velvet, richly embroidered with gold. He had a train of slaves ready, finely mounted, and bearing magnificent presents for the princess. Another set of slaves were ready to attend on Aladdin's mother, for whom they had brought suitable dresses and a magnificent equipage.

Aladdin mounted his horse, and so great a change had the genie made in his appearance, that no one knew him to be poor Aladdin, the tailor's son, but every body supposed he was some eastern prince who had been accustomed to the same grandeur and magnificence from his birth. When the sultan beheld him he was no less surprised at his personal beauty and dignity of demeanor, than at the elegance and costliness of his apparel. Aladdin would have thrown himself on his knees before the throne, but he was prevented by the sultan, who cordially embraced him, and seated him at his right hand.

They conversed together during some hours, and the sultan was so well pleased with his good sense and modesty, that he proposed to marry the young lovers that very evening. To this, however, Aladdin objected, saying it was necessary that he should first erect a palace to receive his princess; and he in-

treated the sultan would grant him a piece of ground opposite the gates of the royal palace for this purpose. The sultan readily agreed to this proposal, and they separated.—Aladdin returning home to command the genie of the lamp to build a palace, and the sultan retiring to his daughter's apartment, to congratulate her on her approaching nuptials.

When the sultan arose the next morning, he was astonished at beholding a palace of the purest architecture opposite to his own, and half the inhabitants of the city already assembled in crowds to gaze on this wonder. He was presently informed that Aladdin waited to conduct his majesty to his new palace.

The sultan was more and more amazed at every step; for the walls were built of wedges of gold and silver, and the ornaments consisted of jasper, agate, and porphyry, intermixed with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, amethysts, and other rare and beautiful gems. The treasury was well replenished with gold and silver coins; the offices were occupied by domestics; and the stables and coach-houses were filled with the finest horses and carriages, and with grooms and equerries in splendid liveries. In short, the sultan acknowledged that the wealth of all his dominions was not equal to the purchase of such costly rarities as were exhibited in one saloon of the palace, called "The hall, with twenty-four windows."

Aladdin and the princess were speedily married, and lived very happily; but the fame of our hero's magnificence spread to all corners of the world, and at length reached the ears of the African magician, who was at no loss to discover the source of Aladdin's wealth. Resolving, therefore, to obtain possession of the wonderful lamp, he disguised himself, and travelled to China. On his arrival at the city where Aladdin lived, he bought a number of beautiful lamps, and when he knew that Aladdin was gone out to hunt with the sultan, he went under the

windows of the apartments belonging to the princess, crying: "Who will exchange old lamps for new?"

The slaves attending on the princess all ran to the windows, laughing at this singular cry, and one of them exclaimed, "O! do let us try if the blockhead means what he says; there is an ugly old lamp lying on the cornice of the hall of twenty-four windows; we will put a new one in its place if the old fellow will really give us one." The princess agreed to this proposal, and away ran one of the slaves with the lamp to the magician, who willingly gave her the best he had among his new ones, and retired to enjoy the triumph of his malicious revenge.

As soon as night arrived, he summoned the genie of the lamp, and commanded him to transport him, the palace, and the princess to a certain part of Africa. The order was instantly obeyed.

It is impossible to describe the grief and consternation of the sultan, when he arose the next morning, to find the beautiful palace vanished, and his daughter lost. All the people of the city ran in terror through the streets, and a number of soldiers were sent in search of Aladdin, who had not returned from hunting.

Aladdin, on hearing that his palace and his wife were gone, fainted away, and was soon after dragged before the sultan like a criminal, and would have been beheaded had not the sultan been afraid to enrage the people, who were all of them fond of Aladdin. "Go, wretch," cried the angry sultan, "I grant thee thy life; but if ever thou appearest before me again, thy death shall be the consequence, unless in forty days thou bringest me tidings of my daughter."

The unfortunate Aladdin quitted the palace, not knowing whither to turn his steps. At length he stopped by the side of a brook to wash his eyes, which smarted with the tears he had shed: as he stooped to the water, his foot slipped, and catching hold of a piece of rock to save himself from falling, he pressed the magician's ring, which he still wore

on his finger, and the genie of the ring appeared before him, saying: "What wouldst thou have?"

"O! powerful genie," cried Aladdin, "bring back my palace to the place where it stood yesterday."

"What you request," replied the genie, "is not in my power to accomplish: I am only the genie of the ring; you must address yourself to the genie of the lamp for that service."

"Then I command thee," said Aladdin, "to transport me to the place where it stands now." Scarcely had he uttered these words, when he found himself by the side of his own palace, which stood in a meadow not far from a great city; the princess Zamea was then walking backward and forward in her own chamber, weeping for the loss of her beloved Aladdin. Happening to approach the window, she beheld him under it, and making a sign to him not to betray his joy, she sent a slave to bring him in by a private door. The princess and her husband having mingled their tears and embraces, Aladdin said: "Tell me, my princess, instantly, what is become of an old lamp which I left on the cornice of the hall of four-and-twenty windows?" The princess related the manner in which her slaves had exchanged it for a new one, and added, that she feared all her misfortunes were owing to that lamp, since she observed that the tyrant, in whose power she was, always carried it in his bosom. Aladdin, convinced that it was his old enemy the magician, who had obtained possession of the lamp, contrived, with the princess, means of getting it from him.

After long and mature deliberation, Aladdin, having disguised himself in the dress of a slave, went into the city, and procured a powder, which, on being swallowed, would instantly cause a death-like sleep, and the princess invited the magician to sup with her. As she had never been so condescending to him before, he was quite delighted with her kindness; and while they were at table, she ordered a slave to bring two cups of wine, which she had her-

self prepared ; and after pretending to taste the one which she held in her hand, she requested the magician to exchange cups, as was the custom, she said, between lovers in China. He joyfully seized her goblet, and drinking off the wine at one draught, fell senseless on the floor.

Aladdin was at hand to snatch the lamp from his bosom, and having thrown the traitor out upon the grass of the meadow, the genie was summoned, and in an instant the princess, the palace, and all that it contained, were restored to their original station. The very morning of the return of Aladdin's palace, the sultan had risen by break of day to indulge his sorrows ; when, to his unspeakable joy, he beheld the vacancy filled up. He summoned his guards, and hastened to embrace his daughter ; and the whole of the week was devoted to illuminations, fire-works, and entertainments, in honour of Aladdin's safe return.

Aladdin did not forget now to carry the lamp always about him, and things went on very well for some time. But the magician having slept off his potion, and found the lamp and the palace gone, once more set out for China. Being come to the end of his journey, he went to the cell of a holy woman, named Fatima, who was renowned through the city for her sanctity, and her infallible success in curing the head-ache. The cruel magician killed this poor old woman, and buried her body. He then dressed himself in her clothes, and having stained his face and eye-brows to resemble the colour of her's, he walked out into the city, and counterfeited her voice and manner so well, that every body believed him to be the holy woman, and followed him in crowds, imploring his blessing. At length he approached the palace, and the princess hearing that Fatima was in the street, sent her slaves to invite the holy woman into the palace.

The artful deceiver was kindly entertained by the princess, who led her through the apartments of the

palace, and shewed her the magnificent hall of twenty-four windows. "Princess," said the pretended Fatima, "excuse the liberty I take in offering my opinion, but I think one thing is wanting. If a roc's egg were suspended from the centre of this dome, it would have a most striking effect, and the hall would then be unparalleled for beauty."

"My good Fatima," said the princess, "what sort of a bird is a roc, and how can I procure an egg?"

"Princess," replied Fatima, "it is a bird of prodigious size, which inhabits the top of Mount Caucasus. The eggs cannot be obtained without great difficulty, but the architect who built your palace can get you one."

The pretended Fatima would now have withdrawn, but the princess insisted on her remaining in the palace a few days. That very evening Aladdin, who had been absent on a journey, returned home sooner than was expected, and found the princess somewhat dejected. He pressed her to tell him why she appeared in low spirits; and she confessed she was desirous of having the dome of the grand hall ornamented with a roc's egg. "Beautiful princess," said Aladdin, "your wish shall soon be gratified." He then retired to the hall of four-and-twenty windows, and calling for the genie of the lamp, he said, "Good genie, I command thee in the name of the lamp, to hang up a roc's egg in the centre of this dome."

The genie, on hearing these words, uttered so loud and terrific a cry, that the palace seemed to shake with the sound. "What!" said he, "after all that I and my fellow-slaves have done to serve thee, dost thou command me to bring my master, and hang him up in the midst of this dome? This insolence deserves my utmost vengeance, and I would instantly reduce your palace into a heap of ashes but that I know the wish does not originate with yourself. The African magician is now under your

roof, disguised in the dress of the holy woman Fatima, whom he has assassinated. Go immediately and punish his crimes, or your own destruction is inevitable."

At the conclusion of this sentence the genie disappeared, leaving Aladdin in the utmost agitation. He was not long, however, in deliberating on the means of destroying his enemy. He therefore went to his wife's apartment, and throwing himself upon a sofa, complained of a violent headache. The princess, delighted with the idea of being able to relieve her husband's pain, exclaimed, that the good Fatima was in the palace, and immediately ran to fetch her.

The disguised magician, thinking this a favourable opportunity to revenge himself on our hero, entered the room with one hand lifted up, as if to bless Aladdin, while the other grasped a dagger, concealed in the folds of her garment. Aladdin, however, kept a watchful eye on him, and as soon as he approached the sofa, he seized the hand that held the dagger, and stabbed the traitor to the heart.

The princess was almost frantic with grief to think that her husband had killed a person of such uncommon sanctity; but Aladdin, tearing off the cloak of the deceiver, exposed to view the detested magician. Her grief was then changed to joy that they had escaped his wicked snares; and shortly after, the sultan dying without a son, Aladdin and the princess Zamea ascended the throne, reigned together many years, and left behind them a numerous and virtuous family.

FORTUNATUS;

OR,

THE WISHING CAP.

THEODORUS was a gentleman of immense property, residing in the city of Famagosta, in the

island of Cyprus, and united by marriage to the beautiful lady Graciana, whose possessions, both in money and landed estates, were equal to those of her husband.

They considered themselves extremely happy in being able to keep the finest house and gardens imaginable; and in entertaining their friends not only with the most delicate repasts, but diversions of every kind. They rode out every day when the weather permitted, in the most splendid carriages; their pleasure-boats, in which they frequently sailed on the water, were beautifully decorated with gilded ornaments and silken flags; and they were almost continually accompanied by a charming band of music.

In addition to all this, the lady Graciana presented her husband with a fine little son; so that one would think nothing could have prevented Theodorus and the lady Graciana from being the happiest and most contented persons in all the world.

This, however, was not long the case. The lady indeed was as contented as could be; but Theodorus, when he had enjoyed all those gratifications for some time, grew tired of them: not even the smiles of the pretty little Fortunatus could prevent him from thinking he should find more pleasure in going into company with the gayest gentlemen of Famagosta.

Theodorus accordingly formed an acquaintance with some young noblemen of the court, with whom he sat up all night, drinking, and playing at cards; and in a few years spent with them his whole fortune; so that he was obliged to dismiss his servants, and, at last, had scarcely the means of providing his family with bread.

His eyes were now opened to the sad consequence of his folly, but his regrets were unavailing, and he perceived he had no other resource than that of working at some trade to support his wife and child.

Notwithstanding the melancholy change in her affairs, the lady Graciana did not reproach her husband, but continued to love him as before, saying: "Dear Theodorus, I do not, it is true, know how to work at any trade; but, if I cannot assist you in getting money, I will help you to save it for I will clean the house, and make the bread, and wash our clothes with my own hands; and though I have never been used to such hard work, I shall soon be able to bear it, if you will but love your Graciana and your Fortunatus."

So Theodorus set to work: and the lady Graciana, who had always been accustomed to ring her bell for every thing she wanted, now scoured the rooms, cleaned the candlesticks, and washed the clothes with her own hands.

In this manner they went on for several years, till Fortunatus was seventeen years of age. One day, when they were all seated at dinner, Theodorus fixed his eyes very sorrowfully on his son, and sighed deeply. "What ails you, my father?" said Fortunatus. "Alas! my boy," replied Theodorus, "I have reason enough to be sorrowful, when I think of the noble fortune I have squandered, and that my folly will be the means of obliging you to labour, as I do, for subsistence."

"Father," said Fortunatus, "do not grieve about that: I am aware that it is time I should do something for myself; and though I have not been brought up to any trade, yet I trust I can find how to gain a subsistence in some way or other."

When Fortunatus had finished his dinner, he took his hat and wandered to the sea-side, resolved to employ himself in thinking of what steps he could pursue, so as to be no longer a burthen to his beloved parents.

It happened that just as he had reached the sea-shore, the earl of Flanders, who had been to Jerusalem, and, on his return home, had touched at Cyprus, was going on board his vessel with all his

retinue. Fortunatus instantly thought of offering himself to be his page; and as he was a smart-looking lad and extremely ready in answering any questions which were put to him, the earl felt very willing to engage him: so without farther ceremony he went on board.

On their way the ship touched at Venice; where Fortunatus had an opportunity of seeing many new and surprising objects, which both tended to increase his desire of travelling, and to improve his understanding.

Soon after their arrival in Flanders, the master of Fortunatus was married to the daughter of the duke of Cleves; and the ceremony was accompanied by all sorts of public rejoicings, such as tilts, tournaments, and similar entertainments, which lasted several days: among the rest the earl's lady gave two prizes to be tilted for, each of the value of one hundred crowns.

One of these was won by Fortunatus, and the other by Timothy, an attendant on the duke of Burgundy; who afterwards challenged Fortunatus to run another tilt with him, so that he that should win should have both the prizes. Accordingly they tilted; and at the fourth course Fortunatus threw Timothy from his horse; which pleased the earl and countess so much, that they loudly praised Fortunatus, and held him in greater esteem than ever.

Upon this occasion, also, Fortunatus received many rich presents from the nobility who were present; but the high favour he enjoyed made his fellow-servants jealous; and one among them, whose name was Robert, who had always pretended a great friendship for Fortunatus, artfully suggested that, notwithstanding all the earl's kindness, he in secret envied Fortunatus his great skill at tournaments and tilting; assuring him that he had heard the earl give private orders to one of his servants to find some means of killing him the next day, while they should all be absent on a hunting-party.

Fortunatus thanked the treacherous Robert for what he thought a great kindness; and the next day at daybreak he took the swiftest horse in the earl's stables, and quitted his dominions.

The earl, hearing that Fortunatus had suddenly disappeared, was greatly surprised, and questioned all his servants respecting what they knew of the affair; but they all denied knowing any thing about it, or the reasons for which he had left them. The earl, however, replied, "That he was a lad for whom he had a great esteem; that some of them must have offered him an affront; and that, whenever he found it out, he would not fail to punish it severely."

In the mean time Fortunatus, having passed the confines of the earl's territory, stopped at an inn for some refreshment: here he began to consider what he was worth; and having taken out all his fine clothes and jewels to look at, he could not help putting them on, and admiring himself in the glass: then taking out his purse, he counted the money that had been given him by the lords and ladies at the tournament.

Finding that, in all, he was worth five hundred crowns, he bought a horse, taking care to send back that which he had taken from his master's stables. He then set off for Calais; crossed the channel, landed safely at Dover, and proceeded to London; where he soon introduced himself into genteel company, and had once the honour to dance with the daughter of a duke at the lady mayoress's ball; but this gay life, as may well be supposed, soon exhausted his little stock of money.

When Fortunatus found himself almost penniless, he began to think of returning to France, and soon after embarked in a ship bound to Picardy; here he landed; but finding no means of employing himself, he set off for Brittany; when, happening to cross a wood, he lost his way, and was obliged to remain there all the night.

The next morning his situation was not much improved, as he could find no path out of the wood ; so he wandered about from one part to another, till at length, on the evening of the second day, he happened to meet with a spring, at which he drank very heartily ; but still he had nothing to eat, and expected to perish with hunger.

When night again came on, hearing the growling of wild beasts, he climbed up a high tree for safety ; and scarcely had he seated himself in it before a lion walked fiercely up to the spring to drink ; and though this terrific animal walked away, after quenching his thirst, a bear came to the same spring ; and as the moon shone very bright, he looked up and saw Fortunatus, and immediately began to climb up the tree to get at him.

Fortunatus however drew his sword, and sat quietly till the bear was come within arm's length, and then pierced him with it in the body several times ; which rendered the bear so furious, that, making a violent effort to get at Fortunatus, the bough broke, and down he fell, and lay sprawling and making a hideous yell on the ground.

Fortunatus, looking round on all sides, and seeing no more wild beasts near, thought this would be an excellent opportunity to get rid of the bear at once ; so he descended from the tree, and killed him at a single blow. Being almost famished for want of food, he stooped down to suck the blood of the bear ; when, once more looking round, to see if any wild beast were at hand, he beheld a beautiful lady standing by his side, with a bandage over her eyes, leaning upon a wheel, and looking as if she intended to speak.

Fortunatus was too much astonished to utter a single word ; but, after a pause of a few moments, the lady said, "Know, young man, that my name is Fortune ; I have the power to bestow on mortals, wisdom, strength, riches, health, beauty, and long life : one of these I am willing to be-

stow on thee; choose for thyself which it shall be."

Fortunatus took no time to deliberate, but instantly replied, "Gracious lady, I prefer to have riches in such abundance that I may never again know what it is to be so hungry as I am at present."

The lady then presented him with a purse, telling him that, in whatever country he might happen to be, he had only to put his hand into the purse as often as he pleased, and he would be sure to find in it ten pieces of gold; that the purse should never fail of producing the like sum as long as it remained in the possession of him and his children; but that when he and his children should be dead, then the purse should lose this extraordinary quality.

Fortunatus could scarcely contain himself for joy, and began to thank the lady very eagerly; but she told him he had better think of making the best of his way out of the wood, and accordingly directed him which path to take, and then bade him farewell.

He walked by the light of the moon as fast as his weak condition would permit, till he came near an inn; before he went in, however, he thought it would be prudent to see if the lady Fortune had been as good as her word; so he put his hand in his purse, and to his great joy counted ten pieces of gold.

Fortunatus now walked boldly into the inn, and called for the best supper they could get ready in a few minutes; "for," said he, "I must wait till to-morrow before I am very nice: with my present appetite any thing will do."

Fortunatus soon satisfied his hunger, and called for a pint of wine; and whilst he sat over this, he began to think what sort of life he should now lead: "for," said he, "I shall now have money enough for every thing I can desire."

He slept that night on the best bed in the house;

and the next day ordered the most delicate provisions of every kind: if he rang his bell, the waiters tried who should run fastest to receive his commands; and the landlord himself, hearing what a princely guest was come to his house, took care to be standing at the door to bow to him when he should be going away.

Fortunatus inquired of the landlord, if any fine horses could be got in the neighbourhood; also, if he knew of some smart-looking clever men-servants who wanted places. The landlord fortunately was able to provide him with both, to his entire satisfaction.

Being thus furnished with every thing he wanted, he set out on a beautiful horse, attended by two servants, for the nearest town; where he purchased some elegant suits of clothes, and put his two servants in liveries laced with gold, and then proceeded to Paris.

Here he took the finest house that was to be got, and lived in great splendour; he entertained the nobility, and gave the finest balls to all the most beautiful ladies of the court. He went to all public places of entertainment, and the first noblemen in the country invited him to their houses.

He had lived in this manner about ten or twelve months, when he began to think of returning to Famagosta to visit his parents, whom he had left in very poor circumstances. "But," said he, "as I am young and inexperienced, I should like to meet with some person of more knowledge than I possess, who would render my journey both pleasing and instructive."

He had not long formed this wish before he met with a venerable old gentleman, named Loch Fitty, who he found was a native of Scotland, and had left a wife and ten children, a great many years ago, in hopes to improve his fortune; but was now, owing to different accidents, poorer than ever, and had not money enough even to take him back to his family.

Loch Fitty, finding how much Fortunatus desired to obtain knowledge, related to him many of the strange adventures he had met with; and gave him an account of all the kingdoms he had visited, as well as of the customs, dress, and manners of the inhabitants.

Fortunatus immediately thought that this was just such a person as he stood in need of; and without farther ceremony he made him a proposal, which the old gentleman accepted, on condition that he should be first permitted to go and visit his family.

Fortunatus assured him he had not the least objection; "and," added he, "as I am a little tired of being always in the midst of such noisy pleasures as one finds at Paris, I will, with your permission, go with you to Scotland and see your wife and children."

This proposal was cheerfully acceded to, and accordingly they set out the next day, and continued to travel till they arrived at the house of Loch Fitty; Fortunatus not having once, in all the way, desired to change his companion for the splendid entertainments he had left behind him.

Loch Fitty embraced his wife and children, five of whom were daughters, and the most beautiful creatures he had ever beheld. When they had taken some refreshment, his wife said to him: "Ah! my dear lord, how happy I am to see you once again! now I trust we shall enjoy each other's company for the rest of our lives! What signifies that we are poor! We will be content, if you will but promise you will not again think of leaving us to procure wealth, merely because we happen to possess but little."

Fortunatus listened with great surprise. "What," said he, "are you a lord? Then you shall be a rich lord too. And that you may not think you owe me any obligation for the fortune I shall give you, I will put it in your power to make me, on the

contrary, much your debtor. Bestow on me your youngest daughter, Cassandra; and let us have the pleasure of your company as far as Famagosta; and take your whole family with you, that you may have pleasant company on your way back, when you have rested in that place from your fatigue."

Lord Loch Fitty was so deeply affected that he shed tears of joy, to think he should at last see his family restored to all the honours it had formerly enjoyed: and after accepting Fortunatus as a husband for his daughter Cassandra, he related to him the misfortunes that obliged him to live in poverty at Paris, and call himself by the plain name of Loch Fitty.

When this nobleman had ended his story, they agreed that the lady Cassandra should the very next morning be asked to accept the hand of Fortunatus; and that, should she consent, they would embark in a few days for Famagosta.

The next morning the proposal was made in form, as was agreed on; and Fortunatus had the pleasure of hearing from the lips of the beautiful Cassandra, that the moment her father introduced him to the family, she thought him the most handsome and accomplished gentleman she had ever beheld.

Every thing was soon arranged for their departure; Fortunatus, Lord Loch Fitty, his lady, and their children, embarked in a large and commodious vessel; they had prosperous winds, and landed safely in the port of Famagosta, where, after a few days spent in the necessary preparations, the marriage was celebrated with the utmost magnificence.

As Fortunatus found that his parents were both dead, he begged Lord Loch Fitty would be kind enough to stay and keep him and his lady company: so they lived all together in the grandest house that was to be obtained in the city of Famagosta, and gave the most splendid entertainments.

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

For twelve years Fortunatus lived the happiest life imaginable with his wife and children, and his wife's relations; and each of her sisters having received a good fortune from the bountiful purse of Fortunatus, they soon married to great advantage: but by this time his taste for travelling returned; and he thought, as he was now so much older and wiser than when he was at Paris, he should not want a companion. It was a considerable time before he could induce his wife to consent to his departure; but, at length she consented, on condition that he should return within two years. Accordingly he got every thing ready for his departure; and taking his lady into one of his private rooms, showed her three chests of gold, one of which he desired she would keep for herself, and take charge of the other two for their sons, in case any accident should befall him. He then led her back to the apartment where the whole family were sitting; and after tenderly embracing them all, he set sail with a fair wind for Alexandria.

Being told, on his arrival in this place, that it was customary to make a handsome present to the sultan, our hero sent him a piece of plate which cost four thousand ducats. The sultan was so extremely pleased, that he ordered a hundred casks of spices to be presented to Fortunatus in return; these Fortunatus sent immediately to the lady Cassandra, with an affectionate letter, by the very ship that brought him, and was then going back to Famagosta.

Fortunatus took an early opportunity of telling the sultan he wished to travel through his dominions by land: so the sultan immediately ordered him such transports and letters of recommendation as he might stand in need of to the neighbour-

ing princes. He then purchased a camel, hired proper attendants, and set off on his travels.

He went through Turkey, Persia, and from thence to Carthage; he next proceeded to the country of Prester John, who rides upon a white elephant, and has several kings to wait on him.

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

The first thing he did was to pay a visit to his old friend the sultan, to whom he again made a handsome present, and received an invitation to dine at his palace.

After the repast, the sultan said, "It must be very amusing, Fortunatus, to hear an account of the different places you have seen: pray favour me with a history of your travels."

Fortunatus did as he was desired; and pleased the sultan extremely, by relating the many curious adventures he had met with, particularly the manner of his acquaintance with the Lord Loch Fitty, and the desire of that nobleman to maintain the honours of his ancestors.

When he had finished, the sultan expressed himself much delighted with what he had heard; and added, that he had in his possession a greater curiosity than any thing Fortunatus had told him of: and immediately leading him into a room nearly filled with jewels, he opened a large closet, and taking out a cap, told his visitor that it was of greater value than all the rest.

Fortunatus imagined the sultan was jesting, and told him he had seen many a better cap than that—"Ah!" said the sultan, "that is because you do not know its value. Whoever puts this cap on his head, and wishes himself in any part of the world, is instantly conveyed thither."

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

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

"Really one would scarcely have believed it," said Fortunatus. "Pray, sire, is it very heavy?"

"Not at all," replied the sultan: "you are welcome to feel it."

Fortunatus took up the cap, put it on his head, and could not help wishing himself on board the ship that was going back to Famagosta. In less than five minutes he was carried through the air on board of her, just as she was ready to set sail; and there being a brisk gale, they were out of sight in less than half an hour.

The ship arrived in safety at Famagosta after a happy passage, and Fortunatus had the satisfaction to find his wife and children well; but Lord Loch Fitty and his lady had died of old age during his absence, and were both interred in the same grave.

Fortunatus now began to take great pleasure in educating his two sons; and accustomed them to all sorts of manly exercises, such as wrestling, tilts, and tournaments. Sometimes, indeed, he recollected the wonderful cap he had in his possession, and at such times would wish he could just take a peep at what was passing in different countries; when, though his wish never failed to be accomplished, yet, as he always contented himself with staying two or three hours, the lady Cassandra never missed him, and felt no farther uneasiness about his love of travelling.

At last Fortunatus began to grow old, and the lady Cassandra fell sick and died. The loss of her caused him so much grief, that he was, soon afterward, confined to his bed; and believing he had not long to live, he called his two sons to his bedside, and told them the secret of the purse and cap, which he desired they would on no account disclose to any one: "Follow my example," said he; "I have had the purse these forty years, and no living crea-

ture has ever known the source from which I obtained my riches."

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

Fortunatus was buried with great magnificence by the side of the lady Cassandra, in his own chapel; and was for a long time mourned by the people of Famagosta, especially by the poor, to whom he had been a friend and a father.

A few months after the death of Fortunatus, Andolocia came to his brother Ampedo; who, being the eldest, had the purse in his possession, and begged he would let him have it for a certain time, as he wished to set out on his travels for distant countries: to this Ampedo would by no means consent; and they came to high words concerning it. At length, however, Ampedo consented to let his brother have the purse for six years; and accordingly, after filling all his coffers, he gave it into his hands; with this agreement, however, that he was afterward to keep it for as long a time himself.

As Andolocia possessed exactly his father's temper in his love of travelling to distant countries, he was overjoyed to think he had obtained the purse, and immediately began his preparations for setting out. The first place he visited was Paris.

In this city there was a famous wrestler called Strongfist, who had never yet been thrown by any man. Andolocia sent him a challenge, which Strongfist willingly accepted, and a day was appointed for the trial of their skill: in the mean while the news reached all the inhabitants of Paris, who accordingly resolved to witness the scene.

The wrestlers met at the time and place appointed, and fell to with great spirit; but it was soon evident that Strongfist was very inferior in skill to Andolocia, who, after a few blows, made him cry out he could strive no longer.

No sooner, however, had Strongfist recovered of

the bruises he had received in his falls, than, enraged to think he had been conquered by a stranger, he sent Andolocia another challenge; and they accordingly met as before.

But Strongfist gained nothing by this second attempt; for Andolocia made him once more cry out that he was satisfied; so that the air resounded with the acclamations bestowed on Andolocia, while Strongfist was so maimed he could never after engage in wrestling.

After staying some time longer in Paris, where he was loaded with every mark of distinction, the news of his great skill reached England, and he was invited by the king to the court of London; for, being just at that time going to war with the king of Scotland, he wished to have Andolocia's advice how to conduct his army.

Andolocia joyfully accepted the proposal; for it was the king of Scotland's father who had deprived his grandfather, Lord Loch Fitty, of all his fortune, and caused him to leave his lady and his home, and live in a mean condition in Paris.

He lost no time in preparing for the journey, and arrived safely in London, where he was received with marks of the greatest kindness by the king and the whole court: and Andolocia informing his majesty of the ill-will he owed the king of Scotland, on the late king's account, it was immediately resolved that he should head an army of the choicest troops in the English dominions, and march against him.

Andolocia accordingly set out for Scotland; had a furious battle with the king, and defeated him and his whole army; and, returning to London, was loaded with the highest honours at the court of the king of England.

The young adventurer now took a magnificent house in the finest square in London, and frequently entertained the king and all his nobles, whom he treated in so sumptuous a manner, that the king

could not help wondering how he could possibly have amassed so much wealth.

One day Andolocia being at court, he happened to see the king's daughter, Agrippina, with whom he fell violently in love, and made her such costly presents as surprised the king more than before, so that he could not help telling the queen he could not imagine how such a fortune could be in the possession of a private gentleman.

The queen immediately set herself to work to discover the secret, and accordingly she told her daughter Agrippina, when she should be alone with him, to find it out if possible.

Soon after, Andolocia, being seated by the princess, told her how very beautiful he thought her, and how ardently he wished for the honour of having her for his wife.

The princess thought this a favourable opportunity for finding out the secret; so she replied that she liked him very well, but supposed he could not possibly have sufficient wealth to maintain the daughter of a king.

Upon this, Andolocia pulled out his purse, and threw ten pieces of gold at a time into her lap; and at length told her how it came into his father's possession, and every particular concerning it.

The princess soon communicated this intelligence to the queen; who, pretending the greatest fondness for Andolocia, took him into her closet, and presented him with a glass of the richest cordial, into which she had put an opiate that soon threw him into a profound sleep; when, putting her hand into his pocket, she took away his purse, and had him immediately conveyed to his own house.

The queen then gave the purse to the young princess, saying, as it was for her sake she had taken it, it was but right that it should be in her possession.

When Andolocia awoke and missed his purse, he

was almost frantic: when he had run about the house a long time, not knowing how to act, he recollected what had transpired at the palace, and immediately went thither, requesting to speak with her majesty; but he was told she could not be seen. He then inquired for the princess, and obtained the same answer. This convinced Andolocia that the queen had taken his purse, and did not intend to return it. The first thing he did, therefore, was to borrow a hundred crowns of his steward, by means of which he got to Famagosta as fast as he could, and, with great difficulty, prevailed on his brother to spare him the cap for a short time, that he might transport himself in a moment, wherever he pleased.

Having obtained the wishing-cap, he put it on, and instantly wished himself in the princess Agrippina's chamber, whom he intended to consult about getting back his purse from the queen.

But how great was his astonishment, when, looking at the princess, he saw his purse fastened to her girdle! At first he had recourse to persuasion, in order to induce her to restore it; but as this proved ineffectual, he clasped the princess in his arms, and wished himself in an orchard in the neighbourhood of Constantinople.

His wish was instantly accomplished, and they found themselves sitting under a large fig-tree; when the princess, seeing what fine figs were on it, intreated him to get her two or three to eat. Andolocia, who loved Agrippina very much, notwithstanding she had used him so unkindly, immediately threw his cap upon the ground and began to ascend the tree.

The princess, ignorant of the virtue in the cap, being greatly incommoded by the heat of the sun, put it on her head, and happening at the same moment to wish she was in her cold bath at the palace of her father, she was immediately taken up into the air, and was out of sight in a minute.

When Andolocia looked round and saw that both

the princess and his cap were gone, his vexation was so great that he knew not what step to take; but after walking about some time, finding himself thirsty, he began to eat some apples, when two large horns immediately sprang out of his forehead.

He now ran like a lunatic about the orchard, and his cries were heard by an aged hermit, who came up to him and inquired what was the matter? When Andolucia had related the manner in which the accident had happened, the hermit assured him that if he would eat some apples from another tree which he pointed out, his horns would soon disappear.

Andolucia lost no time in doing as he was desired; and the horns accordingly disappeared. Having first filled his pockets with some of both sorts of these extraordinary apples, he procured a passage to England; and from the port where he landed, he set out on foot for the palace of princess Agrippina's father, where he stood at the gate disguised as a poor man who had the finest apples to sell that ever were seen.

The princess, as she passed out, observed the apples, and seeing that they were as fine as those which she had seen in the orchard near Constantinople, began to buy them with great eagerness, and turned back again to the palace to eat them.

Immediately two large horns sprang from her forehead; upon which the princess screamed so loud as to alarm every one in the palace; and the king, among the rest, came in to her assistance.

Seeing what had happened, he called in all the physicians, to effect a cure if possible; but not one was found who understood her case.

At length Andolucia, disguising himself as a physician, with a great false nose, went to the palace and offered his services, which were willingly accepted.

Upon being shewn into her room, he perceived his cap lying disregarded on a chair: so pretending he must speak with his patient in private, he sent the

nurse out of the room, and in the mean time found an opportunity to put the cap into his pocket.

Andolocia then produced one of the apples that were a cure for the horns occasioned by the fruit he had sold her, and having cut off a couple of slices, he desired her to eat them directly; when the horns immediately began to grow less.

The princess was so delighted at this, that she thought she could not too handsomely reward her physician: whilst she was taking out some gold, however, Andolocia snatched away her purse, clapped on his cap, and wished himself at Famagosta, whither he was immediately conveyed. But as he was in love with the princess, he took care not to give her enough of the apples to remove the horns entirely, that no other gentleman might fall in love with her.

Having related his adventures to his brother Ampedo, the latter said he had no inclination to have either the cap or purse, since they brought their possessor into so much danger, and would give them wholly to Andolocia, provided he consented to allow him a handsome annuity as long as he lived.

Thus Andolocia kept the purse and cap to himself; but though he had such immense treasures, together with the power of conveying himself wherever he pleased in a moment, he found he could not be completely happy without Agrippina. He therefore set about building a magnificent palace, taking care every now and then to put on his cap and wish himself at the court of London, where he sometimes had the good fortune to see the princess as she took an airing in her carriage, and found means to ascertain that the horns still remained on her head.

When the palace was finished, Andolocia equipped himself with all imaginable splendour; and taking with him some of the handsomest gentlemen of Famagosta, who looked like great lords, and a quantity of the most costly jewels, as presents for the princess, he

set out for England to demand her formally in marriage.

The king of England received him very courteously; and as it seemed impossible that any prince would offer to marry a princess with horns on her head, the queen gave her consent also; and the princess Agrippina, who had always wished to bestow on him her hand, said, she really loved the prince, but that she would never bring so great a misfortune on him as to become his wife whilst such a disfigurement disgraced her head.

“My dear princess,” replied Andolocia, “then our mutual wishes will be soon gratified, for I have the power to make them disappear immediately.”

Saying this he quitted the room, and returned in a few minutes with some of the apples he had given her once before, and which he had taken care to be provided with; when, presenting them to the princess, he asked her if she did not remember the physician with the great nose, who some time before had made her horns grow less.

The princess had no sooner eaten the apples presented her by Andolocia, then the horns immediately disappeared. Her gratitude was unbounded, and, having bestowed her hand, the next morning, on her lover, she was, soon afterward, conducted with the greatest pomp to the palace built for her reception at Famagosta, where she and her husband lived a long and a happy life.

NOURJAHAD;

AN ORIENTAL TALE.

ABDALLAH was in the twenty-third year of his age when he succeeded, by the death of his father, to the crown of Persia. The strength of his judgment, the acuteness of his discernment, and the amiable generosity of his temper, rendered him universally beloved.

by his subjects, and his accession to the throne was considered as the prelude to universal happiness.

Of all the courtiers who were near the sultan's person, none appeared to possess his confidence like Nourjahad, who was about the same age with Abdallah, and had been his companion almost from infancy. To a most engaging countenance and person, Nourjahad added a vivacity of temper, and an agreeable manner of address, that won the affections of all who approached him. The sultan loved him tenderly, and the people expected to see him elevated to the highest summit of honour.

Abdallah was indeed desirous of promoting his favourite; but notwithstanding his attachment, he would not appoint Nourjahad to the rank of minister of state, till he had consulted some old lords about the court, who had been the constant friends and able counsellors of the late sultan. Accordingly, having called them into his closet one morning, he proposed the matter to them, and desired their opinion: but he perceived that these grave and prudent men considered Nourjahad a very improper person to fill an office so important in its management to the welfare of the empire.

They accused him of avarice, and a boundless love of pleasure; and the sultan dismissed them with evident marks of displeasure; but when they had retired, he said to himself,—“It is the interest of Nourjahad to conceal his faults from me, and my attachment may render me blind to his defects. I will endeavour to ascertain his real disposition. I will probe his sentiments thoroughly; and if he pass through the trial unsullied, he shall be second only to myself in the empire.”

A few evenings afterward, the sultan invited Nourjahad to walk with him by moonlight, in the garden of the seraglio. Abdallah leaned on the shoulder of his favourite, as they rambled from one delicious scene to another, rendered still more enchanting by the silence of the night, the mild lustre

of the moon, and the fragrance which exhaled from a thousand odoriferous shrubs. "Tell me, Nourjahad," said the sultan, carelessly throwing himself upon a bank of flowers, and inviting his favourite to sit near him, "tell me truly what would satisfy your wishes, if you were certain of possessing all you could desire?"

Nourjahad remained some time silent, till the sultan with an affected smile of levity repeated the question.

"My gracious sovereign," replied the favourite, "my wishes are unbounded. I should wish to be possessed of inexhaustible riches, and I should also desire to have my life prolonged to eternity."

"Would you then," said Abdallah, "forego the hopes of Paradise?"

"I would make a paradise of this earthly globe," said Nourjahad, "by the variety of my pleasures, and take my chance for the other afterwards."

At these words the sultan started from his seat, and exclaimed, "Begone! this instant quit my presence, as you are altogether unworthy of my esteem. I thought to have promoted you to the highest honours, but such a sordid wretch does not deserve to live. Ambition, though a vice, is the companion of great minds; but avarice, and an insatiable thirst for pleasure, degrades a man below the brute creation."

Thus saying, he was about to depart, but Nourjahad falling on his knees, and holding the sultan's robe, said:—"Let not my sovereign's anger be kindled against his slave, for a few words which fell from him merely in sport. I swear, my prince, by our Holy Prophet, that my real desire for wealth extends no farther than to be enabled to procure the sober enjoyments of life; and as for length of years, let not mine be prolonged a day beyond that in which I can be serviceable to my sultan and my country."

Abdallah fixed his penetrating eyes on the suppliant, and mildly replied, "It is not for mortal eyes to penetrate into the secret recesses of the heart. You have called our great Prophet to witness your oath; remember, though I may be deceived, you cannot deceive the powers above."

Abdallah then left him, without waiting his reply, and Nourjahad retired to his own house, which adjoined the sultan's palace.

He passed the rest of the night in traversing his chamber, regretting his imprudence, and anticipating the sad consequences of approaching disgrace. The next day he was unable to quit his apartment, and at night, wearied with anxiety, he threw himself on his couch, and fell into a deep sleep, from which he was roused by a voice that said—"Nourjahad! Nourjahad! awake, and possess the secret wishes of thy heart."

Roused by this address, he started from his couch, and beheld a youth of transcendant beauty, whose shining hair was encircled with a wreath of flowers, which shed around him the most fragrant perfumes.

"Fear not," said the youth; "I am thy guardian genie; and I possess sufficient power to grant thy wishes, be they what they may. Tell me, therefore, candidly, whether you desire to be restored to the favour and confidence of the sultan; or if you would rather see the wish accomplished, which you expressed to Abdallah last night, in the gardens of the royal palace?"

Nourjahad bowed his head, and replied: "Disguise to thee, O son of Paradise, would be altogether vain and fruitless. If I dissembled with Abdallah, it was to reinstate myself in his good opinion, by whose favour alone I have been able to exist; but my heart pants to possess that wish which I declared to the sultan, and that alone."

"Rash mortal!" replied the youth, "reflect before you receive the fatal boon; for, if it be once granted, you will in vain wish to have it recalled."

"What can I have to fear?" inquired Nourjahad, "when possessed of endless riches and immortality."

"Your own passions," replied the youth.

"I will readily submit to all the evils they may inflict," said he; "let me but have the means of gratifying them in their full extent."

"Take your wish!" cried the genie, with a look of disdain and discontent. "The contents of this phial will bestow immortality upon you, and tomorrow's sun will behold you richer than all the kings of the East."

Nourjahad eagerly stretched out his hand to receive a vessel of gold, enriched with precious stones.

"Stop!" cried the youth, "there is one condition annexed to this dangerous gift. Though you will live for ever, you will be subject to fits of deep sleep, which will last for months, for years, nay, perhaps, for a whole century."

"Horrible!" exclaimed Nourjahad.

"It is worth considering," said the genius; "decide not too hastily; for if you pervert the power you will possess, and incline your heart to vice, you will be punished with this suspension of your faculties, which will last in proportion to the error you have committed."

"I accept the condition," cried Nourjahad, "for though I design to enjoy all the pleasures of life, I will never commit any crimes—and after all, what are twenty, thirty, or even fifty years of sleep, for a man who is to live to eternity!"

"Here then," said the genius, "swallow this liquid, and possess your wish!"

Nourjahad applied the vessel to his lips, and drank an opiate of so powerful a nature, that he fell back in a temporary trance, and when he again opened his eyes, the genie had disappeared, and his chamber was enveloped in total darkness.

He would have considered all that had passed as a dream, but he still grasped the golden vessel in his hand; and as this proved the reality of what had

transpired, he again composed himself to sleep, filled with delightful expectations.

The sun was shining in its meridian splendor, when he awoke the next day; but how was he surprised and delighted to see that his chamber was filled with large urns, containing gold and silver coin, diamonds, and all kinds of precious stones; and on one of them was a scroll of paper containing these words:

“Thy days are unlimited, and thy riches inexhaustible; let prudence be thy guard! In thy garden is a subterraneous cavern, distinguished by a particular mark where thou mayest conceal thy treasure.”

Nourjahad having examined all his treasures, hastened, with a glowing heart, to the garden. In a remote corner, near the ruins of an ancient temple, he perceived a key of polished steel, hanging to a silken scarf, and suspended from the branch of a tree. He was not long before he discovered a door behind the ruin, and opening it with the key, he descended by a few steps into a spacious cavern.

Having deposited his treasures in this secret and commodious place, Nourjahad returned to the house, and ordered that no visitors should be admitted to him. This one day he resolved to pass in contriving amusements and pleasures to be enjoyed for ages to come.

Previous to the visit of the genie, Nourjahad imagined that if he had these boundless riches, he should employ them in the most noble and generous manner; but he had deceived himself; there is a wide difference between the fancied and actual possession of wealth, for Nourjahad, now absorbed in selfishness, thought only of the indulgence of his own appetites.

“My temper,” said he, as he lay reclined upon a costly sofa, “does not incline me to take much trouble. I shall not aspire to high employments about the court, but I will have the finest palaces and gardens, the most splendid equipages, the most beautiful slaves in my seraglio, and the temperance of the sultan shall be no pattern for me. Every cor-

ner of the earth shall be explored for dainties to supply my table, and the choicest musicians shall entertain me while I enjoy my sumptuous banquets. And, as I have obtained the gift of immortality, I may eat and drink to excess, and bid defiance to death."

Here Nourjahad started, for he recollected the genius had not promised to secure him against the attacks of pain and sickness.

"Perhaps," said he after a pause, "that advantage may be included. Besides, a little temporary pain will be nothing: I shall the more enjoy my returning health. But I recollect that Abdallah used to talk of wisdom, and intellectual pleasures, as constituting the greatest enjoyment. Well, I can purchase these too; and I will have a dozen learned men always at my command to entertain me with their conversation; and when I am weary of living in this country, I will make a tour of the globe, and see every curiosity which the habitable world contains."

For two entire days Nourjahad was taken up with considering what scheme of pleasure he should begin with; and having entirely forgotten to pay his court to Abdallah, the monarch on the third day was so much offended at his absence, that he sent one of his officers to forbid him his presence for ever. "Tell him, however," said the sultan, "that in remembrance of my former favour, I will allow him an annual pension of one thousand crowns for his support, and present him with the house which he now occupies."

Nourjahad received this message with great indifference; but, as he durst not shew any mark of disrespect, he answered, "Tell my lord the sultan, that I would not have been thus long without throwing myself at his feet, but I was hastily sent for to visit a dying friend at a great distance, who has made me his heir. The thousand crowns, therefore, my royal master will be pleased to bestow on some

one who wants them more than I do ; but the house I will gratefully accept, and it will daily remind me, that Abdallah does not utterly detest his slave."

Nourjahad now devoted his thoughts entirely to the gratification of his pleasure. He employed one Hassam, the principal of his domestics, to regulate his household, and furnish him with the most costly furniture, magnificent clothes, and a princely retinue. His slaves were all extremely beautiful, and his table was daily furnished with the most expensive viands. A few men of science were invited to his house, for the instruction and entertainment of his leisure hours ; but leisure hours he had none, for he was either too busily employed in satisfying his appetite, or too much inclined to sleep through excess, to attend to their conversation.

Among the beauties of his seraglio he had selected a young woman, so extremely lovely, and so highly accomplished, that he gave her his entire affections, and made her his bride. By Mandana he was equally beloved, and longing to unbosom himself to some one on whose fidelity he could rely, he disclosed to her the wonderful gift which he had received from the genie. His mind thus relieved of its secret, he had not one anxious thought behind, and abandoned himself to the most unbounded extravagance. He forgot his duty towards Heaven, and neglected all the laws of the Koran. The cries of distress, or the sufferings of poverty, no longer affected his heart. Becoming daily more sensual and avaricious, his immense wealth seemed scarcely sufficient to gratify his wishes. He soon grew indolent and effeminate, and the pride he took in displaying the pomp of his retinue to the wondering eyes of the people, was the only motive that incited him to action.

He thus continued to wallow in voluptuousness for two months uninterruptedly, when one day, as he was preparing to set out for a beautiful villa, which he had purchased for a rural retirement, the officer

who had previously forbidden his appearance at court, arrived from the sultan. "I am sorry, my lord," said he, "to be a second time a messenger of ill tidings; but the sultan, hearing of the extraordinary splendour in which you live, is desirous of learning from what source you derive your wealth, and has commanded me to conduct you to his presence."

Nourjahad was exceedingly startled at this unexpected summons; but as he knew it would be in vain to dispute the sultan's orders, he followed the officer to the palace trembling, and prostrated himself at the foot of the throne.

"How is it, Nourjahad," said Abdallah, "that I am compelled by the murmurs of my people, to inquire into the source of this extraordinary wealth which you have displayed. Who was the friend that bequeathed his riches to you, and what is their amount?"

Terrified at the dangers that threatened him, Nourjahad fell at the feet of the sultan, and related the visit of the genie, and its miraculous consequences. But the sultan sternly commanded him from his presence, and ordered that he should be conducted back to his own house, from whence he was not to stir without permission, on pain of being imprisoned in a solitary dungeon.

Nourjahad, filled with grief and vexation, was led like a prisoner back to his own palace, and had the mortification to find the gates of his dwelling surrounded by the sultan's guards.

He now began to repent seriously of the imprudence of his choice. "If," said he, "I had asked the genie to restore me to the sultan's favour, he would have advanced me to the highest offices of the state; I should have enjoyed my liberty, and have been respected; but now I am only envied and hated; and of what use is my wealth, since I am confined to one house?"

In a few days, however, he became more reconciled to his lot, and ordered a sumptuous banquet to be prepared; his musicians were commanded to exercise their utmost art to soothe his mind with all the enchanting powers of harmony; his apartments were illuminated with thousands of variegated lamps, and perfumed with the richest odours; the dresses of his attendants glittered with precious stones; and his own seat was erected beneath a magnificent canopy of crimson velvet and gold. With all these splendid preparations, Nourjahad sat down to his banquet unsatisfied and dispirited, but resolved to elevate himself in some way: he forgot the laws of the religion he professed, which enjoins sobriety; and that night, for the first time in his life, he became intoxicated.

In this disgraceful state, he was carried insensible to bed, and when he awoke from a long and profound sleep, he missed his beloved Mandana, and called aloud for his slaves, but no one answered. Being very passionate, he jumped out of bed, and ran into the anti-chamber, yet found none of his slaves in waiting; enraged at this he was about to descend the stairs, when a female slave appeared, who no sooner perceived him, than she uttered a loud shriek, and was going to run away, but Nourjahad, seizing her by the arm, commanded her to tell Mandana that he desired to see her.

"Alas! my lord," said the slave, "I wish she were able to come to you."

"What do you mean?" cried he, "I hope she is not unwell. She appeared to be in perfect health last night!"

"Last night, my lord! alas, alas!"

"Wretch!" cried Nourjahad, "what do you mean?"

"My lord, Mandana has been dead more than two years."

"Vile slave!" said he, "you shall not thus trifle

with your master ;” and he shook her so violently that her screams brought several other domestics, and among the rest Hassam, to her rescue.

“ My lord,” said Hassam, “ pardon your slave, and suffer us to rejoice in your recovery, when we had despaired of your ever unclosing your eyes, having slept three years and twenty days !”

At this moment Nourjahad, with some confusion, recollected the condition the genie had affixed to his gift. He ordered every one but Hassam to retire ; and when they were alone, he said, “ Tell me then, is Mandana really dead ?”

“ She is, my lord ; and when she was dying, she called me to her, and ordered me to take charge of the household ; assuring me that you would one day revive again. Here, my lord, are the keys of the coffers which she delivered to me ; and I have had the happiness of preserving your affairs in tolerable order.”

Nourjahad shed a flood of tears whilst musing on the loss of Mandana ; and for a considerable time he felt disgusted with every thing around him ; but, as time passed away, his grief diminished, and he began to feel some inclination to return to his former excesses. He had the prudence, however, to explain to Hassam the mysterious gift of his immortality, to prevent the probability of being buried alive, should another deep sleep fall upon him.

Having taken this precaution, he selected from his seraglio a beauty, named Cadiga, and married her. And now he once more abandoned himself to intemperance of every kind. He forgot that there were wants and distresses among his fellow creatures. He lived only for himself, and his heart became as hard as the coffers which contained his misapplied treasures. The poets and philosophers whom he entertained in his house, began to grow irksome to him, and at length thinking their company tedious, he resolved on their final dismissal.

One day the most extravagant project came into his head that ever filled the imagination of man. As his gardens were very beautiful, he fancied they must resemble the gardens of paradise, and he ordered the women of his seraglio to personate the *houries*, those angelic beings who are said to be the companions of believers in the Mahometan Paradise. He called himself the prophet Mahomet, and gave orders to Hassam to prepare for the celestial masquerade. Neither art nor expence were spared on this extraordinary occasion. The fountains were ordered to run with wine instead of water; and fruits and flowers were collected from all parts, to embellish this terrestrial paradise.

On the day the festivities were to commence, the weather being extremely sultry, Nourjahad, who had been viewing the preparations with childish impatience, laid down on a couch to take a short repose, leaving orders to be awakened before sun-set.

Nourjahad, however, opened his eyes without any one person having disturbed his slumbers, and finding himself enveloped in darkness, rose up in a violent passion, and stamping on the floor, ordered the slave who appeared, to bring all the females of his seraglio into his apartment.

While he was resolving to punish their neglect, they appeared, throwing up their veils as they entered his apartment. But, what was Nourjahad's astonishment, when, instead of the beautiful *houries* he expected to see, he beheld only a train of withered and infirm old women.

Surprise and indignation deprived him of the power of speech, till the foremost stepped forward and offered to embrace him. He pushed her from him, exclaiming, "Begone, wretch! where are my slaves? where is Hassam? Where are the women of my seraglio?"

"Alas! my lord! have you entirely forgotten me?" inquired the female whom he so rudely re-

pulsed. "Have you forgotten your beloved Cadiga?"

"Thou Cadiga? O! horrid falsehood! This very day my Cadiga was as beautiful as an angel; and thou resemblest nothing but a fury."

"Alas! my lord, you have not seen your Cadiga these forty years and nine months, till this moment."

"What," cried Nourjahad, "have I slept so long as forty years and nine months?"

"Yes, my lord, and we your faithful wives have in the mean time undergone the natural transformation from youth to age."

"Truly," exclaimed Nourjahad, "this genius of mine is no better than an evil spirit, or he could not take such delight in persecuting me."

"Ah, my lord!" cried Cadiga, "I am not ignorant of the mysterious fate by which your life is governed. Your faithful servant Hassam informed me, in his last hours"—

"What!" said Nourjahad, "is Hassam no more?"

"My lord," said Cadiga, "he died some months since, bequeathing to me your secret, and the care of your person and household."

Nourjahad now ordering them all to withdraw, threw himself again on his couch.—"I see," said he, "the folly of my expectations. Mandana and Hassam are dead, and Cadiga is grown old, and already totters on the brink of the grave. I lose all whom I love, and my immortality does not secure me from affliction, nor can I purchase happiness with all my wealth. Fool that I was to desire any thing beyond the bounds of prudence and moderation. A friend shall no sooner become endeared to me, than death will deprive me of him; and if I marry again, how soon may I fall into one of these fatal slumbers, and perhaps awake no more till the eyes of my consort are closed for ever! Ah! It is a comfortless life that I have chosen, and I find too late that boundless riches cannot purchase happiness."

Nourjahad now became peevish, morose, and tyrannical. Cruelty took possession of his breast; he abused his women, beat his slaves, and seemed to enjoy no satisfaction but that of tormenting others. Cadiga alone ventured to expostulate with him.

"To whom am I accountable," said he, "for my actions?"

"To God and our Prophet."

"That is false," he replied; "as I am exempt from death, I can never be brought to judgment."

"But have you no regard for the laws of society, nor pity for the sufferings of your fellow-creatures?"

"Foolish woman! why do you talk to me of laws, when I consider myself bound by none?"

"Then you are a monster, and not fit to live!" said the undaunted Cadiga.

"Go, tell your Prophet so!" exclaimed Nourjahad, taking a dagger from his side, and plunging it into her bosom. She fell at his feet, weltering in her blood; and he left the chamber, without evincing the least regret for the horrid crime he had committed.

That night Nourjahad retired to rest as usual, and when he awoke again, he beheld a man sitting near the foot of his couch, weeping. "What is the matter?" said he.

"Abdallah is dead! my lord—our gracious sultan is no more!"

"I am glad of it," cried Nourjahad, "I shall now have my liberty. Who is next in succession?"

"Doubtless, my lord, the prince Almanzor, eldest son of Abdallah."

"Slave!" exclaimed Nourjahad, "Abdallah had no son."

"Pardon me, my lord, the prince was born the very hour Cadiga died by your hand; and he is esteemed the wisest and most accomplished prince of his age."

"You are an insolent fellow, to mention Cadiga's

name before me; and a sultan of twenty-four hours' old must needs be very wise and accomplished."

"My lord," replied the man, "the prince this very day is twenty years old."

Nourjahad, on hearing this, looked in the face of the man, and perceived him to be a stranger—"Twenty years old?" said he, starting up, "it should seem, then, that I have slept twenty years; and who are you? for I do not remember ever to have seen your face before? How camest thou hither?"

"My name," answered the stranger, "is Cozro. I am the brother of Cadiga, who sent for me when she was dying, and made me swear by our holy Prophet, that I would watch and attend on you carefully. I did not know till afterwards, that you had murdered my sister, and when I did learn it I could scarcely refrain from revenging such an atrocious deed."

"And pray what restrained you?"

"Reverence for my oath, and a fear of offending the Almighty."

Nourjahad was struck with awe at this answer, but he remained silent while Cozro proceeded to inform him, that his slaves, even those whom he had most trusted, had plundered his coffers and absconded. "Alas!" cried Nourjahad, "my treacherous joys have deceived me. I am bereft of hope; I am like a savage beast in the desert, whose paths are shunned by all mankind."

"Nourjahad," said Cozro, "I have heard your story from Cadiga; and permit me to tell you that all your misfortunes are the consequences of your crimes. You have abused the power vested in your hands; and by the immutable laws of heaven, either in this world or the next, vice will receive its punishment, and virtue its reward."

"Alas!" replied Nourjahad, "you have awakened a remorse, of which I was never sensible before. I

look back with shame and horror on my past life. What shall I do, O Cozro, to expiate my offences?"

"If your repentance is sincere," replied Cozro, "the means are in your own power. Your riches will enable you to diffuse blessings among your fellow creatures."

"It shall be so," exclaimed Nourjahad; "my treasures shall be at your disposal, good old man. Inquire out every family in this city whom calamity hath overtaken, and restore them to prosperity. Seek the helpless and the innocent, and by a timely supply of their wants, secure them against the attacks of poverty, or the temptations of vice. Find out merit wherever it lies concealed, clogged by adversity, or obscured by malice; raise it from the dust, and let it shine conspicuous to the world!"

"Blessed be the generous purpose of your heart!" said Cozro, "and prosperous be the days of your life!"

Nourjahad now sent Cozro forth on his benevolent errand, and only waited a release from the prohibition which Abdallah had laid upon him, to join Cozro in his mission. No notice had yet been taken of a petition he had sent to the new sultan, for the restoration of his liberty; but Nourjahad bore this delay with patience, and spent his days in his closet, devising plans for the benefit of mankind. He was now temperate in all his appetites, and returned to the strict exercise of all the duties of his religion.

One day he was surprised to find that Cozro did not return at his usual time; but how was his amazement increased, when an officer of the court, attended by a guard of soldiers, entered his apartments, and accused him of employing an agent to distribute large sums of money in the city, to bring about a revolt among the people! It was in vain that Nourjahad attempted to refute the charge. He was denounced as a traitor, dragged from his house, and lodged in one of the dungeons of the state prison.

At midnight the gaoler entered with some bread and water; and from him he learned that his accomplice, as they called Cozro, refusing to confess the particulars of the treason in which he was concerned, was already condemned to death, and that the bell then tolling was the signal for his execution.

Nourjahad threw himself, in an agony, on the ground, and exclaimed, "Alas! am I then to cause the death of the most virtuous man I know? Ah, why was I not contented with the common lot of mortals? O holy Prophet!" he added, "take back the gift which, in the ignorance and presumption of my heart, I so vainly desired; and which, too late, I find to be a punishment instead of a blessing."

He had scarcely uttered these words when the door of his dungeon flew open, and his guardian genius, all radiant with beauty, stood before him. "Nourjahad," he said, "thy prayers are heard; yet examine thy heart once more. Art thou willing to become poor again, and subject to death, the common lot of mortals?"

"Most willing," replied Nourjahad.

"Then joyfully do I recall the dangerous gift which I bestowed on thy erring wishes. Prostrate thyself with thy face to the earth, and await what shall befall thee."

The door of the dungeon then closed, and Nourjahad continued in prayer and meditation, till the dawn of the following morning, when the keeper of the prison appeared to lead him out of the dungeon, and place him in an open carriage, between two officers with drawn sabres in their hands. The chariot was surrounded by soldiers, and in this manner he was conducted to the hall of audience, where the sultan was seated on his throne, with his emirs, his nobles, and all the great officers of his court standing round him.

Nourjahad stood before the sultan with his eyes

fixed upon the ground ; his deportment was modest and respectful, but, supported by conscious innocence, he discovered no symptoms of fear.

At a preconcerted sign every one withdrew, except the grand vizier, who remained standing on the steps of the throne.

“ Are you prepared,” demanded the sultan, “ to make a full confession of your treasonable designs ? Say, audacious wretch, for what purpose was your profusion employed ? ”

“ To obtain a blessing from heaven,” replied Nourjahad ; “ and by relieving the wants and afflictions of others, to make some atonement for my own intemperate abuse of wealth, which ought to have been employed to better purposes.”

“ Would you attempt to persuade me that charity was your only motive ? ”

“ It was, dread sovereign. I have spoken the truth ; and to convince your majesty that I never harboured any treasonable design against your person or government, I am ready at this moment to deliver into your hands that immense treasure, which, had I been vile enough to have employed it for seditious purposes, would have shaken the fidelity of half your subjects.”

“ Do then,” said the sultan, “ as you have said, and I will believe you.”

“ If your majesty will permit any one to go with me to my house, I will deliver into his hands all my wealth ; and if my lord permits me to live, I will henceforth labour to support myself.”

“ No,” replied the sultan, “ I will not suffer you to quit my presence ; instruct my vizier where to find your treasures.”

Nourjahad then delivered up the key of the subterraneous cavern which contained the urns full of gold and precious stones, and told the vizier in what part of the garden he might find the entrance of the cavern.

As the gardens of Nourjahad joined those of the royal palace, the vizier was not long in going and returning; but he brought word that there was not a single urn, nor any vestige of treasure concealed in the cavern. Nourjahad instantly recollected that his guardian spirit had probably reclaimed this, as well as the other gift, and said, "A genie who watches over my motions, has doubtless carried away my wealth."

"Wretch!" exclaimed the sultan, "do you suppose that affecting to be mad will save you from my just revenge?"

"My lord," replied Nourjahad, prostrating himself at the foot of the throne, "I call heaven and earth to witness that I have spoken nothing but the truth. The severest tortures you can inflict will extort no more. I was willing to sacrifice the wealth I believed myself to possess, and I am now as ready to yield up my life."

"Are you not afraid to die?" said the sultan.

"No, mighty sovereign; I consider death to a virtuous man as an introduction to everlasting happiness."

The sultan now arose and clapped his hands, which Nourjahad supposed was the signal for his execution; but instead of slaves to seize him, he beheld his guardian genie standing close to the throne. Awed and amazed, he started back, and gazed on the vision; when the angelic youth, taking off the circlet that bound his forehead, and throwing off a head of artificial flaxen hair that flowed upon his shoulders, discovered the brown locks and blushing cheeks of the beloved and beautiful Mandana.

At the same moment the sultan exclaimed, "Look up, Nourjahad! raise thy eyes to thy master's face; no longer the angry Almanzor, but Abdallah, thy friend and protector."

“And for whom would you take me ?” said the vizier, throwing aside his turban.

“By the city of Mecca,” exclaimed Nourjahad, “if I do not dream, I behold the royal Abdallah ! and in thee, vizier, my faithful slave Hassam !”

“It is even so,” said the sultan. “I loved you, Nourjahad, too well not to endeavour to effect your reformation. I employed the beautiful Mandana to personate your guardian angel. I introduced her into your chamber, through a secret door, which communicates with a gallery in the royal palace. You fell into the snare. The liquid you drank was a powerful opiate, and, while you slept, we conveyed the urns into your chamber, filled from the royal treasury. When you were settled in your imaginary felicity, Hassam offered himself to your service, and I had Mandana, who already loved you tenderly, presented to you. No wonder her charms captivated your heart. As I foresaw, you yielded to all manner of excess, and, to awaken your remorse, I had an opiate administered, and withdrew Mandana from you. The confinement I laid you under, was to prevent your having any communication beyond your own household, and you were served only by my slaves, who were bound to keep my secret. You did not suspect that you had slept only a night instead of three years ; but you were not reformed, and we imposed on you that you had a second sleep of longer duration. Your beautiful slaves were conveyed away in the night, and old women introduced, instructed to personate them, which they did admirably ; and Hassam, whom you supposed to be dead, remained secretly in your house to govern the mechanism of our plot. Still you continued to rebel against all laws, human and divine, and, at length, you stained your hands with blood ; happily, however, you did not take the life you aimed at ; as the female who personated Cadiga, still lives. I now determined myself to

be an eye-witness of your actions, and to ascertain whether any latent spark of virtue remained in your bosom, which could possibly be fanned into a flame. When you awoke, the next morning, I presented myself in the character of Cozro, and had the satisfaction of discovering that you were truly reformed.

“Thirteen months only have passed since the commencement of our trial. The greater part of the money expended has been returned to my own treasury, and that which has been otherwise disposed of I shall never regret, since Nourjahad has become worthy the name of my friend. Your amiable wife Mandana shall now be restored, and with her you will receive the affection and confidence of your sultan.”

From this time our hero continued to rise progressively, till he filled the highest offices of the state; and his wisdom and virtue reflected the highest lustre upon the court, in which his character and talents were duly appreciated.

THE END.

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on eye-witness of your actions and to ascertain
whether any latent evil of yours remained in your
soul, which could possibly be traced into a later
time, you would, I presume, have been
left in the charge of your own conscience, and had the satis-
faction of knowing that you were only restored.

Within months only have passed since the re-
newal of our mind. The greater part of the
time expended has been devoted to my own in-
dividual, and that which has been otherwise spent of
myself, I have regretted. I have been too busy
with the name of my mind. You have been too
busy with the name of my mind, and with the
name of my mind, and with the name of my mind.

During this time our hearts continued to be pur-
sued, and we have been the subject of the same
and his wisdom and his reflection, the subject
of the same, the same, in which his character and
his character were fully manifested.

It is a great pleasure to me to see you again, and to
see you again, and to see you again, and to see you again.

The end of the world is now at hand, and the
end of the world is now at hand, and the end of the world
is now at hand, and the end of the world is now at hand.

THE END

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