

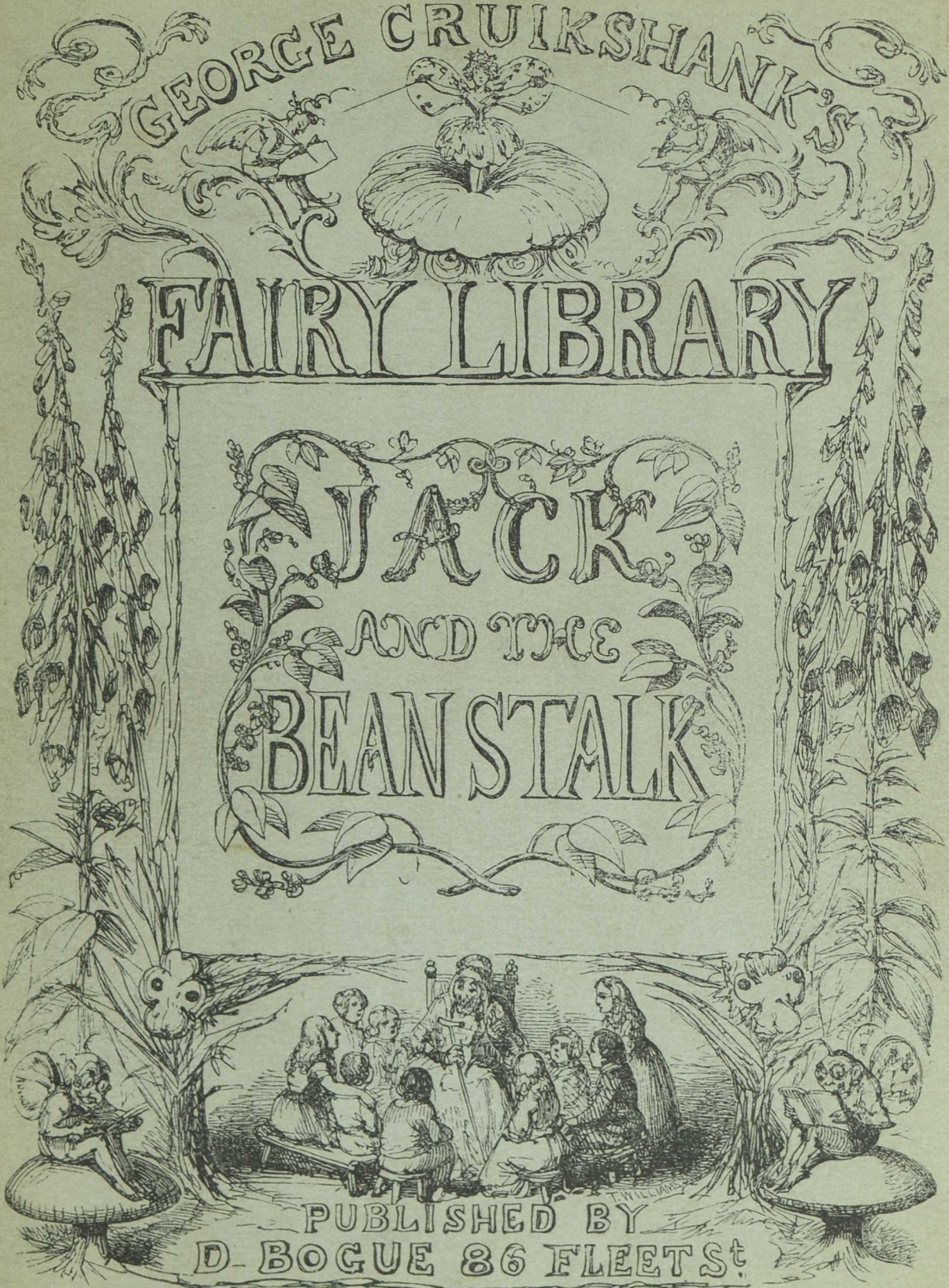
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JACK  
AND THE  
BEAN STALK

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Designed & Coloured by George Cruikshank

The Fairies tie the Giant up in the Bean Stalk.



George Cruikshank's Fairy Library.

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THE HISTORY  
OF  
JACK & THE BEAN-STALK

EDITED AND ILLUSTRATED  
WITH SIX ETCHINGS  
BY  
GEORGE CRUIKSHANK.

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

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1. JACK CLIMBING THE BEAN-STALK.
2. JACK SHOWS KINDNESS TO A POOR OLD WOMAN,
3. WHO TURNS OUT TO BE A FAIRY, AND
4. WHO GIVES HIM THE WONDERFUL BEAN, WHICH HE SETS  
IN THE GARDEN.
5. JACK GETS THE GOLDEN HEN AWAY FROM THE GIANT.
6. JACK AND THE FAIRY HARP ESCAPING FROM THE GIANT.
7. THE FAIRIES TIE THE GIANT UP IN THE BEAN-STALK.
8. JACK BRINGS THE GIANT PRISONER TO KING ALFRED.

Drawn and Etched by George Cruikshank.





# THE HISTORY

## OF

# JACK AND THE BEAN-STALK.

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IN the reign of King Alfred the Great—so called because he was very clever and very good—there lived a poor woman, who had a son and a daughter ; the little girl's name was Ady, and the boy's name was Jack. Their home was a very long way from London, in a deep valley, surrounded by rocks and mountains, as steep as the side of a house and as high as the clouds, so that nobody could get to the top of them ; and the only way into this valley was by the sea-shore : large waterfalls poured down the sides of the rocks, and formed a river which ran through the valley into the sea. Their dwelling was a small cottage with a nice garden, in which they grew vegetables and flowers ; and they had a cow.

The poor woman worked very hard in spinning yarn from the distaff, and so did her little daughter, who was a very pretty girl ; and, what is better than being pretty, she was also very good, and helped her mother in her work, and tending the cow and the poultry—for they had some fowls ; and also she helped her in gardening and in keeping the hut clean, which was always as bright as a new pin ; and, although they were poor, they were very clean

and tidy in themselves. It is not poverty which makes people dirty, but idleness and ignorance.

Now Jack was a fine-looking little fellow, and had a good heart, but he was a spoiled boy. His mother indulged him to a fault, and the consequence was, that Jack did not pay the least attention to anything his mother said to him, and was indolent, careless, and extravagant. His naughtiness was not owing to a bad disposition, but because his mother never checked him properly when he did wrong. Spoiled children may look very pretty in their parents' eyes, but to other people they look very ugly when naughty, however handsome they may be when they are good.

In the early part of King Alfred's reign the country used to be attacked by thieves, called pirates, from Denmark and other countries, who came in ships, landed on the coast, and pillaged the towns and villages, and killed all the inhabitants they could get hold of. The only village in this valley where Jack lived was by the sea-side, inhabited mostly by fishermen; and although the little town was almost hidden amongst the rocks, yet the pirates found it out and attacked it in the night, plundered the place, and then set fire to it. The inhabitants fled up the valley and escaped with their lives, but they were much distressed afterwards, and Jack's mother could not find anybody to buy her yarn and thread; thus Master Jack, his mother and sister, began to want food. The poor woman bartered her fowls for bread, but at last, when all the fowls were gone, and all the bread was eaten, then there was nothing left but to try and sell the cow. But the poor woman happened to be ill at this time, and therefore she was not able to take the cow to market herself; and Jack was such a thoughtless, careless



boy, that she was almost afraid to trust him—but the cow must be sold.

Master Jack set out to the village with the cow, but, being too idle to walk, he got up on her back to ride; and before he arrived at the village he met with a butcher, who was one of those idle and dishonest men that would cheat anybody, and who tried, by gambling and betting, to live upon other people's money without doing any work himself. So, when he saw Jack riding upon the cow, he guessed that he was going to sell it, and knowing Jack's easy, simple disposition, he determined to cheat him out of the cow. These wicked men never care about the misery they bring upon those they rob, or the worse misery of friends, who suffer from the folly of those whom they have cheated. The butcher soon struck a bargain with Jack, but, after he had paid him the money, he won it all back again by cheating him at a game of chance.

Jack, finding his money all gone, begged of the butcher to give him a trifle to buy some bread to take home to his sick mother and his sister; but the rogue only laughed at him, and began to drive the cow towards the village, but he beat her so cruelly that she turned upon him and tossed him into a pond, out of which he scrambled and made after the cow, who had run a long way up the valley: but he had only gone a few yards after her when he tumbled down on his nose, and hurt himself so much that he went limping and growling back to his home; and the next day the poor cow was found in her shed, which was a great comfort to Jack's mother, sister, and himself.

Poor, silly, simple Jack, went slowly and sorrowfully back to his mother's cottage, at the door of which his sister was looking

out for him, as she and her mother began to fear that he had met with some mishap. He beckoned to his sister to come to him; and when she did so, he told her what had happened. Jack was so afraid to tell his mother the truth, that he proposed to say that the cow had run away up into the wood; which, indeed, she had, but his sister pointed out to him, that as this would be a falsehood, he would be adding the crime of lying to his very naughty and imprudent conduct in not bringing safely back the money for the cow, which they so very much wanted to buy food with; and reminded him that their mother had always impressed upon them the wickedness of telling any kind of falsehood, and that she would always forgive them, even when they had done wrong, if they did but tell the truth about it.

Jack's mother soon saw that there was something wrong, and when he told her how foolish and naughty he had been, she began to cry dreadfully, for fear that her children and herself should die of hunger. When the children saw the great grief of their poor mother, they also began to cry bitterly; but suddenly Jack said, "Don't cry, dear mother and sister; I'll go and get some work to do, and bring you home some food." His mother did cheer up a little, for this was the first time she had ever heard him talk of getting any work to do. They then dried up their tears. The mother gave him her blessing; and she and his sister kissing him, and wishing him every success, he set out to seek for employment.

This was, indeed, the first time that Jack had ever felt a desire to work in right earnest; and he was quite cheerful and happy at the thought of earning something, that he might take home some food to his mother and sister.



As Jack was hastening along to the village, he saw a little old woman, in a hood and cloak, sitting by the road-side, who appeared to be bent down with age and illness. Now, although Jack was in a great hurry, his heart was too good to pass by any one who seemed in distress, so he went to the old woman and asked her if he could do anything to help her. At first she only answered by a low, moaning sort of sound, and kept rocking herself backwards and forwards; but Jack stooped down, and, speaking kindly to her, took her hand, in order to raise her from the ground.

Her cloak and dress were of a dark, dingy brown; but as she rose up, it seemed to change to green, mixed with red, and blue, and yellow; and her aged, wrinkled face, seemed also to be changing from a pale yellow to pink; and the half-shut grey eyes seemed to open into two bright, glistening, little blue ones, that fixed their gaze upon him. And then, slowly, the hood, the cloak, and gown, with the old pale face, and brown wrinkled hands and arms, all disappeared or melted away into the air; and there stood before him a most charming and graceful little lady, with light flaxen hair, encircled by a wreath of little tiny flowers. She had a pair of wings like those of some beautiful butterfly, to which her dress corresponded. In one hand she held a thin light wand, and in the other a Bean, speckled with bright purple and gold. Jack started back with surprise when he beheld this pretty little figure, which he rightly guessed was a Fairy, and who thus addressed him:—"Be not afraid, Master Jack! You came with kind intentions to help one whom you thought in need, and in return I intend to help and serve you,



and all that belong to you ; but I require *your* aid in some things, and we shall thus mutually assist each other. I have long wished to employ you in a difficult and important matter, but I could not trust you whilst you were so careless and idly disposed ; but now, that you have this day shaken off that slothful habit, and have determined to be active, diligent, and trustworthy, I no longer hesitate, and shall therefore prepare you for the duties you will have to perform, by first telling you of your father (who still lives), of your infant years, and how your mother, your sister, and yourself, came to live in this valley : telling you, indeed, all that which your mother has concealed from you, and also the reason why she has done so.

“ You must know, then, that your father, Sir Ethelbert, who is a brave Saxon knight, is still alive, and a prisoner in his own castle. At the time when your mother and yourselves were taken from him, your sister was then a little child, and yourself an infant. Your parents lived in great happiness and comfort, beloved and respected by all who knew them.

“ But this state of happiness was suddenly destroyed ; for, one night, a huge and terrible Danish Giant came in a large ship to the sea-coast, which was near your father’s castle, landed, and, under cover of the darkness of night, got over the walls, and having killed the porter and the guards, he made your father a prisoner. On the morning after he had taken possession of the castle, he brought your parents and you two children out into the court-yard, and all your father’s surviving relations and retainers, and was about to slaughter every one ; but his wife, who came with him from Denmark, and who was a very tender-hearted





Jack shows Kindness to a poor  
Old woman

who turns out to be a Fairy. and

who gives him the Wonderful  
Bean which he sets in the Garden

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woman, and had great influence over him, begged that the lives of your mother and her two children might be spared.

“To this the Giant at last consented; but said he must take them off a long way, and that your mother must take a solemn oath that she would never tell any one of what had taken place, nor say where she came from,—not even to her children. This your mother did to save you both; but had it not been for you and your sister, she would have preferred remaining to die with her husband, your father, whom she now believes to be dead: and this, then, is the reason why she is so sorrowful when you ask anything about him. The Giant having shut up your father and all the others in dungeons, he then placed your mother and you two little ones in a large basket, into which his wife put a quantity of provisions, some clothes, and a trifle of money, and away he went down to his ship, and sailed round the coast, until he came to this valley, where he put you a-shore, threatening that if your mother ever said a word to any one of what had happened, that he would come and eat you all up alive.

“Your mother wandered up this valley, and having met with a poor, honest labourer, she employed him to build a little cottage; where she has lived ever since, working hard to maintain you and your sister, and to bring you up to be good children.

“Now, you must understand that I have two sisters—one a Fairy Harp, that plays most beautiful music; the other a beautiful Hen, that lays golden eggs: these are domestic Fairies, and cannot leave home whilst the master is in the house, who must be a good and honest man; and they can only be carried away by the son and heir, or driven away by the bad conduct of the

master, or head of the family; and whilst it was their business to assist in making the inside of the house happy and comfortable, it was mine to attend to the garden, to supply fruit and beautiful flowers to your mother and the other inmates of the castle. As you have grown up a good strong boy, and as you are now ready and willing to make yourself useful, we must try to restore your parents to their rights and to their happy home again, and destroy the Giant;—there is only one way to effect this, and you are the only one who can do it, and in doing it you must be very careful to obey my injunctions.

“First, then, take this Bean, and when you go home, dig a deep hole in the garden, near the side of the steep rock, and there set it. By the morning it will have grown up to the top of the cliff, and up this Bean-stalk you must climb; for that is the only way you can get to your father’s castle. When you reach the top of the rock you will be directed which way to go, and then mind that you have three things to accomplish. The first is, to bring away my sister, the Golden Hen: when you have brought her to the cottage, you must return to fetch away my sister, the Harp. They will at first be alarmed at seeing you, but you must cry quickly ‘Adza Padza!’ and they will then know that it is I who have sent you. When both are safe under your mother’s care, you must then go back again to the castle to liberate your father. I shall not see you again until you have accomplished all this,—the success of which will principally depend upon your courage and perseverance. I may, perhaps, help you a little; but remember, that no one can be served who depends entirely upon others, and who will not try to help themselves. And now take this piece of



money—go to the village, buy some food and take it home—conceal nothing from your mother, who is the best friend you can have—tell her to cheer up and hope for better times—that you have got some work to do, which you must set about to-morrow morning, and that she must give you her blessing before you begin, and pray for your success.”

As the Fairy ceased speaking, her little voice, which sounded like a silver bell, became fainter and fainter, and her bright appearance grew dim and more indistinct, till she disappeared altogether. Jack stood for some minutes before he could recover from the effect of this strange story; he had undergone a great change, and he now seemed to possess feelings which he had never known before. His mind was opened—his faculties and energies aroused. Jack’s mother and sister were, indeed, more than surprised to hear the account he gave of meeting the Fairy, and the task she had given him to do; but the mother’s heart sank at the idea of the dangers which her dear boy would have to encounter. But, finding that Jack was determined to venture upon this perilous task, and buoyed up with the hope of again beholding her dear husband, she gave her consent. After a hasty meal, Jack took the spade, and went into the garden to plant the Bean according to the Fairy’s directions, whilst his mother and sister sat at the cottage door, spinning from their distaffs. Jack felt so happy and cheerful with the little digging he had done to set the Bean, that he went on digging part of the vegetable garden, to the great delight of his mother and sister, who had never seen him work with such good will before. On the following morning they were all up long before break of day, although it was summer time; and whilst

they were preparing Jack's breakfast he went out to see how the Bean had got on, and came running in to tell them that it had grown—oh, such a wonderful size, and higher than he could see! And Jack was so impatient to set out upon his journey that he would hardly take time to get his breakfast; so, putting some bread in his pouch, he went forth, followed by his mother and sister, who, like himself, were astonished at the growth of the wonderful Bean, at the foot of which they all knelt down whilst his mother gave him her blessing, and prayed for his safety and success in the good work he was about to commence. Then, tenderly embracing and kissing his dear mother and sister, Jack boldly sprang upon the Bean-stalk, and up! up! he went, like an expert climber, as he was. Up! up!—looking upwards—mounting up! up!—higher and higher. Up! up!—higher still. Then, pausing for a moment to look down, he was astonished at the distance he had got from the ground, and could just dimly distinguish the figures of his mother and sister waving their hands and wafting their kisses and blessings towards him; he waved his hand to them in return cheerfully, and to bid them good-bye. Then up! up! he went, higher and higher. Up! up!—higher and higher still; then stopped to breathe awhile, and, looking out towards the coast, he saw the glorious sun rising from the ocean—the light bursting through gold and crimson clouds. Up! up! again—higher and higher still, and looking down, he could scarcely see his mother's cottage. The whole valley looked like a pretty garden, the great trees like shrubs, and the bold river that ran through it reduced in size to a little silver rivulet. Up! up!—higher and higher still, until he reached the clouds that floated below the mountain summit.



Jack was impressed with a feeling of awe at the strange and wonderful scene around him, and at his perilous situation.

The wind now arose, and as the leaves and the very Bean-stalk itself began to shake, and the mists to dash around him, he paused awhile before he ventured to proceed further, for even the upper part of the Bean-stalk was hidden from his view.

He then began to think that, after all, the Fairy might, perhaps, be some evil spirit that had led him into this danger : and what a dreadful thing it would be if he were to fall from such a height, and be dashed to pieces ! and he hesitated about going on. But, if the Fairy were a true spirit, then what a disgrace it would be were he to return without accomplishing his object. That object was a good one : it was to relieve a father from bondage—perhaps to save his life ; and thus it was a good, a holy enterprise ; and as the Bean-stalk rocked to and fro, and shivered in the breeze, he prayed for succour, for support, and strength, and he felt his courage and his strength revive. Then up ! up ! through the clouds he went—up ! up ! higher and higher—till he had passed quite through the floating vapour—up ! up ! he went, cheerily and boldly. An eagle now dashed out from a crevice in the cliffs, to see what strange visitor had climbed so near his solitary nest. Jack heeded him not ; but up ! up ! he went—higher and higher !—and the eagle, too, whirled, circling—up ! up ! into the blue and cloudless sky. Up, too, went Jack ; and now he saw a projecting rock, round which the Bean-stalk seemed to twine : it was what the valley folks had named the Giant's Nose.

Jack at length arrived at the top of the Bean-stalk, and was glad enough when he got upon the firm rock, where he sat down

to rest awhile, and look about him. The scene that presented itself was new and strange: the clouds that rolled below the mountain-tops appeared like fields of snow, with here and there dark holes or chasms in them; and snow lay all around him, on the mountain-tops: but he must not tarry there, so on he went, but at a loss to know in which direction, when, as he went along, he espied a Snow-ball, large and round, which rolled before him down the mountain-side. As he went forward, the Snow-ball rolled and jumped along, and he now recollected that the Fairy had said that the road should be pointed out to him; and he laughed outright to think that a snow-ball should be his guide; the Snow-ball stopped, and there was now an open view before him of a beautiful country. Jack could distinguish, at the distance of two or three miles, a fine building, towering above the trees that surrounded it. This, then, must be his father's castle; so off he set towards it, and in a short time arrived there, and made his way to the gate, at which he saw a plain, good-natured-looking Giantess standing, to whom he went up and humbly begged of her some food and a night's lodging: she expressed great surprise at seeing him, and asked if he did not know that her husband was a great and powerful Giant, who killed everybody that came near his castle. This account terrified Jack a little, but he hoped to elude the Giant; and, being resolute to go on with what he had begun, he again entreated her to give him a little food, and hide him in the oven, or the copper, or somewhere, till the morning; and he told her the truth when he said that he was almost dying of hunger, and almost tired to death. The good Giantess at last suffered herself to be persuaded, for she was of a very compassionate disposition.



She took him across the court-yard into the castle, past a large hall, upon the walls of which hung shields, and spears, and helmets, bows and arrows, battle-axes, surmounted with boars' and stags' heads; from the roof hung an immense iron lamp by a chain, and there was a table as high as a four-post bedstead, and an immense arm-chair to match: this was the Giant's table and chair. The mere sight of these made Jack a little downhearted; but he followed the Giantess through a long gallery, on each side of which were iron-grated doors, leading to cells that were quite dark, and in which he could hear the sound of moaning and chains rattling. In one of these dungeons, thought he, my poor father is confined. And the thought of being, perhaps, able to rescue him kept his courage up; otherwise he could have wished himself at home in his mother's cottage again. The good woman led him on down a winding staircase, into a spacious kitchen; an immensely large fire was burning on the hearth, and an ox roasting before it upon a spit as long as the pole of a coach. She cut a large slice off the ox, put it upon a wooden trencher big enough for the top of a good-sized round table, and gave him what she called a "bit of bread," but which was nearly as large as a peck-loaf; and, handing him a knife that looked more like a sabre, told him to make haste, for it was near the Giant's supper-time, and he would soon be in. Jack, therefore, ate his bread and meat as fast as he could; and, having taken a good drink of water, began to feel very comfortable, and was just falling into a doze, when he heard a voice, like the roaring of a dozen bulls, shouting out, "Holloa! wife! wife! where are you? is my supper ready?"

"Here he is!" cried the wife; "come, quick boy, jump into

the oven!" which Jack did in an instant; and as she shut the oven door, she shouted out to the Giant, "Here I am, dear Swillenbutz," (for that was the Giant's name,) "and your supper is quite ready." The next moment a large folding-door was burst open, and in crept the Giant on his hands and knees—for he was too tall to stand quite upright in any part of the castle: so he crept in, throwing into a corner a large quantity of barley and wheat and the carcase of an ox; then, squatting himself on the floor before the fire, he looked at the ox roasting, and cried out, in his dreadfully strong voice, "Ha! ha! dat looks nice!" But, suddenly turning his head round towards the oven, he roared out, "Wife! I smell fresh a' meat." "Well," said the wife, "I don't know about *fresh* meat, but the crows have brought a bit of carrion and laid it on the turret." "Oh, well," said the Giant, "perhaps 'tis dat." He then took the ox off the spit and laid it on the hearth, blowing it all over to cool it a little, his blowing sounding like the bellows of a large furnace. When he had done that, he took it up in his hands, as anybody might a roasted rabbit, and tore it to pieces, giving his wife a leg, with "Here, you take a' dat;" and began to devour the rest, making a terrible smacking and grinding noise with his mouth and teeth. Mrs. Swillenbutz, who had soon finished the leg of the ox, took up all the bones to pick which her husband had thrown to her. "Now to de hall, and give me my drink and bring me de Golden Hen," cried the Giant; and he crept out of the kitchen again, for he had to go into the court-yard before he could enter the large hall.

When Jack first heard the Giant's voice, his heart began to beat rather fast; still more so when he found the Giant was in the



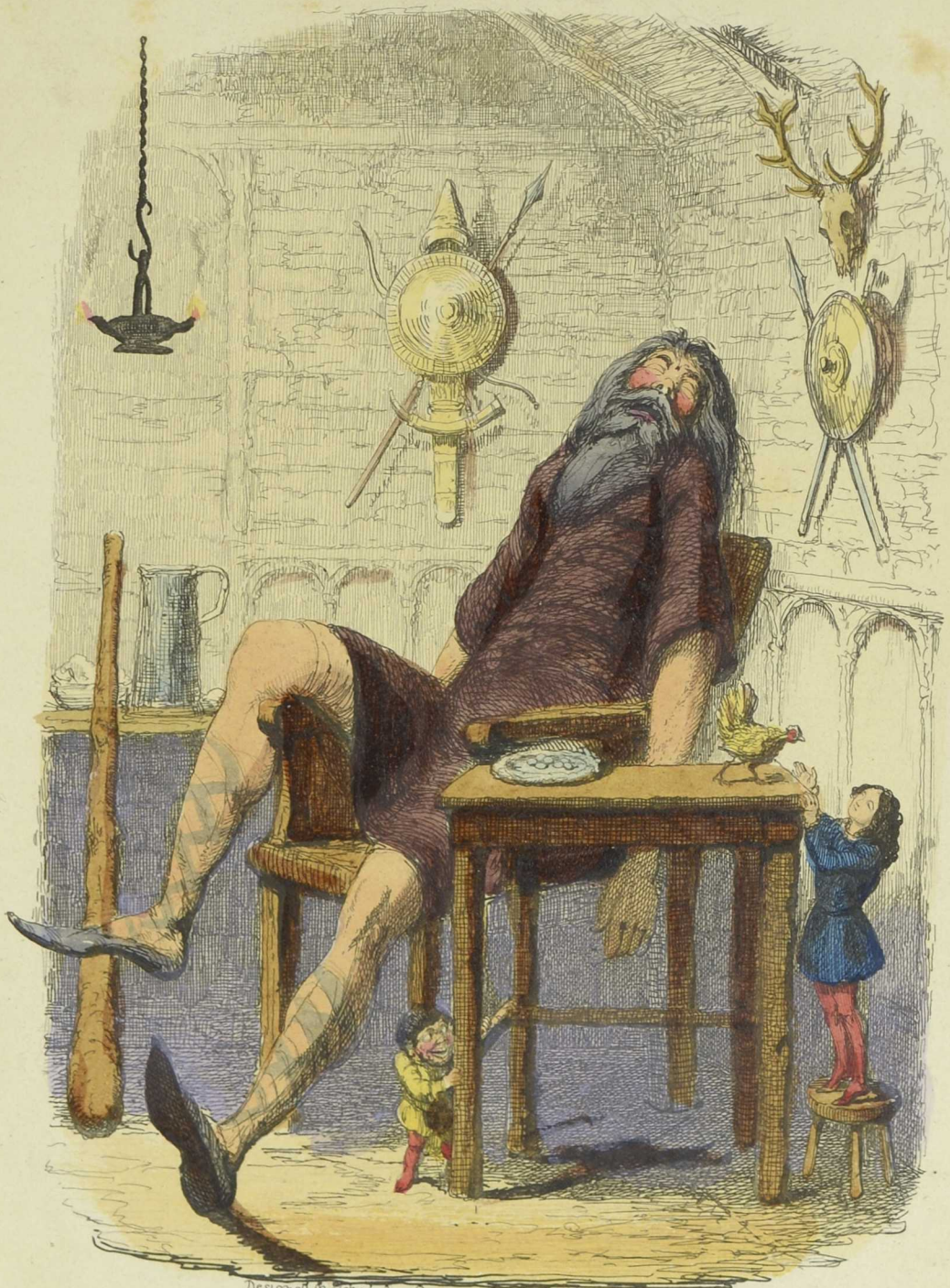
same room with him ; and when, in peeping through a crevice by the oven-door, he saw this immense, terrific, monster Giant, look round towards the oven-door and talk about *smelling fresh meat*, Jack *then* shook with fear, and was glad enough when he saw the Giant turn to devour his supper : but he said to himself, “ It will never do to be so frightened. I shall be quite unfitted for what I have to do ; ” so he kept himself calm and steady, and ready to act as soon as opportunity offered. By-and-bye it grew dark, and the Giant’s wife came to the oven-door, and, having opened it, she said, “ There is some more bread for you, young gentleman ; and mind and be off early in the morning, before my husband goes out, and think yourself very lucky that he hasn’t gobbled you up. You can get out under the castle gate.” Jack now crept out of his hiding-place, and found his way to the hall, where, passing in, he saw by the light of the great lamp the Giant lolling in his chair, and, ever and anon, drinking out of a large can that held some gallons, and which he emptied at a draught. On the table was the Golden Hen, who walked up and down, crying, “ Cluck, cluck, cluck,” and “ Took-a-rook-took-took-took ; ” the Giant every now and then saying to the Hen, “ *Lay !* ” and then the Hen laid a solid golden egg, in a flat basket that was placed upon the table.

Jack waited for two or three hours, until the Giant had evidently drunk himself stupid, and then his great head rolled about, and at last he fell back in his chair in a sound sleep, snoring at such a rate that it quite shook the ground where Jack was standing. Now is the moment, thought he ; and stepping boldly forward, he mounted upon a stool that stood by the table, when he saw the Golden Hen sitting in the basket upon her eggs. At the



sight of Jack she began to "cluck" loudly ; but Jack quickly cried "Adza Padza !" and the Hen started up and ran to him, fluttered her wings, and jumped upon his hand. He then descended from the stool, and was making for the hall door, when he heard a shrill harsh voice cry out, "Master ! master ! thieves ! thieves !" Jack stopped, perfectly astounded, for he thought the Giant was alone, his wife having gone up into the tower to bed in the early part of the evening, which she did whenever she saw her husband getting tipsy, as he always ill-used and beat her when he was intoxicated ; and, looking round to see who it could be, he discovered a wee little Dwarf, who grinned at him good-humouredly, and motioned him to go on, whilst he kept on crying "Master ! master !" Jack took the hint at once, and was off as fast as his legs could carry him, having crept under the castle gate with the Hen, who cried "Cluck, cluck ;" and, jumping upon the top of his head, fixed her claws in his hair, so that as he ran his legs seemed scarcely to touch the ground, for the Hen appeared to lift him up. He had taken good notice, when he went in, in which direction he should return to the Bean-stalk ; so on he ran, imagining he had quite outwitted the Giant, when, by the clucking of the Hen, he thought something was wrong, and upon just turning his head round for a moment, to his great horror he saw the dreadful Giant running after him with all his might, and with such long strides that he appeared to clear a wide field at one step. "Cluck, cluck," went the Hen, and faster went Jack ; indeed, he seemed to fly more than run, and when he got a long way up the mountain amongst the snow, there was the large Snow-ball rolling up the hill before him to show him the way, and, looking round again, he





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Jack gets the Golden Hen, away from the Giant.





saw the Giant slipping and sliding amongst the snow, and at every stride he made forward he slid back again, so that at last he lay flat on his face, roaring and snorting like a herd of mad bulls. Jack took no further heed of him, but made his way to the Bean-stalk, and immediately began to descend, which he found a much easier task than that of climbing up. It was still early in the morning when Jack reached his mother's garden, and running to the cot, he cried out, "Dear mother and sister, here I am." And oh! how glad they were to see him—such crying, and kissing, and thanksgiving. And the Hen was also delighted to see her old mistress and her dear Ady; and went clucking about the cottage, and then laid several golden eggs without being asked, which Jack's mother took to the village, and exchanged for food and clothing, which made them all very comfortable. Jack's mother and sister were both terrified at the account he gave of his adventure; but the mother's fears were lessened by Jack's bold and courageous bearing. So Jack rose betimes again, and long before the break of day was half way up the Bean-stalk; he soon found his way to the castle again. The only fear he had now of being discovered was from the Dwarf; and yet the little creature was evidently well-disposed towards him. As he lay in ambush in the evening he saw the Giantess come out of the gate to look for her husband, who soon returned, loaded as before with a quantity of ripe grain in sheaves. Some of this the wife ground and made into bread, but the greater part the Giant made into strong beer. In those days there were large herds of wild cattle and deer in this country, so that he got a supply of meat without injury to the country people; but in order to make the strong beer, with which he got tipsy

every night, he robbed the poor country people, to such an extent that, however much their land seemed blessed by Providence with fine crops for the purpose of food, the greater part was always taken from them and destroyed by this monster to make his intoxicating drink: so that in this respect alone, besides all his other wicked acts, he was like a blight upon all the land for many miles round.

The Giant seemed in a very bad temper, and told his wife to go in, make his supper ready, and see that she shut the gate and fastened it properly to keep thieves out; whilst he, putting one foot on the top of the wall, leaped over into the court-yard with ease. Jack remained in his hiding-place until it was dark; then silently stealing up to the gate, he crawled under it, and made his way to the great hall again. And as he approached it, he heard the most beautiful music—so sweet and powerful was it, that he seemed spell-bound and transfixed to the spot; but recollecting the danger he was in, and the duty he had to perform, he crept on softly and peeped into the hall, where the Giant was alone, again drinking away at his great can, and getting tipsy as fast as he could; and on the table stood the wonderful Fairy Harp, giving out its delicious sounds. It had the face and figure of a beautiful female, and had wings; but the figure ended in the form of a stand, like a common harp. It played so softly and melodiously, that even the monster Giant seemed charmed with it and fell off to sleep; upon seeing which, Jack hastened to the table, but whenever he came near, the Harp went “Twang! twang!” so loud, that the Giant opened his stupid, sleepy eyes, and looked about, then went off to sleep again. At last Jack got near enough to the table to whisper out



“Adza Padza!” upon which the Harp flew off the table into his hands at once. Away went Jack to the door with his prize; but before he could reach it, the Dwarf, as before, cried out, “Master! master! thieves! thieves!” but still motioning Jack to be gone.

This time the Giant was on his legs in an instant, and must have caught Jack, had he been sober; but he had drank so much that he could hardly stand, and reeled about, and knocked his head against the roof of the hall. Jack, therefore, made the best of his time, and got into the court-yard; but the gate was locked, and although Jack could creep under the gate, the Harp could not: so the Harp spoke, and said, “Place me on the ground,” which Jack did, and the Harp went “Twang,” and with one bound was over the wall in an instant.

Jack had no sooner got on the outside of the gate, and taken the Harp up in his arms, than they heard the Giant snorting, and roaring, and beating about the court-yard with his great club (which was the trunk of a good-sized tree). There was no time to be lost, so Jack ran as hard as he could; but although the Harp was very light, still it impeded his progress a little; and when he looked round, he could just see the tall figure of the Giant staggering in pursuit. After a time Jack put down the Harp to rest a little, and take breath, when the Harp said—“You have carried me far enough; I will now carry you, so get up across my shoulders.” Jack thought it a funny thing to ride upon a Harp, but up he got, placing one leg over each shoulder, and holding on by the hair; and as soon as he was well seated the Harp said, “Hold fast,” and then went “Twang,” sprang up into the air, and flew like a bird. By this time



the Giant was getting near, and threw his great club-tree at them; but it luckily fell short, so on they went, and at length came to the edge of the precipice, when Jack wanted to dismount and look for his Bean-stalk: but the Harp, which was now standing on the ground said, "Sit still, and fear not; I will take you down in safety: the Giant is near, and will, I expect, throw some of those pieces of rock at us; all I want you to do is, to look round and tell me on which side I am to spring, in order to avoid them." Up came the Giant, panting and snorting, thinking that he had caught them at last, when "Twang" went the Harp, and away she flew over the edge of the cliff. Such a plunge as that, took Jack's breath away: but when he heard the Giant roar he recollected the part he had to act, and looking round and seeing a large piece of rock flying after them, cried out to the Harp, "To the right!" "Twang" went the Harp, and sprang on one side. Again he cried out, as another piece was coming near, "To the left!" "Twang" went the Harp; to the left they went, and so they went on, until they got quite out of danger, and then the Harp played a most beautiful and lively tune, and descended into the valley near to his mother's hut, who, with his sister, were on the look-out for him, but who were terribly alarmed when they saw the huge pieces of rock come tumbling down, and crushing great trees in their fall. The Golden Hen was perched upon the roof of the cottage, and clucked away at a fine rate when she heard and saw the Harp and Jack descending.

Jack's mother and sister, himself, and even the Hen and the Harp, seemed all happy that day; but Jack got the Hen to lay him





Jack and the Fairy Harp, escaping from the Giant.





some golden eggs, with which he went to the village and bought some strong iron files and other tools.

Jack had one more journey to make up the Bean-stalk, and now that he was going to try to release his father, his courage and determination were stronger than ever; but his mother's fears increased, yet the thoughts of the possibility of seeing her husband again, made her heart beat with joy and fear: but she prayed for her son's success, and early in the morning giving him her blessing, Jack once more, and for the third time, mounted the Bean-stalk.

Master Jack was very careful in keeping a good look-out, lest the Giant might see him on the road; and when he got into the neighbourhood of the castle he concealed himself until it was dark, before he ventured to approach the gate; and when he did so, he found that the Giant had placed large logs of wood against the bottom, so that he could not get under it as usual. "Oh, oh! Mr. Giant," said Jack, "you think yourself secure now, I suppose?" So out came the carpenter's tools, and Jack set to work in right earnest, and had no fear of being heard, as the Giant was snoring. In an hour or so he had made a hole in the gate large enough to squeeze himself through, and then he set to work to remove the logs: having done this, he made his way to the great hall, and there he again saw the Giant fast asleep in his chair. He was then proceeding towards the dungeon in which he believed his father was confined, when he felt his coat clutched hold of, and a voice cry out, "Ah, I've got you!" It was the Dwarf. Jack was indeed frightened, and was about to beg of the Dwarf in mercy to let him go, when the little creature



burst into a laugh, and said, "I only did it to frighten you ; come this way : " and he led him to the iron-grated door of one of the cells, which was partly open, and said, "I managed this for you—wait till I fetch you a light," which when he brought, he said, "Follow me," and led the way down a narrow winding staircase to a lower chamber, and there in a corner upon some straw lay a fine-looking man, with long white hair, and a long white beard. "This is the little boy, Sir Knight," said the Dwarf, "that I told you of." The man then came forward, dragging a heavy chain after him, and said to Jack, "Who are you, and from whence do you come?" Jack told him his name, and of his mother and sister, and that they both lived. It was Jack's father, who then embraced him most affectionately, and said, "My dear, dear boy, is it possible that you have come to save me? Can you deliver me from this dungeon, and restore me to my dear wife and daughter?" Jack replied that he hoped so, and instantly brought forth the iron files ; both father and son then set to work to file off the chains, whilst the good little Dwarf held the light, and took the opportunity to explain to Jack why he called out when he was taking the Hen and the Harp away. He was, he said, appointed by the Giant to watch those treasures, and to give the alarm if he saw any one attempting to take them away : this he had done, but he was glad that Jack had got clear off ; though, he said, it was good fun to see how frightened they were, and it was also good fun to see the Giant in such a passion. The chains were removed. Jack and his father hastened out into the court-yard, and both succeeded after some difficulty in getting outside the walls. They wanted the Dwarf to go with them, but he replied that he must



stop to give the alarm; but told them he would let them have time enough to have a good start, and then, said he, "Oh! won't the Giant be after you in a rage!" and chuckled and grinned at what *he* seemed to think would be good fun. Father and son set off, but Jack's father had been a close prisoner for so many years that he seemed almost to have lost the use of his legs; however, on they went, but soon heard the Giant roaring after them. They had now reached the snow-topped hills—a little more, and they were safe: but the Giant was close upon them; it seemed almost impossible to escape. When at a turn of their road, in looking back, they saw indeed an extraordinary sight—nothing less than a shower of snow-balls, pelting away at the Giant's head and face, so that he could neither see nor get forward, for every instant dab came a snow-ball in one eye—dab came another in his mouth—bang came one upon his nose—then all over his head and ears—such a shower!—and he fighting against them with his hand and his great club. It *was* a funny sight, and the little Dwarf would indeed have laughed outright could he have seen it. Jack and his father could not help laughing at it themselves, but they did not stop to see how the fight went on, but hastened to the Bean-stalk.

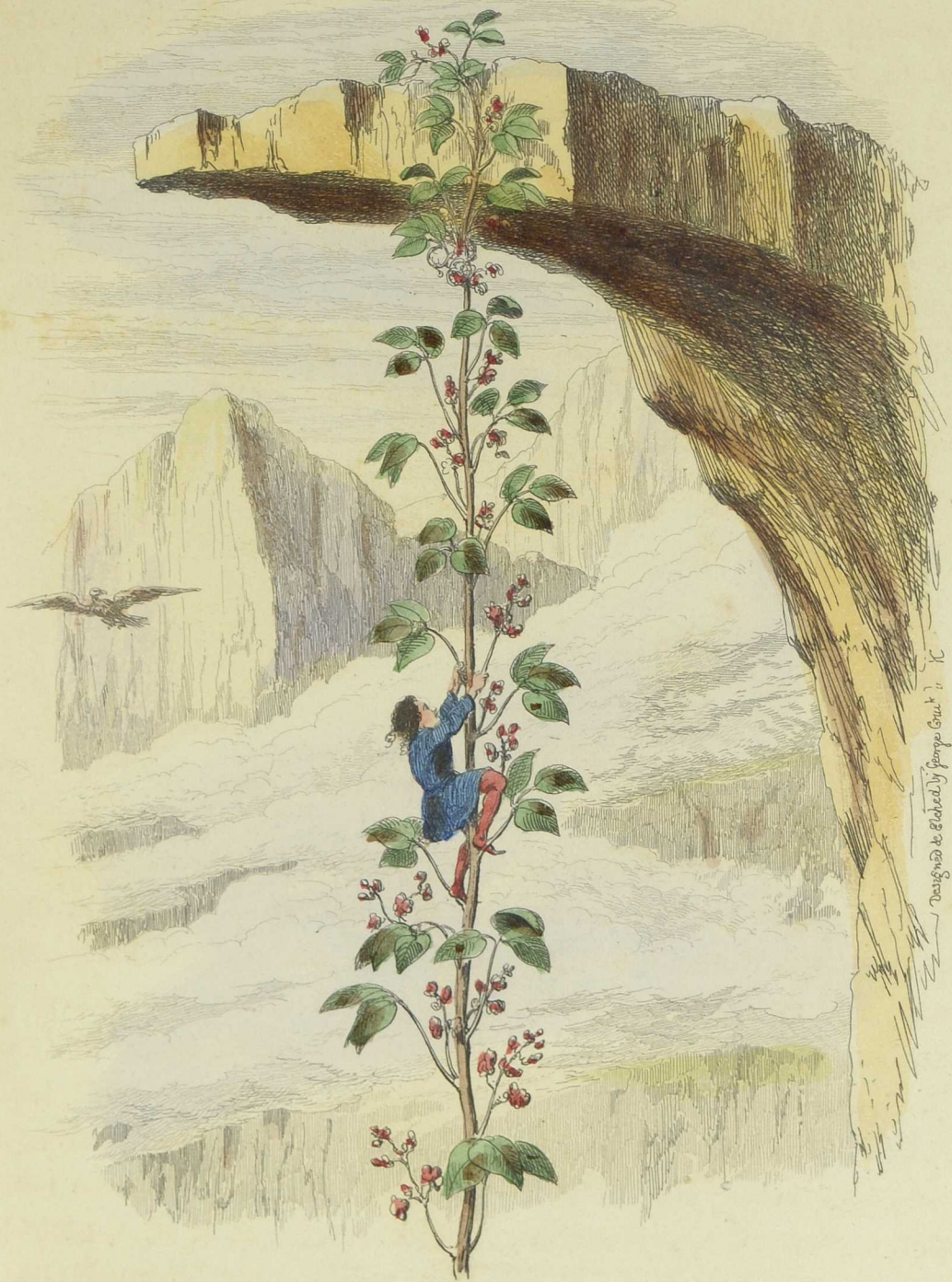
Jack had told his father about this wonderful bean-stalk ladder, so the father was somewhat prepared; and when he saw Jack descending, he did not hesitate to follow. Down, down, down, they went, and in a short time the husband was clasping his long-lost wife and daughter in his arms. Oh, it was a scene of happiness and delight! The Golden Hen flapped her wings and tried to crow, but only went "Took-a-rook-took" and "Cluck, cluck;" but the Harp

struck up a merry tune, and at this moment the Garden Fairy appeared, and was hailed by them all as their best and dearest friend. But whilst they were all in this delightful state, the Garden Fairy said,—“All is not yet finished; here comes the Giant;” and upon their looking up, sure enough this monster was seen slipping down the Bean-stalk, which appeared against his great size to be a mere thread. “Fear not,” she said; “he shall not harm you. Come, sisters, sing a charm around the stalk, and let us fix him there!” Accordingly, the Hen, and the Harp, and the Flower Fairy flew around the Bean-stalk, singing:—

“Bean, bean,  
All so green,  
Though your power  
Be not seen—  
Use all your might  
To serve the Giant right,  
Bind him fast by day,  
And bind his feet by night.”

Down came the Giant, snorting away; but when he got near the ground, so that he thought he could jump down, the Bean-stalk twisted itself round his ankles, and his legs, and his arms, and his body, and twined into his hair, so that he found himself as firmly fixed as if he had been bound with the strongest cords and chains. He fought, and kicked, and struggled, but all in vain; his eyes flashed like two coals of fire—he ground his great, ugly, sharp teeth together. He shook his great fist at Jack, who was standing upon a piece of rock, laughing. He roared out at him, and threatened to kill him and eat him; but Jack only laughed the more





Jack. climbing the Bean Stalk.





with a loud "Ha! ha! ha!" and "I smell fresh meat, ha! ha! ha!" and the Flower Fairy laughed "Ha! ha!" with her silvery voice; and the Golden Hen cried "Took-a-rook-took-a-rook;" and the Harp, going almost close to his ear, went "Twang, twang, twang."

They all now retired to the cottage, leaving the Giant to cool his rage, tied up tight in the Bean-stalk, which had now covered him up so completely that he looked like "Jack-in-Green" on May-day.

Jack's father sent him to inform the chief man of the village of what had taken place, namely, his own release from captivity, and the extraordinary capture of the great Danish Giant; begging that he would send a number of men up in the morning to secure him. The news soon spread about the village and valley, and, early in the morning, the whole population of the place were up at the Bean-stalk to behold this wonderful sight. They were all armed with some kind of weapon—swords, spears, bows and arrows, scythes, bill-hooks, &c.; but there was no occasion to use them, for the Bean-stalk gently let the Giant down to the ground, holding him fast all the time, until the people bound his hands behind his back, and tied strong cords round his ankles. Besides, this great savage monster not having had any food for very many hours, and naturally being a great coward—as all cruel people are—and, besides, being now quite sober, he begged hard for mercy to himself, though he had never shown it to others.

The next day, Sir Ethelbert having procured a large ship, there was quite a procession down to the beach; and having got the Giant safe on board, and having had him well secured, Jack's



father and mother and sister went on board also ; and, with a strong body of men to guard the Giant, they sailed round the coast towards Sir Ethelbert's Castle, and after a short voyage they landed, and marched up to take possession of it.

As they drew near, the Knight was surprised to see a banner waving from the top of the keep, or strong tower ; which banner he soon discerned to be King Alfred's ! This was, indeed, a strange circumstance ; but it turned out that the King had been successful in defeating a Danish army in that part of the country, and having heard that a Danish Giant had taken possession of his old friend Sir Ethelbert's castle, and held him prisoner there, he came to besiege it, and release his friend ; and was surprised to find the only inmates to be a Giantess, a Dwarf, and a few of the knight's relations and retainers, prisoners in the dungeons. The Knight found King Alfred seated with his warriors in the great hall ; and having given him the particulars of this strange history, particularly how bravely, and how wisely, his son Jack had behaved in rescuing him from prison, he brought him out into the court-yard to see the Giant, and also to present little Jack to his Majesty. They had made the Giant crawl upon his knees through the gateway, and he now stood up before the entrance of the great tower ; but to insure the safety of the King, and every one else, the soldiers, with their spears, were drawn up all round the yard ; and archers had their bows and arrows ready to shoot, if they saw the least disposition on the part of the Giant to break loose. The King's huntsmen had also large fierce dogs, ready to let slip in case of need. Jack had hold of a strong cord that was fastened to the Giant's leg ; and when he saw the King come forth he





Jack brings the Giant prisoner to King Alfred.





knelt down, bowed, and delivered the Giant into the custody of his Majesty's guards.

The King was much pleased with Jack, and surprised that such a little fellow should have achieved so much and so well, and giving him a handsome jewel as a mark of his regard, desired that when he was a little older, he would come to the Court and be one of his pages. A Council was then held as to what was to be done with the Giant—whether he was to be killed or kept prisoner. Jack's mother, out of gratitude to the Giantess for having saved her life and the lives of her children, and indeed, as it appeared, her husband's life also, prayed the King to spare the Giant's life.

King Alfred granted her petition, and being a wise king, he determined to turn such great strength to some useful purpose, and therefore placed him under guard in the royal quarries, to hew out great stones for building royal and public places. The Giant's wife was allowed to live with him, and as he never had any intoxicating liquor to get tipsy with, he never beat or ill-used her any more, and they lived happily for many years.

After Jack's father and mother got settled, and the castle put in order, the Flower Fairy, the Hen, and the Harp, lent their aid to make it one of the happiest of homes—a happiness more felt in contrast to the adversity they had suffered.

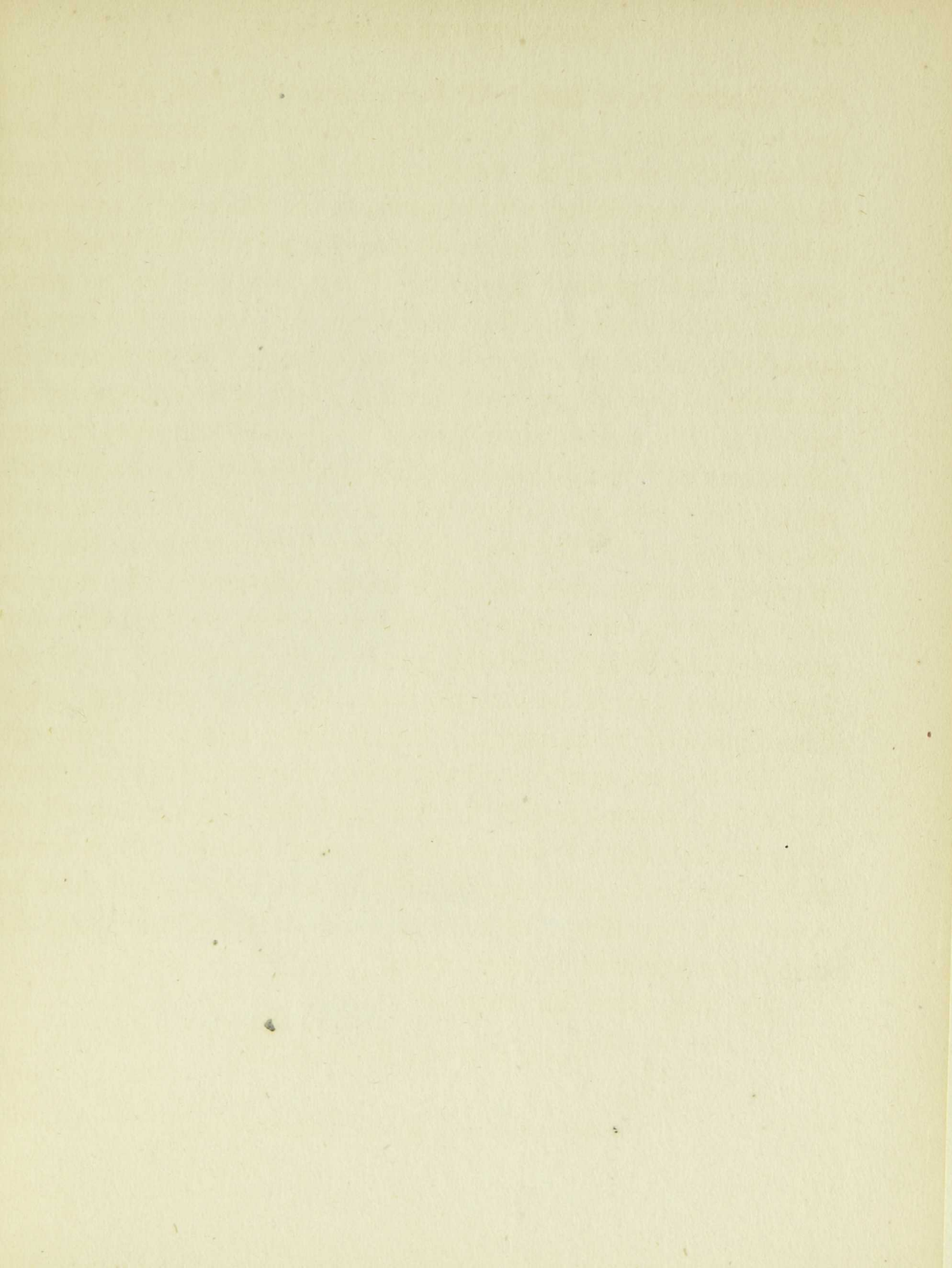
On the evening of the day before Jack's father, mother, sister, and himself, left the valley with the Giant, his father gave a great feast to all the inhabitants of the place, to pay for which the Golden Hen was so good as to lay, on that morning, an extraordinary number of golden eggs, which found a ready market.

The Garden Fairy had told Jack, privately, that she and her sisters were going up the Bean-stalk that evening, in order to be at the castle to receive the family; and that, after they had made their ascent, something would happen to the Bean-stalk, as soon as it was dark, that would astonish and amuse the family and their guests. Jack informed his father of this, who told the people to remain with them till after the close of day, as he expected something curious and surprising would happen to the Bean-stalk. Accordingly they all gathered round it; and, after waiting until it was dark, they saw the lower part of the Bean-stalk on fire, showing all manner of beautiful colours: this extended up the whole of the stalk; and, as it was a clear, cloudless night, they could see up to the very top of it. The beans, which were growing upon the stalk in great numbers, then exploded with loud reports, like cannons. After this had gone on for a considerable time, to the great astonishment and delight of all the people (more particularly to Master Jack), there seemed to run up from the root a dazzling, bright flame, followed by an explosion like thunder, that echoed amongst the hills far and near, for a long while, accompanied by a shower of fire that nearly covered the whole of the valley; then all was dark, and the BEAN-STALK had disappeared entirely. Such a wonderful Bean-stalk as this had never been seen before; and there has never been one like it seen since; and it is not very likely that such a one will ever be seen again.

And thus ends the story of

JACK AND THE BEAN-STALK.



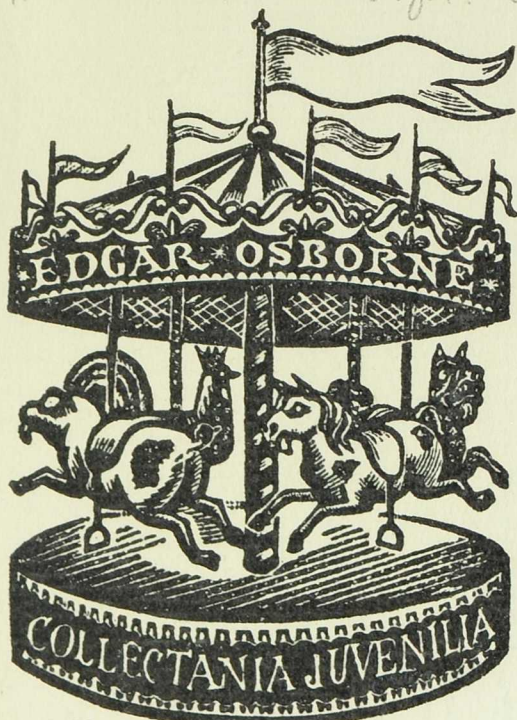






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