

# FACTS THE GIANT KILLER



LONDON :—T. GOODE, PUBLISHER, CLERKENWELL GREEN.

ca 1867



LONDON - T. GOODE PUBLISHERS, CHERKEZMETI GIBREZ

37131 032 425 340

mlll  
78307

# THE HISTORY OF JACK THE GIANT KILLER.



IN the reign of King Arthur, near to the Lands' End in Cornwall, lived a worthy Farmer, who had a son named Jack ; of a most ready wit. Whatever he could not perform by strength, he did by cunning. Never was any body found that could worst him ; for the very learned he baffled by his wit and sharp invention.

In those days St. Michael Mount, in Cornwall was kept by two monstrous Giants, the terror of the neighbouring towns and villages. Their habitation was a strong castle, in the midst of the Island, where they would allow no one to approach them. They fed upon other men's cattle, rowing over to the main land, and taking away whatever they could find, (the people all running away at their approach), then they would seize their oxen, a dozen at a time, and the poultry they would tie round their waists like candles.

Jack undertook to destroy these monsters, so furnished himself with a pickaxe, shovel, and horn, and early one evening rowed over to the mountain, where he dug a pit twenty feet deep, and eight wide, covering it on the top with long sticks and rushes, which made it look like the ground around it. When morning came, he took out his horn and blew a tantivy; which noise awoke one of the Giant, who came towards Jack, roaring

out, "You villian, you shall pay dear for disturbing me, for I will broil you for breakfast."

These words were no sooner spoken, then down he fell into the trap set for him. Jack instantly steppd up, and struck his pickaxe into the Giant's head. "Now Master Giant, said Jack, how do you like your breakfast? You will roast me, will you?" Having thus spoken, he gave him a few more blows, when he expired with a groan so loud that it awoke the other Giant.

Jack now made off to his boat, and rowed away at fast as he was able; but had scarce reached the shore, ere he saw the Giant's brother coming after him, vowing revenge for the other's death. In a short time the Giant came up with Jack and seizing him by the hair, dragged him into his own boat, and tied him down while he gathered a few oxen for his own stock. In the mean time Jack got his cords loosened, but could not escape, the Giant being in sight; however, the tide

being down, he contrived to cut a large hole in the boat, and fasten a piece of canvass on it so as to keep the water out.

In a short time the Giant returned, and loaded the boat with his spoil; after which, getting in, he said, "Now you murderous little wretch, I will serve you as you served



DEATH OF GIANT BLUNDERBOAR.

my brother." Jack prayed to be allowed to live a few minutes longer, and then he should be prepared to die. The Giant

consented, as it would enable him to add to his torments, and then pushed off from the shore.

As soon as they reached the deepest part of the sea, Jack slyly cut away the canvas, the boat instantly filled and went down.

When the Giant found his boat was sinking, his rage had no bounds; he clenched his fist, and swore wickedly, while Jack laughed at him and rode away on the back of one of the oxen that swam with him to the shore.

When Jack reached their castle, he found an immense treasure, which he brought home to his friends. The Magistrates who had employed Jack, having heard of his success, sent for him, declaring that he should henceforth be called. "Jack the Giant Killer," and in honour thereof, presented him with a sword and belt with these words upon it in gold.

"Here's the valiant Cornish man,

"Who slew the Giant Cormoran."

The news of Jack's victory soon spread over the western parts; when a Welsh Giant named Blunderboar, hearing of it, vowed to be revenged on Jack, if ever he



should light on him. This Giant kept an enchanted Castle situated in the midst of a lone wood, and being aware of the fate of his friends Cormorran, was very anxious to get hold of Jack.

His wish was soon gratified, for Jack boldly sought him out, and rapping at the door, asked for a nights lodging, saying he was very hungry. The Giant peeped through



the window, and saw his golden belt. Oh! said he to himself, I shall now have my enemy in my power, and he shall suffer.

The artful Giant then let him in, gave him a good supper, and politely shewed him to a comfortable bed; saying he wished him a comfortable nights' rest; but as he went down stairs Jack heard him utter these words:—

“Though here you sleep with me to night,  
You shall not see the morning light;  
For ere the sun his power regains,  
I mean to smash your little brains.”

Ha ha! says he, is that one of your tricks? I hope to be as cunning as you. He then got out of bed, found a thick billet, and laid it in his own place, and then hid himself behind the curtains. In the middle of the night, the Giant came with his great club, and struck many heavy blows on the bed, and in the place where the billet lay; and then he went back into his room, thinking he had broke all his bones.

Early in the morning Jack walked into the Giant's room to thank him for his lodging. The Giant was startled at his appearance, and stammered out, "Oh dear me, is that you? Pray how did you sleep? Did



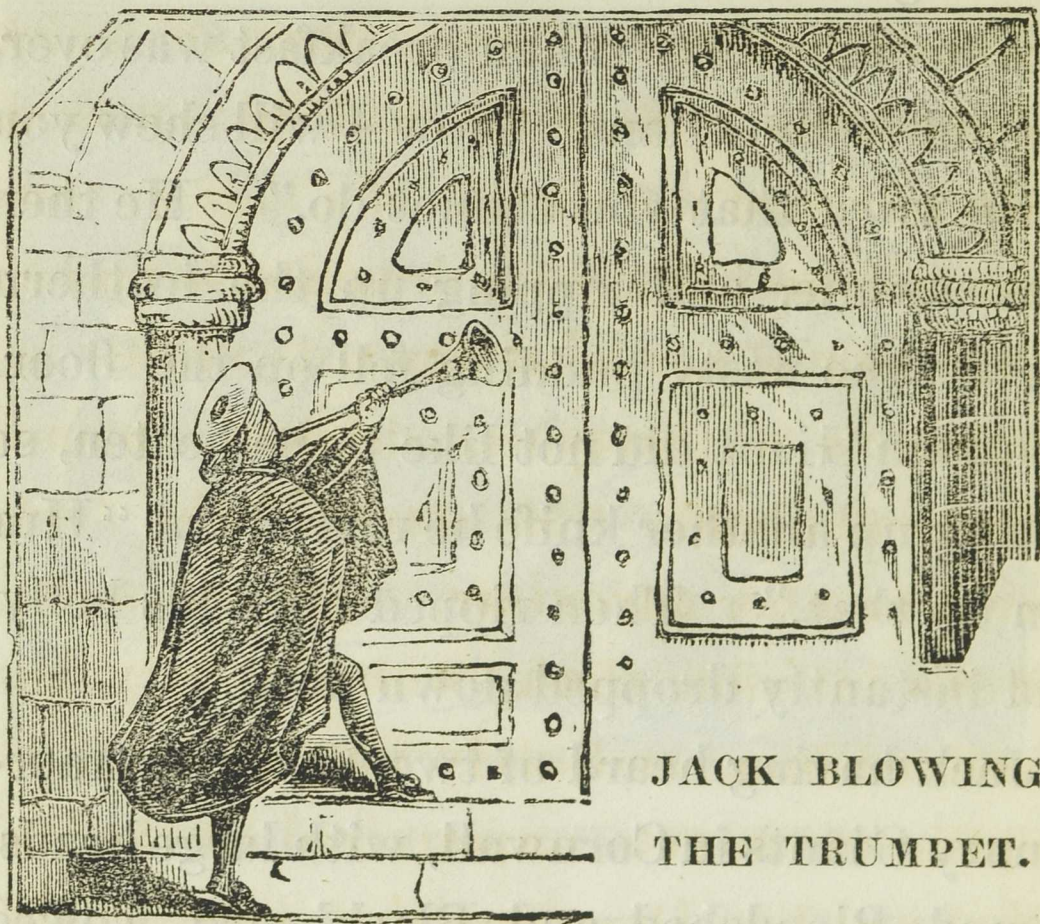
JACK FIRING THE CASTLE.

you hear or feel anything in the night? Nothing worth speaking of, said Jack, a rat gave me a tap or two with his tail, but I soon went to sleep again. The Giant wondered at this, but did not answer a word,

he then brought in two bowls of hasty pudding for their breakfast. Now Jack wanted to make it appear that he could eat as much as the Giant; so he contrived to button a leathern bag inside his coat, and slip the pudding into it, while he seemed to put it into his mouth. When breakfast was over, he said to the Giant, "Now I will shew you a fine trick that you cannot do." He then took a knife, and ripping up the leathern bag, all the hasty pudding fell on the floor. The vain Giant did not like to be beaten, so taking up another knife he roared out "Hur can do that." Then ripped open his belly, and instantly dropped down dead.

Jack having heard of two other extraordinary Giants in Cornwall, with large heads, named Bloodshed and Blackbeard, vowed he would destroy them also; he therefore journied on, and arriving at the Giant's castle, found it very strongly barred. Jack, however, after looking about him, espied a small window over the gateway of the castle,

and, having provided himself with two strong ropes, climbed up to the window by means of the stonework, and crept in; then lowering his ropes, he gave a loud blow on his horn, which so aroused the old Giants,



JACK BLOWING  
THE TRUMPET.

that they came out to see who was there; at the same time Jack lowered his ropes, so as just to slip over each of their heads, then pulling the ropes tight round their necks, he hung the two giant's up at their own

gateway, and left them there dead—having descended from the window, he rode gallantly away.

When Jack had thus tricked the Welch and Cornish Giants, he travelled over high hills and lofty mountains, and on the third day came to a large forest, through which his road lay. Scarcely had he entered, when he heard the shrieks of a lady in distress, and saw a Magician dragging her along by the hair of her head, towards a castle belonging to a three-headed-Giant, named Grimgruffinhoff. “My stars!” said Jack, here is another adventure. He now pulled out his invisible cloak, which a fairy had presented him, and slyly putting it on, he crept in at the gate, unperceived by the Magician and two Dragoons that kept guard. He found several prisoners in chains, whom he determined to liberate; but how to set about it puzzled him, as the Giant wore the keys of the castle in his belt. However, it was not long before he drank so freely, that

his heads fell asleep one after the other. "Now is my time," said Jack, and he artfully drew the keys from the giant's belt,—opened the gates,—let the prisoners out,—then set fire to the castle in several places,



#### DEATH OF THE OLDEST GIANT OF THE TRIBE

and locked the gates after him, leaving the Magician and Giant to perish in the flames.

The Knights and Ladies were overjoyed at their release, and much wished him to accompany them; but Jack having heard that

a lovely Princess was confined by another Giant, in a castle a few miles off, once more set forward as beauty's champion. Proceeding at once to the tower gate, he there saw a golden trumpet: under it where these lines.—“Whoever can this trumpet blow,

The Giant soon shall overthrow.”

As soon as Jack read this, he seized the trumpet, and blew such a blast that it broke the charm, made the gates fly open, and the castle tremble to its base, which buried the giant and the Magician in its ruins. Now this was brought about by the good Fairy, who had presided at Jack's birth, and who now destroyed the giant and Magician's enchantment. Their evil power being overthrown, the Princess resumed her proper shape, at the same time feeling the most intense interest in the courage of her deliverer. Jack gallantly led her forth, and delivered her up to her Father, who was so delighted at her return, that he invited him to remain with them. Jack was so

pleased with the company of the Princess, that he would gladly have partaken of his hospitality, had he not been aware there was still one giant left. He promised to return as soon as he had disposed of him (the chief and oldest of the tribe). It proved an easy task, for when he reached the castle, he found the giant lying on the grass dead. Jack than carried his gold coronet and jewels to the Princess, who received him with such favor, that in a few weeks, their marriage was celebrated with great magnificence; after which, they were presented at court to King Arthur, who settled on them a handsome estate for having rid his country of such dangerous enemies. Thus ends the tale of

## JACK THE GIANT KILLER.