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Little Thumb. part 2. page 21.

THE
RENOWNED TALES
OF
MOTHER GOOSE,
AS
ORIGINALLY RELATED.

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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 some time 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 surprised 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 thee 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 cer-

tain 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 disobliging, 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 stayed 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 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 com-

pany could see themselves from head to foot. They ceased not to extol and envy the happiness of their friend, who in the mean while 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 staircase, 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? Mightily 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 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

nerself 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 Hungary water; but nothing would bring her to herself.

In the mean time the King, having returned from the country, entered the old woman's apart-

ment, 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 receiving 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, showed 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 grandmother.

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 *Morn-*

ing, 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 grandchildren 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 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, inquired 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 drawbridge, 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 that 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 conferred 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 whiskers 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 telling 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 god-mother, 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 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 godmother 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 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.

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 understanding, 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 there-

fore 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 morning." 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,—
Every 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 pronounced 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 ap-

pearance 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.

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 refrain 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 twelvemonth, 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, 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, magnifi-

cently 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 your’s, 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 tender-

ness ; 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 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 by-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 farther 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," re-

joined 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 Prati-lia, 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 per-

fidy 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 ab-

sence, 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 say-

ing, 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 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 Pratilina 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."

Pratilina, 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 care-

ful 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-woman; 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 lock-

ed themselves in. These apartments were at some distance from each other ; and, as all three of these princesses were ignorant of their sisters' 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 perceiving it, and then searched carefully everywhere 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 Pratilia 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 Pratilia, 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 Fi-

netta ; 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. Pratilia, 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. Pratilia 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. Pratilia, 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 Prathia, 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 Pratilia; 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. Pratilia 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 high-

est 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 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 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 everybody, 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 moment 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 illustri-

ous 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 everywhere 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, with-

out 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. Pratilina, 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-avoir, 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 everywhere concerts of music and exhibitions of fireworks; 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 vengeance; 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."

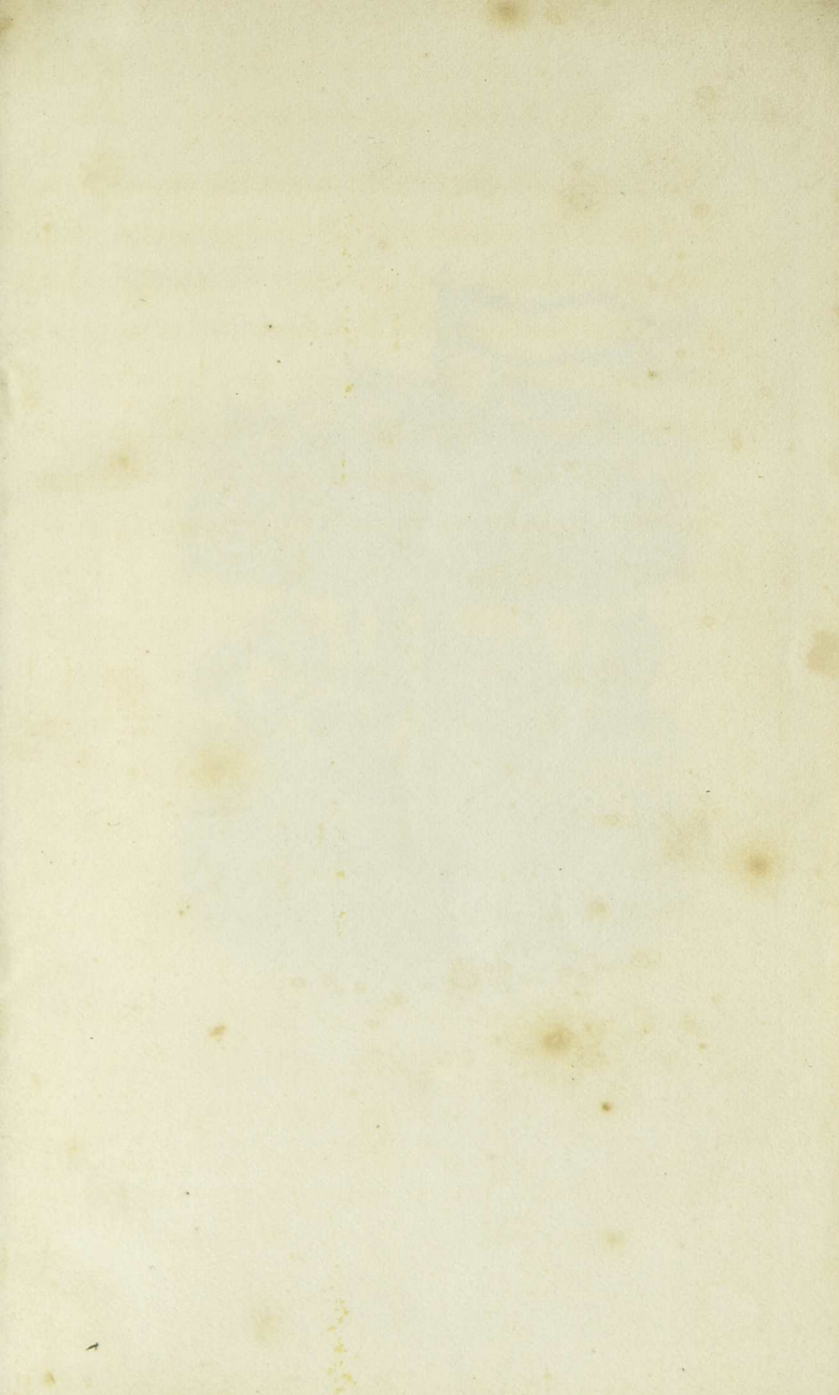
She then related to Bel-a-voir the foresight she had had, in relation to the figure of straw. The prince, transported to find Finetta alive, admired the prudence she was mistress of on all occasions; expressed his obligations to her for preventing him from committing a crime which he could not think 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.

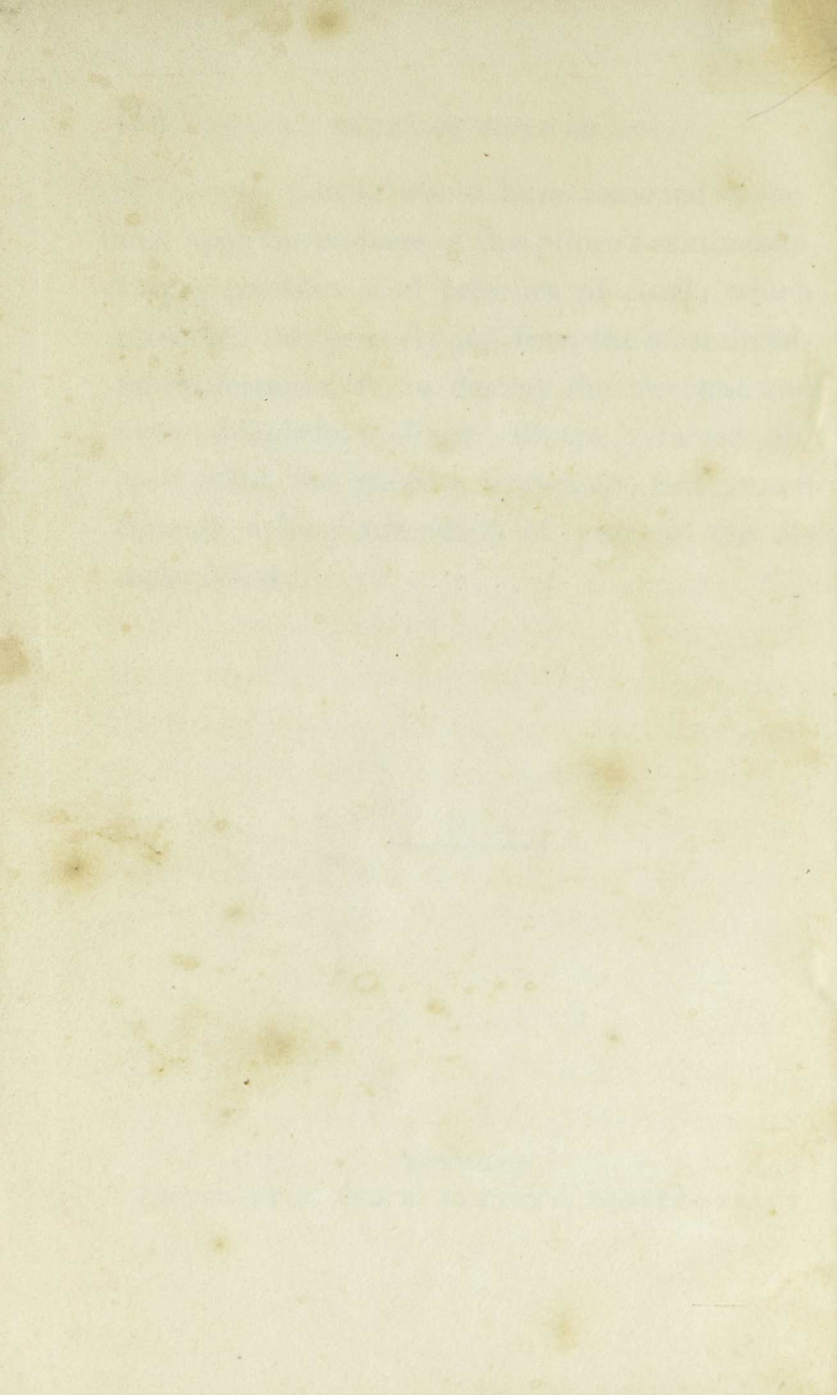
However, if Finetta had not been always persuaded that distrust is the mother of security, she would have been killed, and her death would have occasioned that of Bel-a-voir; and then,

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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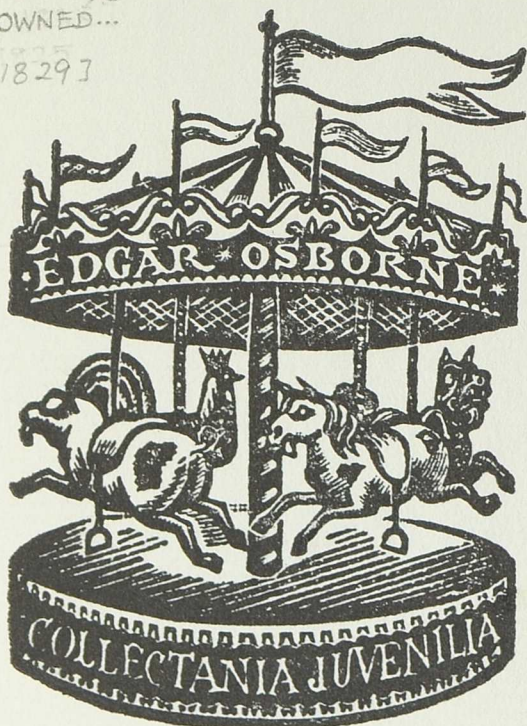




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