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Jack and the Giants;

OR, THE
CORNISH BOY.

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PART I.

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JACK ON HIS TRAVELS.

Master E. THE *Cassick*
RENOWNED HISTORY

September OF 24th 1811

JACK AND THE GIANTS.

No 2.

PART I.

FIFTH EDITION.

With fourteen beautiful engravings on wood.

LONDON:

Printed and Published by John Arliss, at the
Juvenile Library, 87, Bartholomew Close,
West Smithfield.

1810.

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HISTORY
OF
JACK AND THE GIANTS.



WHEN good king Arthur reigned,
a happy sovereign! near the land's
end of England, in the county of

Cornwall, lived a worthy farmer, who had a son named Jack, a brisk lad, of ready wit ; and what he could not accomplish by force and strength, he effected by cunning and policy. He had sometimes baffled the learned by his art and quick invention ; when only seven years of age his father sent him to one of his fields to look after some oxen, where the vicar of the parish happened to be crossing : upon seeing Jack, he asked him, jocosely, if he knew



who made those oxen? to which he answered, "His father and brother;" "Aye," says the vicar, "how can that be, when God made all things upon earth?" "Nay, sir," says Jack, "God made them bulls, but my father and brother made them oxen."

At this period there were many giants in the west of England, who lived in caves, much to the terror and loss of the inhabitants of those parts, frequently scouring the pastures of all the cattle they could find, and even taking men, women, and children to their barbarous abodes. Among others was one of a very large and monstrous size, being about eighteen feet high, and measuring three yards round his body, who had taken possession of the mount of



Cornwall; he had a grim countenance, and the people of the neighbourhood were frightened even at his name. For many years he had taken away their cows and oxen, often carrying half a dozen off upon his back at once; as for sheep and hogs, he would tie

them round his waist like a bunch of candles.

Jack, when he became a man, formed the great design of destroying this voracious monster. He furnished himself with a horn, a shovel, and a pick-axe, and to the mount he went, beginning his work on a dark winter's evening, and before the morning's dawn had dug a pit twenty-two feet deep, and almost as broad; then covering it over with sticks and straw, and



strewing over it a little mould, it appeared like plain ground; then putting the horn to his mouth, he blew tantivy, tantivy: the noise awaked the giant, who cried out in a most terrific roar, “ You shall pay dearly for disturbing me, for I will broil thee for my breakfast!”

No sooner had he said this, than he tumbled headlong into the pit, which shook the very foundation of the mountain. "Oh, Mr. Giant!" quoth Jack, "where are you now? faith you are in Lob's pond. Will no other diet serve you but poor Jack?" Having thus tantalized him, he struck him on the crown of the head with the pole-axe, when he fell, and expired with a groan. This done, he threw the dirt upon him, and so buried him. Now it was agreed by the magis-



trates, that henceforth he should be called Jack the Giant Killer! they gave him a sword, and embroidered belt, with these words written upon it, in letters of gold;

“ Here’s the valiant Cornish man,

“ Who slew the giant Cormoran.”

The news of Jack's victory was soon spread abroad, so that another giant, called blunderhead, vowed revenge on Jack, if ever he could find him. About four months after, as Jack was walking by the borders of a wood, he grew weary, and sat down by the side of a brook, when a deep sleep suddenly overpowered him; at this time the giant came there for water, he instantly knew Jack, and placing him on his shoulder, carried him home to his enchanted castle.



He locked him up that night in an upper room, and next morning fetched another giant to share the pleasure in the destruction of poor Jack. On going to the window he saw them approaching towards the castle; in the room there happened to be two strong cords, and

when the giants were unlocking the iron gates, he threw the ropes over each of their heads, and threw the ends across a beam, where he pulled with all his might till they were throttled; then fastening the ropes, he descended down to the helpless giants, and cut off both their heads.

He took the keys and entered the castle, where he found three ladies tied up by the hair of their heads,



whom they intended to devour, and set them at liberty. Jack having but little money, thought it prudent to hasten on his journey ; at length losing his way, he was benighted ; on entering a valley between two hills, he observed a lonesome house, and pressing

necessity gave him courage to knock at the gate, when to his astonishment there came forth a giant with two heads; yet he did not seem so fierce as the other two, but trepanned all his guests by private malice, under the false shew of friendship. Telling his condition, the monstrous owner bid him welcome. Having retired to his room, as Jack was undressing himself, he overheard the giant, while walking to another apartment, mutter out,



“Tis here you lodge with me this night,
 You shall not see the morning light,
 My club shall dash your brains out quite.”

Say you so, says Jack: then getting out of bed, placed a thick billet there, which he found in the room, and hid himself in a dark corner.

In the night the giant came with his club, and struck several blows where Jack had artfully laid the log: and then retired to his own apartment. Early in the morning, Jack went to thank him for his lodging. Oh! said the giant, how did you rest; did you feel any thing in the night? No, said Jack, but a rat gave me three or four slaps with his tail. The giant began his breakfast on a large bowl of hasty pudding, giving Jack but a small quantity, who not willing



to let him know that he could not eat with him, put his share in a leather bag under his coat and after breakfast, told the giant he would shew him a trick; upon which he took a large knife and ripped open the bag, which the

giant thought was his belly, when out came the hasty pudding; the giant taking up the knife, cried, "Splutter, hur can do that hurself," and ripped open his belly from top to bottom, and died immediately; thus Jack outwitted the Welsh giant, and proceeded on his journey.

The only son of king Arthur having an inclination to travel, that he might go and seek a beautiful lady, who lived in the prin-



city of Wales, begged his father would furnish him with money, which he did; not being able to dissuade him from it.

He rode upon one horse, and led another laden with money.

Thus equipped, he set out, unattended, and travelled onward, till he came to a large market town, where a vast crowd of people were collected together; on enquiry he found it was a corpse that had been arrested on its way to the burial ground, for debt, contracted by the deceased while living: he replied, it was a pity that people should be so cruel: Let the body pass, says he, and come to my lodgings, where I will pay your debts. They came in such



great numbers, that before night he was almost pennyless. Jack the Giant Killer being there, and admiring the generosity of the young prince, desired to be his servant; which being agreed to, they set forward next morning, but on going out of town, an old

woman cried out, he has owed me two-pence these seven years, pray pay me as well as the rest: this he did, and left himself without any money. Upon some consideration it was agreed, they should lodge that night at an uncle's of Jack, that he said lived about two miles off, and was a giant with three heads: this did not please the prince, who said he would eat them up; leave that to me, says Jack, I'll go before, and come back for you. He rode up to the



castle gate, and knocked violently, he was answered and let in by his uncle, whom he told, that the king's son was coming with a thousand men to destroy him; this is heavy news, quoth the uncle, but I have a vault, into

which I will get, and you shall fasten me in. This being done, Jack entertained his master that night, and in the morning loaded him with money, and sent him on before. Then going to his uncle, he told him the king's son was gone; upon this he asked him how he could compensate him for the safety of his castle. Jack replied, by giving me your rusty old sword, the coat in the closet, the cap and the shoes that are at your bed's head. That I will, rejoined his



uncle; the coat will keep you invisible, the cap will furnish you with knowledge, the sword cuts asunder whatever you strike, and the shoes are of extraordinary swiftness. Jack soon overtook his master, and in a short time they

arrived at the lady's house, where Jack performed wonderful acts, by means of his new acquirements. The king's son married the lady, and soon returned to the court of king Arthur, where Jack, for his numerous services, was made a knight of the round table.

Thus ends the career of the early part of our hero's life, a continuation of still more wonderful exploits may be found by

reading the sequel to the far-famed History of Jack and the Giants, which may be had at the juvenile library, 87, Bartholomew-close, West Smithfield.

END OF PART I.



John Arliss, Printer, 87, Bartholomew Close.

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