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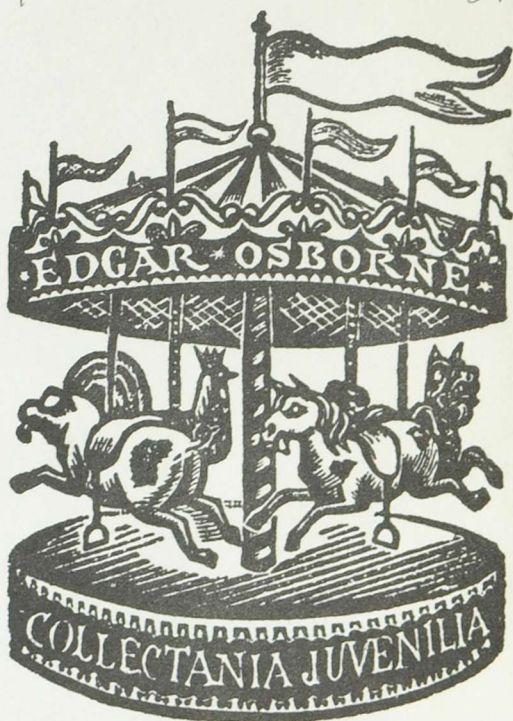
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MOTHER BUNCH'S FAIRY TALES.



The fairy granting the three wishes to the woodman and his wife.

The woodman wishing the black pudding fast to his wife's nose.

The king of the Golden Mines fighting with the horrible Yellow Dwarf.

A. S. Collins
MOTHER BUNCH'S
ENTERTAINING
FAIRY TALES.

CONTAINING
THE YELLOW DWARF,
THREE WISHES, TWO SERPENTS,
ARTFUL EUNUCH,
FAIRY RING AND WINGS,
AND
PERONELLA.

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FAIRY TALES

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THE YELLOW DWARF

THREE WISHES, TWO SISTERS

ARTHUR ELWOOD

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FAIRY TALES.

The Yellow Dwarf.

THERE once lived a Queen that had but one daughter, of whom she was fond to an excess. This princess was so exceedingly beautiful, that she was called All-Fair, and had twenty Kings courting her at one time. The Queen wished to see her married before she died, but, with all her entreaties, could not prevail; she therefore determined to go to the Desert Fairy, to ask advice about her stubborn daughter.

This fairy was guarded by two very fierce lions; so the Queen made a cake of millet and crocodile's eggs, which she knew would send them to sleep while she passed by; and, being thus provided, she set out.

After travelling for some time, she found herself weary ; and lying down under an orange-tree, fell fast asleep. When she awoke, she heard the lions roar, upon which, she looked for her cake, but found it gone.

The loss of her cake threw her into the utmost agony, not knowing how to save herself from the lions ; when, hearing a voice cry—Hem ! hem ! she looked up, and saw a Yellow Dwarf, only a foot high, in the tree, picking and eating oranges.

Ah ! Queen ! said the Dwarf, how will you save yourself from the lions ? There is but one way : promise me All-Fair in marriage, and I will save you. The queen could not but look with horror on so frightful a figure, yet was forced to consent ; upon which she found herself in her own palace.

Her adventure with the Yellow Dwarf preyed so much on her mind, that she became quite melancholy.

All-Fair being unable to learn the cause, resolved to enquire of the Desert Fairy ; and, accordingly, having

made a cake, she also set off. When she came to the orange-tree, she also fell asleep, and on awaking, heard the lions roaring. All-Fair looked for her cake, and was in the utmost trouble at finding it gone. While lamenting her unhappy condition, the Yellow Dwarf presented himself to her with these words—Lovely princess, you need not proceed any further to know your mother's indisposition; she is ungenerous enough to repent of having promised you to me in marriage. How! cried All-Fair, my mother promise me to such a fright as you! Nay, none of your scoffs, replied the Dwarf; if you will promise to marry me, I will be the tenderest husband in the world—if not—save yourself from the lions, if you can. In short, All-Fair was forced to consent, but in such an agony of mind, that she fainted. On her recovery, she found herself in her own bed, with a ring of single hair so fastened round her finger, that it could not be got off.

This adventure had the same effect

upon All-Fair, as the former had on her mother. The best way to divert her, it was thought, would be to marry; which All-Fair consented to, and thinking the Yellow Dwarf would not dare contend with so gallant a person as the King of the Golden Mines, she fixed on him for her husband. The most superb preparations were made for the nuptials; when, as they were proceeding to the ceremony, they saw moving towards them a box, whereon sat an old woman remarkable for her ugliness.

Hold! Queen and Princess, cried she, knitting her brows; remember the promise you made the Yellow dwarf. I am the Desert Fairy; and if All-Fair does not have him, I swear, I will burn my crutch. All-Fair was struck motionless by this unexpected meeting, but the King was greatly enraged, and putting his sword to her throat, said, Fly, wretch! or thy malice costs thee thy life. At that instant, the top of the box flying off, out came the Yellow Dwarf, who, placing himself

opposite the King, said—Rash youth, thy rage shall be levelled at me, not at the Fairy ; I am thy rival ; and claim her by promise, and a single hair tied round her finger.

The enraged King cried out—Contemptible creature ! wert thou worthy my notice, I would sacrifice thee for thy presumption. The Dwarf immediately defied the King to combat, and they both went into the court-yard. The sun then turned as red as blood, and there appeared two horrible griffins vomiting fire on each side of the Yellow Dwarf.

The King behaved with undaunted courage ; but was dismayed, when he saw the princess faint. He instantly ran to her relief, but the Dwarf was too quick for him : for seizing All-Fair in his arms, he jumped to the top of the palace, and disappeared in a moment.

As the King stood confused at this strange adventure, he suddenly felt himself lifted up into the air ; for the Fairy had fallen in love with him. To

secure him, she carried him to a large stately palace; hoping he would there forget the Princess; and tried many artifices to complete her design. By her art, she made herself appear very beautiful; and she used to take him with her on an airing, in a beautiful chariot drawn by swans.

Had not the King been sensible of the Fairy's power, he would have tried to free himself from her; but he knew it would be in vain, and therefore pretended to have a liking for her; by which means he obtained liberty to walk by himself on the sea-shore.

One day, as he was deploring his fate, while walking by the sea-side, he heard a voice, and presently after a Mermaid rose out of the sea, and, with a pleasant smile, said—O King, I am well acquainted with the cause of your grief, and am an inveterate enemy to both the Dwarf and the Fairy; therefore, if you will follow my advice, you shall procure your own release, and also of All-Fair.

The King joyfully promised to do

whatever he was bid ; then the Mermaid bidding him sit on her tail, away they went on a rolling sea.

When they had sailed some time, Now, said the Mermaid, we draw near the place where your Princess is kept by the Dwarf. You will have many enemies to fight before you come to her; therefore, take this sword, with which you will overcome every obstacle; but if you once let it go out of your hand, before you are safe in your own kingdom, you and the Princess are lost for ever. The King returned her all the thanks that the most grateful heart could suggest, and the Mermaid then took her leave.

The King boldly advanced, fighting and destroying every enemy that opposed him, till he came to the gates of the castle, which was guarded by the horrible griffins that stood by the Dwarf when he fought the King. These he also destroyed, and rushed forward to where his beloved Princess sat, when, throwing himself at her feet he exclaimed—O my princess! behold

your faithful lover ; and then clasping her in his arms, he, unfortunately, let the magic sword drop ; the Dwarf who had hitherto concealed himself, sprang forward, and seized it. By its power, he caused two giants to bind the King in chains, and then said to him—Now, rival, thy life is at my command ; yet, if you consent to my marriage, you shall have both st life and liberty. No, said the King, I scorn thy favour on such terms. At this answer, the Dwarf stabbed him to the heart. The disconsolate Princess, at seeing her lover fall, gave full vent to her rage, Thou hideous creature, said she, thy brutal soul shall know perpetual mortification from this moment ; I tell thee, I die for the love I bear the King of the Golden Mines ! So saying, she sank down on his body, and instantly expired.

The Three Wishes.

THERE was once a man, not very rich, who had a pretty woman for his wife. One winter's evening, as they sat by the fire, talking of their neighbours, said the wife, If it were in my powers to have what I wish, I should soon be happier than all of them. So should I, said the husband.—I wish some kind fairy would grant me what I should ask. At that instant, they saw a very beautiful lady in the room, who said to them—I am a fairy; and I promise to grant you the three first things you shall wish; but, take care, after having wished for three things, I will not grant you one wish further. The fairy then disappeared.

The man and his wife were much perplexed to think what they should

wish for. For my part, said the wife, if it were left to my choice, I know very well what I should wish for. I do not wish yet; but I think I should like to be handsome and rich. But the husband answered, With all these, one may be sick, fretful, and die while young; it would be much wiser to wish for health, cheerfulness, and long life. But to what purpose is a long life with poverty? says his wife; it would only be prolonging misery. In truth, the fairy should have promised us a dozen of gifts, for there is at least a dozen things we want. Yes, that's true, said the husband, but let us consider by to-morrow the three things that are most necessary for us. I'll think all night, said the wife; mean while let us warm ourselves, for it is very cold, At the same time. the wife took the tongs to mend the fire; while doing which, she, without any thought, said, Here's a nice fire, I wish we had a yard of black-pudding for our supper, we could dress it so easily. No sooner had she said this,

than a yard of black-pudding made its appearance. Plague on you, greedy guts, said the husband; here's a fine wish, indeed. Now we have but two left; for my part, I am so vexed, that I wish the black-pudding fast to the tip of your nose. The man soon perceived that he was sillier than his wife; for the pudding instantly fastened itself on the tip of her nose, so that there were not any means to take it off. Wretch that I am! cried she, you are a wicked man for wishing the pudding fast to my nose. My dear, answered the husband, I did not think of it; but what shall we do? I am about wishing for vast riches; and propose to make a golden case for the pudding. No, said the wife, for I should kill myself, were I to have this hideous dangler at the tip of my nose: we have but one wish left; leave that to me, or I will immediately throw myself out of the window. Upon this, she ran, and opened the window; but the husband, who loved his wife, called out, Hold! my dear wife, I give you

leave to wish for what you will. Well said the wife, I wish the pudding may drop off. The pudding obeyed; and the wife, who did not want wit, said—The fairy has imposed upon us: she was in the right; possibly we should have been more unhappy with riches than we are at present. Let us never repine, nor envy our neighbours again, but contentedly take things as Providence pleases to send them. However, let us sup on our pudding, since that's all that remains to us of our wishes.

The husband thought his wife was in the right; they supped merrily, and never gave themselves further trouble about the things they had designed to wish for.

The Two Serpents.

THE learned Saib, who was entrusted with the education of the prince of Carizma, was ordered to relate to his pupil, every day, a history which might tend to improve the morals of the young prince. He one day told him the following—

A magician presented himself to King Zohak; and, in the presence of his whole court performed several prodigies, with which Zohak was delighted and surprised. The magician then said—Most potent King, these ordinary tricks of my art are hardly worth your attention: but, if your majesty will permit me to blow twice in your sacred ear, you will presently see a most astonishing wonder.

He obtained the permission, and no sooner had he made use of it, than

Zohak, after some little giddiness, felt an extraordinary motion in his body. This motion was more violent than painful, and finished by the sudden eruption of two serpents' heads from each side of his heart.

Perfidious wretch! cried the King, what have I done to thee? Wherefore has thy envenomed breath produced within my heart these two monsters, which are going to devour me?

Fear not, replied the magician, but rather return me thanks for the precious gifts you thus mistake. 'These two serpents are the most unequivocal tokens of the happiness of your life, and the glory of your reign. Every thing depends on your satisfying their hunger, by furnishing them with the only aliment that agrees with them. Chuse a certain number of your subjects, which you may take from the lowest class of your people; nourish these divine animals with their flesh; and quench their thirst with their blood. Above all, avoid listening to a dangerous and cowardly pity; re-

member well, that whatever pleases you, is just ; and that he is not a King who, when necessary to his own pleasures, does not dare to do a little evil to mankind.

Zohak was at first shocked at this execrable counsel ; but, as happiness was attached to it, he no longer hesitated ; and soon this inhuman prince even felicitated himself upon having taken it. The hunger of the monsters became as his own, and he could not appease it, without experiencing a delicious sensation. He regarded not the sighs nor the tears, the blood nor the lives, of those unhappy Persians. He only saw in his people a vile herd, that existed merely to be sacrificed to gratify his smallest caprices.

The people saw only in Zohak a monster bent on their destruction ; by suffering, they at last ceased to fear him. They revolted against the tyrant, dragged him from the throne which he profaned, and shut him up in the dismal cavern of the mountain of Damavend. There, accompanied

by his two serpents, and no longer able to appease their voracity, the pitiless Zohak became himself their prey.

What a horrible history! cried the prince, when his preceptor had ended it. Pray tell me another, that I can hear without shuddering. Willingly, my lord, replied Saib; here is a very short and simple one, called

The Artful Eunuch.

A young King placed his entire confidence on an artful, abandoned eunuch. This wicked man filled his mind with false ideas of the glory and happiness of monarch. He introduced pride and voluptuousness in his heart. Absorbed by these two baneful passions, the young prince sacrificed his people to them: he placed his glory in despising mankind, and his happiness in making them wretched.

What was the consequence? He lost his crown, his treasures, and his flatterers ; his pride and voluptuousness only remained ; and being wholly incapable of satisfying them, he died through rage and despair.

The prince of Carizma did not appear dissatisfied with this story. I like it much better than the other, said he: at least it is less frightful. Alas ! my prince, replied Saib, they are both one and the same story, under a different dress

THE

FAIRY RING AND WINGS.

THERE was a KING. whose name was Alferute, feared by all his neighbours, and loved by his subjects. A fairy came to him one day, and told him, he would soon find himself plunged into many difficulties, if he did not make use of the ring which she then put on his finger. When he turned the stone of the ring to the inside of his hand, he became invisible; and when he turned the diamond outward, he became visible again.

He was much pleased with this present, and soon grew sensible of the inestimable value of it. When he suspected any of his subjects, he went into that man's house and closet, with his diamond turned inward, and heard and saw all the secrets of the family, without being perceived. When he

mistrusted the designs of any neighbouring potentate, he would take a long journey, unaccompanied, that he might be present at his most private council, and learn every thing without the fear of being discovered.

By this means, he easily prevented every intention to his prejudice ; he frustrated several conspiracies formed against his person, and disconcerted all the measures of his enemies for his overthrow.

However, Alferute was not thoroughly satisfied with his ring ; and he required of the fairy the power of conveying himself, in an instant, from one country to another, that he might make a more ready use of his magic ring. The fairy replied, You ask too much. Do not covet a power, which, I foresee, will one day become the cause of much misery to you. The King, regardless of her entreaties, still urged his request. Since you will have it, said she, I must necessarily grant you a favour which you will dearly repent. She then chafed his

shoulders with a fragrant liquor, and two little wings instantly appeared on his back. These little wings were not discernable under his habit; and when he wished to fly, he needed just touch them with his hand, and they would spread so large as to bear him through the air swifter than an eagle. When he had no further occasion for his wings, with a touch they shrunk again to so small a size, as to lie concealed under his garment.

Thus equipped, Alferute was able to translate himself, in a few moments, wherever he pleased. He knew every thing, and no one could conceive how he came by his intelligence; for he would often retire into his closet, and give strict orders not to be disturbed; then, making himself invisible with his ring, he would expand his wings with a touch, and traverse vast countries. By this power he entered into many extraordinary wars, and always triumphed. But as he continually saw into the secrets of men, he discovered so much wickedness and dis-

simulation, that he could no longer place confidence in any man. The more renowned and powerful he grew, the less he was beloved ; and he found that even those to whom he had been most bountiful, had no gratitude or affection towards him.

In this disconsolate condition, he resolved to search through the wide world, till he found a woman, complete in beauty and all good qualities, willing to be his wife ; one who would love him, and do all her endeavours to make him happy. Long did he search in vain ; and as he went where he pleased, and, without being seen, he discovered the hidden wiles and failings of the sex. He visited all the courts, where he found the ladies insincere, fond of admirers, and so vain of their own accomplishments, that their hearts were not capable of entertaining any true love for a husband. He went likewise to private families ; here he found one was inconstant, a second cunning and artful, a third haughty, a fourth capricious, and al-

most all faithless, vain, and fond of being idolized for their charms.

Under these disappointments, he resolved to carry his enquiries to the lowest conditions of life. At last, he found the daughter of a poor labourer, fair as the brightest morning, but simple and ingenuous in all her beauty, which she disregarded ; and which, in reality, was the least of her perfections, for her understanding and virtue far outshone all the graces of her person. All the youths of the neighbourhood were impatient to see her, and more impatient, after having seen her, to obtain her in marriage ; none even doubted of being completely happy with such a wife.

King Alferute beheld her, and he loved her. He demanded her of her father, who was quite elated at the thought of his daughter becoming a great Queen. Clorinda (so she was called) went from her father's hut to a most magnificent palace, where she was received by a numerous court. She was not dazzled nor disconcerted

at the sudden change ; she preserved her simplicity, her modesty, her virtue, and forgot not the place of her birth, when she was in the height of her glory. The King's affection for her increased daily, and he believed he should at last arrive at perfect happiness; neither was he already far from it, so much did he confide in the goodness of his Queen. He often rendered himself invisible to observe her, but he never discovered any thing in her that was not worthy of his admiration ; still a small particle of jealousy would at times mingle with his love.

The fairy who had foretold that his last request would be attended with fatal consequences, came so often to warn him, that he thought her importunities troublesome ; he therefore gave orders that she should no longer have admittance to the palace, and desired the Queen not to receive her visits for the future. The Queen promised to obey, though not without

much unwillingness, because she really loved the good fairy.

It happened one day, that the fairy entered their apartment in the appearance of a young officer, and declared who she was ; upon which the Queen tenderly embraced her ; unfortunately, at that moment the King entered, and perceiving his Queen with a stranger, he, in a fit of jealousy, drew his sword, and stabbed his wife, who fell expiring in his arms. At that instant, the fairy resumed her true shape. Then he would have destroyed himself, but the fairy withheld his hand, while the Queen, breathing out her last word, said, Though I die by your hands, I die wholly yours.

Too late, now Alferute cursed his folly, that made him wrest a boon from the fairy, which proved his misery. He returned his ring, and desired his wings might be taken from him. The remaining part of his life, he passed in bitterness and grief, and knew no other consolation than that of weeping over Clorinda's tomb.

Peronella.

THERE once lived a **Q**ueen, so very old, that her teeth had dropped out, and all her hair had fallen off; her head shook like an aspen-leaf; nor could she scarcely see even with spectacles; her nose and chin almost touched each other; she was shrunk to about half her former height; and her back was so very round, that she looked as if she had been hunch-backed all her life.

A fairy, who was present at the birth of the **Q**ueen, just now paid her a visit; and seeing her so burthened with age, asked her majesty, if she wished to grow young again.

Yes, replied the **Q**ueen, I would give even my crown to be once more only twenty years of age.

If so, said the fairy, we must look out for some young blooming girl, who for the sake of your majesty's great riches, will take the hundred years you wish to get rid of.

The Queen immediately ordered the strictest search to be made after a lass, who would exchange youth for riches and infirmities.

Several covetous creatures soon made their appearance to accept the proffered conditions ; but when they saw the old Queen, how dirty she was, how she was wrinkled, and what pain she suffered, they instantly preferred their own condition, poor as it was, to riches, age, and infirmities.

At length a young village lass presented herself. She was extremely beautiful, and declared herself willing to accept the crown in exchange for her youth. Her name was Peronalla.

The Queen proposed to divide the kingdom between them. No, said Peronella, I must have the whole, or you may keep your wrinkles and hundred years.

But, replied the Queen, what shall I do, if I give away all my kingdom? Do! said Pronella, your majesty will dance and sing, as I do; and so saying, she laughed, danced, and sang before her.

While the Queen and Peronella were talking, the fairy entered the room, and said, Peronella, are you willing to make the trial? how should you like to be a Queen, extremely rich, and a hundred years old?

I have no objection, replied she.

In an instant, her skin is all wrinkles, her hair turns grey, she becomes ill-natured and peevish, her head shakes, and her teeth drop out.

A sumptuous repast is set before her, but she has not the least appetite, she cannot chew; she knows not what to say, or how to behave, and is quite ashamed at the figure she makes; she coughs, till she is almost dead; she sees herself in the looking-glass, and perceives she is ugly and deformed as an old ape.

In the meanwhile, the real Queen

stood in a corner, smiling all the time to see how fresh and comely she was grown; what beautiful hair she had; and how her teeth were become white and quite firm.

Her complexion was fair and rosy, and she could skip about as nimbly as a deer; but then she was dressed in a short dirty ragged petticoat, and her cap and apron seemed as if she had sifted cinders through them.

The guards, who never suffered a dirty ragged-looking person to be in the palace, pushed her about with the greatest rudeness.

Peronella, who was looking on, said, I am tired of being a Queen; pray take your crown again, and let me have your ragged petticoat.

The change was no sooner made, than each repented of it, and would have tried a little longer; but it was too late. The fairy condemned them to remain in their own conditions.

The Queen was continually crying, and exclaiming, Oh! that I was Peronella! I should now be dancing and

singing. Her fretfulness increased the pain she suffered; nor could the physicians, who were constantly at her elbow, be of the least service. In short, she died in about two months.

Peronella was dancing with her companions, on the fresh grass, by the side of a transparent stream, when the first news of the Queen's death reached her.

Soon after, the fairy came to visit her, and gave her the choice of three husbands:—

The first was old, peevish, jealous, and cruel; but extremely rich; one who would never suffer her to be a moment out of his sight.

The second was handsome, mild, and amiable; but was very poor, and unlucky in all his undertakings.

The third was a shepherd, neither handsome nor ugly; he was possessed of a competency, and was beloved by all who knew him.

Peronella stood considering which she should choose; when the fairy, seeing her hesitate, said—What a

silly girl you are! if you wish to be happy, choose the shepherd.

The first would render your life miserable by his dotage and jealousy; the second would make you unhappy, through his ill-success, which would sour his temper, and cause him to ill-treat you; be content with the third; he will never treat you unkindly; with him you may lead a long and happy life with perfect content.

Peronella took the fairy's advice' and became a proof of the happiness that accompanies a simple life.

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