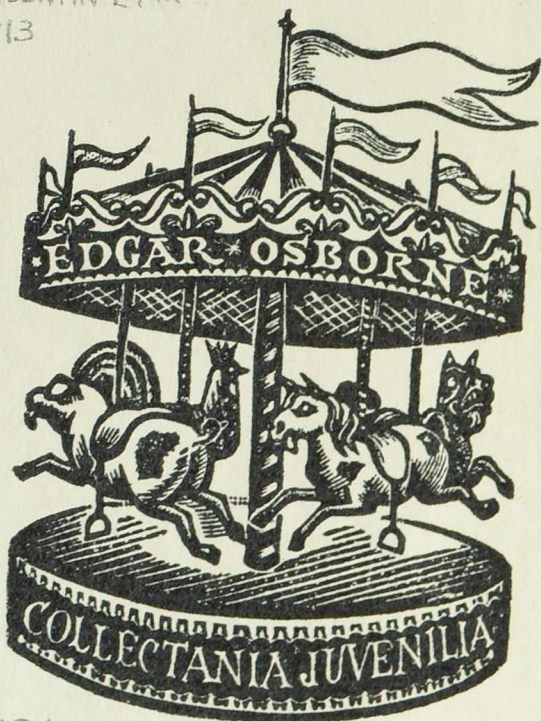


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THE
RENOWNED
HISTORY
OF
VALENTINE
AND
ORSON.

A NEW EDITION.
EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

London:

Printed by Lewis and Roden, Paternoster row,
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THE
HISTORY
OF
VALENTINE AND ORSON.

CHAP. I.

King Pepin banishes Queen Bertha, and gives his Sister in Marriage to the Emperor of Constantinople.

PEPIN, king of France, married Bertha, a princess exceedingly fair and wise. A wicked old woman occasioned this good queen to be banished, while she introduced her own daughter as the king's concubine. King Pepin had two sons by this maiden, Haufray and Henry. At last, however, at the earnest request of divers peers and lords of France, the good queen began to find favour with the king her husband, who, discovering the treachery of the wicked old woman, with great honour and triumph received her again; and

she being thus restored, in a short time had a son, called Charlemain the Puissant.

King Pepin had a sister named Bellifant, a lady of great wit and beauty; and Alexander, emperor of Constantinople, came to France to demand her in marriage. King Pepin made great preparations for entertaining this noble emperor, and went to meet and conduct him to the court of France; where the emperor and Bellifant were espoused. The marriage festivals being ended, the emperor returned to Constantinople. These mighty princes being come to a port of the sea, king Pepin turned to his sister, and in this manner took his leave. “ Fair sister, be governed by the modest ladies of the land to which you are going, and give no ear to disloyalty; for if I should hear ill tidings of you, it would break my heart.” Then embracing his sister, he resigned her to the mercy of the waves. King Pepin then returned to France; and the emperor, with his train, arrived in safety at Constantinople, with great joy, honour, and triumph. But these joys were soon converted into lamentations.

CHAP. II.

The Treachery of the wicked Arch Priest of Constantinople.

IN Constantinople lived an arch-priest, in whom the emperor reposed much trust, and whom he made sole governor over all his house; he was also his principal confessor, and his greatest favourite. This priest forgetting all the emperor's favours, and being enraptured with the beauty of the new empress, seized the first opportunity of insulting her with his wicked proposals.

The noble reply of the worthy empress stung the priest to the very heart, and filled him with rage; however, he durst make no reply, but craved pardon for his rash follies, and so departed. Yet being much irritated in mind, he devised to revenge himself upon the innocent lady by deceit.—At a fit opportunity, finding the emperor alone, he thus accosted him:

Right high and mighty emperor, you know I am a holy priest, and may not seek the

blood of any man; and as, by the way of confession, I came unto the knowledge of a dreadful secret, I neither ought nor will reveal the name of the criminal; let it suffice to say, that Bertha, your empress, is faithless. My advice, therefore, is to be wary of your person, and correct this her folly but mildly, and with the preservation of your honour; for is it not a great shame, that your wife, sister to a great king, one for beauty and wisdom not to be paralleled by any lady on earth, proveth false! and, what is still worse, daily desireth your death? Oh! my heart grieves to think on it!

The emperor, little mistrusting the treachery of the arch-priest, gave credit to all his false words, and became extremely sad. He restrained awhile his passion. At length, entering into the chamber of Bellifant, in a most fierce, rude, and unmanly manner, he took the fair lady by the hair of her head, and dragged her about the chamber. She cried out—Alas! my dear lord, what moveth you to this outrage? I call Heaven to witness I never did any thing in my life

against your honour. The emperor replied, I am too well informed of thy proceedings, and cursed be the day that ever I saw thy deceitful face; and then dashing her head against the ground, he left her speechless. Upon this there arose a most dreadful outcry, which the counsellors and attendants hearing, ran speedily to the chamber; some ran to take up the body, while others took upon them to speak to the emperor to appease his rage, and said to him—Alas, dread sovereign, what causes this sudden passion against your lady; a lady modest, chaste, and beloved by all, and in whom was never seen the least dishonour, either towards yourself or any in your empire; wherefore moderate your anger against her. The emperor, not relenting, answered, speak no more; for I know, I see, I hear, how cunningly she hath deluded me, and am resolved to deliver her over to death; and they who shall interfere in her behalf, shall partake the punishment of this wicked and disloyal woman.

These words were no sooner uttered, than

a courageous baron spoke unto the emperor. Right worthy Sir, I beseech you to consider that your noble wife is now with child; wherefore it is doubly cruel to use her in the manner you have done. But I could wish you to be well-advised before you proceed further: she is sister to the great king Pepin of France, who, when he shall hear these things, will not fail to seek revenge.

The worthy baron here ended his speech; and the lady, being somewhat recovered from her swoon, fell upon her knees, and with tears addressed the emperor in the following words:—Alas! my lord, take pity on your innocent lady, who never thought evil either against your person or dignity. Yet, my lord, though your compassion be quite extinct for me, pity your child, and let me be imprisoned in some tower till the time of its birth: then, if your anger be not appeased, do with me what pleaseth you; but, oh! save the child.

The hard-hearted emperor, bewitched as he was with the insidious tale of the arch-priest, furiously broke out thus:—Thou

false woman, thy child is to me no joy, but rather great dishonour!

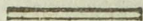
The courtiers perceiving nothing could mitigate the emperor's rage, removed Belisiant out of his presence; the ladies washing her bloody face, and administering cordials to revive her spirits. Being in another room, her servant Blandiman, exclaimed (with tears trickling down his face), Ah! madam, I see you are traitorously dealt with; but take comfort, for I will conduct you back to your good brother king Pepin. O! my innocent lady, follow my council; for if you stay, the emperor will assuredly bring you to a shameful death. Ah, Blandiman, replied the queen, I know thy faithful services towards me, but must not follow thy advice. If I should steal out of this country privately, it would argue me guilty of the infamy the emperor throweth on me. Believe me, I had rather die the most cruel death, than bear the blame of that whereof I am innocent.

By this time the emperor began to alter his purpose of putting his lady to death, and

causing her to be again brought before him, he thus denounced her doom:—Thou false and accursed woman, were it not for thy brother, the valiant Pepin, king of France, thou shouldst die as an example to all perfidious women; but for his sake I spare thy life: nevertheless, I banish thee out of my empire, expressly commanding that tomorrow thou depart, never more to return, on pain of suffering death. I also strictly forbid all persons from aiding or accompanying you, save your servant Blandiman, whom you brought with you from France.

Sentence being thus pronounced, the queen and her servant Blandiman hastened away. As she passed through the city, she was met by multitudes of people, lamenting the loss of so good an empress. When she had left the city, Alas! cried she, in what unhappy hour was I born, to fall from so high an estate to so low a condition as I am now in! Woe is me, the unhappiest among women! Now all my joys are fled; instead of cloth of gold, I am glad in mean attire; my precious stones of inestimable value are all

taken from me, and pearls of tears now adorn my garments. Ah! my brother, what shouldest thou do with such a woeful sister? As she was thus complaining, the anguish threw her into a swoon, and she would have fallen from her horse, but her servant caught her; and, at last, being come to herself again, he said unto her—Alas, madam, be not discomfited, but trust in Providence, who will keep and defend you! Having thus spoken, he espied a fountain, towards which he and his lady took their way.



CHAP. III.

The Birth of Valentine and Orson in a Wood.

THE arch-priest now thinking he should surely accomplish his desire, changed his white robe into a coat of steel, and begirt himself with a sword; and being thus accoutred, he rode after the fair Bellissant with all expedition. After a few hours journey he came to a forest, and saw the lady,

with her servant Blandiman, sitting by the fountain, lamenting her miserable fortune. Now, though this false priest knew her to be the empress, yet she did not imagine him to be the arch-priest, till coming nearer to her, she was struck with fear, and spoke to her servant thus:—Alas, I suspect this to be the arch-priest coming towards us; I am exceedingly fearful. Lady, said Blandiman, banish fear; for if he come to do you further harm, I will encounter him as long as life lasteth. By this time the arch-priest alighted off his horse, and began to renew his dishonourable addresses to the empress, and would have kissed her; but Blandiman suddenly started between them, and gave the arch-priest a blow, that felled him to the earth. The priest recovering himself, drew his sword, which Blandiman perceiving, there began a dangerous fight between them; till a merchant coming by that way, cried out with a loud voice, Lords, leave off, and shew the cause of your variance, and I will endeavour to end this controversy.—Sir, said Blandiman, let us first try our right by our

weapons, and afterwards we will be ruled by words. The poor lady, however, began to tell the merchant her tale. Alas! sir, if you ever pitied woman, pity me; for this man whom you see armed, is the false and traitorous arch-priest that hath caused the separation between me and the emperor, my lord and husband, and hath followed me to rob me of my honour. The merchant, pitying her misery, said to the arch-priest: Leave off, and dare not so much as to touch this innocent lady; for if the emperor did but understand this villainy, thou wouldst end thy life in infamy, as thou well deservest. The merchant turning to the lady, continued: I will reveal all these treacheries to the emperor, and bring the traitor to a shameful death. He then took his leave. Blandiman and the lady riding together, came to an inn, where they staid eight days, during which time Blandiman recovered of his wounds. They then set forward towards France, the lady still complaining in this manner: Alas, Blandiman, what will my royal brother and the peers of France think,

when they shall understand that I am expelled Greece for such a dishonourable deed? Alas! I am persuaded that the king, my brother, will believe that I am guilty, and deliver me over to a shameful death. Lady, said he, be not discouraged, but trust in Providence.—They passed on to France; and, passing by Orleans, they took their way towards Paris, where king Pepin resided. They had entered a forest near Orleans, when Bellifant, being with child, and the time of her delivery being come, she complained to her servant in this manner: Alas, help! help! lay me down softly under yonder tree, and then make haste and send me the aid of women, for I can go no farther. Blandiman did as she commanded; and taking his horse, he rode swiftly to seek some woman to help his distressed lady. Thus the empress, comfortless and alone, without succour of any creature, was delivered of two beautiful sons in this dreary forest. They were no sooner come into the world, than, as the mother was lying upon the earth, under the tree, and her two children by her,

suddenly came a savage bear, and, taking up one of the infants in her mouth, with great speed hastened into the thickest part of the forest.

It happened the same day, that her brother, king Pepin, accompanied by several great lords and barons, had taken his journey from Paris towards Constantinople, to visit his sister Bellissant; and passing through Orleans, he entered this same forest. As the king passed, he espied (under a tree which the empress had left to follow the bear), the other son of Bellissant; and said to his attendants, My lords, see, I have here found a child!—Royal sir, answered they, you say truth.—Well, said the king, it shall be brought up at my charge, and treated as if it were my own. And then, calling one of his pages, he said, Here, take this infant, carry it to Orleans, see it baptized, provide a good nurse for it, and let it want nothing; the king little suspecting that the child was his nephew. The page did as the king had commanded him, and gave the child his own name, Valentine. The king proceeding on

his journey towards Constantinople, met with Blandiman, accompanied by a woman whom he had got to assist his lady in her childbirth. Blandiman, espying the king, hastily alighted from his horse. The king perceiving him to be Blandiman, said, What news from Constantinople, and how doth our sister Bellissant? Blandiman answered, Most gracious sovereign, I bring you but little tidings, yet those I do bring are sharp and bitter; for, by treason and false suggestion of the cursed arch-priest of Constantinople, your sister is banished the emperor's court and dominions; and, but for the interference of the emperor's barons, she would have been publicly put to death, in the sight of all the people. King Pepin, having heard Blandiman's relation, broke out in bitter words against her in this manner: Now, by Heaven, said he, I hold the emperor no upright judge, in sparing the life of my sister; for I swear, that if I had her now in my possession, I would not rest till by death I had made an example of her: and therewithal he commanded all his train to return back to

Paris. Blandiman, perceiving the anger of the king, durst relate no farther of the lady Bellifant; but took his way towards the tree where he so lately left her. There, however, he could neither see nor hear any thing of her; at last he espied her lying upon the earth, almost speechless with grief. Blandiman was overjoyed to find his lost mistress, and said, Alas, dear lady, how happened you to stray so far from the place I left you in?

The lady, with a ghastly countenance, replied thus: Ah, Blandiman, my distresses increase upon me; for you was no sooner gone to procure me help, than I was delivered of two babes, when a ravenous bear from the forest assailed me, and took one of them away. I, as well as I was able, followed the beast; I could not overtake the bear, nor, for want of strength, could I get back again to the tree where I left my other infant. Your other infant, quoth Blandiman; why, I came from the tree, and no infant is there. How! returned the lady, no child under the tree! With these

words she sunk in a swoon. Blandiman, at length, led her towards the tree, where, when she saw that the other child was gone, who can express the grief that she endured! Alas, said she, can there be in the world a wretch more encompassed with grief and sorrow! Oh! my emperor, by evil counsel hast thou plunged me into this distress; but I call Heaven to witness, that I was never faithless to thee in any point. Blandiman and the woman conducted her to a neighbouring village, where they lodged and nourished her till she had recovered her strength. Blandiman then informed her that he had met her brother, and related what he had said. O! said the lady, what I most feared is come to pass, and I am beset with adversities on every side. Well, my comfort is, the emperor hath exiled me unjustly. But what shall I do? I will never return to Paris, but take my way to some remote land; for it is better to fly and save my life, than to fall into the hands of an angry brother.—Blandiman said, Weep not, lady, be assured of my constant fidelity; here I offer myself, life and all, to be at your service, go whither you please.

CHAP. IV.

Orson is nurtured by a Bear.

THE bear that had carried away one of the children offered it no violence, but bore it unto her cave, which was dark and obscure, to be devoured by four young ones which she had there. But mark what happened: the young bears did the babe no harm, but with their rough paws they stroked it softly; and the old bear perceiving they did not devour it, shewed a kind of favour towards it, insomuch that she gave it suck among her young ones, for the space of a year. This child, from the nourishment it received, became rough all over like a bear; and, as he grew in strength, began to range up and down the woods; and when he met with wild beasts, would attack them, so that they began to shun the place wherein he came. This beast-like life he passed for fifteen years, growing to such strength that scarcely any man or beast dare stir abroad, through fear of meeting him. He was called Orson, be-

cause a bear had been his nurse, and also because he was grown rough like a bear. The renown of this wild man spread over all France; and the people of the country round about hunted him. All the time he abode in the forest he wore no garment, nor had he any kind of speech.

In the mean time, the Lady Bellifant, and her servant Blandiman, were travelling through divers countries. In the midst of her sorrows, passing on their weary journey, sometimes by sea, sometimes by land, they at length came to a port in Portugal, where stood an impregnable castle, kept by a giant, called Ferragus. Every ship that passed by this port was obliged to pay tribute to this giant, which he himself went to receive. Accordingly, coming into the ship he espied Bellifant, whom he kindly led into the castle to his wife, who was a beautiful lady. Blandiman also followed his lady, though in great dread of the giant; but Ferragus did not offer him any violence. During her abode in the castle, Bellifant often shed tears, when she thought of the loss of her

two children ; which the lady of the castle perceiving, consoled her, taking great delight in her company.

CHAP. V.

The Treachery of the Arch-Priest is discovered.

THE emperor often repented having thus shamefully expelled Bellifant his wife ; and would have recalled her but for the counsel of the arch-priest. This priest now began to enhance the customs and taxes of the city of Constantinople. It happened, that, according to yearly custom, there was held a great fair in the city, to which resorted many merchants. The emperor gave the directions of these affairs to the arch-priest. Now it chanced, that among the rest of those that sold wares, was the merchant who came riding by the place where Blandiman and the arch-priest were fighting. The arch-priest seeing the merchant, knew him, but took no notice of him, lest all his villainy

should come to light : but mark what followed : the merchant was furnished with very costly wares, such as cloth of gold, silver, silk, and other merchandize, and took more money than any five merchants beside. The fair being ended, the arch-priest sent his officers to receive his duties. One came unto this merchant, and said, sir, you must pay ten-pence for every pound that you have taken, for so it is ordered by the great officer to whom it belongs. The merchant being angry, said, Cursed be that disloyal arch-priest, for he is the cause of these new exactions ! It had been better if he long since ended his days. At which words the officer took his staff, and smote the merchant on the head, so that the blood gushed out. The merchant, seeing the blood, drew his sword, and struck the officer, and laid him at his feet for dead. Upon this there arose a great outcry throughout the fair, insomuch that the rest of the officers seized the merchant, and brought him before the arch-priest, who, determining to put him to death, sent him to the emperor ; but in seeking the life of the merchant, he pro-

cured his own death. The merchant was brought to the emperor's palace, where he in person sat as judge. The merchant fell on his knees before the emperor, saying, "Most excellent prince, deign to give me audience before these your nobles, and I will unfold a matter that concerns your person in the highest degree." Proceed, said the emperor.—"Then, mighty emperor, I would advise you to make fast the gates round about your palace, that none may depart. This being done, the merchant proceeded, with a loud voice, thus :

Hear, all ye valiant lords, barons, and knights!—This wicked arch-priest, whom you have brought to great honour, hath deceived your trust, O mighty emperor ; for it is he who hath created all the discord betwixt you and your virtuous lady, whom you have banished. It was his part to have advanced your renown, but he hath brought upon you great scandal among all nations ; for he secretly made love to the empress ; but she denying him, it drove him into a thousand fears lest his disloyal act should

come to light ; and thus he accused her of her fidelity to your bed ; in all which accusations, I say here, before you, and all your lords and barons, that he is a false traitor ; and I will unfold the truth. After the banishment of the empress, as I travelled through a wood, I espied this treacherous priest, transformed into the shape of a knight. Drawing nearer, I beheld him in fight with a man unarmed, whom I found to be Blandiman, servant to the banished lady, who conducted her in her exile. I called to them to give over their fight ; but they little regarded what I said. Then I perceived the lady piteously weeping, who, at last, said unto me, Gentle merchant, and kind friend, lend me thy aid against this treacherous arch-priest, who seeketh by force to rob me of my honour, after having caused my banishment from the emperor. I put spurs to my horse, and rode to separate them ; which the arch-priest perceiving, suddenly fled into the wood, being fully assured that I knew who he was.

The emperor, having heard this tale, fell

into tears, and, turning to the arch-priest, said, Ah! thou false servant, ever have I studied to exalt thee to high dignities, and hast thou requited me with disloyalty and treasons? The arch-priest perceiving the emperor exasperated, entreated his highness not to credit the slanderous tale of the merchant; for, said he, he belieth me, and I am not guilty. If thou still deny it, said the merchant, I challenge thee by single combat to maintain the truth. The emperor, seeing the merchant resolute, said, Arch-priest, it is time that thou either acquit thyself, or yield thyself guilty. The arch-priest replied, Mighty emperor, to answer the merchant's challenge, is contrary to my place and calling; for I am a sacred Prelate of the church, and therefore must refuse to fight. Nay, said the emperor, no excuse is to be admitted: you must either fight or yield yourself a traitor to our crown and dignity. He then commanded them both into custody until he had sent letters to acquaint King Pepin of France herewith.

The day of combat being appointed, King

Pepin being come to Rome to aid the Pope against the infidels, the emperor dispatched ambassadors, to bring King Pepin to Constantinople, to be an eye-witness of this combat, which was to prove the arch-priest a traitor, who, by his false accusation, had banished his empress. When they met, the emperor, overcome with sorrow and tears, could not utter a word. On the other side, Pepin, doubtful whether his sister were innocent or guilty, said, Since my sister hath proved such a one, she is not worthy of one tear from an eye of majesty. Nay, said the emperor, I speak not evil against your sister; for she is composed of all virtue and honesty, and against all equity I have banished her out of my country. Think you so, said King Pepin, then you are worthy of double shame, and shew unto the world your weakness, when on the report of one man, you, with such rigour, proceeded against an innocent lady, and (like a harlot) threw her into banishment, shame, and dishonour. The emperor hearing the king so bitter against him, said unto him, Alas! my lord, do

not thus upbraid me ; for I have sent for you, that you may be witnesses of the event. It is true, said King Pepin, but what you say now is too late ; for you have yielded my sister to the world's infamy, and (for ought I know) to death itself. Reputation once lost, is never to be recovered. Whilst these words passed between them, they entered Constantinople, where with great joy they were received by the inhabitants.

CHAP. VI.

The Death of the Arch-Priest.

THE day for the combat between the arch-priest and the merchant being arrived, the arch-priest, in armour embossed with gold and pearl, came into the field, and took the place appointed him at the end of the lists. The emperor, beholding the pompous shew that the arch-priest made, called the merchant, caused him to kneel down, and dubbed him knight ; then commanded that a

rich armour should be put upon him ; and promised, that if he overcame the arch-priest, he would advance him to high authority. These two adversaries mounted their horses. The merchant entered the lists, followed by a concourse of people. Then came the arch-priest, accompanied by nobles and knights. The combatants being ready to charge, King Pepin called unto the merchant, saying, My friend, the gods give thee victory against this traitor ! I vow before this assembly (if I discover the innocence of my sister Bellifant) that I will take thee into France, and make thee companion with the highest nobles of my kingdom. The merchant, with many thanks, said, Dread king, I doubt not to make the priest confess that he hath treacherously fought the destruction of your sister. Then came a herald, administering to them an oath ; and, clearing the lists, left the champions to their fortunes. Now they put spurs to their horses, and ran with such fury together, that their spears were broken to pieces ; then they charged each other with their swords, with such violence, that

they rebounded from their armour to the ground, cutting off whole quarters of their corsets. The arch-priest finding himself so over-matched, gave over the fight till towards the evening. At the next rencounter, the merchant so redoubled his strokes, that he smote off one of the priest's ears; but, with the violence of the blow, his sword fell from his hand; which the arch-priest seeing, put spurs to his horse, and charged him with such force, that running against the merchant's horse, he thrust out one of his eyes. The horse feeling himself hurt, ran up and down so furiously, that he unhorfed the merchant, who in his fall entangled his foot in the stirrup, whereby he was in great danger. But at last the merchant's horse fell down, by which he freed his leg from the stirrup, and got upon his feet; made a fresh assault upon the arch-priest, and so wounded him, that the blood ran through his armour upon the earth. This so enraged the priest, that he turned his horse upon the merchant, thinking to over-run him; but the merchant drew a long knife, and plunging it into the horse,

brought both horse and rider to the ground. The priest being thus unhorfed, the merchant pulled off his helmet in order to smite off his head. The arch-priest, finding himself in such danger, said, Alas! I pray thee give me leave to confess, for I yield myself vanquished. The merchant granted him his desire. But the priest had no sooner got on his feet, than clasping the merchant in his arms, he threw him on the ground, saying, I now have the advantage, and thou shalt not escape with life, if thou refusest what I shall command thee. Ah! replied the merchant, hast thou betrayed me? Well, what is it thou commandest? Go before the emperor and King Pepin, said the arch-priest, and there testify that thou hast falsely accused me, and I swear to give thee a niece of mine in marriage, rich, fair, and of pleasant behaviour. The merchant, thinking it best to dissemble, thus answered: Sir priest, your arguments are good; I will clear you from the accusations which I have exhibited against you.—The merchant had no sooner got on his feet, than seizing the arch-priest,

he in turn threw him down, saying, Arch-priest, you have taught me to play my part; think no more therefore on false pretences, but immediately confess your treason.

The arch-priest finding himself beaten by his own weapons, began to intreat; but the merchant instantly put out his eyes, to prevent his doing him any further arm. He then called the marshals of the field, and said, Behold, the life of the arch-priest is now in my power; therefore my request is, that you conduct Alexander, emperor of Constantinople, and King Pepin of France, to this place, that they may be ear-witnesses of the arch-priest's confession.

The Emperor, King Pepin, and all the nobles, then came to the place where the arch-priest lay vanquished. The emperor demanded the truth, which the arch-priest confessed, declaring the whole plot of his villainies. The emperor and King Pepin ordered the traitor to be put into a cauldron of hot burning oil, and thus he finished his days. The emperor came before King Pepin. Alas! dear brother, I am sorry for my error,

in that I have acted so rashly against my lady, your sister : I crave pardon for my fault, and surrender myself into your hands. King Pepin, perceiving the emperor so humble, kindly forgave him; so that before they parted there was a general peace concluded, and they agreed to send to all parts of the world to seek the distressed lady Bellissant. King Pepin, having taken his leave of Constantinople, after a long journey, arrived at Orleans, when the page that had the charge of the orphan Valentine, presented him before the king, saying, Dread sovereign, lo, here I present you the poor orphan that your majesty found in the forest of Orleans. He is now growing to man's estate; and so, may it please your majesty, it is time to dispose of him. The king called this orphan unto him, and put divers questions to him, all which he answered with great modesty and wisdom. It is my will, said his majesty, that the orphan Valentine be kept with my daughter Eglantine, who is fair, wise, and endowed with all the gifts of nature. This command was accordingly obey-

ed, infomuch that if one was abſent from the other, there was a lamentation till they came together again, eſpecially on the part of the king's daughter.

Valentine was ever practiſing in feats of arms; and the king beholding his inclination, furniſhed him with armour, horſes, and every thing neceſſary for his improvement. It happened that there came into Orleans ambaffadors from the Pope, demanding aid againſt the Saracens, enemies of the Holy Faith, who had lately taken the City of Rome by violence. King Pepin, having declared war againſt this common enemy, appointed young Valentine a chief commander. The fair Eglantine hearing this, ſent for the young warrior and declared her grief at the thoughts of his departure, and ſaid, that ſhe would never marry any other man than Valentine.—“Madam,” answered he, “a poor foundling, and ſuch I am, is not a perſon ſuited to your high rank: make choice elſewhere, and may the gods protect you!”

The king, and his retinue, taking their way from Orleans towards Rome, came to

a forest, where his majesty calling his lords and barons together, said, My lords, it is not unknown to you, that in these woods (it is repeated) there liveth a wild man, the terror of passengers. I long to behold him. The lords consented to seek him, and surrounded the wood. The king ventured so far into it, that he came before a cave, dark and obscure, wherein the wild man used to hide himself. Orson rushed out upon him, caught him in his nails, which were long and crooked, and cast him on the ground. The king cried out for help, and a valiant knight, perceiving the king to be almost strangled, suddenly drew his sword to slay the wild man, when Orson left the king and ran furiously on the knight, took him in his arms, and overthrew him, horse and all. The horse ran up and down the forest; but Orson held the knight fast with his talons, and pulled him in pieces. In the mean time the king escaped, and meeting his company, related to them the great danger he had been in, and the death of the knight; at which they assembled themselves together, and marched

towards the cave, in order to take Orson alive, or put him to death in the cave. When they arrived there, they found the knight dead, and torn in pieces; but Orson they could not find. Thus perceiving their labour lost, they proceeded towards Rome,

CHAP. VII.

King Pepin besieges Rome: and Valentine slays the Admiral of the Saracens.

KING Pepin, having laid siege to Rome, after some days, called together his barons, and thus addressed them: My lords and followers, you well know that the heathen admiral of the Saracens hath put many Christians to the sword, therefore it is our duty to try the fortune of a battle with these Pagans. I would find out a man to bear unto the proud admiral a letter of defiance in my name. King Pepin having finished his speech, none amongst them made any answer. At length Valentine stepped

before the king, and said, Mighty sovereign, so you be pleased to give me leave, I will undertake the message, and will not fear the admiral, or the whole host of Pagans. The king, much pleased, called his secretary, and ordered him to write a letter of defiance, and deliver the same to Valentine, which he accordingly did. When Valentine appeared before the admiral, he saluted him thus: God preserve the noble, puissant King Pepin, my lord and sovereign, and Mahomet, whom thou servest, save and defend thee, the redoubted admiral! The admiral replied, Messenger, return, and bid King Pepin either to renounce his faith, and believe in Mahomet, or look for death to himself and followers. Valentine mildly said, High and mighty emperor, do not imagine that through pride I am come before you; I was accused to king Pepin for a coward, in that, since I came to this war, I would secretly have stolen away from the camp, for which the king vowed the next morning to smite off my head. Perceiving myself in this danger, I declared that I would undertake

to come unto your court, and challenge you to break three spears with me in single combat. The admiral hearing this tale of Valentine, said unto him, Son, I do swear by Mahomet, that thou shalt not be refused; and that those Frenchmen that lie in siege before the city may have a sight thereof, I will order the place of justing to be without the walls. Valentine humbly thanked him, and requested that, fearing he should be slain in the justs, he might have a confessor, to give him absolution for his sins. The priest being come, Valentine privately said thus unto him: Sir, you are a Christian priest, and ought to defend the Christian faith. This day I am to just with the heathen admiral, the greatest enemy of Christian people. Now I am well assured that a great number of the Saracens will issue out of the city to be witnesses thereof; you therefore shall give warning to all Christians to keep within the walls, and arm themselves: and when the Pagans are gone forth to behold the justs, let the Christians suddenly surprise the guards that keep the gates, and send a

message to king Pepin, that he with his army may attack those without, while those within are set upon by the armed Christians, and thus shall the Christians regain both their city and their former liberty. The confessor having obeyed Valentine's instructions, the Christians within the city made themselves masters of the gates; and king Pepin prepared to relieve Valentine. The first course proved so fierce, that the combatants shivered both their spears in splinters. A second course was made out, in which Valentine proved victorious; for the admiral fell from his horse dead. The Pagans then ran at Valentine with intent to kill him; but he put spurs to his horse, and violently rushed through the thickest of them, slaying many as he passed. King Pepin coming up, was so beset by the Pagans, that he was thrown from his horse; which Valentine observing, flew to his rescue, and horsed him again; whereupon the king called unto Valentine, and said, My child, thou hast saved my life, for which I will reward thee liberally. The Pagans were now forced to re-

tire to the city, where the Christians within slew many of them, and placed the standard of king Pepin on the walls ; which the Pagans discovering, took to flight. In this battle a thousand Pagans were slain by means of Valentine ; and thus the city was again restored to the Christians.

CHAP. VIII.

Haufray and Henry become envious of the Affection which the King shews to Valentine.

KING Pepin having expelled the Pagans out of Rome, returned to Orleans, where he was joyfully welcomed by Bertha, his queen, and her fair daughter Eglantine ; the latter of whom seeing Valentine, thus accosted him : Valentine, fame celebrates you as the champion who drove the Pagans out of Rome. Valentine replied, Madam, I have done little that deserves praise. As he spoke these words, Haufray and Henry, full of envy, entered the chamber of Eglantine,

and said to him, Valentine, what do you in the chamber of our sister? This is no place for such stragglers as you. Valentine answered, Wrong me not! What, though I am poor, and know not my parents, yet I am not so base as to offer violence unto any lady, much less this lady, the daughter of a king: The same day Valentine waited upon the king at dinner, which being finished, the king, in the hearing of Haufray and Henry, and all his nobles, said: My lords, here is Valentine, who saved my life; for his good service, I give him the earldom of Clerimont. Valentine returned many thanks; but Henry began to talk with his brother after this manner: This foundling, Valentine, I perceive, grows in favour with the king; there must be some means taken to prevent this. Some plot must be framed to bring him in disgrace with the king, and work his ruin: we will tell his majesty that he hath dishonoured our sister: he will certainly put him to death.

About the same time, complaints came unto the king concerning Orson. His ma-

jesty caused a proclamation, declaring, that whosoever could take this wild man, alive or dead, should have a thousand marks for his reward. Royal sir, said Haufray, here is Valentine whom you have advanced to high dignities, he is the fittest person to be employed; and if he can vanquish the wild man, then let him have Eglantine in marriage. The king, hearing these words of his son, said, Away! for thy speech betrays thy envy.

Haufray was displeased at this apology for Valentine; but Valentine, well observing him, said, Haufray, without cause you have slandered me, and you now propose that I should undertake the conquest of the wild man, only that I might end my days. Be it so. Here before the king, I vow a solemn oath, that I will find out this wild man, and bring him either alive or dead, or die myself a victim in the field. But should I conquer and live, I will quit this country till I have found my father, and have discovered how I came to be left an infant in the wood. The king perceiving what danger Valentine had

plunged himself into, said, My child, to fight the wild man is desperation itself: therefore let not the evil words of a few malicious persons make you desperate. Valentine replied, Pardon me, my liege: They call me a base-born foundling, which grieveth my very soul, for indeed I know not what I am; wherefore I am determined, that to-morrow I will set forward on my enterprize. The lady Eglantine wept when she heard what had happened, and next morning sent one of her maidens to Valentine, to desire him to come and speak with her before his departure; but Valentine begged to be excused complying with her request, and soon departed.

CHAP. IX.

Valentine conquers the Wild Man, and afterwards departs from the Forest with him to Orleans.

VALENTINE arrived at the forest, where with his helmet on his head, he rode about all day seeking the wild man, but in





The Battle between Valentine & Orson

vain. Evening coming on, he tied his horse to a tree, and betook himself to the top of it for the night. In the morning he looked round, and espied the wild man (Orson) running to and fro about the forest ; at length he came to the place where Valentine had fastened his horse, which he began to attack with his talons. The horse kicked violently, whilst Valentine noted the terrible appearance of the wild man, and began to be afraid. Orson still continued to wound the horse ; and, notwithstanding his kicks and bites, caught fast hold of him, in order to throw him down ; when Valentine cried out aloud, Wild man, spare my horse, and stay till I come down, and with me thou shalt have fighting enough. The wild man, hearing a strange voice, looked up to the tree, and espying a man there, signified by signs that he would tear him into pieces ; upon which Valentine drew his sword, and leaped upon the ground close by the wild man. When Orson saw the sword, he leaped back from the stroke ; but suddenly turned upon Valentine, and threw him to the ground.

Valentine found the strength of the wild man so great, that he had no hopes of escaping. Finding it, therefore, impossible to conquer him by force, he drew out a sharp-pointed knife, and smote Orson in the side, so that the blood issued out abundantly. The enraged Orson gave such a shriek, that the woods echoed again at the sound; he then fiercely attacked Valentine with his sharp nails. Valentine, notwithstanding, aimed another stroke with his sword; but Orson, recoiling back, stepped to a tree, which he pulled up, and used it as a club. With this he gave Valentine such a blow that he fell upon one knee; he recovered however, and the fight continued desperate between these two brothers. Orson was so strong, that he would have killed Valentine, had it not been for his sword. After a long and desperate contest, they both grew faint, and stood gazing at each other in silence for some time. At length Valentine said, Wild man, wherefore dost thou not yield unto me, for here thou livest like a beast, having no knowledge of human so-

ciety : Come with me, and I will give thee food, and clothe thee in apparel fitting human shape. Orson, understanding by signs he meant his good, fell upon his knees, making signs to Valentine to forgive him, and that he would submit unto his command. Valentine then took Orson by the hand, and directed him to go on before, till they were out of the wood. Valentine then bound both his hands fast behind him ; and, in this manner, mounted on horseback, he led the wild man like a beast.

Valentine took his way towards Orleans, intending to rest there that night ; but the inhabitants, perceiving the wild man, ran into their houses, and shut up their doors ; upon which Valentine exclaimed, Open your doors, and fear not, for we are only come for lodgings ! but they feared to afford him succour. Valentine, then letting loose the wild man, made him run against a gate, which opened into an inn, with such violence, that it fell upon the ground. Valentine entered the house, and the wild man with him : and all the inhabitants ran out at the back-door. Va-

lentine went to the stable, and put up his horse; and Orson went into the kitchen, where there were capons and other provisions roasting at the fire. Valentine made signs to Orson, that he should turn the spit; but as soon as Orson understood his meaning, he set his talons upon the meat, and tore it from the spit, devouring it as greedily as a ravenous wolf; and espying a cauldron of water, he put his head into it like a horse, and drank extravagantly. Valentine made signs to him to forsake the water, and he would give him wine; and therewithal took a pot, and led him into the cellar. When Valentine had filled the pot, he gave it to Orson, who, tasting the liquor, found it to be very good, drank it, and threw the pot against the ground, making a sign for more. Valentine filled the pot again; when Orson, espying a little bowl, put the wine into it, and carried it to the horse; but Valentine made signs that his horse drank nothing but water, yet Orson shewed by signs that wine was better than water. Then Valentine hastened the supper; but Orson drank so

freely of the wine that he became drunk, and fell asleep by the fire. Valentine awoke him, making signs to him that there were people about the house. Orson suddenly arose, and catching up a great log, struck such a blow against the gate, that it shook the whole house; and though Valentine made him a sign to fear nothing, yet he would not sleep again without the log in his arms.

In the morning Valentine took horse, leading Orson, bound as before, and the next day came to the city. The inhabitants perceiving the wild man, shut their doors, and ran into the highest rooms to gaze out of the windows. Valentine rode till he came to the gate of the king's palace; but when the porter saw Orson, he kept the gate shut, till Valentine, with a loud voice, said, Fear not, but go tell the king that I will shield him and his whole court from the fury of the wild man, for I have made him so tame, that he will not hurt any one. He then took Orson by the hand, and led him into the court. When Bertha and fair Eglantine heard that the wild man was come, they ran terrified to their chambers. Valentine went

into the great hall, where the king and his nobles joyfully welcomed him home. King Pepin gazed on the wild man, and said, He is of a proper mould and stature; and though rough, yet, if he were clothed, he would become of the shape of a right worthy knight. Then Valentine said, My liege, it is requisite that he be baptized. It pleaseth me well, said the king; let it be done. Then Orson was commanded into the hall, to see how he would behave; when seeing the meat, he took as much as he could grasp in his hand, and devoured it. Valentine made signs to him, that he did wrong, whereat Orson seemed ashamed; but the king was much delighted with his rudeness. The remainder of the day passed in merriment. Night being come, Valentine and Orson were conducted to a chamber, and as soon as Orson entered it, he laid himself down on the ground, and fell asleep.

CHAP X.

Haufray and Henry concert the Murder of Valentine. Duke Savary sends to King Pepin for Aid against the Green Knight.

LADY Eglantine rejoiced exceedingly at the triumph of Valentine over the wild man, and commanded that Orson should be brought into her apartment, where the ladies of the court were assembled to behold him. While the ladies were in the chamber of Eglantine, Haufray went to Henry, and said, Brother, you see the honour of this foundling encreaseth; we must seek some remedy for it. Accordingly they rushed into the chamber of Eglantine, and Haufray thus addressed Valentine: Disloyal man, now shalt thou know the consequence of thy villany. So saying, he smote him on the face. Henry, on the other side, attempted to strike him with a sword, when Orson leaped out, and gave Haufray such a stroke with his rough hand, that he felled him to the ground; and then running to Henry, grasped

him so tightly between his arms, that he almost destroyed him. Haufray and Henry then made great complaint to the king against Valentine and the wild man, saying, Father, this Valentine hath brought hither the wild man to destroy us. The king, hearing this complaint, sent for Valentine to demand the cause of this disorder. Dread sovereign, said Valentine, I was in the chamber of your daughter Eglantine, accompanied with divers ladies, who desired to see Orson : but your two sons entered, charging me with dishonourable views ; and Haufray smote me on the face, so that blood issued out of my mouth ; and Henry thought to have taken away my life ; which, when Orson saw, he smote them both to the earth. The king said, Is this true that you have said ? All that I have spoken is true, said Valentine. Then said the king, Orson hath done nothing but that which he ought to have done. And, as for you, Haufray and Henry, I see that you are full of malice against Valentine ; wherefore I charge you from henceforth, that you attempt no

ill against him. Haufray and Henry departed, sorrowfully mortified.

Soon after this affair, duke Savary sent unto king Pepin to request his aid against a certain Pagan called the Green Knight, who had besieged his confines, and threatened to seize his daughter by force of arms, and the king promised him all the aid in his power. This Green Knight was brother to Ferragus the giant, who confined in his castle the lady Bellifant, the distressed mother of Valentine and Orson. Accordingly both armies met, when the Green Knight, with his battle-axe, at two blows slew two valiant knights; upon which duke Savary himself came up to encounter him. But it was reported of the Green Knight, that he should never be overcome by any but a king's son, who had never sucked the breasts of any woman. These two valiant leaders fought long and fiercely; but the duke was surrounded, and taken prisoner. The Green Knight began to revile the duke in this disdainful manner: Duke, now that thou art my vassal, and I have power over thy life, give me thy daughter

Fezon to wife, and so redeem thyself, or be assured I will have her against thy will. To this menace the duke thus answered: Proud and insolent Saracen, I will never consent to thy having my daughter, except thou wilt be baptized. The Green Knight replied, I am wholly bound to Mahomet; but thy daughter's beauty hath so enthralled me, that I will offer these conditions: That thou shalt find out a knight, within the space of six months, to encounter me; and if it happen that he can conquer me, I vow to send thee back into thine own country; but if I prove conqueror, then thou shalt willingly resign thy daughter to be my lawful wife. To these articles the duke agreed, and a truce was accordingly proclaimed. Duke Savary repaired to Aquitain; and his counsellors hearing what had passed, advised him to dispatch messengers into all lands, with this proclamation: "If there be any knight whatsoever that dare encounter the Green Knight, for the love of the beautiful Fezon, let him lay down his gauntlet, and so be answered." And accordingly this decree was sent into twelve Christian lands.

CHAP. XI.

Valentine and Orson set out for Aquitaine; and Haufrey and Henry lay in Ambush to take away the Life of Valentine.

KING Pepin, informed of the truce which duke Savary had made with the Green Knight, said to his barons, Who is he amongst you, that would win fair Fezon, by fighting in single combat the Green Knight; whom if he conquer, the duke will not only give him his daughter, but one half of his possessions. Not one of the knights durst undertake the enterprize; which Valentine perceiving, said unto the king, Dread sovereign, if it please you, I will venture my strength upon the Green Knight. Valentine, said the king, I freely give thee leave, on condition, that after thou hast tried thy valour with the Green Knight, thou return hitherto, if thou escape with life. To this Valentine consented. But when Eglantine heard that he was going to Aquitaine, she sent for him, and bursting into tears, said, Ah, Valentine! I perceive

you are resolved to leave France. Lady, replied he, I have upon one of my shoulders the mark of a cross, which is of the colour of gold, of which sign I know not what to think; but I have resolved never to rest till I have found out the place of my nativity. And having thus spoken he departed, leaving Eglantine full of grief.

Valentine having set out on his journey, Haufray and Henry conspired to bring him and Orson, who went with him, to an untimely death; and contrived that a strong party should lie in ambush, to attack Valentine and Orson on their way. The place appointed for the murder was a forest. Accordingly when Valentine and Orson drew near, the captain of the ambuscade, named Grygar, rushed forth, accompanied by his troop, and, aiming a furious blow at Valentine, uttered these words: Valentine, yield thyself, or receive thy death. Valentine, amazed, drew his sword, and gave the first that encountered him a deadly blow. Orson perceiving Valentine thus employed, tore, and bit them so furiously, that they fell

to the ground one upon another. Valentine seeing himself thus supported by Orson, made towards Grygar; but being too forward, he plunged himself so far into the throng, that he was not able any longer to wield his sword, and was taken, bound, and carried away. Orson, perceiving Valentine in this situation, ran after them, making a hideous noise; but he could not overtake them. They hurried Valentine to a castle in the midst of a forest, kept by a cousin-german to Grygar, where they confined him in a dungeon, whilst they debated what should be done with him. Some proposed putting him to death; but Grygar commanded that he should be kept in prison, till he acquainted Haufray and Henry with their proceedings. Orson took his way towards Paris, never resting till he arrived there; yet Grygar had got there before him; and their notion was, that as Orson could not speak, they should avoid suspicion. They agreed that Grygar should return to the castle, and put Valentine to death. But their counsels were overthrown; for Orson came to the king's pa-

lace, just as the king and nobles had taken their seats for dinner; when making a mournful noise, and knocking against his breast in a strange manner, he ran along by the table, looking very fiercely upon every man, and making many fearful signs. At last, espying Grygar, he ran furiously at him, smote off one of his ears, put out one of his eyes, and broke out one of his teeth. The king questioning Orson concerning this behaviour, Orson informed him, by signs, that Grygar had slain Valentine in the forest. King Pepin, perceiving by his actions the cause of his anger, said unto all the company, My lords, you see that this wild man hath challenged Grygar to fight him. I suspect some hidden secret, and would have it tried by combat between them. Then said Grygar, Mighty king, let me request you to dismiss me from this combat; for it is not man against man, but a wild savage encountering with a man. Nay, said the king, you shall enter the field well armed and well mounted; but Orson shall be on foot, and shall bear no weapon.

CHAP. XII.

Orson and Grygar combat together, and Orson causes Grygar to confess the Treason. Valentine is delivered from the Dungeon.

THE place of combat being appointed, Orson attended in readiness. Grygar then went towards the palace-gate, where the combat was to be fought, and the king and nobles were at the window. Villain, said he to Orson, thou hast offered me great wrong, in putting out one of my eyes; but I will make thee acknowledge that thou hast falsely accused me. Orson, in return, shewed him his nails, and gnashed his teeth; whereat Grygar suddenly couched his spear and ran at him; but Orson falling back, Grygar was disappointed of his mark, and struck his spear fast in the ground. Orson taking advantage hereof, suddenly cast away his spear, and caught Grygar's horse fast by the neck, making him so furious that he overthrew his rider. Orson now encountered Grygar on foot, and smote off one of his arms. Grygar cried out most pitifully, and requested he

might be carried before the king; and being brought before him, declared, that the contrivers of the plot were Haufray and Henry, his sons, at whose instigation he had confined Valentine in prison, and designed to put him to death. The king perceiving the truth of this plot, commanded Grygar to be hanged; and then made all possible haste to the prison where Valentine lay, Orson running by his side, with many signs of joy and gladness.

Being arrived at the castle, they went to the dungeon where Valentine lay, and brought him forth unto the king. Valentine, seeing the king, fell upon his knees, and gave him many thanks. The nobles told him that Orson had fought with the traitor Grygar, upon which Valentine most ardently embraced Orson. The king then said, Valentine, seeing thou art thus delivered from thy enemies, I would advise thee to abide with me. But he replied, Dread sovereign, pardon me, for I will never return till I have discovered my parents; and so I humbly take my leave of your majesty.

King Pepin then returned to Paris, and Valentine and Orson took their way towards Aquitain, to encounter the Green Knight.

Orson having leaped the cause of their journey, made signs to Valentine that he would fight the Green Knight, and that he would pay his addressee to the lady Fezon; at which Valentine laughed heartily. By this time they drew near Aquitain, when they met an elderly man in the habit of a pilgrim. This man was Blandiman, squire to the distressed lady Bellissant, whom he had left in the castle of Ferragus, the giant before mentioned. Valentine demanded who he was, and from whence he came? Sir, said the pilgrim, from Constantinople; I could not enter the city, for a pagan sultan had besieged it. Pilgrim, whither go you? said Valentine. Sir, answered he, I take my way to Paris; for I have a message for king Pepin from a sister of his, named Bellissant, who hath long been banished from Constantinople wrongfully, and is now in the house of a giant that useth her honourably. Pilgrim, said Valentine, I pray thee to return again

with me to Aquitaine, for thither am I going to fight with the Green Knight. Sir, said Blandiman, my lady hath put me in trust of her affairs, and I will discharge the duty of a faithful servant towards her. The pilgrim being gone, Valentine looked long after him, and not without cause, though he knew not why; for this was the man that had shared his mother's fortunes. At last arriving at the palace of duke Savary, Valentine thus addressed him: noble duke, know that I am come hither to combat with the Green Knight; and also to behold the beauteous lady Fezon, whom the world admires. The duke answered, Knight, since you urge that your coming hither was to combat the Green Knight, go salute my daughter, as all strangers do before they venture their persons in battle, and you shall receive from her a ring of gold.

He then conducted Valentine and Orson into the hall of the palace, where fifteen other knights were assembled. Valentine advancing, saluted the lady thus: Lady, the fame of whose beauty is spread through the

world, the gods preserve you from the Green Knight, who is not worthy to touch your beauteous lips. Pepin, the mighty king of France, hath sent me hither to present to you the most powerful man on the earth, who feareth no man, nor any weapon, though he cannot speak; and whom, I am assured, the Green Knight is not able to withstand. Sir, said the lady, I am much obliged to the king of France, and also to you. But why is this worthy champion no better clothed? for methinks he is well formed, and of a pleasant countenance. Lady, said Valentine, he never wore garment till very lately. While Valentine was speaking, Fezon beheld Orson very anxiously, for she was in love with him. But Valentine again thus spoke: Lady, for myself I must say something also; know, then, that only for love of you have I ventured hither, to try my fortune with the Green Knight; and either, as conqueror, deliver him into your hands, or suffer death, as many have done before me. Why then, fair knight, replied she, God be thy speed! and she drew

forth two rings of gold, giving Valentine one, and Orson the other. Then, with the other knights, they were welcomed with great feasting; during which Fezon still fixed her eyes on Orson, as did Orson his on her.

In the midst of their feastings, the Green Knight came thundering at the gates, to see the beauteous lady Fezon. And being entered, he cried out with a loud voice, Valiant duke of Aquitaine, have you any more champions to fight with me for the love of the lady Fezon? The duke answered, Yes, I have within my palace sixteen valiant knights, that mean to try their fortune with thee. Let me see them, said he, entering the hall, and sternly gazing upon the knights: Make the most of your time, my lords, said he; eat, drink, and make merry, for to-morrow you will be hanged on the top of my tree, as many have been before you. At which haughty words Valentine grew exceedingly angry, and said, Proud knight, these vaunts might as well have been spared; for I tell thee, to-day is come hither a knight, who will give you

more trouble than any that ever yet encountered thee. Orson, understanding that Valentine spoke this of him, and also knowing it to be the Green Knight, saluted him with a fierce visage; he leaped from the table, and taking the Green Knight by the middle, threw him, as if he had been a little child, against a wall with such violence, that he lay as dead; then seating himself at the table as before, and laughing, he made signs that he would bear upon his neck three such persons as the Green Knight. At this sudden action of Orson, all the knights said, Now is he come who will conquer the Green Knight. After some time the Green Knight recovering, said, Lords, this wild man came upon me unawares, but to-morrow morning I will make him an example to all knights. I will order a gibbet for him, higher and stronger than for any that have yet been vanquished; and thereon I will hang his corpse a prey for beasts and birds.

CHAP. XIII.

Valentine encounters the Green Knight.

THE following day the several Christian knights prepared to encounter this cruel heathen. The first was a knight of France, called Galeram, who said, Lords, I am the man to make the first trial, and presently he took leave of the lady. The Green Knight perceiving his approach, set spurs to his horse, and encountered Galeram so fiercely, that he smote him off his horse; then suddenly alighting took off his helmet, and caused him to be hanged on a tree. The next knight, named Tyris, met with a similar fate. Orson perceiving these knights thus vanquished, signified that he would fight the Green Knight; but Valentine answered him by signs, that he would first try his own strength with him. Valentine mounted, and putting spurs to his horse, took his way towards the Green Knight's tent, who espying him, was more fearful of him than of all the rest. Knight, said he, seest thou yonder

tree? There shalt thou find hanging a green shield; fetch it hither to me, and I will reward thee liberally. Sir, said Valentine, you have servants of your own; send them. I am resolved, said the Green Knight, that you shall either bring the shield, or else you shall never conquer me. When Valentine had considered these words, he rode towards the tree; and returning to the Green Knight, he said, Go fetch thy shield thyself, for I cannot bring it. Friend, said the Green Knight, shall I tell thee wherefore I sent thee? That shield was given to me by a fairy, and therein remaineth such virtue, that no man, be he ever so strong, can take it from the place where it is fastened, save he only, by whom (if ever), I shall be conquered. My fears, therefore, made me send thee; but since thou canst not bring the shield, I advise thee to return and save thyself; for thou art so fair a knight, I pity thee. Further know that there is no one living who can vanquish me, except first, he be the son of a king; and, secondly, that he hath never suck-
ed the breast of woman. Upon this informa-

tion Valentine mounted his horse, and returned to the city; where he was joyfully welcomed by duke Savary and his lords. Orson ran and caught him in his arms, and embraced him. The duke demanded what tidings from the Green Knight? Sir, said Valentine, he resteth in his pavilion, and I think that there is not a man living able to vanquish him. To-morrow, however, is appointed for a new trial, and the victory must rest with Providence. A sumptuous entertainment was provided, after which Valentine retired to his chamber.

CHAP. XIV.

Valentine sends Orson to engage the Green Knight in a single Combat.

VALENTINE now began to reason thus: I am not indeed the king's son, who is to conquer the Green Knight; for I can neither remove the shield, nor was I nourished without the breast of a

woman. What if Orson be armed in my stead, and try his fortune. It shall be so.

At break of day, Valentine arose, and told Orson, by signs, to put on his armour, take his horse, and proceed to the Green Knight's pavilion, to fight with him. Orson, understanding his meaning, danced up and down joyfully: he declined, however, Valentine's horse and arms, desiring only a club. Valentine, however, gave him to understand that he must put on the same armour, and ride on the same horse, that the Green Knight might suppose that he was Valentine. Orson agreed; and, being armed like Valentine, took leave of the duke, embraced his brother, and made signs to them to fear nothing; for he would, ere noon, bring the Green Knight alive or dead. Before he mounted, he went to take leave of the lady Fezon; and gave her to understand, that it was for love of her he fought the Pagan Knight. The lady made a sign that she loved him well; and promised, at his return, to bestow her hand on him. It was not long before Orson arrived at the pavilion of the Green Knight,

and smote it with his spear, signifying defiance. The Green Knight swore by Mahomet that he would humble his pride before the evening; then mounting his steed, and couching his spear, he entered the field. Orson, seeing him, seemed to fall back, as half afraid; but presently encountered his antagonist with such force that horses and men fell to the earth. Orson now threw aside his armour and weapons, and suddenly caught the Green Knight fast by the arms, cast him on the ground, took off his helmet, and held him down until he was forced to yield to his mercy; but Orson, remembering his cruelty to other knights, would have taken away his life, if Valentine had not made signs to him to spare him. Proud knight, said Valentine, seeing how you have treated the vanquished knights, by hanging them on yonder tree, say, whether you yourself should not now be hanged on the highest branch. Alas! said the Green Knight, notwithstanding my own cruelty, I trust you will yet spare my life.—I will, said Valentine, upon conditions, first, That you re-

nounce Paganism; secondly, That you go into France, and tell king Pepin that you have been conquered by Valentine and Orson; which conditions the Green Knight bound himself by oath to perform.

Valentine then made signs to Orson to let the Green Knight arise. I beseech thee, said the Pagan, send this knight unto yonder tree, and if he bring away with him the shield there fastened, I shall be assured he is destined to conquer me. Valentine made a sign to Orson to fetch the shield; and, as he stretched forth his arm to take it down, it suddenly leaped into his hand, and he brought it to the Green Knight. When he saw that Orson had the shield, Alas! said he, it has ever been reported that he who should conquer me is no less than a son of a king, and is also one who never sucked the breast of any woman. My sister Clerimond possesses a wonderful brazen head, which foretells the adventures and fortunes of our family. This head will retain this power until the future husband of Clerimond enter the chamber where it now stands, when it

will lose its charm. Wherefore, brave knight, I am strongly inclined to believe you are the renowned person destined to wed my sister. The Green Knight then gave Valentine a ring of gold, upon condition that he would carry it to his sister. And this ring Valentine accepted, saying he could never rest till he should see the lady.

CHAP. XV.

Orson is betrothed to the Lady Fezon. An Angel appears to Valentine. The Green Knight is baptized.

VALENTINE and Orson now repaired, with the conquered knight, to the court of the duke, where Orson and the lady Fezon were solemnly married. The generous Orson, however, gave his betrothed wife to understand, that he would not live with her until he had acquired the use of speech ; and Valentine had obtained the hand of the fair Clerimond.

That night an angel appeared unto Valentine, in a dream, saying, Valentine, in the morning depart, and take with thee Orson, and repair to the castle of Ferragus, where thou wilt find the lady Clerimond, from whom thou shalt learn whence thou art descended. This vision much engaged Valentine's thoughts; and day being come, he and Orson hastened unto the duke's palace, where the Green Knight spake unto the duke in this manner: Most renowned duke, I freely confess myself vanquished, and therefore renounce all right unto your daughter, upon condition that you cause me to be baptized. Valentine desired that the name of this knight be called Pepin, being, said he, the name of the most mighty king of France, who has nourished and brought me up from my birth. The duke consented to Valentine's demand, and the knight was called Pepin. The duke then attempted to persuade Valentine and Orson from their resolution of seeking the lady Clerimond; but without success. He therefore gave to Valentine a ring, saying, Whosoever he be

that beareth this ring about him, shall never be in danger of drowning, nor suffer by false accusation. Valentine and Orson then departed to find out the castle of Ferragus; and the Green Knight took the road for France.

CHAP. XVI.

King Pepin discovers that Valentine and Orson are his Nephews.

ABOUT this time Blandiman arrived at the court of king Pepin, and related to the king all the events that had taken place; and, to the great joy of Pepin, it was immediately made evident, that Valentine and Orson were his own nephews. He therefore resolved to go in person to acquaint the emperor, his brother-in-law, with the important discovery.

Upon his arrival at Rome, king Pepin received the news that Constantinople was besieged, and that the emperor was closely confined within the city. He therefore raised a considerable force in Italy, with

which he repaired to the aid of the emperor ; but, being overpowered by superior numbers, he was compelled to seek shelter within the walls of the city, where we must now leave him in company with the emperor, enduring all the horrors of war and famine.

CHAP. XVII.

Valentine and Orson arrive at the strong Castle, wherein fair Clerimond resides ; and from the Brazen Head they obtain the Knowledge of their Parents.

AFTER many days, Valentine and Orson arrived upon an island, in which stood the castle of the fair lady Clerimond, sister unto the great giant Ferragus. Valentine demanded admittance, but was resisted by ten sturdy knights, who said, lords, into this castle entereth none, without the leave of a maiden, to whom we are servants. Then Clerimond, leaning out of a window, upon a cushion covered with gold, said unto Valentine, Who are you, who dare attempt to

enter my castle without leave? Lady, replied Valentine, I am a knight, who have travelled here on purpose to speak with the brazen head within this castle. Knight, said the lady, if you bring any tokens from king Ferragus, or the Green Knight, then you may freely enter this castle, but by no other means, unless you try your valour with the Seneschal of this place. Valentine chose, rather to enter into single combat with Seneschal than shew the ring given him by the Green Knight. The lady, perceiving his valour, suddenly fell in love with him; and, going into the chamber where the brazen head stood, said unto it, Who is that knight that would enter this castle? Lady, answered the head, of that knight you shall know nothing until you have brought him before me.

Every thing being prepared for the combat, Clerimond seated herself at the window to behold the contest, which ended fatally for the Seneschal. Valentine attacked him with such bravery, that he fell

lifeless from his horse. Knight, said Clerimond, you are most welcome to my castle, for by your valour I am sure that you are descended from some royal stock.—Lady, returned he, my name is Valentine; but neither myself nor my companion ever knew our parents. Indeed he has not the use of speech.

CHAP. XVIII.

Valentine shews Clerimond her Brother's Ring, and questions the Brazen Head.

VALENTINE now entered the castle, and delivered the ring which he had received from the Green Knight to the lady, who gladly received the token, saying, Fair knight, had you shewed this ring before, you had never met the danger you have just escaped: but since it hath pleased you to shew your valour, you have won the privilege of entering the chamber wherein the brazen head stands, which shall declare all that you can desire to know. They then entered the

chamber, abounding with gold, rubies, sapphires, and other precious stones; and there were four pillars of jasper, two of which were as yellow as the finest gold, a third more green than grass, and a fourth more red than a flame of fire. Between these pillars was an emerald of amazing value; in the midst the brazen head stood, upon a rich pedestal. Valentine fixed his eyes only upon the head, anxious to hear what it would say concerning his birth. At length, when every voice was silent, it spake thus:

“Thou, O renowned knight, art called Valentine the Brave, and art the man, destined to be the husband of the lady Clerimond. Thou art son to the emperor of Greece, and thy mother is Bellifant, sister to king Pepin of France. She was unjustly banished from her throne, and is now in Portugal, where she has resided these twenty years in the castle of the giant Ferragus.

The wild man, who hath so long accompanied thee, is thy brother; and he will never have the faculty of speech, till a thread which grows under his tongue be cut. You

were both born in the forest of Orleans. Thou hast been brought up under the care of king Pepin, thy uncle ; but thy brother was nurtured by a bear. Proceed, Valentine, and prosper. These are the last words I shall speak. Since thou hast entered this chamber, my power is at an end. Proceed and prosper !”

Valentine now fell upon the bosom of his brother Orson, and Orson on his, and they kindly embraced each other. The lady observing this, said, Oh, courteous knight, I of all others ought to be most joyful at this your happy arrival, for by you I am freed from ten years grief, which I have endured. This brazen head has told me, that you are the man on whom my affections should rest, and therefore I take you for my wedded lord.

Lady, said Valentine, I accept you as my wife ; but I shall insist that, as your brother, the Green Knight, hath forsaken Mahomet, you also shall become a Christian. Sir, replied she, I shall gladly obey you in every point as long as we live.

CHAP. XIX.

The Giant Ferragus is acquainted with what passed between his Sister and Valentine, by means of one Pacolet, a Dwarf and an Enchanter.

WITHIN this castle there dwelt a dwarf, named Pacolet, whom Cleimond had nourished from a child. This Pacolet was so learned in necromancy, that, by enchantment, he had made a little wooden horse, in the head of which he had placed a pin of wood, that every time he mounted to ride abroad, he had only to turn the pin towards the place he wished; and suddenly he would be there without danger; for the horse could fly through the air swifter than any bird. This Pacolet observed the behaviour of Valentine, and went to Portugal and told Ferragus what had passed at the castle. Ferragus grew exceedingly angry with his sister, for granting her love unto a Christian knight, swearing to take revenge upon them both. He ordered Pacolet to re-

turn and bear this message to Clerimond.—

“That ’ere long he would come in person to visit them, and to solemnize their nuptials.”

Pacolet was in an instant at home again, and delivered to lady Clerimond this message.

The lady stood amazed, and said, Ah! Pacolet, heaven prevent my brother from planning treason against me! Why didst thou not acquaint me with thy departure? for I wished to have enquired for a Christian lady, who hath long resided with my brother Ferragus in his castle.

I will make another journey into Portugal, said the dwarf, and before to-morrow mid-day I will bring you tidings concerning this lady. On the morrow, as Pacolet had promised, he was in the hall before Valentine, saying, Sir, I am returned, and have seen your mother in good health.—What news from Ferragus? said Clerimond. Your brother, replied Pacolet, will soon be here. Pacolet’s information proved true; for the same day arrived Ferragus at the castle of Clerimond. Fair knight, said he, you are welcome here,

for the love of my sister Clerimond. But under this fair speech he disguised his treachery. Valentine said, Sir, it is reported to me, that within your castle, for the space of these twenty years, you have entertained a Christian lady, who is my mother; her name is Bellifant, sister to king Pepin of France, and wife unto the emperor of Greece. By Mahomet, said Ferragus, you say truth, and you shall return with me and my sister into Portugal, where we will solemnize your nuptials.

Valentine having cut the thread from under Orson's tongue, he related the story of his life in the forest.

CHAP. XX.

Valentine and Orson are betrayed by the Treachery of Ferragus, who confines them in Prison.

FERRAGUS thus prevailed with his sister and Valentine and Orson to return with him to his castle. He pretended kindness and civility towards them during their journey, and conducted them safely to his

castle. At midnight, however, this treacherous giant caused the two brothers to be dragged from their beds, and thrown into a dismal dungeon.

Clerimond, in the mean time, persuaded the giants wife to introduce her to the mother of Valentine and Orson, to whom she related the wonderful preservation of her babes in the forests, and acquainted her with their story from that day to the present hour.

While these ladies were thus engaged, Pacolet, by means of his wooden horse, entered the chamber where they were. Alas! Pacolet, said Clerimond, why didst thou not give me warning of all these miseries? Lady, said Pacolet, I swear my art shall utterly forsake me, or I will find a remedy for your Friend, said Bellifant, if thou canst but deliver my two children out of prison, I will recompence thy labours richly. Pacolet promised, that he would release them instantly.

CHAP. XXI.

*Pacolet releases Valentine and Orson from Prison.
Their surprising Adventures.*

ONE day Ferragus gave a grand entertainment to his nobles ; and, after much revelling, he and his attendants retired to rest. Pacolet embraced this opportunity, and went to the door of the dungeon, where Valentine and Orson were imprisoned, and released them from their chains. He then conducted them to the chamber where the ladies Bellifant and Clerimond were weeping at their fate. After some tender expressions of their different feelings, it was determined that they should fly from the castle. Pacolet, by his art, safely conducted them to the seaside, where they found a ship, which conveyed them all to the castle of Clerimond.

It happened, some time afterwards, that Ferragus entered into a war with the duke Savary, and took him prisoner. Valentine and Orson, with Pacolet, the dwarf, were all in the interest of the duke, and fought

valiantly on his side, though they kept themselves unknown. These heroes, however, released the duke from his captivity, and turned the victory in favour of the duke. After a trial of the constancy of the lady Fezon, she was married to Orson, in the presence of the lady Bellifant and Valentine, with great splendour.

After the celebration of these nuptials, Valentine desired to visit Constantinople, for the purpose of making himself known to his father the emperor.

Pacolet accordingly prepared the enchanted horse; and, seating Valentine behind him, they soon arrived at Constantinople, and entered the palace just as king Pepin, the emperor, and the Green Knight, who happened to be there altogether, were sitting down to supper.

The king of France, the moment he saw Valentine, embraced him most affectionately, and exclaimed, Great emperor! behold this valiant knight; he is your own lawful son. The emperor, now convinced of his wife's innocence, folded his son in his arms and

wept bitterly, at the thought of the injustice of which he had been guilty. When, however, Valentine had related all the circumstances of his meeting with his mother, and acquainted the emperor that she was in safety, he caused a general rejoicing to take place throughout his dominions.

In the mean time Ferragus, the giant, sent to king Trompart, desiring his assistance against the duke of Aquitaine. Trompart consented, and brought with him an enchanter named Adrimain.—It so happened that Pacolet and Trompart arrived at the same instant in Aquitaine. Adrimain artfully contrived to gain admittance into the chamber where Clerimond slept; and, having previously thrown Pacolet into a profound sleep, he secured the wooden horse, and carried away Clerimond in an enchanted sleep to the tent of his master. Adrimain there explained to king Trompart the use of the wooden horse, and related the means by which he had obtained it. The king was delighted at this intelligence, and determined to use the horse himself. He accordingly

placed Clerimond, who was still sleeping, upon the horse, and mounted with her in the air, intending to carry her to his own dominions. Before the morning, they were two hundred miles from the spot where they ascended, when Clerimond awaking from the trance, most indignantly rebuked the king for his base treachery. Trompart, however, seated her once more on the horse, being determined to carry her to his palace; but, in a fit of anger, he committed a mistake, by turning the pin on the horse's head the wrong way; and, instead of descending as he thought in his own country, the horse alighted in India. They were immediately taken before the king, who ordered the head of Trompart to be instantly smitten off for having lately put to death the brother of the Indian king. Clerimond was then led into the king's palace, where he thus addressed her: Lady, the beauty of your face hath enthralled my heart; and, if you please, I will make you queen of all this continent. Sir, replied she, you speak graciously; but I have vowed not to marry any man

for the space of one whole year; when that vow is accomplished, I will willingly consent. Well, said the king, thy answer is reasonable; let it be as thou hast said. Accordingly Clerimond was treated with as much state as if she were queen; but did not forget to take especial care of the wooden horse.

The morning after Adrimain had stolen her away, great lamentations were made for the fair Clerimond throughout Aquitaine; and when Pacolet found that Adrimain and the wooden horse were gone, he would have killed himself, had not Orson at that instant come in. After some time, Lords, said Pacolet, I will be revenged on Adrimain, by whom we are thus wronged. He then disguised himself in the dress of a woman, and took his way to the army of Ferragus. He went to the tent where Adrimain was; who, seeing him dressed like a female, began to make love to him, and ordered him to be served with all dainties. As Pacolet was thus feasting, he enquired of Adrimain's servant what was become of king Trompart: The king answered, I think he is returned into his

own country, carrying with him the lady Clerimond upon a wooden horse which my master gave him. When night arrived, Adrimain retired to bed, when Pacolet enchanted him, and all around him, into a profound sleep; and putting off his woman's attire, dressed himself in the richest clothes of Adrimain; after which he cut off his head, and bare it to the tent of Ferragus. He suddenly caused the giant to leap out of his bed, and dress himself; then tying him to his girdle, he made him run by his side like a spaniel, till he came to the gates of the palace in Aquitaine, where he found the duke, accompanied by his barons. Having related all that had passed to the duke, he advised him to repair instantly with his warriors to the camp of the giant, where all his army lay in an enchanted sleep. This advice was seconded by Orson; every one of these proud infidels were put to instant death, and Ferragus the giant was beheaded.

Having performed these wonders, Pacolet next turned his thoughts towards Constanti-

nople, which had all this time endured the horrors of famine, being closely besieged by the Saracens. So great was the distress of the inhabitants, that Valentine and the Green Knight sallied out of the garrison with a chosen band to obtain provisions at any risk. They were both taken prisoners, and led into the presence of the Sultan, who had assembled fifteen Pagan knights to pass sentence of death upon them, just at the very moment when Pacolet appeared before him. He addressed himself to the Sultan, saying, That he came from his brother the king of Argier, to request that he would send him some of his Christian captives to labour in his fields. The Sultan, upon hearing this address, ordered the judgment to be deferred till the next morning, that he might consider his brother's request. In the dead of the night, however, Pacolet, by means of his art, contrived to restore both Valentine and the Green Knight to liberty.

The next morning, the emperor and king Pepin sallied out of the city ; when the duke of Aquitain, with his forces, came up, and

assailed the Saracens so fiercely, that the Christians gained a complete victory.

When the battle was ended, Valentine and Orson being presented to the emperor, Father, said Valentine, behold my brother Orson, whom as yet you never knew. The emperor embraced him, and so did king Pepin, Valentine, the Green Knight, Blandiman, and Guidard the merchant, who vanquished the false arch-priest. They then went to visit the tent of the empress Bellifant, and the lady Fenzon.

When the emperor saw his wife Bellifant, he leaped off his horse, embraced her, and requested her pardon. My lord, said she, I freely forgive all wrongs; but I am anxious to see the man who proved my innocence with his sword. The merchant was then introduced to the empress, who expressed her grateful acknowledgments, and made him her chamberlain. A general joy now diffused itself, which was only lessened by the absence of Clerimond.

CHAP. XXII.

King Pepin and Orson return into France, where the latter is accused of a Design of murdering the King. Valentine, in seeking Clerimond, kills a Dragon. The Emperor of Greece and the Green Knight are taken Prisoners.

THE wars being ended, king Pepin, Orson, and the lady Fezon, returned to France; where Orson become his favourite. Haufray and Henry, stung with envy, determined to murder the king their father, and cause the suspicion of the guilt to fall upon Orson. These villains, having two nephews, named Florent and Garnier, they engaged them to murder the king in bed. Accordingly, in the dead of night, when the king was asleep, and Orson was lying upon a pallet by him, Garnier advanced to plunge a knife into his heart; but lo! he faltered; and being stricken with fear, he dropped the knife within the bed, and then went to Haufray and Henry, saying, Lords, I would not do the like again for all the gold in

France; and yet I have not hurt the king, so great was the horror that seized me. But I have left the knife in the king's bed, and it will be easy to pretend a conspiracy, in which Orson is chiefly concerned. This scheme was highly approved by Haufray and Henry; and Garnier informed the king of a design to kill him in his sleep, and requested that Orson might be secured as the principal traitor, who had for that purpose hidden a knife in his bed: The king was thunder-struck at what he heard. Orson solemnly protested his innocence; the bed was searched, and the knife was found; from which circumstance the king believing the accusation, reproached Orson with his ingratitude, and ordered him to be guarded by fifty knights, and brought to judgment in the hall. In his defence Orson spoke as follows: Royal sir, and worthy lords, since my words cannot defend me, I appeal to the custom of your country; which is, that when a man be accused of murder or treason, he may crave a trial by combat against his accusers. The twelve peers of France adjudged that Orson's de-

mand was reasonable, and ordered the combat to take place on a certain day. On the appointed day the valour and innocence of Orson triumphed over the malice of his enemies, and Haufray caused Garnier to confess, that he placed the knife in the king's bed, and then, like a faithless villain, instantly slew him ; thus throwing the whole guilt of the transaction upon their vile agent.

We must now return to Valentine, who could not be happy without Clerimond. Accordingly he left Constantinople in search of her, accompanied by Pacolet and two other attendants. At Antioch, they were summoned before the king, for not having paid tribute. Christian, said his majesty to Valentine, you must either renounce your faith, or fight a dragon, which is winged like a fowl, feathered like a griffin, with a head like a serpent, and a sting within her mouth ; her skin is covered with red scales, and her feet are like those of a lion. I will try my fortune against the monster, said Valentine, provided that, if I conquer, you will become a Christian. To this the king readily agreed on oath ; for

never did any man return alive who fought the dragon. Valentine then caused a shield to be made, and thereon fastened a number of steel spikes a foot long, and as sharp as needles. Thus provided, he put on his armour, mounted his horse, and rode forth to seek the dragon.

Valentine now came within sight of the dragon, who beat her wings most fiercely, and flames of fire issued from her mouth. He then descended from his horse, and went towards the dragon, who lifted up her paw to smite him; but he caught the blow on the spikes of his shield, and the dragon, with a horrid noise, drew back. Valentine pursued; the dragon rose upon her feet, yet fearing the shield, still kept retreating. The champion now struck her such a blow under the ear, that he broke his sword, and became in great danger. He, however, drew forth a knife and stuck it in her throat; and then ran and fetched an axe from his saddle bow, and, with a violent blow, cut off great part of her tail, which so enraged the furious animal, that she flew at Valentine's head, threw off his helmet, and

smote him to the ground. Pacolet perceiving his distress, put himself in armour, obtained another helmet, and bare it to his master. The dragon then proceeded to Pacolet, and would have slain him, had not Valentine with his axe cut off her nose, and put out one of her eyes. The wounds made the beast mad, and, extending her wings, she flew to the top of a high rock. Then Pacolet put on Valentine's helmet, and said, Sir, I am fore wounded, and must of necessity return to the city. When the dragon perceived Pacolet a great way off, she again flew directly at his head; but Valentine threw his axe so dexterously, that he cut off one of her wings, and brought her to the ground; when he quickly smote off the other wing. The battle grew now exceedingly violent, insomuch that at length Valentine became so weary, that he climbed up into a tree to rest awhile, where the beast, unable any more to fly, beheld him with a furious countenance, casting out of her mouth the most noisome vapours. Valentine being refreshed, again attacked the dragon; and at length ran his axe so far in her throat, that she fell down dead.

Valentine having thus vanquished the dragon, the king and all his court considered him as the wonder of the age; they all embraced Christianity, and queen Rosamond fell deeply in love with him.

Brandiffer, the father-in-law of the king, was so much incensed at his becoming a Christian, that he headed a powerful army against Antioch, to which he laid siege: he caused the unfortunate king to be put to death, and usurped his crown and dignity. He then returned towards his own country, but was driven by contrary winds into Cretophe, on the Grecian coast. It happened, that the emperor of Greece and the Green Knight were made prisoners by some of his troops. The people of Cretophe had sent for assistance to the empress Bellissant, of which Brandiffer being informed, embarked his troops by night, and arrived at Lize, where he took possession of a castle, in which he placed his two daughters, Rosamond and Galazy. In the same castle the emperor, the Green Knight, and other Christian prisoners, were also confined

in a dungeon underneath the apartments of these ladies. This castle was remarkably strong, and was defended by a curious bridge, over which one person only could pass at a time, and which was guarded by two lions.

CHAP. XXIII.

Clerimond feigns herself mad ; Lucar, the Son of King Trompart, determines to revenge his Father's Death ; and espouses Rosamond, the fair daughter of Brandffer ; Rosamond contrives to be taken Prisoner by the King of India's Troops ; and King Pepin takes the City of Angory.

THE year being expired which the king of India had granted to lady Clerimond, she, in order to avoid her marriage with him, pretended madness ; and none of her attendants dared to come near her, but conveyed her food through the window of her apartment.

In the mean time, Valentine, hearing that king Trompart had been slain by the king of

India, and that his son Lucar had assembled a numerous army to revenge his death, determined to enter into the service of Lucar, as the most likely means of obtaining some tidings of his beloved Clerimond. Lucar asked Valentine whether he would undertake to carry a message of defiance from him to the king of India, to which Valentine readily consented. In this embassy Lucar expected that Valentine would lose his life.

But the queen sent for Valentine privately to her chamber, and, representing to him his danger, gave him a ring, which she had formerly received from the king of India, and which she bid Valentine deliver to him in her name, with this message: That although her father had given her in marriage to another against her will, she still retained the sincerest affection for him; and that, as she was to accompany Lucar in his intended expedition, she wished him (the king of India), to contrive some method to carry her off; and she assured Valentine, that by so doing, he might depend on being well received by the king of India. When Valentine entered

the palace, the king sternly demanded, whether he was not a servant of king Lucar. Valentine answered that he was, and that he had brought a message from king Lucar, which was, that unless the king of India would present himself at the court of Esclardy, with a rope about his neck, and submit to such punishment as Lucar and his nobles thought fit, for the murder of king Trompart, the father of Lucar, his lands should be laid waste, and his subjects put to the sword. Messenger, replied the king of India, I laugh at your master's menaces, and should certainly put you to death for bringing me so arrogant a defiance, were it not for the love which I bear to the fair Rozamond, for whose sake you shall return without injury, if you produce any token by which I may know that you come from that lady. Valentine then delivered Rozamond's message, and the ring, which the king of India well remembered. When Valentine had withdrawn, he made all possible enquiry for his dear Clerimond, but could hear nothing of her; not once imagining that she

was at that very time in the court of the king of India. Early next morning Valentine departed, and being arrived at Escardy, he found king Lucar, accompanied by Brandiffer. Lucar marvelled at the safe return of Valentine; and Brandiffer swore that he would never return home till he had subdued king Lucar.

On the next day king Lucar embarked with an army of two hundred thousand Saracens, taking with him the lady Rozamond, and quickly pitched his tents near the city, in which the king of India kept his court. When the king of India heard that Rozamond was come, he was exceedingly joyful, and determined to make a sally to get her into his possession; and rode immediately to the tent of Rozamond, and placing her behind him, rode away with her towards the city. Her attendants quickly informed king Lucar of what had passed, who told Brandiffer of the loss which had befallen him. Brandiffer instantly pursued, and soon overtook them; and conducted her back to

her husband. When she came into his presence, she excused herself by saying, that she had mistaken the Indian king for some baron, whom Lucar had sent to guard her from the enemy. In a second attempt, which the king made soon afterwards, he proved more fortunate; for he suddenly issued forth, and conveyed her safe into the city. She some time after bore him a son, who was named Rabestre, and who afterwards got possession of Jerusalem. Intelligence was now brought to Brandiffer, that king Pepin had entered his dominions with a numerous army, and had laid siege to the city of Angory. Valentine remarking their number to be very great, advised a sally on their enemies the next morning, whilst the troops of Lucar should attack them on the other side. Pacolet undertook to deliver this message to Orson, and to acquaint him, that Valentine and Murgalant, at the head of one hundred thousand men, were come, by order of the kings Lucar and Brandiffer, to drive the Christians out of those territories; but, said Pacolet, if you will be ruled

by me, their whole host shall be betrayed into your hands by to-morrow night. The time being now come for the execution of this plot, he, in the dead of night, passing through the pagan host, cast them into a deep sleep. This being done, king Pepin entered their camp, at the head of sixty thousand men, setting fire to their tents, and putting to death all those who resisted, amongst whom was Murgulant. The pagans were obliged to retire again within the walls with considerable loss; and the Christians entering, made themselves masters of the city.

CHAP. XXIX.

Valentine hears Tidings of his Father. The King of India is taken Prisoner. The Vision of King Pepin.

AFTER the loss of Angory, Valentine returned to king Lucar, carrying with him the dead body of Murgulant, which Lucar caused to be honourably buried. At

this event the king of India rejoiced exceedingly, and suddenly gave the Saracens battle; but his troops were defeated and himself made prisoner. It was agreed between Lucar and Brandiffer, that the Indian king should be hanged the next morning; and they would also have put to death the emperor of Greece and the Green Knight, whom he had confined in a strong castle. Valentine, learning where his father was, told Pacolet that he should stand in need of his assistance, to work the release of the Indian king, and to put Brandiffer into his power. Soon afterwards Valentine and Pacolet quitted the army of the Saracens to release the emperor and the Green Knight, and seek the lady Clerimond.

About this time king Pepin had a dream, in which he beheld a priest, who shewed him a magnificent sepulchre and a variety of relics; and this vision he had three several times. He considered, as an intimation from Heaven, that he should go on to Jerusalem. Orson, Myllon Daugler, and the twelve peers of France, all offered to accom-

pany him; and, thus attended, the king set out, after having invested his sons Haufray and Henry with the city of Angory, and the other places he had conquered from Lucar; his kingdom of France he designed for his youngest son Charles. Haufray and Henry were highly incensed at this distribution of power; for nothing short of the crown of France could satisfy their ambition; therefore they resolved to deliver their father into the hands of Brandiffer. Henry, however, embarked with his father and the peers for Jerusalem.

Haufray arrived in India, and offered to deliver Pepin and the twelve peers of France into Brandiffer's hands, provided he would give him his daughter Galazy in marriage. Brandiffer was much shocked at the unnatural conduct of this wretch; but pretending to accept of the proposal, gave him a letter for his daughter, in which he acquainted her with the whole matter, and charged her to inflict such punishment on the bearer as his crimes deserved; accordingly, on the perusal of it, she ordered him to be thrown into a

dismal dungeon, where, to his great surprize, he found the emperor of Greece, Orson, and the Green Knight.

CHAP. XXX.

Valentine and Pacolet depart for Angory, King Pepin and his Companions fall into the Hands of Brandiffer. Brandiffer exchanges Myllon Daugler for King Lucar, who had been carried off by Pacolet. The Army of the Saracens are totally destroyed, and King Pepin returns to his Dominions.

VALENTINE and Pacolet, who had left the Saracens in Italy, arrived before the castle of the lady Galazy, in which the emperor of Greece and the Green Knight were confined; but soon departed to Angory, to wait till the return of king Pepin from Jerusalem. During king Pepin's abode there, came Brandiffer, the Indian king, and king Lucar; and, informing the king of Jury of the loss of Angory, requested him

to deliver king Pepin and all his suit into his hands; and the king of Jury commanded them to be brought before him. The little company being accordingly apprehended, king Pepin proposed that his son Henry should pass for the king of France, and that himself should personate his page; but that unworthy son, seeing danger, made excuses; upon which Myllon Daugler offered his service; and when they were carried into the king of Jury's presence, Myllon Daugler personated king Pepin, whilst the king carried Myllon Daugler's hat and staff, in quality of a page. They were delivered up to Brandiffer, who confined them in the castle of his daughter Galazy: but the king of India desiring to have the page (Pepin), who was of small stature, for his dwarf, he carried him to India. It was the constant custom of the king of India to send from his own table, at every meal, a dish of meat to the lady Clerimond; and Pepin, being appointed to carry it to her, began, on seeing her, to express his sorrow. Friend, said Clerimond, I am not what I seem:

but tell me, art thou really a Christian? Lady, answered Pepin, I am, and came from France. Then, said Clerimond, smiling, perhaps you know king Pepin, and his nephew Valentine? Aye, replied the king, and his brother Orson, and their father the emperor of Greece. At these words Clerimond shed tears, saying, Friend, may I put trust in thee? As much, replied Pepin, as if I were thy own father. She then fully unbosomed herself, telling him, that she was the betrothed wife of Valentine, but had been betrayed and stolen away by Adrimain and king Trompart, and that her madness was all counterfeited, in order to avoid being compelled to marry the king of India. King Pepin was transported at this discovery, and cried out, Fair lady, I am the very Pepin, king of France. He then informed her, he would take the first opportunity of imparting it to Valentine, who was still undertaking dangerous adventures in search of her.

In the mean time, the twelve peers of France, and Henry the king's son, were confined by Brandiffer in the same dungeon with

the emperor of Greece, Orson, the Green Knight, and Haufray. Having thus disposed of their prisoners, Brandiffer and Lucar went to lay siege to Angory. Soon after their arrival, Pacolet went to their camp, pretending that he was desirous of serving Lucar; he was engaged by him, but having first cast him into a profound sleep, he conveyed him a prisoner to Angory. Lucar, discovering the fraud, in a rage snatched up a knife, and plunged it into the body of Pacolet, who instantly fell down dead. Valentine was much grieved at the death of Pacolet; but he took from his bosom a pair of writing-tablets, on which were inscribed the manner of his art, which Pacolet had taught him some time before. Soon afterwards a messenger came from Brandiffer, offering either Pepin, the emperor, Orson, or either of the twelve peers of France, in exchange for Lucar. Valentine was amazed to find so many of his friends prisoners, and sent word he would have king Pepin restored. Myllon Daugler was accordingly brought to Angory, to be exchanged for Lucar. As soon as Valentine

saw him, he was struck with surprize; but when he heard his story, he congratulated him on being rewarded for his zeal with liberty, while Henry was still imprisoned in a dungeon. Valentine then determining to release his uncle, assembled his troops, and sallying from the city at the head of fifty thousand men, the Indians were totally routed; and their commander-in-chief, the marshal of India, being taken prisoner, Myllon Daugler said to Valentine, Sir, this prisoner may be exchanged for your uncle king Pepin. The exchange was accordingly made; and Valentine was rejoiced at seeing once again his dear uncle, who informed him of all particulars relative to his beloved Clerimond.

CHAP. XXXI.

Valentine rescues Lady Clerimond from the King of India, and releases his Father and the other Prisoners. Haufray and Henry poison King Pepin and his Queen, and deprive young Charles of his Inheritance. The Emperor of Greece unhappily slain by Valentine.

VALENTINE being resolved to attempt the deliverance of Clerimond, repaired to the capital of India, under the disguise of a physician. His first care was to send a person about the city to make it known, that he could cure all kinds of diseases, both in men and women, madness itself not excepted. The king of India hearing of this famous physician, ordered him to be introduced to Clerimond. At first she appeared very outrageous; but when Valentine discovered himself, she immediately threw off all show of madness, and no words can express their excess of joy. They immediately began to consider of the means of escaping, when Valentine perceiving Pacolet's horse in

a corner, said, Thus shall it be; I will promise the king to cure my Clerimond by tomorrow, but I will say I must watch the progress of the disorder during the night, and at midnight we will take our flight on our old friend's wooden horse, for I know his art. The king agreed to Valentine's abiding with Clerimond during the night; and when the court retired to rest, Valentine mounted the little horse, and taking the lady behind him, he turned the pin towards Angory, where they soon arrived, and were married the next morning.

Valentine soon after made himself master of the castle, in which his father and his companion were imprisoned; and opening the door of the dungeon, cried out, All you that are alive come forth! Orson, knowing his voice, called out, Welcome, dear brother! and he and the emperor soon left their loathsome cell; and, after spending some days in festivity, Haufray and Henry returned to France, and Valentine to Angory, leaving the emperor, Orson, and the Green Knight,

in possession of the castle; where Orson became enamoured of Galazay.

Haufray and Henry soon after crowned their villainy, by causing their father and his queen to be poisoned, and by seizing the government, which belonged in right to young Charles, whom they treated as a kitchen boy, till he was taken privately out of their hands. Valentine immediately repaired to Paris, by means of Pacolet's horse, and by his art set all the prisoners at liberty; but could not then take any other measures against the usurpers Haufray and Henry, being obliged to return to Angory on the wooden horse, leaving Myllon Daugler behind him; for Brandiffer and his allies had again laid siege to that city. The emperor and Orson, and the Green Knight, also set sail from their castle, to give assistance to the Christians. On their voyage they fell in with a fleet, having on board ten thousand choice troops, which were going to join Brandiffer. A fierce engagement ensued, and the Pagans were at length defeated. Af-

ter this victory, the emperor proposed to his companions that they should put on the Saracens' armour, as a disguise; but this measure proved fatal to himself. After the army of Brandiffer had remained inactive before the city a whole month, the besieged, under Myllon Daugler, marched out to give them battle. At this juncture arrived the emperor of Greece, Orson, and the Green Knight, with their army; and Valentine mistaking the emperor, from his armour, to be a Saracen, ran at him with his spear, and thrust him through, so that he fell dead on the earth. Valentine immediately uttered a cry of joy; but Orson wept, and said, Brother, this is no conquest; for you have slain your father. When Valentine heard this, he fell from his horse, and abandoned himself to grief. He, however, was at length prevailed on to remount; and again rushing into the battle, slew king Christo and Brandiffer, whereupon the Pagans fled on all sides. Next morning took place great lamentations for the emperor of Greece, and his body was royally interred in the city of An-

gory ; but Valentine could not be comforted. No enemy now remaining, Myllon Daugler returned to his own country, after taking leave of Valentine ; who, with his brother Orson, retired into Greece, having first crowned the Green Knight king of Angory.

CHAP. XXXII.

Valentine and Orson agree to rule jointly in Greece.

Valentine goes on a Pilgrimage, but returns disguised in the Garb of a Beggar. Hugon, King of Hungary, treacherously endeavours to obtain the Lady Clerimond in Marriage, and betrays Orson and the Green Knight into the Hands of the King of Jewry. The Treachery of Hugon is discovered ; Orson and the Green Knight are released, and Hugon is slain.

THE emprefs Bellifant, after the death of her lord, recommended her sons to agree, which of them should succeed their father as emperor of Greece, when they agreed to govern the empire together. But such was the grief of Valentine, that he de-

terminated to go on a pilgrimage to Rome, as a penance for the unintentional murder of his father. Before his departure he took the lady Clerimond's wedding ring, and breaking it in two, gave her one half and kept the other himself; telling her to give no credit to any person who might pretend to come from him, unless he produced to her his half of the ring.

Shortly after this Orson's wife died; he mourned for her death one whole year, and then married the lady Galazy, by whom he had a son, named Orsayr, who in process of time became emperor.

At Rome Valentine was ordered by a hermit to submit to seven years penance: in consequence of which, having disguised his person, he returned to Constantinople, clad in the habit of a beggar, and went to his brother's palace. The attendants would have driven him away, but Orson said, He would relieve all poor pilgrims, in hopes of gaining some intelligence of his brother, and ordered them to carry him some meat and wine, of which he refused to taste; but seeing a bas-

ket containing the scraps, he readily eat of them, and at night reposed himself on some straw under the stairs, as he had been enjoined by the hermit.

Hugon, king of Hungary, arriving at Constantinople, was very urgent with the lady Clerimond to become his wife, telling her that Valentine must certainly be dead. The lady, however, determined to be faithful to her beloved Valentine, saying, He was surely alive, keeping his half of her wedding ring. Hugon, therefore, had recourse to fraud. Pretending to be going on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, he much pressed Orson to accompany him; to which he consented, on condition that they should call in their way at Angory, and take with them the Green Knight. They did so; but, on their arrival at Jerusalem, Hugon basely betrayed them into the hands of Rabestre, king of Jewry, who confined them in a dungeon; taking from them their gold seals, which he delivered to Hugon, according to an agreement previously made between them. Hugon then wrote two letters, one in the name

of Orson, the other in that of the Green Knight, and having sealed them with their seals, dispatched them by his nephew, named Galeran, to Constantinople. The first was expressed in these terms:

“ Orson, emperor of Greece, unto the thrice-renowned sovereign lady my mother, unto you my love Galazy, and my sister Clerimond, greeting. Know this, that many things are fallen out contrary to expectation. I found my brother Valentine on his death-bed, at Jerusalem; and a little before he died, he charged me to salute Clerimond in his name, and command her, that if ever she marry again, she will take some prince to her husband; but the half ring was stolen from him in his sickness.”

The letter in the name of the Green Knight ran thus:

“ Right well beloved sister, we have said enough about my brother Valentine; but now we wish you, first, to accomplish the desire of the dead; secondly, to match with Hugon, king of Hungary, as you will avoid our displeasure. For further authority, we

have sealed these letters with our own seals."

Galeran delivered the two letters to the empress and Clerimond, who both most bitterly lamented the supposed death of Valentine; and Clerimond declared it to be her determination, to remain single for the rest of her life. In the end, however, she suffered herself to be prevailed on by the lady Bellifant to consent to give her hand to Hugon; but, before their nuptials, Valentine (who observing all that passed, pitied the distress of his dear Clerimond) was directed in a vision to betake himself out of the city, near one of the gates of which he would meet a pilgrim, with whom he should exchange habits, and in that disguise repair again to his own palace, and there discover the treachery of Hugon. He obeyed, found the pilgrim, and exchanged garments; and returning to the imperial palace, he thus addressed the lady Clerimond, in the presence of the whole court: "Lady, I am sent to thee with salutations from thy husband Valentine, who will be with thee in the space of three days."—

When Hugon, who stood by, heard these words, he secretly quitted the palace, and returned to his own dominions; upon which the lady Bellifant ordered Galeran to be seized, who confessed the treachery, and was put to death.

The king of Jewry made an offer to Orson and the Green Knight to set them at liberty, if they would surrender to him the city of Angory. This they refused to do, unless he would also consent to release Hugon, whom they imagined to have been made prisoner by him at the same time with themselves; but when they heard that it was Hugon who had betrayed them into his hands, they vowed to be revenged on him, and yielded to the proposal made to them.

When they arrived at Constantinople they assembled an army, and again laid siege to Angory, which city was then in the possession of Hugon; who offered to surrender it to them, with immense treasures of gold, and to engage in single combat, if any person there, Orson excepted, would dare to brand him with the name of traitor. This

challenge was accepted by the Green Knight, who, in the combat that ensued, gave his antagonist so severe a stroke, that he fell to the earth in a swoon; but coming to himself again, he confessed the treason of which he had been guilty, and soon afterwards expired. Orson then took possession of the city, after which he returned to Constantinople.

CHAP. XXXIII.

The Death of Valentine.

SEVEN years being elapsed, Valentine was seized with a mortal distemper; and an angel warned him that he must soon quit the world. At this news he, by his gestures (for he was not able to speak), expressed great joy; and making signs for pen and ink, he wrote down that it was himself who, habited like a pilgrim, manifested Hugon's treason. Then inclosing the half ring which he had received from Clerimond, he put his name

to the letter, sealed it, and holding it in his hand, stretched himself out and died. When Orson heard of the supposed pilgrim's death, he was much grieved, and attempted to take the letter out of his hand, but in vain. But as soon as Clerimond laid hold of the paper, the hand opened of itself. This letter being read, great lamentation ensued for the death of Valentine: Clerimond threw herself on the body, and for a long time refused all comfort; nor could she ever be prevailed on to enter into a second marriage.

Orson governed the empire seven years, and had another son by his wife Galazy, whom he named Morant; and this son afterwards became king of Angory. The death of Galazy, which happened sometime after, so much afflicted Orson, that he retired into a forest, where he subsisted solely on bread and roots. One night he had a vision, glorious beyond description; and returning next day to his palace, he said to the Green Knight, Sir, I see the uncertainty of the world; I resign my children unto your care, and I desire you will see them well

educated in the principles of religion and virtue, that they may be fit to govern my people; for I will spend the rest of my days in solitary contemplation. Then taking solemn leave, he went back to the forest, where he spent the remainder of his days in abstinence and prayer.



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