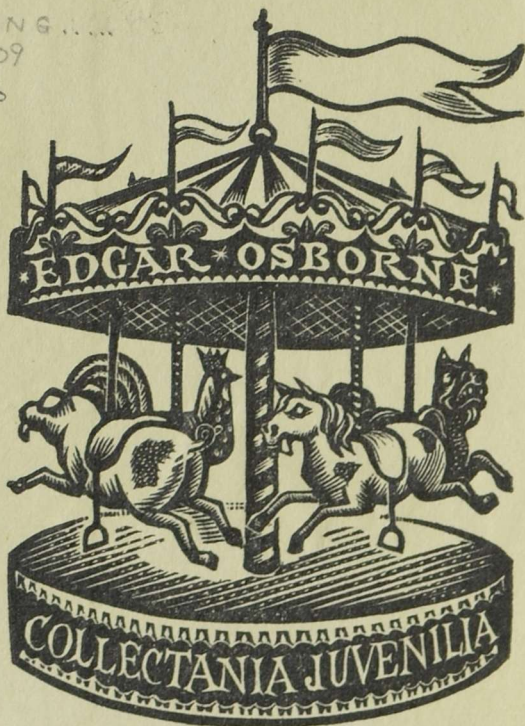




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ROYAL RAM



*The Princess, her little moor Patypata, her ape Grabudgeon,
and her little dog Tintin*

John

THE

Mitford
1844

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THE
ROYAL RAM;
OR,
THE WISHES.

IN those happy days, when fairies were common, there lived a king who had three beautiful young daughters, who were all deserving; but the youngest, whose name was Miranda, being the most amiable, and her father's favourite, was allowed as many clothes in a month, as her sisters had in a year; but she being so generous as to let them partake with her, it made no difference amongst them.

The Royal Ram ;

The king having had neighbours, who, tired with a long peace, obliged him to raise an army, and to take the field, left his daughters with a governante in a castle, where they might hear news from him every day ; and when he had subdued his enemies, and drove them out of his dominions, he came to the castle to see his Miranda, whom he doated on. The three princesses bespoke themselves every one a robe of satin ; the eldest's was green, adorned with emeralds ; the second's was blue, set off with turquoises ; and the youngest's white, bedecked with diamonds. And in these dresses they went to meet the king, and to congratulate him on his victories.

When he saw them so beautiful and gay, he embraced them all tenderly, but especially Miranda. After a magnificent entertainment that was served up, the king, who loved to draw consequences from the most trivial matters, asked the eldest why she put on a green gown ? “ Sir,” said she, “ after hearing of your great deeds, I thought green might

express my joy, and the hopes of your return.”
“ That’s very well,” said the king; “ and you, daughter,” continued he to the second, “ how came you to put on a blue gown ?”
“ To shew, sir,” said she, “ we ought to implore the gods in your favour; and that in seeing you, I behold the heavens and the brightest stars.” “ Now,” said the king, “ you speak like an oracle. And you, Miranda,” said the king, “ what made you dress yourself in white ?” “ Because,” said she, “ it becomes me better than any other colours.” “ How,” said the king, a little angrily, “ was that only your design ?” “ I had that of pleasing you,” said the princess, “ and I think I need no other.” Whereupon the king was mightily pleased at her turn of thought, and said, That since he had eaten a pretty deal at supper, he would not go to bed so soon, therefore he would have them tell him their dreams the night before his return.

The eldest said, she dreamed he brought her a gown, the gold and jewels of which

The Royal Ram ;

were brighter than the sun ; the second said, she dreamed that he brought her a golden spinning-wheel and distaff, for her to spin herself some shifts ; and the youngest said, she dreamed he had married her second sister off, and, on the wedding-day, held a golden ewer, and said, “ Come, Miranda, come and wash you.”

The king, who was angry at this dream, knit his brow, made a thousand wry faces, and went into his chamber, where, throwing himself upon his bed, he could not forget his daughter's dream : “ This insolent baggage,” said he, “ would make me her domestic slave ; I am not amazed now, why she put on a white gown with thinking of me ; she looks on me as one unworthy of her reflections, but I'll prevent her ill designs.” Hereupon he got up in a rage ; and though it was not yet day, he sent for the captain of his guards, and said to him, “ You have heard of Miranda's dream, which forebodes some treason ; therefore I would have you take her presently, and carry her into the forest, and kill

her, and afterwards bring me her heart and tongue; if you deceive me, I'll put you to the most cruel death I can think of." The captain of the guards was very much surprised at so barbarous an order, but durst not seem averse to it, lest the king should take away his commission, but promised him to perform it. Then going to the princess's chamber, which he had much ado to get to, it being so very early, he told her, the king had sent him for her. Whereupon she rose presently; a little Moor that she called Patypata held up her train, and her young ape, named Grabugeon, and little dog, which she called Tintin, ran by her side.

The captain of the guard carried her into the garden, telling her the king was taking a little fresh air; and then pretending to look for him, and not finding him, told her, he was without dispute gone from thence into the forest. Then opening the little door that led into the forest, and day coming on, the princess observed that her conductor shed some tears, and seemed melancholy; where-

upon she said to him, with an air of sweetness, "What is the matter you seem so much afflicted?" "Alas! madam," cried he, "who can be otherwise? The king has ordered me to kill you here, and to carry him your heart and tongue, or else he will put me to death."

At these words the poor princess turned pale, and fell a-crying, and in that condition looked like a lamb that was going to the slaughter; then fixing her eyes on the captain without any anger, said to him, "Have you courage enough to kill me, who never did you any injury in my life, but rather always spoke to the king in your favour? But if I have deserved my father's anger, I submit without murmuring. Alas! I have shewn him but too much love and respect, for him to complain without injustice." "Fear not, fair princess," said the officer, "I'll sooner suffer the death I am threatened with, than be guilty of so barbarous an action; but when I am gone, you will not be more safe; we must find out some expedient to persuade the king that you are dead."

“What way can we find out?” replied Miranda; “he will not be satisfied unless he sees my tongue and heart.” At that Patypata, who stood by, and heard all, without being observed by either the princess or the captain, advanced boldly, and throwing herself at Miranda’s feet, said, “I come, madam, to offer you my life; let me be the sacrifice; I shall be but too well pleased to die for so good a mistress.” “I have no need of so tender a proof of thy friendship,” said the princess, kissing her, “thy life ought now to be as dear to me as my own.” Whereupon Grabugeon came forward, and said, “You are in the right, my princess, to love so faithful a slave as Patypata; she may be more serviceable to you than I can, therefore I offer you my heart and tongue with joy.” “Oh my pretty Grabugeon,” replied Miranda, “I cannot bear the thoughts of taking thy life away.” With that Tintin cried out, that it was insupportable to so faithful a dog as he was, that any other but him should lay down their life for his mis-

tress; and thereupon arose a great dispute between Patypata, Grabugeon, and Tintin; in short, Grabugeon being quicker than the rest, climbed up to the top of a high tree, and threw himself down, and broke his neck; and the captain of the guard, with a great deal of persuasion, got leave of the princess to cut out his tongue; but it proved too small to venture to cheat the king with it.

“Alas! my poor little ape,” said the princess, “thou hast lost thy life without doing me any service!” “That honour is reserved for me,” interrupted the Moor, and at the same time cut her throat with the knife that Grabugeon’s tongue was cut out with. The officer was for carrying her tongue, but that it was too black to pass for Miranda’s. “How unfortunate am I,” said the princess, weeping, thus to lose what I love, and not to be one whit the better for it!” “If you had accepted of my proposition,” said Tintin, “you would have had none to have grieved for but me, and I should have had the satisfaction of being regretted

alone." Whereupon Miranda kissed her little dog, and cried and grieved so much, that she swooned away, and, when she came to herself, found her dog dead, her conductor gone, and she herself left with her three dead favourites, which she buried in a hole that was ready dug hard by a tree, and then bethought herself of her own security.

As the forest was not far from her father's court, it was not safe for her to stay there long, lest she should be known by some of the passengers, therefore she made all the haste she could to get out of it; but the forest was so large, and the sun so hot, that she was ready to die with heat, fear, and weariness, and was in continual apprehensions lest her father should follow and kill her; but still continued going forwards, making lamentable complaints, having her gown almost tore off, and her skin scratched by the thorns and brambles. At last, hearing the bleating of sheep, "Without doubt," said she to herself, "here are some shepherds with their flocks, who may direct me to some hamlet,

where I may disguise myself in some country dress ; for, alas !" continued she, " princes are not always the most happy. Who believes that I am a run-away ? that my father, without any cause or reason, seeks my life ? and that I, to save it, must be forced to disguise myself ?" While she was making these reflections, she arrived at the place from whence she heard the bleating ; but how great was her surprise, when she came to a spacious plain, to see a large ram, as white as snow ; his horns were girt, a garland of flowers was fastened about his neck, his legs were adorned with bracelets of pearls of a prodigious size, and he was laid on orange flowers, and shaded from the heat of the sun by a pavilion of cloth of gold. An hundred sheep finely adorned were waiting about him, some drinking coffee, sherbet, and lemonade, others eating strawberries and cream, and sweetmeats, and others again playing at lasset and basset ; some had rich collars of gold, with a gallant device, and some their ears bored, and full of ribbons. Miranda

was so much amazed, that she was perfectly motionless, and looked all about for the shepherd of such an extraordinary flock, when the beautiful ram came bounding and skipping, and said, "Approach, divine princess, be not afraid of such gentle pacific creatures as we are." "What prodigy is this," said the princess, stepping back, "to hear sheep speak?" "Alas! madam," said the ram, "your ape and dog spoke, and why is it more strange that we should?" "A fairy," answered Miranda, "bestowed that gift upon them." "And might not the like adventure attend us?" replied the ram, smiling; "but, my princess, what brought you hither?" "A thousand misfortunes," replied Miranda; "I am the most miserable person in the world, and seek an asylum to avoid the rage of a father." "Come, madam, with me," replied the ram, "I will afford you one, where you shall be known by none, and be absolute mistress." "But I am not able to follow you," replied she, "I am so weary." Whereupon the ram ordered his

chariot, and soon after appeared six goats, harnessed to a gourd-shell, large enough for two persons to sit in with ease, and lined with velvet. The princess placed herself in it, admiring an equipage so novel, and the ram got in after her, and then drove to the cavern's mouth, which was stopped by a large stone, which, on the ram's touching with his foot, removed. After which, he told the princess she might go down without any danger ; which she would hardly have ever consented to, had not her fear of being taken prompted her to it ; and, upon that account, she never hesitated, but followed her conductor.

As the steps were very numerous, the princess thought that she was either going to pay a visit to their Antipodes, or the Elysian shades, but was much more surprised when she discovered a vast plain enamelled with various flowers, which excelled all the perfumes she had ever smelt, surrounded with a large river of orange-flower water. In the midst of this plain were fountains of wine, rosa

solis, and other exquisite liquors, which formed cascades and other pleasant purling brooks, and here and there holts of trees, which served for shelter to variety of choice birds and fowls, as partridges, quails, pheasants, ortolans, turkeys, pullets, &c.; and in some parts the air was darkened with showers of biscuits, blanched almonds, tarts, cheese-cakes, marrow-puddings, all manner of sweetmeats, both wet and dry; and, in short, with all necessaries of life, with great plenty of crown-pieces, guineas, pearls, and diamonds. Without doubt, the rarity and usefulness of this rain would have brought the royal ram a great many visitors, if he had been desirous of company; but all the writers that mention him assure us, that he chose to be retired, and was as grave as any Roman senator.

As it was the pleasantest season of the year when Miranda arrived there, she saw no other palace than what chambers, halls, and closets, orange-trees, jessamine, honey-suckles, and rose-trees formed, by intermixing their boughs. The princely ram told Miranda,

that he had reigned sovereign there several years, and had sufficient cause to be afflicted ; but that he refrained from tears, that he might not remind her of her misfortunes.

“ Your manner of treatment, charming sheep,” said she, “ is somewhat so generous, that I cannot express my acknowledgement enough ; and I must confess, that what I see seems so extraordinary, I know not what to think of it.” No sooner had she pronounced these words, but there appeared a troop of beautiful nymphs, who presented her with fruit out of amber baskets ; but when she went near them, they insensibly moved from her ; and at last reaching out her hand to take hold of one of them, and feeling nothing, she soon perceived they were only phantoms. “ Alas !” said she, weeping, “ where am I, and what are these ?” At that instant, the royal ram (for so I must call him) returned, having left her some moments, and seeing her shed tears, remained motionless, and ready to die at her feet.

“ What is the matter with my beautiful”

princess ?” said he ; “ have I any way failed in the respect that is due to you ? ” “ No,” said she ; “ but I am not used to live among the dead, and with sheep that talk ; every thing here terrifies me ; and though my obligation is great to you for bringing me hither, yet I must beg one favour more of you, to conduct me back.” “ Fright not yourself,” replied he ; “ vouchsafe to hear me quietly, and you shall know my deplorable adventure.”

“ I was born a prince ; a great race of kings, who were my ancestors, left me in possession of one of the most beautiful kingdoms in the world ; my subjects loved me, my neighbours both feared and envied me, and I was esteemed with some justice. My person was not indifferent to those that saw me ; and being a great lover of hunting, as I was one day pursuing a stag, and separated from my attendants, the stag took into a pond ; I plunged my horse in after him with too much imprudence, as well as rashness ; but, instead of finding the water cold, I

found it extraordinary hot ; and the pond becoming dry all on a sudden, there issued out of a cleft a terrible fire, and I fell to the bottom from off the precipice, where I could see nothing but flames. I believed myself lost, when I heard a voice say, " They must be greater flames that warm thy heart, ungrateful man." " Alas !" cried I, " who is that who complains of my coldness ?" " An unfortunate wretch," replied the voice, " who adores you without hope." At the same time the fire went out, and I saw a fairy whom I knew from my youth, and whose age and ugliness always frightened me ; she was leaning on a young slave of incomparable beauty, who was loaded with chains of gold to denote her slavery. " What prodigy is this," said I to Ragotte, which was the fairy's name ; " was this done by your orders ?" " Alas ! by whose orders else, do you think ?" replied she ; " have you never known my sentiments till now ? Must I be forced to explain myself ? my eyes used never to fail of conquest ; have they now lost all their

power ? Consider how low I stoop ; 'tis a fairy that makes this confession, and kings are, in respect to them, but as ants." " I am entirely at your pleasure," said I to her, with an air and tone that expressed some impatience ; " but what is it that you ask ? Is it my crown, my cities, or my treasure ?" " Oh wretch !" replied she disdainfully, " I can make my skullions, when I please, greater than thee ; I ask thy heart ; my eyes have asked it a thousand times, and thou hast not understood them, or at least wouldst not. Wert thou engaged with any other, I should not interrupt thee in thy amours ; but I have too great an interest in thee not to discover the indifference of thy heart. Ah ! grant me thy love," added she, shutting her mouth, to render it the more agreeable, and rolling her eyes about, " I will be thy dear Ragotte, will add twenty kingdoms to that thou possessest, an hundred towers of gold, five hundred full of silver, and whatever thou canst desire besides."

" Madam Ragotte," said I to her, " I

beg of you, by all the charms that render you lovely, to set me at liberty, and then we'll see what I can do to please you." "O traitor!" cried she, "if thou lovedst me, thou wouldst not mourn so much after thy own kingdom, but wouldst be content to live in a grotto, wood, or desert. Do not believe me to be so great a novice; thou thinkest to steal away, but I tell thee for thy comfort, thou must stay here; and the first thing thou shalt do shall be, to keep my sheep, which have as much wit, and speak as well as thou dost." At the same time she brought me into this plain, where we are now, and shewed me her flock, which I looked on but little, for that beautiful slave that was with her took up all my regard, and my eyes betrayed me; which the cruel Ragotte observing, flew upon her, and stabbed her in the eye with her bodkin, and so deprived that adorable object of her life. At this dismal sight I fell on Ragotte, and clapping my hand upon my sword, was going to sacrifice her to the manes of that dear slave, had she not rendered me

motionless by her art. My effort being vain, I fell on the ground, and endeavoured to kill myself, to deliver myself from that wretched state I was reduced to ; when she, with an ironical smile, said to me, “ I will make you feel my power ; you are at present a lion, but shall, ere long, be a sheep. Whereupon touching me with her wand, I found myself metamorphosed, such as you see me, but retained both my speech, and those sentiments of grief which I owe to my unhappy state. “ Thou shalt be five years a sheep,” continued she, “ and absolute master of this sweet abode ; while I, separated from thee, and never beholding thy agreeable form, shall think on nothing but the hatred I bear thee.” Hereupon she disappeared ; and if any thing could have softened my misfortunes, or given any allay to my disgrace, ’twas her absence.

“ The sheep she spoke of acknowledged me to be their king, told me all their misfortunes, how they displeased the revengeful fairy, how she had composed a flock of them,

and that they all underwent the same punishment. But, (added he), when their time is expired, they will resume their own forms, and leave ~~the~~ flock ; and for those who are Ragotte's rivals, or enemies, whom she has killed, they abide here an age before they return into the world again ; of which number the young slave is, whom I told you of. I have seen her several months together, but she never speaks to me ; and when I approached towards her, it grieved me when I knew it was only a shadow ; but having observed one of my flock always by that phantom, I understood he ~~was~~ her lover, whom Ragotte, jealous of the tender impressions they had made on each other, had taken from her.

“ This was the reason that made me remove from that fairy, and, for these last three years, think of nothing but my liberty, which was what engaged me to go often to the forest, where I sometimes have seen you, fair princess, driving your chaise, like Diana in her silver chariot, and other times mounted

on a fiery steed, riding over the plains with the princesses and ladies of the court, and, like another, always sure to gain the prize. Alas! if at those times I durst have spoke, what fine things should I not have said, when my heart offered up its secret vows! But how would you have received the declaration of an unhappy sheep like me?"

Miranda was so much concerned at what she heard, that she hardly knew what answer to make; however, paying him some civilities, which gave him some hopes, she told him she should not be so much afraid of those shades, since they were to come to life again; "but, alas!" continued she, "if my poor Patypata, my dear Grabugeon, and my pretty Tintin, who died to serve me, were to meet with the like fate, I should not be so much concerned here."

Though the royal ram underwent great disgraces, yet had he a great many admirable privileges. "Go," said he to his first squire, who was a sheep of a good mien, "go fetch the Moor, the monkey, and the little dog;

their shades may divert our princess." Soon after Miranda saw them ; and though they came not nigh enough to be touched by her, yet their presence was some comfort to her. In short, the royal ram, who was endued with all the wit and delicacy proper to support an agreeable conversation, was so passionately in love with Miranda, that she began to have some regard for him, and to make some returns ; for what can be displeasing in a beautiful, kind, caressing sheep, especially when known to be a king, whose metamorphosis was to have an end ? Thus the princess passed her days in the sweet expectation of a more happy fate, while the gallant ram, whose thoughts were solely bent on her, made entertainments, concerts of music, and did every thing that was in his power to divert her ; his troop assisting him in them, and the shades contributing somewhat thereunto.

One evening, when the couriers arrived, for he was very fond of news, and always had the best, they told him, that the eldest sister

of the princess Miranda was going to marry a great prince, and that the nuptials were to be very magnificent. "Alas!" cried the young princess, "how unfortunate am I, not to see such fine things! I am here under ground with ghosts and sheep, while my sister, who will be dressed as fine as a queen, will have all the court made to her, and I shall be the only one that will not partake of her joy." "Madam, why do you complain?" said the royal ram to her. "Have I denied your going to the wedding? Go when you please; but give me your word, you will come again; if you deny me this, you shall see me expire at your feet; for my love is too violent for me to support myself when I shall lose you." Miranda promised him nothing should prevent her return. He gave her an equipage suitable to her birth; she was dressed very richly, and neglected nothing that might set off her charms; she got into a chariot of mother-of-pearl, drawn by six creatures that were half griffins, and newly arrived from the Anti-

podes, and was attended by a great number of officers that were richly dressed, and who had been sent a great way to make up her train.

With this equipage she arrived at the king her father's court, just when they were celebrating the marriage. As soon as she entered, she surprised all that saw her with the lustre of her beauty and jewels, and heard nothing but acclamations in her own praise. The king looked at her with great attention and pleasure, which put her into some fear lest he should know her; but he was so much prepossessed with her death, that he had not the least idea of her. Nevertheless, the apprehension of being stopped prevented her from staying till the ceremony was over, and made her go away suddenly, leaving a box of jewels behind her, whereon these words were written, *These jewels are for the new-married couple*; and when they opened it, there was nothing in it. The king, who had flattered himself with some hopes, and was desirous to know who she was, was in the ut-

most despair when he knew she was gone, and ordered his officers, whenever she came again, to shut the gates, and keep her. Though Miranda was not long absent, yet it seemed an age to the royal ram, who waited for her by a fountain-side in the thickest of the forest, where he had brought out immense riches to offer her as an acknowledgement of her return. As soon as he saw her, he ran towards her skipping and bounding; caressed her in his manner a thousand times, laid him down at her feet, kissed her hands, told her his disquiets and impatience; wherein his passion afforded him so much eloquence, that the princess was charmed with it.

Some time afterwards, the king married his second daughter, and Miranda, being informed of it, desired the ram to let her go again, who, at that proposition, was extremely grieved; a secret foresight prepossessed him with his misfortune; but as it is not always in our power to prevent what we foresee, so his complaisancy to the princess overbalancing his interest in her, he was not able

to deny her. " You will leave me, madam," said he ; " but this proceeds more from my ill fortune than from you ; I consent to your desires, since I never could make you a greater sacrifice." She assured him she would stay no longer than she had done before ; that she would be as much concerned as himself to be detained ; and desired him not to make himself uneasy. In short, she had the same equipage as before, and arrived there just as the ceremony began. Her presence, notwithstanding their attention to the ceremony, occasioned a general shout of joy and admiration, and drew the eyes of all the princes upon her ; who found her beauty so extraordinary and uncommon, that they could hardly believe her to be mortal.

The king was overjoyed to see her again, and never took his eyes off from her but once, to give orders to lock up all the gates. When the ceremony was almost over, the princess got up suddenly to steal out of the crowd, but was very much surprised and vexed to find all the gates shut. The king went

up to her with great respect, and a submission that gave her some encouragement, desiring her not to deprive him so soon of the pleasure of seeing her, and to honour him and his court with her presence. Then, leading her into a magnificent hall, where all the court was, he himself held a golden bason full of water for her to wash her hands in. At this the princess, who was no longer mistress of her transport, threw herself at his feet, and embracing his knees, said, "See, sir, my dream is fulfilled; you have held a bason for me to wash in, the day of my sister's wedding, without any misfortune attending you."

The king soon knew her to be his daughter Miranda, and embracing her, and shedding some tears, said, "Alas! my dear child, can you forget the cruelty of a father, who would have sacrificed your life, because he thought your dream denoted the loss of his crown? It shall be so," continued he, "since both your sisters are married, and have each a crown, mine shall be yours." And at that

instant rising up, he put the crown on the princess's head, and then said, "The gods preserve the Queen Miranda." Whereupon the whole court gave a great shout of joy, and her two sisters came and hung about her neck, and embraced her a thousand times. Miranda was so much overjoyed, that she both cried and laughed, embraced one, and talked to another, thanked the king, and asked for the captain of the guards, to whom she was obliged for all; and being told that he was dead, was very much grieved thereat. When they were at the table, the king desired to hear what had happened to her from the day whereon those fatal orders were given; which she acquiescing with, related her whole story, without omitting the least circumstance. But while she was thus engaged with the king and her sisters, the time of her return was elapsed, and the amorous ram became so uneasy, that he was no longer master of himself, and seeing that she came not again, said to himself, "My unhappy form of a sheep is displeasing to her; alas!

too unfortunate lover, what shall I do without Miranda? Ragotte, inhuman fairy, how great is thy revenge for my indifference towards thee!" Complaining in this manner, and seeing night approaching, without any appearance of his princess's coming, he ran to the palace, and asked for Miranda; but, as every body had heard his adventure, and were unwilling that the princess should go back again with him, they refused him the sight of her in so rude a manner, that he fetched sighs, and made complaints, capable of piercing the hearts of all that heard him, except the soldiers that kept the gates; and at last, overcome with his grief, laid himself down, and died.

The king, who knew nothing of this deep tragedy, proposed to his daughter to ride in a chariot through all the principal streets of the city, to shew her to her subjects; but what a dismal sight was it to her, when they got out of the gates of the palace, to see her dear sheep stretched on the ground void of life! She jumped with precipitation out of

the chariot, ran to him, cried over him, and bemoaned the death of the royal ram, which she knew was owing to her not being so good as her word, and in her despair thought to have partook of his fate.

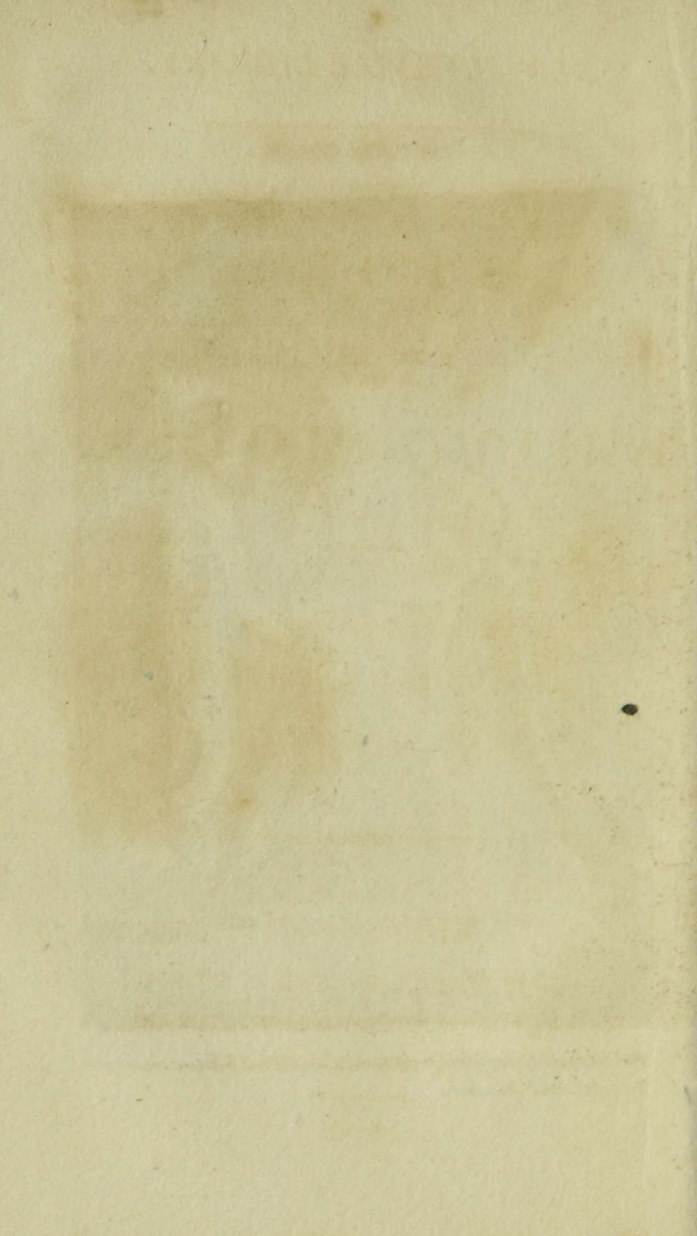
The fairy Lauretina, who had presided over their births, sensibly affected at the lovers' unfortunate situation, came to their relief, and with a touch of her talisman, not only restored the royal ram to life, but to his natural form as a beautiful prince. The good old king, happy in his wishes for his daughter, finding the prince royally descended, consented to their union, and in full court made them heirs to his kingdom.

Thus we see, by virtue and perseverance, though calamities may surround us, yet, if we are good, we shall ultimately be happy.

ROYAL RAM



*The Royal Ram restored to his natural shape marries
his beloved Miranda*



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THE
S T O R Y
OF THE
WHITE MOUSE.

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dredth part of a moment, broke the charm, and then resumed her natural figure.

The prince now found that he had all along been under the power of enchantment; that his passion for the white mouse was entirely fictitious, and not the genuine complexion of his soul; he now saw, that his earnestness after mice was an illiberal amusement, and much more becoming a rat-catcher than a prince. All his meannesses now stared him in the face; he begged the princess's pardon an hundred times. The princess very readily forgave him; and both returning to their palace at Banbobbinn, lived very happily together, and reigned many years, with all that wisdom, which, by the story, they appear to have been possessed of. Perfectly convinced by their former adventures, that they who place their affections on trifles at first for amusement, will find these trifles at last become their most serious concern.

THE
S T O R Y

OF

THE ENVIOUS MAN, AND HIM
THAT HE ENVIED.

IN a considerable town, two persons dwelt next door to one another ; one of them conceived such a violent hatred against the other, that he who was hated resolved to remove his dwelling farther off, being persuaded that their being neighbours was the only cause from whence his animosity did arise ; for though he had done him several pieces of service, he found, nevertheless, that his hatred was nothing diminished ; therefore he sold his house, with what goods he had left, and retired to the capital city of that king-

dom, which was not far distant. He bought a little spot of ground which lay about half a league from the city; he had a house convenient enough, with a fine garden, and a pretty spacious court, wherein was a deep well, which was not in use.

The honest man, having made this purchase, put on a dervise's or monk's habit, to lead a retired life, and caused several cells to be made in the house, where, in a short time, he established a numerous society of dervises; he came soon to be publicly known by his virtue, through which he acquired the esteem of a great many people, as well of the commonalty, as of the chief of the city. In short, he was extremely honoured and cherished by every one. People came from afar to recommend themselves to his prayers; and all those who came to live with him published what blessings they received through his means.

The great reputation of this honest man having spread to the town from whence he came, it touched the envious man so much to

16 *The Envious Man, and*

the quick, that he left his house and affairs, with a resolution to go and ruin him. With this intent he went to the new convent of dervises, of which his former neighbour was the head, who received him with all imaginable tokens of friendship. The envious man told him that he was come on purpose to communicate a business of importance to him, which he could not do but in private; and because that nobody shall hear us, let us, says he, take a walk in your court, and seeing night begins to draw on, command your dervises to retire to their cells. The head of the dervises did as he required.

When the envious man saw that he was alone with this good man, he began to tell him his errand, walking side by side in the court, until he saw his opportunity; and getting the good man near the brink of the well, he gave him a thrust, and pushed him into it, without any body being witness to so wicked an action. Having done this, he marched off immediately, got out at the gate of the convent, without being known to any one, and came

home to his own house, well satisfied with his journey; being fully persuaded that the object of his hatred was no more in this world, but found himself highly mistaken.

This old well was inhabited by fairies and genies, which happened very luckily for the relief of the head of the convent; for they received and supported him, carried him to the bottom, so that he got no hurt. He perceived well enough that there was something extraordinary in his fall, which must otherwise have cost him his life; whereas he neither saw nor felt any thing. But he soon heard a voice, which said, "Do you know what honest man this is to whom we have done this piece of service?" Another voice answered, "No." To which the first replied, "Then I will tell you. This man, out of charity the greatest that ever was known, left the town he lived in, and has established himself in this place, in hopes to cure one of his neighbours of the envy he had conceived against him; he has acquired such general esteem, that the envious man, not able to en-

dure it, came hither on purpose to ruin him, which he had performed, had it not been for the assistance which we have given this honest man, whose reputation is so great, that the sultan, who keeps his residence in the neighbouring city, was to pay him a visit to-morrow, and to recommend the princess, his daughter, to his prayers."

Another voice asked, "What need had the princess of the dervise's prayers?" To which the first answered, "You do not know, it seems, that she is possessed by Genie Maimoun, the son of Dimdim, who is fallen in love with her. But I know well how this good head of the dervises may cure her; the thing is very easy, and I will tell it you. He has a black cat in his convent, with a white spot at the end of her tail, about the bigness of a small piece of English money; let him only pull seven hairs out of this white spot, burn them, and smoke the princess's head with the fume, she will not only be presently cured, but be so safely delivered from

Maimoun, the son of Dimdim, that he will never dare to come near her a second time.

The head of the dervises remembered every word of the discourse between the fairies and the genies, who were very silent all the night after. The next morning, by break of day, when he could discern one thing from another, the wall being broken down in several places, he saw a hole, by which he crept out with ease.

The other dervises, who had been seeking for him, were rejoiced to see him. He gave them a brief account of the wickedness of that man to whom he had given so kind a reception the day before, and retired to his cell. It was not long till the black cat, of which the fairies and the genies had made mention in their discourses the night before, came to fawn upon her master, as she was accustomed to do : he took her up, and pulled seven hairs out of the white spot that was upon her tail, and laid them aside for his use, when occasion should serve.

The sun was not high, when the sultan,

20 *The Envious Man, and*

who would leave no means untried that he thought could restore the princess to her perfect health, arrived at the gate of the convent. He commanded his guards to halt, whilst he, with his principal officers, went in. The dervises received him with profound respect.

The sultan called their head aside, and says, "Good Scheich, it may be, you know already the cause of my coming hither."

"Yes, sir," replies he, very gravely, "if I do not mistake it, it is the disease of the princess which procures this honour that I have not deserved."

"That is the very thing," replied the sultan. "You will give me new life, if your prayers, as I hope they will, can procure my daughter's health."

"Sir," said the good man, "if your Majesty will be pleased to let her come hither, I am in hopes, through God's assistance and favour, she shall return in perfect health."

The prince, transported with joy, sent immediately to fetch his daughter, who very soon appeared with a numerous train of ladies and eunuchs, but masked, so that her face was

not seen. The chief of the dervises caused a pall to be held over her head, and he had no sooner thrown the seven tufts of hair upon the burning coals, but the genie Maimoun, the son of Dimdim, gave a great cry, without any thing being seen, and left the princess at liberty ; upon which she took the veil from off her face, and rose up to see where she was, saying, “ Where am I, and who brought me hither ? ” At these words the sultan, overcome with excess of joy, embraced his daughter, and kissed her eyes ; he also kissed the chief of the dervise’s hands, and said to his officers, “ Tell me your opinion, what reward does he deserve who has thus cured my daughter ? ” They all cried, he deserves her in marriage. “ That is what I had in my thoughts,” said the sultan, “ and I make him my son-in-law from this moment.” Some time after, the prime visier died, and the sultan conferred the place on the dervise. The sultan himself died without heirs-male ; upon which the religious orders and the militia gathered together, and the honest man

was declared and acknowledged sultan by general consent.

The honest dervise being mounted on the throne of his father-in-law, as he was one day in the midst of his courtiers upon a march, he espied the envious man among the crowd of people that stood as he passed along, and calling one of his visiers that attended him, whispered him in the ear thus: "Go, bring me that man you see there, but take care you do not frighten him." The visier obeyed; and when the envious man was brought into his presence, the sultan said, "Friend, I am extremely glad to see you." Upon which he called an officer, "Go immediately," says he, "and cause to be paid this man out of my treasury one hundred pieces of gold; let him have also twenty load of the richest merchandise in my store-houses, and a sufficient guard to conduct him to his house." After he had given this charge to the officer, he bid the envious man farewell, and proceeded on his march.

THE
STORY
OF THE
GOLDEN HEAD.

IT is generally known, that Tom Two-Shoes went to sea when he was a very little boy, and very poor ; and that he returned a very great man, and very rich ; but no one knows how he acquired so much wealth but himself and a few friends.

After Tom had been at sea some years, he was unfortunately cast away on that part of Africa inhabited by the Hottentots. Here he met with a strange book which the Hottentots did not understand, and which gave him some account of Prester John's country ;

and being a lad of great curiosity and resolution, he determined to see it; accordingly he set out on the pursuit, attended by a young lion, which he had tamed, and made so fond of him, that he followed him like a dog, and obeyed all his commands; and indeed it was happy for him that he had such a companion; for, as his road lay through large woods and forests, that were full of wild beasts, and without inhabitants, he must have been soon starved or torn in pieces, had he not been both fed and protected by this noble animal.

Tom had provided himself with two guns, a sword, and as much powder and ball as he could carry; with these arms, and such a companion, it was mighty easy for him to get food; for the animals in these wild and extensive forests, having never seen the effects of a gun, readily ran from the lion, who hunted on one side, to Tom, who hunted on the other, so that they were either caught by the lion, or shot by his master; and it was pleasant enough, after a hunting-match, and the

meat was dressed, to see how cheek by jowl they sat down to dinner.

When they came to the land of Utopia, he discovered the statue of a man erected on an open plain, which had this inscription on the pedestal: "On May-day in the morning, when the sun rises, I shall have a *Head of Gold*." As it was now the latter end of April, he staid to see this wonderful change; and, in the mean time, inquiring of a poor shepherd what was the reason of the statue being erected there, and with that inscription, he was informed, that it was set up many years ago by an Arabian philosopher, who travelled all the world over in search of a real friend; that he lived with, and was extremely fond of, a great man who inhabited the next mountain; but that on some occasion they quarrelled, and the philosopher, leaving the mountain, retired into the plain, where he erected this statue with his own hands, and soon after died. To this he added, that all the people for many leagues round came

there every May morning, expecting to see the stone-head turned to gold.

Tom got up very early on the first of May to behold this amazing change, and when he came near the statue, he saw a number of people, who all ran away from him in the utmost consternation, having never before seen a lion follow a man like a lap-dog. Being thus left alone, he fixed his eyes on the sun, then rising with resplendent majesty, and afterwards turned to the statue, but could see no change in the stone.—“Surely,” says he to himself, “there is some mystical meaning in this ! This inscription must be an ænigma, the hidden meaning of which I will endeavour to find ; for a philosopher never would expect a stone to be turned to gold.” Accordingly he measured the length of the shadow, which the statue gave on the ground by the sun shining on it, and marked that particular part where the head fell ; then getting a chopness, a thing like a spade, and digging, he discovered a copper chest, full of gold,

with this inscription engraved on the lid of it, “Thy wit, oh man! whoever thou art, hath disclosed the ænigma, and discovered the *Golden Head*. Take it and use it: but use it with wisdom; for know, that *Gold*, properly employed, may dispense blessings, and promote the happiness of mortals; but when hoarded up, or misapplied, is but trash, that makes mankind miserable. Remember the unprofitable servant, who hid his *talent* in a napkin; and the profligate son, who squandered away his substance, and fed with the swine. As thou hast got the *Golden Head*, observe the *Golden Mean*; be good, and be happy.”

This lesson, coming as it were from the dead, struck him with such an awe and reverence for piety and virtue, that before he removed the treasure, he kneeled down, and earnestly and fervently prayed that he might make a prudent, just, and proper use of it. He then conveyed the chest away; but how he got it to England is not known. It may not be improper, however, in this place, to

give the reader some account of the philosopher who hid this treasure, and took so much pains to find a true and real friend to enjoy it. As Tom had reason to venerate his memory, he was very particular in his inquiry, and had this character of him : That he was a man well acquainted with nature and with trade ; that he was pious, friendly, and of a sweet and affable disposition ; that he had acquired a fortune by commerce, and having no relation to leave it to, he travelled through Arabia, Persia, India, Lybia, and Utopia, in search of a real friend. In this pursuit he found several, with whom he had exchanged good offices, and who were polite and obliging ; but they often flew off for trifles, or as soon as he pretended to be in distress, and requested their assistance, had left him to struggle with his own difficulties. So true is that copy in our books, which says, “ Adversity is the touchstone of friendship.”

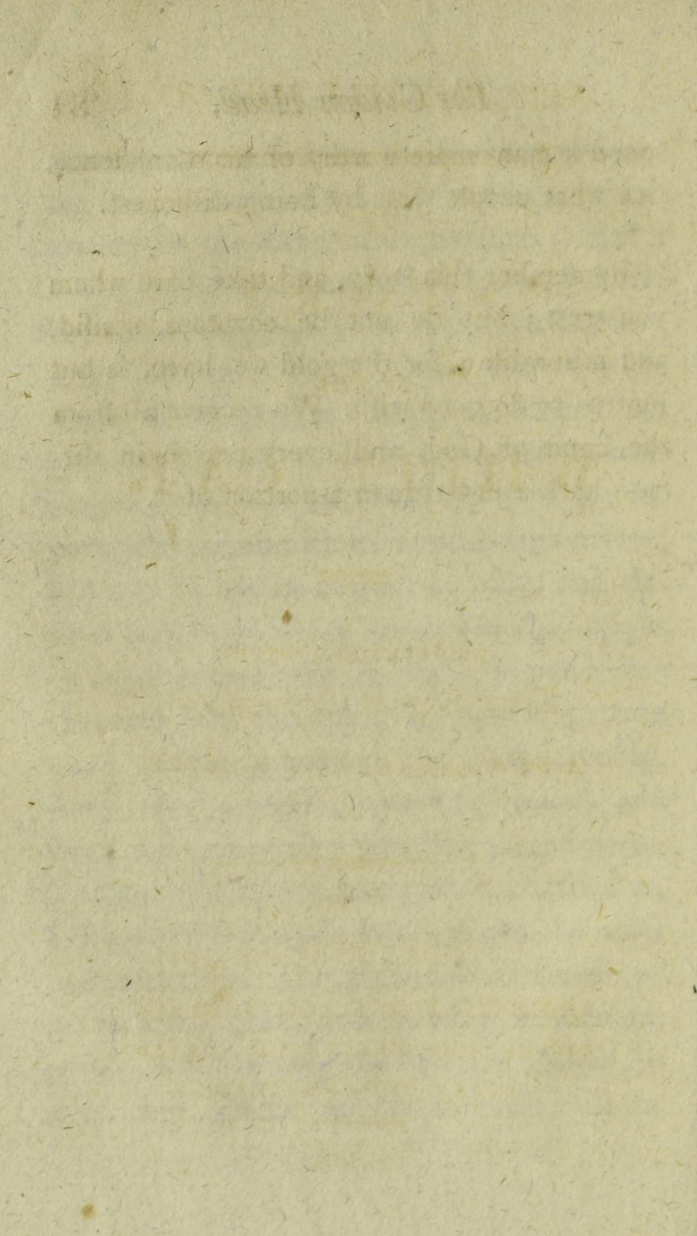
At last, however, he met in with the Utopian Philosopher, or the Wise Man of the Mountain, as he is called, and thought in him he had found

the friend he wanted ; for though he had often pretended to be in distress, and abandoned to the frowns of fortune, this man always relieved him, and with such chearfulness and sincerity, that concluding he had found out the only man to whom he ought to open both his purse and his heart, he let him so far into his secrets, as to desire his assistance in hiding a large sum of money, which he wanted to conceal, lest the prince of the country, who was absolute, should, by the advice of his wicked minister, put him to death for his gold. The two philosophers met and hid the money, which the stranger, after some days, went to see, but found it gone. How was he struck to the heart, when he found that his friend, whom he had often tried, and who had relieved him in his distress, could not withstand this temptation, but broke through the sacred bonds of friendship, and turned even a thief for gold which he did not want, as he was already very rich ! “ Oh ! ” said he, “ what is the heart of man made of ? Why am I condemned to live

among people who have no sincerity, and barter the most sacred ties of friendship and humanity for the dirt that we tread on? Had I lost my gold, and found a real friend, I should have been happy with the exchange, but now I am most miserable." After some time he wiped off his tear, and being determined not to be so imposed on, he had recourse to cunning and the arts of life. He went to his pretended friend with a chearful countenance, told him he had more gold to hide, and desired him to appoint a time when they might go together and open the earth, to put it into the same pot; the other, in hopes of getting more wealth, appointed the next evening. They went together, upon the ground, and found the money they had first placed there, for the artful wretch he so much confided in, had conveyed it again into the pot, in order to obtain more. Our philosopher immediately took the gold, and putting it into his pocket, told the other he had now altered his mind, and should bury it no more, till he

found a man more worthy of his confidence.
See what people lose by being dishonest.

Remember this story, and take care whom
you trust ; but do not be covetous, sordid,
and miserable ; for the gold we have, is but
lent us to do good with. We receive all from
the hand of God, and every person in dis-
tress hath a just title to a portion of it.



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THE
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THE
RENOWNED HISTORY
OF THE
WHITE CAT.

THERE was a king who had three sons, all handsome brave young gentlemen: but jealous that they should desire to reign before his death, he caused several reports to be spread abroad, that they endeavoured to procure themselves creatures to deprive him of his crown; and thought that the best way for him to live at quiet, was to amuse them by promises. To this end he said, "My great age will not allow me to apply myself to the

affairs of the public with so much care as formerly ; and I am afraid my subjects will not be so well pleased with my administration : therefore I intend to resign my crown to one of you. But, as I design to retire into the country, I should be very glad to have a pretty little dog to keep me company : therefore, I declare to you, that he of you who brings me the most beautiful dog shall be my heir."

The two younger were extraordinary well pleased with this proposal ; but the elder, though vexed, was either too timorous or respectful to represent his right. However, they took their leaves of the king, who gave them money and jewels, telling them, that they must all return without fail in a year's time, on a certain day, with their dogs.

They every one took a different road, without any attendants ; and, as for the two eldest, they had a great many adventures ; but, as the particulars are not so well known to me, I shall pass them over in silence, and speak only of the youngest, who was a youth of bright parts, and brave even to a fault. He

kept going on, without fixing on any certain place, when he was surprised one night in a large forest, by a storm of thunder, lightning, and rain. He went a long way, when, seeing a small light, he persuaded himself some house was near. Following the light, he arrived at the gates of a stately castle, which were all of massy gold; in which were carbuncles, which gave that extraordinary light which the people saw so far off. The walls were of fine china, whereon the histories of all the fairies since the creation of the world were represented; but the rain and ill weather would not suffer our prince to stay to examine them all, though he was charmed to find the adventures of Prince Lutin, who was his uncle, among the rest.

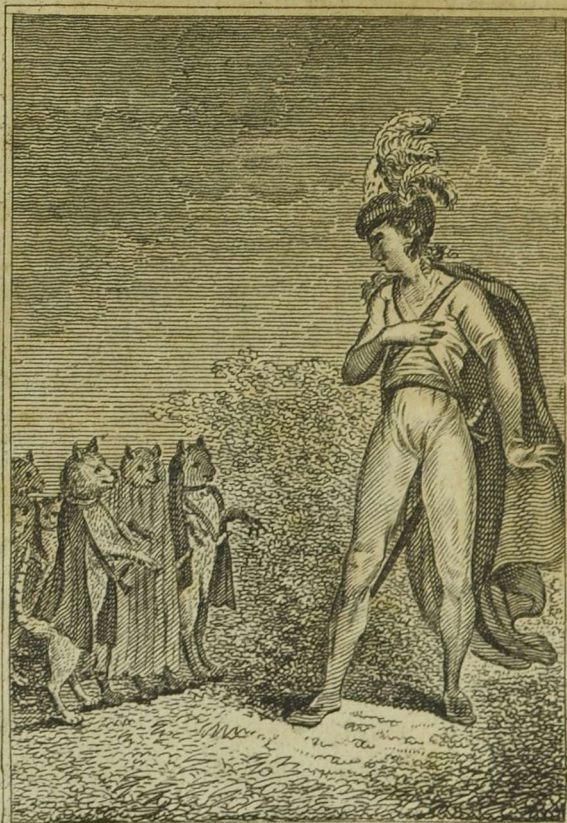
He pulled a bell, which, by the sound, he judged to be either gold or silver; and some time after, the door opened, and he saw no person, but only twelve hands, each holding a flambeau; he felt some others behind him, which pushed him forwards; whereupon he advanced, with his hand on his sword, though

very uneasy ; when going into a wardrobe, he heard two sweet voices sing these words :

With unconcern behold these hands,
And dread no false alarms,
If you are sure you can withstand
The force of beauty's charms.

A great gate of coral opened as soon as he approached it, and he went into a hall of mother-of-pearl, and thence into several chambers, adorned and enriched with paintings and jewels. He saw a great easy-chair make up towards him,—the fire light of itself, and the hands, which were both white and finely proportioned, undressed him, he being wet, and in some danger of catching cold. Every thing was very grand : the hands combed out his hair with a lightness that gave him pleasure, and afterwards dressed him in extraordinary fine clothes. When he was dressed, they conducted him into a stately hall, richly furnished, where he saw, in fine painting, the stories of the most famous cats ; as Rodillardus hung by the Heels in a Council of Rats,

WHITE CAT



The Prince's first interview with the White Cat

the Cat in boots, the Marquis de Carabas, the Writing Cat, the Cat turned Woman, Witches in the Shapes of Cats, with their nightly meetings, &c. all very odd and singular.

While he was calling to mind the several things that had happened since his being in this castle, he saw a little figure about half a yard high come forward in a veil of black crape, led by two cats with mourning cloaks, with swords by their sides, and followed by a numerous train of cats; some carrying rats, and some mice, in traps and cages.

The prince was in the greatest amazement, and knew not what to think; when the little figure in black coming up to him, and lifting up its veil, he saw the prettiest little *White Cat* he ever had set his eyes on, which seemed to be young, but withal very melancholy. "Prince," said she, "you are welcome; it is a pleasure to me to see you here."
—"Madam Puss," replied the prince, "you are very generous to receive me so graciously."
"Prince," answered the *White Cat*, "I de-

sire you will forbear your compliments, for I am plain both in my discourse and manners, but have a good heart. Let us go," said she, "to supper."

Supper was brought up; the hands set on the table two dishes of soup, one made of young pigeons, and the other of fat mice. The sight of the one hindered the prince from eating of the other, fancying that the same cook had dressed both: which the White Cat guessing at, assured him that she had two kitchens, and that he might eat of whatever was set before him, and be confident there was no rats nor mice in any thing offered him. The prince, who believed that this beautiful cat would not deceive him, wanted not to be told so twice. He observed a little picture to hang upon her foot, at which he was not a little surprised, and asked her to shew it him, thinking it might be some fine puss, a lover of the White Cat: but was in amaze to see a handsome young man, who resembled him very much. The White Cat sighed, and growing melancholy, kept a pro-

The White Cat.

7

found silence. When supper was done, the White Cat carried her guest into a hall, where there was a stage, on which twelve cats, and as many apes, danced a mask, in Moorish and Chinese habits; and when this was over, the White Cat bid her guest good-night, and the hands led him into an apartment opposite to that which he had seen, but no less magnificent.

The prince went to bed, and slept a little; but was awakened again by a confused noise. The hands took him out of bed, and put on him a hunting habit. They set him on a wooden horse, which was finely caparisoned, with a saddle and housing of gold, beset with diamonds. The White Cat rode on a most beautiful ape, having thrown off her veil, and put on a hat and feather, which gave so bold an air, as frightened all the mice that saw her. Never was there better sport. When the chace was over, she took a horn of about a finger's length, which, when sounded, was so loud, that it might be heard some leagues; and, as soon as she blowed, she had presently

all the cats in the country about her ; some mounted in chariots in the air, and some in boats, but all in different habits, which made a fine show. With this pompous train she and the prince returned to her castle, who thought it savoured very much of sorcery ; but was more surprised at the cat's speaking than all the rest.

As soon as she came home, she put on her black veil again, and supped with the prince, who in the fresh air had got a good stomach ; the hands brought him fine liquors, which he not only drank of with pleasure, but made him forget the little dog he was to procure for his father : his thoughts were bent on bearing the White Cat company, and he spent all his time in hunting and fishing, and sometimes in balls and plays. The prince had forgotten his country ; the hands still waited on him, and he regretted his not being a cat, that he might pass his life in such pleasant company. " Alas !" said he to the White Cat, " how sorry am I to leave you, since I love you dearly ! Either become a

woman, or change me into a cat." Which wish the White Cat only answered in obscure words, though she was mightily pleased with it.

The White Cat knew the time he was to return, and, as he did not think of it, put him in mind thereof. "Do not you know," said she, "that you have but three days to find a little dog in, and that your brothers have got some very fine ones?" This roused the prince out of his lethargy; "By what secret charm," cried he, "have I forgotten the only thing in the world, that is of the greatest importance to me? What will become of my honour and fortune? Where shall I find a little dog beautiful enough to gain a kingdom, and a horse swift enough to make diligent search after one?" Then beginning to afflict himself and grow uneasy, the White Cat said to him, "Do not grieve, prince, I am your friend; you may stay here a day longer yet; for though it is five hundred leagues off, the good wooden horse will carry you there in less than twelve hours."

"I thank you, beautiful cat," said he, "but it is not enough for me to return to my father, I must carry with me a little dog."

—"Here, take this acorn," said the White Cat, "it has a beautiful little dog in it; put it to your ear, and you will hear it bark."

The prince obeyed, heard it bark, and was transported with joy; he would have opened it, so great was his curiosity; but the White Cat told him it might catch cold, and he had better stay till he gave it to his father.

The prince came first to the castle that was appointed for the rendezvous with his brothers, who arrived soon afterwards, but were much surprised to see a wooden horse in the court, that leaped better than any in the academies. When they came to the palace, the courtiers crowded about them, to welcome them home. The king, when they came into his apartment, knew not in whose favour to declare, for the two little dogs that the elder brothers brought were almost of equal beauty, when the youngest, pulling the acorn out of his pocket, which the White

Cat gave him, put an end to the difference. As soon as he opened it, they all saw a little dog laid on cotton, and so small, that he might go through a ring and never touch it. The prince set it on the ground, and presently it began to dance a saraband with castanets, as nimble and as well as the best Spaniard. It was of a mixture of several colours; its ears and long hairs reached to the ground. The king was very much surprised; and though it was impossible to meet with any thing so beautiful as *Tonton*, by which name it was called, yet he was not very ready to part with his crown, the least gem of which was dearer to him than all the dogs in the world. He told his children, he was very well pleased with the pains they had taken, but that they succeeded so well in the first thing he had desired, that he had a mind to make further proof of their abilities before he performed his promise; and that was, he would give them a year to find out a web of cloth, fine enough to go through the eye of a small working-needle.

Our prince mounted his wooden horse again, and, without looking after any other assistance than what he might expect from the friendship of the White Cat, returned in all diligence to the castle, where he had been so well received; where he not only found all the doors open, but the windows, walls, and walks illuminated. The hands came and met him, held his horse's bridle, and led him into the stable, while the prince went to the White Cat's chamber, who was laid in a little basket, on a quilt of white satin. When she saw the prince, she made a thousand skips and jumps, to express her joy, and said, "Whatever reason I might have, prince, to hope for your return, I must own I durst not flatter myself with it; since I am generally unhappy in what I most desire; therefore this surprises me." The prince, full of acknowledgments, caressed her often, and told her the success he had in his journey, which she was not unacquainted with, and that the king required a web of cloth, so fine as it might be drawn through the eye

of a needle, which he believed was a thing impossible. The White Cat told him it was an affair that required some consideration; that by good fortune she had in her castle some Cats that spun very fine, that she would do what she could to forward that work, so that he might stay there, and not trouble himself to search elsewhere, it being unlikely for him to meet with any so easily.

The time passed in agreeable entertainments, with which the ingenious White Cat diverted her guest, who was perhaps the first mortal that was so well entertained by cats, without any other company.

The second year rolled away insensibly, as well as the first; the prince wished for nothing but the diligent hands brought it to him. When the White Cat informed him that the time of his departure drew nigh, but that he might be easy concerning the web of cloth, for she had a wonderful fine one made; and added withal, that this time she would give him an equipage suitable to his birth; and without waiting for an answer, obliged

him to look into the great court of the castle, in which there waited an open chariot of embossed work in gold, in several gallant devices, drawn by twelve milk-white horses, four a-breast, whose harnesses were covered with velvet of fire-colour, which was the same as the lining of the chariot, beset with diamonds, and the buckles of gold. An hundred coaches with eight horses, full of the lords of his retinue, magnificently clothed, followed this chariot, which was guarded besides by a thousand body-guards, whose clothing was so full of embroidery, that the cloth was hardly discovered; and, what was very singular, the White Cat's picture was seen every where, both in the devices on the chariot, and on the guards. "Go, prince," said she, "and appear at the king your father's court. Take this walnut, be sure to crack it in his presence, and you will find in it such a web as you want." "Lovely White Cat," said he, "I own I am so penetrated with your bounty, that if you will give me your consent, I will prefer passing my days

with you, before all the grandeur I may promise myself elsewhere." At that the prince kissed her paw, and went away.

It is almost incredible to believe the haste he made, for he was not above four and twenty hours upon the road, and never stopped till he arrived at the king's palace, where his two brothers had got before him ; who seeing he was not come, rejoiced at his negligence. Thereupon they pulled out their webs ; which were indeed very fine, and passed them through the eye of a large needle, but not a small one ; which pretext of refusal the king embracing, went and fetched the needle he proposed, which the magistrates, by his order, had carried to the treasury, and locked up carefully : this refusal raised a great murmuring ; those that were friends to the princes, and particularly the eldest, whose web was the finest, said it was all a trick and evasion : and the king's creatures maintained, that he was not obliged to keep any other conditions than what were proposed ; when, to put an end to this difference, there was heard a sound-

ing of trumpets and hautboys, which came before our prince.

The king and his sons were all surprised at this magnificence. The prince, after he had respectfully saluted his father, and embraced his brothers, took out of his box, covered with rubies, a walnut, which he cracked, thinking to find the web so much boasted of; but only saw a small hazle nut, which he cracked also, and, to his surprise, found only a kernel of wax. The king and every body laughed, to think that the prince should be so credulous as to think to carry a web of cloth in a nut: but had they recollected themselves, they might have remembered the little dog that lay in an acorn. However, he peeled the kernel, and nothing appeared but the pulp itself; whereupon a great noise was heard all over the room, every one having it in his mouth, what a fool the prince was made of; who for his part returned no answer to all the pleasantries of the courtiers, but broke the kernel, and found in it a corn of wheat, and in that a grain of millet. At the sight

of this he began to distrust, and muttered to himself, *O White Cat! O White Cat! thou hast deceived me!* And at that instant he felt a cat's paw upon his hand, which scratched him, and fetched blood; he knew not whether it was to encourage or dismay him. However, he opened the millet-seed, and to the amazement of all present, drew out a web of cloth four hundred yards long; and, what was more wonderful, there were painted on it all sorts of birds, beasts, and fish, fruits, trees, and plants, rocks, and all manner of rare shells of the sea; the sun, moon, stars, and planets; and all the pictures of all the kings and princes of the world, with those of their wives, mistresses, and children, all dressed after the fashion of their own country. The king fetched a deep sigh, and turning himself towards his children, said to them, "Nothing gives me so much comfort in my old age as to be sensible of the deference you have for me, which makes me desirous of putting you to a new trial. Go and travel another year; and he that brings me the most

beautiful damsel shall marry her, and be crowned king ; there being an absolute necessity that my successor should marry ; and I swear and promise, I will no longer defer the reward."

Our prince, without any delay, got into his chariot again, and with his train, returned to his dear White Cat, who, knowing the day and moment he would come, had the roads strewed with flowers.

The prince passed this year as he had done the two first, in hunting, fishing, and such diversions, and often at a game of chess, which the White Cat played extraordinary well at ; but he could not forbear often questioning her, to know by what miracle she spake. But as the White Cat was always capable of saying what she had a mind to, she returned him an answer so insignificant, that he perceived she was not willing to communicate this secret to him. As nothing passes away so quick as happy days, if the White Cat had not been so careful as to remember the time the prince was to return, it is certain he

would have quite forgotten it. She told him of it the night before, and withal, that the hour of destroying the fatal work of the fairies was come ; and therefore he must resolve to cut off her head and tail, and throw them presently into the fire. Tears started two or three times in the young prince's eyes, to think he must cut off the head of his pretty cat, that had been so kind to him ; he said all that he could think most tender to engage her to dispense with him : to which she answered obstinately, she would die by his hands, as that was the only way to hinder his brother from having the crown. In short, she pressed him so earnestly, that he, trembling, with an unsteady hand, cut off her head and tail, and threw them presently into the fire ; and at the same time saw the most charming metamorphosis imaginable. The body of the White Cat grew presently large, and changed all on a sudden to a fine lady, so accomplished as exceeds description.

The prince at the sight of her was in so agreeable a surprise, that he thought himself

enchanted. He could not speak nor look at her, and his tongue was so tied, that he could not explain his amazement ; which was much greater, when he saw an extraordinary number of gentlemen and ladies, holding their cat-skins over their shoulders, come and prostrate themselves at the queen's feet, to testify their joy to see her again in her natural state. She received them with all the marks of bounty which discovered the sweetness of her temper. After having spent some time in hearing their compliments, she ordered them to retire, and to leave her alone with the prince ; to whom she spoke as follows :

“ Think not, Sir, that I have always been a cat, and that my birth is obscure. My father was king of six kingdoms, loved my mother tenderly, and gave her liberty to do what she pleased. Her most prevailing inclination was to travel, insomuch, that when she was with child of me, she undertook to go to see a mountain, of which she had heard a most surprising account. As she was on the road, she was told there was, nigh the

WHITE CAT



The Faïrey Violante appearing to the Queen, and promising her the fruit she had been dreaming of.

place she was then at, an ancient castle of fairies, which was the finest in the world : and for the gardens, they were known to contain the best fruit that ever were eat. The queen my mother, who longed to taste of them, went thither. But when she came to the gate of this stately edifice, nobody came, though she knocked a long time ; she sent for ladders to scale the walls ; but they growing visibly to a great height of themselves, they were forced to fasten the ladders one to another, to lengthen them, and whenever any one went up to them, they broke under their weight, so that they were either killed or lamed. She neither slept nor eat, but sighed continually, and was always talking of the fruit. In short, she fell dangerously ill, and no remedy could be found out ; for the inexorable fairies never appeared from the time she came there.

One night, after having got a little sleep, when she awakened she saw a little ugly decrepit old woman sit in an elbow chair by her bolster, who said, “ We think your Majesty

very importunate in your desires of eating our fruit ; but since your life is in danger, my sisters and I have consented to give you as much as you can carry away, and let you eat of them as long as you stay here, provided you will make us one present.”—“ Ah ! my good mother,” cried the queen, “ name it ; I cannot buy it too dear.” “ We would have your Majesty (said she) give us the daughter you now bear in your womb. As soon as she is born, we will come and fetch her ; she shall be brought up by us, and we will endow her with all virtues, beauties, and sciences ; in short, she shall be our child, and we will make her happy.” “ Though what you impose upon me,” replied the queen, “ is very hard, yet I accept it rather than die ; therefore, skilful fairy,” continued she, “ cure me, and let me not be a moment debarred of the privileges I am entitled to thereby.”

The fairy touched her with a little gold wand, saying, “ Your Majesty is free from all illness,” and then she hastened to follow the old fairy, who waited for her. She went into

the palace, where nothing was wanting to make it the finest in the world ; it was this we are now in. Two other fairies carried her presently into the garden. They told her, unless she would have the pleasure of gathering them herself, they would call them to her. " I beg," said the queen, " that I may have the satisfaction of seeing so extraordinary an event." Whereupon the elder of the three put her fingers in her mouth, and blowed three times, and then cried, " Apricots, peaches, nectarines, plumbs, cherries, pears, melons, grapes, apples, oranges, lemons, gooseberries, currants, strawberries, raspberries, come all to my call." " But," said the queen, " these fruits are not all ripe in the same season." " Oh," said they, " in our gardens we have all sorts of fruit always ripe and good, and they never diminish."

At the same time they came rolling to them without any bruises ; and the queen, who was impatient to satisfy her longing, fell upon them, and took the first that offered,

which she rather devoured than eat. The fairies, who were very well satisfied, opened the doors of their gardens, and all their inclosures; the queen staid in them three days and nights. She gathered fruit for her provision, and, as they never wasted, loaded four hundred mules she brought along with her.

The king was overjoyed at the queen's return, and all the court expressed their pleasure to see her again; there was nothing but balls, masquerades, and courses, where the fruits the queen brought served for delicious regales. At length the queen, when her time was at hand, began to be troubled at what she had promised the fairies, and grew very melancholy. The king pressed the queen to declare what was the cause; who, with some difficulty, told him what had passed between her and the fairies. Thereupon he loaded her with a thousand reproaches; but not content with this, he put her into a tower, under a strong guard, where she could have no conversation but with

the officers that were appointed to attend her. The king appeared for his part inexorable, and would not see the queen. The fairies were resolved to have me; but before they had recourse to their art, they sent ambassadors to the king. The king, instead of granting what they asked, refused them rudely, and if they had not got away quickly, might have served them worse.

When the fairies were informed of my father's proceeding, they let loose a terrible dragon that poisoned all the place wherever he came; devoured men, women, and children, and killed all trees with the breath of his nostrils. The king, finding himself reduced to this extremity, was at last prevailed on to submit to the will of the fairies. I was put into a cradle of mother-of-pearl, adorned as much as possible by art, with garlands of flowers, and festoons hung round about it, and the flowers so intermixed with jewels of several colours, that, when the sun reflected upon them, they gave such a lustre as dazzled the eyes. The magnificence of my dress

exceeded, if that was possible, my cradle. Four and twenty princesses of the blood carried me on a kind of a light litter, all dressed in white, to resemble my innocence, and were followed by the whole court, according to their ranks. While they were going up the mountain, they heard a melodious symphony, and afterwards the fairies appeared to the number of five and thirty; for the three had invited all their friends, each in a shell of pearl.

They took me in their arms, caressed me a thousand times, endowed me with several gifts, and then fell to dancing; and it is almost incredible to believe how these old women jumped and skipped. Afterwards the devouring dragon came forward; the three fairies to whom my mother promised me, placed themselves upon him, and set my cradle between them; then striking the dragon with a wand, he presently displayed his large wings, and carried them to their castle. They were very well pleased with my ready disposition; and if I had never seen any

body besides them, I should have been contented to have lived there all my life.

One day, as I was at the window talking to my parrot and my dog, I heard a noise, and looking about, perceived a young gentleman, who stopped to hear our conversation. I had never seen one before but in paintings, and was not sorry that this accident had given me an opportunity ; insomuch, that not mistrusting the danger we run in the satisfaction we receive by the sight of so lovely an object, I looked at him again, and the more I looked, the more pleased I was ; he sounded his horn twice or thrice, which he thought to please me with, and then went away without my discovering which way he took. The next morning I ran to my window, where I was most agreeably surprised to see my spark, who was dressed magnificently. He spoke to me through a speaking trumpet, and told me that he found himself so sensibly touched by me, that he could not live without seeing me. I was mightily vexed that I durst not make

any reply ; for I must have bawled out with all my might, and run the risk of being heard sooner by the fairies than him. He asked me afterwards, if I approved of his coming every day at the same hour under my window, and if I did, to throw something ; whereupon I presently pulled off a tortoise ring I had on my finger, and cast it at him, making a sign for him to be gone presently, because I heard the fairy Violenta coming on the dragon to bring me my breakfast.

As soon as her back was turned, I went upon the terrace, to look as far as my eye would carry in an excellent spying-glass I had ; by which, after having looked about for some time, I discovered my lover laid upon a rich pavilion of cloth of gold on the top of a high mountain, surrounded by a numerous court. I doubted not but that he was some neighbouring king's son, and was afraid, lest, when he came to the tower again, he should be found out by the terrible dragon. I went and fetched my parrot, and bid him

fly to that mountain, to desire him from me, not to come again, because I was afraid my guardian would discover it, and he should come into danger. My parrot acquitted himself of his commission, and surprised all the courtiers, to see him come upon full wing, and perch upon the prince's shoulder, and whisper him softly in his ear. He asked the parrot a thousand questions, and the parrot him as many ; for he was naturally inquisitive. The prince, in return for my turquoise, sent me a ring of another, but much finer than mine, cut in the shape of a heart, and set round with diamonds ; and told him he would present him with his picture, which he might show to his charming mistress. The picture was tied under his wings, and the ring he brought in his bill.

He told me the person I sent him to was a great king, who had received him with all the joy possible ; that I might assure myself he lived only for me ; and that he was desirous to hazard all to see me.

I slept not all the night, but talked with

my parrot and dog, and towards morning began to close my eyes. My dog, who had a good nose, smelt the king at the foot of the tower ; and pulling the parrot by the tail, he made such a noise that I awoke. I ran, or rather flew to the window, whence I saw the king holding out his arms, who, by his trumpet, told me he could not live without me ; and conjured me to find out some way to escape from my tower ; calling heaven and all the elements to witness that he would marry me, and make me his queen. I bid my parrot go and tell him, that I would endeavour to accomplish his desires ; but withal, to conjure him not to come every day, lest he should be discovered, which might prove fatal to us both.

I sent my parrot that night to bid the king come under my window, where he should find a ladder, and to tell him he should know more when he came ; in short, I had tied it very fast, and was determined to escape with him by this means ; but he, as soon as he saw it, without waiting for my coming down,

mounted up in haste; and threw himself into my chamber, as I was making every thing ready for my flight. I was so overjoyed to see him, that I forgot the danger we were in.

While we were talking together, we saw all on a sudden the windows broke open, and the fairies enter upon their frightful dragon. The king, without any dismay, clapped his hand on his sword, and thought of securing and protecting me; when these barbarous creatures set their dragon upon him, which devoured him before my face. I had certainly undergone the same fate; but the fairies, who were more cruel than the monster, would not permit it, but said that I must be reserved for greater punishment; a quick death was too mild a one for so base a creature; whereupon touching me, I found myself changed into a white cat. They conducted me to this stately palace, and turned all the lords and ladies into cats; and for the rest of the subjects, left of them only the hands; letting me know that I never should be released from

this metamorphosis, but by a prince that perfectly resembled my lover, whom they deprived me of. You, sir, have that resemblance."—After this she went out, the prince handed her into a chariot, which was much more magnificent than that he had, and then went into it himself.

When they came nigh the castle where the brothers were to meet, the queen went into a cage of crystal set in gold, which had curtains drawn about it, that she might not be seen, and was carried by handsome young men richly clothed. The prince staid in the chariot, and saw his brothers walking with two princesses of extraordinary beauty. As soon as they knew him, they came to receive him, and asked him if he had brought a mistress along with him; to which he answered, That he had been so unfortunate in all his journey to meet with none, but what were very ugly; but that he had brought a pretty white cat. "A cat, (said they, laughing), what! was you afraid that mice should devour our palace?" The prince replied, that he

WHITE CAT



*The White Cat metamorphosed into a beautifull
Princess*

was not very wise in making such a present to his father, but it was the greatest rarity he could meet with. Afterwards they all bent their course towards the capital town. The two eldest princes were very earnest to shew the king the beauties they had brought, whom he received kindly, but knew not in whose favour to decide ; when looking on the youngest, “ What ! (said he), are you come by yourself ? ” “ Your Majesty,” replied the prince, “ will find in this cage a pretty little cat, which mews and plays so sweetly, that you will be very well pleased with her.” Hereat the king smiled, and was going to open the cage ; but as soon as he approached towards it, the queen with a spring broke it in pieces, and appeared like the sun when he breaks forth from a cloud. She made the king a low curtesy, who, in the excess of his admiration, could not forbear crying out, “ This is the incomparable fairy that deserves my crown.” “ Sir,” said she, “ I come not to rob you of your crown, which you wear so worthily ; I was born heiress to six kingdoms ; give me

leave to present one of them to you, and one to either of your sons, for which I ask no other return but your friendship, and this young prince in marriage; three kingdoms will be enough for us." The king and all the court were not able to express their joy and amazement. The marriages of the three princes and their princesses were celebrated at the same time, and the court spent several months in pleasures and diversions; after which they all went to their dominions, and the White Cat gained as great honour by her bounty and generosity, as by her rare merit and beauty.

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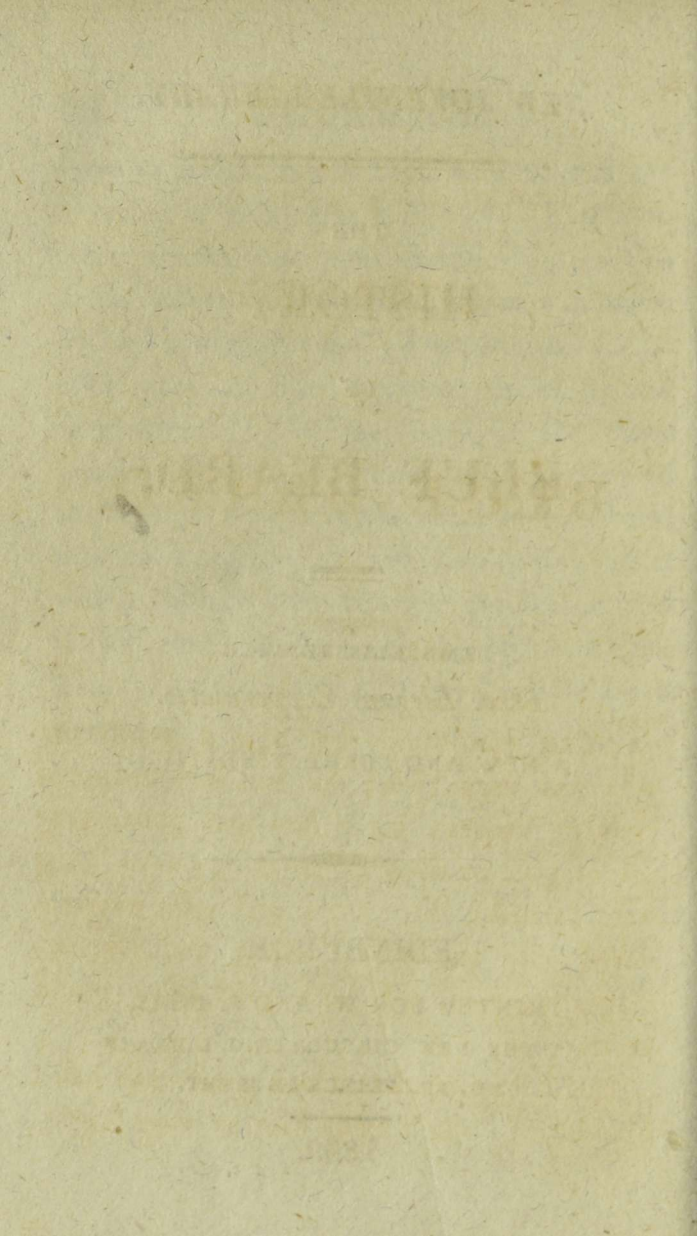
THE
HISTORY
OF
BLUE BEARD.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
BLUE BEARD.

THERE was, some time ago, a gentleman who was very rich; he had fine town and country houses; his dishes and plates were all of gold or silver; his rooms were hung with damask; his chairs and sofas were covered with the richest silks; and his carriages were all gilt with gold in a grand style.

But it happened that this gentleman had a blue beard, which made him so very fright-

ful and ugly, that none of the ladies in the parts where he lived would venture to go into his company.

Now, there was a certain lady of rank, who lived very near him, and had two daughters, both of them of very great beauty. Blue Beard asked her to bestow one of them upon him for a wife ; and left it to herself to choose which of the two it should be.

But both the young ladies again and again said they would never marry Blue Beard ; yet, to be as civil as they could, each of them said, the only reason why she would not have him was, because she was loth to hinder her sister from the match, which would be such a good one for her. Still the truth of the matter was, they could neither of them bear the thoughts of having a husband with a blue beard ; and besides, they had heard of his having been married to several wives before, and nobody could tell what had ever become of any of them.

As Blue Beard wished very much to gain their favour, he asked the lady and her

daughters, and some ladies who were on a visit at their house, to go with him to one of his country-seats; where they spent a whole week, during which they passed all their time in nothing but parties for hunting and fishing, music, dancing, and feasts. No one even thought of going to bed, and the nights were passed in merry-makings of all kinds.

In short, the time rolled on in so much pleasure, that the youngest of the two sisters began to think that the beard which she had been so much afraid of, was not so very blue; and that the gentleman who owned it was vastly civil and pleasing.

Soon after their return home, she told her mother, that she had no longer any dislike to accept of Blue Beard for her husband; and in a very short time they were married.

About a month after the marriage had taken place, Blue Beard told his wife that he should be forced to leave her for a few weeks, as he had some affairs to attend to in the country. He desired her to be sure to indulge herself in every kind of pleasure; to invite as many

of her friends as she liked ; and to treat them with all sorts of dainties, that her time might pass pleasantly till he came back again.

“ Here,” said he, “ are the keys of the two large wardrobes. This is the key of the great box that contains the best plate, which we use for company : this belongs to my strong box, where I keep my money ; and this belongs to the casket, in which are all my jewels. Here also is a master-key to all the rooms in the house ; but this small key belongs to the closet at the end of the long gallery on the ground floor. I give you leave,” said he, “ to open, or to do what you like with all the rest, except this closet : this, my dear, you must not enter, nor even put the key into the lock, for all the world. If you do not obey me in this one thing, you must expect the most dreadful of punishments.”

She promised to obey his orders in the most faithful manner ; and Blue Beard, after kissing her in a tender manner, stepped into his coach, and drove away.

BLUE BEARD



*Blue Beard takes forewell of his Wife and delivers her
the Keys of his House.*

After Blue Beard was gone, the friends of his wife did not wait to be asked, so eager were they to see all the riches and fine things she had gained by marriage ; for they had none of them gone to the wedding, on account of their dislike to the blue beard of the bridegroom.

As soon as ever they came to the house, they ran about from room to room, from closet to closet, and then from wardrobe to wardrobe, looking into each with wonder and delight, and said that every fresh one they came to was richer and finer than what they had seen the moment before. At last they came to the drawing-rooms, where their surprise was made still greater by the costly grandeur of the hangings, the sofas, the chairs, the carpets, tables, sideboards, and looking-glasses : the frames of these last were silver-gilt, most richly adorned, and in the glasses they saw themselves from head to foot.

In short, nothing could exceed the richness of what they saw ; and they all did not fail to admire and envy the good fortune of

their friend. But all this time the bride herself was far from thinking about the fine speeches they made to her, for she was eager to see what was in the closet her husband had told her not to open. So great indeed was her desire to do this, that without once thinking how rude it would be to leave her guests, she slipped away down a private staircase that led to this forbidden closet, and in such a hurry, that she was two or three times in danger of falling down stairs and breaking her neck.

When she reached the door of the closet, she stopped for a few moments to think of the order her husband had given her; and how he had told her that he would not fail to keep his word, and punish her very severely, if she did not obey him. But she was so very curious to know what was in the inside, that she made up her mind to venture in spite of every thing.

She then, with a trembling hand, put the key into the lock, and the door straight flew open. As the window-shutters were closed,

she at first could see nothing ; but in a short time she saw that the floor was covered with clotted blood, on which the bodies of several dead women were lying. These were all the wives which Blue Beard had married, and killed one after another. At this sight she was ready to sink with fear ; and the key of the closet-door, which she held in her hand, fell on the floor. When she had a little got the better of her fright, she took it up, locked the door, and made haste back to her own room, that she might have a little time to get into a humour to amuse her company ; but this she could not do, so great was her fright at what she had seen.

As she found that the key of the closet had got stained with blood in the falling on the floor, she wiped it two or three times to clean it ; yet still the blood kept on it the same as before : she next washed it ; but the blood did not move at all : she then scoured it with brick-dust, and after with sand ; but in spite of all she could do, the blood was still there ; for the key was a fairy, who was

Blue Beard's friend ; so that as fast as she got off the blood on the one side, it came again on the other.

Early in the same evening Blue Beard came home, saying, that before he had gone far on his journey he was met by a horseman, who was coming to tell him that his affair in the country was settled without his being present ; upon which his wife said every thing she could think of, to make him believe she was in a transport of joy at his sudden return.

The next morning he asked her for the keys : she gave them to him ; but as she could not help shewing her fright, Blue Beard easily guessed what had been the matter.

"How is it," said he, "that the key of the closet upon the ground-floor is not here?"

"Is it not?" said the wife, "then I must have left it on my dressing-table."

"Be sure you give it me by and bye," replied Blue Beard.

After going a good many times back-

wards and forwards, as if she was looking for the key, she was at last forced to give it to Blue Beard; he looked hard at it, and then said,

“How came this blood upon the key?”

“I am sure I do not know,” replied the poor lady, at the same time turning as white as a sheet.

“You do not know!” said Blue Beard, sternly: “but I know well enough. You have been in the closet on the ground-floor? Very well, madam: since you are so mighty fond of this closet, you shall be sure to take your place among those ladies you saw there.”

His wife, who was almost dead with fear, now fell upon her knees, asked his pardon a thousand times for her fault, and begged him to forgive her, looking all the time so very mournful and lovely, that she would have melted any heart that was not harder than a rock.

But Blue Beard only said, “No, no, madam; you shall die this very minute!”

“Alas!” said the poor trembling creature,

“ if I must die, give me at least a little time to say my prayers.”

“ I give you,” replied the cruel Blue Beard, “ half a quarter of an hour ; not one moment longer.”

When Blue Beard had left her to herself, she called her sister ; and after telling her as well as she could for sobbing, that she had but half a quarter of an hour to live ; “ Pr’y-thee,” said she, “ sister Anne,” (this was her sister’s name), “ run up to the top of the tower, and see if my brothers are not in sight ; for they said they would visit me to-day ; and if you see them, make a sign for them to gallop on as fast as ever they can.”

Her sister straight did as she was desired ; and the poor trembling lady every minute called out to her, “ Anne ! sister Anne ! do you see any one coming ?”

Her sister said, “ I see nothing but the sun, which makes a dust, and the grass, which looks green.”

In the mean while, Blue Beard, with a great scimitar in his hand, bawled as loud as

he could to his wife, "Come down at once, or I will fetch you."

"One moment longer, I beseech you," replied she; and again called softly to her sister, "Sister Anne, do you see any one coming?"

To which she answered, "I see nothing but the sun, which makes a dust, and the grass, which looks green."

Blue Beard now again bawled out, "Come down, I say, this very moment, or I shall come and fetch you."

"I am coming, indeed I will come in one minute," sobbed his wretched wife. Then she once more cried out, "Anne! sister Anne! do you see any one coming?"

"I see," said her sister, "a cloud of dust a little to the left."

"Do you think it is my brothers!" said the wife.

"Alas! no, dear sister," replied she, "it is only a flock of sheep."

"Will you come down, madam!" said Blue Beard, in the greatest rage.

“Only one single moment more,” said she. And then she called out for the last time, “Sister Anne! sister Anne! do you see no one coming?”

“I see,” replied her sister, “two men on horseback coming; but they are still a great way off.”

“Thank God,” cried she, “it is my brothers; beckon to them to make haste.”

Blue Beard now cried out so loud for her to come down, that his voice shook the whole house.

The poor lady, with her hair loose and all in tears, now came down, and fell on her knees, begging him to spare her life; but he stopped her, saying, “All this is of no use, for you shall die:” and then seizing her with one hand by the hair, raised his cimeter to strike off her head.

The poor woman now begged a single moment to say one prayer.

“No, no,” said Blue Beard: “I will give you no more time. You have had too

much already." And again raising his arm, just at this instant a loud knocking was heard at the gates, which made Blue Beard wait for a moment to see who it was. The gates now flew open, and two officers, dressed in their uniform, came in, and, with their swords in their hands, ran straight to Blue Beard; who, seeing they were his wife's brothers, tried to escape from their presence; but they pursued and seized him before he had gone twenty steps; and plunging their swords into his body, he fell down dead at their feet.

The poor wife, who was almost as dead as her husband, was not able at first to rise and embrace her brothers. But she soon came to herself; and as Blue Beard had no heirs, she found herself the owner of his great riches.

She gave a part of this vast fortune as a marriage-dowry to her sister Anne, who soon after became wife of a young gentleman, who had long loved her. Some of the mo-

ney she laid out in buying captains' places for her two brothers; and the rest she gave to a worthy gentleman whom she married soon after, and whose kind treatment soon made her forget Blue Beard's cruelty.

PUSS IN BOOTS.

THERE was a miller who had three sons, and when he died he divided his property among them in this manner. He gave his mill to the eldest, his ass to the second, and his cat to the youngest.

Each of the brothers now took his own share without the help of an attorney, who would soon have brought their little fortune to nothing in law-expences.

The poor fellow who had nothing but the cat, complained that he was very ill used : “ My brothers,” said he, “ may join their stocks together, and do very well in the world ; but as for me, when I have eaten my

eat, and made a fur-cap of his skin, I may soon die of hunger."

The cat, who was all this time listening just inside the door of a cupboard, now ventured to come out, and spoke to him in these words :

"Do not be so much grieved, my good master ; only give me a bag, and get a pair of boots made for me, so that I may scamper through the dirt and the hedges, and you shall see that you are not so badly off as you think."

Though the cat's master did not depend much upon these promises, yet he had often seen the cunning tricks of Puss in catching rats and mice, such as hanging by the hind legs, as if he was dead, and hiding in the meal ; so he thought it very likely he might be of some use to him now in his forlorn case.

When the cat had got the things he asked for, he began to dress himself. He first drew on the boots ; and next put the bag about his neck, taking hold of the strings with

his fore-paws. He then told his master to keep up his spirits, and walked boldly out to seek for adventures.

The first attempt Puss made, was to go into a warren that had a great number of rabbits in it. He put some bran and some parsley into his bag, and then stretched himself out at full length as if he was dead. In this manner he waited for some young rabbits, who as yet did not know any thing about his cunning tricks, to come and get into the bag, for the sake of the nice things in it.

Soon after he had lain down, every thing happened just as he could have wished. A giddy young rabbit crept into the bag; and the cat drew the strings of it directly, so that he was caught, and then killed him without mercy.

Puss was proud of his good luck; and went straight to the palace, where he asked to speak to the king. When he was shown into the room of his Majesty, he made a low bow, and said, "I have brought you, Sire,

this rabbit, from the warren of my lord, the Marquis of Carrabas, who ordered me to present it to your Majesty, with his most humble respects." Now, the Marquis of Carrabas was only a sham name that the cat thought proper to give his master. "Tell my Lord the Marquis of Carrabas," answered the king, "that I accept of his present with pleasure, and that I am very much obliged to him."

Soon after, the cat laid himself down in the same manner in a field of corn, and had the same good fortune as before ; for two fine partridges got into his bag. He killed these also, and carried them to the palace. The king received them as he had done the rabbit, and ordered his servants to give the cat something to drink. In this manner he carried a great many presents of game to the king, saying that they came from my Lord Marquis of Carrabas, (as he called his master), at least once every week.

One day the cat heard that the king was going to take a ride that morning by the river's side with his daughter, who was the

most beautiful princess in the world. On this he said to his master, "If you will but follow my advice, your fortune is made. Take off your clothes, and bathe yourself in the river, just in the place I shall direct you, and leave the rest to me."

His master knew what a good and faithful servant Puss was to him, and therefore did just as he desired, though he could not guess what the cat intended. While he was bathing, the king passed by, and Puss directly cried out as loud as he could, "Help, help, or else my Lord Marquis of Carrabas will be drowned." The king heard the cries, and put his head out at the window of his coach to ask what was the matter; when he saw the very cat who had brought him so many presents. He then ordered his servants to run and do all they could for my Lord Marquis of Carrabas.

While they were busy in taking the cat's master out of the river, Puss ran to the king's coach, and told his Majesty, "That while his master was bathing, some thieves had run

away with his clothes as they lay by the river-side. But the truth was, that the cunning cat all the time had hid them himself under a large stone.

When the king heard this, he sent his officers of his wardrobe to fetch one of the handsomest suits in it, and gave it to my Lord Marquis of Carrabas ; and at the same time paid him a thousand compliments. The fine clothes that were brought, made the cat's master look like a gentleman ; and as he was very comely himself, they set him off to the best advantage ; so that the king's daughter was very much pleased with him ; and as soon as he had cast two or three tender glances upon her, she became quite in love with him.

The king made him get into the carriage, and take a ride with them. The cat was charmed to see how well all was likely to end ; so Puss ran before to a field where the corn was being reaped, and said to the men that were at work, " Good people, if you do not tell the king when he passes this way,

that this field belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carrabas, you shall all of you be chopped as small as minced meat."

The king did not fail to ask the reapers, Who was the owner of the field? "My Lord Marquis of Carrabas," said they all at once: for the words of the cat had frightened them terribly. "You have got a fine piece of land here, my Lord Marquis," said the king. "Yes, Sire," answered he, "and it brings me a very good harvest every year."

The cat still went on before; and next came to a field where some more men were making the corn they had reaped into sheaves. He said to these people the same as to the other, "Good folks, if you do not tell the king, when he passes this way, that the corn you have reaped in this field belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carrabas, you shall all of you be chopped as small as minced meat."

The king came by a minute or two after, and asked, Who was the owner of this corn? "My Lord the Marquis of Carrabas," answered they all; and then the king turned to

the cat's master, and told him he saw he had got a very large estate.

The cat again went on before, and gave the same orders to all the people he met with ; so that the king very much admired the great fortune of my Lord Marquis of Carrabas.

At last Puss came to a large stone castle that belonged to an ogre, who was the richest that ever was known : for all the lands that the king had passed through, and asked about, were really his. The cat took care to learn every thing about the ogre, and what he could do. He then asked to speak with him ; and said, as he came into the room where the ogre was sitting, " That he could not pass so near his castle without doing himself the honour to ask after his health."

The ogre received him as civilly as an ogre could do, and told him to sit down. " I have heard," said the cat, " that you are able to change yourself into all sorts of creatures ; such as a lion, or an elephant." " It is very true," answered the ogre rather gruffly, " and to shew you that it is so, I will now

take the form of a lion." The cat was so much frightened when he found himself so close to a lion, that he jumped away, and climbed to the top of the house ; but he could not do this without a great deal of trouble, as his boots were not fit to walk upon the tiles with.

After two or three minutes the cat saw that the ogre had taken his own shape again ; so Puss now came down from the tiles, and owned that he had been very much afraid. " I have been told too," said the cat, " but I can hardly believe it, that you are able to turn yourself into very small creatures also, as often as you like ; such as a rat or a mouse ; but indeed I have always thought this cannot be true." " Well, then," said the ogre, " you shall soon see ;" and in a moment he changed himself into a mouse, and began to run about the room. As soon as ever Puss cast his eyes upon the ogre in this form, he sprung upon him, killed him, and ate him up at a mouthful.

In the mean time the king came near the

fine castle of the ogre ; and ordered his coachman to drive up to the gates, that he might take a nearer view of it. When Puss heard the noise of the coach near the walls, he came out at the gates, and said, “ Your Majesty is welcome to the castle of my Lord Marquis of Carrabas.” “ What,” said the king, turning to the cat’s master, “ and is this castle yours too, my Lord Marquis of Carrabas ? I never saw any thing finer than the building, nor more beautiful than the park and pleasure-grounds round it ; I dare say the castle is quite as noble inside as outside. Pray, my Lord Marquis, allow me to have a sight of it.”

The cat’s master gave his hand to the young princess as she got out of the coach, and walked after the king, who went first. They came into a large hall, where they found on the table a noble dinner ~~that~~ the ogre had got ready for some friends who were to visit him that day ; but when these friends heard that the king and the princess, with some great gentlemen of the court, were there, they were afraid to come.

PUSS IN BOOTS



The Marquis of Carrabbas assisting the King and Princess to alight from their Carriage.

The king was very much pleased with the manners and the noble fortune of the Marquis of Carrabas, (as he called him); and the young princess, too, had fallen deep in love with him; so that when the king had eaten a little of the ogre's treat, and drunk a few glasses of wine, he said to him, "My Lord Marquis of Carrabas, it will be your own fault, if you do not soon become my son-in-law." When the cat's master heard this, he bowed, and gave his Majesty a thousand humble thanks; and said he was afraid he was not worthy of such an high honour; but as the king would have it so, he gladly took the hand of the princess, and they were married that very day.

In his good fortune he did not forget his kind cat, who had brought him to it all. Puss was made a great lord of his court, and never more ran after rats and mice, but when he chose to have some sport.

THE
W I D O W
AND HER
TWO DAUGHTERS.

THERE lived in the country a widow, a mighty good sort of woman, who was generally beloved; for not a person in the parish but knew her, and would run to serve Goody Hearty. She had two very pretty daughters; the eldest, on account of the whiteness of her skin, was named *Blanch*; and the other *Rosalinda*, because she had cheeks like a rose, and coral lips.

One day, while Goody Hearty sat spinning at the door, she saw a poor old woman going bye, leaning on a stick, who had much ado

to hobble along. "You seem very much tired, dame," said she to the old woman, "sit down here, and rest yourself a little:" at the same time bid her daughters fetch a chair; they both went, but Rosalinda ran fastest, and brought one. "Will you please to drink?" said Goody Hearty. "Thank you," answered the old woman, "I don't care if I do; and methinks, if you had any thing (nice) that I liked, I could eat a bit." "You are welcome to the best I have in my house," said Goody Hearty; "but as I am poor, it is but homely fare;" and immediately she ordered her daughters to attend the good old woman, who sat down to table; and Goody Hearty bid the eldest go and gather some plumbs off her own plumb-tree, which she had planted herself, and took great delight in. Blanch, instead of obeying her mother readily, grumbled and muttered as she went. "Surely," said she to herself, "I did not take all this care and pains with my plumb-tree for that old greedy creature." However, she durst not refuse gathering a

few plumbs ; but she gave them with a very ill will, and very ungraciously. “ As for you, Rosalinda,” said her mother, “ you have no fruit to offer this good dame, for your grapes are not ripe.” “ That’s true,” replied Rosalinda ; “ but my hen has just laid, for I hear her cackle ; and if the gentlewoman likes a new-laid egg, it is very much at her service :” and without staying for an answer, she ran to the hen-roost and brought the egg ; but just as she was presenting it to the old woman, she was turned into a fine beautiful lady. “ Good woman,” said she to Goody Hearty, “ I will reward both your daughters according to their merits : the eldest shall be a great queen ; the other shall have a country-farm.” With this she struck the house with her wand : immediately the house disappeared, and in its room came up a pretty little snug farm. “ This, Rosalinda,” said she, “ is your lot ; I know I have given each of you what you like best.” Having said this, the fairy went away, leaving both mother and daughters greatly astonished.

They went into the farm-house, and were quite charmed with the neatness of the furniture: the chairs were only wood, but so bright you might see your face in them. The beds were of linen cloth as white as snow. There were forty sheep in the sheep-pen; four oxen and four cows in their stalls; and in the yard all sorts of poultry, hens, ducks, pigeons, &c. There was also a pretty garden with flowers and fruit. Blanch saw the fairy's gift to her sister without being jealous, and was wholly taken up with the pleasure of being a queen; when all of a sudden, she heard some hunters riding bye; and going to the gate to see them, she appeared so charming in the king's eyes, (who was there), that he resolved to marry her.

When Blanch was a queen, she said to her sister Rosalinda, "I don't care you should be a farmer; come with me, sister, and I will match you to some great lord." "I am very much obliged to you, sister," replied Rosalinda; "but I am used to a country-life, and I choose to stay where I am."

Queen Blanch arrived at her palace ; and was so delighted with her new dignity, that she could not sleep for several nights. The first three months, her thoughts were wholly engrossed by dress, balls, and plays, so that she thought of nothing else. She was soon accustomed to all this, and nothing now diverted her ; on the contrary, she found a great deal of trouble. The ladies of the court were all very respectful in her presence ; but she knew very well that they did not love her ; and, when out of her sight, would often say to one another, “ See what airs this little country-girl gives herself ; surely his Majesty must have a very mean fancy, to make choice of such a consort.” These discourses soon reached the king’s ears, and made him reflect on what he had done : he began to think he was wrong, and repented his marriage ; and as he had no longer any affection for his queen, he kept a great many mistresses. The courtiers saw this, and accordingly paid her little or no respect. She was very unhappy ; for she had not a single friend.

to whom she could declare her grief. She saw it was the fashion at court to betray the dearest friend for interest, to caress and smile upon those they most hated, and to lie every instant. She was obliged to be always serious, because they told her a queen ought to look grave and majestic. She had several children ; and all the time there was a physician to inspect whatever she ate or drank, and to order every thing she liked off the table ; not a grain of salt was allowed to be put in her broths ; nor was she permitted to take a walk, though she had ever so much a mind to it. They appointed governesses to her children, who brought them up wrong ; yet she had not the liberty to find fault. Poor Queen Blanch was dying with grief, and grew so thin, that it was a pity to see her. She had not seen her sister these three years since she had been queen, because she imagined it would disgrace a person of her rank and dignity to pay a visit to a farmer's wife ; but being ate up with melancholy, she resolved to spend a few days in the country, to divert her uneasiness.

Accordingly she asked the king leave to go ; who very readily granted it, because he thought he should be rid of her for some time. She set out in the evening, and soon arrived at Rosalinda's farm. As she drew near the house, she beheld at a little distance from the door, a company of shepherds and shepherdesses, who danced, and were heartily merry. " Alas !" said the queen, sighing, " once was a time when I used to divert myself like these poor people, and no one found fault with me." The moment her sister saw her, she ran to embrace her ; but Rosalinda was grown so plump, and had such an air of content, that the queen, as she looked on her, could not forbear bursting into tears.

Rosalinda was married to a farmer's son, who had no fortune of his own ; but then he ever remembered, that he was indebted to his wife for every thing he had, and he strove to shew his gratitude by his obliging behaviour. Rosalinda had not many servants ; but those she had, loved her as though she had been their mother, because she used them

kindly. She was beloved by all her neighbours, and they all endeavoured to shew it. She neither had nor wanted much money : corn, wine, and oil, were the growth of her farm ; her cows supplied her with milk, butter, and cheese. The wool of her sheep was spun to clothe herself, her husband, and two children she had. They enjoyed perfect health ; and when the work of the day was over, they spent the evening in all sorts of pastimes. “ Alas ! cried the queen, “ the fairy made me a sad present in giving me a crown. Content is not found in magnificent palaces, but in an innocent country-life.” Scarce had she done speaking before the fairy appeared. “ In making you a queen,” said the fairy, “ I did not intend to reward, but punish you, for giving me your plumbs with an ill-will. To be content and happy, you must, like your sister, possess only what is necessary, and wish for nothing else.” “ Ah, madam !” cried Blanch, “ you are sufficiently revenged ; pray, put an end to my distress.” “ It is at an end,” said the fairy :

“the king, who loves you no longer, has just married another wife ; and to-morrow his officers will come to forbid you returning any more to the palace.” It happened just as the fairy had foretold ; and Blanch passed the remainder of her days with her sister Rosalinda in all manner of happiness and content, and never thought more of a court, unless it was to thank the fairy for having brought her back to her native village.

THE
S T O R Y
OF THE
YELLOW DWARF.

THERE was a queen, who, though she had had many children, had but one living, which was a beautiful daughter ; and being left a widow, and without hopes of having any more, was so much afraid of losing her, that she never gave her any correction for what faults she committed ; insomuch, that that admirable person, who knew her own beauty, and, as she was born to a crown, was so vain and proud of her growing charms, that she despised all the world besides. The queen her

mother contributed by her caresses and complaisance, to persuade her none were deserving of her. She was dressed every day like a Pallas or Diana, followed by her nymphs; and, in short, the queen, to give the finishing stroke to her vanity, called her All-Fair; and having had her picture drawn by the best painters, sent it to all the kings with whom she was in alliance, who, when they saw it, were not able to resist the inevitable power of her charms. Some fell sick, others ran mad, and those who escaped either sickness or madness, came to her court, and, as soon as they saw her, became her slaves.

Never was any court more gallant and polite; twenty kings studied to please her, who, after they had spent immense sums upon an entertainment upon her, thought themselves fully recompenced if she said any thing that was pretty to them. The adorations that were paid to her, overjoyed the queen her mother; not a day passed over her head but she had thousands of songs and fine copies of verses sent by the most famous poets in the world. In

short, All-Fair was the only subject of the most renowned authors, both in prose and verse. The princess was about fifteen. There were none who did not desire to marry her ; but they durst not pretend to that honour, it was so difficult a task to touch a heart of that stamp. Her lovers murmured very much against her cruelty ; and the queen, who wanted to have her married, knew not how to gain her consent. Sometimes she would say to her, “ Will you not abate somewhat of that intolerable pride that makes you condemn all the kings that come to our court ? I will chuse one for you ; shew me in this some complaisancy.” “ I am already happy, (replied All-Fair), in the easy indifference I now live in ; if I should once lose that, you would be angry.” “ I should perhaps be angry, if you loved any one beneath you, (answered the queen), but you cannot have more deserving princes than those that now ask you.” In short, the princess was so prepossessed of her own merit, that she thought it greater than what it was ; and by this resolution of hers to

live a maid, began to grieve her mother so much, that she repented, but too late, that she had humoured her so much.

The queen, uncertain what to do, goes all alone to a celebrated fairy, that was called the Desart Fairy ; but as it was a hard thing to see her, because she was guarded by two lions, unless she made a cake for them of millet, sugarcandy, and crocodiles eggs, she prepared one herself, and put it into a little basket, which she hung upon her arm. But being weary with walking farther than she was used to, she laid herself down under the shade of a tree to rest herself, and there insensibly fell asleep, and when she awaked, found only her basket, and her cake gone ; and, to complete her misfortune, heard the lions coming. “ Alas ! (cried she), what will become of me ? I shall be devoured.”

And having no power to stir, she leaned against the tree she had slept under, when hearing somebody say, *Hem ! Hem !* she looked about on all sides, and raising her eyes, perceived a little man in the tree, a-

bout half a yard in height, eating oranges, who said to her, "O queen, I know you, and the fear you are in lest these lions should devour you; I cannot blame you, they have devoured a great many, and, to your misfortune, you want a cake." "I must resolve on death, (replied the queen, sighing), but, alas! I could not be so much grieved, was my dear girl but married." "What! have you a daughter? (said the Yellow Dwarf, who was called so from his complexion, and the orange tree he lived in), indeed I am very glad at that, for I have sought after a wife both by sea and land. Now, if you will promise me I shall have her, I will secure you both from lions, tigers, and bears." The queen looked at him, as much frightened at his horrible little figure, as at the lions, and, musing some time, returned no answer. "What, do you hesitate, madam? (cried he), it seems you are not very fond of life." At the same time the lions appeared on the top of a small hill, running towards her; at which sight the queen, who trembled like a dove when she sees a kite, cried out with all her might,

“ Good Sir Dwarf, All-Fair is yours.”

“ Oh ! (said he with an air of disdain), All-Fair is too fair, I will not have her.”

“ O ! Sir, (continued the afflicted queen), do not refuse her, she is the most charming princess in the world.” “ Well, (said he),

I will take her out of charity, but remember the gift you make me.” And thereupon the

orange-tree opened, and the queen was let into it, and so escaped from the lions. She

was vexed she could find no door to that tree, when at last she perceived one that opened

into a field full of nettles and thistles, surrounded with a muddy ditch ; in the middle

thereof stood a little thatched house, out of which the Yellow Dwarf came in a pleasant

air, wooden shoes, a coarse yellow stuff jacket, and without any hair to hide his large ears.

“ I am glad, good mother-in-law, (said he to the queen), to see you in this my abode, where

your daughter is to live with me ; she may keep an ass to ride on within these nettles

and thistles, and may secure herself from the injuries of the weather under this rustic

roof; she will have this water to drink, and may eat some of these frogs that are fattened in it: besides, I always shall bear her company, and never shall leave her."

When the unfortunate queen came to consider on the deplorable life the dwarf promised her dear child, she was not able to support the terrible idea, but fell into a swoon, and had not the power to say one word; and while she was in that condition, was conveyed to her bed, in a fine suit of night-clothes of the newest fashion. As soon as the queen came to herself, she remembered what had happened, but knew not how to believe it, seeing she was in her own palace, in the midst of all the ladies of her court, and her daughter by her bed-side: But the fine night-clothes, which were of a curious lace, amazed her as much as the dream she fancied she had had; and through the excess of her disquiet she fell into such an extraordinary fit of melancholy, that she hardly either spoke, eat, or slept. The princess, who loved her at her heart, was very much grieved, and often asked

her what was the matter ; when the queen, to deceive her, told her sometimes it proceeded from her ill state of health, and other times, from some of the neighbouring princes threatening to make war against her. Though All-Fair found these answers very plausible, however, she knew there was something more in the bottom, which the queen endeavoured to hide from her ; and being able no longer to endure her uneasiness, resolved to go to the Desart-Fairy to ask her advice, whether or no she should marry, since she was so much pressed to it. She took care to make a cake to appease the lions, and, pretending to go to bed earlier than ordinary, went down a pair of back-stairs, in a white veil that reached down to her feet, then set forward on her journey.

When the princess came to the fatal orange-tree, she saw it so loaded with fruit, that she had a great mind to gather some, whereupon she set down her basket, and plucked some and eat them ; but when she went to look for her basket and cake, and found them taken

away, her grief was inexpressible ; and turning about, she espied the little frightful dwarf, who said to her, “ What makes you cry, child ? ” “ Alas ! who can forbear ? ” replied she, “ I have lost my basket and cake, which were so very necessary in my journey to the Desert-Fairy’s.” “ What want you with her ? ” answered this little monkey ; “ I am your relation and friend, and am as knowing to the full as she.” “ The queen, my mother,” replied the princess, “ is grown very melancholy, which makes me fear for her life ; I fancy I may be the cause of it, since she has desired me to marry, and I must own to you, I have not yet found any one that I think deserving enough of me : these are the reasons that have engaged me to speak with the fairy.” “ Princess, give yourself no further trouble,” said the dwarf, “ I am more proper to inform you about these things : the queen your mother is vexed that she has promised you in marriage.” “ The queen promised me in marriage ! ” said she, interrupting him, “ undoubtedly you are mistaken,

she would certainly have told me of it: I am too much concerned in that affair, to be engaged without my own consent." "Beautiful princess," said the dwarf, throwing himself at her feet, "I flatter myself this choice will not be displeasing to you, when I tell you I am destined to that happiness." "My mother choose you for a son-in-law!" cried All-Fair, falling back some steps, "was ever any folly like yours?" "I am not very fond of the honour," said he, in a passion; "but here are the lions, who will revenge my affront."

At the same time the princess heard the lions roaring. "What will become of me?" said she, "must I thus end my days?" The wicked dwarf looked at her, and with a malicious smile, said, "You shall have the glory of dying, and not bestowing your shining merit on a poor miserable dwarf, such as I am." "Pray be not angry," said the princess, lifting up her hands, "I'd rather marry all the dwarfs in the world, than die after so frightful a manner." "Observe me

well, princess," said he, "before you give me your word; for I do not pretend to surprise you." "I have already," replied she; "but the lions approach toward me; save me, or I shall die with fear." In short, she fell into a swoon, and, without knowing how she got there, found herself in her own bed, in the finest linens and ribbons possible, with a ring of one single red hair, so fast upon her finger that she could not get it off.

When the princess saw all this, and remembered what had passed before, she grew so melancholy, that all the court were surprised and uneasy at it; the queen was most alarmed of all, and asked a thousand times what was the matter; but she was determined in herself to conceal her adventure from her. At last the states of the kingdom, impatient to have their princess married, assembled, and addressed the queen to make choice of an husband for her out of hand. The queen told them, it was what she had most at heart, but that her daughter was very much against it. However, she advised them to go to her,

and talk with her about it; which they did immediately. All-Fair, whose pride was somewhat abated since her adventure with the Yellow Dwarf, thought it would be the best way to marry some potent prince, with whom the little ape would not dare to dispute so glorious a conquest; and gave them a favourable answer, and consented to marry the King of the Golden Mines, who was a powerful and handsome prince, who loved her with a violent passion, and who never till then durst entertain any hopes. We may easily guess at the excess of his joy, and his rival's rage, when the news was declared. There was great preparation made for the nuptials, and the King of the Golden Mines launched out such prodigious sums of money, that the sea was full of ships that were sent to the remotest parts for the greatest rarities. In short, that prince discovered such lively and delicate sentiments, that she began to have some passion for him.

In the midst of all this joy, the king's rivals, who were in the utmost despair at his

good fortune, and sensible of the most piercing grief, left the court, and returned to their own dominions, not being able to be eye-witnesses to the princess's marriage ; but before they went, they took their leaves of her in so obliging a manner, that she could not but pity them. " O ! madam," said the King of the Golden Mines, " what do you rob me of by granting your pity to lovers, who are over-and-above recompensed for their pains by one single look from you !" " I should be angry," replied the princess, " if you was insensible of the compassion I have shewn those princes, to whom I am lost for ever ; it is a proof of your delicacy, which I approve of : but, Sir, their conditions are far different from yours ; you ought to be pleased with what I have done for you ; they have no reason to be so, therefore you should restrain your jealousy." The King of the Golden Mines was so confounded at the obliging manner that the princess took a thing that might very well have displeased her, that he threw

himself at her feet, kissed her hand, and asked a thousand pardons.

At last the long-wished-for day came, and the nuptials were proclaimed, by sounding of trumpets, and all other ceremonies ; the balconies were all adorned with tapestries, and the houses bedecked with flowers. The queen was so overjoyed, that she was hardly in bed, and got to sleep, but she rose again to give the necessary orders, and to choose out the jewels the princess was to wear that day. She was covered almost over with diamonds ; and on her gown, which was a silver brocade, were twelve suns formed with diamonds. But nothing appeared so bright as that princess's natural charms ; a rich crown was set upon her head, her hair hung down almost to her feet, and the majesty of her shape distinguished her from all the ladies that attended on her. The King of the Golden Mines shewed himself no less accomplished and magnificent ; joy and chearfulness appeared in all his actions : none approached him, but he loaded them with his gifts and presents ; for

he had ordered some thousands of tons of gold, and velvet sacks, embroidered with pearls, full of guineas, to be placed in the hall, where all that put forth their hands received handfuls of gold; insomuch that this part of the ceremony drew there great crowds of people, that would have been insensible to all the other pleasures.

As the queen, king, and princess, were going out into a long gallery, they saw a box move towards them, in which there sat a large old woman, at whose age and decrepidness they were not so much surprised, as at her ugliness: she leaned upon a crutch, had a black taffety ruff on, a red velvet hood, and a fardingale all in rags; and after having taken two or three turns about, without speaking a word, she stopped in the middle of the gallery, and shaking her crutch in a threatening manner, cried out, “Ho, ho! you queen and princess, do you think to falsify unpunished your words, which you gave my friend the Yellow Dwarf? I am the Desert-Fairy; and do not you know, that if it had not been for

him and his orange-tree, you had been devoured by my lions? These insults to fairies shall not be allowed; think presently on what you design; for I swear by my coif you shall marry him, or I will burn my crutch.”

“ Ah! princess,” said the queen in tears, “ what is this that I hear? What have you promised?”

“ Ah! mother,” replied the princess, full of grief, “ what have you promised?”

The King of the Gold Mines, enraged at what had passed, and that this wicked old woman should come to oppose his happiness, drew his sword, and, going up to her, pointed it to her throat: “ Wretch,” said he, “ be gone from hence, or I’ll revenge thy malice on thy life.”

He had no sooner pronounced these words, but the upper part of the box flew off with great noise, and out came the Yellow Dwarf, mounted on a large Spanish Cat, and placed himself between the Desert-Fairy and the King of the Gold Mines.

“ Rash youth,” said he, “ think not to commit this violence on the illustrious fairy, thy rage shall light on me; I am thy rival and

thy enemy : the false princess, who was going to bestow herself on thee, has given me her word, and received mine ; see if she has not a ring of my hair upon her finger, by that you may judge of my right to her." " Hideous monster," said the king, " hast thou the boldness to call thyself the adorer of this divine princess, and to pretend to so glorious a possession ? Thou art such a baboon, such an odious figure, that I had sacrificed thee before now, hadst thou been worthy of so honourable a death." The dwarf, piqued to the very soul at these words, clapped his spurs in the cat's sides, which made such a mewling and flying about, as frightened all but the king, who hemmed in the dwarf so close, that he drew a large cutlass with which he was armed, and defying the king to a combat, went down into the court of the palace, making a terrible noise. The enraged king followed him as fast as possible ; and when they stood opposite to each other, ready to begin the combat, the sun on a sudden turned as red as blood, and it grew as dark as pitch ; it

thundered and lightened, and by the flashes of the lightning, the king and all the court, who were got into the balconies, perceived two giants vomiting fire on each side of the dwarf: all which was not capable of daunting the magnanimous heart of this young monarch, who shewed a wonderful intrepidity in his looks and actions, that encouraged all who were concerned for his safety, and gave the dwarf and his enemies some confusion. But all his courage was not proof against what he saw the princess endure; when the Desert Fairy, with her head covered with snakes, like Tisiphone, and mounted on a winged griffin, struck her so hard with a lance she carried in her hand, that she fell into the queen's arms all over blood. This tender mother, who was touched to the very soul to see her daughter in this condition, made most sad complaints; and for the king, he lost both all his reason and courage, left the combat, and ran to the princess, to succour her, or die with her; but the Yellow Dwarf would not give him time to get to her, but

flew on his Spanish cat into the balcony where she was, and took her out of her mother's arms, and from all the ladies, and then leaping upon the top of the palace, disappeared with his prey.

The king, confused and motionless, looked on such an extraordinary adventure with the utmost despair, since it was not in his power to help it ; when, to complete his misfortunes, he found a mist before his eyes, and himself lifted up by some extraordinary power in the air ; for the wicked fairy, who came to assist the Yellow Dwarf in taking away the princess, had no sooner set her eyes on the King of the Gold Mines, but her heart grew sensible of that young prince's merit ; and that he might be her prey, she therefore carried him to the bottom of a frightful cavern, and there loaded him with chains fixed to a rock, hoping that the dread of an approaching death might make him forget All-Fair, and engage him to do as she would have him. As soon as he arrived there, she restored him his sight, and borrowing, by the fairy-art, all

those charms and graces that nature had denied her, appeared to him like a lovely nymph, that was come that way by chance. "What is this that my eyes behold?" said she, "what have you done, charming prince, that you are kept here?" Whereupon the king, deceived by these false appearances, replied, "Alas! fair nymph, I know not what the infernal fury that brought me hither would have; for though, when she took me away, she deprived me of my sight, and has not since appeared, yet I know by her voice, that she was the Desert Fairy. "Oh! sir," cried the false nymph, "you are in the hands of a woman who will not let you go till you marry her; 'tis what she has done by several heroes: she is the most obstinate woman in the world in these affairs." But while she pretended to bear a share in the king's affliction, he perceived her griffin-feet, which was always a mark by which the fairy was known in all her metamorphoses, which she could not change; and seeming to take no notice of it, but speaking in an air of confidence, said,

“ Indeed I have no aversion for the Desart-Fairy ; but I cannot bear that she should protect the Yellow Dwarf, and keep me chained thus like a criminal. What have I done ? I love, ’tis true, a charming princess ; and had I my liberty, it would engage me in gratitude to love the fairy.” “ Do you use sincerity ?” said the pretended nymph. “ Doubt you of it ?” replied the king ; “ I am a novice in the art of dissembling ; and I must own to you, a fairy has much more to flatter my vanity with, than a princess : but if I loved her to distraction, and she confined me, I should hate her.”

Deceived by these words, the Desart-Fairy resolved to transport him to a place as agreeable as this was horrible ; and to that end, obliged him to get into her chariot, which was then drawn by swans, whereas it was generally drawn by bats. But in what a condition was this prince, when, as he was traversing the waste space of air, he saw his dear princess in a castle of polished steel, the walls of which cast such a reflection when the sun

shined, that there was no going near it ; she was laid in a grove by a brook-side, leaning her head on one hand, and wiping away her tears with the other : and as she was looking up to heaven to ask relief, she saw the king pass along with the Desert-Fairy, who, as she had made use of her art to seem handsome to that young monarch, she appeared to the princess the most charming person in the world. “ What,” cried she, “ am not I unfortunate enough, to be in this inaccessible castle, whither this ugly Dwarf has brought me ; but to add to my misfortunes, I must be tormented with jealousies ? Must I be informed, by such an extraordinary adventure, of the infidelity of the King of the Gold Mines, who has certainly thought, that by losing the sight of me, he was freed from his oaths ? But who can this formidable rival be, whose fatal beauty surpasses mine ? ” While she was saying these words, the amorous king felt a mortal pain, in being carried away with such swiftness from the dear object of his vows ; had he not known the fairy’s

power, he would certainly have tried to get from her, either by killing her, or some other means that his love and courage would have suggested to him; but how could he attempt any thing at that time?

The fairy also perceived the princess, and sought in the king's eyes to penetrate into the effect that sight might produce in his heart. "None can inform you so well as myself, of what you want to know," said he to her; "the unexpected meeting with that unhappy princess, for whom I had some respect before I was acquainted with your charms, gave me some small disturbance; but you have so much a greater sway over me, that I would sooner die than be false to you." "Ah! prince," said she, "may I flatter myself with having inspired you with such favourable sentiments for me?" "Time shall convince you, madam," replied he; "but if you would make me sensible that I have any part in your esteem, deny not All-Fair your assistance." "Do you know what you ask?" answered the fairy, knitting her brows and

frowning. "What, would you have me to make use of my knowledge against the Yellow Dwarf, who is my best friend, to force a proud princess, whom I must look upon as my rival, out of his hands? No, I cannot bear the thoughts of it." At that the king sighed inwardly, but durst return no answer. At last they came to a large meadow, enamelled with various flowers, and surrounded by a deep river, into which there ran several small brooks, which formed meanders about little holts of trees, where there was always a fresh air: at a small distance stood a stately palace, the walls of which were of transparent emeralds; and as soon as the swans that drew them alighted, thousands of beautiful persons came to receive the fairy with acclamations of joy, and songs in praise of her charms and her choice; which overjoyed the fairy to hear them mention her amours. She led the king into the most magnificent apartment that had ever been seen in the memory of fairies, and leaving him there, and thinking she was not sure she had capti-

vated him, she got into an obscure place, from whence she might observe all his actions; and he, fancying she would watch him, went to a large glass, and said to it, "Faithful adviser, permit me to study out ways to render myself agreeable to the charming fairy whom I adore; for great is my desire to please." And, thereupon, he painted, powdered, and patched, put on a magnificent suit of clothes that lay ready for him, and adjusted himself the best way he could.

Upon this, the fairy went in unto him so much transported with joy, that she could not moderate it. "I shall not forget," said she, "the care you have taken to please me; you have found out the true and only way: you see, Sir, it is not so difficult when people please." The king, who thought that saying fine things to the fairy was the best card he could play, spared no soft expressions at this juncture, and by that means got leave to take a walk on the sea-shore, which the fairy, by her art, had rendered so dangerous and boisterous, that no pilots were so bold as to

venture to sail in it; so that she was under no apprehensions of her prisoner's escaping, who thought it a great assuagement to his pains to muse alone, and think of his dearest princess, without being interrupted by his hateful goaler. When he had walked there some time, kissed the sand, and invoked the powers of the sea, he heard a voice, which made him give great attention; and observing the waves to swell, and regarding them stedfastly, he perceived a beautiful mermaid arise with a looking-glass in one hand, and combing her hair, which was greatly agitated by the winds, with the other. At this sight the king was very much surprised; but much more when it came and said to him; "I know the sad condition you are reduced to, by your separation from your princess, and the Desert-Fairy's passion for you; if you approve of it, I will carry you from this fatal place, where, perhaps, you may languish out thirty or forty years." The king knew not what answer to return; not but he desired to be delivered from his captivity, but for fear the Fairy had

assumed a new form to deceive him : and as he hesitated, the syren, who guessed at his thoughts, said, " Fear not, this is no snare laid for you ; I am too much an enemy to the Desart-Fairy and the Yellow Dwarf, to serve them ; I see your unfortunate princess every day ; her beauty and merit raises my pity ; and I tell you again, if you have any confidence in me, I will assist you to get away."

" I have so much in you," cried the king, " that I will do whatever you bid me ; but since you have seen my princess, tell me some news of her." " We shall lose too much time in talking," replied the syren ; " come along with me, and I will carry you to the steel castle, and leave on this shore a figure so like you, that the fairy shall be deceived by it."

She presently cut down some sea-rushes, and bundled them together, and blowing upon them, said, " My good friends, I order you not to stir off from this beach, till the Desart-Fairy comes and takes you away." Whereupon a skin grew soon over the rushes, and

they became so like the King of the Gold Mines, that it was surprising; they were clothed like the king, and looked pale and dead, as if he had been drowned. After this, the syren made the king sit upon the fish's tail, and both sailed away in a rolling sea, with all imaginable satisfaction. When they were at some distance from the shore, the syren said, "I will now tell you how the wicked dwarf carried the princess away; he set her behind him on a Spanish cat; and notwithstanding the blood she lost by the wound she received from the Desert-Fairy, which made her swoon away, he never stopped to give her assistance till he had her safe in his steel castle, where he was received by some of the most beautiful persons in the world, which he had transported thither, who all shewed a great desire to serve the princess, who was put into a bed of cloth of gold, embroidered with large pearls." "O!" cried the King of the Gold Mines, "he has married her; I swoon and die away." "No," said she, "assure yourself the princess's con-

stancy is too firm to admit of that." "Then go on," replied he. "What I have more to tell you, is," continued the syren, "she was in the grove you passed over, and saw you with the Desert-Fairy, who was so painted, that she seemed to her of a much superior beauty to herself, and her despair is not to be comprehended, since she fancies you love her." "I love her!" cried the king, "just heavens! how much is she deceived! What ought I to do to make her sensible how much she is mistaken?" "Consult your own heart," answered the syren, with a gracious smile; "people that are deeply engaged have no need of advice on that account." And just as she made an end of these words, they arrived at the steel castle, which on the sea-side the dwarf had not fortified with those burning walls.

"I know," said the syren, "the princess is by the same brook-side where you saw her as you passed by: but as you will have a great many enemies to fight with before you come to her, take this sword, with which you

may undertake any thing, and face the greatest dangers, provided you never let it go out of your hand. Farewell ; I shall retire under that rock you see there ; if you have any need of me, to conduct you farther with your princess, I shall not fail you ; for the queen her mother is my best friend, and it was on her account that I have thus served you." After these words, she gave him the sword, which was made of one certain diamond, that gave as great a lustre as the sun. Upon the receiving it, he could use no words expressive enough for an acknowledgement, but desired her to make it up in thinking all that a generous mind was capable of.

But to return to the Desart-Fairy : when she saw that her lover did not return, she hastened after to find him, running all along the shore, attended with a hundred young damsels, loaded with presents for him ; some brought great baskets full of diamonds, some golden vessels of admirable work, some ambergris, coral, and pearls, and some carried great pieces of stuffs upon their heads of pro-

digious richness; in short, every thing that might be acceptable. But in what a sad condition was the fairy, when, following this noble troop, she saw the rushes in the shape of the King of the Gold Mines: she was so amazed and grieved, that she gave a terrible shriek, that made the hills echo again: she threw herself upon the body, cried, howled, and tore fifty of the persons that were with her in pieces, as a sacrifice to the manes of the dear deceased. Then she called eleven of her sister fairies, to help her to erect a stately mausoleum to this young hero; who were all as much deceived as herself by the syren, who was more powerful than they. But while they were providing porphyry, jasper, agate, marble, statues and devices in gold and brass, to immortalize the memory of the king, whom they thought to be dead, he thanked the lovely syren, conjuring her to grant him her protection; which she engaging him she would, he had nothing to do but to advance towards the steel castle.

Thus, guided by his love, he went for-

ward, and looking carefully about, perceived his adorable princess ; but was not long without employment ; for four terrible sphinxes flew at him, and had torn him in a thousand pieces, had it not been for the syren's sword, which glittered so in their eyes, that they fell down at his feet without any strength ; and he gave each a mortal wound, and so proceeded on, till he met with six dragons, whose scaled skins were harder than iron. Whatever fear such creatures might put some into, he was intrepid, and with his sword cut them all asunder, and thought he had surmounted the utmost difficulties, when he met with the greatest of all ; which was four-and-twenty nymphs, holding in their hands long garlands of flowers, with which they stopped his passage : “ Whither are you going, Sir ? ” said they ; “ we are appointed to guard this place, and if we let you pass, it will be bad both for you and us ; therefore pray be not obstinate : sure you would not imbrue your victorious arm in the blood of so many innocent young damsels, who have done you no wrong.” At these

words, the king, who was a great admirer of the fair sex, and had professed himself always their protector, was so confounded to think that he must force his passage through them, that he knew not what to resolve on ; when he heard a voice say, “ Strike, strike, or you lose your princess for ever.” Whereupon, without making any reply, he threw himself into the midst of the nymphs, and gave them no quarter, and soon dispersed them. This being the last obstacle he had to meet with, he went into the grove where the princess lay pale and languishing by a brook-side ; and upon his approaching trembling towards her, she flew from him with as much indignation, as if he had been the Yellow Dwarf. “ Condemn me not, madam,” said he, “ before you hear me ; I am neither false, nor guilty of what you imagine ; but only an unfortunate wretch, that has displeased you with repugnance to himself.” “ Ah ! barbarous man,” cried she, “ I saw you traversing the air with a beautiful person ; was that against your consent ?” “ Yes, princess,” said he, “ it was :

the wicked Desert-Fairy, not satisfied with chaining me to a rock, took me with her in her chariot, and conveyed me to a distant part of the world, where I should have languished out my days, without hope of any succour, had it not been for a kind syren, that brought me hither. I come, my princess, to deliver you out of the hands of those that detain you here : refuse not the assistance of the most faithful of lovers." Thereupon he threw himself at her feet, and catching hold of her gown, unfortunately let fall the formidable sword, which the Yellow Dwarf, who lay behind some small shrub, no sooner saw cut of the king's hand, but, knowing its power, he ran and seized it.

The princess, at the sight of the Dwarf, gave a terrible shriek. " I am now," said the dwarf, " master of my rival's fate ; however, I will grant him his life and libery, on condition that he consents to my marriage." " No, I will die a thousand deaths first," cried the amorous king in a rage. " Alas !" replied the princess, " the thoughts of that

is the most terrible of them all." "Nothing shocks me so much," answered the king, "as that you should become a victim to this monster." "Then," said the princess, "let us die together." "No, my princess," said the king, "let me have the satisfaction of dying for you." "I would sooner," said she, "consent to the Dwarf's desires." "Oh! cruel princess," interrupted the king, "should you marry him before my face, my life would ever after be odious to me." "No, it shall not be before thy face," replied the Dwarf, "for a beloved rival I cannot bear." And at these words he stabbed the king to the heart; whose death the princess was not able to survive, but she fell on that dear prince's body, and poured out her soul with his. Thus died those two illustrious but unfortunate lovers, before the syren could apply any remedy, all her power lying in the fatal sword.

