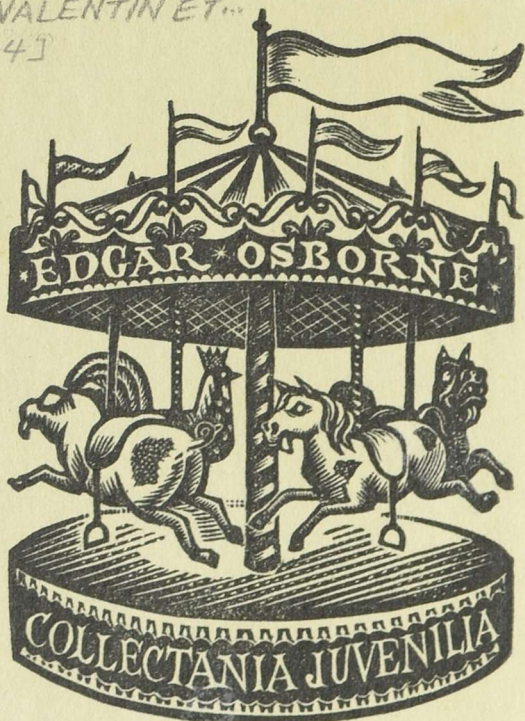
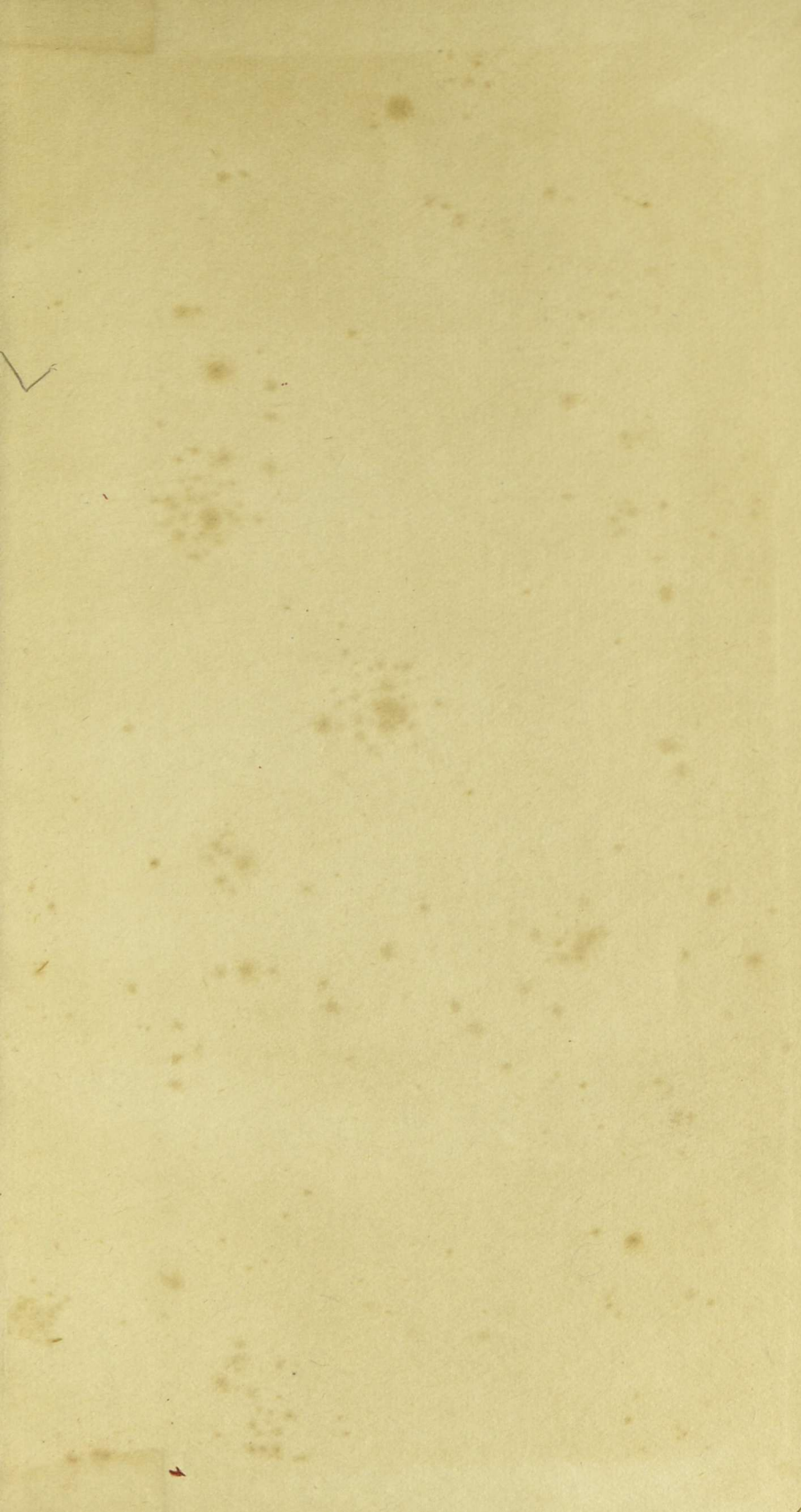


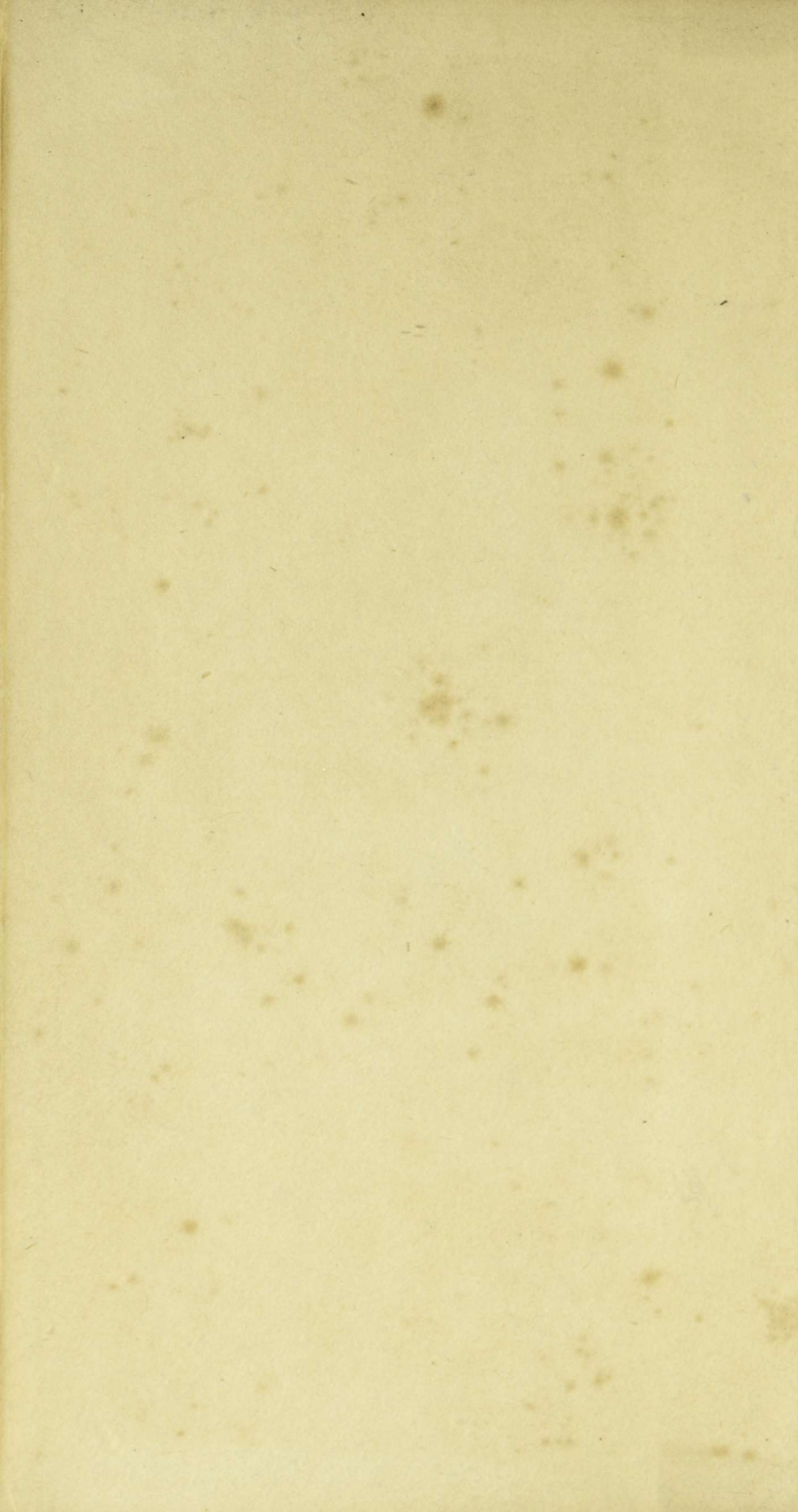
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VALENTINE & ORSON.

THE
FAMOUS HISTORY
OF
VALENTINE
AND
ORSON,
OR,
THE WILD MAN
OF ORLEANS.

CONTAINING, AN ACCOUNT OF
All the Wonderful Adventures,
AND
SURPRISING ATCHIEVEMENTS,
OF THESE
TWO VALIANT BROTHERS.

WITH THE
Affecting Distresses
OF THEIR UNFORTUNATE MOTHER, THE
FAIR BELLISANT,
EMPRESS OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

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THE FAMOUS HISTORY OF VALENTINE & ORSON.

CHAP. I.

WE find it set down in ancient chronicles, that the thrice noble and valiant Pepin, sometime King of France, took to wife Bertha, who was descended of royal race, and was exceedingly fair and wise, but wonderously cumbered with many troubles. The chief instrument of mischief towards this good Queen was an old woman, who first brought her into dilgrace with the King her husband, and then to be quite banished his bed, while she introduced a daughter of her own in the good Queen's stead. This old woman having thus brought her treachery to effect, (for her daughter somewhat resembled Bertha,) it so came to pass that King Pepin had two sons by this maiden, to wit, Haufray and Henry, who wickedly caused the Queen Bertha to be utterly banished, where she passed a great part of her days in abundance of sorrow. At last, however, she began to receive comfort again; for, at the earnest request of divers great Peers and Lords of France, this good Queen began to find favour with the King her husband, who, discovering the treachery the wicked old woman had plotted against her, much bewailed the miseries she had endured, and with great honour and triumph received her again; and being thus restored to her bed, she in a short time conceived, and bare unto the King a goodly son, called Charlemain the Puissant.

Now King Pepin had a sister named Bellisant, possessed of great wit and beauty, which so spread her fame abroad, that Alexander, Emperor of Constantinople, was much in love with her, and came to France to ask her in marriage. King Pepin made great preparations for entertaining the noble Emperor, and went to meet and conduct him to the Court of France, where fair Bellisant was.

This intended Marriage being known among the inhabitants, joy began to shew itself on every side; and these two

were espoused in all honour. The marriage feast being ended, the Emperor made preparation to go to Constantinople with his fair Empress Bellifant. Being all mounted on horseback, King Pepin set forward, attended with Lords, Ladies, and others of the Court. These mighty Princes being come to a port of the sea where they must part, the Emperor yielded King Pepin thanks for giving him his fair sister Bellifant. King Pepin then turned to his sister, and in this manner took his leave:—"Fair sister, (quoth he) think no longer of France, but remember you are removed to a country of better condition. Be you governed by the modest ladies of the land, and give no ear to disloyalty; for if I should hear tidings other than good of you, it would be the cause to take away my life." Then embracing his sister he left her to the mercy of the waves. King Pepin then returned to France; and the Emperor, with his train, arrived in safety at Constantinople, with great joy, honour, and triumph. But these joys were soon converted into lamentations, for the poor Lady Bellifant, by treason and false accusations, was soon cast out and banished, as hereafter will appear.

CHAP. II.

IN Constantinople lived an Arch Priest, in whom the Emperor put much trust, bestowed upon him great riches and possessions, committed all his bosom thoughts unto his secrecy, and in the end made him sole Governor over all his house; he was also his principal Confessor, and his greatest favourite. This Priest, forgetting all the Emperor's favours, and being enraptured with the beauty of the new Empress, inordinate desire prevailed, and he only waited for a fit opportunity to indulge it; at last, espying her alone in her chamber, he began to utter his lascivious thoughts in this manner:—

"Dear and sovereign Lady, I am your servant and chaplain; therefore I beseech you to hear my words, for I am burnt up in affection towards you. Know that the beauty of your person hath ravished my spirits, and quite bereft me of all rest, both by night and day, insomuch that my only request is, that you would give consent unto me that I might not only serve you, but also delight you in all pleasures. If, Lady, you deny my suit, I can look for nothing but present death. Alas! you are fair, amiable, courteous, and also youthful,

youthful ; be not then the cause of losing my life by losing your love. But, Lady, perhaps you will say, how dare you offend the gods in this unlawful act ? To this I answer, I am one of the vicars of the gods upon earth, and therefore it rests in me to absolve you of your sins."

This speech of the Priest being ended, the Lady made him this answer :—" Ah ! thou false, unjust, disloyal Priest, stain to thy profession, how darcest thou open thy mouth to such villainous purposes ? First, against the sacred order ; secondly against the Emperor, who nourished thee, and raised thee to such dignities. Thou devil, thou who shouldst be a guide to my life and conversation, art devising my utter ruin and destruction. O ye gods, grant that the blood of France, from whence I am descended, nor the Emperor, my loving Lord, should ever be so dishonoured. O false, accursed man, thou wouldst deliver me, first unto the pollution of my person ; next thou would bring my soul into the jaws of death and the devil. O thou monster, cease henceforth to solicit me in this manner ; if thou dost, thou canst look for nothing but a shameful and most ignominious death ; therefore with this answer depart, and see that thou attempt me no more."

This angry farewell of the worthy Empress stung the Priest to the very heart, and filled him with rage. However, he durst make no reply, but craved pardon for his rash follies, and so he departed. Yet being sore irritated in mind, he devised to revenge himself upon the innocent Lady by deceit ; for seeing the Emperor knew nothing in this matter, the Arch Priest began to think how he might effect what he had determined, and preserve his former honours. Whereupon he resolved, that he would cunningly bear fair towards the Emperor, by seeming to shew his loyalty, and the watchful care he had towards the welfare of his estate and person. So at a fit opportunity, finding the Emperor all alone, he thus accosted him :—

" Right high and mighty Emperor, I consider it my duty to reveal unto you all that any way concerns your royal person : Therefore I beseech you to give ear to what I shall disclose unto you. O Emperor ! this it is : Bellifant, your wife, whom you have advanced to this state and dignity, faileth in that duty and loyalty which she oweth unto her Lord ; for she bestoweth her love unto another, which is
proper

proper only for yourself. You know I am a sacred Priest, and may not seek the blood of any man; and as by way of confession I came unto the light thereof, I neither ought nor will reveal the name of him that usurps your bed: let it suffice there is not a more unclean and lascivious woman in your Court or Kingdom."

The Emperor, little mistrusting the treachery of the Arch Priest, gave credit to all his fair but false words, and therewith became extremely sad. He restrained awhile his passion. At length, entering into the chamber of Bellifant, in a most fierce, rude, and unmannerly order, he took the fair lady by the hair of her head, and dragged her about the chamber, throwing her on the ground in a most horrid manner. She cried out:—"Alas! my dear Lord, what moveth you to this outrage? I call the gods to witness I never did any thing in my life against your honour." The Emperor replied, "I am too well informed of thy proceedings, and cursed be the day that ever I saw your deceitful face." And therewithal dashing her head against the ground, he left her speechless, insomuch that her attendants thought she had been bereft of life. Upon this there arose a most pitiful outcry; which the Counsellors and Attendants hearing, ran speedily to the chamber, where they found the Lady in a trance; and some ran to take up the body of the Empress, while others took upon them to speak to the Emperor to appease his rage, and said unto him as followeth:—"Alas! dread Sovereign! what causes this sudden passion with your Lady;—a Lady, modest, chaste, and beloved by all, and in whom was never seen the least dishonour either towards yourself, or any in your empire; wherefore moderate your anger against her." The Emperor, not relenting, answered:—"Speak no more; for I know, I see, I hear, how she hath deluded me, and am fully purposed to deliver her over to death."

These words were no sooner uttered, than up rose a courageous Baron, who spoke unto the Emperor: "Right worthy Sir, I beseech you to consider that your noble wife is great with child; wherefore it is doubly cruel to smite her in the manner you have done. But I could wish you to be well-advised before you proceed further, seeing that she is sister to the great King Pepin of France, who, when he shall hear of the wrongs done her, will not fail to wreak his

his vengeance for these merciless deeds towards his dear sister."

The Baron here ended his speech; and the Lady being somewhat recovered from her swoon, fell upon her knees, and in tears addressed the Emperor: "Alas! my Lord, take pity on your innocent Lady, who never thought evil either against your person or dignity. Yet, my Lord, though your compassion be quite extinct for me, pity your child with which I am now pregnant, and let me be imprisoned in some tower till the time of its birth: Then, if your anger be not appeased, do with me what pleaseth you; but oh! save the child."

But all this moved him not; the hard-hearted Emperor, who, bewitched as he was with the insidious tale of the Arch Priest, furiously broke out thus: "Thou false strumpet, the child thou goest withal is to me no joy, but rather great dishonour, in that thou hast made another partner in thy love; and thy dissolute life hath made an eternal separation between us."

The Courtiers, perceiving nothing could mitigate the Emperor's rage, removed her out of his presence, the Ladies washing her bloody face, and administering cordials to revive her spirits. Being in another room, in comes her servant Blandiman, who, beholding her in this situation, exclaimed, (with tears trickling down his face) "Ah, Madam! I see you are traiterously dealt with; but take comfort: for I will conduct you back to your good brother King Pepin, who gave me to attend your person. Oh! my innocent Lady, follow my council; for if you stay, the Emperor will assuredly bring you to a shameful death."—The sorrowful Lady made this reply: "Ah! Blandiman, I know thy faithful services towards me, but must not follow thy advice. If I should steal out of this country privately, it would argue me guilty of the infamy the Emperor throweth upon me. Believe me, I had rather die the most cruel death, than bear the blame of that whereof I am innocent."

By this time the Emperor, through the means of the Lords and Barons, began to alter his purpose of putting his Lady to death, out of fear of her brother King Pepin; and causing her to be again brought before him, he thus denounced her doom: "Thou false and accursed woman,

I vow,

I vow, were it not for thy brother, the valiant Pepin, King of France, I would make thee an example to all perfidious Ladies; but for his sake I spare thy life. Nevertheless, I banish thee out of my empire, expressly commanding, that to-morrow thou depart, never more to return, on pain of suffering death. Also I strictly forbid all persons from aiding or accompanying you, save your servant Blandiman, whom you brought from France."

Sentence being thus pronounced, she and her servant Blandiman hastened to horse. As she passed through the city, she was met by multitudes of people, lamenting the loss of so good an Empress; and when she came to the gates, there was such lamentable mournful voices, that the like before was never heard in the City of Constantinople. When she was just entered into the fields, she fell into a fit of bitter weeping, to think how dishonourably she was used, she being innocent. "Alas!" cried she, "in what unhappy hour was I born, to fall from so high an estate to so low a condition as I am now in? Woe is me, the unhappiest among women! Ah! my brother, it had been better I had never been born, than that I should prove such a stain to thy princely family." As she was thus complaining, the anguish threw her into a swoon, and she would have fallen off her horse, but her servant caught her; and, at last, being come to herself again, he said unto her: "Alas! Madam, be not discomfited, but trust to the gods, who will keep and defend you; for they are ready to assist the innocent." Having thus spoken, he espied a fountain, towards which he and his Lady took their way, and he sat her down thereby, to refresh her overtired senses.

CHAP. III.

THE Arch-Priest, having now wrought the banishment of fair Bellissant, thought he should surely accomplish his desire; wherefore he changed his white rocket into a coat of steel, and begirt unto him a sword; and being thus accoutred, he rode after her with all expedition. After a few hours riding he came to a forest; and casting his eye aside, he spied the Lady, with her servant Blandiman, sitting by the fountain, lamenting her miserable fortune. Now, though this false Priest knew her

her to be the Empress, yet, by his disguise, she did not imagine him to be the Arch-Priest, till coming nearer to her, she was struck with fear, and spoke to her servant thus: "Alas!" quoth she, "I suspect this to be the Arch-Priest coming towards us; I am exceedingly fearful, lest he come to do me further villainy." "Lady," said Blandiman, "banish fear; for if he come to do you further harm, I will encounter him as long as life lasteth." By this time the Arch-Priest was ready to alight off his horse to salute the Lady with a courteous behaviour; and began to say unto her after this manner:

"Dear Lady, and late honoured Empress; since thy case is to suffer banishment by sentence of the Emperor, know this, that if thou wilt give me thy love, I will bring it to pass, that the Emperor shall recal thee from banishment, and make thy greatness shine more bright than ever." And in speaking these words, he bended to the Lady, thinking to have kissed her; but Blandiman suddenly started between them, and gave the Arch-Priest such a stroke, that felled him to the earth. The Priest, recovering himself, took to his sword, which Blandiman perceiving, there began a sore and dangerous fight between them; till a Merchant coming by that way, cried out with a loud voice, "Lords, leave off, and shew the cause of your variance, and I will endeavour to end this controversy."—"Sir," quoth Blandiman, "let us first try our right by our weapons, and afterwards we will be ruled by words." But the poor Lady began to tell the Merchant as followeth: "Alas! Sir," quoth she, "if you ever pitied woman, pity my case; for this man, whom you see armed, is the false and traitorous Arch-Priest, that hath made the separation between me and the Emperor, my Lord and Husband, and hath followed to rob me of my honour, and force me to his wicked desires."—The Merchant pitying her misery, began thus unto the Arch-Priest: "Leave off, and dare not so much as to touch this innocent Lady; for if the Emperor did but understand this villainy, he would end thy life in infamy, as thou well deserveest." The Merchant staid a little time, and comforted the Lady, saying: "Alas! fair Lady, I see that this Arch-Priest hath falsely brought you in hatred with the Emperor; but I will reveal all these treacheries to the Emperor, and bring the traitor to a shameful

shameful death!" So took his leave. Blandiman again set the Lady upon her horse, and himself on his; so riding together they came to an inn, where they staid eight days, during which time Blandiman was recovered of his wounds. They then set forward towards France; the Lady still complaining in this manner: "Alas! Blandiman; what will my brother and the Peers of France think, when they shall understand that I am expelled Greece for such a dishonourable deed? Alas! I am persuaded that the King my brother will believe that I am guilty, and deliver me over to a shameful death."—"Lady," quoth he, "be not discouraged, but trust in the gods."—In such discourses they passed on to France; and passing by Orleans, they took their way towards Paris, where King Pepin resided. So entering a forest near Orleans, Bellifant, being with child, and the time of her delivery being come, caused her to forsake her horse, and complain to her servant: "Alas!" quoth she, "help! help! I say, to lay me down softly under yonder tree; and then make haste, and send me the aid of women, for I can go no farther, my pains so much increase upon me." Blandiman did as she commanded; and so taking his horse, he rode swiftly to seek some women to help his distressed Lady. He being gone, the Lady was left comfortless, all alone, without succour of any creature; and at last she was delivered of two sons in this desolate forest. These were no sooner come in the world, than, as the mother was lying upon the earth, under the tree, and her two children by her, suddenly came a huge bear, and taking up one of the infants in her mouth, with great pace hastened into the thickest part of the forest. This strange and unlooked-for accident frightened the distressed Lady to the soul, so that she cried out most lamentably; so getting on her hands and feet, followed the bear; which quickly got out of her sight.

It happened the same day, that her brother, King Pepin, accompanied by divers great Lords and Barons, had taken his journey from Paris towards Constantinople, to visit his sister Bellifant; and passing through Orleans, he entered the same forest in which his sister was just delivered of two children. Now, as the King passed through this forest, he espied (under a tree, which the Empress left

to follow the bear) the other son of Bellifant; and hereupon, he said to his attendants: "My Lords, see, I have here found a child!"—"Royal Sir," answered they, "you say truth."—"Well," said the King, "it shall be brought up at my charge, and used as if it were my own." And therewith, calling one of his 'Squires, he said; "Here, take this infant, carry it to Orleans, see it baptized; provide a good nurse for it, and let it want nothing;" the King little suspecting the child was his nephew. The 'Squire did as the King had commanded him, and gave the child his own name, Valentine. The King proceeding on his journey towards Constantinople, met with Blandiman, accompanied by a woman that he had got to assist his Lady in her child-birth. Blandiman, espying the King, hastily alighted from his horse. The King perceiving him to be Blandiman, said; "What news from Constantinople? and how doth our sister Bellifant?"—Blandiman answered: "Most gracious Sovereign, I bring you but little tidings, yet those I do bring are sharp and bitter; for by treason and false suggestion of the cursed Arch-Priest of Constantinople, your sister is banished the Emperor's court and dominions; and, but for the great mercy of the Emperor's Barons, she had been publicly put to death, in the sight of all the people." King Pepin having heard Blandiman's lamentable relation, was exceedingly angry, and broke out into bitter speeches against her in this manner: "Now, by the gods," quoth he, "I hold the Emperor no upright judge, in sparing the life of my sister; for, I swear, that if I had her now in my possession, I would not rest, till by death I had made an example of her." And therewithal he commanded all his train to return back to Paris. When Blandiman perceived the anger of the King, he durst relate no farther of the Lady Bellifant; but took his way towards the tree where he lately left her. There, however, he could neither see nor hear any thing of her; at last, he espied her lying flat upon the earth, almost speechless for grief that she had lost her child, which the bear had taken away. Blandiman, overjoyed to find his lost mistress, kindly set her upon her feet, saying; "Alas! dear Lady, how happened you to stray so far from the place I left you in?"

The Lady, looking with a ghastly countenance, replied thus:

thus: "Ah, Blandiman! my distresses increase upon me; for you was no sooner gone to get me some help of woman-kind, than I was delivered of two babes, when a ravenous bear from the forest assailed me, and took one of them away. I, making what shift I was able, followed the beast, thinking to have recovered my loss; but all in vain, I could not overtake the bear, nor, for want of strength, get back again to the tree where I left my other infant." "Your other infant!" quoth Blandiman; "why, I came from the tree, and no infant is there." "How!" returned the Lady, "no child under the tree!" With these words she sunk in a swoon. At last, coming a little to herself, Blandiman led her towards the tree, where, when she saw the other child was gone, who can express the grief she endured! "Alas!" quoth she, "can there be in the world a wretch more encompassed with grief and sorrow? Oh! Emperor, by evil counsel hast thou plunged me into this distress; but I call the gods to witness, that I was never faulty to thee in any point." Blandiman and the woman brought her to a neighbouring village, where they lodged and nourished the Empress, till she had recovered her strength.—Then Blandiman said unto his Lady: "Most honoured Lady, it was my chance (in seeking you in the wood) to meet with your brother, King Pepin, who demanded of me what tidings? But his brows were bent, and full of anger against you; wherefore my advice is, that you make not towards him: for as soon as he heard that the Emperor had exiled you, he gave credit that your's was the fault, and lays all the blame on you." "Oh!" quoth the Lady, "what I most feared is come to pass, and I am beset with adversities on every side: Well, my comfort is, the Emperor hath exiled me unjustly. But what shall I do? I will never return to Paris, but take my way to some remote land; for it is better to fly and save my life, than to fall into the hands of an angry brother."—Blandiman answering: "Lady, leave off your tears, and be assured of my constant fidelity; here, I offer myself, life and all, to be at your service, go whither you please." "Why then," replied the Lady, "let us resolve upon some strange adventure;" and therewithal they passed forth, to expose themselves to future dangers.

C H A P. IV.

NOW the bear that had carried away one of the children, offered it no violence, but bore it unto her cave, which was dark and obscure, to be devoured by four young ones she had there. But mark what happened. The young bears did it no harm, but with their rough paws, stroked it softly; and the old bear perceiving they did not devour it, shewed a bearish kind of favour towards it, insomuch that she gave it suck among her young ones, for the space of a year. The child, from the nourishment it received, became rough all over like a beast; and as he grew in strength, began to range up and down the woods, and when he met with other beasts would imite them, so that they began to shun the place wherein he came. This beast-like life he passed fifteen years, growing to such strength that scarce any man or beast dare stir abroad, lest he should put them to death. He was called Orson; because a bear had been his nurse, and also because he was grown rough like a bear. The renown of this Wild Man spread so over all France, that the people of the country round about hunted him; but he passed through them all, snapping them in pieces. All the time he abode in the forest he neither wore garment, nor had any kind of speech.

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

C H A P. V.

THE Emperor having shamefully expelled Bellifant his wife, often repented, and would have recalled her, but for the counsel of the Arch-Priest. At last, having got all into his hands, he began to enhance the customs and taxes of the city of Constantinople, which struck to the very hearts of the inhabitants. It happened, that, according to yearly custom, there was held a great mart in the city, whereto resorted many merchants. The Emperor gave the charge thereof to this Arch-Priest. Now it chanced, that among the rest of those that sold wares was the Merchant, of whom you have heard before. The Arch-Priest seeing the Merchant, presently knew him; but took no notice of him, lest all his villainy should come to light. The Merchant was furnished with very costly wares, as cloth of gold, silver, silk, &c. and took more money than any five merchants beside. The fair being ended, the Arch-Priest sent his officers to receive his duties. One came unto the Merchant, and said—“Sir, you must pay ten-pence for every pound that you have taken; for so it is ordered.” The Merchant, being angry, said: “Curfed be that disloyal Arch-Priest; for he is the cause of these new-raised exactions! It had been better if he had long since had his desert, and with shame and infamy ended his days.” At which words the Officer took his staff and smote the Merchant on the head, so that the blood gushed out. The Merchant, seeing the blood run about his ears, drew his sword, and struck the Officer, that he laid him at his feet for dead. Upon this there arose a great outcry throughout the fair, so that the rest of the officers seized the Merchant, and brought him before the Arch-Priest; who, determining to put him to death, sent him to the Emperor; but in seeking the life of the Merchant, he purchased his own death. The Merchant was brought to the Emperor’s palace, where he in person sat as judge. Hereupon the Merchant fell on his knees before the Emperor, saying, “Most excellent Prince! deign to give me an audience before these your Nobles, and I shall unfold a matter that touches your person in the highest degree.” “Say on,” says the Emperor. “Then, mighty Emperor, I would advise you to make fast the gates round about your palace, that none depart.” This being done, the Merchant proceeded with a loud voice, thus: “Hear,

“Hear, all ye valiant Lords, Barons, and Knights—This cursed Arch-Priest, whom you have brought to great honour, hath deceived your trust, O, mighty Emperor! for it is he that hath wrought all the discord betwixt you and your virtuous lady, whom you have banished. For he secretly made love to the Empress; but she denying him, it drove him into a thousand fears, lest his disloyal act should come to light; and thus he devised to falsify her fidelity to your bed; of all which his accusations, I say here, before you, that he lieth; and I will unfold the truth. After the banishment of the Empress, as I travelled through a wood, I espied this treacherous Priest, transformed out of the habit of his priesthood into that of a knight. Drawing nearer, I beheld him in fight with a man unarmed, which I found to be Blandiman, servant to the banished lady, who conducted her in her exile. I called to them to give over their fight; but they little regarded what I said. Then I perceived the Lady piteously weeping; who, at last, said unto me thus: ‘Gentle Merchant, this treacherous Arch-Priest seeketh by force to rob me of mine honour, after having caused my banishment from the Emperor’s bed and country.’ With that I put spurs to my horse, and rode to separate them; which the Arch-Priest perceiving, suddenly fled into the wood, being fully assured I had knowledge who he was.”

The Emperor having heard this tale, fell into tears; and turning to the Arch-Priest said: “Ah, thou false servant! have I ever studied to exalt thee to high dignities, and hast thou requited me with disloyalty and treasons?” The Arch-Priest perceiving the Emperor exasperated, entreated his Highness not to credit the slanderous tale of the Merchant; “for he believeth me, and I am not guilty.” “Thou liest,” said the Merchant; “thou canst not excuse thyself in what I have charged thee; and if thou still deny it, I challenge thee by single combat to maintain the truth.” The Emperor, seeing the Merchant resolute, said: “Arch-Priest, it is time thou either acquit thyself, or yield thyself guilty.” The Arch-Priest replied: “Mighty Emperor! I must let you understand that, to answer the Merchant’s challenge is contrary to my place and calling; for I am a sacred Prelate of the Church, and therefore may refuse to fight.” “Nay,” said the Emperor, “no excuse: you must either fight or yield yourself a traitor.” So the Emperor commanded them both

to safe keeping, till he had sent letters to acquaint King Pepin of France herewith.

The day of combat being appointed, and King Pepin being come to Rome to aid the Pope against the Infidels, the Emperor dispatched Ambassadors to bring King Pepin to Constantinople, to be an eye-witness of this combat, which was to prove the Arch-Priest a traitor, in that he had, by his false accusation, banished his Empress. When they met, the Emperor, overcome with sorrow and tears, could not utter a word. On the other side, Pepin, doubtful whether his sister was innocent or guilty, said: "Since my sister hath proved such a one, she is not worthy of one tear from an eye of your Majesty." "Nay" said the Emperor, "I speak not evil against your sister; for she is composed of all virtue and honesty, and that, against all equity, I have banished her out of my country." "Think you so?" quoth King Pepin, "then you are worthy of double shame, and shew unto the world your weakness, when, by report of one man, you with such rigour proceeded against an innocent Lady, and (like a harlot) threw her into banishment, shame, and dishonour, being of the blood-royal of France." The Emperor, hearing the King so bitter against him, said unto him: "Alas! my Lord, do not so upbraid me; for I have sent for you, that you may be witness of the event."

CHAP. VI.

THE day for the combat between the Arch-Priest and the Merchant being arrived, the Arch-Priest, in armour embossed with gold and pearls, came into the field, and took the place appointed him at the end of the list. The Emperor, beholding the pompous shew that the Arch-Priest made, called the Merchant, caused him to kneel down, and dubbed him Knight; then commanded that a most rich armour should be put upon him, and promised, if he overcame the Arch-Priest, to advance him to high authority. These two adversaries mounted their horses, when the Emperor gave charge to his officers of arms to have a special eye upon the Arch-Priest, for fear he should slip away. The Merchant entered the list, followed by a concourse of people. Then came the Arch-Priest, accompanied by Nobles and Knights. The combatants being ready to charge, King Pepin called unto the Merchant, saying, "My friend, the
gods

gods give thee victory against this traitor! I vow before this assembly (so I find out the innocence of my sister Bellifant) that I will take thee into France, and make thee companion with the best of my kingdom." The Merchant, with many thanks, said: "Dread King, I doubt not to make the Priest confess that he hath treacherously sought the destruction of your sister." Then came a Herald, administering to them an oath; and so, clearing the lists, left the champions to their fortune. Now they put spurs to their horses, and ran with such fury together, that their spears were broken to their hands; then charged each other with their swords, with such violence, that they rebounded from their armour, cutting off whole quarters of their corslets. The Arch-Priest, finding himself so stiffly matched, gave over the fight till towards the evening. However, at the next rencounter, the Merchant so redoubled his strokes, that he smote off one of his ears; but, with the violence of the blow, the Merchant's sword fell from his hand; which the Arch-Priest seeing, put spurs to his horse, and charged him with such force, that he unhorsed the Merchant, and in his fall his foot hung in the stirrup, whereby he was in great danger, the horse hurrying him along the field. But at last the Merchant's horse fell down, by which he freed his leg from the stirrup, and got upon his feet; he made a fresh assault upon the Arch-Priest, against whom striking with great violence, he let his sword fall out of his hand; but first so wounded him that the blood ran through his armour. This so enraged the Priest, that he turned his horse upon the Merchant, thinking to over-run him; but the Merchant drew a long knife, and plunged it into the belly of the horse, which brought the horse and rider to the ground. The Priest being thus unhorsed, the Merchant pulled off his helmet, in order to smite off his head. The Arch-Priest, finding himself in such danger, said: "Give me leave to confess, for I yield myself vanquished." The Merchant granted him his request. But the Priest had no sooner got on his feet, than, clasping the Merchant in his arms, he threw him on the ground, saying—"I now have the advantage, and thou shalt not escape, if thou refusest what I shall command thee." "Ah!" replied the Merchant, "hast thou thus betrayed me?—Well, what is it thou commandest?—so thou save my life, I will do it." "Then" said the Arch-Priest, "go with me before the Em-

peror and King Pepin, and there, in the hearing of all men, testify that thou hast falsely accused me, and I will then spare thy life." The Merchant, thinking it best to dissemble, thus answered: "Sir, your arguments are good; and there I will clear you from those accusations I have exhibited against you." The Merchant had no sooner got on his feet, than, seizing the Arch-Priest, he in turn threw him down.

The Arch-Priest, finding himself beaten at his own weapons, began again to entreat; but the Merchant presently put out his eyes, to prevent his doing him any further harm. Then the Merchant called the Marshals of the field, and said: "My request is, that you conduct Alexander, Emperor of Constantinople, and King Pepin of France, to this place, that they may be ear-witnesses of the Arch-Priest's confession."

The Marshals did according to the request of the Merchant; and the Emperor, King Pepin, and all the Nobles, came to the place where the Arch-Priest lay vanquished. Then the Emperor demanded the truth, which the Arch-Priest confessed, declaring the whole of his villainies, and how the Empress had been wrongfully banished. Then the Emperor and King Pepin ordered the traitor to be put into a cauldron of boiling oil, and so finished his days. The Emperor came before King Pepin, crying, "Alas! dear brother, I am sorrowful in that I have acted so rashly against your sister; I crave pardon for my fault, and give myself into your hands." King Pepin, perceiving the Emperor so humble, kindly forgave him; and before they parted, there was a general peace concluded, and they agreed to send to all parts of the world to seek the distressed Lady Bellifant. King Pepin, having taken his leave, after a long journey arrived at Orleans; when the Squire that had the charge of Valentine, presented him to the King, saying, "Dread Sovereign! here I present you the poor orphan that your Majesty found in the forest of Orleans, and which you commanded me to see brought up: he is now growing to man's estate." The King called this orphan (named Valentine) to him, and put divers questions to him, all which he answered with great modesty and wisdom; whereat the King was highly pleased. "Moreover," said his Majesty, "it is my will that the orphan Valentine be kept with my daughter Eglantine, who

is fair, wise, and endowed with all the gifts of nature.— This command was accordingly accomplished, insomuch that if one was but a little absent from the other, there was a lamentation till they came together again: but especially on the part of the King's daughter.

Now Valentine was ever practising in feats of arms; and the King beholding his inclination, furnished him with armour, horses, lands, &c. On this account there arose within the Court many envious mutterings towards him. But he bore it like a man, carrying himself so humble, that he gained the love of all. Valentine thus growing up in the esteem of the Court, it so chanced that there came into Orleans Ambassadors from the Pope, demanding aid against the Saracens, who had lately taken the city of Rome.— King Pepin prepared to make resistance against this common enemy; and appointed young Valentine a chief Commander. Fair Eglantine hearing this, sent a messenger unto him to come and speak with her. And when he came she said unto him, "Alas! Valentine, I understand you are going to war. Gentle love, leave me not.—I swear by the gods that thou art the only man I would join myself unto in marriage." The young man said, "Madam, you know I am not a person fitting your estate: make your choice elsewhere, and join royal blood unto your's; and so with all duty I take my leave."

The King and his retinue, taking their way from Orleans towards Rome, came to a mighty forest, where his Majesty calling his Lords and Barons together said, "My Lords, it is not unknown to you, that in these woods (as report goes) there liveth a Wild Man, much feared of by passengers, which I long to behold. The Lords consented to seek him, and every way they begirt the wood, some in one part, some in another. The King ventured so far into it, that he came before a cave, dark and obscure, wherein the Wild Man used to hide himself. Orson rushed out upon him, caught him in his nails (which were long and crooked) and cast him on the ground. The King cried out for help, whereat a valiant Knight at arms, perceiving the King to be almost strangled, suddenly drew his sword to run the Wild Man through; when Orson, seeing the glittering it made, left the King and ran furiously upon the Knight, took him in his arms, and overthrew him, horse and all. The horse,
fore

fore affrighted, in a mad fit ran up and down the forest; but as for the rider (though a Knight at arms) Orson held him fast with his twangs and talons, and at last pulled him in pieces. In the mean time the King escaped, and meeting his company, related to them the great danger he had been in, and the death of the Knight: at which they joined themselves together, and marched towards the cave, in order to take Orson alive, or put him to death in the cave. Being come thither, they found the Knight dead, and torn in pieces; but Orson they could not find. So the King perceiving their labour lost, set forward towards Rome.

CHAP. VII.

KING PEPIN being come to Rome, besieged it, and after some days, called his Barons, and spoke in this manner: you well know that the heathenish Admiral of the Saracens hath put many Christians to the sword; it is our duty to try the fortune of a battle with these Pagans. Wherefore I would find out a man to bear unto the Admiral a letter of defiance in my name." King Pepin having finished his speech, there was none amongst them made any answer. At length Valentine stepped before the King, and said, "Be pleased to give me leave, I will undertake the message, and will not fear the Admiral."

The King was pleased, and called his Secretary, and ordered him to draw a letter of defiance, and deliver the same to Valentine, which he accordingly did; and then he took his way towards the Admiral. So coming into his presence, he said: "The gods preserve the noble King Pepin my lord and sovereign; and Mahomet, whom thou servest save and defend thee, renowned Admiral!" When Valentine had thus spoken, the Admiral replied: "Messenger, return; and bid King Pepin either to renounce his faith, and believe on Mahomet, or look for no other than death to himself and followers." Valentine said, "High and mighty Emperor, do not imagine that by pride I am come before you: I was accused to King Pepin for a coward, since I came to this war: for which the King vowed to smite off my head. Perceiving myself in danger, I gave it out that I would come to your court, and challenge you to break three spears with me in single combat." The Admiral hearing this tale of Valentine, said unto him, "Son, I swear

I swear by Mahomet, that thou shalt not be refused; and that those Frenchmen that lie in siege before the city may have a sight thereof, I will order the place of jousting to be without the walls." Valentine humbly thanked him, and requested that, fearing he should be slain in the jousts, he might have a confessor to give him absolution for his sins. Then the Admiral commanded that a Priest should be brought him. The Priest being come, Valentine getting him aside, said thus into him: "Sir, you are a Christian Priest, and ought to defend the Christian faith. This day I am to joust with the heathenish Admiral, the greatest enemy of Christian people. Now I am well assured that a great number of the Saracens will issue out of the city to be witnesses thereof; therefore you shall give warning to all Christians too keep within the walls, and arm themselves: so when the Pagans are gone forth to behold the jousts, the Christians suddenly shall surprize the guards that keep the gates, and send a message to King Pepin of what is done, that he with his army may attack those that are without, while those within are set upon by the armed Christians; so that in the end we may make a slaughter of them, and the Christians receive both their city in peace, and their former liberty." The Confessor having played his part, according to Valentine's instructions, the Christians within the city presently made themselves masters of the gates; and King Pepin prepared to relieve Valentine, if necessity required. The first course proved so fierce, that the combatants shivered both their spears in splinters. A second course was made out, in which Valentine proved victorious; for with his spear he gave the Admiral such a blow, that he fell from his horse dead, whereupon the Pagans ran at Valentine with intent to kill him; but Valentine put spurs to his horse, and violently rushed through the thickest of them, slaying many of them as he passed. King Pepin coming up, was so beset by the Pagans, that he was smote off his horse; which Valentine observing, flew to him and horled him again.—The battle now grew so hot, that the Pagans were forced to retire to the city; but the Christians within issued on them, and placed the standards of King Pepin on the walls; which the Pagans discovering, took to flight; and thus the city was again restored to the Christians.

C H A P. VIII.

KING PEPIN, having expelled the Pagans out of Rome, returned to Orleans, where he was joyfully welcomed by his Queen, and her fair daughter Eglantine: which last, upon seeing Valentine thus accosted him:—" Valentine, fame says you are the champion that drove the Pagans out of Rome." Valentine replied:—" Madam I have done little deserving praise." As he spoke these words, Haufray and Henry (two men of envy) entering the chamber of Eglantine, said:—" What do you in the chamber of our sister? It is no place for such stragglers as you are." Valentine answered, " Wrong me not; for I entered not the chamber of your sister to her dishonour. What, though I be poor, and know not my parentage, yet I am not so base as to offer violence unto any lady, much less the blood of kings." And therewithal he departed. The same day Valentine waited upon the King at dinner, which being finished, the King in the hearing of Haufray and Henry, and all his Nobles, began thus:—" My Lords, here is Valentine, that saved my life when I was in danger, therefore for his good service towards me, I freely give him the Earldom of Clerimont of Avergne." Valentine returned many thanks.

But here let us leave them a little to speak of Orson, of whom complaints came unto the King from every side; amongst the rest was that of a poor man, who said unto the King:—" Sire, I am come before you to make complaint against a wild man in the woods. One day, as I and my wife passed through the forest, carrying bread and other victuals, the Wild Man came upon us, took it away, and eat every bit; and more than that he violently abused my wife." The King was disposed to make himself merry with the poor man. " My treasurer (said he) shall see restitution made for the loss of thy victuals; but as for thy wife, thou must bear the burthen thyself." After this his Majesty caused a proclamation, declaring, that whosoever could take this Wild Man, alive or dead, should have a thousand marks for his reward. " Royal sir," said Haufray, " here is Valentine whom you have advanced to high dignities, he is fittest to be employed to fetch in this Wild Man; and if he can vanquish him, then let him have Eglantine in marriage." The King hearing these words of his son, said, " Away! for thy
speech

speech favoureth of nothing but envy. I am willing that he go to my daughter whenever he please."

Haufray was displeas'd at this apology for Valentine; but Valentine, well observing him, brok forth in these words:—"Haufray, without any cause you have spoken ill of me; and your will is, that I should undertake the conquest of the Wild Man, only that I might end my days.—Well, here before the King, I take a solemn oath, that I will find out the Wild Man, fight, and either bring him alive or dead, or else leave my carcase as a witness in the field. But should I conquer and live, I will leave this country till I have found my father; as also whether I was born in wedlock, and how I came to be left an infant in the wood." The King perceiving what danger Valentine had plunged himself into, grew exceeding angry, and calling unto Valentine, said:—"My child, to fight the Wild Man is desperation itself: Therefore let not the evil words of a few malicious persons make you desperate." Valentine replied: "Pardon me, my liege. They call me found brat, which grieveth my very soul, for indeed I know not what I am; wherefore I rest determin'd, and to-morrow will set forward on my enterprise." The lady Eglantine made great lamentation for what had happened, and next morning she sent one of her maidens to Valentine, to bid him come and speak to her before his departure; but Valentine begged to be excus'd for not complying with her request, and soon departed.

CHAP. IX.

NOW Valentine being come to the forest, and putting on his helmet, rode about all day seeking the Wild Man, but in vain. Night drawing on, he tied his horse to a tree, and betook himself to the top of it for the night. In the morning he looked round, and espied the Wild Man (Orson) running too and fro about the forest: at length he came to the place where Valentine had tied his horse, which he began to claw and tear. The horse flung and kicked exceedingly, whilst Valentine not'd the terrible appearance of the Wild Man, and began to be afraid. Orson still kept tearing the horse; and, notwithstanding his kicks and bites, caught fast hold of him, in order to throw him down; when Valentine cried out aloud:—"Wild Man, leave my horse, and stay till I come down, and with me thou shalt have fighting

fighting enough." The Wild Man, hearing a strange voice, looked up to the tree, and espying a man there, made signs to pull him in pieces; upon which Valentine drew his sword, and leaped upon the ground close by the Wild Man. When Orson saw the sword, and that Valentine offered to smite him therewith, he leaped back from the stroke; but suddenly turned upon Valentine, and threw him to the ground. Valentine felt the strength of the Wild Man so great, that he had no hopes of escaping. When he saw that by strength there was no hopes to overcome him, he drew out a sharp-pointed knife, and smote Orson in the side, so that the blood issued out abundantly. Orson, all enraged, gave such a shake, that the woods echoed again at the sound thereof; and fiercely assaulted Valentine with his sharp nails. Valentine, notwithstanding, made again upon Orson with his sword; but Orson, recoiling back, stepped up to a tree hard by, which he pulled up. With this he gave Valentine such a blow that he fell upon knee; however Valentine recovering, the fight continued desperate between these two brethren.



Orson was so strong, that he could have killed Valentine, had it not been for his sword. Long time they fought, till they

they both grew faint. Then Valentine looked wistfully upon Orson, and said thus: "Wild Man, wherefore dost thou not yield unto me? for here thou livest like a beast, having no knowledge of human society: Come thy way with me, and I will give thee food, and clothe thee in apparel fitting human shape."

Orson, understanding he meant him good, fell upon his knees, making signs unto Valentine to forgive him, and he would submit unto his command. This was great joy to Valentine, who then took Orson by the hand, and shewed him by signs to go on before, till they were out of the wood; for he would not trust him behind. Being out of the wood, Valentine took off one of his girts, and bound both his hands fast to his body, that he should not attempt again to do him hurt; and in this manner, mounted on horseback, he led the Wild Man like a beast.

Valentine took his way towards Orleans, there to rest that night; but the inhabitants, perceiving the Wild Man, ran into their houses, and shut up their doors; upon which Valentine called unto them, saying, "Open your doors, and fear not." Yet they would not give him succour. Then Valentine, letting loose the Wild Man, made him signs to run against a gate, which was an inn; which he did with such violence that it fell off the hooks upon the ground. Then Valentine entered the house, and the Wild Man with him. But when the people saw the gate broken down, they all ran out at the back-door. Then Valentine went to the stable and put up his horse; and Orson went into the kitchen, where there were capons and other provisions roasting at the fire. Valentine made signs to Orson, that he should turn the spit; but as soon as Orson understood the meaning, he set his talons upon the meat, and tore it from the spit, devouring it as greedily as a ravenous wolf; and espying a cauldron of water standing by, he put his head into it like a horse, and drank extravagantly. Valentine made signs unto him to forsake the water, and he would give him wine; and therewithal took a pot, and led him into the cellar. When Valentine had drawn the pot full, he gave it unto Orson; who, tasting the liquor, found it to be very good, and drank all of it, and threw the pot against the ground, making a sign for more. Valentine filled the pot again; when Orson, espying a little bowl, put the wine into

it, and carried it to Valentine's horse; but Valentine made signs that his horse drank nothing but water. Then Valentine hastened to supper, making Orson bear him company; but Orson drank so freely of the wine that he became drunk, and fell asleep by the fire. Valentine seeing what had happened, punched him with his foot, that it awoke him; and on Valentine's making signs to him that there were people about the house, Orson suddenly arose, and catching up a great log that lay in the chimney, ran so furiously against the gate of the house, that it shook again. At this Valentine fell into great laughter, and made to Orson a sign to fear nothing; for he would be his watchman. But Orson would not sleep again without the log in his arms.

When morning was come, Valentine took to his horse, leading Orson, bound as before, towards Orleans, and the next day came to the city. The inhabitants, perceiving the Wild Man, shut their doors, and got into the highest rooms to gaze out of the windows. Valentine rode till he came to the palace-gate of the King. But when the Porter saw Orson, he kept the gate shut, till Valentine, with a loud voice, said, "Fear not; but go and tell the King I will shield him and his whole Court from the fury of the Wild Man; for I have made him so tame that he will not hurt any one." Then he took Orson by the hand, and led him into the court. When Bertha and fair Eglantine heard that the Wild Man was come, they ran to their chambers for fear. Valentine went into the great hall, where the King and his Nobles joyfully welcomed him home. King Pepin gazed on the Wild Man, and said: "He is of a proper mould and stature, and, though rough, yet, if he was clothed, he would become the shape of a worthy Knight." Then Valentine said: "My Liege, it is requisite that he be baptized." The King said, "Let it be done." Then Orson was ordered into the hall, to see how he would behave; when, seeing the meat, he took as much as he could grasp in his hand, and devoured it. Valentine made signs to him, that he did not well, whereat Orson seemed ashamed; but the King was much delighted in his rudeness. Orson having got a pot of wine, drank it off, throwing the pot on the ground. Night being come, Valentine and Orson were conducted to a chamber and bed; but as soon as Orson entered, he laid him down on the ground, and fell asleep.

CHAP. X.

GLAD was Lady Eglantine that Valentine had conquered the Wild Man, and sent him word to bring the Wild Man into her presence. Then Valentine led Orson to Eglantine, where were several ladies to behold him.—Orson, in a merry humour, made divers signs unto the Ladies: at last Valentine informed them that he would gladly kiss some of them; whereat they began to laugh. While the ladies were in the chamber of Eglantine, Haufray went to Henry, and said, “Brother, the honour of this foundling encreaseth—we must seek some remedy for it.” Accordingly they rushed into the chamber of Eglantine, and Haufray thus began with Valentine: “Disloyal man, now shalt thou know the consequence of thy villainy in dishonouring the King by abusing our sister.” With that Haufray called Valentine a traitor, and smote him on the face. Henry, on the other side, with a glave, thought to have smitten him to the earth; when Orson gave Haufray such a stroke with his rough hand, that he felled him: and then running to Henry, girded him so between his arms that he would have destroyed him. Haufray and Henry then made great complaints against Valentine and the Wild Man, saying, “Father, this Valentine hath brought hither the Wild Man to work our overthrow; and will shortly do the same against your royal person.” The King hearing this complaint, sent for Valentine, to demand the cause of this disorder. Valentine being come, said “Dread sovereign, I was in the chamber of your daughter Eglantine, accompanied with divers ladies, that desired to see Orson: I know not why, your sons entered, charging me that I had abused your daughter; and Haufray smote me on the face, and Henry, lifting up a glave, thought to have taken away my life; which, when Orson saw, he smote them both to the earth. The King said, “Is that true that you have said?” “Upon my life” said Valentine, “all that I have spoken is true.” Then said the King—“Orson hath done nothing but that which he ought to have done. As for you, Haufray and Henry, I see that you are full of malice against Valentine; therefore, I charge you from henceforth that you attempt no ill against him. With this answer Haufray and Henry departed, sorrowfully mortified.

Valentine staid in the King's Hall with the other Nobles; and Orson went into the kitchen where the cooks were preparing supper, and espying two capons, eat them up raw, like a hungry dog. The Cook, seeing him eat up the capons, took a pestle that lay by, and gave him such a blow that he made him bow therewith. Orson, in return, took the Cook up between the legs, and threw him down upon the ground, and had like to have beaten him to death.— Tidings being brought to the King that Orson had slain the Cook, he ordered Orson to be brought before him, and signified unto him that he should be hanged; but Orson fetched the pestle, and made signs how the Cook had beaten him therewith; wherefore the King commanded that none should offer Orson any injury.

Not long after the coming of Valentine and Orson into the Court, Duke Savary sent unto King Pepin, to request his aid against a certain Pagan, called the Green Knight, who had besieged his confines, and intended to have his daughter by force of arms.—The King promised him assistance. Now this Green Knight was brother to Ferragus, the Giant, that kept in his Castle Lady Bellissant, the mother of Valentine and Orson. Accordingly both armies met; when the Green Knight, with his battle-axe, slew two valiant Knights; upon which Duke Savary came up to encounter him. But it was reported of the Green Knight, that he should never be overcome by any but a king's son, and one that had never sucked the breasts of any woman. These two valiant leaders fought long and fiercely; but the Duke was surrounded, and being taken prisoner, was carried before the Green Knight; whereupon the Green Knight began to revile the Duke in this manner: "Now that thou art my vassal, and I have power over thy life, give me thy daughter Fezon to wife, and so redeem thyself; or be assured I will have her against thy will." To this menace the Duke thus answered: "Proud and insolent Saracen, I will never consent to thy having my daughter; except thou wilt be baptized." The Green Knight replied, "I am bound to Mahomet; but thy daughter's beauty hath so enthralled me, that I will offer these conditions—That thou shalt find out a Knight within the space of six months to encounter me; and if it happen that he can conquer me, I vow to give up thy daughter; but if I prove conqueror, then thou shalt
resign

reſign thy daughter to be my lawful wife." To theſe articles the Duke agreed, and a truce was accordingly proclaimed. Duke Savary repaired to Aquitain; and his Counſellors hearing what had paſſed, adviſed him to diſpatch meſſengers into all lands, with this advertiſement:— "If there be any Knight whatſoever that durſt encounter the Green Knight, for the love of the beautiful Fezon, he ſhould lay down his gage, and ſo be answered." And accordingly letters were ſent into twelve Chriſtian lands.

CHAP. XI.

DURING the truce between Duke Savary and the Green Knight, King Pepin went againſt his enemies at Lyons, attacked King Lampatris, who had a hundred thouſand men, and forced him to retire into a very ſtrong city in Monemarch. King Pepin beſieged and took it, and then returned to Paris. Being informed of the truce which Duke Savary had made with the Green Knight, the King ſaid to his Barons, "Who is he amongſt you that would win fair Fezon, by fighting in ſingle combat with the Green Knight; whom if he conquer, the Duke will not only give him his daughter, but one half of his poſſeſſions." Now none of the Knights durſt undertake the enterpriſe; which Valentine perceiving, ſaid unto the King, "If it pleaſe you, I will venture my ſtrength with the Green Knight." "Valentine," ſaid the King, "I freely give thee leave, on condition that after thou haſt tried thy manhood with the Green Knight, thou return, if thou eſcape with life." To this Valentine conſented. But when Eglantine heard that he was going to Aquitain, ſhe ſent for him, and burſting into tears, ſaid, "Ah, Valentine! I perceive you are reſolved to leave France." "Lady," ſaid he, "I bear upon one of my ſhoulders a croſs, which is of the colour of gold; of which ſign I know not what to think; but reſolve never to reſt till I have found out the place of my nativity. And having thus ſpoken he departed.

Valentine ſet out on his journey.—Hauſray and Henry conſpired to bring him and Orſon, who went with him, to an untimely death; and that a ſtrong party ſhould lie in ambuſh to ſet upon Valentine and Orſon on their way. The place appointed for this villainy was a foreſt. Accordingly when Valentine and Orſon drew near, out ſteps the Captain

of the ambuscade, named Grygar, accompanied by his troop, and aiming a furious blow at Valentine, uttered these words, "Yield thyself, or receive thy death." Valentine, amazed at being thus suddenly encompassed, drew his sword, and gave the first that encountered him such a blow upon the head, that he clave him to the teeth. Orson perceiving Valentine thus to lay about him, rent, tore, and bit them with his teeth, that they fell to the ground one upon another.— Valentine, seeing himself thus supported by Orson, made towards Grygar, but being too forward, he plunged himself so far into the throng that he was not able any longer to wield his sword; and so was taken, bound, and carried away. Orson, perceiving Valentine thus hurried from him, ran after them, making a hideous noise, but he could not overtake them. So they hurried Valentine to a castle in the midst of a forest, kept by a cousin to Grygar. Here he confined him in a dungeon, till he acquainted Haufray and Henry with his proceedings. Now Orson took his way towards Paris, never resting till he arrived there: yet Grygar had got there before him; but their comfort was that Orson could not speak, thinking thereby to avoid being suspected. So they agreed that Grygar should return to the Castle, and put Valentine to death. But their counsels were overthrown; for Orson came unto the King's Palace just as the King and Nobles had taken their seats for dinner; when making a mournful noise, he ran along by the table, looking very fiercely upon every man, and making many fearful signs. At last, espying Grygar, he ran furiously at him, smote off one of his ears, put out one of his eyes, and broke out one of his teeth. The King questioning Orson concerning this behaviour, he informed him, by signs, how Grygar had slain Valentine in the forest; adding that he would be revenged for his death, and closed his fist in great rage, in token of defiance. King Pepin, perceiving by his actions his meaning, said, "My Lords, you see this Wild Man hath challenged Grygar to fight him.—I cannot but marvel why he should fix upon Grygar above all the knights here assembled. I suspect some hidden secret, and would have it tried by combat. The Nobles agreed to the King's proposal. Then said Grygar, "Mighty King, let me request you to dismiss me from this combat; for it is not man to man, but a wild savage to encounter with a man." "Nay," said

said the King, "the reason for granting it is, that the treason of which Orson by signs has accused thee, might come to light. You shall enter the field well armed and well mounted; but Orson shall be on foot, and shall bear no weapons." When Orson gathered from signs that he should fight Grygar, he was as glad as Grygar was sorry.

C H A P. XII.

THE place of combat being appointed, Orson attended in readiness. Grygar being entered the lists, saw Orson, and began saying, "Villain, thou hast offered me great wrong, in putting out one of my eyes; but I will make thee acknowledge that thou hast falsely accused me." Orson shewed him his nails, and gnashed his teeth; whereat Grygar suddenly couched his spear, and ran at him; but Orson giving back, Grygar was disappointed of his mark, and ran his spear fast in the ground. Orson seeing his advantage, caught Grygar's horse fast by the neck, making him so furious that he overthrew his rider. Orson now encountered Grygar on foot and smote off one his arms, and then gave him such a wound, that quite cut him to the reins of his back. Grygar cried out most piteously, and requested he might be carried before the King; to whom he declared that the contrivers of the plot were Haufray and Henry, his sons, at whose instigation he had confined Valentine in prison, and designed to put him to death. The King therefore commanded Grygar to be hanged on a tree. He then made haste to the prison where Valentine lay, Orson running by his side with many signs of joy.

King Pepin being arrived at the Castle, went to the dungeon where Valentine was confined and brought him forth. Valentine fell on his knees, and gave him many thanks for his deliverance. The Nobles also told him how Orson had fought with the traitor Grygar, and overcome him; whereat Valentine most ardently embraced Orson. The King then said unto Valentine, "Seeing thou art thus delivered from thy enemies, I would advise thee to abide with me." But he replied, Dread Sovereign, pardon me, for I will never return again till I have found out my parents; and so I humbly take my leave of your Majesty.

King Pepin then returned to Paris, and Valentine and Orson took their way to fight the GreenK night. When they

they drew near Acquitain, they met an ancient man in the habit of a pilgrim. This man was Blandiman, Squire to the Lady Bellifant, whom he had left in the Castle of the Giant Ferragus. Valentine demanded who he was, and whence he came. "Sir," said the Pilgrim, "from Constantinople; but I could not enter the city by reason a Pagan Soldan had besieged it. I take my way to Paris, for I have a message for King Pepin, from a sister of his named Bellifant, that long hath been banished from Constantinople wrongfully, and is now in the house of a Giant that useth her honourably." Valentine then invited him to return to Acquitain, telling him that he was going to fight the Green Knight. But Blandiman replied, "My lady hath put me in trust of her affairs, and I will discharge the duty of a faithful servant towards her. The Pilgrim being gone, Valentine looked long after him. At last arriving at the Palace of Duke Savary, he said, "Great Duke, know I am come hither to combat with the Green Knight; and also to behold the beauteous Lady Fezon." The Duke then said unto him, "Knight, since your coming hither was to combat the Green Knight, go salute my daughter, and you shall receive from her a ring of gold."

The Duke conducted Valentine and Orson into the Hall of the Palace, where fifteen other Knights were assembled. Valentine beheld her; and advancing, he saluted her thus: "Lady, the gods preserve you from the Green Knight, who is not worthy to touch your lips. Pepin, the mighty King of France, hath sent me hither to present to you the most puissant man on the earth, that feareth no man, nor any weapon, though he cannot speak: and whom, I am assured the Green Knight is not able to withstand." "Sir," said the Lady, "I am much obliged to the King of France, and also to you. But why is this worthy champion no better clothed, for methinks he is well formed, and of a pleasant countenance." "Lady," said Valentine, "he never wore garment till very lately, when, I caused this jacket to be made, moreover, when he first came into Paris he was quite naked, and his flesh so hard, that he feared neither wind nor cold." While Valentine was speaking these words, Fezon beheld Orson very wistfully, for she was in love with him. But Valentine again thus spake: "Lady, for myself I must say something also; know, then, that only for love of you have I ventured hither, to try my fortune with the Green Knight,

and

and, either, as conqueror, deliver him into your hands, or suffer death, as many have done before me." "Why then, fair Knight," replied she, "God be thy speed I and therewithal drew forth two rings of gold, giving Valentine one, Orson the other. Then, with the other Knights, they were welcomed with great feasting; during which Fezon still fixed her eyes on Orson, as did Orson his on her, with exceeding gracious aspects.

Now, in the midst of their feasting, the Green Knight came thundering at the gates, to have a sight of the lady Fezon; for it had been a condition between the Duke and him, that every day he should behold Lady Fezon: and being entered, he cried out with a loud voice, "Valiant Duke of Acquitain, have you any more champions to fight with me?" The Duke answered, "Yes, I have within my palace sixteen valiant Knights that mean to try their fortune with thee." "Then," said the Green Knight, "let me see them." and therewithal he entered the Hall, sternly beholding all the Knights one after another. At length he spake to them in this manner: "Make the most of your time, my Lords; eat, drink, and be merry; for to-morrow it will fall to your share to be hanged on the top of my tree, as many have done before you." At which haughty words Valentine grew exceeding angry, and said, "Proud Knight, these vaunts might as well have lain smothered in thy breast; for I tell thee, to-day is come hither a Knight that will hold thee tack more than any that ever yet encountered thee." Now Orson, understanding that Valentine spoke this of him, and also knowing it to be the Green Knight saluted him with a fierce visage, and whetting his teeth, leaped from the table, and taking the Green Knight by the middle, threw him upon his neck, as if he had been a little child, and afterwards against the wall with such violence, that he lay as dead; then sitting himself at the table, as before, and laughing he made signs that he would bear upon his neck three such as the Green Knight. At this sudden action of Orson, all the Knights said, "Now is he come that shall overthrow the Green Knight." The lady on the other hand, beholding Orson's valour, was instantly overcome with love of him. After some time the Green Knight recovering, began thus,—"Lords, this Wild Man now came upon me unawares, but to-morrow morning I will make him an example to all
Knights,

Knights, I will ordain a gibbet for him, higher and stronger than for any that have yet been vanquished; and thereon I will hang his beastly corpse for beasts and birds to make their prey.

CHAP. XIII.

ORSON perceiving the Green Knight threatening him, began to chatter, and making signs that he would fight him on the morrow, took off his hood and threw it on the ground as his gage, which Valentine seeing, spoke thus to the Green Knight: "Sir, the Wild Man challengeth you, and in token thereof hath thrown his gage; which, if your stomach serve, I advise you to take up." But the Green Knight replied never a word. Duke Savary being present, said unto him, "Sir Knight, I perceive the battle will grow strong between the Wild Man and you." The Green Knight swore by Mahomet, that ere the morrow's sun was set, he would try the utmost of his strength, for he should never return again from the field, but be hanged a great deal higher than any of the rest; and with these words he left the Castle. The first who was to fight with the Green Knight was a Knight of France, called Galeram, who said, "Lords, so you be pleased, I am the man to make the first trial." To this they agreed, and presently he took leave of the lady. The Green Knight perceiving his approach, set spurs to his horse, and encountered Galeram so fiercely that he smote him off his horse; then suddenly alighting took off the helmet from him, and, notwithstanding Galeram acknowledged himself vanquished, he hanged him on a tree, as he had done the rest before. The next Knight was named Tyris, he was run through the body at the first rencontre, and hung up. Orson perceiving that Galeram was put to death, made signs that he would fight with him presently, without letting him have any respite; but Valentine answered him again, by signs, that he would first go try his own strength with him. Valentine mounted, and putting spurs to his horse, took his way towards the Green Knight's tent, who espying him, was more fearful of him than of all the rest; saying, "Knight, see'st thou yonder tree? There shalt thou find hanging a green shield; fetch it hither to me, and I will reward thee liberally." "Sir," said Valentine, "you have servants enough of your own; send them."

By

“By my law,” quoth the Green Knight, “you shall either bring the shield, or else you shall never conquer me.” When Valentine had considered these words he rode towards the tree; but he lost his labour; returning unto the Green Knight, he said, “Go fetch thy shield thyself, for I cannot.” “Friend,” said the Green Knight, “shall I tell thee wherefore I sent thee? That shield was given to me by a Fairy, and therein remaineth such virtue, that no man, be he ever so strong, can take it from the place where it is fastened, save him alone by whom I shall be overcome. The doubt I stood in of thee therefore made me send thee; but since thou didst not get the shield, I advise thee to return and save thyself. Further know this there is not one living that can vanquish me, except he be the son of a king, and hath never sucked the breast of any woman. At these words Valentine mounting his horse, returned to the city; whereat Duke Savary and his Lords were exceedingly joyful. Orson ran and caught him in his arms, and kissed him. “Valentine,” said the Duke, “you have escaped well.” “Gracious Duke,” said he, “I can make but small boast; but tomorrow there is appointed a new trial: and the victory will light upon whom the gods please to favour.” A sumptuous supper was provided, which being ended, Valentine withdrew himself to his private chamber.

CHAP. XIV.

VALENTINE, as he lay in bed, thinking on what happened the day before, began to reason thus:—“Of a truth I am not that King’s son that should overcome the Green Knight; for I can neither remove the shield he sent me for, nor was I nourished without the breast of a woman. What if Orson should be armed in my stead?”

At break of day Valentine arose, and told Orson, by signs, to put on his armour, take his horse, and make towards the Green Knight, to fight with him. Orson, understanding his intent, danced up and down joyfully. He declined, however, Valentine’s horse and arms; desiring only a club, and that he would have no other armour. But Valentine gave him to understand that he must put on the same armour, and ride on the same horse, that the Green Knight might not know but that it was Valentine. Orson agreed to it; and, being armed like Valentine, took leave of the Duke,

Duke, and embraced Valentine. But before he mounted, he went to take leave of the Lady Fezon; and gave her to understand that, for the love of her, he would fight with the Pagan Knight. The Lady made a sign that she loved him well. It was not long before Orson got to the pavillion of the Green Knight, and smote the top thereof with his spear, signifying defiance. The Green Knight swore by Mahomet, that he would lower his pride: so mounting his steed, and couching his spear, he entered the field. Orson, seeing him, seemed to give back, as half afraid; but presently encountered his antagonist with such force that horses and men fell to the earth. Upon this, Orson threw away his armour and weapons, and suddenly caught the Green Knight fast by the arms, cast him on the ground, took off his helm, and held him down, so that he was forced to yield to his mercy: but Orson, remembering his cruelty to other knights, would have taken away his life, if Valentine had not made signs to Orson not to kill him; when he thus spoke unto the Green Knight:—"Proud Knight, seeing how you have treated vanquished knights, by hanging them on yonder tree, say, why you yourself should not now be hanged on the highest branch?" "Alas!" said the Knight, "I trust you will spare my life." "No," saith Valentine, "except upon condition; first, That you renounce Paganism; secondly, That you go into France, and tell King Pepin, that by Valentine and Orson you were overcome in single combat;" which conditions the Green Knight bound himself by oath to perform.

Then Valentine made signs unto Orson to let the Green Knight arise. Being on his feet, the Green Knight spoke thus to Valentine:—"Sir, it was you that combated against me yesterday, and none but you did I expect this day; but I see I am conquered by the man that, in the Duke's palace, threw me on the ground. Then," saith the Green Knight, "send the Knight that hath conquered me to yonder tree, and, if he bring away the shield, I shall be assured he is the man that should conquer me." Valentine made a sign to Orson to fetch away the shield; who stretching out his arm to take it down, it suddenly leaped into his hand; so he brought it to the Green Knight. When he saw that Orson had the shield, he spake thus:—"Alas! it has ever been reported, that he who might conquer me should be no less than a son of a King and Queen, and such a one as never
sucked

sucked the breast of any woman: and this I shall prove by my sister Clerimond, who hath a head of brass, that telleth her the adventures and fortunes that to all her generation shall befall. Likewise this head will continue speaking, until such time as the most worthy Knight of the world, and the only man to have my sister Clerimond to wife, enter the chamber where it now standeth; and he being once entered, the said head shall lose its virtue; wherefore, fair Knight, I am strongly inclined to believe you are the person destined to wed my sister."

C H A P. XV.

THE Green Knight, having made this motion of the marriage of his sister, gave unto Valentine a ring of gold, upon condition that he would carry it unto her. And this ring Valentine accepted, saying, he could never rest till he should see the lady. After this, the Green Knight and Valentine and Orson entered the palace. Duke Savary said unto his daughter: "Behold here the Green Knight!—This valiant Knight, that Valentine hath brought, hath conquered my enemy; so may he likewise conquer your love." The Lady answered: "My Lord and Father! I submit to your pleasure. Besides, your promise is past, that whosoever should vanquish the Pagan Knight, should receive me for his wife. Now, my Lord, (according to your promise) you must deliver me to him, and I accept him as my spouse." The Duke then sent for a Priest, who forthwith contracted them. This ended, Orson made signs unto the Lady, that he would not live with her till he had got the use of his tongue, and Valentine had conquered the love of the Lady Clerimond.

The day was spent in great banquetings; after which every man betook him to his rest.—Valentine and Orson being lodged most richly. In the dead time of the night, an Angel appeared unto Valentine, saying, "Valentine! see that in the morning thou depart the land, and take along with thee Orson, and get thee into the castle of Ferragus, where you will find the Lady Clerimond, by whom thou shalt understand whence thou art descended." This vision much engaged Valentine's thoughts; and, day being come, he and Orson hastened unto the Duke's palace, where the Green Knight spake unto the Duke in this manner: "Most re-

nowned Duke! I freely confefs myself vanquished; and therefore renounce all right unto your daughter, upon condition that you cause me to be baptized." Whereupon, a Priest being sent for, Valentine begged that the name of the knight be called Pepin. The Duke consented unto Valentine's demand; so he was called Pepin. Then Valentine and Orson departed towards the Lady Clerimond, to find out the castle of Ferragus; and the Green Knight took the road for France.

CHAP. XVI.

ABOUT this time, Blandiman, 'Squire to Lady Bellifant. arrived at King Pepin's court, in the habit of a pilgrim, "Worthy King!" said Blandiman, "I am no pilgrim; but only to come more safely unto you I have taken this habit. Wherefore know, that I am a messenger sent from the Lady your sister, who, by false accusations, hath been banished her country by the Emperor Alexander, and at this time liveth in great sorrow of heart." The King demanded where his sister was? Blandiman replied: "I know where she is; but have given my word never to discover it: but, worthy King, if you doubt her loyalty, I shall bring you a man that will fight the quarrel to prove her honesty." "Nay," said the King, "I have seen enough thereof by the downfall of the Arch-Priest; also I have made great enquiry to hear of her, but cannot: but that which most grieveth me, is, that she was great with child when she was banished." "My Lord," said Blandiman, "my Lady being taken exceedingly ill in the forest of Orleans, dispatched me to get her the help of woman; but, ere I could return, she was delivered of two sons, one of which was carried away by a bear into the wood, she never knew whither; which she followed so long, that at last she fell down in a swoon. I took her up, and comforted her as well as I could. At length, being somewhat recovered, she unfolded the manner of the loss of one of her children; and the other, she said, was under a tree where I had left her. I, hearing her say so, hastened to the place; but, alas! I could not find the other child. This account, worthy King, is given you by that Blandiman, whom you appointed to attend your sister when she married the Emperor of Greece." The King, astonished, cried out, "O Blandiman! Blandiman! How long ago is it since what
you

You have told me happened?" "My Lord," said he, "it was that day you met me in the forest of Orleans." Then presently came into the King's mind the finding of Valentine, and how by him Orson was conquered in the same wood; whence he concluded, that these were the two babes brought forth by his sister: wherefore, sending for the Queen and all his Courtiers, he said unto them: "I have long nourished in my court Valentine; and now it doth plainly appear he was brought forth in the forest by my sister Bellifant, in her exile, and Orson is his brother; and both are sons to the Emperor of Greece." Whereupon King Pepin made a solemn vow, that he would go in person into Greece, to tell the Emperor the glad some tidings concerning his wife Bellifant and two sons,

C H A P. XVII.

KING Pepin, being arrived at Rome, in his way to Greece, received the news that the Soldan of Egypt, with a mighty army, had besieged Constantinople; whereupon craving aid of the Pope, forces were raised in all the territories of the Church; and King Pepin, coming to Constantinople, found the city besieged, and the Emperor close confined within it. But King Pepin resolved to fight his way; and sent letters to the Emperor, to make a vigorous sally at such time as he should give the onset. The King, upon this, charged the Soldan's main body; and the Emperor issuing out with his army, the Infidels were in a manner hemmed in. King Pepin, pressing on, cried, "Courage, noble brother! and you shall have news of your lady Bellifant;" which made the Emperor encourage his men to the utmost. The King of Slavonia, coming in with 50,000 men, restored the battle, which continued bloody and doubtful. At length, King Pepin and the Emperor, finding they were over-numbered, and that the enemy continually received fresh succours, thought fit to retire into the city; where we must now leave them, closely begirt with a siege, and enduring extreme famine.

C H A P. XVIII.

AFTER many days travel, Valentine and Orson lighted upon an island, in which stood the castle which the Green Knight had directed him to, and was in the keeping

of Lady Clerimond, wherein stood a Head of Brass, which gave answer to any thing that was demanded. Valentine and Orson tried to get entrance, but were resisted. Then Clerimond, leaning out of a window, said: "What are you, who dare offer to enter my castle without leave?"—"Lady," said Valentine, "I am a knight, that would gladly speak with the Head of Brass; because, as I understand, it resolves all doubts." The Lady said, "If you bring any sign from the Green Knight, you may freely enter; or you may try your valour, by running six courses with the Seneschal." This Valentine chose. The Lady, seeing his hardiness, fell in love with him; and going into the chamber where the Head of Brass was, said unto it, "Who is that knight that would enter this castle?" "Lady," said the Head, "of that knight you shall know nothing until you have brought him before me."

CHAP. XIX.

WITHIN the castle there was a dwarf named Pacolet, famous in necromancy, and he had a wooden horse, which, by means of a pin that he fixed on the head, conveyed him to any part in a short time. He mounted his horse, and flew to Portugal, and acquainted Ferragus with his sister's proceedings. Ferragus was exceedingly angry. He bid Pacolet return and acquaint his sister that he would come in person to visit her.

When Pacolet returned, Clerimond was angry he had not informed her of his departure. Valentine called Orson unto him, and cut the thin thread from under his tongue; and he then related the whole of his life in the forest.

Shortly after, arrived Ferragus at his sister's castle.

Then Valentine said: "Sir, within your castle you have a Christian woman, who is mother unto me. Her name is Bellifant." "You say truth," said Ferragus, "and you shall go with me, that you may behold her, and my sister likewise; and then I intend to solemnize your nuptial day.

They all departed for Portugal; and when they arrived there, Ferragus ordered Valentine and Orson to be committed to a dungeon; which grieved Clerimond exceedingly. But Pacolet, by enchantment, brought them both before their mother; who, having been informed by Clerimond that her sons were prisoners in the castle, as soon as she saw them, she

She embraced them, saying, "Alas, my children! for your sakes have I suffered much; but since I have seen and embraced you, all my griefs are vanished." Then Pacolet conveyed them safe from Ferragus to the castle of Clerimond.

CHAP. XX.

SOME time afterwards, Ferragus declared war against the Duke of Aquitain. Valentine and Orson joined the Duke's forces, accompanied by Pacolet. A bloody battle ensued, in which the Duke was taken, but was rescued by Orson; for which the Duke promised him his daughter Fezon (not knowing it was Orson to whom he had promised his daughter before). Valentine and Orson being in disguise, when the battle was ended, they repaired to the Duke's palace, where the Duke introduced him to his daughter; telling her, by that knight he was rescued from Ferragus; bidding her, at the same time, accept him for her husband. But she refused; having promised her hand to the knight who vanquished the Green Knight. When Orson heard that, he went out and threw off his disguise, and he and Valentine entered to the great joy of Fezon and the Duke. Then Orson and Fezon were married, in the presence of Lady Bellifant and Clerimond: Valentine and Clerimond were also married.

Valentine departed for Constantinople, accompanied by Pacolet, and they arrived the next night at the Imperial Palace, where sat King Pepin and the Green Knight, at supper with the Emperor. As soon as King Pepin saw Valentine, he exclaimed—"Great Emperor! behold your son!" The Emperor then embraced him, and wept, saying, "Son, the traitor who accused your mother has suffered, confessing his guilt. Since that, I have sent into all nations, to learn what is become of her; but all in vain." "Father," said Valentine, "last night I saw and conversed with her." When the Emperor heard this he was exceeding joyful.

Constantinople; at this time, was besieged by the Saracens, insomuch that the inhabitants were in great distress. Valentine and the Green Knight issued out, with 2,000 men, and gained 300 chariots laden with provisions. But Valentine and the Green Knight were taken prisoners; but Pacolet went to them in the night, and, placing them on his wooden horse, carried them safe to Constantinople.

C H A P. XXI.

THE Giant Ferragus being determined to be revenged on Valentine and Orson and his sister Clerimond, sent a messenger to King Trompart desiring his assistance, and to bring Adrimian the enchanter, to confound Pacolet, to whom he was well known. Adrimian seeing Clerimond, asked "who that lady was?" "It is Clerimond," said Pacolet. At night, Adrimian enchanted all within the court into sleep, and getting Pacolet's horse, he placed Clerimond thereon, and turning the pin, he carried her to Trompart's tent, who setting her on the wooden horse with himself, turned the pin the wrong way, carried her to India, where the King ordered him to be beheaded; Trompart having before killed the King of India's brother. Clerimond was led to the King, where he offered her marriage; to which she agreed to, if he would consent to her remaining single a year, as she had made a vow not to marry till that time, to which he agreed.

Pacolet was exceedingly vexed, when he found Clerimond and his horse was gone, he immediately went in disguise to Adrimian, and when he was asleep, cut off his head; he then went to Ferragus's tent and enchanted him so, that he made him run by his side to Aquitain, where the Duke put him to death.

C H A P. XXII.

THE Emperor and King Pepin issued out of the city to assault the enemy, who had so long besieged it. When the Duke of Aquitain with his forces came up, and gained a complete victory (there were with the Duke, Bellisant, the wife of the Emperor, and Orson, her son, whom the Emperor had not yet seen).

When the battle was ended, Valentine brought Orson before the Emperor, saying, "there is my brother Orson:" then the Emperor embraced him.

After this they set out to visit the tent of the Empress Bellisant. When the Emperor saw his wife, he in tears embraced her. He then requested her pardon for the wrongs done her, which she freely gave. After which, she gave the Merchant, who proved her innocence, a thousand marks of gold.

Valentine

Valentine enquiring for Clerimond, found she was taken away by Trompart; he then vowed not to rest till he had found her.

The wars being ended, King Pepin, Orson, and Lady Fezon returned to France, where Haufray and Henry plotted against the life of Orson, but were frustrated in all their designs.

Valentine now set out in quest of Clerimond, accompanied by Pacolet; being come to Antioch, the King summoned them before him: "Christians," said he, "you must either renounce you faith or fight a Dragon, feathered like a griffin, with a head like a serpent, and a sting within her mouth."

Valentine chose the latter: he caused a shield to be made, with spikes a foot long. He then put on his armour, mounted his horse, and went forth to seek the Dragon; coming within sight of her, she beat with her wings, and cast out of her mouth fire. Valentine leaving his axe at his saddle-bow, went toward the Dragon, who lifted up her paw, which he caught on the spikes of his shield, which made her cry out horribly and draw back. Valentine pursued, gave her a blow under the ear that he broke his sword; he then drew a knife and stuck it in her throat; he then ran and fetched his axe, and giving the Dragon a blow on the the tail cut off most part, which so enraged the beast that she flew at Valentine's head, which he prevented by thrusting the axe in her throat, and she fell down dead.

Valentine having overcome the Dragon, the King looked upon him as a wonder of the age: the King then became a Christian, and ordered all his subjects to be baptized: after this, the Queen Rozamond's father Brandiffer, being incensed against her husband for changing his religion, seized on him, and putting him to death, took away his daughter Rozamond. In their voyage home they were driven into Chretope, a city on the coast of Greece, where was the Emperor of Greece and the Green Knight, who were seized by Brandiffer's troops, and confined in a castle at Lize, in which he put his two daughters, Rozamond and Galozy.

C H A P. XXIII.

THE year being now expired that Clerimond had asked for, the King of India now came to her to perform her promise; which, in order to avoid, she feigned madness, and this she did so naturally, that none of her attendants dare come near her. In the mean time, Valentine, hearing that King Trompart had been slain by the King of India, and that his son Lucar had assembled an army to revenge his death, he entered into the service of Lucar, thinking thereby to gain tidings of Clerimond. Lucar sent Valentine with a letter of defiance to the King of India, which enraged him. He then ordered Valentine to be put to death, unless he could produce any token from Rozamond, Lucar's wife, who had a sincere affection for him, but was given to Lucar by Brandiffer her father, against her consent. Then Valentine delivered unto him a letter, which Rozamond had given him privately to deliver to the King of India. He then (the King,) entertained him sumptuously, and gave him liberty to return to Lucar.

The next day Lucar marched to attack the King of India, taking with him Rozamond. When the King of India heard Rozamond was there, he was exceeding glad. He then made a sally, and going to the tent of Rozamond, placed her behind him, and rode away with her. Brandiffer being told of it, he immediately pursued her. She pleaded as an excuse, thinking it was the Baron, whom her husband had sent to convey her away from the field of battle, to which Lucar gave credit. Soon afterwards, the King of India made a second attempt in which he succeeded, and carried her away in safety to the city. Intelligence was now brought to Brandiffer, that King Pepin had laid siege to Angory, where his lady then lay in child-bed. Brandiffer then ordered 100,000 men, commanded by Murgalant and Valentine, to go against the Christians. Valentine then ordered Pacolet to acquaint King Pepin and Orson with the design of Brandiffer; this he did, and advised King Pepin to make an attack on the Pagans in the dead of the night. Pacolet by his art cast them into a deep sleep, by which means the Pagans were all cut to pieces, and the city of Angory taken.

Valentine

Valentine then returned to Lucar, carrying with him the body of Murgalant, who was slain, which Lucar caused to be honourably buried.

CHAP. XXIV.

IT was now agreed between Brandiffer and Lucar, to put to death the Emperor of Greece, and the Green Knight, whom they had confined.

Valentine and Pacolet then departed to release the Emperor and the Green Knight, and to seek Clerimond. About this time King Pepin had a dream, wherein he was ordered to go to Jerusalem, to visit the holy place. Orson, Mylon Daugler, and the twelve Peers of France, offered to accompany him. Thus attended, they set out. Haufray and Henry plotted against their father, to deliver him into the hands of Brandiffer. Henry, however, embarked with his father, but Haufray went to India; and offering to deliver Pepin and the Peers of France into Brandiffer's hands, provided he would give him his daughter Galazy in marriage, Brandiffer gave him a letter for his daughter, in which he acquainted her with the whole matter, and desired her to inflict such punishment as his unnatural conduct deserved. With that, she ordered him to be thrown into a dungeon; where, to his surprise, he found the Emperor of Greece, Orson, and the Green Knight.

Valentine and Pacolet left the Saracens in India, and soon arrived at Angory, to wait the return of King Pepin from Jerusalem; but during King Pepin's abode there, came Brandiffer, Lucar, and the Indian King. Lucar informing the King of Jerusalem of the loss of Angory, requested him to deliver Pepin and his suite into his hands. The King of Jury then commanded them to be brought before him. Pepin proposed for his son Henry to pass for him, which he refused. Then Acquitain's daughter personated King Pepin, whilst he carried his hat and scarf in quality of a page. They were then delivered up to Brandiffer, who confined them in the castle of his daughter Galazy. But the King of India desiring to have the page (Pepin) who was of small stature, for his dwarf, he carried him to India.

It was the custom of the King of India to send, food at every meal, to Clerimond. Pepin was appointed to carry it,
Pepin,

Pepin, pitying her condition, she unbosomed herself to him; telling him how she was betrothed to Valentine. Pepin was transported with joy at this discovery, and cried out—"I am King Pepin, Valentine's uncle." At this Clerimond swooned; but being recovered, Pepin informed her he would acquaint Valentine where she was.

Now the twelve Peers of France, and Henry, the King's son, were confined by Brandiffer in the same dungeon with the Emperor of Greece, Orson, the Green Knight, and Haufray.

Brandiffer and Lucar went to lay siege to Angory. Soon after their arrival, Pacolet went to their camp, pretending friendship for Lucar. Having cast Lucar into a profound sleep, he conveyed him to Angory. As soon as Lucar perceived the trick, he plunged a knife into Pacolet, who instantly fell dead.

Valentine exchanged Lucar for Pepin, as he supposed; which proving to be Aquitain's daughter, he then heard that his uncle was carried to India. Valentine, having at this time the Marshal of India prisoner, he exchanged him for his uncle, King Pepin, by whom he learned where his Clerimond was.

Valentine resolving to deliver Clerimond from the King of India, went there, under the disguise of a Physician, pretending to cure madness, he accordingly was introduced to Clerimond, where he discovered himself to her: no words can express their joy at meeting. Valentine espying Pacolet's horse in a corner said, "With our old friend's horse, we will make our escape." They accordingly mounted the wooden horse, and turning the pin towards Angory, arrived the next morning, where he was married to Clerimond. Valentine soon after made himself master of the castle in which his father, and the rest were imprisoned, and opening the door of the dungeon, they all came out and embraced him. After a few days festivity, Haufray and Henry returned to France: and Valentine to Angory, leaving the Emperor, Orson, and the Green Knight, in possession of the castle. Where Orson became enamoured of Galazy. Haufray and Henry soon afterwards caused their Father and the Queen, to be murdered, and their brother Charles to be taken privately away.

Brandiffer and his allies laid siege to Angory: which the
Emperor,

Emperor, Orson, and the Green Knight hearing of, went to assist Valentine. In their way, they fell in with a body of Brandiffer's troops, whom they defeated; the Emperor ordered all his companions to put on the armour of the Saracens which proved fatal to him. Valentine being engaged with the Pagans, Lucar was slain. At this time the Emperor and Orson coming up, Valentine thrust his spear through the Emperor, who fell dead. Valentine cried out "Mont joy vive Greece." But Orson wept and said:—"Brother you have slain your father." When Valentine heard this, he fell from his horse: but he was prevailed on to remount, and rushing on to the battle slew King Christo, and Brandiffer, when the Pagans saw that they fled on all sides.

The next day, Valentine caused the body of the Emperor to be interred; but could not be comforted. He and Orson returned into Greece, leaving the Green Knight at Angory.

CHAP. XXV.

THE Empress after the sorrowful death of her lord, recommended her sons to govern the kingdom jointly. But Valentine being troubled in mind, went on a pilgrimage where he met with a Hermit, who enjoined a seven years penance; to eat that which fell from his own table, and to lie under the stairs, and keep silence during that time. Valentine then returned disguised; and did as the Hermit ordered him.

Hugo, King of Hungary, demanded Clerimond in marriage, assuring her Valentine was dead. He in order to obtain her, got Orson and the Green Knight into his power; forged letters as coming from Orson, assuring her that his brother was dead; with that she gave him hopes.

Valentine all the time observing her pitied her distress. Seven years being elapsed Valentine was warned by an Angel, that he must quit the world, at this news he by his gestures (for he was not able to speak) expressed great joy: he making signs for pen and ink, wrote down that it was himself, who, lived like a pilgrim; inclosing half a ring, which he had received from Clerimond, put his name to the letter, sealed it, then stretched himself out and died. When Orson heard of the supposed pilgrim's death, he was much grieved, and attempted to take the letter out of his hand, but all in vain.

vain. Then came Clerimond, and as soon as she laid hold of the paper the hand opened of itself. The letter being read great lamentation was made for the death of Valentine, particularly by Clerimond, who could never be prevailed upon to enter into a second marriage.

Orson governed the Empire seven years and had two sons. Orson, in consequence of his wife dying, retired to a Forest where he had a vision, glorious beyond description. Returning next day to his Palace he said to the Green Knight, "I see the uncertainty of the world, I resign my children unto you, for I will spend the remainder of my days in solitary contemplation." Then taking solemn leave he went back to the forest, where he spent the remainder of his days. The Green Knight faithfully governed his children, so that they carefully spent their time on earth and followed their Father to his grave.

F I N I S.



