

# Aunt Louisa's Book of Fairy Stories.



LONDON  
FREDERICK WARNE & CO  
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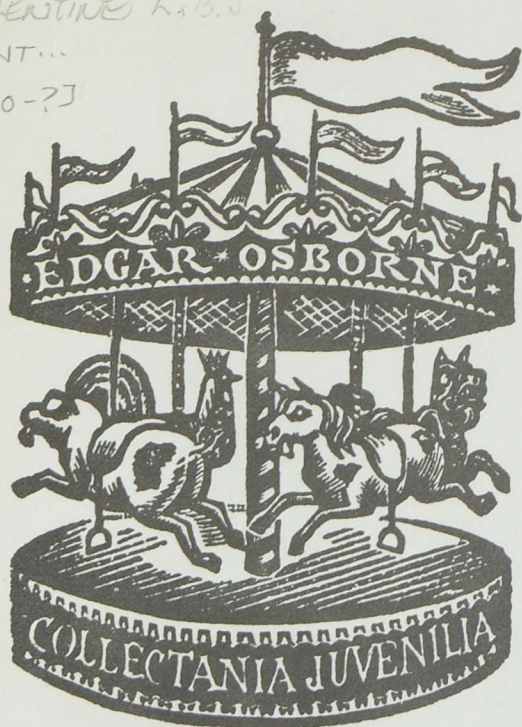






Margaret Scott

AUNT LOUISA'S  
BOOK OF FAIRY STORIES  
AND WONDER TALES



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*WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS*



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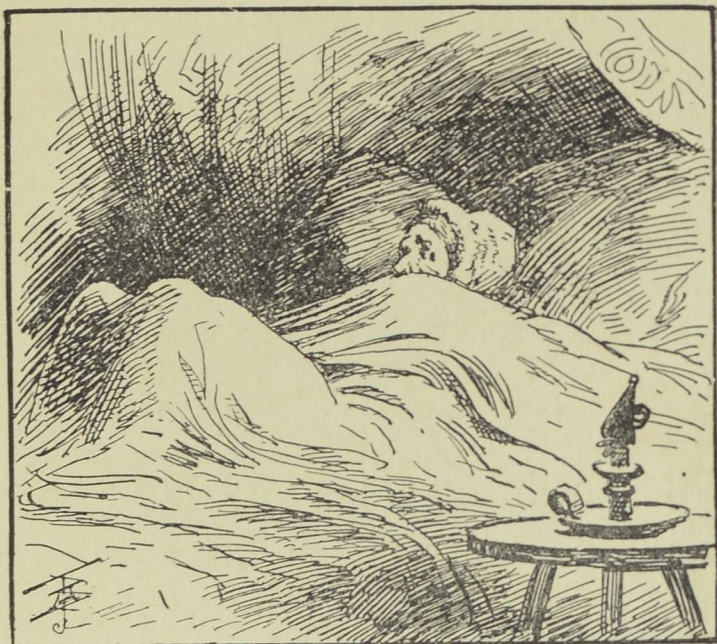






# TEENY-TINY

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ONCE upon a time there was a teeny-tiny woman lived in a teeny-tiny house in a teeny-tiny village. Now, one day this teeny-tiny woman put on her teeny-tiny bonnet, and went out of her teeny-tiny house to take a teeny-tiny walk. And when this teeny-tiny woman had gone a teeny-tiny way, she came to a teeny-tiny gate; so the teeny-tiny woman opened the teeny-

tiny gate, and went into a teeny-tiny churchyard. And when this teeny-tiny woman had got into the teeny-tiny churchyard, she saw a teeny-tiny bone on a teeny-tiny grave, and the teeny-tiny woman said to her teeny-tiny self, "This teeny-tiny bone will make me some teeny-tiny soup for my teeny-tiny supper." So the teeny-tiny woman put the teeny-tiny bone into her teeny-tiny pocket, and went to her teeny-tiny house.

Now, when the teeny-tiny woman got home to her teeny-tiny house she was a teeny-tiny tired; so she went up her teeny-tiny stairs to her teeny-tiny bed, and put the teeny-tiny bone into a teeny-tiny cupboard. And when this teeny-tiny woman had been to sleep for a teeny-tiny time, she was awakened by a teeny-tiny voice from the teeny-tiny cupboard, which said, "Give me my bone!" And this teeny-tiny woman was a teeny-tiny frightened, so she hid her teeny-tiny head under the teeny-tiny clothes, and went to sleep again. And when she had been to sleep again a teeny-tiny time, the teeny-tiny voice again cried out from the teeny-tiny cupboard, a teeny-tiny louder, "*Give me my bone!*" This made the teeny-tiny woman a teeny-tiny more frightened, so she hid her teeny-tiny head a teeny-tiny



farther under the teeny-tiny clothes. And when the teeny-tiny woman had been to sleep again a teeny-tiny time, the teeny-tiny voice from the teeny-tiny cupboard said again, a teeny-tiny louder, "GIVE ME MY BONE!" And this teeny-tiny woman was a teeny-tiny bit more frightened, but she put her teeny-tiny head out of the teeny-tiny clothes, and said in her loudest teeny-tiny voice,—

"TAKE IT!!"

## THE STORY OF CHICKEN-LICKEN



AS Chicken-licken went one day to the wood, an acorn fell upon her poor bald pate, and she thought the sky had fallen. So she said she would go and tell the King the sky had fallen. So Chicken-licken turned back, and met Hen-len. "Well, Hen-len, where are you going?" And Hen-len said, "I'm going to the wood for some meat." And Chicken-licken said, "Oh, Hen-len, don't go! for I was going, and the sky fell upon my poor bald pate, and I'm going to tell the King."

So Hen-len turned back with Chicken-licken, and met Cock-lock. "Oh, Cock-lock, where are you going?" And Cock-lock said, "I'm going to the wood for some meat." Then Hen-len said, "Oh, Cock-lock, don't go! for I was going, and I met Chicken-licken, and Chicken-licken had been at the wood, and the sky had fallen on her poor bald pate, and we are going to tell the King."

So Cock-lock turned back, and met Duck-luck. "Well, Duck-luck, where are you going?" And Duck-luck said, "I'm going to the wood for some meat." Then Cock-lock said, "Oh, Duck-luck, don't go! for I was going, and I met Hen-len, and Hen-len met Chicken-licken, and



Chicken-licken had been at the wood, and the sky had fallen on her poor bald pate, and we are going to tell the King."

So Duck-luck turned back, and met Drake-lake. "Well, Drake-lake, where are you going?" And Drake-lake said, "I'm going to the wood for some meat." Then Duck-luck said, "Oh, Drake-lake, don't go! for I was going, and I met Cock-lock, and Cock-lock met Hen-len, and Hen-len met Chicken-licken, and Chicken-licken had been at the wood, and the sky had fallen on her poor bald pate, and we are going to tell the King."

So Drake-lake turned back, and met Goose-loose. "Well, Goose-loose, where are you going?" And Goose-loose said, "I'm going to the wood for some meat." Then Drake-lake said, "Oh, Goose-loose, don't go! for I was going, and I met Duck-luck, and Duck-luck met Cock-lock, and Cock-lock met Hen-len, and Hen-len met Chicken-licken, and Chicken-licken had been at the wood, and the sky had fallen on her poor bald pate, and we are going to tell the King."

So Goose-loose turned back, and met Gander-lander. "Well, Gander-lander, where are you going?" And Gander-lander said, "I'm going to the wood for some meat." Then Goose-loose said, "Oh, Gander-lander, don't go! for I was going, and I met Drake-lake, and Drake-lake met Duck-luck, and Duck-luck met Cock-lock, and Cock-lock met Hen-len, and Hen-len met Chicken-licken, and Chicken-licken had been at the wood, and the sky had fallen on her poor bald pate, and we are going to tell the King."

So Gander-lander turned back, and met Turkey-lurkey. "Well, Turkey-lurkey, where are you going?" And Turkey-lurkey said, "I'm going to the wood for some meat." Then Gander-lander said, "Oh, Turkey-lurkey, don't go! for I was going, and I met Goose-loose, and Goose-loose met Drake-lake, and Drake-lake met





Duck-luck, and Duck-luck met Cock-lock, and Cock-lock met Hen-len, and Hen-len met Chicken-licken, and Chicken-licken had been at the wood, and the sky had fallen on her poor bald pate, and we are going to tell the King."

So Turkey-lurkey turned back, and walked with Gander-lander, Goose-loose, Drake-lake, Duck-luck, Cock-lock, Hen-len and Chicken-licken. And as they were going along, they met Fox-lox. And Fox-lox said, "Where are you going, my pretty maids?" So they told him. And Fox-lox said, "Come along with me, and I will show you the way." But Fox-lox took them into the Fox's hole, and he and his young ones soon ate up poor Chicken-licken, Hen-len, Cock-lock, Duck-luck, Drake-lake, Goose-loose, Gander-lander, and Turkey-lurkey, and they never saw the King to tell him that the sky had fallen.

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## THE OLD WOMAN AND HER PIG

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**A**N old woman was sweeping her house, and she found a little crooked sixpence. "What," said she, "shall I do with this little sixpence? I will go to market and buy a little pig." As she was coming home, she came to a stile; the piggy would not go over the stile.

She went a little farther, and she met a dog. So she said to the dog, "Dog! bite pig, piggy won't go over the stile, and I shan't get home to-night." But the dog would not. She went a little farther, and she met a stick. So she said, "Stick! stick! beat dog, dog won't bite pig, piggy won't go over the stile, and I shan't get home to-night." But the stick would not.





She went a little farther, and she met a fire. So she said, "Fire! fire! burn stick; stick won't beat dog, dog won't bite pig, pig won't go over the stile, and I shan't get home to-night." But the fire would not. She went a little farther, and she met some water. So she said, "Water! water! quench fire; fire won't burn stick, stick won't beat dog, dog won't bite pig, pig won't go over the stile, and I shan't get home to-night." But the water would not. She went a little farther, and she met an ox. So she said, "Ox! ox! drink water; water won't



quench fire, fire won't burn stick, stick won't beat dog, dog won't bite pig, pig won't go over the stile, and I shan't get home to-night." But the ox would not. She went a little farther, and she met a butcher. So she said, "Butcher! butcher! kill ox; ox won't drink water, water won't quench fire, fire won't burn stick, stick won't beat dog, dog won't bite pig, pig won't go over the stile, and I shan't get home to-night." But the butcher would not. She went a little farther, and she met a rope. So she said, "Rope! rope! hang butcher; butcher won't kill ox, ox won't drink water, water won't quench fire, fire won't burn stick, stick won't beat

dog, dog won't bite pig, pig won't go over the stile, and I shan't get home to-night." But the rope would not. She went a little farther, and she met a rat. So she said, "Rat! rat! gnaw rope; rope won't hang butcher, butcher won't kill ox, ox won't drink water, water won't quench fire, fire won't burn stick, stick won't beat dog, dog won't bite pig, pig won't go over the stile, and I shan't get home to-night." But the rat would not. She went a little farther, and she met a cat. So she said, "Cat! cat! kill rat; rat won't gnaw rope,



rope won't hang butcher, butcher won't kill ox, ox won't drink water, water won't quench fire, fire won't burn stick, stick won't beat dog, dog won't bite pig, pig won't go over the stile, and I shan't get home to-night." But the cat said to her, "If you will go to yonder cow and fetch me a saucer of milk, I will kill the rat." So away went the old woman to the cow. But the cow said to her, "If you will go to yonder haystack, and bring me a handful of hay, I'll give you the milk." So away went the old woman to the haystack, and she brought the hay to the cow. As soon as the cow had eaten the hay



she gave the old woman the milk, and away she went with it in a saucer to the cat. As soon as the cat had lapped up the milk, the cat began to kill the rat, the rat began to gnaw the rope, the rope began to hang the butcher, the butcher began to kill the ox, the ox began to drink the water, the water began to quench the fire, the fire began to burn the stick, the stick began to beat the dog, the dog began to bite the pig, the little pig in a fright jumped over the stile, and so the old woman got home that night.

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## LITTLE TOTTY

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A FARMER'S wife who had no children went one day to a fairy, who appeared as an old woman, and begged her to give her a baby. "Even a very tiny one would make her happy," she said. The fairy laughed, and gave her a barley-corn, telling her to put it in a flower-



pot, and she would see what would happen. The woman obeyed, and the very next day she saw that a beautiful tulip bud was standing on its tall stalk in the pot. The woman, delighted, kissed the golden leaves; the bud opened, and inside it she found a lovely baby only half as long as a thumb. She called her "Totty."

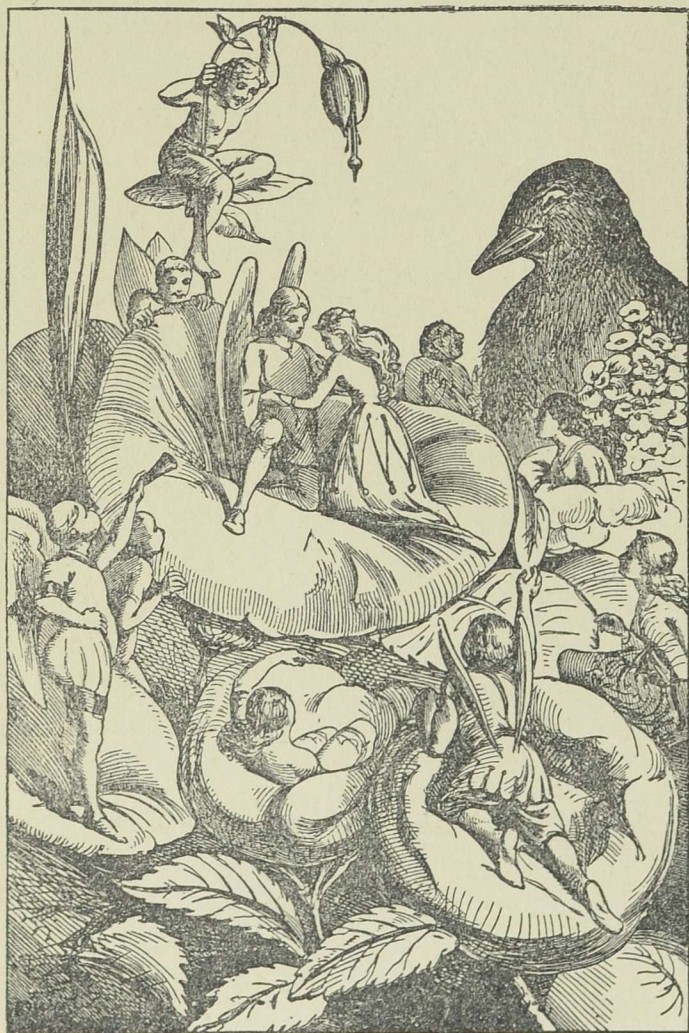
The woman made a walnut-shell her cradle; the bed was of violets, the coverlet was a rose-leaf. As Totty grew bigger her mother seated her on a large tulip-leaf floating on water in a plate, and Totty rowed herself from side to side with two oars made of white horse-hairs. One night a toad jumped through the bedroom window and saw Totty sleeping. "She will make a lovely wife for my son," she said; so she took up the cradle and carried it to the pond, where she put it on a great lily-leaf. Totty cried bitterly when she woke and found herself there, but the toad made her weave rushes for household linen when she should be married to Tadpole, her son. The fishes in the pond were very sorry for her, so they bit the stem of the leaf through, and it floated down the stream.



Totty tied a white butterfly, that flew down to her, to the leaf with her girdle, and felt very happy, as he drew her leaf along far from the toad and her son. But one day a cockchafer saw her and fell in love with her. He seized her by her waist and flew with her into a tree, but his friends said she was very ugly, and the cockchafer believed



them, and told Totty he did not now care for her; but he flew down with her, and left her on a daisy in the wood. Totty lived there all the summer; but when the winter came she was cold and hungry, and she begged the field-mouse to take her in. The mouse was kind to her, but she wanted her to marry the old mole, who often visited her, and Totty did not like to live in the dark, under-ground home of the great mole. She cried bitterly about it. But the mouse insisted. "Obey me," she said, "or I will bite you. The mole is rich; look at his fur, it is splendid!" Now, during the winter, Totty had found a poor swallow almost dead with cold, and she had taken him barley-corns, and covered him up warmly, and saved his life; in the spring he had flown off. Summer came and went, and at last the mouse would wait



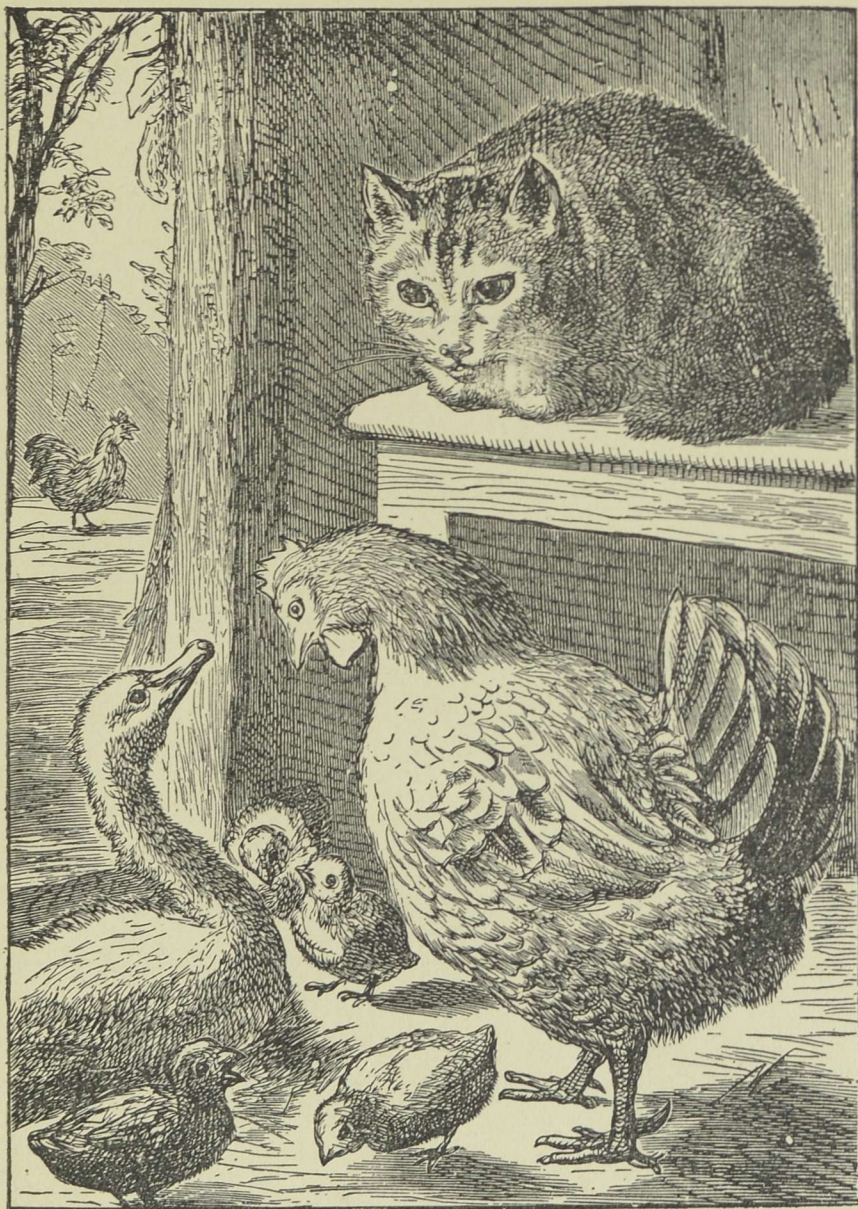
no longer for the marriage; she fixed Totty's wedding-day with the mole, and the poor girl went out of the door to look for the last time at the setting sun, and stood there crying quietly.

By and by she heard "Tweet, tweet," quite near to her, and saw her friend the swallow on a branch close by her. He asked her why she wept, and she told him. "Get on my back," he said, "and I will take you away from the cruel mouse." Totty joyfully did as he told her, and the swallow flew fast away over land and sea, till he put her down on a large white flower like a convolvulus, and she saw standing in it a little

man with a gold crown on his head. He was very little bigger than Totty, and was the King of the Flower Fairies. He asked Totty to marry him; she said "Yes," and he made her his Queen.



## THE UGLY DUCKLING



A DUCK was quite tired of sitting on her eggs; one of them was not hatched when all the other ducklings were running about. However, she was very patient, and at last the egg was hatched; but a very large, ugly duckling came out of it. The duck, however, did not complain; mothers never think their children ugly, and she took it, with great pride, with the others, to the poultry yard, to introduce it and them to society. "Your ducklings are all pretty, except one," said the turkey, "and he is very ugly. Try and improve his appearance."

"That is not possible, your grace," said the duck; "and though he is not very pretty, he is good." But none of the poultry liked the ugly duckling. The ducks pecked at him; the poultry-maid drove him away. He was so unhappy, that he flew over the palings and ran to the moor. There he joined some wild ducks. "You are ugly," they said; "but it will not matter if you don't want to marry into our family." Then he made friends with some wild geese, and had nearly





promised to fly over the sea with them, when “pop! pop!” went a gun, and two goslings fell into the water.

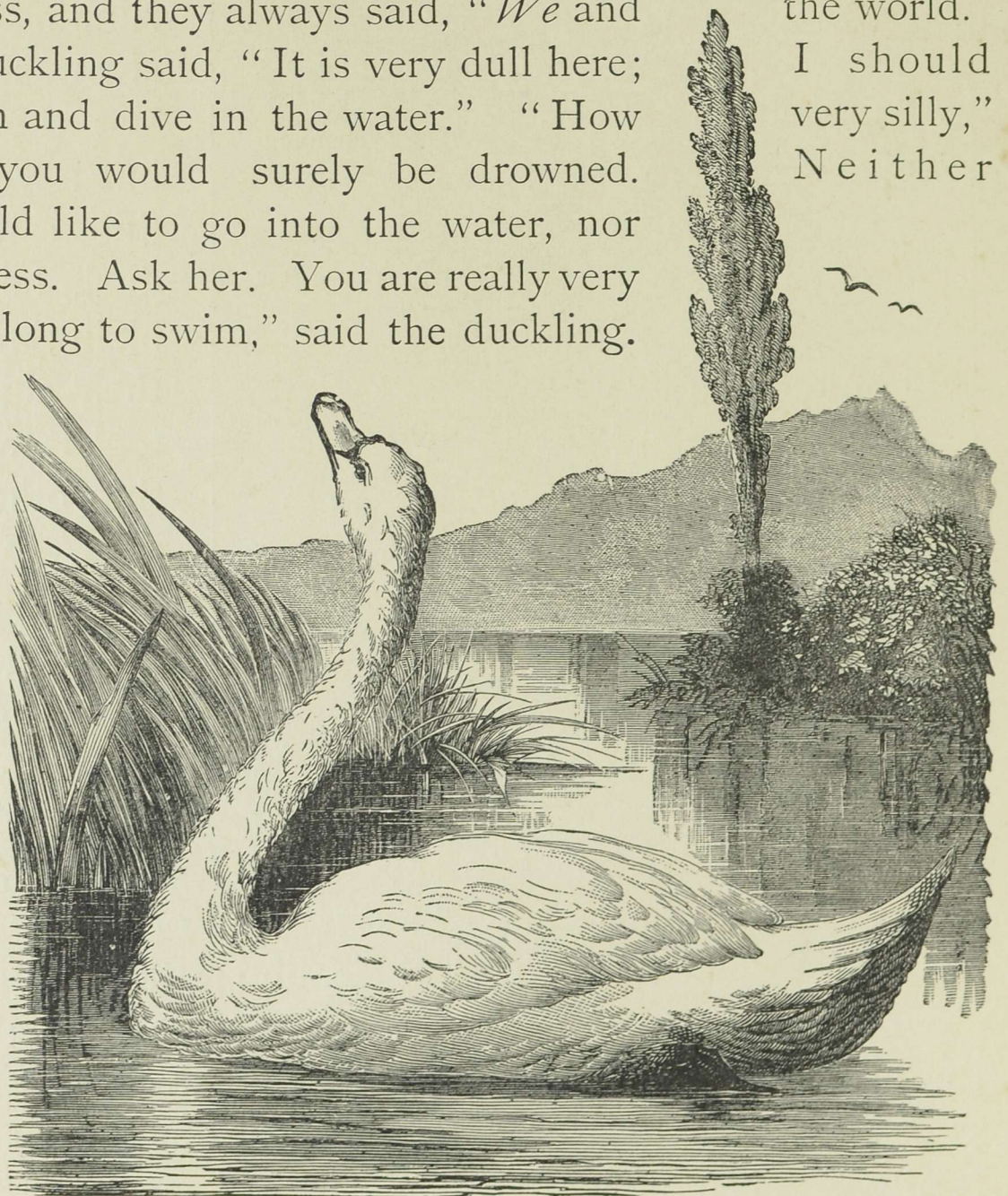
The poor duckling was so frightened, that he hid amongst the rushes. When all was quiet again, he came out, and ran over the moor till he reached a tumble-down cottage, the door of which was ajar. A woman, a cat, and a hen lived in it.

The old woman let the duckling stay, thinking that by and by it might lay eggs. Now, the cat was the master of the house, and the hen was the mistress, and they always said, “*We* and the world.”

One day the duckling said, “It is very dull here; like to go and swim and dive in the water.” “How said the hen; “you would surely be drowned. I nor the cat would like to go into the water, nor would our old mistress. Ask her. You are really very silly.” “But I do long to swim,” said the duckling.

I should very silly,” Neither

“Well, then, go,” snapped the hen crossly. And the duckling, who at last could not bear to stay in the cottage, went away and found a pond where he could swim and dive. He was very glad; but the ducks and geese would not be friends with him, and he often felt sad and lonely.





Once there came a flock of birds. They were snowy white, and had long, graceful necks. The duckling watched them as they flew up in the air, stretched his neck to them, and uttered a cry so strange it frightened himself. By and by winter came. The ice crackled round the duckling, and at last shut him in. A peasant passing by saw what had happened, broke the ice, and carried the duckling home.

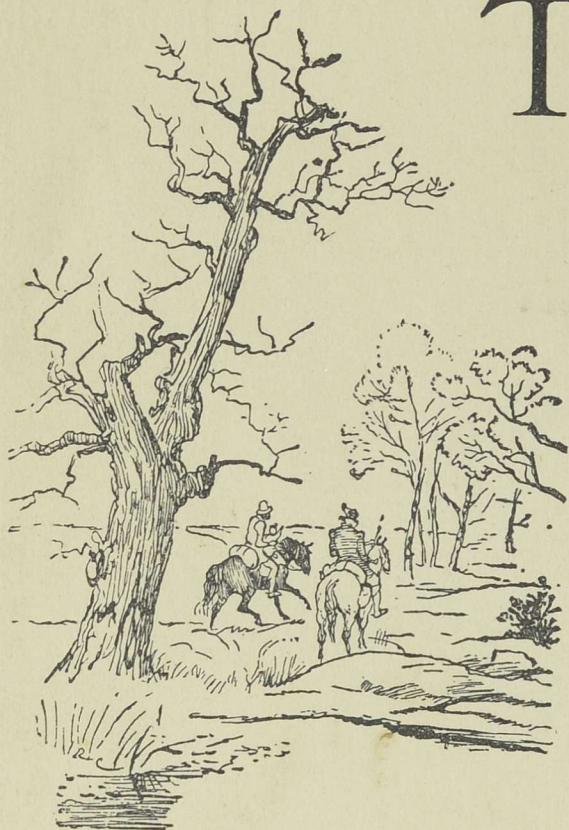
The warmth revived the poor thing, and it began to fly about; the children wanted to play with it, but they only frightened it, so it ran through the open door and escaped. The duckling suffered very much that cold winter, but spring came at last, and as he felt his wings



grow stronger, he flew away. One day he saw on the water in a park three beautiful swans rustling their feathers and swimming lightly. "Oh," thought the ugly duckling, "I will go to those royal birds, and ask them to kill me." So he swam to them, and, bending his head to the water, said, "Kill me." But what did he see in the stream? Not an ugly duckling, but a beautiful swan. And the swans swam round him and stroked his neck with their bills. Then he said, "I never dreamed of such happiness as this when I was a poor little ugly duckling."



## THE BABES IN THE WOOD



TWO dear little children lived in an old house long ago with their uncle. Their father and mother were both dead, but their uncle had promised them, before they died, that he would be kind to their children. And at first he *was* kind, and made pets of them; but when a year had gone by, he began to think of the will that their father had made, which said that if the children died, the money that was theirs—and they were very rich—should go to him; and he wished for it, and made up his mind to have it. So he hired two cruel men to take the poor babes into a wood and kill them there.

He told the little ones that the two men, whose fierce looks frightened them, were going to take them to London, where they would see pretty toys and have nice cakes to eat. When they heard this they were glad to go, and the men each took one of them before him on his horse and rode off.

They chattered so prettily, and were so sweet and gentle, that even these cruel ruffians loved them, and did not wish to hurt them. When they came to the wood, the one who had had Jane before him told the other that he would not let them be killed.









But his comrade said that they must die, because their uncle had given him a great deal of gold to kill them. This led to a quarrel, and the men drew their swords and fought. The children stood still in great fear; but their friend killed the one who was more cruel than he, and then he took their little hands and led them into the wood, a great, great way into it, till they were tired and hungry, and he let them sit down under the trees. "Stay here," he said, "and wait while I go to buy some bread and meat."

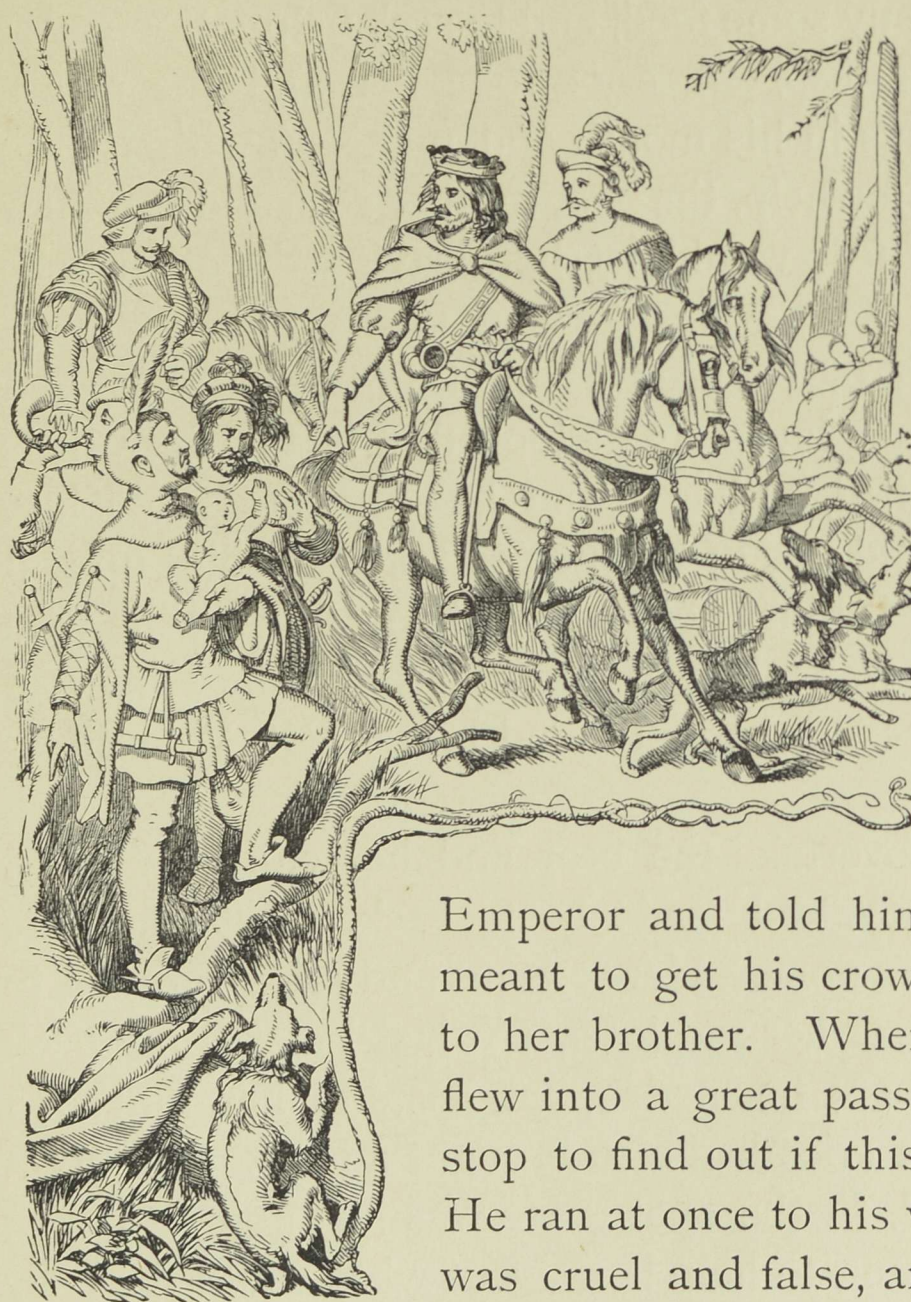
They sat and waited a long time, but he did not come back. Then they went to look for him, and walked on till they found some blackberries, and ate them. But now the sun was gone, and it was growing dark. The birds left off singing; only an owl made a strange noise, a hoot, and by and by a squirrel darted out and ran up a tree close by them. Little Jane had never seen one before, and she thought that it was a wild beast; she gave a loud cry, and clung to her brother, who, though he was a brave boy, began to feel fear also, for it grew darker and darker till it was night, and there was no moon. At last, tired out, they lay down on the ground and fell asleep, side by side, with the tears on their poor little cheeks.

The wicked man never came back, and the babes, who could get no food, at last died, with their arms round each other's neck. The birds' were the only eyes that saw them lying under the old trees; and they were very sorry for the babes, and sang sad songs over them. The robins brought green leaves, with which they covered them as they slept in their long sleep.

But God had seen them, and had taken them to Himself. They were safe and happy; but the bad uncle's sin was at last found out. The ruffian who had left them in the wood was put in prison for having killed someone, and was to be hanged, so then he confessed what he and the other man had done for a sum of gold. The wicked uncle would have been taken up and hanged also, but he had died before in jail; for all the riches he had gained by his crime were soon lost, and he had been put in prison for debt.



## VALENTINE AND ORSON



THE Emperor Alexander of Constantinople married the sister of the King of France, and she was so wise and kind that he grew very fond of her, and did many good things to please her. Now, a bad man ruled the land under him, and used to tell him what to do; and this man did not like his master to be fond of anyone but him. So he came one day to the

Emperor and told him that the Empress, his wife, meant to get his crown taken from him and given to her brother. When he heard this, the Emperor flew into a great passion, and in his rage did not stop to find out if this man spoke the truth or not. He ran at once to his wife's room, told her that she was cruel and false, and that she must go at once out of the palace with her twin babies, for he would not let her stay a day under his roof.

He would not hear her speak a word, but made her leave at once; nor would he let any of his servants go with her. But she had brought with her from France a French servant, who now went with her, and carried the baby boys. He said that she had better go back to the King of France and tell him how cruel the Emperor was. But it was a long



way to go on foot, and she had no horse to ride. They went on and on, and at last came to the forest of Orleans. The poor lady was by this time so tired that she could not walk any farther, and her man, Peter, made a bed of leaves and moss for her to lie on with a babe on each side. Then he went away to buy some food, and to seek help. Soon after the tired Empress fell fast asleep. A cry awoke her, and she saw a great bear seize one of the boys in his mouth and make off with it into the great wood. Screaming for help, the poor mother rose and ran after the wild beast as fast as her feet would let her, leaving the other babe on the bed of moss.

Now that day, the King of France was hunting in the forest, and came to the spot where the babe lay. As he looked at it, the dear little boy opened his blue eyes, smiled, and held out his arms to the King, who at once loved him, and told one of his men to take the child up and bear it home with him, "For it must not be left," he said, "for the wild beasts to eat." So the baby was taken to the palace, and the King had him christened Valentine, because he had found him on St. Valentine's Day.

The Empress could not overtake the bear and her child, and then she remembered the other boy, and made haste back. But when she came to the spot, she found him gone. Her screams and cries were sad to hear, she was in great grief over her sad loss. At last Peter came back with some food, and heard her; he made great haste to her, and soon knew why she cried. But her cries had also brought a great giant, with a very large club in his hand, to the spot. He was just going to seize the Empress, when Peter sprang to help her. But what could the poor man do against such a foe? The giant killed him with a blow of his club, caught up the lady, and bore her off to his castle.

The bear carried the babe it had taken to its cave and laid him down amongst its cubs; but they were not hungry, they played with him, and he put his arms round the neck of one of them; so the bear took him for one of her cubs, and he stayed and grew up with the wee bears. But when he became a young man he was very fierce; he

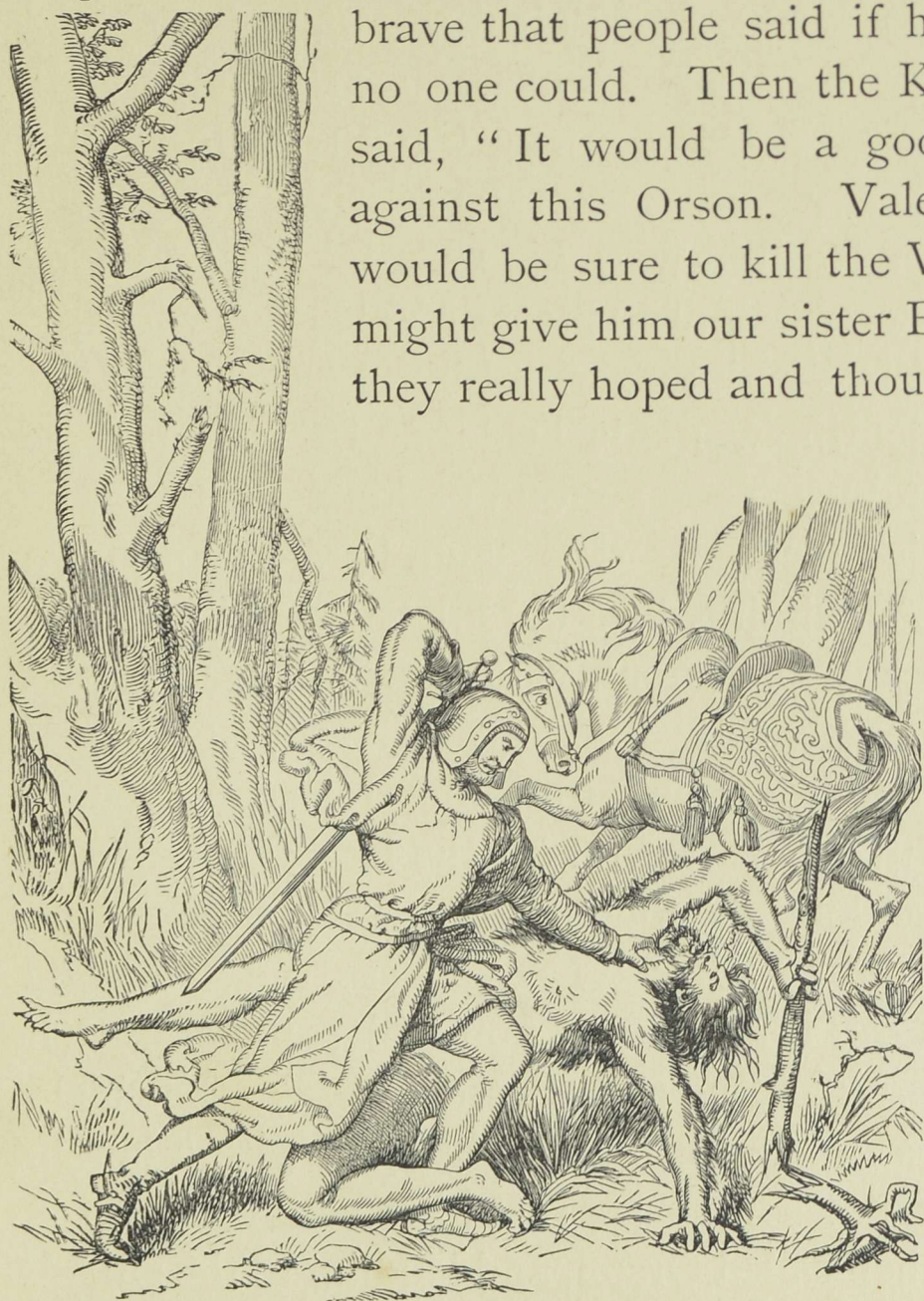


fought with and killed the wild beasts, and at last attacked men, so that no one dared go through the wood for fear of the Wild Man. They called him Orson, for, when seen, he had a bear always at his side.

Valentine had grown up too, and was a brave knight, who fought against the King's enemies, and won much praise, which made the King's sons jealous of him. One day, the King and one of his knights were in the wood, when Orson sprang out on them. "Fly, my liege," said the knight, "I have a boar spear and can kill him." The King rode off to bring help, but when he came back with his men to the knight, he found him dead, and Orson gone. This knight was so very

brave that people said if he could not conquer Orson no one could. Then the King's sons came to him, and said, "It would be a good thing to send Valentine against this Orson. Valentine is so brave that he would be sure to kill the Wild Man, and, if he did, we might give him our sister Eglantine for his wife." But they really hoped and thought that Valentine would be

killed by Orson. Valentine was quite glad to go, though the King at first did not like him to do so, and he had to persuade Pepin to let him try. At dawn of day Valentine put on his armour and took his sword and his shield, which shone like glass, and went into the wood, and got up a tree, when he saw Orson coming towards him with a stag on his back. Valentine threw a small branch







down, and when Orson saw him he climbed up after him; but the other dropped down on the opposite side. Then Orson rushed at him, but Valentine held up his shield, and the Wild Man was at first frightened at seeing himself in it instead of his enemy. But a dreadful fight soon began. Valentine had to defend himself from Orson's club, and Orson cried and screamed with rage when

Valentine wounded him with his sword. But it ended in the Wild Man lying at the feet of Valentine, who tied his hands and made him go with him to Orleans.

Thus Valentine won his bride, and Orson became his servant, and was soon so fond of his master that he would have died for him. One day a herald came from the Duke of Aquitaine, begging all true knights to go and help his daughter, the Lady Clerimont, who had been carried off by the Black Knight, and was kept by him a captive. Valentine at once set out to free the lady, taking Orson with him. He soon came to the castle of the Black Knight, and bade him set the lady free, but was of course refused, and the two knights fought long, but neither could conquer. Then the Black Knight spoke: "Do you see the shield on that tree?" he asked, "if you can lift it down you will conquer me, if you cannot I shall kill you." Valentine at once tried to take the shield from the tree, but could not; and the Black Knight said, with a laugh, "No one can conquer me but the son of a great king who was nursed by a wild beast." Valentine then called Orson, and led him to the shield.



When the Wild Man put out his arms to take it, it fell to the ground, a strong wind tore up the tree, and the castle shook. The Black Knight turned pale, but rushed with his sword at Orson; the Wild Man raised the shield, and the sword broke in two on it; the knight then caught up a battle-axe, but it also broke in pieces; he sprang at Orson and grasped him in his arms. But Orson took hold of him and threw him to the ground as if he had been a child, and would have killed him had not Valentine forbade him, and instead put the knight in chains. The Black Knight then said, "This Wild Man is not what he seems. Make haste and go to the castle of the giant Ferragus; there is a head of brass in it which will tell you who he is, and you can set the giant's captives free as you have the lady." He told them where the castle was, and they rode off at once to it. The way was long, but at last they saw a castle, the walls of which were of marble and the pinnacles of gold. A bridge was placed across the moat; as they rode over it a



hundred bells rang, the doors flew open, and out came a great giant with a club. "You are my prisoners," he cried in a loud voice; "lay down your arms." "No," said Valentine, "take them if you can," and he put his lance in the rest, and, riding on, struck the giant on the head and made it bleed. The giant, in a rage, dashed a blow of his club at Valentine, but missed him; and the fight went on till the giant, by one blow, knocked down Valentine and his horse, and would have killed him, had not Orson run up, sprung on the giant, and killed him by a blow from his club. Then Valentine and Orson went into the castle.



They set free the prisoners, and in one dark cell they came to a lady. They lifted her up, and told her she was free, and asked where she would like to go. "To the court of my brother, the King of France," she said, "I am the Empress Bellisance." Both the young men had heard her story long ago, for the bad man who had spoken against her was dead, and before he died had told the truth; and the Emperor, in great grief, had been seeking everywhere for his lost wife and her boys. They told her this, and took her out of the cell to the rooms up above, gave her food and wine, and then went to find the head of brass. It spoke out at once: "You two are twin-brothers, and your mother is the Empress Bellisance." Orson and Valentine were very glad, for they loved each other. They took their mother back with them to France. The King was delighted to see his sister, and sent them all at once to Constantinople to the Emperor, whom they found still in grief. Valentine spoke, and told him the strange tale of the bear, the king, and the giant. At first the Emperor could scarcely believe him; but when his wife spoke he knew her voice, and, lifting her up, begged her to forgive him. Then he kissed his sons, and they were all glad and happy. There were great feasts and joy when the news became known, but after a time



they all went back to France to the wedding of Valentine, who married his cousin Eglantine. Orson returned back with his father and mother, and lived with them till his father's death, when he and Valentine succeeded to the throne, and were never again long separated, reigning in peace for a long time together.



## KING ARTHUR



ONE day, a long time ago, a nurse brought a fair baby boy to the King of Britain. It was his firstborn son, and he ought to have been glad to see it, but he was not; he looked very sad. And then he told two of his knights, and two of the ladies of the court, to wrap the child in cloth of gold and give it to a poor man they would find at the castle door. They obeyed him, but could not think why the King should do this strange thing. We will tell you why.

The King, his name was Uther, wanted to marry the widow of the last king; but she was shut up in Tintagel Castle, and no one could get her out. Then Merlin the Enchanter said, that if the King would give him his first son, he would bring the Queen out, and that he should wed her. He set the lady free, and the King married her. The son came, and the King had to keep his promise. It was Merlin, dressed as a poor man, who took the baby. He bore the child at once to a priest, and had him christened; his name was Arthur. Then he carried the babe to the castle of a very brave knight, Sir Ector, and gave the little Prince into his care. And Arthur was brought up by the knight's wife with their own son, Key. King Uther died. No one knew where his son was, and men were much troubled as to whom they should make king. They went to St. Paul's Church, in London, and prayed to be shown what to do. When they came out, they saw a great stone near the door. In it stood a sword, on which these words were written in letters of gold: "He who can pull the sword out of this stone is born the true King of England."

All the knights and lords then tried to pull it out, but it was of no use; they could not move the sword. By and by the Archbishop held a tournament, that is a sham fight, to keep the knights and great men in town till they found their king; and Sir Ector, his wife, Key, and Arthur, who were lads of fifteen, came up to see the show. But



they found Key had left his sword behind him, and Arthur, who was very kind, returned home to get it for him. But the house was shut up, all the servants had gone to see the sham fight, and he could not get in. So he rode back, and seeing the sword in the stone as he passed



St. Paul's, he drew it out. When the Archbishop knew what had happened, he made Arthur put back the sword; and at Christmas, New Year, and Easter, everyone tried again to pull it out; but only Arthur could do so, and he did it every time. So he was declared King; and Merlin told the people that he was the true son of King Uther, and he had taken care of him ever since he was born. At first the other kings in

Britain (for there were many kings in the land in those days) were jealous, and would not have a boy, as they called him, for the great king who was over all, and they brought an army to fight against him.



Arthur said to Merlin, who was with him, "I want a sword."

"Come with me, and I will get you one," said Merlin.

So they rode out that night till they came to a broad lake, and in the midst of it King Arthur saw an arm raised up in a white silk sleeve, and it held a great sword in its hand. "There is the sword!" said Merlin. Then they saw by the light of the moon a young girl floating on the lake.

"Who is that young girl?" asked Arthur.

"The lady of the lake. Ask her for the sword." Arthur did so, and she gave it to him, saying that some day she would ask a gift of him.

Arthur conquered all the kings, and was crowned King of Britain. He was one of the best kings the people ever had, very brave and wise. In those days there were fairies and wizards, or enchanters, in the land, and cruel giants; so Arthur got all the brave and good men, who were knights, to live with him, and he had a Round Table made, at which they all sat and dined with him, so that they were called the "Knights of the Round Table." And they made vows to serve God, to help the poor, and fight for the poor ladies who were taken off by the giants or bad men. They were to try and put down all wrong things. So the bad people hated them, and tried to kill the good King.

One day Arthur lost his way on the Welsh hills; night was near, and he was glad to see a light not far off. He rode to it, and found that it came from a great castle. He blew the horn at the door, and was let in. A lady met him in the hall, and took him into a fine room, and had rich food brought for him. She had him shown to a good bed, and he slept well that night. But he did not tell her that he was the King; she thought he was one of Arthur's knights. Next day, when he was just going to mount his horse, he told her who he was, and thanked her for her kindness to a poor knight. When he was on his horse, she brought out a gold cup, and said, "My Lord King, will you honour me by drinking your subject's health." He took the cup, but, just as he was about to drink, the horse reared,



the wine was spilt, and fell on the poor beast's neck, which was burnt and smoked; mad with pain, it set off at full speed with the King. Then Arthur looked back, and saw that the castle was gone; so he knew that the lady was a wicked witch who had tried to kill him.

The King fought with a great giant who had killed a fair lady with his club; but the giant struck the crown from Arthur's head, and

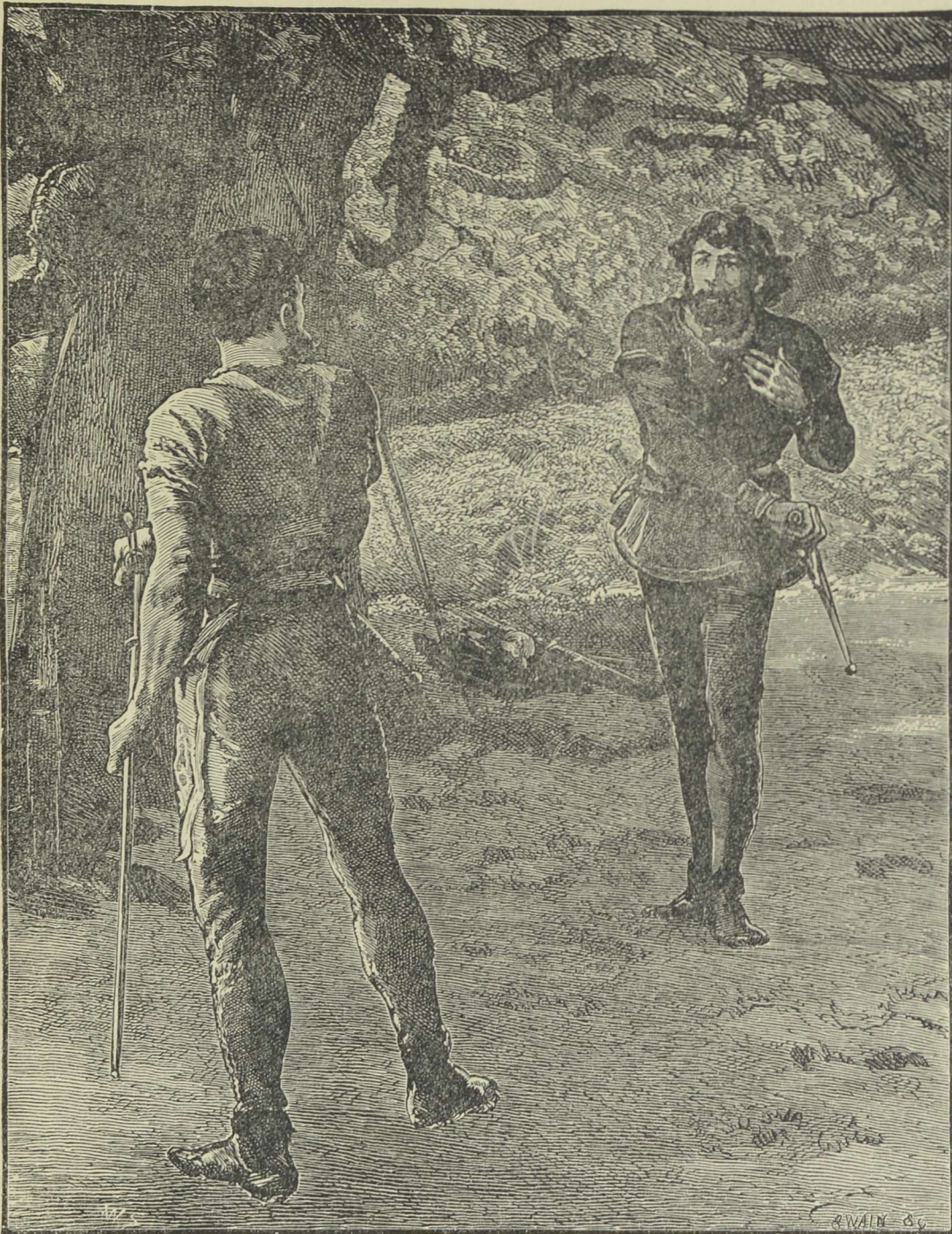


caught him in his great arms; but the King twisted about till they both fell down a great rock, and rolled over and over, and as they fell Arthur killed his giant with his dagger; but when his knights came up, they had to take him out of the dead giant's arms, which held him fast. The poor people shed tears of joy when they heard that the giant was dead, for he had robbed them and eaten their children. Now the

King took all his gold and gave it to the poor, and let his knights take what they pleased from the castle of the giant, and it was full of riches.



## ROBIN HOOD



IT was bright summer time; the sun shone on the greenwood and the birds sang in the trees, but Robin Hood leant by an oak and was sad, for his friend, Little John, had been taken by the Sheriff of Nottingham's men, and Robin knew that they would hang him.

Just then he saw a strange man coming through the wood. He was dressed well, and had a sword by his side, a bow in his hand, and his arrows

stuck in his belt. Robin went up to him, and asked him what he wanted in the greenwood. "Oh," said the stranger, "I am come here to look for Robin Hood, who lives in this forest and robs those who pass through it." "If he robs the rich, he gives their gold to the starving poor," said Robin; "but you carry a bow, can you shoot well?" The



stranger said he could. Then said Robin, "Let us try who shoots best." They cut down some branches of a willow tree, peeled and made wands of them, and put them up to shoot at. The stranger hit one wand, but Robin split the stranger's arrow and the wand in two with his first shot. The stranger said that he thought Robin Hood could not shoot better than this archer had, and asked his name. "Tell me yours first," said Robin. "I am Sir Guy of Gisbourne," said the stranger; "I am come to take Robin Hood; when I blow my horn the Sheriff will know that I have killed him." "I am Robin Hood," said Robin, "now take me if you can." He drew his sword, Sir Guy drew his, and they fought long and bravely, but by and by Sir Guy was wounded and fell. Then Robin said, "I will not kill you, but I will borrow your clothes for a time." He threw off his green gown and put on Sir Guy's rich dress, his cloak and hood, his belt with dagger and knife, his bow and arrows, and then he blew Sir Guy's horn.

Now the Sheriff of Nottingham and his men had beaten the band of Little John and driven them off, and had tied the giant (who was called *Little John* in fun) to a tree in Barnsdale, and told him he should hang on the highest hill. When he heard the horn, the Sheriff said, "That is good news! Sir Guy has killed Robin Hood; that is his horn."

By and by they saw Robin coming, and said, "Here is Sir Guy." The Sheriff did not know Sir Guy very well, nor had he ever seen Robin at that time, so he said, "Sir Guy, what reward shall I give you for killing Robin Hood? There you see his man, Little John; we waited to hang him on the highest hill." "Since I have killed the master, I must also kill the man," said Robin. "My reward shall be that you will let me kill Little John."

"That is not a wise wish," said the Sheriff, "for you might have asked for a sum of gold if you liked. Well, go and kill Little John, then we can ride on." Robin drew his knife, and went up to Little John; in a minute he had cut the ropes that bound him, given him Sir Guy's bow and arrows, and they both turned on the Sheriff and his men. But when they saw the bow and arrows in Little John's hand



they all ran away as fast as they could, and Robin and John were left free. They went back to the greenwood as fast as they could, and they were all soon seated round a meal of roast deer: Friar Tuck, the fat priest, Scarlett, Much the Miller, and Allan-a-dale. They made Sir Guy pay a ransom before they set him free, and also promise that he would not again come after Robin Hood.



One day Robin's men came to him with a fat Abbot who had been found riding on the edge of the wood with a priest. "We have brought the fat Abbot to you, captain," they said; "you wish him, we know, to give alms to the poor." "My son," said the Abbot to Robin, "when I ride by this wood I do not take my purse with me; I have nothing to give you," and he shook out his pockets. They had only a small book in them—a note-book. "Well," said Robin, "it does not matter, you can write a note to your clerks and tell them to send the money you want." "Where can I get paper, pen, and ink, in this wild wood?" asked the Abbot. "We have ink," said Robin. "But no pen," put in Much. "I will get you one," said Robin. A wild goose was flying overhead; Robin took his bow and shot it. It fell to the ground; he drew out a feather and bade the priest make a pen for the Abbot; a leaf out of his book would make the paper. So the Abbot, who had been so careful as to leave his purse at home, had to write and ask for a large sum to be sent to him. The priest was sent with the note, and Robin said when he came back with the gold, the Abbot would be ready to go home. You may be sure the money was sent, and a great part of it was given to the poor.



## DICK WHITTINGTON



IN a village, a long way from London, there lived a poor boy named Dick Whittington. His father and mother were both dead, and, as he had

heard that the streets of London were paved with gold, he thought he had better go there to earn his living. It was a long journey, but a carter sometimes took him in his waggon, so at last he reached London. But when he found himself in one of the busy streets, he knew not where to go or what to do, so he sat down on the doorstep of a grand house. The master of it, seeing him there, and hearing his story, bade the

cook take him into the kitchen to help. But she was a very cross, unkind woman, and treated him very ill. He had to sleep in a garret full of rats at night; and in the kitchen he was scolded and beaten every day by the cruel cook.

At length he could bear her ill-temper no longer, and one morning early he left the house, intending to return to his old home. But when he reached the top of Highgate Hill he felt tired, and sat down on a large stone to rest. From his seat he looked back on London, and at that moment he heard Bow-Bells ring out. He thought that they said to him—

“Turn again, Whittington,  
Lord Mayor of London Town.”

And, as he listened, he made up his mind to go back to his place,





DICK WHITTINGTON PARTING WITH HIS CAT



and bear his troubles patiently, hoping that the bells told truly what his fate would be; so he made haste to return, and took a scolding for his playing truant, and a few blows from the cook, quietly. One day, as he sat on the back doorstep eating his hunch of bread and cheese, a poor, half-starved cat came up to him and mewed pitifully. Dick was sorry for her; he gave her some of his supper, and took her up to his garret, because he knew that if the cook saw her she would drive her away. Puss stayed with him, and that night he found he could sleep in peace, for the cat hunted the rats till not one dared peep out of his hole. Dick was glad to keep her, and grew very fond of her, willingly sharing his food with her—his only friend.

Some time went on, and then one day the merchant sent for all his servants, and told them that he was about to send a ship to trade with distant lands and find new ones; and that if any of them had things to sell, such as work, or other objects of barter, they might take them to the captain, and he would trade for them with the natives. Everyone had something or the other to sell, only poor Dick humbly said that he had nothing. Then Miss Alice, his master's daughter, who had seen and admired Puss, now grown a fine cat, reminded him of her, and said that he must send her out in the merchant ship to be sold. Poor Dick was very unwilling to give up his friend, but Miss Alice persuaded him to try his fortune, and he took Puss to the captain. Yet he was very sad at parting with her, and, when he left the ship, sat down on the shore and wept bitterly. She was, indeed, a great loss to him, for the rats soon found that she was gone, and came back again to disturb his sleep.

The good ship sailed away, with Puss on board, with a fair wind, and at last reached a country where there was a great deal of gold. Here the captain and some of his crew landed. They were very kindly received by the natives, and the King invited them to dine with him.

They found the table spread with a feast of good things in gold dishes, but no sooner were they seated than a number of rats rushed out, climbed on the table, tore the food from the dishes, and upset the golden cups. The King told the astonished captain that this was



always the case if he had company. The rats overran his kingdom, and he could not destroy them by all the means he had tried. Then the captain thought of Dick's cat, and how she had kept down the rats in his ship. He told the King that he had a wonderful animal on board, which could kill any number of rats. The King begged him to send for it at once, and very soon after a seaman returned with Puss, whom he put on the table. In a moment she had a rat in her mouth and her paw on another, while the rest fled squeaking from her sight. The King and Queen looked on delighted, and the former begged the

captain to sell him this wonderful animal. The captain bargained with him, and at last received many great nuggets of gold in exchange for Puss.

But months went on, and at last, after a long, long time, the merchant's ship came home. Everybody was glad. The captain landed, and came to the house to report all he had done, and all the riches he brought to the merchant, and on the floor were spread the bars of gold that had been exchanged for Puss. Dick at first felt as if he would rather have had the cat back again, but his master told him that he was now a rich man, and he advised him to study for a year or



two, but at the same time took him as an apprentice, and, when he had served his time, he went into partnership with his master. In time, he asked Miss Alice to marry him, and she said "Yes." They had a very grand wedding, and as they left the church Alice and her husband gave much money to the poor. The bells had spoken truly; Dick Whittington became Lord Mayor of London *three* times, and did a great deal of good with the gold he had first gained by means of his cat.



## SNOW-WHITE AND ROSE-RED

ONCE upon a time a poor widow lived in a lonely cottage surrounded by a garden in which grew two rose-trees; the one bore white roses, the other red. Now the widow had two daughters, and she named them after the roses, Snow-White and Rose-Red. They were very good children, obedient and affectionate, and they loved each other dearly. They often walked hand in hand in the wood, and sometimes slept there side by side. Once, when they had been all night in the forest, they did not wake till the red sun rose, and then, as they opened their eyes, they saw a beautiful little child near them, whose clothes were bright and shining; he looked kindly at them, and, without speaking, vanished from their sight. Then, looking round, they found that they had been sleeping on the edge of a deep pit, into which they would have fallen had they moved. Their mother said it must have been one of the angels, that watch over good children, who had





kept them safely. The garden was bright with flowers in summer; in the winter they sat round the fire, and the little girls knitted, while the mother read aloud from the good Book.

One snowy night, as they sat thus, there came a knock at the door. "Open it," said the mother to Rose-Red; "it may be someone seeking shelter, having been lost in the snow." Rose-Red obeyed; but when she opened the door, not a man, but a great bear pushed his black head in. Rose-Red screamed, but the bear said very gently, "Do not be afraid; I will not hurt you. I only want to warm myself by your fire, for I am half-frozen." "Poor bear," said the mother, "come in and lie by the fire if you like. Rose-Red, Snow-White, the bear will not hurt you." So the little girls came to the fireside, and the bear said, "Dear children, will you brush the snow off my fur?" So they got the broom and swept his fur, and then, as he lay they jumped on his back, and pulled his fur, and had great fun with him. He slept that night on the floor by the fire, and in the morning the children let him out.

Now when the spring came their mother sent them to gather brushwood in the forest. They saw a large tree lying on the ground, and something jumping up and down on the other side of it. When they came nearer they found that it was a little black dwarf jumping about. He called out, "Why do you stand staring there? Don't you see that the tree has caught my long beard. Can't you help, you little apes?" Snow-White then took out her scissors, and cut off his beard close to the tree. The dwarf jumped up, called them "stupid creatures," and, seizing a bag of gold, ran off. Another day, as they went to catch fish in the river, they saw





a little creature struggling with a fish. It was the dwarf. His beard had been blown round his line and entangled. Snow-White again cut off his beard, when he called for help; but now it was very short, and the dwarf was furiously angry, and began calling them names, when a large black bear rushed out of the thicket, and killed the ungrateful dwarf. Then the bear's skin fell off, and there stood a handsome young man. "I am a king's son," he said, "and that wicked dwarf turned me into a bear, and I have been obliged to wander about the wood till I could catch him and kill him." Some years afterwards the prince married Snow-White, and gave Rose-Red to his brother for his wife.

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## ALI-BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES

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THERE once lived in a town of Persia two brothers. Their father left the little money he had between them; each had half, but the elder brother, Cassim, married a rich wife and became a great merchant. Ali-Baba, the younger brother, took for his wife a woman as poor as himself, and got his bread by cutting wood and bringing it on three asses into the town to sell.



One day, when Ali-Baba was in the forest, and had just cut wood enough to load his asses, he saw a great cloud of dust coming towards him. By and by it blew off, and he found that it was caused by a great many horsemen, who looked like robbers. He thought that he had better hide from them,

so he left his asses and climbed up a large tree which grew on a high rock. The thick branches quite hid him, so that he could see and hear, but no one could see him. The men rode to the foot of the rock on which this tree grew, and one of them—the captain he saw—came to the rock, and said, “Open, Sesame!” A



door opened in the rock, and the men went in, the captain last. Ali counted forty of them. The door shut, but Ali was afraid to get down, till, after a long time, he saw the men come out again. The captain said, “Shut, Sesame!” the door shut, and they rode off. When they were quite out of sight, Ali came down from the tree, and said, “Open, Sesame!” to the rock; the door opened, and he saw a cave quite full of riches; heaps of gold and silver, and all sorts of things. Ali went in, took as much gold as would fill his panniers, covered it with pieces of wood, said, “Shut, Sesame!” and drove home. He took his asses into the courtyard, and the bags into the house, where he shook the gold out in a heap on the floor, and told his wife how he had found it. She was very glad, and he bade her count it while he dug a hole in the yard to bury it. But there was so much that she thought it would be best to measure it; so she ran to the house of her sister-in-law, Cassim’s wife, and



asked her to lend her a measure. Cassim's wife lent her one; but she wanted to know what grain it was such a poor man had to measure, so she put some grease at the bottom of the measure; the grain, she knew, would stick to it. Ali's wife measured the gold; he hid it in the hole he had dug, and she took back the measure. But when Cassim's wife looked in it, she saw a piece of gold stuck in the grease. When her husband came home, she told him that Ali must have found a mine, for his wife measured gold pieces. Cassim was very jealous of Ali, and ran to him at once to ask where he had got the gold. Ali was sorry that his wife had been so silly as not to wipe out the measure; but he told his brother the whole story.

Cassim made up his mind to go next day to the cave. So he bought some great chests, and put them on ten mules, and at day-break he drove them into the wood. He climbed the tree and sat there till the forty thieves came out. When they were out of sight he came down, found the door, said, "Open, Sesame!" and went into the cave and began to pile gold up near the door in heaps, to fill his chests, till he began to think they would not hold more. The door had shut when he came in, so now he said, "Open, Barley!" it did not move. "Open, Wheat!" but it kept shut. In his joy at getting such great





riches he forgot the right word; he only knew that it was a grain. While he stood trying in vain to remember it, he heard a voice outside say, "Open, Sesame!" The thieves had come back! When they saw him they knew that their secret had been found out, and they killed him at once. They cut his body into four pieces and hung them up in the cave to frighten anyone else who might get into it.

When Cassim did not come home all day nor all night, his wife grew frightened, and went to Ali to tell him. Ali was afraid that Cassim had been caught by the band, but he set off at once to go and find him. He watched the robbers go out, went into the cave, and found his brother's body. He could not leave it there. He put the pieces in two of his panniers, filled the others with gold, and went sadly back to Cassim's house. In the yard he saw a slave named Morgiana; he knew that she was very wise and good, so he told her all, and said that no one must know how Cassim had died. Morgiana went and told the wife this sad news, and the poor lady said that they must pretend that her master was ill, and then that he had died. Morgiana went to the chemist twice during the day for some medicine, saying it was for her master, who was very, very ill indeed, and she feared that he would die; so that no one was surprised the next morning when they heard of Cassim's death. In the meantime, Morgiana found an old cobbler at a stall, and gave him a piece of gold to let her blindfold him and bring him to Cassim's house. Then she made him sew the body together, and gave him another piece of gold.

In this way Cassim's sad death was kept secret by Ali-Baba, and only the widow and Morgiana, his slave, knew. Soon after this, Ali-Baba removed his goods to Cassim's house in the daytime, but was careful to take the money he had found in the robbers' cave at night-time, so that no one should know of his riches.

While these things were being done, the forty robbers again visited their cave in the forest. Great, then, was their surprise to find Cassim's body taken away, with some of their bags of gold. "We are certainly discovered," said the captain. "The removal of the body, and





ONE OF THE BAND DISGUIISING HIMSELF



the loss of some of our money, plainly show that the man whom we killed had an accomplice ; and for our own lives' sake we must try and find him. What say you, my lads?"

All the robbers approved of the captain's proposal.

"Well," said the captain, "one of you, the boldest and most skilful among you, must go into the town, disguised as a traveller and a stranger, to try if he can hear any talk of the man whom we have killed, and find out who he was, and where he lived."

Then one of the band offered to disguise himself and go and ask if anyone had heard of a man having been cut in pieces, and came by chance to the stall of the old cobbler, who was always very early at work. It was only just day, and the thief stopped, and said, "Old man, if you see to work by this dim light, you must have good eyes." "Yes, I have," said the cobbler; "why, I sewed the body of a man together the other day in a place where I had not so much light as I



have now." The robber felt sure that he had found the man whom he sought. He took out a piece of gold, and told the cobbler that he would give it to him if he would show him the house where he had done this strange work. The cobbler said that he could not be sure, for he had gone there blindfolded, but he would try; so he went with the thief and found Cassim's house. The thief, seeing that the houses in the street were all alike, put a cross in white chalk on the door. Now, Morgiana had gone to buy some bread, and when she came home she saw the white cross on the door, and felt sure that it meant no good.



So she took a piece of chalk and marked all the other doors with a white cross, and when the thieves came that night they could not tell which was the right house. The captain was angry, and sent another thief to try. He marked the door this time with a red cross, but Morgiana again saw it and marked all the other houses the same. The captain then said he would find it himself. He made the cobbler lead him to it, and then counted the houses on each side and felt sure of it. He now dressed himself as an old merchant who sold oil, bought as many jars as there were thieves. In the jars he put all his men, one in each, with a sword and a knife. One jar he filled with oil, then late in the day he drove into the town, stopped at Cassim's house. There he saw Ali at the door, and asked him if he would be so kind as to let him leave the jars in his yard for the night. Ali did not know the captain of the thieves again, dressed up as an old merchant, so he said "Yes." The captain put the jars in a row, and said to each thief, "When I throw some stones into the yard, get out of the jars; I will join you, and we will kill all here." Then he went to sup with Ali.

Now, Morgiana wanted a little oil for the lamp, and she thought she might take some from the jars. She lifted the lid of the first, and a voice in it said, "Is it time?" Morgiana started, but she was very quick; she answered "Not yet," very softly; then she went to each jar and said the same to each thief, till she came to the jar of oil. She went at once, got a great kettle, filled it with oil, made it boiling hot, poured some into each jar, and so killed the thieves. Then, when Ali and his guest had supped, she came in and said that she would dance to amuse them, as slaves often did; she had a dagger in her hand, and as she danced and waved it about, she came close to the sham merchant, and stabbed him to the heart. As he fell, his white beard and wig came off, and Ali saw that he was the captain of the thieves.

Then Morgiana told her master how the thieves had been brought to the yard, and how she had killed them. Ali saw that she had saved their lives, so he set her free from that moment, and soon after married her to his son.



## THE FOOL-HARDY FROGS AND THE STORK

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THERE was once a pond full of young frogs. These frogs peeped up out of the water, and made a great noise, each trying to cry louder than the rest. Why they did this, I don't know; but, then, many children make a noise too, and don't know why they do it. Only one old frog sat quite silent, moving his head and eyes anxiously, first on one side and

then on the other. Suddenly he called out—

“Silence! duck your heads; the stork's coming!”

Then in a moment there was a dead silence, and all the round heads and goggle-eyes disappeared under the water. For, although they had not seen the stork until now, the old frog had often told them about him—how he was a terrible fellow, with long legs, long neck, and long beak; and how he could make a hideous clapping with the said beak, which he used, moreover, to drag out of the water all the frogs he could snap up, and whom he subsequently devoured. But the stork who came that day, and of whose arrival the old frog had warned his comrades, had already eaten as much as he wanted in some other pond; consequently, he walked gravely to and fro by the side of the water, without looking round to seek for a frog; and then, establishing himself by the shore, he drew up one leg, and bent down his head and beak, as it is the custom of storks to do when about to go



to sleep. And, standing thus, he looked exactly like a bag of feathers on a long stick.

For a time there was perfect silence in the pond; but then the young frog-people began to find the time hang heavy on their paws, so they opened their eyes, which they had at first closed in great terror, and began to look round them. And one of them whispered to another—

“Just look and see if the stork is still there.”

“Yes,” said the other, “there he stands.”

“That’s not the stork,” cried two or three together; “for they say the stork has a long neck and a long beak.”

But the old frog said, in a warning voice—

“Don’t wake the stork, for frogs he doth kill:  
The danger that sleeps is a danger still.”

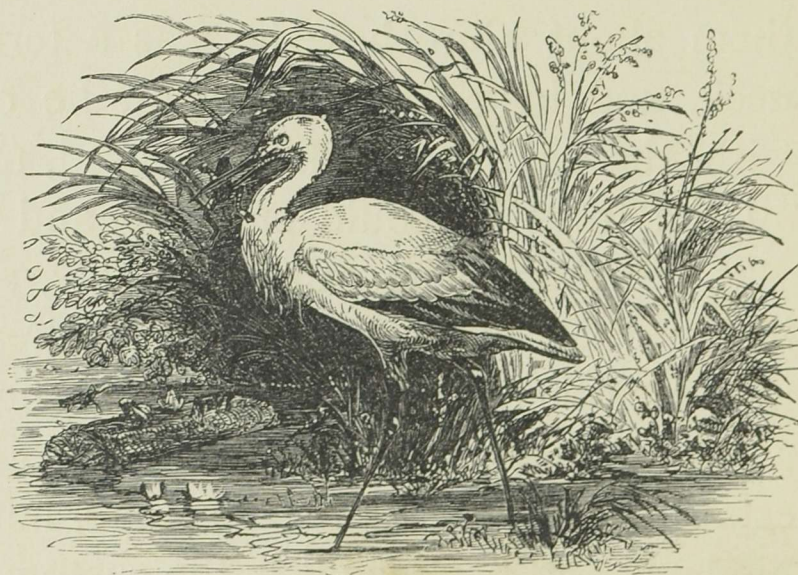
Now, most of the frogs listened to these words of warning. But one of them, named Cax, a forward fellow, who liked to hear himself croak, exclaimed—

“Nonsense! the old chap only wants to make us afraid, because he does not like to hear the sound of our voices. That thing by the water’s edge looks much more like a scarecrow than a bird.”

“It may frighten sparrows, but no valiant frog will be afraid of it,” croaked another frog, whose name was Kix, and who liked to say and do whatever Cax said and did.

“Whoever has courage, follow me!” cried Cax. “We’ll have a closer look at the thing yonder, and, as sure as my name’s Cax, I’ll jump upon it!” The old frog raised his voice in these warning words—

“Fool-hardy frogs, fool-hardy pack,  
Listen to me! quack, quack! quack, quack!  
Beware, beware! for danger is near,  
And those must feel who will not hear!”





But those who would not hear were, in this case, Kix and Cax. Cax hopped away in advance, and Kix followed after him, till they came to the place where the stork stood. The affair now began to seem a little formidable to them, as generally happens to boasters when danger is near.

"After all," they thought, "it looks very much like the stork."

But they felt ashamed to turn back, so Cax said, "You jump first, Kix, you're the younger of us two."

"No," replied Kix; "you should jump first, Cax, for you're the elder of us two. I'm in no hurry."

"No more am I," said Cax.

And so, for a time, they both sat quite still.

The stork, meanwhile, was fast asleep, dreaming of the nest he had built the year before far away in Africa, and of the young he had brought up there, and of the wife who had helped him to feed and educate them. When Kix and Cax saw that he did not move at all, they began to take courage. Cax stuck up his head out of the water, and quacked at the stork in a low voice. Kix followed his comrade's example. The stork never moved. Now they began to quack in a louder tone, and at last to dabble about in the water, and to splash the stork with their legs. When the other frogs, who had been watching these proceedings at a distance, saw that the sport seemed a safe one, they came hopping up to take part in it; only the wary old frog remained behind.

At last the increasing noise woke up the stork, but as he was somewhat drowsy with sleep and with the meal he had lately made, he let the frogs cry out to their hearts' content for a time, and splash about just as they liked, for he thought, "Wait a little—I'll have you presently!" At last Cax said to the rest—

"Look at me now! I'll jump upon the thing, as I told you I would."

And Kix added, "And so will I, as I told you *I* would."

But when they both jumped up at the stork, he suddenly thrust



out his bill, with a snap to the left and a snap to the right, and in a twinkling Kix and Cax were eaten up and swallowed down. Then the stork turned round three times in the pond, clapped his beak, as a man might clap his hands, and said—

“ Klipp, clap ! klipp, clap !  
Fish and frog, snail and crab !  
I hope you all will act like these,  
That I may eat you at my ease.”

Then the other frogs scampered away as fast as ever they could, and there was a great silence in the pond for a long time. The stork went to sleep again, seeing that nothing more seemed inclined to jump into his mouth ; but the old frog repeated his warning to his young friends, and they all listened, with very grave faces indeed, while he sang—

“ Fool-hardy frogs, fool-hardy pack,  
Listen to me ! quack, quack ! quack, quack !  
Beware, beware ! for danger is near,  
And those must feel who will not hear !”

And then, wishing to improve the terrible disaster which had just taken place, he added a new verse, which was considered by all the other frogs to be a master-piece. It ran thus—

“ My dear young friends, my dear young friends,  
You've seen, quack, quack ! how boasting ends ;  
If one of you discretion lacks,  
Let him think of the fate of Kix and Cax.”

And the young frogs listened to these words of wisdom, and were so thoroughly determined to profit by the sage advice they had received, that not one head was poked up over the water during the whole evening, and early next morning the stork went away in disgust, wondering what had become of all the frogs in the pond. But the old frog, to the last day of his life, looked upon himself as the preserver of all the frogs in the pond, and was very proud when he thought what a beautiful talent it was to be able to make such verses as those he had recited to his young friends.



## THE YELLOW DWARF

ONCE upon a time, there lived a Queen who had an only daughter whom she loved so much that she quite spoiled her. And the young lady grew up very self-willed. Her great beauty also made her very proud. She was called All-Fair; and many princes offered to marry her. But the Princess refused them all, much to the grief of her mother, the Queen. When she found that all she said was no use, she made up her mind to go and ask the Fairy of the Desert what she should do. It was, however, difficult to gain entrance to this fairy, for she was guarded by two fierce lions. But the Queen knew of a cake that would enable her to pass by them. Providing herself with this, she set out for the fairy's house. After walking a long way, she became so tired that she lay down under a tree, and fell asleep. Suddenly she was awakened by the roaring of the lions, who were coming to her. She jumped up, and seized her basket of cakes to give them; but, alas, it was empty! The poor Queen was very frightened, not knowing what to do to escape from the lions. At this moment she heard a noise in the tree, and, looking up, she saw an ugly Yellow Dwarf, about three feet high, picking oranges.



"Ah, Queen," said he, "you are in great danger! These lions have destroyed so many, and how will you escape, as you have no cakes?" "Ah," said the Queen, weeping, "I do not know, for I have lost my



cakes." "There is but one way," replied the dwarf. "I know what has brought you here; and if you will promise me your daughter for my wife, I will save you from the lions; if not, they shall eat you."

The Queen, horrified at the thought of giving her daughter to such a hideous creature, made him no answer; but a terrible growl from the lions, who were just ready to spring upon her, so frightened her, that she promised, and then fainted away. When she came to herself, she was in bed in her own palace. All that had passed seemed as a dream; but she was so sure of its reality, that her spirits gave way, and she sank into such a state of sadness that she cared for nothing. Princess All-Fair loved her mother very much, and was grieved to see her so sad. After trying in vain to find out the cause of the Queen's sorrow, that she might comfort her, the Princess determined on paying a visit to the Fairy of the Desert, to ask her advice. All-Fair, having provided some cakes for the lions, started secretly on her journey. She took the same road as her mother, and arrived at the orange tree, where she put down her basket and plucked some fruit to eat. Whilst eating it, she heard the roaring of the lions, which were coming towards her. She picked up the basket to take out some cakes, but found that it was empty. All-Fair wrung her hands, and sobbed aloud. The hideous Yellow Dwarf now made his appearance, and asked the Princess what had brought her to that place. She told him. "Oh," replied he, "you need not go any farther, I can tell you the cause of your mother's sadness. She has promised you to me in marriage, and now is so ungrateful as to repent of her promise."

"What!" said the Princess; "my mother promised me to such an ugly creature as you! Impossible!" "Oh, very well," replied the Yellow Dwarf; "the lions will soon punish you for your rudeness." The lions were about to seize on poor All-Fair, when she cried to the dwarf, "Oh, save me! and I will promise to marry you." On saying these words, she fainted from terror. When she recovered, she found herself in her own room, and round one of her fingers was a ring of red hair, so tightly fastened that she could not remove it. The Princess



now became as sad as her mother. The Queen and all her court were greatly distressed, and they thought that the most likely way of diverting her thoughts would be by begging her to marry. The Princess at last consented to marry the King of the Golden Mines, who had long tried to gain her love. They now spent many happy hours together, whilst the preparations for the marriage went on, which was to be a very grand one, as this king was very rich and powerful.

At length the day arrived for the marriage; but, as they were going to perform the ceremony, they saw an ugly old fairy approaching them, riding on a box drawn by two peacocks. Coming up to the Queen, she said, "So this is the way you keep your promise to my friend the Yellow Dwarf! I am the Fairy of the Desert, and I will not allow such a wrong to my friend to go unpunished." This unexpected appearance of the fairy filled the Queen and Princess with the greatest alarm. But the King of the Golden Mines drew his sword, and, going up to the fairy, he said, "Fly, wretch! or I will strike off thy head." The King had no sooner said these words than the box flew





open, and out started the Yellow Dwarf, seated on a huge wild cat, who said, "Hold, rash youth! your rage must be vented against me; I am



your rival and enemy. I claim the Princess, who is pledged to me by the ring of hair on her finger."

"Monster!" cried the King; "you are too contemptible to be noticed by me." The dwarf, enraged at these words, drew his sword and challenged the King to fight. Immediately the air was darkened, and the two peacocks turned into giants. Everybody was very frightened at this sight, except the King of the Golden Mines, who bravely attacked his enemy. But his heart

sank when he saw the Fairy of the Desert strike his beloved All-Fair to the ground. He hastened to her assistance, but the dwarf, flying before him on his cat, seized All-Fair and carried her off. The fairy, having fallen in love with the King, flew away with him to a frightful cavern, where she chained him up, hoping that he would forget All-Fair. But, finding this plan of no use, she changed herself into a lovely girl, and, going to the King, took off his fetters, and placed him by her side in a chariot drawn by swans, which flew rapidly through the air. In their flight they passed over a palace of polished steel, and on looking down the King saw All-Fair weeping in the garden. They passed swiftly on, until they arrived at a palace on the seacoast. The fairy then alighted, and led the King into the palace, in which was everything that could delight the eye.

One day, as he was walking by the seashore, he was surprised at seeing a mermaid, who said to him, in a sweet voice, "I know, O King, of your love for All-Fair, and the grief you suffer, and am come



to free you from it. I am an enemy to the Fairy of the Desert and the Yellow Dwarf; if you, therefore, will trust me, I will get you and the Princess out of their power."

The King gratefully accepted her aid; and, seating himself on the mermaid's back, they sailed off. Meanwhile the mermaid made a dummy figure of the King to deceive the Fairy of the Desert. At length they drew near to the castle where the Princess was, and the mermaid said, "Take this sword, and you will be able to destroy your enemies. But beware lest the sword fall from your hand; for if you once lose it, you will not be able to get it again, and certain death will fall upon you."



The King promised to use great care, and, after warmly thanking the mermaid, set off for the castle. He found the Princess, and, throwing himself at her feet, declared his love for her.

The Princess drew herself from him, and said, "Did I not see you riding with the Fairy of the Desert? Is that your love?" The King then told her all that had befallen him; and while talking, thoughtlessly dropped the magic sword, and the Yellow Dwarf, who was behind a bush, sprang forward and seized it. "Now," said he to the King, "unless you will give up the Princess to me, I will at once kill you."

The King replied, "No, never will I do that!" The cruel dwarf at once struck off his head. This broke the heart of the poor Princess, and she fell upon his body and died. The kind mermaid wept over the fate of these lovers, and turned them into two trees, which grew side by side, and intertwined their branches.





## THE WHITE CAT

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HERE was once a King who had three sons, of whom he was very fond; but some bad men at the court told him that the Princes wished to get his crown; and this made him afraid that they might rebel against him. So he sent for them, and said, "My sons, I mean soon to give up being king, and to put one of you on the throne. Now, you must first all go out into the world, and the one who brings me the smallest and prettiest dog shall have the crown. I give you a year to find one." The Princes thought this an odd whim, but they were quite ready to obey. Soon they all set out, each taking a different road, and each resolved to get the most beautiful little dog.

One night the youngest Prince lost his way in a thick wood. He was afraid that he would have to sleep under the trees, when he saw a light a little way off. He made haste and rode towards it. He found that it came from a castle that was built of clear china, through which the light shone. He saw a gold horn hanging at the door, so he took it up and blew it. At once the door flew open. He saw no one, and stepped inside; there he saw twelve hands, but no person. The hands took hold of his hand, and led him through some very large and fine rooms to one where he found a bath. Then they brought him some rich clothes, and when he had had a bath, and was dressed, they led him to a room in which a table stood laid for supper. While he looked at it in wonder, a door opened, and a very small figure, covered with black crape, with a cat on each side of her, walked in. As the figure came up to him, and lifted its veil, he saw that it was a pretty White Cat. She held out a paw, and said, "I am glad to see you, Prince, pray sit down." He took the seat to which she pointed, and she sat by his side. There



was everything. The Cat ate mice, but she all the other same as those home. The Cat santlytill supper she said good-hands took the room. Horns next day, and told him at she meant to would he like said he would, in the wood till



nice for supper. some stewed told the Prince dishes were the he would eat at talked very plea- was ended; then night, and the Prince to his woke him the the White Cat breakfast that hunt stag, and to go also? He and they hunted the sun set.

The Cat asked the Prince to stay a few days with her, and he was very glad to do so, for every day there was some new pleasure. At last, one day she said to him, "Prince, it only wants three days for you to take your dog home. Have you got one?" The Prince, you see, had told her all his story. He was quite surprised at what she said; he did not know that he had been so long in the Cat's castle. And he had no dog, what should he do for one?

The White Cat saw that he was troubled, and said, "Be happy, Prince, here is a dog for you," and she gave him an acorn. The Prince thought she was in fun; but she made him hold the acorn to his ear, and he heard a little dog bark inside it! The next day Puss gave him a horse made of wood that would go as fast as a race-horse; and the Prince wished her good-bye, with thanks, and left her. His brothers had brought beautiful dogs, one just as pretty as the other, but when the Prince opened the acorn, and the wee dog jumped out and barked, there could be no doubt about which was the best gift.

But the King did not like to give up his crown yet, so he said to



his sons, "I must give you another trial, as I think it is not right to let my youngest son succeed so easily. You must go away again, and see who can bring me a piece of cambric so fine that it will go through the eye of a small needle. Bring it back at the end of a year."

The Princes thought this hard, but as they hoped to gain in the end, they obeyed, and went forth once more. The youngest got on his wooden horse, and went back to his friend the White Cat. She was glad to see him, and he stayed with her for a year and did not think it longer than a month. One day she said, "To-morrow you must go home, and here is the web you want for the King." She gave him a walnut, and sent him away in a fine gold car drawn by white horses.

The two other Princes had got home before him, and the King told them to bring the cambric. They had brought the very finest, but it would not go through the eye of a needle. Then the young Prince cracked his walnut; there he saw a nut, he cracked it, and found a cherry-stone. The King began to look angry.

He broke the stone, opened the kernel, and found a grain of wheat, and in it a grain of millet. He opened it, and drew out a piece of cambric fine enough to go through the eye of the needle. When the King saw this, he said, "It is a conjuring trick; you must all go away again, and he who brings me, at the end of a year, the fairest lady, shall wed her, and have my crown."

The Prince once more went back to the White Cat, and spent another year happily in her castle. At the end of it, she said to him, "If you would win the crown, you must cut off my head and tail and throw them into the fire." "No," said the Prince, "I would not do so for twenty crowns." But the White Cat begged him to do it. "It will be for my good," she said. He at last obeyed her, cut off her head and tail, and threw them into the fire. Then, turning, he saw a very fair lady standing by him. While he stood lost in wonder, she said, "Prince, I am the White Cat. Some fairies asked my mother to give me to them in return for some fruit, and she said that she would do so, but she did not mean to keep her promise. And the fairies



were so angry that they sent a great dragon into the land, which ate men and women and children, and its breath killed the trees and grain. The King and Queen were very sad, but at last, to get the dragon taken away, they were obliged to let the fairies have me. The fairies brought me up, and kept me in a room that had no door. They gave me a little dog that could talk, and a parrot, to be my friends and amuse me. Once a day a fairy came on a dragon and brought me food. One day I saw a young man close under the window. He made me a bow, and I was glad to talk with him, for I was very dull sometimes. He came very often to see me, and at last said he must set me free and marry me, for he was a king's son. I got the fairies to bring me silk string and a netting-needle, and with it I made a ladder, and sent my parrot to tell the Prince that I could now get out.



“The Prince was very glad, and came at once to help me. He climbed to the window, but at that moment the fairy, on a dragon, came up. She was in a great rage, and ordered the dragon to kill my Prince, which he did at once, in spite of the Prince's sword; then she turned me into a White Cat, and took me back to my father's palace. She turned my subjects into Hands, and told me that I should only regain my own shape when a prince like my dead lover should cut off my head and tail.”

The Prince took the Princess back with him to his father's court, and everyone said that she was more beautiful than any princess ever seen. The King would have kept his word, but the White Cat told him that she had a kingdom of her own, and that he could keep his crown. The Prince and Princess were married next day, and there was great joy in both kingdoms at the wedding of the White Cat.



## THE INVISIBLE PRINCE

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ONCE upon a time, there was a King who had only one son. His name was Furibon. He was a dwarf, and had a bad temper, being spiteful and selfish. The King saw all his faults, but his mother, the Queen, who was not a wise or good woman, let him have all he wanted, and do just as he pleased. When he was old enough to learn, his father had him taught to read and write, and all other things, by a Prince who was next heir to the crown after his own son. This Prince had also an only son, and he was so good and kind that everyone loved him. His name was Leander. The King made this lad come to the palace as Furibon's playmate. But Furibon, who cared only for himself, hated Leander, because the King praised him and everyone loved him. One day some ambassadors came to the court. (Ambassadors are men of high rank who come with a message from a king, or who live in a place to take care of their king's affairs.) These ambassadors, seeing Furibon and Leander standing side by side, thought that Leander was the prince, and bowed and spoke to him. Furibon was in a great rage at this, and though Leander tried to make them understand that he was not the Prince, he was unable to do so, as he could not speak their language. From that day Furibon made up his mind to kill Leander. When the ambassadors were gone, he caught hold of Leander's hair and pulled out handfuls of it. Leander's father was so angry at his son being thus used, that he sent him home at once.

One day as Leander was walking in the garden of his home, a snake wound round his leg. He took it by the head and pulled it off; but it looked up at him so pitifully that he could not hurt it, but



took it into the house with him, put it in an empty room, and every day fed it with milk and bread.

Furibon still meant to kill Leander, and, by the Queen's advice, hired some ruffians to stab him. Then he sent to ask Leander to hunt with him. Leander came, and they rode off together, Furibon pretending to be glad to see him again. But at a lonely spot in the wood he made a sign to his men to draw their swords and kill him.

At that moment a great lion sprang out from the trees and rushed at Furibon, but Leander drew his sword and fought the wild beast very bravely, while all Furibon's men ran away in great fear, and Furibon fainted. Leander killed the lion, and helped Furibon to get on his horse again. But the wicked dwarf never even said "Thank you" to his cousin for saving his life, but rode after his men, and told them to go back and kill Leander. They came with drawn swords all round the poor young man; but he put his back against a tree and fought so bravely that he killed them all; and when Furibon came back to see Leander, as he hoped, dead, he found him alive and all the bad men slain. Then he told Leander that if he ever came near him again he should die.

Leander made no reply, but went home very sad; he knew now that the King's son would be sure to kill him, and he resolved to leave home and go abroad. But first he must free his snake. He went to the room to let it out, but when he opened the door, he saw no snake, but a lovely fairy. She told him that he had saved her life; for she was turned into a snake for a week, once in many years, and might





have been killed if he had not taken care of her, and she offered him three gifts—to be a great king, to have great riches, or the power to become invisible. Leander thanked her, and said he would choose to be invisible. She gave him then a red cap with a plume in it, and said, “When you put on this cap you will be invisible; and”—the fairy went on—“you will be at any place to which you wish to go.” Leander put on his cap, and wished to be at the forest. He was there at once! And he picked two roses, brought them to the fairy, and thanked her for her gift.

She bade him keep the roses; one of them she said would give him gold when he wanted it, the other would keep him well.

The next day Leander set out for the court. Now, Furibon had told the Queen that Leander had killed all his men, and tried to kill him, and that the bad Prince must be put to death. The Queen went to ask the King to punish Leander. He was just then in the hall, with his red cap on, so she could not see him; but he saw Furibon listening at the King’s door, and he took a nail and nailed Furibon’s ear to the wood. He cried out with pain. The Queen came to the door, and, pulling it open in her haste, tore off his ear. The Queen, in great grief, took him on her lap and wept over him, but Leander touched her hands with a twig, and she screamed, “Murder!” The King and all his nobles came running to her, but could see no one. Leander then went into the garden, took off his cap, and began to eat the Queen’s fruit and pull up her flowers. The gardeners ran to take him, Furibon went with them, but Leander put on his cap and they could not find him.

After this the young Prince set out on his travels, but first he sent his servants back, as he did not want them to know his secret of the cap and roses. On his way he found a young man in tears in the wood. He asked him what grieved him, and found that the father and mother of the lady he loved were going to marry her to a very bad old man. Leander went to their castle, put on his cap, and whispered to them that they should die unless they gave their child to the young man for his wife. And they were so frightened that they consented at once to do so.



Leander then went on again, but heard a lady's voice calling for help, and rode to the spot. He found four men carrying away a young lady. The Prince put on his cap, seized the ruffian who held her, and tied him to a tree. He then treated the second in the same way, and the others were so frightened at seeing their comrades caught by invisible hands that they ran away. Leander's horse was near, and he had sprung on it, when the girl, not seeing anyone, jumped up, meaning to ride full speed off; but she was caught in the Prince's arms. We may guess her fear. But he took off his cap, and she told him that she was one of the ladies of a Princess who was the daughter of a Prince and a fairy, and lived on an island called the Island of Tranquil Delights. Her mother had been unhappy in her marriage, and had taught her daughter to hate men, whom, however, she had never seen, not a man being admitted to the island. The Princess (the lady told him) was very beautiful, and Furibon, Leander's cousin, had asked her to marry him. She refused, and he had intended to carry her off by force, but his men had seized the young lady in mistake for the Princess, while she was in search of a lost parrot. Leander was very desirous of seeing the Princess, but Apricotina told him it would be death to attempt it, and he parted from her on the bank of a large river. But when he had left his horse unsaddled in the forest, he put on his red cap, wished himself in the island, and instantly found himself in the golden palace of the Princess. He fell in love with her at once, and resolved to marry her. He heard all she said, and if she told her maids that she would like anything, he got it and put it on her table. Then when she wished to see who was so kind to her, Leander painted his likeness and put it where the Princess could see it, and she fell in love with him. He heard all that she said, for he was in the room; but she could not see him. Then Furibon came with an army to seize the Princess, but Leander led her troops against him, defeated Furibon (who was now King), and cut off his head. Then the people said that the crown was Leander's, for he was the next heir. He took the Princess for his wife, the fairy came to the wedding, and they lived happy ever after.



## THE BENEFICENT FROG

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THERE was once a King who was at war with another King, and the troops of this last Prince were going to attack the first King's chief town. The King was very fond of his Queen, and, to keep her quite safe, sent her to a castle in the woods with two of the lords of his court and some soldiers to take care of her. But the Queen did not like to be away from her husband, and as she found that the two lords would not let her go back to him, she bought a very swift pair of horses to draw the car in which she used to go hunting with the knights, so that she might fly back to the King; and when they were riding after a stag one day, she whipped up her horses and flew on so fast that the two knights could not get up to her, and soon lost sight of her car. But when the Queen tried to pull up, she found that she could not stop her swift horses. They had run away, and at last they dashed the Queen out, and went off full speed. At first she was stunned by the fall, but when she opened her eyes she saw a great giantess standing by her. She was dressed in a lion's skin, and her hair was kept back by a serpent's skin, the head of which hung over her shoulders. She had a bow and arrows in her hand and a great club. The Queen at first thought she must be dead, but the giantess said, "No, you are alive. I am the Fairy Lioness. My house is near, and you shall go there and pass your life with me, for I find it dull living alone." The poor Queen wept, and said, "But, Fairy Lioness, I am a Queen, and my husband will give you half his kingdom if you will take me home."

But the fairy would not listen to her. She turned into a lioness, put the Queen on her back, and bore her to a terrible cave, which was deep down in the earth. In the middle of it was a large lake of quicksilver, and on it were monsters of dreadful shapes that frightened the Queen very much.

The poor lady begged and prayed the fairy to let her go home, but



it was of no use. She said that the Queen must build herself a hut to live in, for she should never go away. "What can I do to make you kind?" asked the Queen. "I am fond," said the giantess, "of fly pies. You must catch enough flies to make me a very large pie." "I do not know how to make a pie," said the Queen. "Then learn," said the lioness; "I will have that pie," and she left the cave.



The Queen sat down under a yew tree and wept. Then she heard a frog croak, and, looking up, saw a great crow with a frog in its bill. She was sorry for the poor frog, and took a stick and gave the crow a blow with it, and the bird dropped the frog and flew away. "Thank you, fair Queen," said the frog. "What!" cried the Queen, "can you speak, little frog? I never heard a frog speak before." "I am a half fairy," said the frog; "I have great power, but cannot always use it, as you have seen. When I wear my wreath of roses I fear nothing, but to-day I had not put it on. But why do you weep?" The Queen told her, saying, "Where can I find flies here?" "I will bring you some," said the frog. She called an army of frogs out of the pond, rubbed her own skin and theirs with sugar, and went to a place crowded with flies, kept by the lioness. The frog made a nice pie of them, and the Queen took it to the lioness, who could not think where she had got the flies.

The Fairy Frog then built for the Queen a little hut of boughs, but the monsters in the lake took it from her; the frog then built her another, and made a bed of wild thyme for her to lie on. When the lioness found it, she told the Queen that, since she could make herbs grow, she must get a bunch of rare flowers for her, or she would beat her hard. The Queen told the frog, who at once brought her some



beautiful flowers, which she asked a bat to get and to bring her under his wings. One day a little baby was given to the Queen, and she and the frog were glad; but the Queen had great trouble in coaxing the lioness to let her keep the baby, for she wanted to eat it. It was a sweet baby, and the Queen said with tears to the frog, "How I wish that the King could see my child!" Then the frog said, "If you wish it I will go and find the King and tell him this sad and yet glad news." The Queen thanked the frog again and again, and they parted. But the frog could only hop a very little way, and it was a long, long journey to the King's castle.



It took her seven years to reach it. The Queen had named her child Moufette. She was a clever little girl, and could shoot so well with a bow and arrows that she killed stags and birds for the Fairy Lioness, who was pleased to have such a useful maiden with her.

The frog at last reached the King's palace, hopped into his room, and gave him a little piece of white handkerchief, on which the Queen had written to tell him to be kind to her friend the frog. She found that the King was just going to be married. It was many years since the Queen was lost, and the people wished him to have another wife. But he always loved his Queen



the better of the two, and when the frog spoke, and told him her sad fate, he said that he must go at once to deliver her. The frog gave him a magic ring, by means of which he arrived safely near the cave. And there, hidden by some bushes, he saw a lioness go by with his Queen and a lovely girl; but they did not see him. The lioness was taking them hunting. The ring let him down to the cave.

Now the lioness knew that he was come to free the Queen, and she sprang at him to tear him to pieces; but he drew his sword and wounded her badly in the knee. "Give me up my wife and child," he said, as she sank down. "I cannot," she replied; "they are on the lake." She had put them into a round glass house, that floated in the middle of the quicksilver lake. But the King could never reach it, for it turned so fast that when he tried to get at it on one side it was at once round the other; and it was also guarded by the dragons and other



monsters of the lake. He tried for three years, but it was in vain. At last one day a dragon flew out of the lake, and said to him, "If you will swear to me by your crown and honour that you will give me a nice bit to eat of which I am fond, I will take you on my wings and we will set the Queen and the Princess free." "My dear dragon," said the King, "I will give you all you ask to eat if you will set them free; I swear it."

He mounted the dragon, but the monsters in the lake fought them very hard; but the King fought bravely against them, and the Queen broke the glass walls to help them. At last they won the victory. The spell was broken. A thunderbolt fell into the lake and dried it up and killed the monsters, and the dragon flew away. The King, Queen,



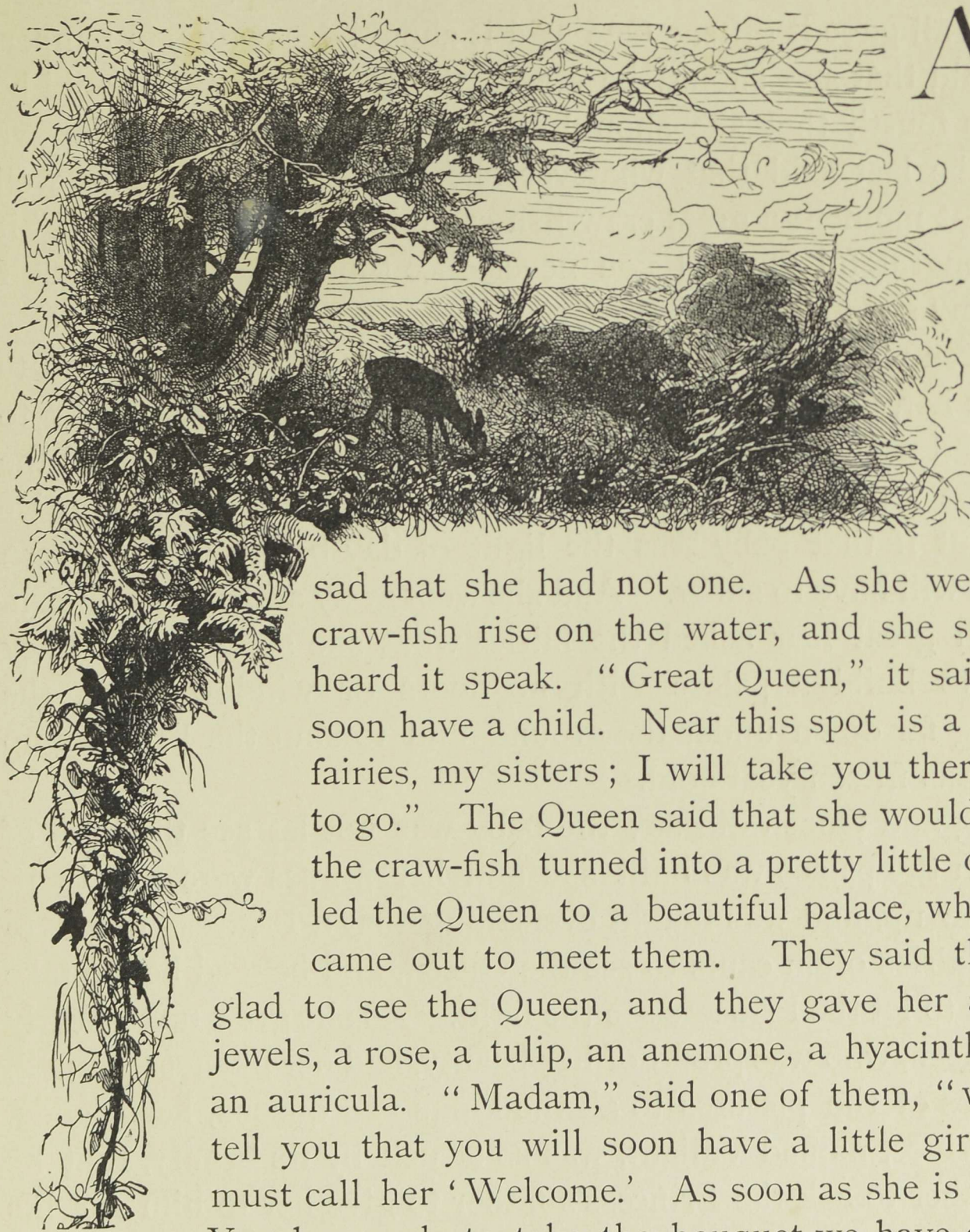
and Princess went home, carried there by the power of the ring. They were very happy. Moufette was to marry a brave young Prince, who had gone to his own kingdom to prepare for the marriage, when one day a giant came with a message from the dragon to ask for the nice feast the King had promised him. And what do you think it was? The Princess Moufette! They were in great sorrow. The King would not give up his child, of course. Then the dragon sent again to say that if the Princess would marry his nephew, he would let her live. But Moufette said that she would rather be eaten. She would not yield to the Queen's tears or her father's words, and, to save their people from being destroyed by the dragon, the King at last took her to a high mountain, on the top of which she was to be left for the dragon to eat. But the kind frog, mounted on a hawk, flew to tell the Prince of his love's danger, and bade him save her. She gave him a white horse, a sword six ells long, but as light as a feather, and put on him a single diamond, which fitted him like a suit of clothes.



He galloped off at once, attacked the dragon who was on his way to eat Moufette. A dreadful fight began, but the dragon could not get at the Prince, because the diamond armour broke his claws; and at last the Prince gave him a fearful gash. Then out of the gash sprang a young Prince! "You have set me free from a spell," he cried; "the Fairy Lioness changed me to a dragon, and would have made me eat the poor Princess." You may think how glad they all were. Then all at once they saw the frog beside them with a wreath of roses on her head. As the Queen took one of her little hands to thank her, she turned into a noble Queen. "You have been tried," she said, "and found faithful. You will be very happy for all the rest of your lives." And so they were—just as the kind frog had said.



## THE ENCHANTED HIND



A QUEEN was one day sitting by a fountain weeping. She wished very much to have a child of her own, and she thought it

sad that she had not one. As she wept, she saw a craw-fish rise on the water, and she started as she heard it speak. "Great Queen," it said, "you will soon have a child. Near this spot is a palace of the fairies, my sisters; I will take you there, if you like to go." The Queen said that she would like. Then the craw-fish turned into a pretty little old lady, who led the Queen to a beautiful palace, where six fairies came out to meet them. They said that they were

glad to see the Queen, and they gave her a bouquet of jewels, a rose, a tulip, an anemone, a hyacinth, a pink, and an auricula. "Madam," said one of them, "we are glad to tell you that you will soon have a little girl baby. You must call her 'Welcome.' As soon as she is born call us.

You have only to take the bouquet we have given in your hands, and name each of the six flowers, and we will be with you to offer our gifts to little Welcome." The Queen stayed some hours with the



fairies after the old lady had left them. She then went home very happy, and, as the fairies had said, a baby was soon after born, whom she said should be called Welcome. Then she took the bouquet and named the flowers. As she spoke, the six fairies came into the room. They kissed the baby, and all gave it gifts. One said it should have a good temper, the second said that she should be clever, the third that she should be beautiful, the fourth that she should have good fortune, the fifth gave her health, the last said that whatever she tried to do would be well done. At that moment a great craw-fish came into the room. "Oh," it said, "you ungrateful Queen! you never once thought of me! Yet I took you to my sisters' palace."

The Queen was very sorry that she had not asked the craw-fish to come and see her, and she begged her pardon with tears, asking her to forgive her, and not to hurt the baby. The other fairies also begged the old fairy to be kind to the child; and at last she said, "Well, I forgive the Queen, but if that baby sees the light of day before she is fifteen years old, she will have to suffer." And she went away still as a craw-fish. The Queen in great fear asked the fairies what she should do. They advised her to build a palace with no doors or window in it, the entrance being far down under the ground and to shut the Princess up in it till she was fifteen years old.

The King and Queen did so; the baby was not let see the light of day, and when the palace was built she and her nurses were put in it. There she grew up, and was taught everything that a Princess ought to know. The fairies often came to see the Queen, and begged her to take great care not to let the Princess see the light. As she grew up to nearly fifteen, the Queen, who was proud of her beauty, had her likeness painted, and sent copies of the pictures to all the kings and queens, her friends. One young Prince, named Valiant, was so struck by its beauty, that he begged his father to ask the Princess's father to give her to him for his wife. The King consented, and an ambassador was sent to Welcome's father to ask for the hand of the Princess. He was the friend of Prince Valiant, and his name was Becafica. Just before he arrived the Fairy



Tulip came to see the Queen, and begged her not to let the ambassador see Welcome, and, above all, not to let her leave the tower till she was quite fifteen. So the King and Queen would not let Becafica see the Princess, but they consented to let her see the portrait of the young Prince that he had brought. Welcome was delighted with it, and kept it in her room; and the King told Becafica about the fairies, but promised that in three months' time he would bring his daughter to the court of Valiant's father to become bride of his son.

But when Prince Valiant heard this message, he doubted whether the King would keep his word, and grew so ill that the doctors said he would die unless the Princess were sent to him at once. The King, his father, was miserable, in fear of the death of his only son. He sent Becafica again to Welcome's father with such a sad letter, saying that they would be cruel not to let the Princess come, as it would kill his only son, that they felt they must consent.

So they had a carriage made into which no ray of light could come, and sent Welcome away in it, accompanied by the Mistress of the Robes, her daughter Narcissa, and a maid of honour named Flora. Flora loved Welcome, but Narcissa hated her and loved Valiant; so she and her mother laid a plot that Narcissa should pretend to be the Princess, and, in order to gain their end, they would let Welcome see the light, so that it might kill her. At noon the next day the old mother cut a large hole in the side of the carriage, and the Princess, seeing the light, was changed into a white hind. The door was thrown open, and she at once sprang out and ran into the forest, afterwards seeking shelter at a cottage near by. Flora immediately followed her.







When the wicked Mistress of the Robes and Narcissa reached the kingdom of Prince Valiant, he and his father came to meet them; but when they saw Narcissa, they cried out at once that some wicked deed had been done, for that she was not the Princess. In vain Narcissa declared that she was Welcome; she and her mother were taken to the town and lodged in a dungeon.

Then Prince Valiant declared that he could not live at court, and he and Becafica left the palace secretly, and went to stay in the forest. As it chanced, it was the one in which the White Hind lived. Flora had found her, and taken her with her to a shepherd's cot, where she hired a bedroom; and then, to their joy, they found that Welcome was a hind only by day, and at night she took her own form. Prince Valiant's only amusement was hunting, and, seeing a White Hind the next day in the wood, he chased it and shot several arrows at it, but did not wound it, and Welcome came home safely, but very tired from her chase. The next day the Prince again chased the White Hind, but, feeling tired, lay down under a tree at noon and fell asleep, where the White Hind found him, and saw, to her grief, that she was chased by none other than her beloved Valiant. Presently the Prince awoke, and the chase was continued, and at last Valiant shot the White Hind. He ran to the spot as she fell, and was sorry to have hurt the pretty deer. He thought that he would keep her for a pet, and tied her to a tree, where Flora found her, and of course set her free. But Becafica had seen Flora, and recollected her at the court of Welcome's father. So he watched in the garden of the cottage that night, and there by moonlight he saw the Princess herself. He ran to tell the Prince, who at once hastened to the same spot, and threw himself on his knees before the Princess. From that moment the spell



lay a great oak tree, just cut down. "Since you are so strong," said the giant, "help me to carry this tree." He took hold of the trunk, the tailor seized the branches; they were many and very thick. But instead of carrying them, he jumped up and sat on one; so the poor giant had to carry the tree and the tailor, and grew so tired that he called out, "I must put it down." The tailor jumped off as the giant dropped it, and the giant saw that he was not the least tired.

By and by they came to a cherry tree; the giant drew down the top branch, and told the little man that he might eat the fruit. The tailor took hold of it, but he could not keep it down; it flew up, and, as he was very light, it carried him with it, and he came down on his feet on the other side. "There," he cried, for he was not hurt, "can you jump over a tree like that?" The giant tried, but could not do it, and felt quite cross at being beaten by such a wee man. But he said to the tailor, "Well, as you are so clever, you had better go home with me and stay the night." The tailor thanked him, and went. In a cave, sitting by the fire, were two or three other giants; each held a sheep, which he was eating. The little man sat down by them. The giant gave him some meat, and then showed him to a bed; but it was so large that the tailor did not like it. He got out, went into a corner, and curled himself up to sleep.

"Now that he is asleep," said the giant, "I will kill him, and put an end to his tricks." So he rose and took his club and gave the bed such a blow that he broke it in halves. But the tailor was not in it. The next morning, when they had all left the cave, he went up to them, looking very merry, and said, "Good day"; but they thought that he had come to life again, and, as they had seen his belt, they feared that he would kill them all at a stroke, so they ran away as fast as they could.

The tailor went on, and by and by was so tired that he lay down in the court of a King's palace, and went fast asleep. He was found there by some of the King's servants, who read on his belt, "*SEVEN AT ONE STROKE.*" They thought it meant seven men, and went and told the King; so he sent them to ask the brave man if he would



serve His Majesty. The tailor said that was just what he wished, so they took him to the King.

The King gave him a high place in his army, which so offended the chief officers in it that they all came to the King and gave up their commissions. They said that they could not serve with a man who killed seven at a stroke. The King was very sorry; he did not like to lose all his old friends and brave officers for the sake of this stranger, so he wished to get rid of the tailor. He sent for him, and said, "There are two dreadful giants in the forest, whose crimes are more than I can count. Now, I will give my daughter and half my kingdom to the man who destroys them. Will you try? You shall have one hundred knights to go with you." The tailor said he would go and try, but that he did not want the knights. The King, however, would send them. At the edge of the wood the tailor told them that he did not want them to go any farther, for he who had killed seven at one stroke could easily kill two giants. So he stole alone into the wood, and by and by he saw the two giants asleep under an oak. He crept up to the tree with some large stones in his pocket, and when he was hidden by the leaves, he threw a stone on the chest of one of the giants. He woke, and said to the other, "What do you mean by striking me?" "You are dreaming," said the giant. And they went to sleep again. But the tailor again threw stones, some large ones, at the giants. Each thought the other had done it; they quarrelled, and then fought till they both lay dead. The tailor came down from the tree, drew his sword, almost cut off the giants' heads, and then called the knights to see them dead.

But the King was vexed. "You must do another brave deed," he said to the tailor, "before I give you my daughter; you must fight the fierce unicorn in the forest." "Very well," said the tailor. He took an axe and a rope, went to the wood, and stood with his back to a great tree. The unicorn soon came by, saw him, and rushed at him to stab him with his horn; but the tailor slipped lightly behind the tree. The unicorn ran with all his force, and his horn went into the



trunk of the tree and stuck fast. Then the little man put the rope round the beast's neck, chopped his horn out of the wood, and led him to the King. "One thing more," said the King; "now you must hunt and kill the wild boar. Take a hundred men with you."



The tailor went into the wood, and stood close to a small chapel there. The wild boar came rushing at him, but the small man jumped through one window of the chapel and out of the other. The boar ran after him by the door—he could not get through the window; and as soon as the tailor saw him inside the chapel, he ran round and locked him in. Then he called the hunters—he always left them outside the forest—and they took the boar to the King. That Prince was now obliged to keep his word, and the little tailor married the Princess, and was made King of half the land. But it was not a happy marriage. The tailor talked in his sleep of his old work—of the fit of a coat, of the cutting of cloth—and the Queen found that he had been a tailor. She was very angry, and told her father, who said, "We will have him seized to-night, and send him far away over the sea." But one of the courtiers, who liked the new King, went and told him. So he only pretended to go to sleep the next night, and by and by he talked, and said very loudly, "I killed seven at a stroke; I have slain two giants;



I have taken a unicorn, and caught a wild boar; shall I be afraid of the men who stand outside the door?"

When the men who waited to seize him heard these words they were afraid, and went off; and no one would dare to hurt him after that. So he remained a King for the rest of his life.









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