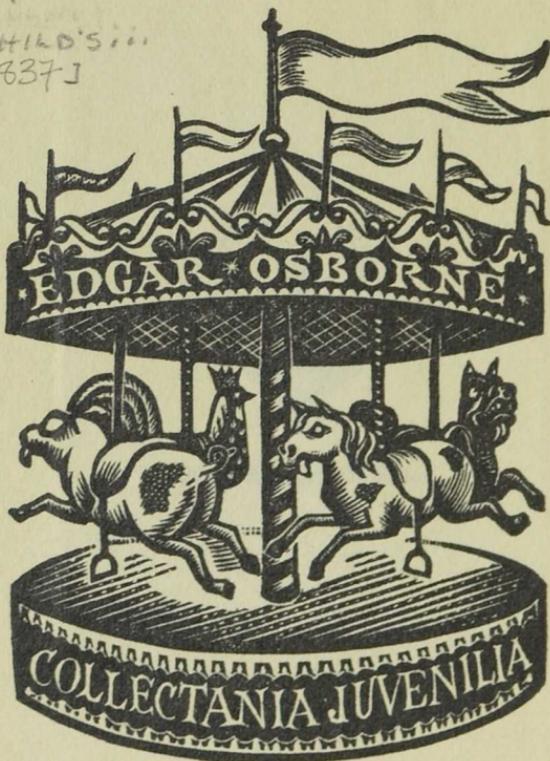


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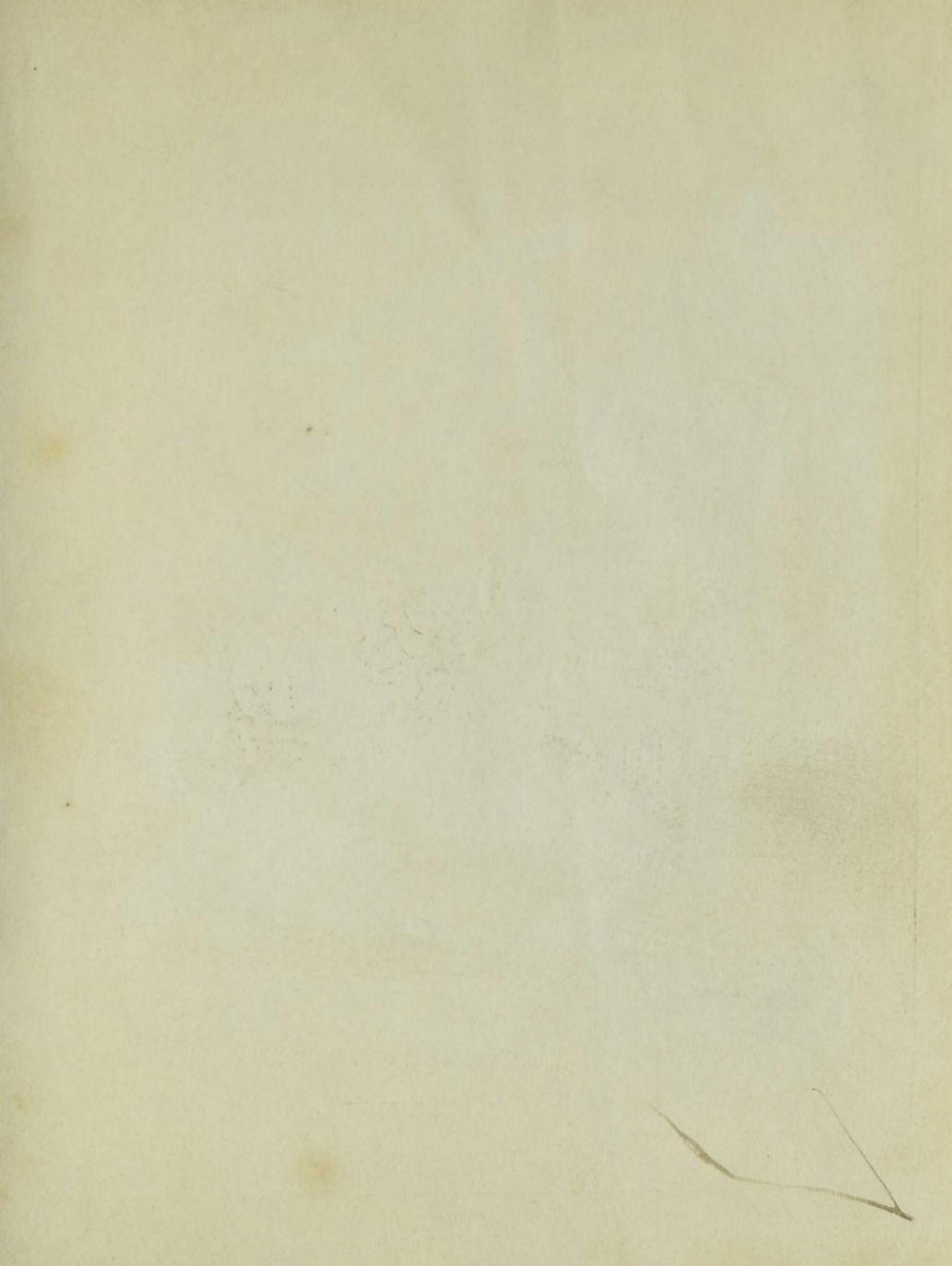
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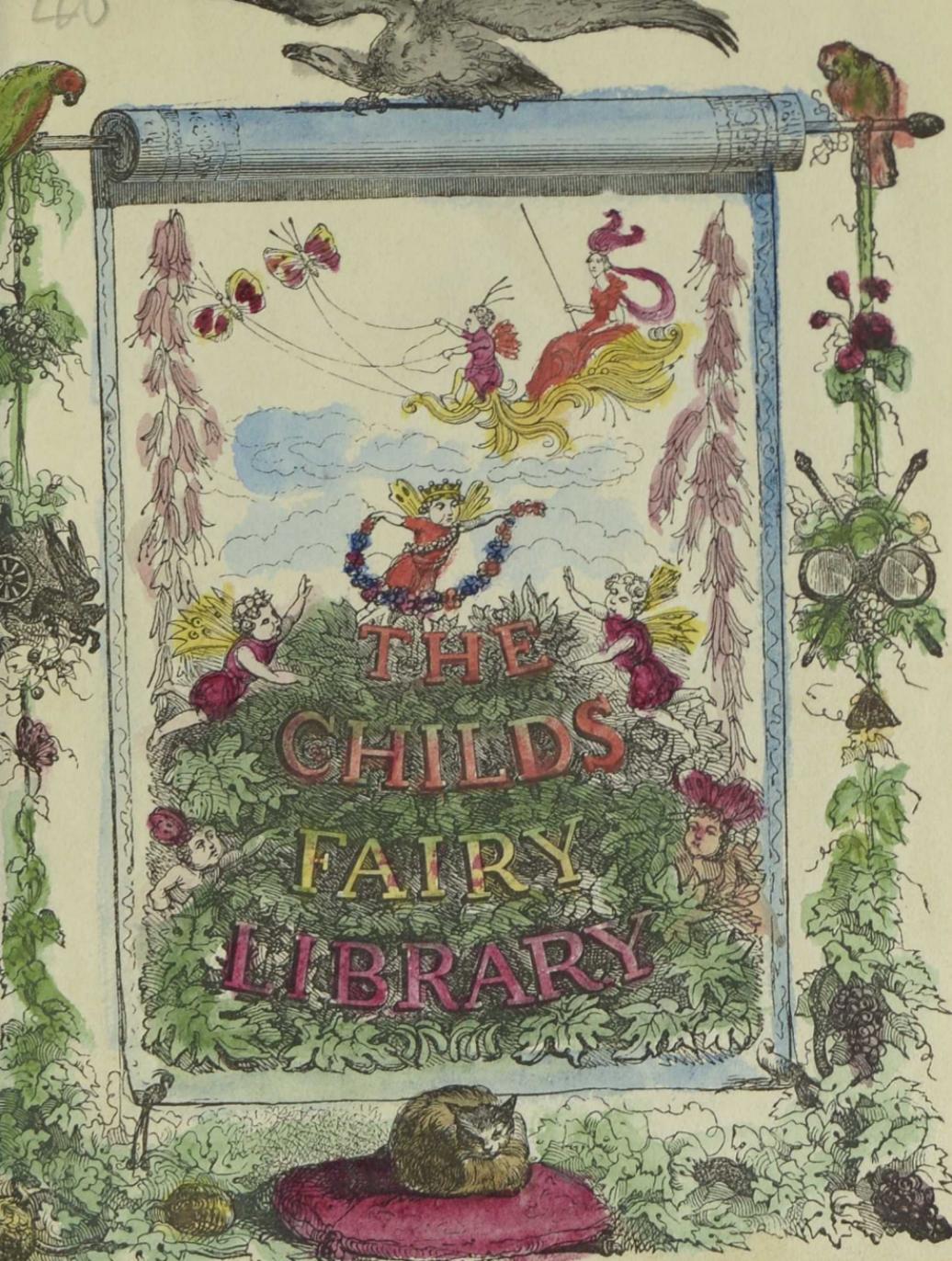
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“Once upon a time——”

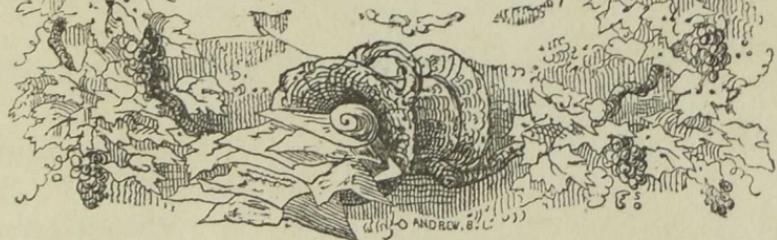


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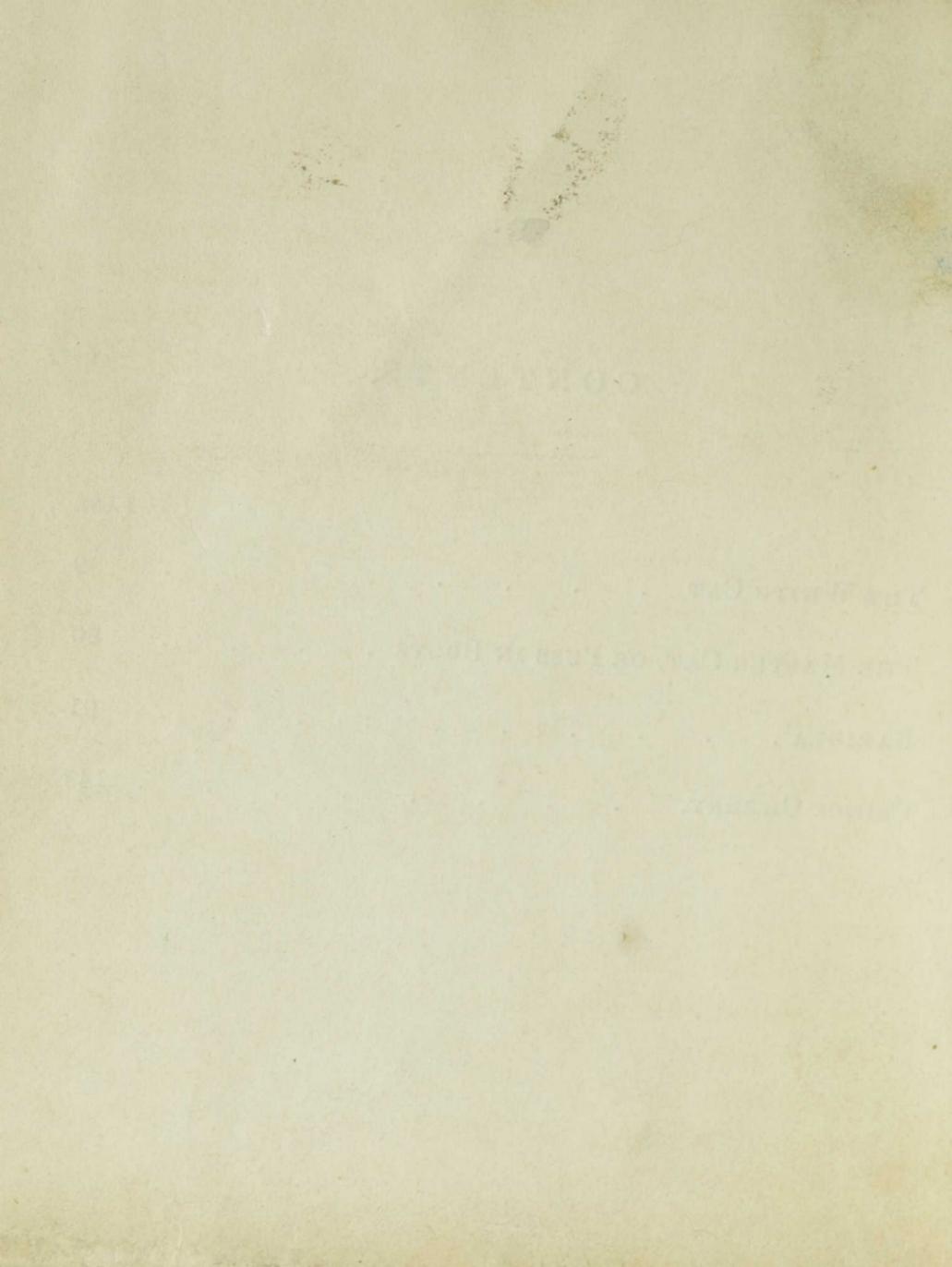


TO THE
CHILDREN
OF
GREAT BRITAIN,
THESE VOLUMES
ARE
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.



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THE WHITE CAT.

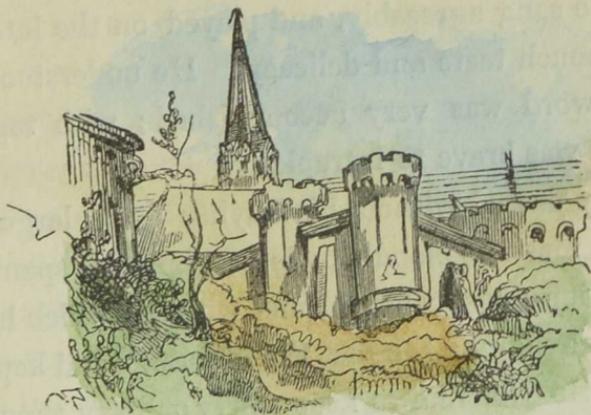
ONCE upon a time there was a king who had three brave and handsome sons ; he was afraid that the desire to reign should take possession of their minds before his death ; certain reports were even in circulation that they were endeavouring to acquire supporters to assist them in seizing the government of the kingdom. The king felt that he was old, but his sense

and his capacity for government not being at all diminished, he did not feel inclined to yield them a place he filled so worthily; so he thought that the best way for him to live in quiet would be to amuse them with promises, the fulfilment of which he would always find a means to elude.

He had them summoned to his closet; and after having spoken to them with great kindness, he said: "You will agree with me, my dear children, that my great age cannot permit me to attend to the affairs of state with so much care as formerly: I am afraid that my subjects will suffer in consequence, and wish to place my crown on the head of one of you, but it is very just that in return for such a gift, you should find some means of pleasing me. My intention is to retire into the country; and it appears to me that a well trained little dog, pretty and faithful, would be pleasant company in my walks; therefore, without choosing either my eldest on account of his seniority, or my youngest for love, I declare to you that he of you three who shall bring me the prettiest little dog, shall be my immediate successor." The princes were all much surprised at their father's desire for a little dog, but as the two youngest saw that they thus stood as good a chance for the throne as their eldest brother, they joyfully acceded to the proposal: the eldest was either too timid or too respectful to represent his rights. They took leave of the king, who gave them money and jewel-

lery, and told them that that day twelve months, without fail, they were to return, bringing with them their little dogs.

Before their final departure they went to a castle which was situated three miles from the town. They invited their most



confidential friends and gave a sumptuous entertainment, at which the three brothers vowed eternal friendship, agreeing to have no jealousy or animosity against each other in this affair, but that the successful candidate should share his fortune with the two others; finally they separated, agreeing to make that castle their rendezvous on their return, and thence to proceed together to the king; they did not wish to be followed by any one, and changed their names that they might not be known.

Each of them took a different road: the two eldest encountered many adventures, but my intention is to relate only those

that befel the youngest. He was a young prince of graceful demeanour, and of a cheerful and lively temper; he was of a noble figure, had a well-shaped head, regular features, handsome teeth, and was very skilful in all the exercises suitable to a prince. He sang agreeably, and played on the lute and mandolin with much taste and delicacy. He understood painting, and in a word was very accomplished; with regard to his courage, he was brave to intrepidity.

Not a day passed without his buying dogs, large and small, greyhounds, mastiffs, bloodhounds, staghounds, spaniels, water-spaniels and lap-dogs; when he met with one which he preferred to those he already had, he let the others go and kept that; for it was impossible for him to keep thirty or forty thousand dogs, and he did not wish for gentlemen, valets or pages in his suite. He continued to pursue his road, not having decided on taking any particular direction, when he was surprised by night and a storm of thunder and rain in a forest, with the roads of which he was unacquainted.

He struck into the first he came to, and after proceeding some distance, he perceived a light, which induced him to think that there was a house not far distant, where he might obtain a shelter till the next day. Proceeding in the direction of the light, he presently arrived at the gate of the most superb castle that could be imagined. This gate was of massive gold, studded

all over with carbuncles, the clear, bright rays of which illumined all around. It was indeed their lustre which the prince had perceived from afar; the walls were of transparent china, of various colours, and on these were represented the histories of all the fairies from the creation of the world until that day; the famous adventures of Ass's skin, of Finetta, of the Orange tree, of Graciosa, of the Sleeping Beauty in the Wood, of Green Serpentine, and many others were not omitted. He was charmed to find that Prince Lutin had a place there, for that prince was his uncle. The rain and bad weather prevented his making a longer observation of the place while he was fast getting wet through; besides he could only examine those places which the light shed by the carbuncles rendered visible to him.

He returned therefore to the golden gate: and observed a roe-buck's foot fastened to the end of a diamond chain. He could not forbear admiring its magnificence, and the security in which the inhabitants of the castle seemed to dwell; "for what," said he, "is there to prevent thieves from cutting off this chain and wresting off those carbuncles? they would enrich themselves for ever."

He pulled the roe-buck's foot and immediately heard a bell ring, which from the sound it returned he judged to be either of gold or of silver; in a moment the door opened, without his

perceiving any thing but a dozen hands in the air, each holding a flambeau. He was so astonished that he hesitated to advance, when *he felt other hands pushing from behind, with a little vio-*



lence. He then entered rather uneasy, and, as he thought, in some danger, so he kept his hand on the hilt of his sword; but entering a vestibule, the walls of which were encrusted with porphyry and lapis-lazuli, he heard two almost celestial voices singing this stanza :—

With unconcern behold each hand,
 And dread no false alarm,
 If you are sure you can withstand
 The force of beauty's charm.

He could not believe that he was invited so kindly to suffer any injury; so that, feeling himself gently pushed towards a large coral door which opened of itself as he approached,—he entered a large hall of mother of pearl, and subsequently several chambers, each ornamented in a different taste, and so enriched with paintings and jewellery, that he was like one enchanted. Vast quantities of lights, disposed regularly from the ceiling of the hall downwards, contributed to illumine some of the other apartments, which were besides filled with lustres, branch-candlesticks and side-boards covered with wax lights; in a word, the magnificence was such that its detail would almost be incredible.

After having entered sixty chambers, the hands which conducted him, stopped, and he observed a large elbow chair, making its way towards him from the chimney. The fire kindled of itself at the same time, and the hands, which seemed to him very pretty, small, plump and well proportioned, undressed him, for as I have already said he was very wet, and it was to be feared he would take cold. Without his seeing any one, a shirt fine enough for a wedding day, was handed to him, with a dressing gown of gold brocade, embroidered with little emeralds which formed cyphers. The trunkless hands placed a table within his reach, on which his toilette was arranged. Nothing could be more magnificent: they combed

out his hair with a lightness and dexterity which gave him great pleasure. Presently they dressed him, but not in his own clothes ; a much richer suit was provided for him. He silently admired all that he observed, and occasionally little fears, of which he could not entirely divest himself, obtruded themselves on his mind.

When his hair was curled and powdered, his clothes finally adjusted and ornamented, and his person sweetly perfumed, he looked more handsome than Adonis, and the hands conducted him to a superb saloon, rich in gilding and furniture. Around it were to be seen paintings representing the histories of the most celebrated cats : Rodillardus hanging by his feet at the council of the rats, the Master Cat, or Puss in Boots, the Marquis of Carabas, the Writing Cat, the Cat metamorphosed into a woman, witches in the shape of Cats, their ceremonies and nightly meetings ; such were the subjects of some of these pictures, than which nothing could be more odd and curious.

Two tables were laid in this saloon ; each of them was garnished with gold plate ; the beaufet was surprising on account of the vast number of vessels, all of rock chrysal or precious stones, arranged therein. The prince did not know for whom these two cloths were laid, and while he was considering he observed Cats enter the saloon and arrange themselves at a little orchestra, placed expressly for them ; one held the most

extraordinary music-book that was ever seen, another a little roll of paper wherewith to beat time, and the others carried little guitars. On a sudden they all began mewing in different tones, and scraping on the strings of the guitars with their talons ; it was the strangest music that ever was heard. The prince would have thought that he was in the infernal regions, if the palace had not been too wonderfully fine to allow him to encourage a thought so degrading ; but he stopped his ears, and laughed with all his heart at witnessing *the various attitudes and grimaces of these novel musicians.*



He was pondering on the curious things that had already happened to him in the castle, when he noticed a little figure, not two feet in height, enter the saloon. This large doll was enveloped in a long black crape veil. Two cats were leading

her, clothed in mourning; they wore cloaks, and swords by their sides; a numerous *cortège* of cats formed her train; some of them carried traps full of rats, and others mice in cages.

This sight did not decrease the prince's astonishment; he knew not what to think. The little figure in black walked up to him; and raising her veil he saw the most beautiful White Cat that was ever, or will ever be seen. She looked very young, and very sad withal; she said to the prince: "Son of a king, you are welcome, my feline majesty sees you with pleasure."—"Madam Puss," said the prince, "you are very generous to receive me with so much hospitality, but you do not seem to be an ordinary cat; your gift of speech and your superb castle are very evident proofs to the contrary."—"Son of a king," replied the White Cat, "I request you to forbear paying me compliments; I am simple in my manners and discourse, but I have a good heart. Come," continued she, "let supper be served, and let the musicians cease to play, for the prince does not understand their music." "And do they sing any thing, madam?" asked he. "Undoubtedly," she resumed; "we have true poets of infinite imagination, of which, if you remain a short time with us, you will have opportunities of being convinced." "It is only necessary to hear you affirm it to believe it," said the prince gallantly; "for, madam, I look upon you as an exceedingly rare cat."

Supper was brought up, the trunkless hands being the only attendants. Tureens of rich soup were first placed on the table, one being made of young pigeons, and another of fat rats. The sight of the second tureen prevented the prince from eating any of the first, he fancying that the same cook had dressed both : but the little Cat, who divined from his looks what was passing in his mind, assured him that her own kitchen was apart from that in which the pigeon soup was prepared, and that he might partake of what was presented to him with certainty of there being neither rats nor mice in it.

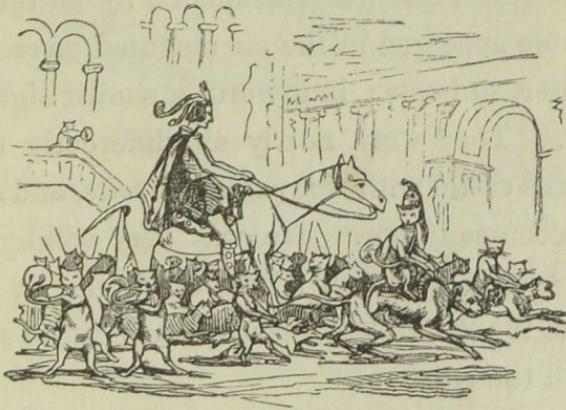
The prince gave her no occasion to repeat her assurance, for he did not believe that the pretty little Cat would deceive him. He remarked that she held in her paw a tablet containing a miniature portrait, which surprised him. He entreated her to let him see it, thinking that it was the picture of Minagrobis, or some favoured feline lover. He was very much astonished to see the countenance of a young man, so handsome that it was almost doubtful whether nature could form one to match it, had not the features borne so strong a resemblance to his own, that a better likeness of himself could not have been painted. She sighed, and becoming still more sorrowful, kept a profound silence. The prince plainly saw that there was something extraordinary in the affair ; however he dared not inform himself on the subject for fear of displeasing or grieving the Cat. He

entertained her with all the news he possessed, and found her well acquainted with the different interests of princes, and with the various events that were passing in the world.

After supper the White Cat invited her guest into a large hall which contained a stage, on which twelve cats and twelve apes were dancing a *ballet*. The cats were dressed as Moors and the apes as Chinese. It may easily be imagined how agile they were in their movements, and how high they leaped ; and how, from time to time, they gave one another cuffs with their paws : with this entertainment the evening closed. The White Cat bade her guest good night ; the hands which had conducted him thither, resumed their guidance and led him to an apartment attached to that in which he had performed his toilette. It was furnished with less magnificence than good taste ; the walls were hung with tapestry made of butterfly-wings, the colours of which were disposed in the shape and resemblance of various beautiful flowers. There were also feathers of very rare birds which most likely were never seen except in that place. The bed furniture was of gauze, looped up with many bows of ribbon. There were besides noble looking glasses reaching from the ceiling to the floor ; the frames were of gold, chased to represent thousands of little Cupids.

The prince went to bed without saying a word ; for there was no means of holding a conversation with the hands in

attendance upon him ; he did not sleep much, and was awakened by a confused noise. The hands immediately took him out of bed, and dressed him in a hunting suit. He looked into the court-yard of the castle, and observed more than five hundred cats, some of them leading greyhounds in couples, and others winding horns ; the day being a great festival. The White Cat was going to the chase, and wished the prince to go also. The officious hands presented to him a wooden horse that was very swift and very steady ; he made some objection to mounting it, alledging that he had no desire to turn knight-errant like Don Quixote ; but his resistance was unavailing, *they mounted him on the wooden horse*. His horse-cloth and saddle were



embroidered with gold and diamonds. The White Cat mounted an ape, the handsomest and most superb that was ever seen ;

she no longer wore her long veil, but a hat and feather, which gave her so fierce an air that all the mice that saw her were quite terrified. Never was there a more pleasant chase; the cats ran faster than the rabbits and hares, so that they took plenty of game, the White Cat having them fed in her own presence, and encouraging them: for the birds, they were in no greater safety; the cats climbed the trees, and the ape carried the White Cat to the eagle's nests, to dispose as she thought fit of their little highnesses the eagles.

When the chase was over she took a horn which was as long as a man's finger, but which yielded so clear and loud a sound, *that it was distinctly audible thirty miles off*. After sounding two or three flourishes, she was surrounded by all the cats in the country: some appeared in the air mounted on chariots, others came by water, in boats: in a word, a similar sight was never before seen. They were nearly all differently dressed; she returned to the castle with this pompous *suite*, and requested the prince to accompany her. He was very willing, though all this seemed to him to savour a little of witchcraft and sorcery: but the fact of the White Cat's being able to speak surprised him more than all the rest.

When she arrived at home, she resumed her large black veil; she supped with the prince, who was hungry and ate with a good appetite; rich liquors were brought of which he drank with



pleasure, and they had the effect of immediately obliterating from his mind all thoughts of the little dog that he had to take to the king. He only thought of listening to the White Cat's mewings, and keeping her good and faithful company; he spent the days in the most agreeable manner, sometimes fishing or hunting, at others dancing and feasting, with a thousand other diversions of the most pleasant kind; the beautiful Cat frequently composed songs and verses in so impassioned a style,

that he thought she must have a tender heart, and that no one could express herself as she did, who was insensible to love ; but her secretary, an aged cat, wrote so bad a hand, that at the present day, although her works are still preserved in the hands of our publisher, it is impossible to decipher them.

The prince had forgotten his country. The hands so often mentioned continued to attend on him. He sometimes regretted that he was not a cat, that he might pass the remainder of his life in such good company. “ Alas ! ” said he to the White Cat, “ how sorry I shall be to leave you ; I love you so dearly ! Either become a woman or change me into a cat.” She was mightily pleased with this request, but only gave him obscure answers, of which he could not at all comprehend the meaning.

A year quickly passes away when one has neither anxiety nor trouble, and enjoys good health and spirits. The White Cat knew the time when the prince should return ; and as he no longer remembered it, recalled it to his recollection. “ Are you aware,” said she, “ that you have only three days to find the little dog that the king your father wishes for, and that your brothers have got some very fine ones ? ” The prince thus reminded and much astonished at his negligence exclaimed : “ By what secret charm, can I have forgotten that thing of all others which to me is the most important in the world ? There goes my glory and my fortune ; where shall I find a little dog

beautiful enough to gain a kingdom, and a horse fleet enough to take me to the king my father, within the prescribed time." He then began to feel uneasy and to afflict himself very much.

The White Cat said to him soothingly: "Son of a king, do not grieve, I am your friend; you may remain here one day longer, and, although your country is one thousand five hundred miles from hence, the good wooden horse will carry you thither in less than twelve hours."—"Many thanks, beautiful Cat," said the prince; "but I not only want to return to my father, I must take him a little dog."—"Here," said the White Cat, "take this acorn: in it you will find one more beautiful than the dog-star itself." "Oh," said the prince, "Madam Puss, your majesty is pleased to be facetious with me."—"Put the acorn to your ear," continued she, "and you will hear it bark." He did so: immediately the little dog barked 'bow, wow, wow,' at which the prince was in ecstasies, for a dog which was capable of being contained in an acorn, must of necessity be very small. So great was his desire to see it that he had a mind to open it; but the White Cat told him that the little dog might take cold on the road, and he had better wait till he was in the king, his father's, presence. He thanked her a thousand times, and after bidding her a tender adieu he added: "I assure you that the days have passed so pleasantly in your company, that I regret very sincerely, to leave you here; and though you

are a queen, and all the cats who compose your court have more wit and gallantry than can be found in ours, I cannot forbear inviting you to accompany me." The Cat only answered this proposal with a profound sigh.

They parted. The prince arrived first at the castle which had been agreed upon as the rendezvous of himself and brothers. They made their appearance shortly after him, and were not a little surprised to see in the court-yard a wooden horse that leaped better than any in the academy.

The prince went out to meet them. They embraced several times and told each other their adventures; but our prince disguised his from his brothers, and showed them a vile cur of a turnspit, telling them he thought it was so pretty, that he had decided on taking it, as his present to the king. However great the friendship between them, the two eldest felt a secret joy at the wretched choice their brother had made, and when they were seated at table they trod on each other's feet, as much as to say that there was nothing to fear in that quarter.

The next day they set out together in the same carriage. The two eldest sons carried their little dogs in baskets, so fine and delicate that one hardly dared to touch them. The youngest led his miserable turn-spit in a string, and it was so dirty no one could abide it. When they had entered the palace, everybody crowded round them to bid them welcome; they passed on

to the king's apartment. He knew not in whose favour to decide, for the little dogs presented him by his two eldest sons were so nearly of equal beauty ; and they were already arguing their rights to accession, when the youngest settled the difference by taking from his pocket the acorn that the White Cat had given to him. He immediately opened it, when every body saw a little dog lying on some cotton. He was so small that he would pass through a ring without touching it. The prince put him on the floor, where he immediately began dancing a sara-band with castanets, as lightly as the most practised dancer at Madrid. He was of many different colours, his ears and long silky hair reaching to the ground. The king was very much confused ; for it was impossible to find any fault with Toutou's beauty.

However he had no wish to get rid of his crown, the smallest gem of which was dearer to him than all the dogs in the universe. So he told his sons that he was satisfied with the trouble they had taken to gratify his wish, but that they had been so successful in the first thing he had desired of them, that he had a mind to make further trial of their abilities before keeping his word ; he accordingly gave them twelve months to search by land and sea for a piece of cloth of so fine a texture that it would pass through the eye of a cambric needle. All three of them were very much afflicted at being obliged to set

out on a new search. The two princes whose dogs were not so fine as that of their youngest brother consented however with a good grace, each of them went his way, without their bidding the youngest or one another nearly so friendly an adieu as they had done on the first occasion, for the turn-spit had a little alienated their affections.

Our prince remounted his wooden horse, and without seeking other assistance than what he hoped for from the White Cat's friendship, he departed with all diligence, and returned to the castle where she had before so kindly entertained him. He found all the doors open; the windows, the roofs, the towers, and the walls were illuminated with a hundred thousand lamps, which had a marvellous effect. The hands, which had before so well attended on him, advanced to meet him, taking the bridle of the excellent wooden horse, and leading him to the stable, while the prince entered the White Cat's chamber.

She was lying in a little basket, on a very neat white satin mattress. She wore her cap en negligée, and seemed in low spirits; but when she saw the prince she made a thousand skips and jumps to express her joy. "Whatever reason I may have had," said she to him, "to wish for your return, I confess, son of a king, that I dared not flatter myself with that hope; for I am generally so unfortunate in the result of my wishes that I am surprised at your re-appearance." The grateful prince



caressed her a thousand times ; he informed her of the success of his journey, which she perhaps knew better than he did himself, and that the king required a piece of cloth, so fine that it might be passed through the eye of a needle ; he added that for his part he thought the thing was impossible, but that he had resolved to search for such a piece of cloth, relying on her friendship and assistance. The White Cat assuming a grave look said : “ It is an affair that requires consideration ; by good fortune I have in my castle some cats who spin pretty well, and I will superintend this work myself and see it advanced : thus you can remain in quietness, without going farther in search of what can be procured here, if at all, more easily than at any other place in the world.”

The hands appeared bearing flambeaux ; and the prince,

accompanied by the White Cat, following them, entered a magnificent gallery that looked on to a large river, on which most surprising artificial fire-works were exhibiting. Four cats, who had been condemned in all due form to be burned, were about to suffer the execution of their sentence. They had been accused of eating the roast meat prepared for the White Cat's supper ; of having stolen her cheese and milk ; and of having conspired against her person with Martafax and Heremita, two famous cats of that country, and spoken of as such by that veracious author La Fontaine ; but though there was sufficient evidence against them it was thought that there had been much caballing in the business, and that most of the witnesses had been bribed. However that may have been, the prince obtained their pardon. The fire-works did no one any harm, and the sky-rockets were as beautiful as any ever seen at Vauxhall.

A very nice repast was then served up, which was more agreeable to the prince than the fire-works, for he was very hungry, his wooden horse having brought him with so much expedition that it had given him a good appetite. The succeeding days passed, as the former ones had done, in a thousand agreeable entertainments, with which the White Cat diverted her guest. The prince was perhaps the first mortal who had been so well entertained by cats, without any other company.

Indeed the White Cat was very ready witted, complaisant,

and well informed. She had more learning than is usually the lot of cats. The prince, in astonishment, would sometimes say to her : “ No ! all that I observe in you so remarkable, cannot be natural ; if you love me, charming Puss, inform me by what prodigy you are able to think so accurately and to speak so justly, that you might be admitted into the most learned academies ? ” “ Forbear your questions, son of a king,” she would answer, “ I am not permitted to reply to them, but you are at liberty to push your conjectures to what extent you please, without my opposing them ; let it suffice, that for you I have always a velvet paw, and that I interest myself tenderly in all that concerns you.”

Insensibly as had the first, the second year rolled away ; the prince wished for nothing that the diligent hands did not bring to him immediately ; whether he desired books, jewellery, pictures, or antique medals ; in a word if he only formed a wish for a certain jewel in the Mogul’s cabinet, or in that of the king of Persia, for such a statue in Corinth or other part of Greece, he immediately saw it before him without knowing who had brought it, or whence it had come. This was certainly a source of pleasure to him, for to relax occasionally, it must be an agreeable thing to be in possession of the finest treasures of the world.

The White Cat, who always watched the prince’s interests,

warned him that the time for his departure had arrived, and that he might make himself easy on the score of the piece of cloth of which he was in want, as she had had a wonderfully fine one made; she added that she intended this time to give him an equipage worthy of his birth, and requested him to look into the court-yard of the castle. He there observed an open chariot of gold and enamel, embossed in flame colour, with a thousand tasteful devices, as pleasing to the mind as to the eye. Twelve snow white horses placed four deep, drew it, their harness being of flame coloured velvet embroidered with diamonds and decked with plates of gold. The lining of the chariot was of the same material as the harness; and a hundred carriages, each drawn by eight horses, and filled with noble lords richly dressed, followed it. It was attended besides by a thousand body-guards, whose clothes were so covered with embroidery that the cloth was entirely hidden; what was very singular was that the White Cat's picture was every where visible, both in the devices on the chariot, on the guards' regimentals, or attached by a ribbon to the coats of those who composed the *cortège*, as the badge of a new order with which they had been recently invested.

“Go,” said she to the prince, “and appear at the king your father's court, in so sumptuous a style, that your magnificent appearance may so impose upon him, that he may no longer



refuse you the crown that you deserve. Here is a walnut, be careful to crack it in his presence, and you will find in it the piece of cloth that you asked me for.”—“Lovely White Cat,” said the prince to her, “I must acknowledge to you that I am so penetrated with your kindness, that if you will consent to it, I prefer to pass my life with you to all the greatness that I may reasonably expect elsewhere.” “Son of a king,” replied she, “I am persuaded of the goodness of your heart; it is a rare commodity with princes, who would be loved by every body, but would love no one themselves; you however shew that the

general rule has exceptions. I set great store by the attachment you testify for a little White Cat, who after all is only fit to catch mice." The prince then kissed her paw and departed.

The speed with which he travelled would be hardly credible, were we not acquainted with the fact that the wooden horse had on the former occasion carried him in less than two days a distance of upwards of one thousand five hundred miles on the same road; but the same power which had animated that, urging forward his present conveyance still more strongly, he achieved the same distance in twenty four hours! They stopped for nothing until they had reached the king's palace, where the two elder brothers had already arrived. Not seeing their youngest brother there, they congratulated each other, saying in a low voice: "This is very fortunate, for he is either dead or ill, and will not be our rival in the important business now about to be transacted." They then displayed their pieces of cloth, which in truth were so fine that they would pass through the eye of a large needle, but by no means through that of a small one; the king glad to find this pretext for evasion, shewed them the needle he had proposed, which was brought from the treasury, where it had been carefully guarded by the magistrates.

This dispute caused a deal of murmuring. The friends of the princes, and particularly those of the eldest, for his piece of cloth was the finest, said that the whole was a piece of arrant

chicanery and evasion, managed very artfully and to good purpose. The king's creatures, maintained that he was not obliged to keep conditions he had not made. At last, to put an end to the difference, a charming concert of trumpets, haut-boys and kettle-drums was heard : it was our prince arriving in pompous style. The king and his two sons were equally astonished at so magnificent a spectacle.

After respectfully saluting his father, and embracing his two brothers, he took the walnut out of a box covered with rubies. He cracked it, expecting to find in it the piece of cloth so much boasted of ; but saw nothing but a hazel nut. He cracked this, and was astonished to find only a cherry-stone. All the by-standers looked at each other, and the king slightly smiled in ridicule, that his son should have been so credulous as to believe he had a piece of cloth in a walnut : though he had no occasion to doubt its possibility, seeing that the prince had already brought him a little dog in an acorn. The prince cracked the cherry-stone which contained only the kernel, when a buzz arose in the chamber, and nothing was audible but whisperings that the prince was duped. He made no reply to the courtiers' bitter jests, and opened the kernel ; he found in it a grain of wheat, and in that a grain of millet. At the sight of this last he actually began himself to doubt ; and muttered between his teeth : " White cat, white cat, you have deceived

me." At this moment he felt a cat's paw on the back of his hand, which scratched him to such purpose that it fetched blood. He knew not whether this scratch was inflicted to encourage or to dismay him. However, he opened the grain of millet, and not a little astonished every body present by drawing from it a piece of cloth four ells long, of such marvellous workmanship, that all kinds of birds, beasts and fishes were represented on it as naturally as life; there were also representations of the different kinds of trees, fruits and plants, rocks, shells, and other wonders of the deep, with the sun, the moon, the stars, and the planets of the heavens: there were besides the portraits of all the kings and emperors who had ever reigned until then in the world; those of their queens, their mistresses, their children and all their subjects, the least vagabond of their dominions not being omitted: they were all dressed according to their various conditions, and each of them in the costume of his country. When the king saw this piece of cloth he turned as pale as the prince had turned red in looking for it so long. The needle was produced and it was passed and re-passed through it six times. The king and the two elder princes kept a sullen silence, although the beauty and rarity of this piece of cloth constrained them to say from time to time, that it was not to be matched in the whole world.

The king fetched a deep sigh, and turning to his children:

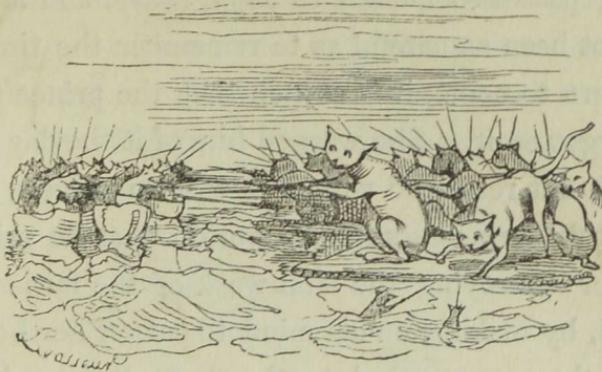
“Nothing,” said he to them, “can give me so much consolation in my old age, as the gratification of knowing that I have such dutiful sons ; which however makes me desirous of putting you to a new trial. Travel for another twelve months and he who at the end of that period shall bring with him the most beautiful damsel, shall marry her and be crowned king at the same time ; it is quite certain that my successor must marry. I promise, I swear, that I will then no longer defer the reward.”

All the injustice of this sentence fell on our prince. The little dog and the piece of cloth were worth ten kingdoms, rather than one ; but he was of so sweet a temper, that he had no wish to oppose his father’s will ; so he got into his chariot without delay : his equipage followed him, and he returned to his dear white cat. She knew the day and hour when he was destined to arrive, and had had flowers scattered on his road, and thousands of pastilles lighted in all directions, particularly in and near the castle. She was reclining on a Persian carpet, in a pavilion of cloth of gold, whence she could witness his return. He was received by the hands which had hitherto waited on him. All the cats climbed to the gutters and greeted him with a desperate mewing.

“Well, son of a king,” said she to him, “you have once more returned without your crown.” “Madam,” replied he,

“your kindness placed me in a condition to gain it, but I am persuaded that the king would have had more pain in divesting himself of it, than I should have had in putting it on.” “No matter,” said she, “nothing must be neglected to deserve it, and I will be of some service to you on this occasion: since you must take a beautiful maiden with you to the king your father’s court, I will look for one who shall gain you the prize; meanwhile let us make merry and rejoice, for I have ordered a naval battle between the terrible rats of this country and my cats. The latter may be a little embarrassed, for they dread the water; however they are much the best fighters, and the combatants ought to be as nearly equal as possible.” The prince admired Madame Puss’s prudence. He praised her for it, and they walked together to a terrace which looked on to the sea.

The cat’s vessels consisted of large pieces of cork, on which they floated very commodiously. The rats had constructed their vessels of several half ostrich egg-shells. *The fight was very obstinate and cruel*; the rats threw themselves into the water and swam much better than the cats; by which means they were conquerors and conquered twenty times; but Minagrobis, admiral of the feline fleet, reduced the rattish tribe to the utmost despair. He ate, at a mouthful, their admiral, an old experienced rat, who had thrice sailed round the world in



very good ships, in which he had been neither captain nor sailor, but only an interloper.

The White Cat had no wish to exterminate these unfortunate rats. She was politic enough to foresee that if there were no rats or mice in the country, her subjects would live in a state of idleness that might operate to her prejudice. The prince passed this year as he had passed the others, in hunting, fishing, and at play, for the White Cat was very fond of chess. He could not forbear from time to time asking her again by what miracle she was able to speak. He asked her whether she were a fairy, or whether she had been metamorphosed into a cat, but as she never said more than she had a mind to say, she only answered him by a few little insignificant words, whence he easily inferred that she was not willing to communicate her secret to him.

Nothing passes so quickly as happy days, and if the White Cat had not been so careful as to remember the time when he should return to court, it is certain that the prince would have entirely forgotten it. She warned him of it the day before, and told him that it remained with him only to procure one of the most beautiful princesses in the world; that he might do so, the time for destroying the fatal work of the fairies having at last arrived, by making up his mind to cut off her head and tail and throw them promptly into the fire. "What," cried he, "lovely White Cat, I! and shall I be barbarous enough to kill you? Ah! you would doubtless try my heart, but rest assured that it can never fail in the friendship and love it owes you." "No, son of a king," continued she, "I do not suspect you of ingratitude; I am acquainted with your merit, but neither you nor I can prescribe in affairs of our destiny. Do as I bid you, and the happiness of both of us will be the consequence, and you will know, on the word of a Cat of truth and honour, that I am truly your friend."

Tears stood two or three times in the young prince's eyes, at the bare thought that it was necessary for him to cut off the head of his pretty little cat who had been so good to him. He said all that he could imagine of the most tender description to induce her to dispense with the terrible service she required of him, but she obstinately answered that she wished to die by his

hand, and that it was the only means of preventing his brothers from obtaining the crown ; in a word she pressed him with so much warmth, that *trembling and with an unsteady hand he drew his sword*, and cut off the head and tail of his good friend the Cat.



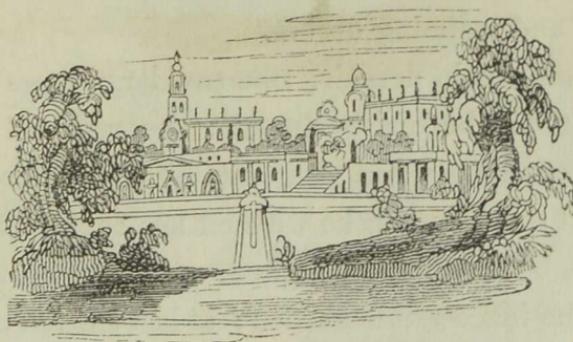
Immediately however that he had done so, he saw the most charming metamorphosis imaginable. The White Cat's body increased in size and changed suddenly into a young lady, so handsome and accomplished, as to mock all description. Her

eyes must have captivated all hearts, and her sweetness retained them ; her shape was majestic; her air noble and modest, her wit ready and universal, her manner engaging ; in a word she was beyond every thing that is most lovely in conception.

At the sight of her the prince was so surprised, so agreeably surprised, that he thought himself enchanted. He could not speak, his eyes were not large enough to look at her, and his tongue was so tied, that it could not give vent to his astonishment, but it was much augmented when he saw an extraordinary number of gentlemen and ladies enter, all of them having cat-skins thrown over their shoulders, and prostrate themselves at the queen's feet, and express their joy at seeing her restored to her natural state. She received them with demonstrations of kindness which sufficiently manifested the character of her heart. After listening for some time to their congratulations, she requested to be left alone with the prince : whom she addressed as follows :

“ Do not think, Sir, that I have always been a cat, or that I am of obscure birth. My father was king of six kingdoms. He was tenderly fond of my mother, and allowed her to follow the bent of her own wishes. Her prevailing inclination was a wish to travel ; so that while I was yet unborn, she set out to visit a certain mountain of which she had heard surprising things. On her road, she was informed that there was situated near to

where she was passing, *an ancient fairy castle, the finest in the world*, at least it was so believed from an old tradition which



related thereto, for as no one ever entered the castle it could not be judged of with certainty; it was however well authenticated that the fairies had in their garden some most excellent fruit, the finest flavoured and most delicious that was ever eaten.

“Thereupon the queen my mother, conceived so violent a longing to eat of this fruit that she immediately turned her steps towards the fairy castle. She reached the door of a superb edifice, which was resplendent with gold and azure, but although she knocked repeatedly, it remained unopened; no one appeared and it would seem as though all the inhabitants were dead: her desire increasing by reason of this difficulty, she sent for ladders to scale the garden walls, and would have succeeded in so doing

but that the walls rose of themselves as she advanced and mocked her efforts ; ladders were tied together until they broke under their own weight, added to that of those who were sent up them, killing some and maiming others.

“The queen was in despair. She saw large trees loaded with delicious fruit, but beyond her reach : she resolved to eat of it or die, and accordingly had rich tents pitched before the castle and remained there six weeks with all her court. She neither slept nor ate, but continually sighed, speaking of nothing but the fruit of the inaccessible garden ; at last she fell dangerously ill, and no remedy could be found for her, for the inexorable fairies had not even shewn themselves since she had been residing near their castle. All her officers were plunged in the deepest affliction : nothing was heard but tears and sighs ; the dying queen asking her attendants for fruit, while she would eat of none because it came not from the fairies’ garden.

“One night after falling into a slight doze, *she saw on awaking a little, decrepid, ugly old woman*, seated in a cushioned arm-chair near her bed. She was surprised that her women had allowed a stranger to come so near her, when the old woman said : “We find your majesty very importunate in your desire so stubbornly to eat of our fruit ; but since your precious life is in danger, my sisters and I consent to let you have as much of it as you can carry away, and to let you eat of it as



long as you stay here, provided you make us a gift.”—“ Ah ! my good mother,” cried the queen, “ speak, I will give you my kingdom, my heart, my soul to have some of your fruit, which I shall not think too dear at any price.”—“ We desire,” said she, “ that your majesty give us the daughter you will presently have ; when she is born we will come to fetch her ; she shall be brought up amongst us, and there are no virtues or charms that she shall not be possessed of, no accomplishments with which we will not endow her ; in a word, she shall be our child, and we will make her happy ; but your majesty must observe, that you are not to see her again until she is married. If this proposal suit you, I will immediately cure you, and take

you to our orchards : notwithstanding that it is night, you will see well enough to choose what you want. If what I say do not please you, good night to your majesty, I must go to sleep.”

“ Hard as are your terms,” answered the queen, “ I accept of them, rather than die ; for it is certain that I have not otherwise a day to live, and if my life be not preserved, my child and myself will both perish together. Cure me, wise fairy,” continued she, “ and let me not be debarred for a moment from the enjoyment of the privilege you have just granted to me.”

“ The fairy touched her with a little golden wand, saying : “ Be your majesty free from all the illness that confines you to this bed.” The queen immediately felt as if a very heavy and coarse garment with which she had been overwhelmed, were removed from her ; she was even better than she had been before the attack, particularly in all respects in which the disease had been most severe. She summoned all her ladies, and told them gaily that she was wonderfully well, and intended to rise, for at last the so well bolted and barricadoed doors of the fairy palace would be opened to admit her to eat of the beautiful fruit and to carry away as much as she pleased.

“ All the ladies thought that the queen was delirious, and that at that moment she was dreaming of the fruit for which she had had so violent a longing ; so instead of answering her, they

began to cry, and had all the physicians awakened to see how she was. This delay put the queen into the utmost despair; she quickly asked for her clothes, and they were refused her; she flew into a passion, and was becoming very red in the face: all this was thought to be the effect of her fever. At this juncture the physicians came, and after feeling her pulse, looking at her tongue, and making sundry enquiries, they could not deny that she was in perfect health. Her women, seeing the error into which their zeal had led them, tried to repair it by dressing her quickly. They all asked her pardon, and were forgiven, and she hastened to follow the old fairy who had been waiting for her all this time.

“She entered the palace, where nothing was wanting to make it the finest in the world: You will have no difficulty to believe that, son of a king, when I tell you that it was this in which we now are; two other fairies, not quite so old as the one who had conducted my mother, received them at the door, and gave her a very favourable reception. She begged them to conduct her immediately to the garden, and to the trees which bore the best fruit. “It is on all equally good,” said they to her, “and were it not that you desire to have the pleasure of gathering it yourself, we should only have to call the fruit, in order to make it come here of itself.” “I entreat you ladies,” said the queen, “to indulge me with this extraordinary sight.”

The senior fairy put her fingers in her mouth, and whistled three times, and then called out : “ *Grapes, apricots, peaches, nectarines, cherries, plums, pears, melons, currants, apples, oranges, citrons, gooseberries, strawberries and raspberries, come all at*



my bidding;” “But” said the queen “all the fruits you have named are not ripe at the same season.” “The case is different in our orchards,” said they ; “ we have all sorts of fruit, always ripe, always good, and which never spoil,”

“ In an instant they came rolling and tumbling in, without spoiling or even acquiring a single bruise ; and the queen, impatient to satisfy her longing, fell upon them and took the

first that came to her hand ; which she devoured rather than
ite.

“ When she had in some degree satisfied her appetite, she begged the fairies to let her go to the trees, and enjoy the pleasure of gathering the fruit for herself. “ We willingly consent ” said the fairies, “ but bear in mind that the promise you have made to us cannot be recalled. ” “ I am persuaded, ” replied she, “ that to live with you would be so pleasant, and this palace appears to me so fine, that if I did not tenderly love my husband, I would offer to remain here myself also ; therefore you need not fear that I shall forfeit my word. ” The fairies, very well satisfied, opened all their gardens and enclosures to her ; she



remained in them three days and three nights, without wishing to stir, so delightful did she find them. *She gathered fruit for*

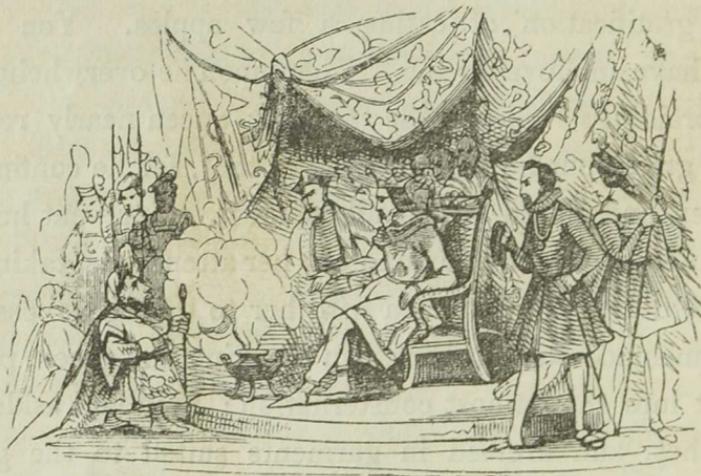
her provision; and as it never spoiled, she carried away four mule-loads of it with her. The fairies added to their fruit, gold baskets of exquisite workmanship, to keep it in, and other rarities of enormous value; they promised so to educate me as to make me a perfect princess, and to choose for me a proper husband: adding, that they would inform her of the wedding and trusted that she would attend it.

“The king was in ecstasies at his queen’s return; all the courtiers expressed their joy at the event, nothing was thought of but balls, masquerades, ring-races and feasts at which the queen’s fruit was served up as a delicious regale. The king ate of it in preference to any thing that the attendants could offer him. But he knew not of the bargain that had been made for it with the fairies, and often asked the queen to what country she had been to bring thence such good things; she answered that they grew on a nearly inaccessible mountain; at another time she said that they grew in vallies; then that she had found them in the middle of a garden, or in a forest. The king was surprised at so many contradictions. He questioned those who had accompanied her, but she had so expressly forbidden them to relate to any one her adventure, that they dared not mention it. At last the queen grew uneasy about her promise to the fairies; and as the time for her confinement drew near, fell into a frightful melancholy, sighing every moment and continually

changing countenance. The king was alarmed, and pressed the queen to impart to him the subject of her sorrow; after much difficulty she informed him of all that had passed between the fairies and herself, and that she had promised them the daughter that was soon to be born to them. "What," cried the king, "having no children and knowing how anxious I am for some, were you capable of promising your daughter in exchange for the gratification of eating a few apples. You cannot possibly have any love for me." Thereupon he overwhelmed her with upbraidings, which made the poor queen nearly ready to die with grief; but he did not stop at that, for he confined her in a tower, and placed guards all round it, to prevent her from holding intercourse with any one but her attendants, taking care to remove those who had been with her to the fairies' castle.

"This misunderstanding between the king and queen, plunged the court into the utmost consternation: they laid aside their rich clothes, and dressed in garments suited to the general grief. The king, for his part, appeared inexorable, and would not see his queen: directly I was born he had me brought to his palace to be nursed, while she was detained a prisoner, and in a bad state of health. The fairies were ignorant of nothing that was passing; they were provoked at it, and wanted to have me, looking on me as their property, and considering it as a robbery to withhold me from them. Before seeking revenge

commensurate to the injury thus done to them, they despatched a celebrated embassy to the king, desiring him to set the queen at liberty and to restore her to his favour; they entreated him also to send me with the ambassadors, to be nourished and brought up among them. *The ambassadors were so small and deformed, for they were hideous dwarfs, that they could not*



prevail with the king. He refused them rudely, and if they had not hastened their departure, he might have used them worse.

When the fairies were made acquainted with my fathers' proceedings, they were as indignant as possible, and after visiting his six kingdoms with all imaginable evils, to desolate them,

they let loose a terrible dragon which ate men and children, filling with venom every place he passed through, and killing plants and trees with the breath of his nostrils.

“The king, finding himself reduced to the last extremity, consulted with all the wise men of his kingdom, as to what he should do to relieve his subjects from the misfortunes with which they were so oppressed. They advised him to have a search made all over the world for the best physicians and most excellent remedies, and on the other hand to promise their lives to all criminals condemned to death, who were willing to fight the dragon. The king, satisfied with this advice, put it into execution, but received no benefit from so doing, for the mortality continued, and every one who fought with the dragon was devoured : he then applied to a fairy who had protected him from his most tender years. She was very old, and hardly ever rose from her seat ; he went to her, and overwhelmed her with reproaches for allowing fate to persecute him without giving him any assistance. “What would you have me do ?” said she to him, “you have provoked my sisters, they are as powerful as I am, and we rarely act in opposition to each other. Try to appease them by giving them your daughter ; the little princess belongs to them. You have confined your queen in a close prison ; what has that amiable woman done to deserve such ill treatment ? Determine on

keeping the word she pledged, and I assure you that all will end happily."

"The king my father loved me tenderly; but seeing no other means of saving his kingdoms, or of being delivered from the fatal dragon, he told his old friend that he would confide in her; and that he was willing to give me to the fairies immediately, as she assured him that I should be taken care of, and treated as became a princess of my rank: that he would also release the queen, and that she had only to tell him to whom he was to entrust me, that I might be carried at once to the fairies' castle. "It is necessary," said she, "to carry her in her cradle to the Mountain of Flowers, and you must yourself remain thereabouts to see what takes place." The king told her that in a week from that day he would go with the queen, and that she must acquaint the fairies, her sisters, with his intention, that they might take their measures accordingly.

"On his return to the palace he had the queen brought from the tower with as much pomp and tenderness as he had placed her in it with anger and passion. She was so fallen away and altered, that he could hardly have recognized her, if his heart had not told him she was the same person of whom he had once been so fond. He entreated her with tears in his eyes, to forget the ill treatment she had suffered, assuring her that it

should be the last she should receive at his hands. She modestly replied that she had drawn it on herself by her own imprudence in promising her daughter to the fairies, and that if any thing could plead in excuse for her, it was the condition to which she was then reduced. At last he declared to her that he was willing to place me in the fairies' hands. The queen, in her turn opposed this design: it seemed as though, through some fatality, I were always destined to be a cause of discord between my father and my mother. After much groaning and crying, without obtaining what she desired (for the king saw but too surely the fatal consequences that had already followed the breach of her promise, and his subjects continued to die as though they had participated in their sovereign's faults), she consented to his wishes, and preparations were made for the ceremony.

“*I was put into a cradle of mother-of-pearl, adorned as much as possible by art and good taste. Garlands and festoons of flowers were hung all about it, the flowers being composed of precious stones, the different colours of which reflected the sun's rays so brilliantly, that it was impossible to look at them. The magnificence of my attire surpassed, if possible, that of my cradle. All the bands and rolls of my swaddling-clothes were buckled with large pearls; four and twenty princesses of the blood-royal carried me in a kind of light litter; their clothes*



were all of precious materials ; they were allowed to use no colour but white, as emblematical of my innocence. All of the court accompanied me, each according to his rank.

“As the procession was ascending the mountain, a melodious symphony was heard approaching ; and presently the fairies appeared, thirty-six in number, the three having invited their friends to come with them ; each of them was seated in a pearl shell, larger than that in which Venus had risen from the sea ; marine horses, which cannot usually travel well on land, drew them more pompously than the first queens in the world ; yet they were old and ugly to excess. They carried an olive branch in their hands, to signify to the king that his

submission had gained their favour; and when they had me, their caresses were so extraordinary, that it seemed as if they only wished to live to make me happy.

“The dragon which they had made their instrument of vengeance against my father, followed confined in diamond chains: they took me in their arms, and caressed me a thousand times, endowed me with numerous gifts, and immediately commenced dancing the fairies’ hornpipe. This is a very lively dance; and it is almost incredible how the old women skipped and leaped about; then the voracious dragon, who had eaten so many people, drew near crawling. The fairies to whom my mother had promised me, seated themselves on his back, placing my cradle between them, and striking the



dragon with a wand, *he immediately outspread his large scaly wings, which were finer than crape, and intermixed with a*

variety of colours, and they were immediately borne to the castle. My mother seeing me in the air, exposed on this furious dragon's back, could not forbear uttering loud cries. The king comforted her by the assurance his friend had given him, that no accident should befall me, and that I should be taken as much care of, as if I were in his own palace. She was pacified, though she was much grieved to part with me for so long a period, and especially as she herself had been the cause of it; for if she had not longed to eat some fruit from the fairies' garden, I should have remained in my father's kingdom, and should not have undergone all the misfortunes, the history of which I am about to relate to you.

“ You must know, son of a king, that my guardians had built a tower expressly for me, in which there were a thousand beautiful apartments for all the seasons of the year, with magnificent furniture, and agreeable books; but there was no door to this tower, and entrance was obtained through the windows only, which were at a prodigious height. Attached to the tower were beautiful gardens, ornamented with flowers, fountains, and groves of verdure, which excluded the heat on the hottest dog-day. In that place did the fairies bring me up, with care that outdid all their promises to the queen. My clothes were made in the last fashion and of such magnificent materials that any one seeing me, would have thought that it was my wedding-day.

They taught me all that befitted my age and birth : I did not give them much trouble, for there was nothing that I did not comprehend with great facility ; my gentle disposition was very agreeable to them, and if I had seen no one but them, I should have been content to have remained there all my life-time.

“ They were continually visiting me, mounted on the furious dragon of which I have already spoken ; they never mentioned the king or queen to me, and always addressed me as their daughter, and I believed that I was really so. No creature lived in the tower with me, excepting a parrot and a little dog, which they gave me for my amusement, and endowed with the faculties of reason and speech.

“ One side of the tower was built on a hollow road, planted thickly with elms and other trees, which shaded it so much, that up to the time of which I am about to speak I never saw any one pass through it while I was confined there. But as I was at the window one day, talking with my parrot and dog, I heard a noise in that direction. I looked all round, and observed a young gentleman who was stopping to listen to our conversation : I had never seen one before but in pictures. I was not sorry that accident had placed this opportunity in my way ; so that, not suspecting the danger that attends the satisfaction of contemplating a lovely object, I advanced to look at him, and the longer I looked the more pleasure I felt. He

made me a low bow, fixed his eyes on me, and seemed to be troubled as to how he should communicate with me; for as my window was very high, he was fearful of being overheard, and he knew very well that it was the fairies' castle that I was in.

“Night came on suddenly, or more properly speaking, came on, without our perceiving it; he sounded his horn two or three times, and played a few airs on it to divert me; and he then departed, without my being able to distinguish which way he went, it was so dark. I remained very thoughtful; I ceased to feel the pleasure I had hitherto taken in conversing with my parrot and my dog. They said the prettiest things in the world to me, for fairy beasts are very witty: but my thoughts were otherwise engaged, and I knew not the art of dissembling. My parrot observed it; he was cunning, and said nothing of what was passing in his head.

“I did not fail, the next morning, to rise at day break. I hastened to my window, and was agreeably surprised to see the young gentleman at the foot of the tower. He wore a magnificent dress; I flattered myself that I had had a little share in it, and was not mistaken. He spoke to me through a kind of speaking-trumpet, and assisted by it, he told me that till then he had been insensible to the charms of all the beauties he had seen; but that when he saw me, he was so violently smitten with mine, that it would be impossible for

him to live without constantly seeing me. I was mightily pleased with this compliment, and very uneasy at not daring to make him any reply ; for I must have called out with all my might, and have run the risk of being better heard by the fairies than by him. *I threw him a few flowers that I had in my hand,* and he received them as so signal a favour, that he



kissed them over and over again : he afterwards asked me if I approved of his coming every day at the same hour under my window ; and added that if I did I was to throw him something. I had a turquoise ring, which I hastily pulled from my finger,

and threw it precipitately to him, making him a sign to hasten his departure; for I heard in another direction the fairy Violenta, who was coming on her dragon's back, to bring me my breakfast.

“The first words she said on entering my apartment were these: “I smell here the voice of a man; search, dragon.” Alas! what a condition was I in! I was dreadfully terrified lest it should go out of the other window, and follow the young gentleman, for whom I was already much interested. “Indeed,” said I, “my good mamma (for the old fairy wished me to call her so), you must be joking to say that you smell a man's voice here: can a voice be smelt? *and if it should be so,*



what mortal were daring enough, to venture coming up into this tower?”—“What you say is true, my daughter,” answered

she, "and I am delighted to hear you argue so clearly; I fancy it is the hatred I bear men, that sometimes persuades me that they are near when they are not." She gave me my breakfast, and my distaff. "When you have finished your breakfast do not fail to spin, for you did nothing yesterday," said she to me, "and my sisters will be angry at it." In fact I had been so taken up with the stranger, that I had been quite unable to spin.

"When she was gone, I threw the distaff on one side, in a rather refractory manner, and ascended to the terrace to take a distant view of the country. I had a most excellent perspective glass; nothing escaped my rigid scrutiny on all sides, and I discovered my lover on the summit of a mountain. He was reclining under a rich pavilion of cloth of gold, and was surrounded by a numerous court. I had no doubt that he was the son of some king in the neighbourhood of the fairies' palace. Being fearful that if he returned to the tower he would be discovered by the terrible dragon, I sought my parrot, and *told him to fly to that mountain*, and that he would find there the person who had spoken to me; I instructed him to beg the prince on my part to return no more to the tower, as I was fearful that the vigilance of my guardians would discover him and would prompt them to do him an evil turn.

"My parrot acquitted himself of his commission like a parrot



of wit. All the court was surprised to see him perch on the king's shoulder, and whisper in his ear. The prince felt both joy and sorrow at hearing the subject of his errand. My care flattered his passion, while the difficulties which opposed his speaking to me, overwhelmed him, without deterring him from his design of pleasing me. He asked the parrot a hundred questions, and the parrot, in his turn, asked him quite as many, for he was naturally curious. The king charged him with another ring, in return for my turquoise; this was a turquoise also, but much finer than mine, being shaped like a heart and surrounded with diamonds. "It is right," added he, "that I

should treat you as an ambassador : here is my portrait of which I make you a present ; shew it only to your charming mistress." He tied the portrait under his wing, and carried the ring in his bill.

"I awaited the return of my little green courier with an impatience that I had never known till then. He told me that the person to whom I had sent him was a great king, that he had received him in the handsomest manner in the world, and that I might rest assured that he would only live for me ; that though it was very dangerous for him to come to the foot of my tower, he was resolved to risk everything rather than renounce seeing me. This news so perplexed me that I began crying. My parrot and Toutou, my dog, consoled me as well as they were able, for they loved me tenderly, and then my parrot presented me the prince's ring and shewed me the portrait. I confess that I had never been so overjoyed as I was at contemplating near me a person whom I had only seen at a distance. He appeared to be still more lovely than he had seemed at first ; and so many thoughts crowded into my mind, some agreeable and others sad, that they gave me an unusually anxious look. The fairies who came to see me perceived it. They said one to another that I must be troubled at something, and that they must think of providing me with a husband of the fairy race. They named several, and presently pitched

upon the little king Migonnet, whose kingdom was situated five hundred thousand leagues from this palace ; but that was not of much importance. My parrot who overheard this agreeable consultation, related the whole of it to me, and said : “ Alas ! my dear mistress, how much I pity you, if you should become queen Migonnetta ! he is a frightful baboon, I am sorry to tell you, and I am sure that the king who loves you would scorn to have such a person for his footboy.”—“ Have you seen him, my parrot ?”—“ I think, if I am not mistaken,” continued he, “ that I have been perched on the same branch with him.”—“ How on a branch ?” replied I.—“ Why he has the feet,” said he, “ of an eagle.”

“ I was much grieved at receiving this account ; I looked at the charming portrait of the young king, and fancied that he had only given it to the parrot, that I might have opportunities of seeing it ; and when I made a comparison between him and Migonnet, I no longer wished to live, and resolved rather to die than marry the latter. I slept not during the night, but conversed with my parrot and Toutou ; I slept a little in the morning, and my dog, who had a very good nose, smelt the king who was at the foot of the tower. He awakened the parrot : “ I will engage that the king is there below,” said he. The parrot answered : “ Silence, prattler ; being always watchful and on the alert yourself, you are envious of the rest of others.”

—“But I will engage,” said the good Toutou, “that I am right, for I am certain that he is there.” The parrot answered : “And I am certain that he is not there ; did I not, in our mistress’s name forbid him to come here ?” — “Ah ! truly you talk finely about your forbidding him,” cried my dog, “a man in love only consults his heart :” and thereupon he began pulling the parrot’s wings so roughly that the bird got angry. They awakened me with their cries ; they told me the subject of their dispute, on hearing which I ran, or rather flew, to the window ; I saw the king who stretched his arms to me when he saw me and told me through his trumpet, that he could not live without me, and conjured me to discover a means of quitting the tower, or of admitting him to me, invoking the gods and all the elements to witness that he would marry me and thus make me one of the greatest queens in the world.

“I bade my parrot go and tell him, that what he wished appeared to me almost impossible ; that however, on the word he had pledged, and the oaths he had sworn to me, I would apply myself to what he wished ; that I conjured him not to come every day, lest he should at last be discovered, in which case the fairies would shew him no quarter. He went away, overjoyed with the hope that I had given him, while I was in the utmost embarrassment when I reflected on what I had just promised. How was I, so young, so inexperienced, and so

timid, and with no one to assist me but my parrot and Toutou, to quit a tower in which there were no doors? I came to the resolution of not attempting a thing in which I could never succeed, and dispatched my parrot to inform the king of my determination. He was for killing himself on the spot; but he finally charged my parrot with the task of persuading me either to come and see him die or bring him some comfort. "Sire," cried the winged ambassador, "my mistress is sufficiently disposed to console you she only wants the power."

"When he gave me an account of all that had passed, I was more afflicted than ever. The fairy Violenta came; she observed that my eyes were swollen and inflamed; she said that I had been crying, and that if I did not tell her the cause of my grief she would burn me; for her threats were always terrible. I replied trembling, that I was tired of spinning and desired to have some nets to entrap the little birds which came to peck at the fruit in my garden. "What you desire, my daughter," said she, "shall cost you no more tears," for I will bring you as much twine as you are in want of;" and in fact she did so that same evening: but she advised me to think less of working than of setting off my beauty, for king Migonnet was expected to arrive in a few days. I shuddered at this sorrowful news, and made no reply.

"When she was gone I began two or three rows of my nets;

but I presently *applied myself to making a rope ladder*, in which I succeeded very well, though I had never seen one. The



fairy had not supplied me with as much twine as was necessary, and said continually, on my asking her for more: "My daughter, your work is like that of Penelope, it does not advance, yet you do not cease to ask for fresh materials." "O! good mamma," I would say, "you may say what you please; but can you not see that I do not know how to manage it, and that I burn all that does not please me? are you not afraid that I shall ruin you in twine?" My air of simplicity satisfied her, although she was in a very disagreeable and cruel humour.

“I desired my parrot to tell the king to come one evening under my window, where he would find a ladder, and that he should know the rest when he arrived. In fact I had made it very secure, resolved to make my escape with him; but when he saw it, *without waiting for me to descend, he hastily mounted*



by it himself, and threw himself into my chamber, where I was getting every thing in readiness for my flight.

“His presence so overjoyed me that I forgot the danger we were in. He renewed all his vows, and conjured me not to

defer my marriage with him. We made my parrot and Toutou the witnesses of our contract; never did a wedding take place between persons of so high a rank, with less splendour and bustle, and never were hearts more contented than were ours.

“Before daylight the king left me, but not before I had informed him of the dreadful design the fairies had of marrying me to the little Migonnet; I described his figure to him, which he held in as much aversion as myself. When he was gone the hours seemed as long as years: I ran to the window, and followed him with my eyes, notwithstanding the darkness; but how great was my astonishment to see in the air a fiery chariot, drawn by winged salamanders, accompanied by guards mounted on ostriches.

“I had no leisure to consider whether it was the baboon Migonnet that was thus traversing the air; but I concluded that it must be a fairy or an enchanter.

“Shortly afterwards the fairy Violenta entered my chamber: “I bring you good news,” said she, “your intended husband has arrived some time; here are fine clothes and jewellery: prepare to receive him.”—“But who told you,” said I, “that I wanted to marry? I am sure that nothing is farther from my thoughts; therefore send back king Migonnet, for I will not add a single pin to my dress: whether he think me handsome or ugly, I am not for him.”—“Hey day, hey day,” said the

fairy again, "you little rebel, you empty pate, I do not understand your raillery, and I will——" "What will you do to me?" said I enraged at the names she had called me; "can any one be worse treated than I am, shut up in a tower with a parrot and a dog, and visited every day by that terrible dragon?"—"Ha! little ingrate," said the fairy, "is this all we deserve for our cares and pains? I have but too often told my sisters that we should have but a sorry recompense." With that she went to find them, and related to them our dispute, which not a little surprised the whole of them.

"My parrot and Toutou made me many remonstrances, representing that if I continued refractory, they foresaw that bitter misfortunes would befall me. I felt so proud of possessing the heart of a great king, that I despised the fairies and the advice of my humble companions. I would not dress at all and affected to be slovenly in my head-gear, that Migonnet might think me disagreeable. Our interview took place on a terrace; he came in his fiery chariot. Of all dwarfs he was certainly the smallest that was ever seen. His feet were like an eagle's, and close to his knees, for he had no leg bones, *and walked with the assistance of two diamond crutches.* His royal mantle was only half an ell in length, and the third part of it trailed upon the ground. His head was the size of a bushel, and his nose was so large that a dozen birds roosted on it,



whose warbling pleased him ; he had so strong a beard that canaries built their nests in it, and his ears reached a foot above his head ; but this latter circumstance was rendered less perceptible, by the high pointed crown he wore to make himself look more grand. The flame of his chariot roasted the fruit, withered the flowers, and dried up the fountains in my garden. He came up to me with open arms to embrace me, but I remained standing quite upright, which obliged his first esquire to hold him up ; but as soon as he came near me I fled to my chamber, and secured the door and windows : Migonnet retired to the fairies, very much enraged against me.

“ They asked him a thousand pardons for my rudeness, and to appease him, for he was powerful, they resolved to bring him to my chamber in the night while I was asleep, and

having bound my hands and feet, to place me in his burning chariot with him, that he might take me away. This course being decided on, they scolded me for the rudeness I had been guilty of, and desired me to think about repairing it. My parrot and Toutou were surprised at such mildness on their part. "Depend upon it, dear mistress," said my dog, "that it bodes no good; these fairies are strange personages, and especially Violenta." I ridiculed his fears, and awaited my dear husband's arrival with the last impatience, a feeling too much shared by him to permit delay on his part; I threw him the rope-ladder, resolving to make my escape with him; he lightly ascended it, and said a thousand such tender things, that I dare not recall them to my remembrance.

"While we were talking together with the same tranquillity as if we had been in his palace, we saw all of a sudden the windows of my chamber broken in, and the fairies enter on their terrible dragon, followed by king Migonnet, in his fiery chariot, and attended by his guards on their ostriches. The king, quite undaunted, clapped his hand to his sword, thinking only of securing and protecting me in this cruel pass; and immediately, how shall I tell it you, Sir? these barbarous creatures, set their dragon at him, who devoured him before my face.

"Desperate at his misfortune and my own, I threw myself in the horrible monster's jaws, hoping that he would devour

me, as he had just devoured all that was dear to me in the world. He wished it likewise ; but the fairies, more cruel than he was, would not allow him : “ She must,” said they, “ be reserved for more lasting torment, a speedy death is too good for this worthless creature.” They touched me, and I found myself changed immediately into a white cat ; they conducted me to this superb palace, which belonged to my father ; they metamorphosed all the lords and ladies of the kingdom into cats ; and for the remainder of the subjects, left the hands only of them visible, thus reducing me to the deplorable condition in which you found me, not without first informing me of my birth, of the death of my father and mother, and that I should only be delivered from my feline figure, by a prince exactly resembling the one of whom they had deprived me. It is you, Sir, who bear this resemblance,” continued she, “ both in figure, features and tone of voice ; I was immediately struck with the resemblance on seeing you, and was informed of all that has since happened, and of all that is about to occur ; my troubles will soon be over.” “ And will mine, beautiful queen,” said the prince, “ be of long duration ?” “ I already love you more than my life, Sir,” said the queen ; “ we must depart for the king your father’s palace, and learn his sentiments towards me, and whether he will consent to what you desire.”

She went out, and the prince handed her into a chariot,

seating himself by her side: it was much more magnificent than either of those he had previously used. All the rest of the equipage matched so well with it, that the horses' shoes were of emeralds, and the nails of diamonds. In all probability the like was never seen before. I shall say nothing of the agreeable conversation the queen and prince held together. She was unique with respect to beauty, and equally so for wit, nor was the young prince less perfect than she; so that all their thoughts were bright and agreeable.

When they came near the castle, where the prince's two elder brothers were to meet, the queen entered a little crystal cage, set with gold and rubies. Curtains were drawn closely round it, that she might not be seen, and it was carried by very handsome and superbly dressed young men. The prince remained in the chariot, and saw his brothers each walking with a charming princess. On seeing him, they immediately advanced to receive him, and asked him if he had brought a mistress with him: he told them that he had been so unfortunate throughout his journey, as to meet only with very ugly ones, but that he had brought a much greater rarity in the shape of a little White Cat. They began to laugh at his simplicity: "A cat," said they to him, "were you afraid that the mice would eat up our palace?" The prince replied that in truth he was not very wise to make such a present to his father; and thereupon they all took the road to the city.

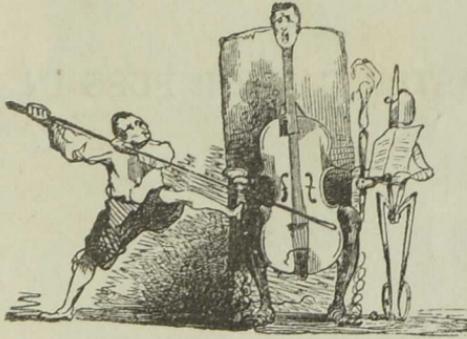
The elder princes, with their princesses, went in calashes of gold and azure, the horses' heads being decked with aigrettes and plumes of feathers ; nothing could exceed the brilliancy of this cavalcade. The young prince preceded them, and he was followed by the crystal cage, which every body admired.

The courtiers hastened to tell the king that the three princes were approaching. "Are they bringing fair ladies with them?" asked the king. "Fairer are not to be found," was the answer, at hearing which he seemed to be displeased. The two princes made haste to shew their beautiful princesses. The king received them very graciously, and did not know in whose favour to decide : he looked at their brother and said : "This time, then, you are come alone?" "Your majesty," said the prince, "will see in this cage, a little White Cat, who mews so sweetly, and plays so prettily, that you cannot but be pleased with her." The king smiled, and went to open the cage himself ; but directly he came near it, the queen with a spring broke it in pieces, and appeared like the sun shewing himself after being obscured by a cloud : her fair *hair was spread over her shoulders and hung in large curls down to her feet* ; her head was adorned with flowers, her gown of thin white gauze, was lined with rose coloured taffety ; she courtesied low to the king, who could not, in the excess of his admiration, forbear crying : "This is the matchless beauty who deserves my crown."



“Sire,” said she, “I am not come to deprive you of a throne which you fill so worthily : I was born heiress to six kingdoms ; allow me to offer you one of them, and also one to each of your two sons. The only recompense I ask is your friendship, and this young prince for my husband : three kingdoms will be quite enough for us.” The king and all the courtiers gave vent to their joy and astonishment in loud and repeated shouts. The

mariages of all the three couples were immediately solemnized ; and the court spent several months in rejoicings and pleasures. They then set out, each for his own dominions ; the White Cat having immortalized herself, as much by her bounty and generosity, as by her rare merit and beauty.





THE MASTER CAT, OR PUSS IN BOOTS.

THERE was once upon a time a miller, who when he died left all his property, consisting of his mill, his ass and his cat, to his three sons. The division of it was easily made, without the assistance of either notary or attorney, who would soon have devoured all their patrimony. The eldest had the mill, the second the ass, and the youngest had nothing but the cat. The poor young fellow could not console himself at his hard

fortune. "My brothers," said he, "will be able to gain an honest livelihood by joining their legacies together: as for me, when I shall have eaten my cat, and made myself a fine cap of his skin, I must die of hunger." *The cat*, who heard this speech without appearing to have done so, *said to him with a*



sedate and thoughtful air: "Do not afflict yourself, my master;

you have only to give me a bag, and to have a pair of boots made for me to travel among the bushes and brambles with, and you will find that you are not so poorly portioned as you imagine." Though the cat's master did not rely much upon what he said, he remembered to have seen him so dexterous in catching rats and mice, as for instance, suspending himself by his feet, or concealing himself in the flour the more easily to surprise them, that he did not entirely despair of being assisted in his unhappy condition. When the cat obtained what he asked for, he drew his boots on bravely, and putting the bag about his neck, he took hold of the strings with his fore paws, and bent his steps towards a warren which was well stocked with rabbits. He put some bran and some thistles into his bag, and then *stretching himself out as if he were dead*, he awaited for some young rabbit, as yet unacquainted with the cunning ways of the world, to come and creep into it, to eat what he had put there. Scarcely had he laid himself down, before he succeeded to his heart's desire. A giddy young rabbit entered his bag, and the Master-Cat, drawing the strings, took him prisoner and killed him without mercy. Proud of his prey, he immediately proceeded to the palace and asked to speak to the king. He was shewn into his majesty's apartment, and after making the king a low bow, said to him: "Here, Sire, is a rabbit, which I have brought you from the warren of my



lord marquis of Carabas, (this was the name that he thought proper to bestow on his master,) who charged me to present it to you with an assurance of his loyalty and respect.”—“Tell your master,” replied the king, “that I accept of his present with pleasure, and am much obliged to him.” Presently our cat concealed himself in a corn-field, taking care to leave his bag open as before; two partridges got into it, he drew the strings, and thus caught the brace. He killed them, and went immediately to present them to the king, as he had done with the rabbit from the warren. *The king received the*



partridges with much pleasure, and ordered his attendants to give him something to drink. The cat continued in this way for two or three months, to carry the king presents of game taken in hunting, as from his master, the marquis of Carabas, once at least in every week. On learning, one day, that the king intended to take an airing by the river's side, accompanied by his daughter, who was the most beautiful princess in the world, he said to his master : " If you will follow my instructions, your fortune is made ; you have only to go with me to the river

and bathe in a place that I will shew you, and leave the rest to me." The marquis of Carabas did as his cat advised him, without knowing exactly to what all this tended. While he was bathing the king passed by, and the Master-Cat began to cry with all his might : "*Help ! help ! my lord marquis of Carabas is in danger of being drowned.*" On hearing this cry the king put



his head out of the window of his carriage, and perceiving the cat who had so often brought him presents of game, he ordered his attendants to hasten to the assistance of my lord the

marquis of Carabas. While they were employed taking the poor marquis out of the river, the cat, going close to the king's carriage, informed his majesty that, while his master was bathing, some thieves had come to the river's side and carried off his clothes, notwithstanding his shouts for assistance: the cunning fellow all the time having hid them under a large stone. On hearing this, the king immediately gave directions to the officers of his wardrobe to fetch one of his handsomest suits for my lord the marquis of Carabas, and loaded him with a thousand attentions. As the fine clothes that were brought him set off his handsome person to advantage (for he was very comely and good looking), the king's daughter was mightily pleased with him; and the marquis of Carabas had no sooner cast two or three very respectful and rather tender looks towards her, than she fell violently in love with him. The king insisted on his getting into the carriage and taking a ride with them. The cat, enchanted to see how well his plan was likely to succeed, ran on before them, and coming to a meadow, in which some peasants were mowing, he said to them: "*Good mowers, if you do not tell the king that the meadow you are mowing, belongs to my lord the marquis of Carabas, you shall all be chopped as small as mince-meat.*" The king did not fail to ask the mowers in whose meadow they were employed. "It is one of my lord's the marquis of Carabas," said they in a voice; for the cat's threa

had frightened them. "You have here a very fine estate," said the king to the marquis."—"Yes, Sire," replied the marquis, "that meadow never fails to yield me a plentiful crop every year." The Master-Cat, who still continued to keep in front, presently came to some reapers who were at work, and said to them: "*Good reapers, if you do not tell the king that all this*



corn belongs to my lord the marquis of Carabas, you shall be chopped as small as mince-meat." The king, passing a moment

afterwards, enquired as to whom all the corn he saw belonged. "To my lord the marquis of Carabas," answered the reapers; and the king again complimented the marquis on the fineness of his crops. The cat, still going on before the carriage, gave the same charge to every body he met with, and the king was astonished at the immense possessions of my lord the marquis of Carabas. The Master-Cat, at last arrived at a fine castle, which belonged to an ogre, the richest ever heard of; for all the estates the king had passed through belonged really to him. The cat, having taken care to ascertain who this ogre was, made up his mind as to what he ought to do, and immediately asked to speak to him. On being ushered into the ogre's presence he addressed him with all due respect, saying that he could not think of passing so near his castle without doing himself the honour of calling on him. The ogre received him as civilly as an ogre could do, and requested him to take a seat. "I have been informed," said the cat, "that you have the power of changing yourself into all kinds of animals; as into a lion or an elephant, for instance."—"That is true," said the ogre rather sternly, "and to convince you, I will directly transform myself into a lion." The cat was so alarmed at finding himself in the presence of a lion, that he made as fast as he could for the roof, which he did not reach without some danger and difficulty; for

his boots were not adapted for walking upon tiles. Some moments after, the cat, seeing that the ogre had quitted the form of the lion, came down into the room again and confessed that he had been a good deal frightened. "I have been further informed," said he, "but I know not how to believe it, that you have also the power of taking the form of the smallest animals; as, for example, of changing yourself into a rat or a mouse: I must confess to you that I think this quite impossible."—"Impossible!" replied the ogre; "you shall see;" and in an instant he changed himself into a mouse, and began scampering about the floor. The cat no sooner saw this, than he sprung on him and ate him up. In the mean while, the king seeing the ogre's stately castle, had a mind to take a nearer view of it. The cat, on hearing the rattle of the carriage as it crossed the drawbridge, ran out to meet it, and said to the king: "Your majesty is welcome to the castle of my lord the marquis of Carabas."—"What and is this splendid castle yours also, my lord marquis? nothing can be more noble than this courtyard and the buildings that surround it; pray my lord, indulge me with a sight of the interior." The marquis gave his hand to the young princess, and following the king, who led the way up stairs, they entered a spacious hall, where they found a magnificent collation which the ogre had prepared for a party of

friends he had expected to visit him, but who, on learning that the king was there, had not dared to enter. The king was much charmed with the good qualities of my lord the marquis of Carabas as was his daughter, who was by this time over head and ears in love with him ; and seeing the noble fortune he possessed, he said, after drinking five or six glasses of wine : “ *It will be your own fault, my lord marquis, if you do not become my*



son in law.” The marquis, with many respectful acknowledgements, accepted the honour offered him by the king, and married the princess that very day. The cat became a great lord, and never subsequently ran after mice except for his diversion.





BABIOLA.

There was formerly a queen who would have been entirely happy but for an ungratified desire for children! she spoke of nothing else, and was continually saying that the fairy *Fanferluche* having attended at her birth, and not having been satisfied with the queen her mother, had gone into a violent passion with her, and had endowed herself, the daughter, with nothing but misfortunes.

One day as she was sitting alone by her fireside, very much

afflicted, she saw a little old woman, a span high, come down the chimney; *she was riding on a loose bundle of rushes*, and



wearing in her cap a sprig of hawthorn; her dress was made of the wings of flies, and two walnut-shells served her for boots: she sailed in the air, and after going thrice round the chamber stopped before the queen. "You have," said she to her, "for a long time murmured against me, and have accused me as the author of your misfortunes, laying to my charge all that has

happened to you : you think, madam, that I am the cause of your having no children, now I am come on purpose to announce to you that you will soon have a daughter, but I fear that she will cost you many tears." " Ah ! noble Fanferluche," cried the queen, " do not refuse me your pity and assistance ; I promise you all the services that lie in my power, provided that the princess you announce to me, be my comfort and not my affliction."—"Destiny is more powerful than I am," answered the fairy ; " all that I can do to shew my affection for you, is to give you this sprig of white hawthorn ; secure it to your daughter's head the instant she is born, and it will guard her from many dangers." She gave her the sprig of white hawthorn, and vanished like a flash of lightning.

The queen remained sad and thoughtful : "What have I desired," said she, "a daughter who will cost me many tears and sighs ; should I not be more happy, to have none at all?" The presence of the king, whom she dearly loved, partly dissipated her grief, but she soon became aware that she was about to have a child, and presently took great care to enjoin her most confidential friends to tie on the young princess's head, as soon as she should be born, the sprig of hawthorn blossom, which she kept in a golden box covered with diamonds, as the thing that she valued more than every thing else in the world.

At last the queen gave birth to the most beautiful creature that was ever seen : they used the utmost diligence in tying the hawthorn flower on her head ; but no sooner was it done than, wonderful to relate ! in an instant she became a little monkey, and began to jump, skip and leap about the chamber, like an ordinary monkey. At this metamorphosis, all the ladies uttered dreadful screams, and the queen, still more alarmed, was nearly dying of despair : *she desired the ladies to remove the sprig of*



hawthorn from its head. After a great deal of difficulty they laid

hold of the little creature, and removed the fatal flower from her head; but vainly: she was already a monkey, a confirmed monkey, and required neither suckling nor nursing; all that she wanted was filberts, walnuts or chestnuts.

“Barbarous Fanferluche,” cried the queen sorrowfully, “what have I done to be so cruelly treated by you? What will become of me! what a disgrace will it be to me, for all my subjects to think I have given birth unto a monster: what detestation the king will have for such a child!” She burst into tears and begged her ladies to advise her what she should do in so urgent an affair. “Madam,” said the senior of her attendants, “the king must be persuaded that the princess is dead, and this monkey must be shut up in a box and thrown into the sea, for it would be a dreadful thing, if you were to keep any longer a brute of this kind.” The queen would hardly consent to this; but on being told that the king was coming to her room, she was so confused and troubled, that without more deliberation, she told her maids of honour to do what they liked with the little monkey.

They then took it into another apartment, enclosed it in a box, and ordered one of the queen’s footmen to throw it into the sea; he immediately set out on his errand. Behold our young princess then, exposed to extreme danger. The man, seeing that the box was a very nice one, was sorry to part with

it ; so he seated himself on the sea shore, and took the little monkey out with the resolution of killing it, for he did not know that it was his sovereign's child ; but while he held it in his arms he heard a loud noise, which made him turn his head, when he saw an open chariot resplendent with gold and precious stones, drawn by six unicorns and preceded by a band of military music. On the cushions of the chariot sat a queen, wearing her crown and royal mantle and holding on her lap her little son, who was four years old.

The footman recognized in this queen, his mistress's sister, who had been to congratulate her on the birth of a child ; but learning that the young princess was dead, she had very sorrowfully taken her departure on her return to her own kingdom. She was in a profound reverie on the miseries of queens when her son cried out : " I should like, how I should like to have that little monkey ! " The queen, looking up, saw the prettiest little monkey that was ever beheld. The footman was for hastily making his retreat, but was prevented : the queen gave him a large sum of money for the monkey, which being gentle and playful, she called Babiola. Thus, notwithstanding our princess's hard fate, she fortunately fell into the hands of the queen, her aunt.

When the latter arrived at her court, the little prince begged that he might have Babiola as a playmate : he had her dressed like a princess, new clothes were made for her every day, and

she was taught to walk on her feet ; it was impossible to find a prettier or more agreeable looking little monkey : her little face was as black as jet with a white frill round her neck, and tufts of red hair round her ears ; her little hands were not larger than the wings of a butterfly, and the vivacity of her eyes gave indications of so much talent, that there was no occasion for surprise at any of her wonderful actions.

The prince, who was very fond of her, won her heart with his unceasing attentions ; she was very careful not to bite him, and whenever she saw him crying, she cried too. She had already been four years with the queen, when she began to stammer like a child trying to speak ; every body was mightily surprised at this circumstance, but that surprise was changed to utter amazement, when she began to talk, in a clear and sweet voice, and so distinctly that not a word of what she said was lost. “Wonderful !” cried all the world ; “Babiola speaking ! Babiola thinking !” The queen soon wished to have her again for her own amusement, and she was taken to her apartment, to the great sorrow of the prince ; he cried a great deal at her loss, and to console him, dogs and cats, birds, squirrels and even a little horse called Criquetin, which danced the saraband, were given to him ; but he would have preferred Babiola to them all, fifty times over.

On her side also, the change was not agreeable ; she was

more constrained with the queen than with the prince ; she was required to answer like a sibyl to a hundred ingenious and learned questions, which sometimes she could not easily resolve. When a foreign ambassador arrived, she was always shewn, dressed in a velvet or brocade gown, with a frill round her neck ; when the court was in mourning, she wore a long black crape mantle, which incommoded her very much : she was not allowed to eat anything for which she felt inclined, a physician always prescribing her food, at which she was not at all pleased ; for she was as wayward, as might be expected of a little monkey born a princess.

The queen appointed her masters who well exercised the vivacity of her mind ; she excelled in playing on the harpsichord ; a marvellously good one having been made for her in an oyster shell : *painters came from all the four quarters of the world*, and especially from Italy, to take her likeness ; her renown spread from pole to pole, for until that time a monkey with the gift of speech had never been heard of.

The prince, graceful and witty, and as handsome as painters represent Cupid, was a prodigy no less extraordinary ; he visited Babiola, and sometimes amused himself in her company : their conversations, generally witty and lively, sometimes took a serious and moral turn. Babiola had a heart, and that heart was not metamorphosed like the rest of her little person : she



became, then, very fond of the prince, in fact too fond. The unfortunate Babiola did not know what to do; she passed her nights on the top of a window shutter, or in the chimney corner, and would not go into the basket lined with wadding and feathers, very soft and clean, which had been prepared for her. Her governess (for she had one) often heard her sigh, and sometimes complain and weep: her melancholy increased as her mind expanded, and she never saw herself in a looking-glass without striving, out of vexation, to break it; so that it was commonly said: "A monkey will always be a monkey; Babiola,

with all her talents, cannot rid herself of the malicious temper of her species."

As the prince grew up, he became fond of hunting, balls, plays, arms, books ; but with regard to the little monkey, he hardly ever mentioned her name. Things progressed very differently on her side ; she loved him better at twelve years old than she had loved him at six, and sometimes reproached him for his forgetfulness : he thought that he quite made up for his neglect, *by giving her a rosy-cheeked apple, or some roasted chestnuts.*



At last the fame of Babiola's reputation reached the kingdom

of the Monkeys itself, and king Magotin conceived a violent desire to marry her. With this view he dispatched a famous embassy to ask her of the queen; he had no difficulty in making his prime minister understand his intentions, but the latter would have had infinite trouble to express them, but for the assistance of the parrots and magpies, vulgarly called mags; these chattered a great deal, and the jackdaws who followed the equipage would have been very sorry to prattle a bit less than they.

A large ape, called Mirlifiche, was the head of the embassy: he had a fine carriage built of cards, on which were painted the amours of king Magotin and the monkey Monette, famous in the Monkeyian empire: poor Monette died most cruelly under the claw of a wild cat, little accustomed to her frolicsome tricks. The happiness of Magotin and Monette during their marriage was represented, and the sensible grief in which the king had indulged on her decease. Six white rabbits, of an excellent breed, drew this carriage, which was called, by way of distinction, the state carriage: it was followed by a chariot constructed of straw, painted with various colours, and which contained the monkeys destined to attend Babiola; you should have seen how they were adorned: they seemed indeed to be going to a wedding. The remainder of the retinue was composed of little spaniels, small grey-hounds, Spanish cats, Muscovy

rats, a few hedge-hogs, cunning weasels, and dainty foxes ; some drove the chariots, others carried the baggage. At the head of the whole went Mirlifiche, graver than a Roman dictator, wiser than Cato, and mounted on a young leveret which ambled better than the nicest English nag.

The queen knew nothing of this magnificent embassy until it arrived at her palace. The bursts of laughter from the people and her guards causing her to look out at the window, she beheld the most extraordinary cavalcade she had ever seen in her life. On its arrival, Mirlifiche, followed by a considerable number of apes, advanced towards the chariot containing the monkeys, and giving his paw to the large monkey called Gigogna, he assisted her to descend ; then loosing the little parrot which was to serve as his interpreter, he awaited that splendid bird's presenting itself to the queen, and asking an audience for himself.

The parrot gently rising in the air, went to the window at which the queen was standing, and said to her, in the prettiest voice in the world : " Madam, his excellency Count Mirlifiche, ambassador from the most renowned Magotin, king of all the Monkeys, demands an audience of your Majesty, to treat on business of the utmost importance."—" My pretty parrot," said the queen caressing him, " you had better first take something to eat, and a glass of wine, after which I consent to your telling

Count Mirlifiche that he is very welcome to my kingdom, with all who accompany him. If his journey hither from Magotia have not too much fatigued him, he may immediately enter my audience-chamber, where I shall await him on my throne, with all my court."

At these words the parrot kissed his foot twice, flapped his wings, sang a little air in token of his joy, and resuming his flight, he soon perched on Mirlifiche's shoulder, and whispered in his ear the favourable answer he had just received. Mirlifiche was not insensible to the kindness with which he was received, and immediately desired Margot, a magpie who set himself up for sub-interpreter, to ask one of the queen's officers for a room in which he might repose for a short time, previous to his expected audience. He was immediately shewn into an apartment paved with marble, painted and gilded, and altogether one of the neatest in the palace. He had no sooner entered it with part of his suite, than, as apes are all very inquisitive searchers, they ferretted out a certain corner in which divers pots of sweetmeats were arranged; behold our gluttons then, one with a glass jar of apricots, another with a bottle of syrup; one with pastry, another with alicampane. The chattering gentry who composed part of the cortège, were vexed at seeing a repast in which there was neither hemp-seed nor millet-seed; and a magpie, a mighty great talker, flew into the

audience-chamber, and respectfully approaching the queen : “ Madam,” said he to her, “ I am too devoted a servant of your Majesty to be a willing accomplice in the havoc which is making in your nice sweetmeats : Count Mirlifiche has already eaten three boxes himself : he was busily engaged discussing the fourth, without any respect to your Majesty, when my heart being moved at so shocking an abuse of your Majesty’s hospitality, I left to inform you of the fact.” “ I thank you kindly, my pretty little magpie,” said the queen smiling ; “ but I dispense with your anxious zeal for my jars of sweetmeats ; I abandon them in honour of Babiola, whom I love with all my heart.” The magpie, rather ashamed of the much ado about nothing which he had made, retired without saying a word.

The ambassador, followed by his suite, shortly after entered the apartment. He was not dressed quite in the fashion of the day : indeed, since the loss of the famous Fagotin, ambassador from the court of the Tuilleries to that of king Magotin, and who had cut such a figure in the monkey world, they had had no good model. *His hat was pointed at the top, and he wore in it a green feather* ; he wore a blue paper shoulder-belt covered with gold spangles, large bows of ribbons at his knees, and he carried a walking stick. Immediately on his entering the room, the parrot, who had the reputation of being a tolerably good poet, having composed a very grave harangue, advanced to the foot



of the throne on which the queen was seated, and, addressing himself to Babiola, spoke as follows :

“ Know the great power, O ! royal dame,
 Of those all-bright and star-like eyes ;
 Magotin feels the tender flame,
 And apes and cats, a loving train,
 Tell in sweet music his young sighs.
 The fair Monette, his former love,
 With a wild cat in combat strove ;
 And, when the gentle monkey fell,
 Magotin loved his queen so well,

He vowed eternal truth—for then,
 He felt he ne'er could love again :
 But you have made the king forget
 The fainter charms of Queen Monette.

Sweet long-tail, once Magotin sat
 Enthroned a very king in fat ;
 But vacant now is half his throne,
 And nought is left but skin and bone :
 For, (once believe a Poet true)
 He's dying, monkey dear ! for you.
 Olives and nuts he used to eat,

Such pleasant fruits his realms abound in,
 He cracked the nuts, (his favorite meat)

And threw the shells at all around him.
 These were his freaks :—Alas ! such sport
 Has ever fled Magotin's court ;
 Unless you deign ! most noble queen,
 To cure his kingship of the spleen.—
 O half the riches who can tell,
 Of the rich realms you'll then reign over ;
 Figs, raisins, nuts will please you well,
 You'll be the greatest Monkey belle,
 And the first Monkey be your lover.

During this discourse the queen turned her eyes towards Babiola, who for her part was more disconcerted than she had ever been before in the whole course of her life. The queen was anxious to ascertain the sentiments of Babiola before she made any answer. She however told the parrot to give his

excellency the ambassador to understand that she favoured his king's pretensions, and would further the marriage in all that depended on her. The audience being over she retired, and was followed into her closet by Babiola. "My little monkey," said the queen to her, "I must confess that I shall be very sorry to part with you, but there would be great danger in denying Magotin who asks you in marriage, for I have not yet forgotten that his father sent two hundred thousand apes into the field to wage a fierce war against our kingdom, and they devoured so many of our subjects that we were obliged to conclude a shameful peace." "Then I am to understand, madam," replied Babiola impatiently, "that you have resolved to sacrifice me to this vile monster in order to avoid his anger. I entreat your majesty, however, to grant me at least a delay of a few days, when I will acquaint you with my final resolution." "That is but right," said the queen; "but if you take my advice, you will determine promptly: consider the honours that await you, the magnificence of the embassy, and the maids of honour who are sent for you." "I do not know what he may have done for Monette," replied little Babiola disdainfully, "but I know very well that I am but little moved by the sentiments with which he affects to honour me."

Thereupon she arose, and after curtsying gracefully, quitted the closet in search of the prince, to relate her sorrows to him.

Directly he saw her, he called out: "Well! Babiola, when shall we have the pleasure of dancing at your wedding?"—"I do not know, Sir," said she sorrowfully; "but I find myself in so deplorable a condition, that it is no longer in my power to withhold my secret from you, and although it puts my delicacy to the blush, I must confess to you that you are the only person whom I could have wished to have for my husband."—"Husband!" said the prince, bursting into a loud laugh, "husband indeed! my little monkey: I am charmed at what you tell me; I hope, however, that you will excuse me if I do not take advantage of your confession; for in truth, neither in height, looks or manners, are we quite suited to each other."—"I agree with you," said she, "and most especially our hearts are not alike: you are an ingrate, I have long perceived it, and I am very foolish to feel an affection for a prince who is so little worthy of it."—"But! Babiola," said he, "think now, were we married, what anxiety I should feel to see you at the top of a sycamore tree, hanging from a branch by your tail: take my advice, let us laugh at this affair for the sake of your honour and my own; marry king Magotin, and in token of the good friendship that subsists between us, send me your first baby."—"It is fortunate for you, Sir," added Babiola, "that I am not quite a monkey in my mind; any other than I would have already scratched out your eyes, bitten off your nose,

and torn off your ears; but I abandon you to the reflections that you will one day make on your unworthy conduct." She could say no more, for her governess came in to inform her that the ambassador Mirlifiche had gone to her apartment, with magnificent presents.

They consisted of a toilette of spider's web, embroidered with little glow-worms, an egg-shell serving to hold the combs, and a white-heart cherry for a pincushion; all the linen being ornamented with paper lace: there were besides, in a basket, several shells properly arranged, some serving as drops to earrings, others for bodkins &c., and all as brilliant as diamonds; but better than all these were a dozen boxes of sweetmeats, and a little glass box which contained a nut and an olive; the key of the box however was lost, at which Babiola was rather vexed.

The ambassador informed her in grumbling, which is the language made use of in the kingdom of Magotia, that his monarch was more moved with her charms than he had ever been by those of any other monkey; that he was building a palace for her in the topmost branches of a fir-tree; that he had sent her these presents, and particularly the nice sweetmeats, to shew his attachment: "But," added he, "the strongest proof of his kindness, and the one of which you ought to be most sensible, is, madam, the care he has taken to have his

portrait painted, that you may anticipate in some measure the pleasure you will feel on seeing himself." He thereupon displayed the portrait of the king of the apes seated on a large block of wood eating an apple.

Babiola turned her face on one side so as to look no longer on so disagreeable a figure, and grumbling two or three times, she



gave Mirliche to understand that she was obliged to his master for his esteem ; but that she had not yet made up her mind whether she would marry or remain single.

Meantime the queen had determined not to incur the monkey's anger ; and, by no means thinking that any great ceremony was requisite in sending Babiola where she intended she should go, she had every thing prepared for her departure. On hearing of this, despair took entire possession of Babiola's mind. The prince's contempt on one hand, the queen's

indifference on another, and still more the idea of such a husband, determined her to make her escape: this was not a very difficult thing, for since she had been able to speak, she had not been tied up; she went and came at pleasure, and as often entered her room by the window as by the door.

She made haste therefore to set out, and leaping from tree to tree, and from branch to branch, she reached the bank of a river; the excess of her despair prevented her fully comprehending the danger she ran in trying to swim across it, so without a moment's consideration she plunged in, and immediately sank to the bottom. As she did not lose her senses, she looked about her, and perceived a magnificent grotto, adorned all over with shells. She entered and was received by a venerable old man whose long white beard reached below his waist: he was seated on a couch of reeds and flags, he wore on his head a crown of wild poppies, and was reclining against a rock, whence sprang several fountains which augmented the river.

"Ah! what has brought you here, little Babiola?" said he, offering her his hand.—"Sir," answered she, "I am an unfortunate little monkey, and am flying from a frightful ape whom they wish to make my husband." "I know more of your story than you imagine," added the wise old man; "it is true that you abhor Magotin, but it is no less true that you are in love with a young prince, who returns your love with

indifference." "Ah! Sir," cried Babiola sighing, "let us not speak of him; his remembrance augments my grief." "He will not always be insensible to love," continued the companion of the fishes, "I know that he is destined for the fairest princess in the world." "Unfortunate that I am!" said Babiola, "then he will never be mine." The good man smiled, and said to her: "Do not afflict yourself, my good Babiola, time is a powerful master; only be careful not to lose the little glass box that king Magotin sent you, and as you have got it, by good luck, in your pocket, I need say no more about it to you: here is a crocodile who travels very steadily, seat yourself on its back, and it will conduct you where you ought to go." "After the obligations that you have imposed on me," said she to him, "I cannot depart without knowing



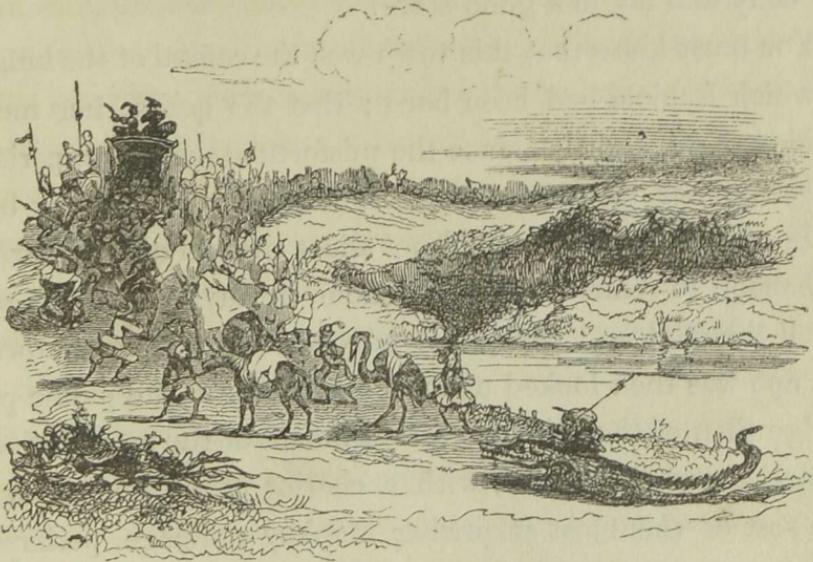
your name." "I am called Biroqua," said he, "father of the

river of that name, which is, as you may perceive, rather large and famous.”

Babiola then seated herself on the crocodile's back very confidently, and they travelled for some time on the water: after passing rather a long winding, the crocodile reached the bank. It would have been difficult to find anything more tasteful than its English saddle and the rest of its harness: there were even little pistols in the saddle-bow, the holsters for which were made of the shells of crabs.

Babiola was proceeding on her journey with entire confidence in the sage Biroqua's promises, when she suddenly heard a loud noise. Alas! alas! it was the ambassador Mirlifiche and his retinue, who were returning to Magotia, sorrowful and desolate at Babiola's flight. An ape of this troop had mounted a walnut-tree, and was knocking down walnuts for the amusement of the retinue, when just as he had reached the highest branches, he perceived Babiola, seated on a crocodile which was slowly travelling up the open country. At this sight he uttered such a loud shout, that the assembled apes asked him anxiously in their language what was the matter. No sooner had he told them, than the parrots, magpies and jackdaws, were immediately let loose, and flew to where she was; and on their report the ambassador, the monkeys and the remainder of the equipage hastened to arrest her.

What a misfortune for Babiola ! a greater, or more terrible, it would have been difficult to bring upon her ; she was obliged to get into the state-carriage, which was thereupon surrounded by vigilant monkeys, some foxes, and a cock who perched on the roof and kept watch day and night. *An ape leading the crocodile, as a very rare animal, brought up the rear*



of the cavalcade, which continued its journey to the great grief of Babiola, whose only companion was Madame Gigona, a peevish ill-tempered monkey.

At the end of three days which passed without any adventure,

the guides lost their way, and they all arrived at a large town of which they did not know the name ; but seeing a fine garden, the door of which was open, they halted therein and fell upon everything it contained as though they had been in a conquered country. One cracked walnuts, another gobbled cherries, while a third robbed a plum-tree ; in a word there was not a little monkey-brat among them who did not both fill his belly and lay in a good store.

You must know that this town was the capital of the kingdom in which Babiola had been born ; that the queen, her mother, resided there, and that since the misfortune she had experienced in seeing her daughter metamorphosed into a monkey by the sprig of hawthorn, she would not allow either monkey, marmoset or baboon to remain in the kingdom, or anything which might recall the fatal and deplorable adventure to her remembrance. An ape was then looked upon as a disturber of the public peace. Judge then of the universal astonishment of the people at seeing a carriage of card arrive, with a chariot of painted straw, and the rest of this most surprising monkey equipage, perhaps the most extraordinary that was ever seen since tales were tales, and fairies were fairies.

The news flew like lightning to the palace, and the queen was astounded, fearing that the long-tailed gentry were about to attack her authority. She promptly assembled her council,

issued a proclamation condemning them all as guilty of high treason; and not wishing to lose an opportunity of making so famous an example for the future, she sent her guards into the garden, with orders to seize upon all the monkeys. They threw large nets over the trees, and soon brought their chase to a conclusion; and notwithstanding the high respect due to the quality of ambassador, that character suffered so much in the person of Mirlifiche, that he was unmercifully thrown to the bottom of a cave and put under a large empty tub, where he and his comrades were imprisoned with the lady-monkeys who had accompanied Babiola.

For her part she felt a secret joy at this turn in her affairs. When misfortunes reach a certain point they cease to afflict, and even death is met without a murmur: this was precisely her situation, her heart being occupied by the image of a prince who despised her, and her mind filled with the frightful idea of king Magotin, whose wife she was about to become.

For the rest, I must not forget to state that her clothes were so pretty, and her manners so uncommon, that those who had taken her, stayed to regard her as something marvellous; and when she spoke to them, their astonishment was not a little augmented, although they had already heard tell of the admirable Babiola. The queen who had found her, being unacquainted with her niece's metamorphosis, had frequently written to her

sister that she had a very wonderful little monkey, and had requested her to come and see it; but the afflicted queen had always hastily passed over that part of the letter without reading it. The guards, transported with admiration, carried Babiola to a large gallery, and having erected a little throne, she ascended it more like a sovereign than a captive monkey; and the queen accidentally passing, was so forcibly struck with her pretty appearance and the gracious compliments she paid her, that in spite of herself nature spoke in the child's favour.

She took her up in her arms. The little creature, animated on her side with feelings that she had never before experienced, threw herself on the queen's neck and said such tender and engaging things, that she struck every body who heard her with admiration. "No, great queen," cried she, "it is not the fear of approaching death, with which I learn you have threatened the unfortunate race of monkeys, that terrifies me, or induces me to take the means of pleasing and softening you; the close of my life is not the greatest misfortune that could befall me, and I possess feelings so much above my condition, that I should regret even the least step taken to preserve that life; no madam, it is for yourself alone that I love you: your crown moves me much less towards you than your merit."

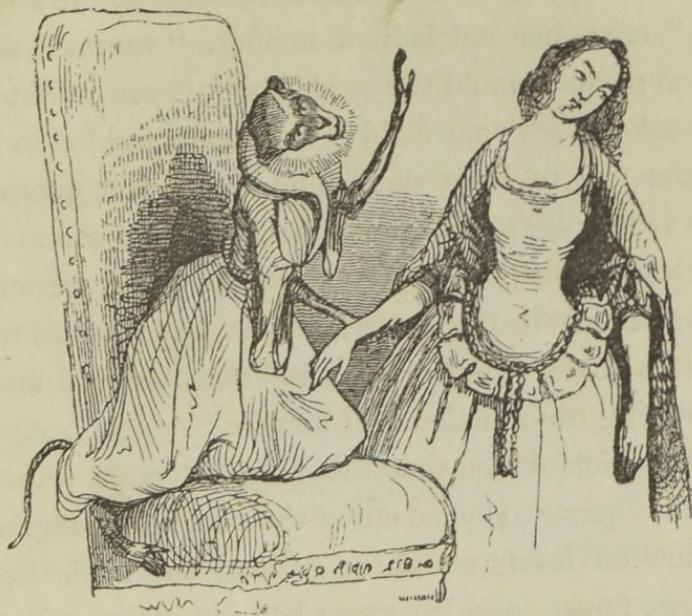
What answer could the queen make to so courteous and complimentary a speech? more dumb than a carp, she stared

with surprise, thinking that she was in a dream, and feeling her heart very much affected.

She carried the monkey to her closet. When they were alone she said to her: "Do not delay a moment the relation of your adventures to me; for I feel that of all the animals which people my menageries, and which I keep in my palace, you will be the one that I shall love the most: I assure you even that on your account I will pardon the apes who accompany you." "Ah! madam," cried Babiola; "I ask you nothing for them: my misfortune was to be born a monkey, and the same misfortune has gifted me with a discernment which will make me suffer until my death; for in a word, what do I not feel, when I see myself in a looking glass, little, ugly and black, having paws covered with hair, with a long tail and teeth always ready to bite, being conscious at the same time that I have taste, delicacy and feelings, and do not want intelligence?"—"Are you capable," said the queen, "of feeling an attachment?" Babiola sighed, but made no answer. "Oh!" continued the queen, "you must tell me whether you love an ape, a rabbit or a squirrel; for if you are disengaged, I have a dwarf who will be an excellent match for you." At this proposition Babiola put on a disdainful air, at which the queen laughed heartily. "Do not afflict yourself," said she to her, "and inform me by what miracle you speak."—"All that I

know of my adventures," replied Babiola, "is, that the queen your sister had no sooner quitted you after the birth and death of the princess your daughter, than she saw, as she was passing the sea shore, one of your valets who was on the point of drowning me. I was forcibly taken from him by her order; and by the most unheard-of prodigy in the world, speech and reason came to me: many masters were appointed to teach me various languages, and to play on musical instruments; at last, madam, I became sensible of my misfortunes, and—but what ails you, madam?" cried she, seeing the queen's countenance pale and covered with a cold perspiration, "whence this extraordinary change which I remark in your person?"—"I am dying," said the queen, in a feeble and inarticulate voice; "I am dying, my dear and too unfortunate daughter; to-day then I have at last recovered you." At these words she fainted away. The terrified Babiola ran for assistance; the queen's ladies hastened to give her water, to unlace her stays and to put her in bed, and Babiola crept into bed with her without observation, being extremely small.

When the queen returned to herself, after the long swoon into which the princess's discourse had thrown her, she desired to be left alone with the ladies who were acquainted with the secret of her daughter's fatal birth; and informed them of what had befallen her, at which they were so dismayed that they knew not how to advise her.



She commanded them however to tell her what they thought she had better do in so grievous a juncture. Some advised her to have the monkey stifled ; others to shut her up in a hole, and a third party to have her sent back again to the sea. The queen cried and sobbed : “ She is so clever,” said she, “ what a pity to see her reduced to this miserable condition by an enchanted sprig of hawthorn. But,” continued she, “ she is my daughter and my blood : it is I who have drawn upon her the

wicked Fanferluche's wrath, and is it just that she should suffer for the hatred that that fairy bears to me?"—"But, madam," cried her old lady of honour, "we must save your reputation; what would the world think if you were to declare that a monkey were your child? It is unnatural for so beautiful a person as you to have such children." The queen lost all patience at hearing her argue in this way, but soon consented with no less warmth, that it was necessary to exterminate the little monster. At last, however, her Majesty resolved to shut up Babiola in a castle, where she would be well nursed and kindly treated during the remainder of her life.

When Babiola heard that the queen intended to put her in prison, she quietly slipped out of the bed, and jumping from the window on to a tree in the garden, she made her escape into a large forest, and left every body in alarm at not finding her.

She passed the night in the hollow of an oak-tree, in which she had time to reflect on the cruelty of her fate: but what most pained her was the necessity she was under of quitting the queen; however, she preferred being her own mistress in voluntary exile to losing her liberty for ever.

On the appearance of daylight, she continued her journey without knowing whither she was to go, and considering and re-considering a thousand times the singularity of so



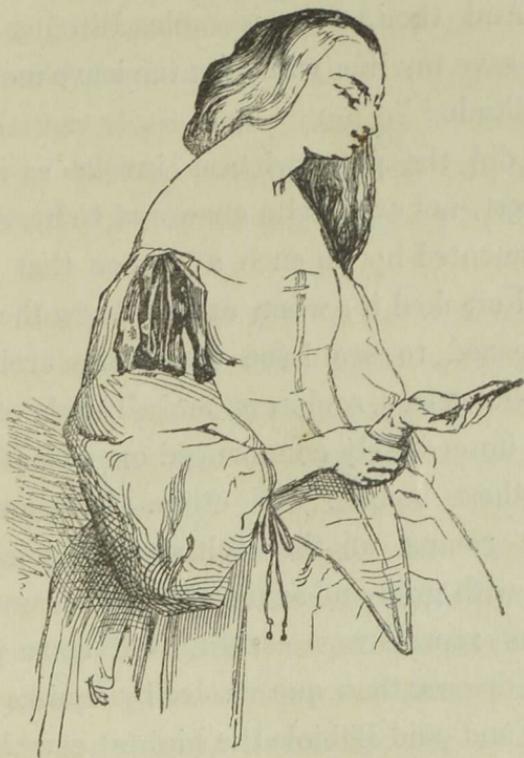
extraordinary an adventure. "What a difference," cried she, "between what I am and what I ought to be!" Tears fell in abundance from the little eyes of poor Babiola.

She however journeyed on, sometimes fearful that the queen might pursue her, and sometimes alarmed lest some of the monkeys, who had escaped from the cave, might seize on and take her against her will to the king Magotin; but still proceeding, without following either road or foot-path, she at last arrived at a large desert, in which there was neither house nor

tree, fruit, grass nor spring : she entered on it without reflection, and it was not until she began to feel hungry, that she discovered too late, the extent of her imprudence in attempting to travel through such a country.

Two days and two nights she passed without being able to catch even a gnat or a little worm, and fear of death seized her. She became so weak that she swooned and fell on the earth ; when remembering the olive and the nut that were still in the little glass box, she thought that she might make a light repast of them. Joyful at this ray of hope, she picked up a stone, broke the box in pieces, and began to eat the olive.

Hardly had she put her teeth therein, when an abundance of perfumed oil flowed from it, which falling on her paws, they immediately became the most delicate hands in the world : her surprise, as may be imagined, was extreme. She instantly took some of this oil and rubbed herself all over with it, when, marvellous to relate ! she made herself so beautiful that nothing in the world could equal her charms. She felt that she had large eyes, a small mouth, and a handsome nose : she was dying for want of a looking glass. At last she bethought herself of making one, of the largest piece of glass of her broken box. *Oh ! what joy ! oh what delight ! when she saw her own loveliness.* Her clothes had changed with herself ; her hair fell in a thousand flowing ringlets, and her complexion



was as fresh as the flowers in spring.

The first moments of her surprise being passed; her hunger became still more violent, and her sorrow augmented proportionately. "What!" said she, "so beautiful and so young: born princess as I am, must I perish in this desolate spot! O cruel fortune! that hast conducted me here, to what

hast thou destined me? Is it to add to afflictions alone, that thou hast wrought so happy and so unhopèd for a change in my person? And thou, oh venerable Biroqua! who didst so generously save my life, wilt thou too leave me to perish in this frightful solitude?"

In vain did the poor princess invoke assistance: in this solitary desert, not even echo answered to her voice. The want of food tormented her to such a degree that she at last took the nut and cracked it; when as she threw the shell from her, she was amazed to see issue therefrom architects, painters, masons, upholsterers, sculptors, and all kinds of different workmen. They immediately commenced operations: some designed a palace, others built it, and others furnished it; one party painted the rooms, another cultivated the gardens; all was resplendent with gold and azure. No sooner was this done than a sumptuous repast was served, and sixty princesses, more handsomely dressed than queens, led by squires and followed by pages, came and paid Babiola the highest compliments, inviting her to the feast that was awaiting her. It may be supposed that she did not require much persuasion; she immediately advanced towards the saloon, and there seating herself at the table with a queenly air, she ate like one famished,

No sooner had she risen from table, than her treasurers brought into her presence fifteen thousand large coffers, as

large as hogsheads, full of gold and diamonds. They asked her if she would allow them to pay the workmen who had built her palace. She said that that was but right, but made it a condition that they should also build near it a town, marry and settle therein. To this they all consented, and the town was finished in three quarters of an hour, although it was fifty times larger than Rome. Behold the numerous prodigies which issued from a little nut !

The princess resolved to send a splendid embassy to the queen her mother, and to take this opportunity of deservedly reproaching the young prince her cousin for his former treatment of her. While taking the necessary measures for this purpose, she amused herself by witnessing ring-races, she always giving the prize ; she also went to the theatre, hunted and fished ; for a river had been conducted thither. The fame of her beauty soon spread itself over all the earth, and kings from its four quarters, came to pay her court ; as also giants taller than mountains, and figures smaller than rats.

It happened one day, during a grand festival and tournament, that as several knights were breaking lances, a quarrel arose ; and disregarding of her presence they fought in earnest. The princess in anger descended from her balcony to ascertain and punish the originators of the strife, and to assist the wounded, *when, as the visor of one of these was raised, what*



were her feelings at seeing the prince her cousin ! Though not quite dead, he was so severely injured that she was herself nearly dying with surprise and grief. She had him instantly borne to the finest apartment in the palace, where nothing requisite to effect his cure was wanting : the best medicine, eminent surgeons, nice broth and syrups, all were there.

Babiola herself made the bandages and lint, watering them with her tears, — tears which might have served as a balsam for her wounded cousin. Wounded indeed he was in more than one sense of the word : for without reckoning half a dozen sword, and as many lance wounds which had pierced him through and through, he had been at that court for some time incognito, and had felt the power of Babiola's eyes to an incurable extent. It is then easy to judge what were his feelings, when he read in that amiable princess's countenance that she was in the utmost grief at witnessing the condition to which he was reduced.

I will not stop to repeat to you the terms in which his heart prompted him to thank her for the kindness she had manifested towards him ; those who heard him were surprised that so sick a man should be able to shew so much passion and gratitude. The princess Babiola, who blushed more than once at it, begged him to be silent, but his emotion and the ardour of his protestations were so extreme that she saw him suddenly sink in dreadful anguish. Until then she had borne all with firmness ; but on seeing him in so terrible a condition, she uttered loud cries, tore her hair and gave every body reason to think that her heart must be of easy access, since in so short a time it could feel so great a passion for a stranger ; for it was not known in Babiola's kingdom that the prince was her cousin, and that she had loved him from her earliest youth.

It appears that, while travelling, the prince was attracted by Babiola's reputation to her court, and being unacquainted with any one there who could introduce him to the princess, he thought that nothing could so well serve his turn as the performance in her presence of five or six heroic feats such as cutting off the legs, arms or heads of a few knights in a tournament. He found however no one complaisant enough to allow him so to do. A rude scuffle then ensued; the strongest party as usual beat the weaker, and to that weaker party unfortunately belonged—as I have already stated—our prince.

Babiola in despair, ran along the highway without either carriage or guards; she entered a wood, and fainted away at the foot of a tree, whence the fairy Fanferluche, who never slept but was always seeking opportunities for evil actions, carried her on a cloud blacker than ink and which sailed along more swiftly than the wind. The princess remained for some time insensible: when she recovered, nothing could equal her surprise at finding herself so far from the earth and so near to the pole. The footing on clouds is not very solid, so that as she ran to and fro she seemed to be treading on feathers, and the cloud separating at times, she had much difficulty to prevent herself from falling; she found no one with whom to share her grief, for the wicked Fanferluche had rendered herself

invisible : she had time to think of her dear prince and the condition in which she had left him, and gave way to the most mournful thoughts that can take possession of the mind. “ What,” cried she, “ am I capable of surviving him I love, and of allowing the fear of approaching death to find a place in my heart? Ah! if the sun would scorch me to death with his beams what a good office would he render me ; if I could drown myself in the rainbow how happy should I be ! But alas ! all the zodiac is deaf to my voice : Sagittarius for me has no arrows ; for me the Bull no horns, and the Lion no teeth. Perhaps the earth will be more obliging, and will offer to me at least the point of a rock on which I may slay myself. O ! prince, dear, dear cousin, why art thou not here to witness for thy sake the most tragical leap on which desperate lover ever resolved.” As she finished these words, *she ran to the end of the cloud and precipitated herself from it*, like an arrow shot from an English bow.

All who saw her thought that the moon was falling ; and as Cynthia was just then on the wane, several people who adored her, and who remained some time without seeing her again, put on deep mourning for her loss, persuading themselves that the sun, in a fit of jealousy, had done the moon this evil turn.

However great the princess’s wish for death, die she did not :



she fell into a glass bottle in which the fairies generally keep their ratafia in the sun; but what a bottle! there is not a tower in the world so large. Fortunately it was empty, or she must have been drowned therein like a fly.

The six giants who guarded it, immediately recognised Babiola! They were the same who had resided in her court and who loved her, as did all the world but the malignant Fanferluche. She who did nothing by chance, had transported each of these giants hither on a flying dragon, and the six dragons guarded the bottle whilst the giants slept. While Babiola was there she frequently regretted her monkey-skin: she lived like the camoleon on air and dew.

The prison in which she was thus confined was unknown to any one; of course therefore the young prince her cousin was ignorant of it, for he was not dead, but unceasingly asked for Babiola. He easily perceived, from the melancholy looks of all who attended on him, that there was some subject of general grief at court; his natural discretion prevented his seeking to learn what it might be, but when convalescent, he pressed so earnestly, that he was apprized of the princess's loss, for they had not the courage to conceal it longer from him. Those who had seen her enter the wood, maintained that she had been devoured by lions; a second party thought that she had destroyed herself in despair; and others opined that she had lost her wits, and was wandering over the world.

As this latter opinion was the least terrible, and as it gave the prince a slight ground for hope, he seized upon it, and set out on his horse Criquetin, of whom I have already spoken, but of whom I forgot to say that he was the eldest son of Bucephalus, and one of the best horses of the age in which he flourished. Putting the bridle on his neck, the prince allowed him to choose his own road: sometimes he called upon the princess, but in vain. Echo alone replied.

At last he arrived at the bank of a large river. Criquetin was thirsty, and went into it to drink, and the prince continuing to shout at the top of his lungs: "Babiola! beautiful



Babiola, where are you?" he heard a voice, whose sweetness seemed to charm the waves: "Advance!" it replied, "and you shall learn where she is." *At these words the prince, as daring as he was affectionate, gave Criquetin two or three thrusts with his spurs, which made him swim onwards until he came*

to a gulf into which the water precipitated itself more rapidly, when the prince sank with his horse to the bottom, thoroughly persuaded that he was on the point of being drowned.

He luckily however had arrived at the residence of the good man Biroqua, who was then celebrating the wedding of his daughter with one of the richest and deepest rivers in the country; all the aquatic deities were in his grotto, where the tritons and the syrens were making a charming melody, and the river Biroquia, lightly dressed, was dancing gaily with the Thames, the Seine, the Euphrates and the Ganges, who had certainly come a long distance to amuse themselves together. Criquetin, who was very polite, stayed very respectfully at the entrance of the grotto, and the prince, still more polite than his horse, made a low bow, and asked if it were permitted for a mortal like him to make his appearance in the midst of so distinguished an assembly.

Biroqua spoke with an affable air, and replied that they would feel both honoured and gratified by his presence. "I have been waiting for you some days," continued he; "I am in your interests, Sir, and those of the princess are likewise dear to me: you must rescue her from the fatal place in which the vindictive Fanferluche has imprisoned her; she is in a bottle." "Ah; what do you tell me," cried the prince, interrupting him, "my princess in a bottle?" "Yes," answered the wise old

man; "and she is greatly distressed; but I warn you, Sir, that it is by no means an easy task to conquer the giants and dragons who guard her, at least if you do not follow my advice. You must leave your good horse here, and mount a winged dolphin which I have been training for you a long time:" he then had the dolphin brought, saddled and bridled, and it pranced and curvetted so well that Criquetin was quite jealous of him.

Biroqua and his companions immediately set about arming the prince. They equipped him in a brilliant cuirass of gilded carp-scales; his head-piece consisted of a large perriwinkle shell, shaded by a large cod's tail which hung in the form of a handsome plume of heron's feathers; a naiad girded him with an eel, from which hung a formidable sword made of the back bone of a large fish; and he was then presented with a magnificent tortoise-shell as a shield. Thus equipped, not the smallest gudgeon who saw him but conceived that he beheld the god of soles; and verily, the young prince had a certain air, that is rarely met with among mortals.

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast;" and that of soon finding the charming princess with whom he was in love, inspired our prince with a joy that he had been incapable of feeling since her loss. The chronicle whence this authentic tale is extracted, relates that he ate with a very good

appetite at Biroqua's table, and that he thanked all the company for their kindness in no common terms; after which he rose from table, bade adieu to Criquetin, then, mounting the winged fish, he immediately set out.

At the close of the day the prince found himself already so high, that he entered for the sake of a little rest into the kingdom of the moon. The rarities that he observed there, and which have been so well described by later travellers, would have arrested his serious attention, if he had not had a more pressing object in view; to wit, that of liberating Babiola from the bottle in which she had then been residing several months.

Day no sooner broke than away he rode on his dolphin again, and long ere noon he had discovered the princess surrounded by the giants and dragons that the fairy, by virtue of her little wand, had retained near her; and so little idea had Fanferluche that any one was powerful enough to free Babiola from captivity, that she confidently reposed on the vigilance of her terrible guards, with the certainty of its prolongation.

The lovely Babiola was pitifully looking toward Heaven, and addressing there her sorrowful lamentations, when she saw the flying dolphin and the prince who was coming to her deliverance. She could hardly believe her eyes, when she saw an armed knight near her bottle, although she knew, from her

own experience, that to some persons the most extraordinary things are of easy accomplishment. "May it not be through the malice of some wicked fairies," said she, "that this knight is thus transported through the air? Alas! how much I pity him, if a bottle or caraffe is destined for his prison, as it serves for mine."

While these reflections occupied her mind, the giants, who perceived the prince over their head and took him for a kite which some little boy in the moon was flying, cried out to each other: "Lay hold of the string! lay hold of the string! it will serve to divert us;" but while, under this impression, they stooped to pick him up, he fell on them, cut and thrust, and knocked them into as many pieces as a pack of cards cut and thrown to the wind. On hearing the first noise of this encounter, the princess turned her head and recognized her own dear prince. Oh! what joy, to be certain that he was yet alive; but oh! what anxiety, to see him exposed to such perils, fighting in the midst of the terrible giants and dragons which were then attacking him. She uttered fearful cries and his danger nearly cost her her life.

However the enchanted fish-bone sword, with which Biroqua had armed the prince, struck no useless blows; and the nimble dolphin, rising and stooping just at the proper times, was a marvellous help to the prince; so that in a short time the field was covered with these monsters.

The impatient prince, who saw his princess through the glass, would have broken it in pieces if he had not been fearful of wounding her ; so he determined on descending through the neck of the bottle. When he reached the bottom, *he threw himself at Babiola's feet* and respectfully kissed her hand. "Sir,"



said she to him, " it is well in order that you may restrain your emotions, that I inform you of the motives which have interested me so tenderly in your preservation. Learn then, that we are nearly related ; that I am the daughter of the queen your

aunt ; and that same Babiola, whom you found in the form of a little monkey on the sea shore ; who was weak enough to express for you an attachment ; and whom you despised.”—“ Ah ! Madam,” cried the prince, “ can I believe so unheard of a prodigy ? What ! you have been a monkey ; you have loved me, and I have known your love and my heart has been capable of refusing the greatest of earthly blessings !”—“ Well !” replied the princess smiling at his surprise, “ I should now perhaps have but a very poor opinion of your taste, had you then conceived any attachment for me ; but, let us depart, I am tired of my prison, and I fear my enemy ; let us go to the queen my mother and inform her of all these extraordinary, events which cannot fail to interest her.”—“ With all my heart, madam,” said the amorous prince ; and getting on the winged dolphin’s back and taking her in his arms,—“ let us go,” said he, “ and restore to her in you, the most amiable princess in the world.”



The dolphin gently rose in the air ; winging his course towards

the capital in which the queen was spending her sorrowful existence. The flight of Babiola did not leave her a moment's repose: she could not help thinking of her favorite; and thus continually calling to her remembrance the pretty things that Babiola had said to her; monkey as she was, the queen would have given half her kingdom, for another sight of her.

When the prince arrived, *he disguised himself as an old man,*



and demanded a private audience of the queen. "Madam," said he, "I have studied from my most tender youth the

necromantic art : you may judge of my skill by the fact that I am not ignorant of the hatred that Fanferluche bears towards you, or of its disastrous effects ; but dry your tears, madam ; for that same Babiola whom you have seen so ugly, is now about to be restored to you, the most beautiful princess in the world ; provided however that you will pardon the queen your sister for the cruel war that she has waged against you, and conclude the peace by marrying the princess Babiola with the prince your nephew.”—“ I cannot flatter myself that what you affirm is true,” replied the queen weeping ; “ wise old man, you wish to soothe my affliction : I have lost my dear daughter, I have no longer a husband, my sister pretends that my kingdom belongs to her ; her son is as unjust as his mother, they both persecute me ; and I will enter into no alliance with them.”—“ Fate wills it otherwise,” continued he, “ and I am commissioned to tell you so,”—“ Ah ! but of what use would it be,” added the queen, “ to consent to this marriage ? The wicked Fanferluche has too much power and is too malicious not to oppose it always.”—“ Do not alarm yourself on that score, madam,” replied the good man ; “ promise me only that *you* will not oppose the marriage in question.”—“ I promise everything,” cried the queen, “ provided I see my dear daughter once again.”

The prince went out and ran to where the princess was

awaiting him. She was surprised to see him disguised, which made it necessary for him to relate to her that for some time past, the two queens had had violent altercations, and that there had been much animosity between them; but that at last, he had made his aunt consent to his wishes. The princess was in ecstasies: she went to the palace and all who met her, observed so perfect a resemblance in her to the queen her mother, that curiosity induced them to follow her to learn who she was.

When the queen perceived her, her heart was so violently agitated that it required no other testimony to prove the truth of what had been told her. The princess threw herself at her mother's feet, and was received by the queen with open arms. After a silence of some moments, drying each other's tears with, a thousand kisses, they gave vent to their feelings in all those tender expressions, which may be easily imagined on such an occasion: then turning to her nephew, the queen received him very favourably, and reiterated to him all the promises she had made to the necromancer. She would have said more, but a noise in the court-yard drawing her attention to the window, she had the agreeable surprise of seeing the queen her sister arrive. The prince and princess looking also, recognized near her the venerable Biroqua, and even the good Criquetin, who was also of the party. They, one and all, gave utterance to

loud cries of joy ; they hastened to embrace each other with inexpressible transport. The nuptials of the prince and the fair Babiola were celebrated immediately, in spite of *the wicked Fanferluche*, whose power and malice were thus equally confounded.

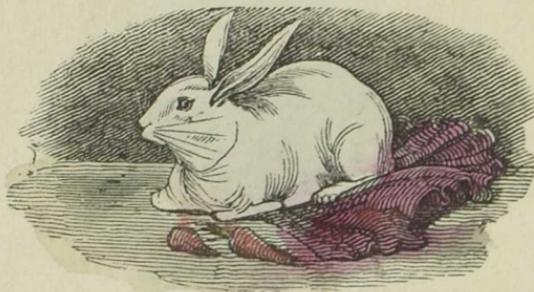




PRINCE CHERRY.

There was once upon a time a king who was so praiseworthy and irreproachable in his conduct that his subjects called him 'King Good.' One day as he was hunting, a little white rabbit, being closely pursued by the hounds, threw itself into his arms. The king stroked the little rabbit and said: "Since you have placed yourself under my protection, I will not see

you hurt." He carried the rabbit to his palace, and had a pretty little house made for it, and gave it nice herbs to eat. In the night, while the king was alone in his chamber, suddenly a beautiful lady appeared. She wore neither gold nor silver, but her gown was white as snow, and her head was crowned with a wreath of white roses. The good king was very much surprised to see this lady, for his door was closed; and he was puzzling himself to conceive how she had found an entrance, when she said to him: "I am the fairy Candid. Passing through the wood while you were hunting, I was curious to know if you were as good as every body says that you are. To ascertain this, I assumed the shape of *a little rabbit*, and



took refuge in your arms; for I was sure that he who would pity a little rabbit could not be unmerciful to his fellow creatures; while had you refused me your protection, I should have concluded that with all your show of goodness you were wicked in your heart. I am come to thank you for your kind offices to me, and to assure you that I will always be your friend.

You may command me in all things within my power, and I promise to grant you what you desire.

“Madam,” said king Good, “since you are a fairy you ought to know all my wishes. However, I have an only son, of whom I am very fond, and who is called prince ‘Cherry’: if you have any affection for me, become, for my sake, the friend and protector of my son.”—“Most willingly,” said the fairy; “I can make your son the handsomest, the richest or the most powerful prince in the world: choose whichever of these gifts you like best for him.”—“I desire none of them for my son,” answered the good king; “but I will be very much obliged to you if you will make him *the best* of all princes. Of what service to him would be his beauty, or his riches, or the possession of all the kingdoms in the world, if he were wicked? you know very well, madam, that he would notwithstanding be unfortunate, and that it is the practice of virtue alone which can confer happiness.”—“You have well spoken,” said Candid to the king; “but it is not in my power to make prince Cherry a good man in spite of himself: virtue must be attained; it cannot be endowed, or it ceases to be virtue. All that I can promise you is, to give him good advice, to point out his faults to him and to punish him if he will not correct them and punish himself by repentance.”

King Good was very well satisfied with this promise, and shortly

afterwards he died. Prince Cherry wept very much for his father, for he loved him with all his heart, and would have given all his gold, and his silver, and all his kingdoms, to have saved his father's life : but what can change the course of fate ? Two days after the good king's death, as *Cherry was reclining on a sofa,*



the fairy Candid appeared to him. "I promised your father,"

said she, addressing herself to him, "to be your friend; and to keep my word, I am come to make you a present." She then placed on Cherry's finger a little gold ring, and continued: "Take great care of this ring; it is plain, but it is more precious than rubies, more valuable than diamonds: whenever you are about to commit a bad action it will prick your finger; but remember that if in spite of its warning you persevere in an evil deed, you will forfeit my friendship; nay, I shall become your enemy." As she finished these words Candid disappeared, and left Cherry very much astonished and delighted with his present. He was for some time so wise and good that the ring did not prick him at all; which gave him so cheerful an air that to his name of Cherry was added by his subjects that of Happy. After a while, as he was one day hunting, he was so unsuccessful as not to take anything whatever. This put him in rather an ill humour, and he thought that he felt his ring pricking his finger, but so gently, that he did not take much notice of it. As he was returning to his chamber, his little dog Bibi ran as usual to meet him, and leaped round him to be caressed; but the prince said: "Down Sir, I am not in a humour to play with you." The poor little dog, who did not understand him, pulled him by his clothes to make Cherry notice him at least. This made Cherry so angry that he gave the little dog a heavy kick, when instantly the ring pricked him as sharply as if it had been a

pin. Surprised, ashamed and confused, he seated himself in a corner of his chamber, saying to himself: "Surely the fairy is making sport of me, for what great crime have I committed in kicking an animal that was teasing me? To what purpose do I rule over a large empire, if I may not even beat my dog?"

"I am not making sport of you," said a voice in answer to the thoughts which were thus passing in Cherry's mind; "you have, instead of one, committed three faults. You first lost your temper, because you cannot bear to be crossed, even in trifles, but think that men and beasts are made to obey you. You next put yourself in a foaming passion with your dog, who could not understand you, which is very bad; and lastly, you were so mean-spirited as to be cruel to the poor animal, who did not deserve ill-treatment. I know that you are much above a dog; but if it were reasonable and permitted, for the great to ill treat those who are beneath them, I could at this very moment, beat or kill you, since a fairy is more powerful than man. The advantage of being the ruler of a great empire does not consist in the power of committing all the evil to which we feel disposed, but in the practice of all the good that lies within our power."

Cherry, though humbled and ashamed, had not yet lost his candour; he acknowledged his faults and promised to correct them: he did not however keep his word. He had been brought up by a foolish nurse, who had spoiled him in his

infancy. If he wanted any thing, he had only to cry, to fret or to stamp with his feet, and the silly woman gave him all that he cried, fretted or stamped for, and thus had made him passionate and obstinate. She had also told him, from morning till night, that he would one day be a king, and that kings were always very happy because their subjects were bound to obey and to respect them, and because no one could prevent their doing as they pleased. However when Cherry grew a little older, and began to observe and reflect, he became aware that nothing is so odious, and particularly in the highest stations of society, as to be proud, haughty and obstinate. He made some efforts to correct himself, but he had contracted a bad habit of giving way to these faults; and a bad habit is very difficult to overcome. He had not naturally a bad heart; he cried with vexation after committing a fault, and would say: "How unfortunate am I to have thus always to oppose my anger and my pride: if I had been corrected when I was young, I should not now have so many vices to overcome."

His ring soon pricked him very often: sometimes he stopped at its warning: and at others, continued his course in its despite; and what is rather singular in the construction of the ring was, that it only pricked him gently for a slight fault; but when he was very wicked, it actually drew blood from his finger. At last, growing impatient at its friendly severity, and wishing to be

wicked at his ease, he threw his ring from him. He thought himself the happiest of men when he was thus freed from his admonisher. He abandoned himself to all the folly that entered into his mind; so that he became very wicked indeed, and was the terror and the disgust of his subjects.

One day as Cherry was walking in the fields he saw a young girl, so extremely beautiful that he at once resolved to marry her. She was called Zelia, and was as wise as she was beautiful. Cherry accosted her, thinking that Zelia would esteem herself very happy indeed to become a great queen; but to his astonishment she replied with much frankness to his addresses: "Sire, I am but a shepherdess, and have no fortune: but notwithstanding that I will never marry you."—"Is my appearance then displeasing to you?" asked Cherry, a little moved. "No, my prince," answered Zelia; "I find you, as you really are, very handsome. But, of what use to me would be your beauty, your riches, the fine clothes, the magnificent carriages that you would give me, if the evil actions of which I should daily witness the performance, should force me to despise and to hate you?" Cherry went into a violent passion at this, and commanded his officers *to conduct Zelia forcibly to his palace*. He was occupied all day with reflections on the contempt that she had shown for him; but, as he still loved her, he could not determine to ill-treat her. Among Cherry's favorites was his



foster-brother, whom he had placed in his entire confidence. This man, whose inclinations were as low as his birth, flattered his master's passions and gave him very bad advice. On seeing Cherry very sorrowful, he asked him the subject of his grief; and the prince having answered him that he could not endure Zelia's contempt, and that he was resolved to correct his faults, as it was necessary for him to become virtuous to please her,

that wicked man said to him : “ You are very good really, to be willing to constrain yourself for the sake of a little girl : if I were in your place I would compel her to obey me. Remember that you are king, and that it would be a disgrace for you to submit to the caprice of a shepherdess who should be too happy to be admitted into the number of your slaves. Make her fast on bread and water ; put her into prison, and if she remain averse to marrying you, put her to a cruel death, and thus teach others to yield to your wishes. It would be disgraceful were it known that a simple shepherdess could turn you from your course or resist your inclinations : on that day will all your subjects forget that they are born only to attend on you.”—“ But,” said Cherry, “ shall I not be disgraced if I put an innocent person to death ? for after all Zelia is guilty of no crime.”—“ No one can be innocent who refuses to yield to your wishes,” replied the confidant : “ but supposing that you committed an unjust action, even that would be better than that it should be said you allowed any one to show you a want of respect, or to contradict you.” The courtier attacked Cherry on his weak side ; and the fear of seeing his authority diminished made so much impression on the king, that he repressed his first impulse to correct himself. He resolved to go that same evening to the room in which the shepherdess was confined and not to spare her, if she still refused to marry him.

Cherry's foster-brother, who still feared the force of some good inclination, assembled three young lords, as wicked as himself, to carouse with the king. They supped together, and took care quite to overturn this poor prince's reason by making him drink very deeply. They artfully excited his anger against Zelia, and made him so ashamed of his weakness towards her that *he rose from the table like a madman*, and swore that he would at once make her obey him, or that she should be sold the next day for a slave.



On entering the shepherdess's room, Cherry was very much surprised not to find her therein, for he had kept the key in his pocket. He went into a terrible rage, and vowed vengeance on all whom he suspected of having assisted her escape. His confidants, hearing him talk thus, resolved to take advantage of his anger to sacrifice a lord who had been Cherry's guardian. That good man had sometimes taken the liberty of telling the king of his faults, for he loved him as his son. At first Cherry thanked him; he gradually however grew impatient at his remonstrances; and at last thought that it was in the spirit of opposition only, that his guardian found fault with him when every body else praised him. He ordered him to withdraw from the court; but, notwithstanding that order, he would say from time to time that he was a good man; and although perhaps he no longer loved him, he could not help esteeming him in spite of himself. The confidants therefore were continually in fear lest he should take it into his head to recall his guardian, and they believed that they had now found a favourable opportunity to get rid of him for ever. They gave the king to understand that Suliman, (which was his worthy guardian's name,) had boasted that he would set Zelia at liberty; and three men were induced by rich bribes to say that they had heard Suliman affirm as much. The prince, in a transport of rage, ordered his foster-brother to dispatch

soldiers to fetch his guardian chained like a criminal. After giving this order, Cherry retired to his chamber ; but he had no sooner entered it than the earth began to shake, and after a loud peal of thunder the fairy Candid appeared before him—“ I promised your father,” said she to him, in a severe voice, “ to give you good advice, and to punish you if you refused to follow it ; you have treated my counsel with contempt ; you still preserve the outward appearance of a man, but your crimes have changed you into a monster, the horror of earth and of Heaven. It is now time that I entirely fulfil my promise to your father by punishing you for your guilt. I condemn you to become like unto the beasts whose inclinations you have adopted. You have made yourself like the lion by your anger, like the wolf by your gluttony, like the serpent by outraging him who was your second father, like the bull by your ferocity. Bear then in your new form the character of all these animals.” The fairy ceased to speak, and Cherry saw with horror that her sentence was accomplished. He had a lion’s head, a bull’s horns, a wolf’s feet and a serpent’s tail. In a moment he found himself in a large forest, and on the border of a rivulet in which he saw reflected his horrible transformation. He heard a voice, saying : “ Behold : and reflect on the condition into which your crimes have reduced you. Your soul is a thousand times more frightful than your body.” Cherry recognized the

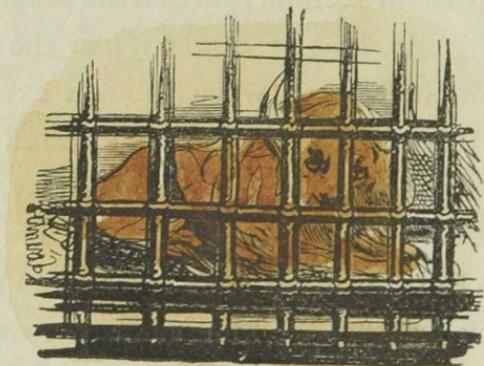
voice of the fairy Candid, and in his fury turned round to spring upon and devour her, had it been possible ; but he saw no one, while the same voice continued : “ I laugh at your weakness and rage. I go to confound your pride, by putting you in the power of your own subjects.”

Cherry thought that by removing from the rivulet he should lessen his troubles, since he would no longer have his ugliness and deformity before his eyes ; so he penetrated into the wood ; but he had not advanced many steps when he fell into a pit that had been dug to entrap bears. In an instant the huntsmen, who had been concealed in the trees, came down, and having bound him in chains they conducted him to the capital city of his kingdom. On the road, instead of acknowledging that he had drawn this punishment on himself by his faults, he cursed the fairy ; gnashed his chains between his teeth ; and abandoned himself to his fury. As he approached the capital he perceived every where great rejoicings : and on the huntsmen asking what had occurred, they were informed that prince Cherry, who only took delight in tormenting his people, had been destroyed in his chamber by a thunder-bolt : for thus it was believed. “ The gods,” added their informants, “ could no longer endure the excess of his wickedness, and have rid the earth of the monster.” It was stated also that four lords, his accomplices in crime, thought to profit by his destruction and

to share the empire between them: but that the people, who knew that it was by their evil advice that the king had fallen, had cut them in pieces, and had offered the crown to Suliman, the good man whom the wicked Cherry had wished to put to death. "That worthy guardian of the late king has just been crowned," said an old man, "and we celebrate the day as that of the kingdom's deliverance; for he is virtuous, and will restore peace and abundance to the land." Cherry groaned with rage at overhearing this discourse: but it was much worse for him when he arrived at the large square before his palace. He saw Suliman on a superb throne, and heard all the people bless him, and pray for his long life, that he might repair the evils they had suffered under his predecessor, when Suliman expressed by signs that he wished to be heard, and thus addressed the multitude. "I have accepted the crown you have offered me," said he, "but it is only to preserve it for prince Cherry. He is not dead, as you believe him to be. A fairy has revealed to me his destiny, and perhaps you may yet see him some day as virtuous as he was in the early years of his reign. Alas!" he continued, weeping, "flatterers seduced him: I knew his heart, it was formed for virtue; and, but for the poisonous discourse of those around him, he would have been the father of us all. Detest his vices, but pity his misfortunes; and let us unite to pray the gods to restore him to us. For my part, I should be but

too happy to bathe his throne with my blood, could I but see him once again ascend it with such dispositions as would make him fill it more worthily."

Suliman's words touched Cherry's heart. He then felt how sincere had been the fidelity and attachment of this good old man; and for the first time since his punishment he felt remorse for his crimes. Softened by this good feeling, he felt the rage that had agitated him gradually cool: he reflected on the many crimes of his life, and acknowledged that he was not punished so rigorously as he deserved. He ceased *to struggle in the iron*



cage, in which he was confined, and became as quiet as a lamb. He was conducted to a large menagerie in which were kept all sorts of monsters and wild beasts, and he was chained up among the rest.

Cherry resolved that he would lose no opportunity of repairing his faults ; he therefore conducted himself very obediently towards the man who had the care of him. This man was a ruffian, and although the monster was very gentle, he yet beat him without rhyme or reason. One day as his keeper was lying asleep, a tiger, having broken his chain, sprung upon him to devour him. Cherry could not for a moment prevent a slight emotion of joy at seeing himself about to be thus delivered from his persecutor : but he immediately repressed this feeling and anxiously regretted that he was not at liberty. “ I would return,” said he, “ good for evil by saving the life of this unfortunate.”

No sooner had he thus determined, than he saw his cage-door open : he sprang to the assistance of the man, who was awakened and defending himself against the tiger. The keeper thought he was lost indeed, when he saw the monster ; but his fear was soon changed to joy : the beneficent Cherry sprang upon the tiger, strangled it, and crouched himself humbly at the feet of the man whom he had just saved. Penetrated with gratitude, the keeper would have caressed the monster who had done him so signal a service ; but as he stooped, he heard a voice saying : “ *A good action never goes unrewarded ;*” and at the same moment to his great surprise he saw but a pretty little dog at his feet. Cherry, charmed at his metamorphosis,

leaped upon and caressed his keeper, who took him in his arms and carried him to the king, to whom he related the wonderful occurrence that had just taken place. The queen charmed with his goodness, wished to have the dog; and Cherry would have been very well contented with his new condition, could he but have forgotten that he was once a man and a king. The queen daily overwhelmed him with caresses; but greatly feared lest he should grow larger than he then was. She consulted her physicians, who told her that to prevent his growth, it was merely necessary to feed him on bread only, and to give him but a fixed allowance of that. Poor Cherry was thus in danger of dying with hunger; but he felt that it was necessary for him to be patient.

One day, directly after his bread had been given to him for his breakfast, he took it into his head that he would go and eat it in the palace garden. He took it in his mouth therefore, and went straight towards a stream which he recollected as being at a short distance from the palace. But to his surprise the stream was no longer there, and in its place he saw a large house, the outside of which was brilliant with gold and precious stones.

He observed an immense quantity of men and women, magnificently dressed, all going into this house; and from the interior he heard singing, dancing and other indications of the good

cheer that was to be found there : but he observed that all those who quitted the house were pale, thin, covered with sores and nearly naked, for their clothes were torn to tatters. Some fell dead as they crossed the threshold, apparently entirely exhausted ; others remained stretched on the ground at a short distance from the door, dying with hunger ; and a few only had sufficient strength to drag themselves away. The poor creatures who were lying on the ground, begged with tears for a morsel of bread from those who were going into the house, but were passed by without even a look. Cherry observed a young girl who was trying to gather some grass to eat ; and touched with compassion, said to himself : “ I have a good appetite 'tis true, but I shall not die of hunger before my dinner-time, and if I sacrifice my breakfast to this poor creature, perhaps I may be the means of saving her life.” He resolved to obey this good impulse, and put his bread into the young girl's hand, who carried it with avidity to her mouth. She soon appeared to be entirely restored, and Cherry, transported with joy at having succoured her so opportunely, was thinking of returning to the palace, when he heard loud cries : it was Zelia in the hands of four men, who were dragging her towards the fine house and were about to force her therein.

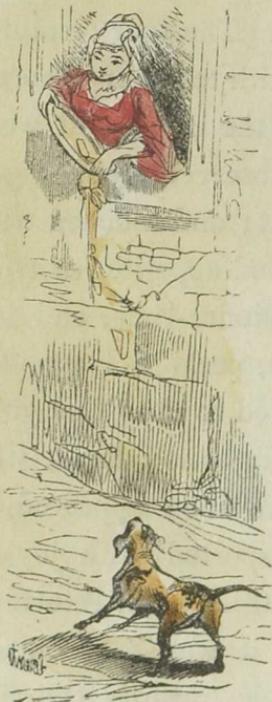
Cherry then regretted that he had lost the shape and powers of the monster, which would have enabled him to rescue his

Zelia; while as a weak dog, he could only bark at her ravishers and follow close at their heels. He was driven away with kicks and curses, but he resolved not to leave the place, and to ascertain what became of Zelia. He upbraided himself with that beautiful girl's misfortunes. "Alas!" said he to

himself, "I am irritated against those who are now carrying her off, but have I not committed against her the same crime? And if the justice of Heaven had not frustrated my intentions, should I not have treated her with as much indignity?"

Cherry's reflections were interrupted by a noise which he heard over his head. He saw a window opened, and his joy was extreme at perceiving *Zelia, who threw out of the window a plate full of victuals so nicely cooked, that the very sight of them was enough to create an appetite.* The window was immediately closed again,

and Cherry, who had not eaten all day, thought that he might as well take advantage of this opportunity. He was just about to eat, when the young girl, to whom he had given his bread,



uttered a cry, and taking him in her arms : “ Poor little animal,” said she, “ touch not those tempting viands ; that house is the palace of luxury and all that comes from it is poisoned.” At the same time Cherry heard a voice saying : “ *You see again that a good action does not go unrewarded ;*” and he was immediately changed into a pretty little white pigeon. He remembered that this was the colour of the fairy Candid, and he began to hope that she might yet restore him to her good graces. His first wish was to go to Zelia, and rising in the air, he flew all round the house. He saw with joy that there was a window open : but in vain did he fly all over the house, he could not find his Zelia there. He resolved however not to rest until he should meet with her. He flew onwards for many days, and having at last entered on a desert, he perceived a cavern, into which he entered. Conceive his joy ! *Zelia was seated therein by the side of a venerable hermit*, and was sharing with him his frugal meal. Cherry transported, flew on to the shoulder of the shepherdess, and expressed by his caresses, the pleasure he felt at seeing her again. Zelia, who was charmed with the little bird’s gentleness, softly stroked him with her hand, and although she thought he could not understand her, she told him that she accepted the gift that he made her of himself, and that she would always love him. “ What have you done, Zelia ? ” said the hermit, “ you have just pledged your faith.”—“ Yes,



charming shepherdess," said Cherry to her, resuming at that moment his natural form, "the end of my metamorphosis depended then on your consent to our union. You have promised to love me always; confirm my happiness, or I will conjure the fairy Candid, my protectress, to restore to me that form under which I had the happiness to please you."—"You need not fear her inconstancy," said Candid, who, quitting the figure of the hermit, under which she had been concealed, appeared in her proper person. "Zelia loved you when first she saw you, but your vices obliged her to conceal from you the passion with which you had inspired her. The change that has taken place

in your heart, allows her to give way to her tenderness. You will live happily together, since your union will be founded on virtue."

Cherry and Zelia threw themselves at the fairy Candid's feet. The prince could not sufficiently thank her for her goodness, and Zelia, enchanted to learn that the prince had abandoned his errors, confirmed to him the pleasing confession of her love. "Rise my children," said the fairy to them, "I will transport you to your palace: I will restore to Cherry a crown of which his vices had rendered him unworthy." She ceased, and Cherry found himself with Zelia in the chamber of Suliman, who charmed to see his master return, restored to himself and to virtue, joyfully abdicated the throne, and became again the most loyal of his subjects. Cherry and Zelia enjoyed a long and happy reign; and it is said of the prince, that he thenceforward applied himself so zealously to his duty, that the ring, which he had recovered with his form, never pricked him again so as to draw blood.



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