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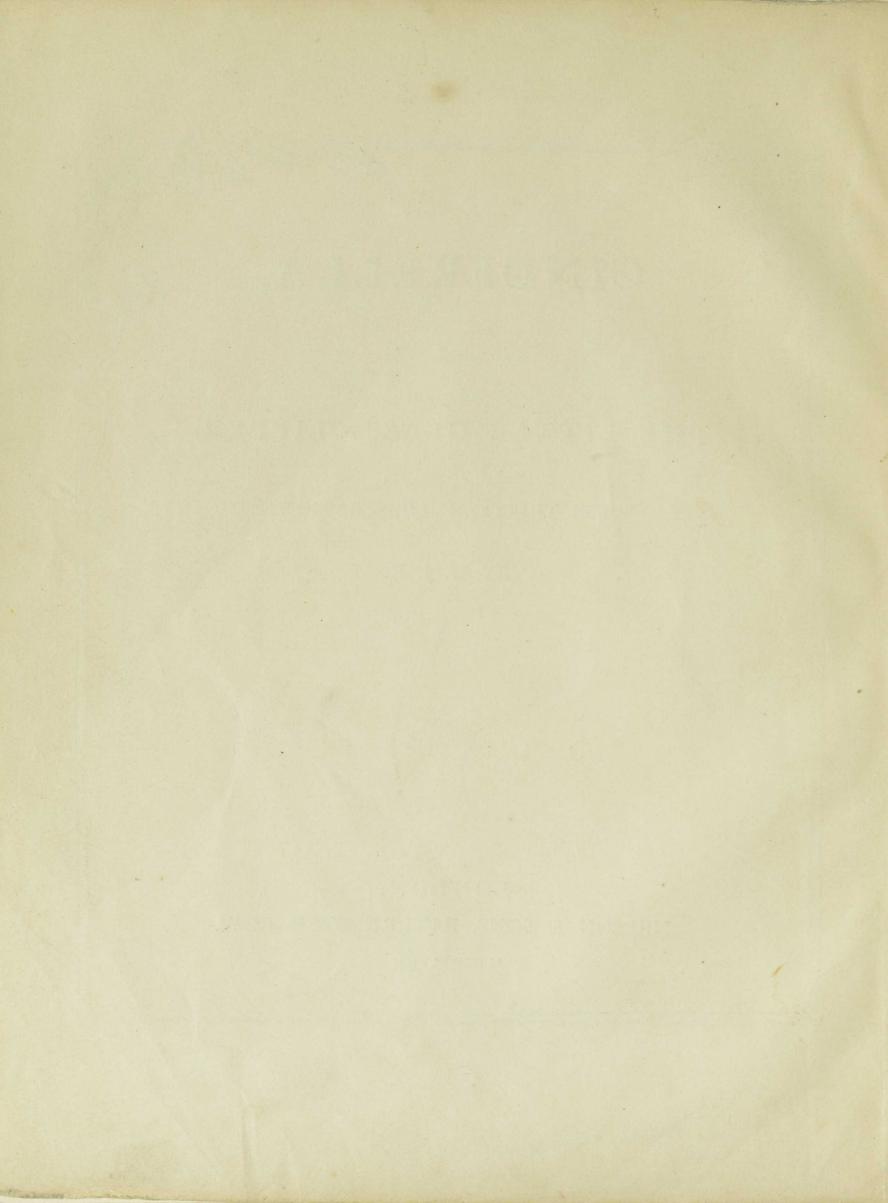
THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.

WITH THIRTEEN ILLUSTRATIONS

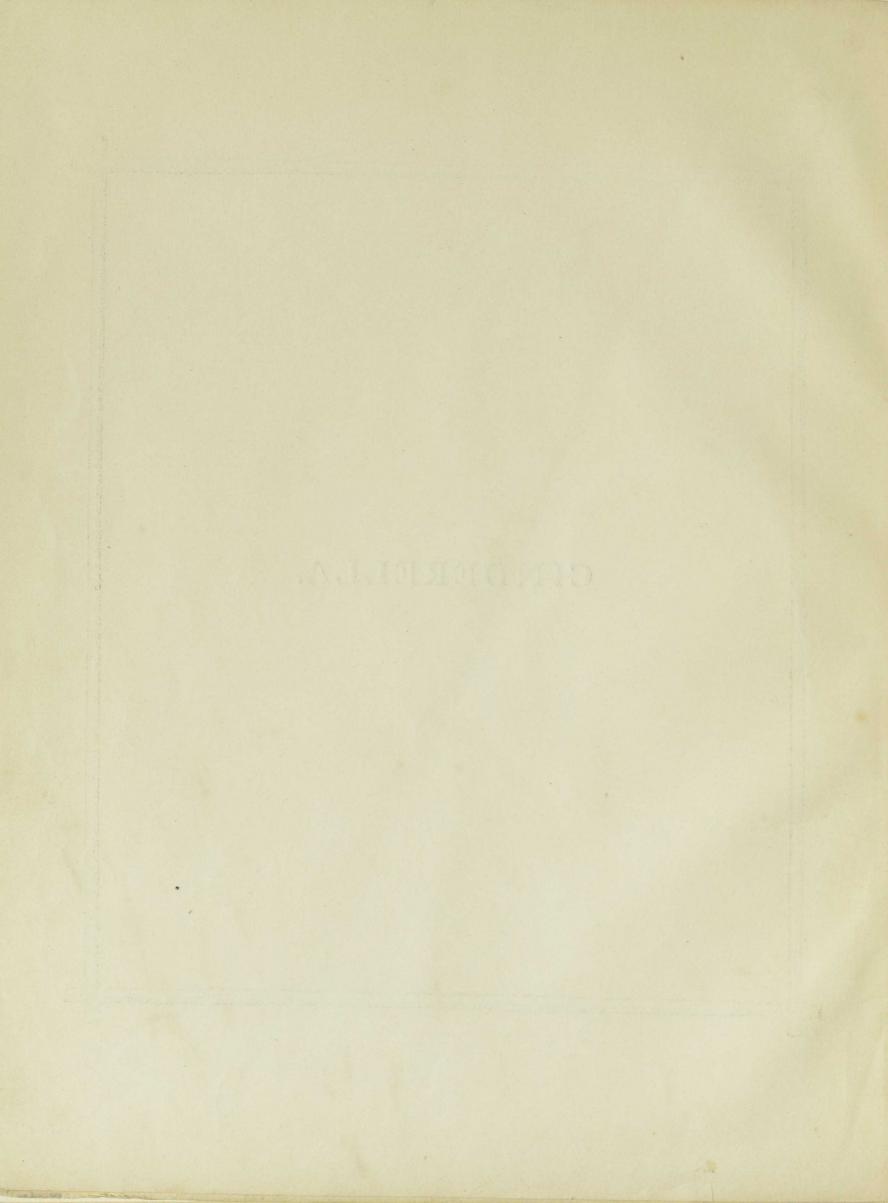
BY M. J. R.



LONDON: NELSON & SONS, PATERNOSTER ROW. M DCCC LVIII.



CINDERELLA.



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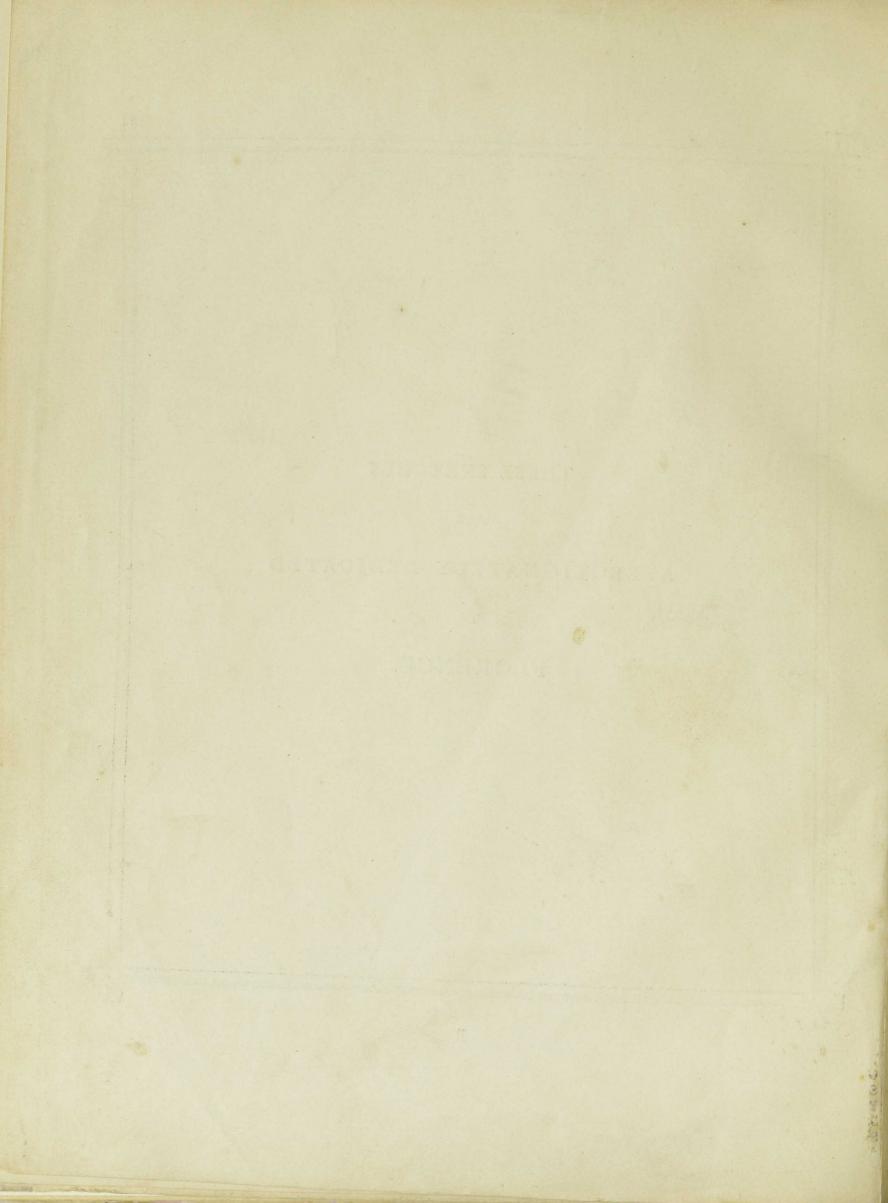
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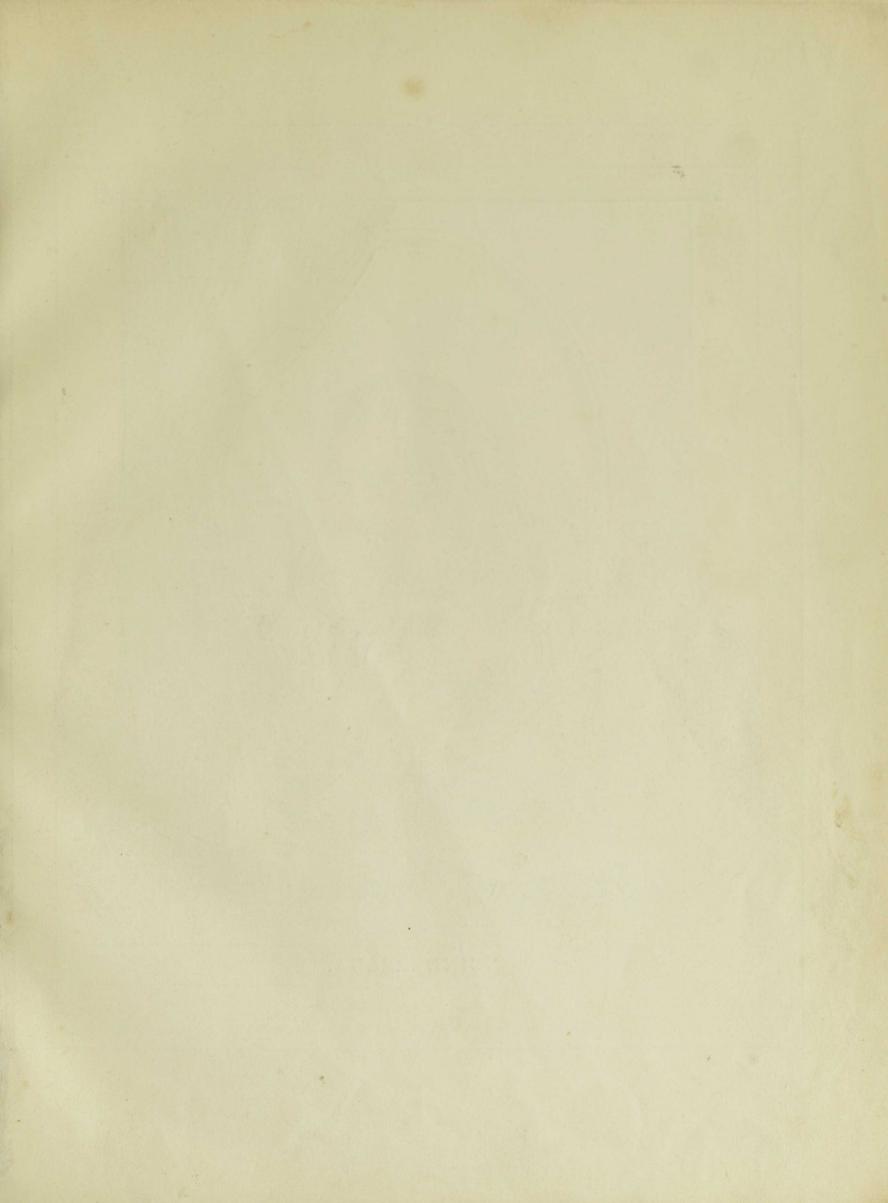
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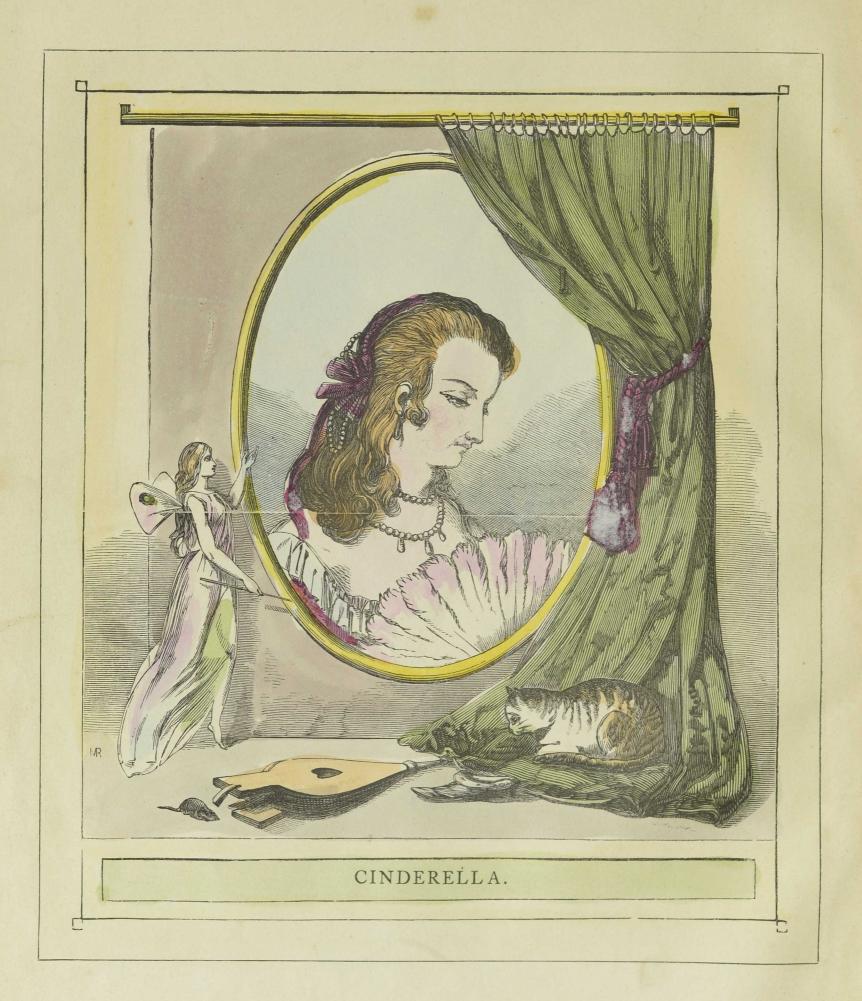
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CINDERELLA.

N former times, a rich man and his wife were the parents of a lovely little daughter, but before she had arrived at womanhood, her mother fell sick, and finding death approaching, she called her child to her and thus addressed her, "My child, always be good, and bear every thing that occurs to you with patience; then whatever toil

> and troubles you may suffer duringlife, happiness will be your lot in the end." After uttering these words the poor

lady died, and her daughter was overwhelmed with grief at the loss of so good and kind a mother. The father too was very unhappy, but he sought to get rid of his sorrow by marrying another wife, and he sought for some amiable lady who might be a second mother to his child, and a companion to himself. Unfortunately his choice fell on a

widow lady, of a proud and overbearing temper, who had two daughters by a former marriage, both as haughty and bad-tempered as herself.

Before marriage this woman had the cunning to conceal her bad qualities so well, that she appeared to be very amiable; but the marriage was scarcely over, when her real character showed itself. She could not endure her amiable step-daughter with all her charming qualifications, for they only made her own daughters appear more hateful. She gave her the most degrading occupations, and compelled her to wash the dishes and clean the stairs, and to sweep the rooms of her step-mother and sisters-in-law. The poor girl slept in a garret at the top of the house upon a wretched straw mattress, whilst the bedchambers of her sisters were furnished with every luxury and elegance, and provided with mirrors in which they could survey themselves from head to foot. The amiable creature bore this ill-treatment with patience, and did not venture to complain to her father, who was so completely governed by his wife, that he would only have scolded her.

When she had finished her work, she used to sit in the chimney corner amongst the cinders, which made her sisters give her the name of *Cinderella*. However, in her shabby clothes, Cinderella was ten

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times handsomer than her sisters, let them be ever so magnificently dressed.

It happened that the King's son sent invitations to a ball, which was to last two nights, and to which all the great people of the land were invited, the two sisters amongst the rest. This delighted them extremely, and their thoughts were entirely occupied in selecting their most becoming dresses for the important occasion. Poor Cinderella had now more work to do than ever, as it was her business to iron their linen, and starch their ruffles. The sisters talked of nothing but preparations for the ball; the eldest said, "I shall wear my crimson velvet dress, and point lace," and the younger, "I shall put on my usual dress pettiocat, a mantle embroidered in gold flowers, and a tiara of diamonds which are of the finest water." They sent to buy patches of the best maker, and to engage the services of the most approved hairdresser. They also called Cinderella to their aid, for she had very good taste, and she



offered in the most amiable manner to arrange their heads herself, of which offer they were too happy to avail themselves.

Whilst so occupied, the eldest said, "Cinderella, should you like to go to the ball?" "Alas!" said she, "you are ridiculing me, I am not likely to go to the ball." "You are right," she replied, "people would be amused to see a Cinderella there."

If Cinderella had been at all unamiable, she might have dressed their heads all awry, for such unkindness, but she returned good for evil and did it in the best possible style. The sisters were in such spirits they could scarcely eat for two days, all their time was spent before the looking-glass, and more than a dozen laces were broken, in attempts to tighten their waists into elegant shapes.

At length the long wished-for evening arrived, and these proud misses stept into the carriage, and drove away to the palace.

Cinderella looked after the coach as far as she could see, and then returned to the kitchen in tears; where, for the first time, she bewailed her hard and cruel lot. She continued sobbing in the chimney corner until a rap at the door aroused her, and she got up to see what had occasioned it. She found a little old woman hobbling on crutches, who besought her to give her some food. "I have only part of my own supper for you, Goody, which is no better than a dry crust. But if you will step in and warm yourself by the fire, you can do so, and welcome." "Thank you, my dear," said the old woman in a feeble, croaking voice. And then she hobbled in and took her seat by the fire.

"Hey! dearee me! what are all these tears about, my child?" said the old woman. And then Cinderella told her of all her griefs; how her sisters had gone to the ball, and how she should like to have

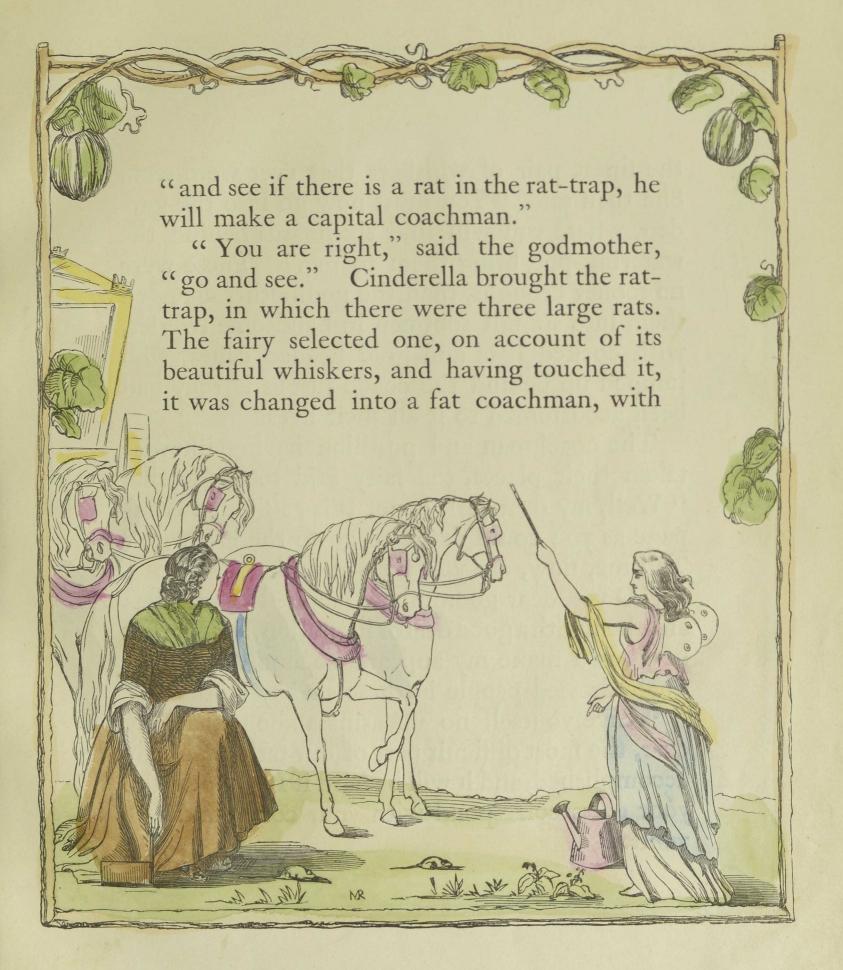
gone also.

"But you *shall* go," exclaimed the visitor, who was fuddenly transformed into a beautiful fairy, "or I am not Queen of the Fairies or your godmother. Dry up your

> tears, my dear goddaughter, and do as I bid you, and you shall have clothes and horses finer than any one."

As Cinderella had often heard her father talk of her godmother, and tell her that she was one of those kind fairies who protect good children, her spirits revived, and she wiped away her tears.

The fairy took Cinderella by the hand, and said, "Now, my dear, go into the garden and fetch me a pumpkin." Cinderella went immediately to gather the finest she could find, and carried it to her godmother, though she could not guess how this pumpkin could make her go to the ball. Her godmother took the pumpkin and hollowed it out, leaving only the rind, she then struck it with her wand, and the pumpkin was immediately changed into a beautiful gilt coach. She next sent Cinderella for the mouse-trap, wherein were found six mice alive. She directed Cinderella to raise the door of the trap, and as each mouse came out, she struck it with her wand, and it was immediately changed into a beautiful horse, so that she had now six splendid greys for her gilt coach. The Fairy was perplexed how to find a coachman. "I will go," said Cinderella,



the finest pair of whiskers that ever were seen. She then said, "You must now go into the garden, where you will find six lizards behind the watering-pot, bring them to me." These were no sooner brought, than the godmother changed them into six tall footmen in handsome liveries, with cocked hats and gold headed canes, who jumped up behind the coach just as if they had been accustomed to it all their lives.

The coachman and postilion having likewise taken their places, the fairy said to Cinderella, "Well, my dear girl, is not this as fine an equipage as you could desire to go to the ball with? Tell me, now, are you pleased with it?"

"O yes, dear godmother," replied Cinderella; and then, with a good deal of hesitation, added "but how can I make my appearance among so many finely dressed people in these shabby clothes?"

"Give yourself no uneasiness about that, my dear, the most difficult part of our task is already accomplished, and it will be hard if I cannot make your dress correspond with your coach and servants." On saying this, the old woman touched Cinderella with her magic wand, and her clothes were instantly changed into a most magnificent ball dress, ornamented with the most costly jewels. The fairy now took from her pocket a beautiful pair of elastic glass slippers, which she caused Cinderella to put on, and then desired her to get

into the carriage with all expedition, as the ball had already commenced.

Two footmen opened the carriage door, and assisted the now beautifully dressed Cinderella into it. Her godmother, however, before she took leave, strictly charged her, on no account whatever, to stay at the ball after the clock had struck twelve;

> and then added, that if she stopped but a single moment beyond that time,

her fine coach would again become a gourd, her horses mice, her footmen lizards, and her old clothes resume their former appearance.

Cinderella promised faithfully to attend to every thing that the fairy had mentioned; and then, quite overjoyed, gave the direction to the footman, who bawled out in a loud voice to the coachman, "To the Royal Palace." The coachman touched his prancing horses lightly with his whip, and swiftly the carriage started off, and in a short time reached the palace.

The arrival of so splendid an equipage as Cinderella's could not fail to attract general notice at the palace gates, and as it drove up to the marble portico, the servants in great numbers came out to see it. The King's son, to whom it was announced that an unknown princess had arrived, hastened to receive her. He handed her out of the carriage, and led her to the ball-room; immediately she entered the dancing ceased, and the violins stopped playing, so much was every one struck with the extreme beauty of the unknown princess, and the only sound heard was that of admiration. The King, old as he was, could not take his eyes off her, and said in a low voice to the Queen, that he had not seen such a beautiful person for many years. All the ladies began examining her dress, that they might have similar ones the next evening, if it was possible to obtain equally rich stuffs, and work-people clever enough to make them. The King's son conducted her to the most distinguished place, and invited her to dance. She danced with such grace, that everybody was in raptures with her. When supper was served the prince could partake of nothing, so much was he occupied in contemplating the beauty of the fair

stranger. Seated close to her sisters, Cinderella shewed them marked attention, and divided with them the oranges and citrons which the prince had given her, all of which surprised them greatly, as they did not recognize her.

When Cinderella heard the clock sound the quarter before midnight, she immediately left as quickly as possible, making a low curtsey to all the company.

As soon as she reached home, she found her godmother, thanked her for the delightful evening she had spent, and begged permission to go to the ball the following night, as the prince had requested her company. Whilst she was occupied in relating all that had passed at the ball to her godmother, the two sisters knocked at the door. Cinderella went to open it for them. "How late you are coming home," said she, rubbing her eyes and stretching her arms, as if just awakened, though in fact she had felt no desire to sleep since they had left her. "If you had been at the ball," said one of the sisters, "you would not have been tired, for there was there the most beautiful princess that ever was seen, who paid us much attention, and gave us oranges and citrons." Cinderella could scarcely contain herself for joy. She asked the name of the princess, but they replied it was not known, and that the King's son was much distressed at it, and would give anything he had to know who she could be. Cinderella smiled and

said, "Was she then so very beautiful? could not I see her? Oh, Javotte, do lend me your yellow dress that you wear every day, that I may go to the ball and have a peep at this wonderful princess?" "Indeed," said Javotte, "I am not so silly as to

lend my dress to a wretched Cinderella like you.' Cinderella expected this refusal, and was very glad of it, for she would have been greatly embarrassed if her sister had lent her the dress. The next evening the sisters again went to the ball, and Cinderella also, more magnificently dressed than before. The King's son was constantly at her side saying the most agreeable things, so that Cinderella did not notice how the time passed, and quite forgot her godmother's injunctions, so that when she thought it was scarcely eleven o'clock, she was startled by the first stroke of midnight. She rose hastily, and fled as lightly as a fawn, the prince following, though he could not overtake her. In her flight she let one of her glass slippers fall, which the prince picked up with the greatest care. Cinderella arrived at home, out of breath, without carriage or servants, in her shabby clothes, and nothing remaining of her former magnificence except one of her little glass slippers, the fellow of that she had lost. Upon inquiry being made of the guards at the palace gates whether the princess had gone out, they replied

that they had seen no one go out but a young girl very ill dressed, who looked more like a peasant than a young lady. When the two sisters returned from the ball, Cinderella asked if they had been amused, and if the beautiful lady had again been there. They told her that she had been there, but that when the clock struck twelve, she had flown off so quickly that she let one of her pretty glass

slippers fall off, that the prince had picked it up, and had done nothing but look at it all the rest

of the evening, and that he was evidently violently in love with the beautiful creature to whom it belonged. This was indeed the case, for a few days after the prince caused it to be published with the sound of trumpets that he would marry the lady whose foot would exactly fit the slipper. So the slipper was first tried on by all princesses, then by all the duchesses, and next by all the persons belonging to the court, but in vain. The slipper was then taken to the two sisters, who tried every possible way of getting their foot into it, but without success. Cinderella, who was looking at them and recognised her slipper, said laughingly," Let me see if it will fit me." The sisters immediately began to laugh and ridicule her, but the gentleman who was appointed to try on the slipper, having looked attentively at Cinderella, and finding her very pretty, said she was quite right in her request, for he was ordered to try it on everybody. He desired her to sit down, and then at once found that the slipper would go on her foot without any trouble, and indeed fitted her like wax. The astonishment of the sisters was very great, but still

greater when Cinderella drew from her pocket the fellow-slipper, and put it on her foot. Immediately her godmother made her appearance, and having touched Cinderella with her wand, she made her appear more magnificent

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than on either of the former occasions. The sisters now recognised in her the beautiful person they had seen at the ball, and

threw themselves at her feet to implore forgiveness for all the ill-treatment they had shown her. Cinderella raised them up, and embracing them, said she forgave them with all her heart for their unkindness to her, and hoped that for the future they would be more kind in their behaviour to every one about them. She told them she had never forgotten the last words of her mother on her death-bed: "My child, always be good and bear with patience everything that occurs to you, then whatever toils and troubles you may suffer during life, happiness will be your lot in the end." These words now proved to be true, for having borne unkindness and cruelty with patience ever since her father's second marriage, she was now going to be married to the King's son.

She then explained the visit of her godmother the Queen of the Fairies, and how her magic wand had furnished her with dresses, carriages, and attendants, and how by forgetting the good fairy's orders she was obliged to quit the ball-room so suddenly, and the consequent loss of her glass slipper. Cinderella was then taken to the palace

