



FAIRY TALE BOOKS

JACK

THE GIANT KILLER

AND

OTHER

STORIES





December 1902

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BEAUTY AND HER BIRDS.

See p. 90

THE HISTORY
OF
JACK THE GIANT-KILLER

AND OTHER STORIES

BASED ON THE TALES IN THE 'BLUE FAIRY BOOK'

EDITED BY
ANDREW LANG

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY H. J. FORD



NEW IMPRESSION

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THE HISTORY OF JACK THE GIANT-KILLER

PART I

IN the reign of the great King Arthur there lived in Cornwall a lad named Jack.

He was a very brave boy, and took delight in hearing or reading of giants and fairies.

He used to like to listen to the deeds of the knights of King Arthur's Round Table.

In those days, there lived on a very high rock off Cornwall, a huge giant, eighteen feet high and nine feet round. His fierce looks were the terror of all who beheld him.

He dwelt in a dark cave on the top of the rock, and used to wade over to the mainland in search of prey.

He would throw half-a-dozen oxen upon his back, and tie three times as many sheep and hogs round his waist, and march back to his own abode.

The giant had done this for many years, when Jack made up his mind to kill him

So Jack took a horn, a spade, a pick, and a dark lantern, and one winter's evening he went to the mount.

There he dug a pit twenty-two feet deep and twenty broad. He covered the top over so as to make it look like firm ground.

He then blew his horn so loud, that the giant awoke and came out of his den, crying out :

‘ You saucy scamp ! you shall pay for this. I’ll broil you for my breakfast ! ’

He had just done speaking, when taking one step further, he fell into the pit, and Jack struck him a blow on the head with his axe which killed him.



Jack then went home to cheer his friends with the news.

Another giant, called 'Blunderbore,'

swore that he would kill Jack, if ever he should have him in his power.

This giant kept a fairy castle in the midst of a lonely wood.

Some time after killing the first giant, Jack was passing through a wood, and, being weary, sat down and went to sleep.

The giant passing by and seeing Jack, carried him to his castle.

He locked him up in a large room, the floor of which was covered with the bodies, skulls, and bones of men and women.

Then the giant went to fetch his brother, who was also a giant, to come and help him eat Jack for supper.

Jack was very much afraid when, peeping out, he saw the two giants coming home.

He looked all round the room, and saw a long and strong cord in one corner.

This he made into a slip-knot, and then, just as the giants were passing under his window, he threw it over their heads.

In an instant he drew it tight, and then tied it to the bars of the window. He then pulled with all his might till he had choked them.

When they were black in the face, he slid down the rope and stabbed them to the heart.

THE HISTORY OF JACK THE GIANT-KILLER

PART II

JACK next took a great bunch of keys from the pocket of Blunderbore, and went into the castle again.

He made a search through all the rooms, and in one of them found three

ladies, tied up by the hair of their heads, and almost starved to death.

They told him, that their husbands had been killed by the giants, who had then said that the ladies should be starved to death, because they would not eat the flesh of their own dead husbands.

‘Ladies,’ said Jack, ‘I have killed the giant and his brother; and I give you this castle and all the riches in it, to make up for the dreadful pains you have felt.’

He then gave them the keys of the castle, and went further on his journey to Wales.

As Jack had but little money, he went on as fast as he could.

At length he came to a fine house. Jack knocked at the door, when there came forth a Welsh giant.

Jack said he was a poor man who had lost his way, on which the giant

asked him to come in, and let him into a room, where there was a good bed to sleep in.

Jack took off his clothes quickly, but, though he was weary, he could not go to sleep.

Soon after this, he heard the giant walking backward and forward in the next room, and saying to himself:

‘Though here you lodge with me this night,
You shall not see the morning light :
My club shall dash your brains out quite.’

‘Say you so?’ thought Jack. ‘Are these your tricks? But I hope to prove as cunning as you are.’

Then, getting out of bed, he felt about the room, and at last found a large thick bit of wood. He laid it in his own place in the bed, and then hid himself in a dark corner of the room.

The giant, about midnight, came

into the room, and with his club struck many blows on the bed, in the very place where Jack had laid the log.

Then he went back to his own room, thinking he had broken all Jack's bones.

*THE HISTORY OF JACK THE
GIANT-KILLER*

PART III

EARLY in the morning, Jack put a bold face upon the matter, and walked into the giant's room to thank him for the use of the room.

The giant started when he saw him, and began to say :

‘ Oh ! dear me ; is it you ? Pray how did you sleep last night ? Did you hear or see anything in the dead of the night ? ’

‘Nothing worth speaking of,’ said Jack. ‘A rat, I fancy, gave me three or four slaps with its tail, and woke me a little. But I soon went to sleep again.’

The giant did not know what to think of this. Yet he did not say a word, but went to bring two great bowls of milk and bread for their breakfast.

Jack wanted to make the giant think that he could eat as much as himself.

So he hid a large bag inside his coat, and let the food fall into this bag, while he seemed to put it into his mouth.

When breakfast was over, he said to the giant: ‘Now I will show you a fine trick. I can cure all wounds with a touch. I could cut off my head in one minute, and the next put it sound again in its place. You shall see what I can do.’

He then took hold of the knife, ripped

up the bag, and all the food fell out upon the floor.

‘Oh, dear! Oh, dear!’ cried the Welsh giant, who would not be outdone by such a little fellow as Jack. ‘I can do that myself!’

So he snatched up the knife, plunged it into his own stomach, and at once dropped down dead.

Jack was very proud of having killed four giants, and made up his mind to kill more.

He therefore got a horse, a cap of knowledge, a sword of sharpness, shoes of swiftness, and an invisible coat.

These were to help him to do the great things, which lay before him.

*THE HISTORY OF JACK THE
GIANT-KILLER*

PART IV

HE walked on over high hills, and on the third day, he came to a large forest, through which his road lay.

Just as he came into the forest, he saw a big giant dragging along by the hair of their heads, a knight and his lady.

Jack got off his horse, and, tying him to an oak tree, put on his invisible coat, under which he carried his sword of sharpness.

When he came up to the giant, he tried to stab him. But he could not reach his body, though he cut his legs in two or three places.

At length, putting both hands to his

sword and aiming with all his might, he cut off both his legs.

Then Jack, setting his foot upon his



neck, plunged his sword into the giant's body, and so killed him.

The knight and his lady thanked

Jack for saving them, and asked him to their house, so that they might give him a fine gift.

‘No,’ said Jack, ‘I cannot be easy till I find out where this wicked giant lived.’

The knight told him which way to go. So he mounted his horse, and soon after came in sight of another giant, who was sitting on a log of wood, waiting for his brother.

Jack jumped from his horse, and, putting on his invisible coat, came close to the giant and aimed a blow at his head, but, missing his aim, he only cut off his nose.

On this the giant seized his club, and struck at Jack with all his might.

‘Nay,’ said Jack, ‘if this be the case I’d better kill you at once.’ So, jumping upon the log, he stabbed him in the back, when he dropped down dead.

*THE HISTORY OF JACK THE
GIANT-KILLER*

PART V

JACK then went on his way, over hills and dales, till he came to the foot of a high hill.

He knocked at the door of a lonely house, and an old man let him in.

When Jack was seated the old man said :

‘My son, on the top of this hill is an enchanted castle, kept by a giant and a bad fairy. Only the other day they seized a noble lady, who was walking in her father’s garden, and turned her into a deer.’

Jack swore that in the morning, at the risk of his life, he would break into the castle and kill the giant.

After a sound sleep he rose early, put on his invisible coat, and got ready.

When he had climbed to the top of the hill, he saw two fiery griffins.

He passed between them without the least fear, for they could not see him because of his coat.

On the castle gate he found a golden trumpet, under which were written these lines:

Whoever can this trumpet blow,
Shall cause the giant's overthrow.

As soon as Jack had read this, he seized the trumpet and blew a shrill blast, which made the gates fly open, and the very castle itself to shake.

The giant and the wicked fairy now knew, that their evil course was at an end, and they stood biting their thumbs and shaking with fear.

Jack, with his sword of sharpness,

soon killed the giant, and the fairy was then carried away by a high wind; and every knight and lady, who had



been changed into birds and beasts, were turned once more into their proper shapes.

The knights and ladies rested that night at the old man's hut, and next day they set out for the Court.

Jack then went up to the King, and told him all about his fights with the giants.

Jack's fame had now spread through all the land.

At the King's wish he married a lovely and noble lady, and every one was glad.

After this the King gave him a large farm, on which he and his lady lived the rest of their days in joy and peace.

*PRINCE HYACINTH
AND THE DEAR LITTLE PRINCESS*

PART I

ONCE upon a time, there lived a king, who was deeply in love with a princess, but she could not marry any one, because she was under a spell thrown over her by a fairy.

So the King set out to seek a fairy, and asked what he could do to win the Princess's love. The Fairy said to him :

‘You know that the Princess has a great cat, which she is very fond of. Whoever is clever enough to tread on that cat's tail, is the man she is bound to marry.’

The King said to himself that this would not be a very hard task.

As he left the Fairy, he said to himself: 'I will grind the cat's tail to



powder, rather than not tread on it at all.'

You may be sure that it was not long before he went to see the Princess, and puss, as usual, marched in before him, arching his back.

The King took a long step, and

quite thought he had the tail under his foot, but the cat turned round so sharply, that he only trod on air.

And so it went on for eight days, till the King began to think that this tail must be full of quicksilver—it was never still for a moment.

At last, however, he was lucky enough to come upon puss fast asleep, and with his tail spread out behind him.

So the King, without losing a moment, set his foot upon it as hard as he could.

With a dreadful yell the cat sprang up, and at once changed into a tall man, who, fixing his angry eyes upon the King, said :

‘ You shall marry the Princess, because you have been able to break the spell, but I will have my revenge.

‘ You shall have a son, who will

never be happy until he finds out that his nose is too long, and if you ever tell any one what I have just said to you, you shall at once be carried off, and no one shall ever see you or hear of you again.'

Though the King was very much afraid of this wicked fairy, he could not help laughing at his threat.

'If my son has such a long nose as that,' he said to himself, 'he must always see it or feel it; at least, if he is not blind or without hands.'

But, as the fairy had gone, he did not waste any more time in thinking, but went to seek the Princess, who said at once that she would marry him.

*PRINCE HYACINTH
AND THE DEAR LITTLE PRINCESS*

PART II

BUT after all, they had not been married very long when the King died, and the Queen had nothing left to care for but her little son, who was called Hyacinth.

The little Prince had large blue eyes, the prettiest eyes in the world, and a sweet little mouth, but, alas! his nose was so big, that it took up half his face.

The Queen was very much put out when she saw this great nose, but her ladies told her that it was not really as large as it looked.

They said it was a Roman nose, and you had only to open any book on

history, to see that every great man has had a large nose.

The Queen, who was very fond of her baby, was pleased with what they told her, and when she looked at Hyacinth again, his nose did not seem to her *quite* so large.

The Prince was brought up with great care; and, as soon as he could speak, they told him all sorts of stories about people, who had short noses.

They would not let any one come near him, whose nose was not nearly as big as his own, and the ladies who served the Queen, took to pulling their babies' noses many times every day to make them grow long.

This they did to please the Queen and to get into her favour. But, do what they would, they could not make them anything like the same size as the Prince's.

When he grew older he learnt his-

tory. And whenever any great prince or beautiful princess was spoken of, his teachers took care to tell him, that they had long noses.

His room was hung with pictures, all of people with very large noses.

The Prince grew up so sure that a long nose was a great beauty, that he would not on any account have had his own a single inch shorter!

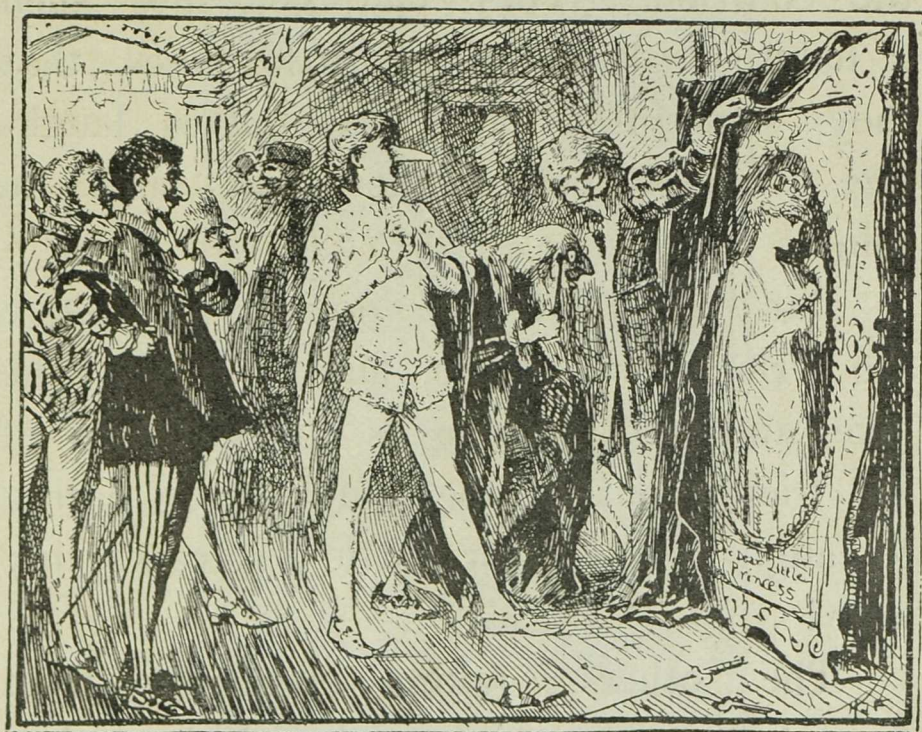
*PRINCE HYACINTH
AND THE DEAR LITTLE PRINCESS*

PART III

WHEN he was twenty years of age, the Queen thought it was time that he should be married, so she had brought to him the likenesses of several princesses for him to see, and among the

others was a picture of the Dear Little Princess !

Now, she was the daughter of a great king, and would some day be queen over a great many kingdoms.



But Prince Hyacinth had not a thought to spare for anything of that sort, he was so much struck with her beauty.

The Princess, whom he thought quite charming, had, however, a little saucy nose, which, on her face, was the prettiest nose that ever was seen.

This was a cause of great trouble to the courtiers. They had got into such a habit of laughing at little noses, that they sometimes found themselves laughing at hers, before they had time to think.

But this did not do at all before the Prince, who quite failed to see the joke, and went so far as to send two of his friends out of the country, for daring to laugh at the Dear Little Princess's tiny nose!

The others, taking warning from this, learnt to think twice before they spoke.

One even went so far as to tell the Prince that, though it was quite true, that no man could be worth anything

unless he had a long nose, still, a woman's beauty was not at all like a man's.



He said that he knew a learned man, who had read in some very old books, that the most lovely queen the

world had ever seen had a 'tip-tilted,' or turned-up, nose.

The Prince made him a fine present as a reward for this good news, and at once sent to ask the Dear Little Princess to marry him.

The King, her father, said yes; and Prince Hyacinth was in such great hurry to see the Princess, that he went many miles to meet her.

He was just about to kiss her hand, when, to the horror of all who stood by, the wicked fairy came upon the scene like a flash of lightning, and, snatching up the Dear Little Princess, flew away with her out of their sight!

PRINCE HYACINTH
AND THE DEAR LITTLE PRINCESS

PART IV

THE Prince was left very sad, and swore that nothing should make him go back to his kingdom, until he had found her again.

He would not let any of his courtiers follow him, and so he mounted his horse and rode sadly away, letting him choose his own path.

So it came to pass, that, after a time, he came to a great plain, across which he rode all day long without seeing a single house.

At last both horse and rider were nearly dead with hunger, when, as night fell, the Prince caught sight of a light, which seemed to shine from a cave.

He rode up to it, and saw a little old woman, who seemed to be at least a hundred years old.

She put on her glasses to look at Prince Hyacinth, but it was quite a long time before she could fix them tightly, because her nose was so very short.

The Prince and the Fairy (for that was who she was) had no sooner looked at one another, than they went into fits of laughter, and cried both at once, 'Oh, what a funny nose!'

'Not so funny as your own,' said Prince Hyacinth to the Fairy; 'but, madam, I beg you to stop talking about our noses—such as they are—and to be good enough to give me something to eat, for I am starving, and so is my poor horse.'

'With all my heart,' said the Fairy. 'Though your nose is such a queer

shape, and so very, very big, you are the son of my best friend.

‘I loved your father as if he had been my brother. Now *he* had a very handsome nose!’

‘And pray what does mine lack?’ said the Prince.

‘Oh! it doesn’t *lack* anything,’ said the Fairy. ‘Its only fault is that there is too much of it. But never mind, one may be a very worthy man though his nose is too long.’

PRINCE HYACINTH
AND THE DEAR LITTLE PRINCESS

PART V

‘I was telling you that I was your father’s friend.

‘He often came to see me in the old

times, and you must know that I was very pretty in those days ; at least, he used to say so.

‘I should like to tell you of a talk we had the last time I ever saw him.’

‘Indeed,’ said the Prince, ‘when I have supped, it will give me the greatest pleasure to hear it; but just think, madam, I beg of you, that I have had nothing to eat to-day.’

‘The poor boy is right,’ said the Fairy ; ‘I did not think of that. Come in, then, and I will give you some supper, and while you are eating I can tell you my story in a very few words—for I don’t like endless tales myself.’

‘Too long a tongue is worse than too long a nose, and I remember, when I was young, that the less I had to say the more people thought of me.’

‘They used to tell the Queen, my mother, that it was so. For though you

see what I am now, I was the daughter of a great king. My father——'

'Your father, I dare say, got something to eat when he was hungry!' said the Prince.

'That he did,' said the Fairy, 'and you also shall have supper at once. I only just wanted to tell you——'

'But I really cannot listen to anything, until I have had something to eat,' cried the Prince, who was getting quite angry.

But then, thinking to himself that he had better be polite, as he much needed the Fairy's help, he added :

'I know that in the pleasure of hearing your story, I should quite forget my own hunger ; but my horse, who cannot hear you, must really be fed !'

The Fairy was very much pleased by these polite words, and said, calling to her servants :

‘You shall not wait another minute, you are so polite, and in spite of the size of your nose, you are really a very nice young man.’

‘Plague take the old lady! How she does go on about my nose!’ said the Prince to himself.

‘One would almost think, that mine had taken all the extra length that hers lacks! If I were not so hungry, I would soon have done with this chatter-pie, who thinks she talks very little.’

‘How stupid people are not to see their own faults! That comes of being a princess: she has been spoilt by her servants and friends, who have made her think that she has very little to say.’

*PRINCE HYACINTH
AND THE DEAR LITTLE PRINCESS*

PART VI

By this time the servants were putting the supper on the table, and the Prince could not keep from laughing to hear the Fairy talk.

Nothing could stop her. She asked the servants a thousand questions, simply that she might hear herself speak.

There was one maid who, no matter what was being said, always made a point of praising her mistress's wisdom.

‘Well!’ he thought, as he ate his supper, ‘I’m very glad I came here. This just shows me, what a good thing it is, that I would never listen to those who tried to flatter me.’

‘People of that sort praise us to our

faces without shame, and either hide our faults or tell us we have none. For my part, I never will be taken in by them. I know my own failings, I hope.'

Poor Prince Hyacinth! He quite thought that all he said was the truth, and hadn't an idea that the people who had praised his nose were laughing at him, just as the Fairy's maid was laughing at her.

For the Prince had seen her laugh slyly, when she could do so without the Fairy seeing her.

However, he said nothing; and when he had eaten as much as he wanted, the Fairy said:

'My dear Prince, might I beg you to move a little more that way, for your nose casts such a shadow, that I really cannot see what I have on my plate. Ah! thanks.

'Now let us speak of your father.

‘When I went to his Court he was only a little boy, but that is forty years ago, and I have been in this lonely place ever since.

‘Tell me what goes on nowadays;



are the ladies as fond of fun as ever? In my time one saw them at parties and balls every day.

‘Dear me! *What* a long nose you have! I cannot get used to it!’

‘Really, madam,’ said the Prince, ‘I

wish you would leave off talking about my nose. It cannot matter to you what it is like.

‘I am pleased with it, and have no wish to have it shorter. One must take what is given one.’

‘Now you are angry with me, my poor Hyacinth,’ said the Fairy, ‘and I can tell you that I didn’t mean to vex you. I want to help you all I can.’

‘However, though I really cannot help your nose being a shock to me, I will try not to say anything about it. I will even try to think, that you have a nose like other people’s.

‘To tell the truth, it would make three of any nose I ever saw before.’

*PRINCE HYACINTH
AND THE DEAR LITTLE PRINCESS*

PART VII

THE Prince, who was no longer hungry, grew so angry at what the Fairy would keep saying about his nose, that at last he threw himself upon his horse and rode hastily away.

But wherever he came he thought the people were mad, for they all talked of his nose, and yet he could not bring himself to think that it was too long.

He had been so used all his life to hear it called handsome.

The old Fairy, who wished to make him happy, at last hit upon a plan.

She shut the Dear Little Princess up in a glass palace and put this



'HIS LONG NOSE WAS ALWAYS IN THE WAY.'

[See p. 45]

palace down where the Prince could not fail to find it.

His joy at seeing the Princess again was very great, and he set to work with all his might, to try to get into the palace and let her out.

But no matter how he tried he only failed.

At last he thought he would try to get near enough to speak to the Dear Little Princess, who, on her part, stretched out her hand that he might kiss it.

But turn which way he might, he never could raise it to his lips, for his long nose was always in the way.

For the first time he saw how long it really was, and said :

‘ Well, I am afraid that I must own that my nose *is* too long !’

In an instant the glass palace flew into a thousand bits, and the old Fairy,

taking the Dear Little Princess by the hand, said to the Prince :

‘Now, say if you do not think I have been your best friend.

‘Much good it was for me to talk to you about your nose ! You would never have found out how very big it was, if it hadn’t kept you from doing what you wanted to. You see how self-love keeps us from knowing our own faults, both of mind and body.

‘Our reason tries in vain to show them to us ; we will not see them till we find them in the way of what we want.’

Prince Hyacinth, whose nose was now just like any one else’s, did not fail to be all the wiser for the lesson he had learned.

He married the Dear Little Princess, and they lived happily ever after.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART I

ONCE upon a time, in a very far-off country, there lived a man who had been so lucky in all that he did, that he was very rich.

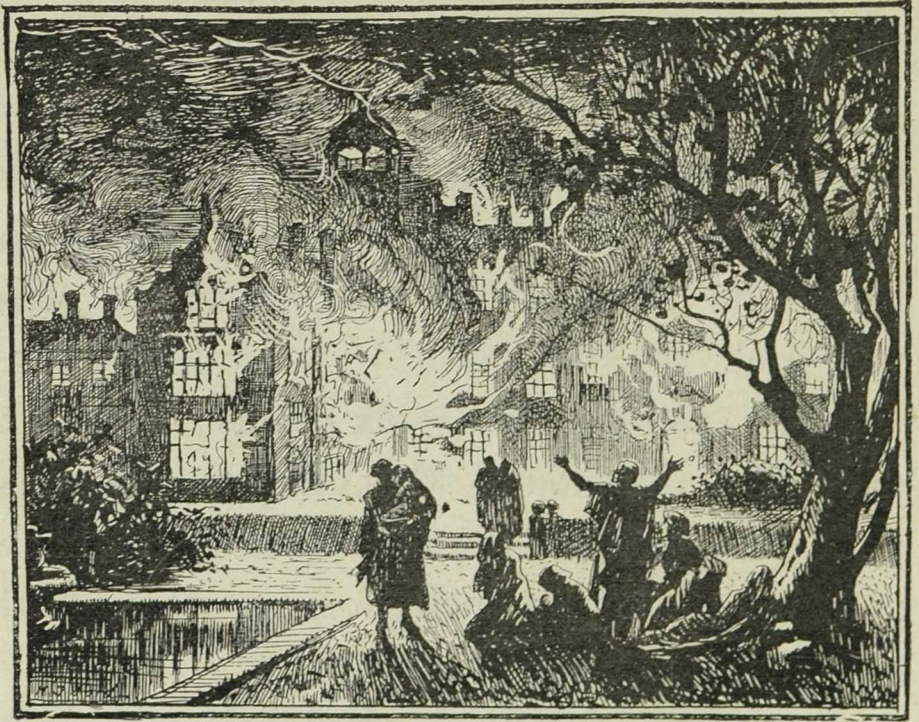
But as he had six sons and six daughters, he found that his money was not too much, to let them all have just what they wished for, as they had been used to.

But one day they had a stroke of very bad luck.

Their house caught fire, and was soon burnt to the ground, with all the books, pictures, gold, silver, and precious goods that were in it.

And this was only the first of their troubles.

Their father, who had until now been very lucky in all ways, lost every



ship he had upon the sea, either by dint of shipwreck or fire.

Then he heard that his clerks in places far away, whom he always thought he could trust, had stolen his money.

And at last, he fell from having great riches, to even want for bread.

All that he had left was a little house in a lonely place, far away from the town in which he had lived.

Here at last he had to go and live. His children were very sad, at having to leave their fine house, to go and live in this poor place.

Indeed, his girls at first hoped that their friends, of whom they had had so many while they were rich, would ask them to go and stay in their houses, now they no longer had one of their own.

But they soon found that they were left alone.

Those who had been their friends, said it was their own fault that they were so poor, and did not offer to help them in any way.

So nothing was left for them but to go to the cottage, which stood in the

midst of a dark forest, and seemed to be the dullest place upon the face of the earth.

As they were too poor to have any servants, the girls had to work hard, and the sons, for their part, had to dig in the fields to earn their living.

The girls had only poor clothes to wear, and not much to eat. And so they were always thinking of the happy days they had known, and wishing that they might come back again.

Only the youngest tried to be brave and cheerful.

She had been as sad as any one at first, but she was both good and brave, and soon set to work to make the best of things.

She did all she could to make her father and brothers happy and gay, and tried to get her sisters to join her in dancing and singing.

But they would do nothing of the

sort, and, because she was not as sad as themselves, they said that this kind of life was all she was fit for.

But she was really far prettier and cleverer than they were. Indeed, she was so lovely that she was always called Beauty.

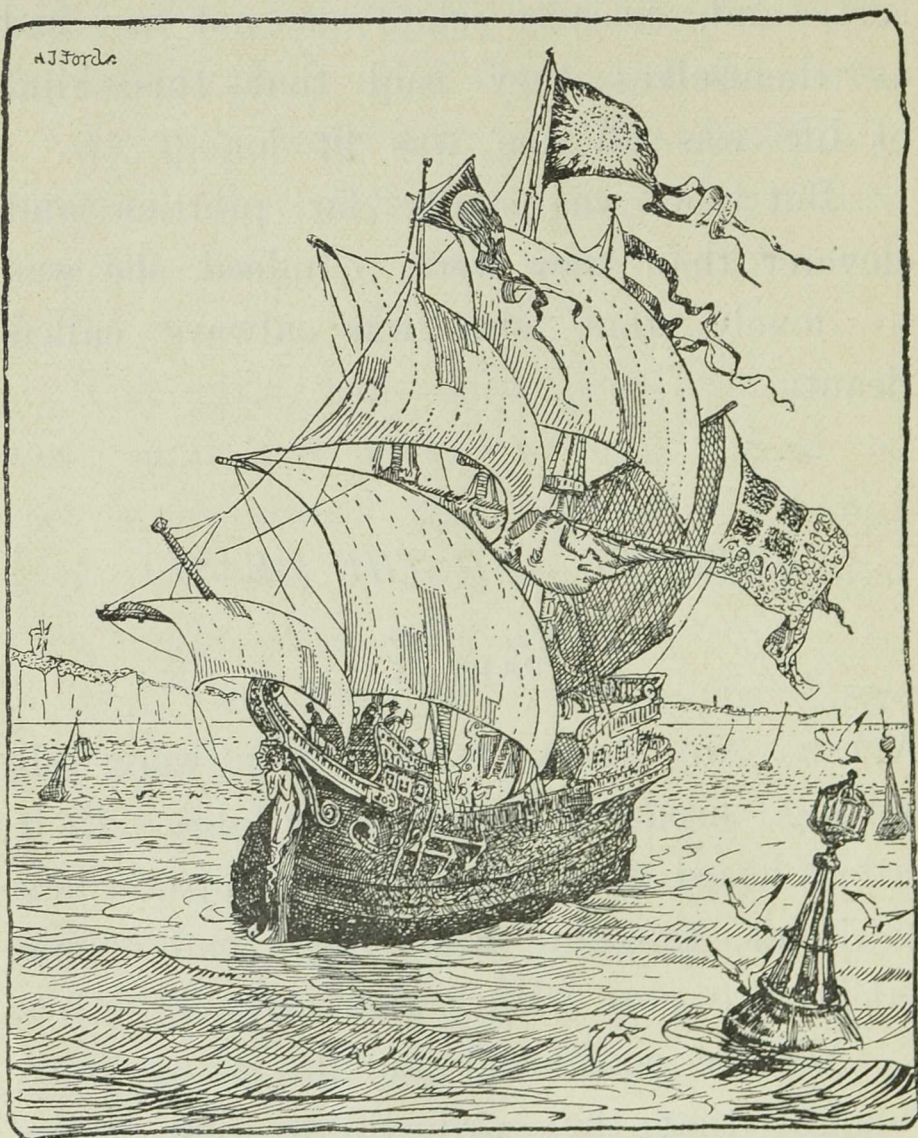
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART II

AFTER two years, when they were all getting used to their new life, their father heard that one of his ships, which he had thought was lost, had come safely into port with a rich cargo.

All the sons and daughters at once thought that the hard times were at an end, and wanted to set out at once for the town.

But their father begged them to wait.



a little, and, though it was harvest-time, and he could ill be spared, he went himself to see if the good news was true.

Only the youngest daughter had any doubt, but they would soon again be as rich as they were before, or at least rich enough to live in some town, where they would find lots of fun and gay friends once more.

So they all crowded round their father, and begged him to buy them all kinds of fine things. It would have taken a house-full of money to have paid for them all.

Only Beauty, feeling sure that it was of no use, did not ask for anything. So her father said :

‘And what shall I bring for you, Beauty?’

‘The only thing I wish for is to see you come home safely,’ she said.

Her sisters were angry when they heard her say this; they said she was blaming them for having asked for such costly things.

Her father was pleased, but as he

thought that at her age she ought to like pretty things, he told her to ask for what she would like.



‘Well, dear father,’ she said, ‘as you say I must, I beg that you will bring me a rose. I have not seen one since we came here, and I love them so much.’

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART III

So he set out, and reached the town as quickly as he could.

But when he got there, he found that it was thought that he was dead, and so his old friends had shared between them, the goods which the ship had brought.

And so, after all, he found himself as poor as when he started, having been able to get only just enough to pay the cost of going home again.

Nor was this all. For when he left the town, the weather was just as bad as it could be, and so by the time he was within a few miles of his home, he was almost dead with cold and hunger.

Though he knew it would take some hours to get through the forest, he wished

so much to be at home again, that he made up his mind to go on.

But night overtook him, and the snow grew so deep and the frost so bitter, that at last his horse stood quite still. It could not go another step.

Not a house was to be seen. The only shelter he could get was the hollow trunk of a great tree, and there he hid all the night, which seemed to him the longest he had ever known.

But though he was so tired, the howling of the wolves kept him awake.

Even when at last the day broke he was not much better off, for the falling snow had hidden every path, and he did not know which way to turn.

At length he made out some sort of track, and so he started.

At first it was so rough, that he fell down more than once. But it soon became better, and at last led him into



a long walk shaded by fine trees. At the end of this walk was a grand castle.

It seemed very strange to him, that no snow had fallen here, and that the trees had fruit and flowers upon them.

When he reached the first court of the castle, he saw before him a flight of steps. He went up them, and passed through room after room full of lovely things.

The warmth of the air made him feel better and wish for food.

But there seemed to be nobody in all this vast place, whom he could ask to give him something to eat.

Not a sound was to be heard, but his feet upon the floor.

At last he stopped in a room smaller than the rest, where a clear fire was burning, and a couch was drawn up close to it.

Thinking that if he waited here some one must soon come, he sat down, and very soon fell into a sweet sleep.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART IV

HE slept soundly for a long time, and when he woke he was still alone. But a little table, upon which was a good dinner, had been drawn up close to him.

As he had eaten nothing for twenty-four hours, he began his dinner at once.

It was so good that he made a hearty meal, and hoped that he would soon have the chance of thanking the one, who had given him such a feast.

But no one came, and even after another long sleep there was no sign of anybody, though a fresh meal of cakes and fruit was ready upon the little table at his side.

Being timid, he began to feel afraid of being in this grand castle all alone.

So he made up his mind to search once more through all the rooms. But it was of no use.

Not even a servant was to be seen ; there was no sign of life in the place.

He began to wonder what he should do, and to think how rich he would be if all the fine things he saw were his own. In his own mind he began to share them among his children.

Then he went down into the garden, and though it was winter everywhere else, here the sun shone, and the birds sang, and the flowers were in bloom, and the air was soft and sweet.

He was charmed with all he saw and heard, and said to himself:

‘ All this must be meant for me. I will go this minute, and bring my children to share all these fine things with me.’

In spite of being so cold and weary

when he reached the castle, he had taken his horse to the stable and fed it.

Now he thought he would get it out and ride home. So he turned down the path which led to the stable.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART V

THIS path had a hedge of roses on each side of it, and he thought he had never seen or smelt such lovely flowers before.

They made him think of what Beauty had asked him to bring her. So he stopped, and had just picked one to take to her, when he was startled by a strange noise behind him.

Turning round, he saw a frightful Beast, which seemed to be very angry, and said, in a loud voice :

Who told you that you might pick my roses? Was it not enough, that I



let you eat and sleep in my palace, and was kind to you? This is the way you

pay me for my kindness, by stealing my roses! But I will punish you for this.'

The man shook with fear at these fierce words, dropped the fatal rose, and, falling on his knees, cried:

'Pardon me, noble sir. I am truly grateful to you for all your kindness, which was so great, that I could not think that you would be angry by my taking such a little thing as a rose.'

But the Beast was as angry as ever, in spite of all the man could say.

'You are very ready with fine words,' he cried; 'but that will not save you from the death you deserve.'

'Alas!' thought he, 'if my dear girl Beauty could only know what danger her rose has brought me into!'

Then he told the Beast all about his troubles: how poor he was, and why he had gone so far away from home.

He ended by telling the Beast, that the only gift his dear girl Beauty had asked for was a rose. And it was to please her that he had picked it.

‘A house full of gold would hardly have bought all that my other girls asked for,’ he said; ‘but I thought that I might at least take Beauty her rose. I beg you to forgive me, for you see I meant no harm.’

The Beast thought for a moment, and then he said, in a kinder tone:

‘I will forgive you if you will promise me one thing. Will you give me one of your girls?’

‘Ah!’ cried the poor man, ‘if I were cruel enough to buy my own life by giving you one of my children, how could I get her to come here?’

‘Tell her the whole tale,’ said the Beast. ‘If she comes at all she must come willingly.’

‘If she does not come of her own free will I will not have her.

‘See if any one loves you well enough to come and save your life.

‘You seem to be a good man, so I will trust you to go home.

‘I give you a month, to see if either of your girls will come back with you and stay here, to let you go free.

‘If neither of them is willing, you must come alone, after bidding them good-bye for ever, for then you will belong to me.

‘And do not think that you can hide from me, for if you fail to keep your word I will come and fetch you!’ added the Beast.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART VI

THE man said he would go home and try, though he did not really think any of his daughters would be willing to come.

He said if he failed, he would come back to the Beast at the proper time, and then, only too glad to get away, he asked if he might set off at once.

But the Beast told him that he could not go until the next day.

‘Then you will find a horse ready for you,’ he said. ‘Now go and eat your supper, and await my orders.’

The poor man, more dead than alive, went back to his room, where a nice hot supper was ready on the little table, which was drawn up before a blazing fire.

But he was too sad to eat, and only tasted a few of the dishes, for fear the Beast should be angry, if he did not obey his orders.

When he had done, he heard a great noise in the next room, which he knew meant that the Beast was coming.

As he could do nothing to get away, the only thing for him was to seem as little afraid as he could.

So, when the Beast came into the room, and asked roughly if he had supped well, the poor man said he had had a very good supper, and thanked the Beast for it.

Then the Beast warned him, not to forget what he had said he would do, and to tell Beauty all the truth about the matter.

‘Do not get up to-morrow,’ he added, ‘until you see the sun and hear a golden bell ring. Then you will find your break-

fast waiting for you here, and the horse you are to ride will be ready in the yard.

‘He will also bring you back again, when you come with your daughter a month hence.

‘Farewell. Take a rose to Beauty, and do not forget your promise!’

The poor man was only too glad when the Beast went away, and though he could not sleep for sadness, he lay down until the sun rose.

Then, after a hasty breakfast, he went to pick Beauty’s rose, and mounted his horse, which carried him off so swiftly, that in an instant he had lost sight of the palace.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART VII

HE went so fast, that he was still thinking of his trouble, when the horse stopped before the door of the house.

His sons and daughters, who had been very uneasy at his being away so long, rushed to meet him.

They all wanted to know if he had got his money back. Seeing that he was riding a fine horse, they at once thought that he had.

But he hid the truth from them at first, only saying sadly to Beauty as he gave her the rose :

‘Here is what you asked me to bring you ; you little know what it has cost.’

These words made them all wonder what he meant.

‘Why are you so sad?’ cried they. So he told them all his story, and then they were all very unhappy.

The girls wept over their lost hopes, and the sons swore, that their father should not go back to this dreadful castle.

They began to make plans for killing the Beast, if it should come to fetch him.

‘No,’ said their father, ‘I said I would go back, and I would rather die than break my word.’

Then the girls were very angry with Beauty, and said it was all her fault, and that if she had asked for something else, their father would not have fallen into such trouble.

‘It is not fair,’ said they, ‘that we should have to suffer for your folly.’

All this made poor Beauty very sad.

‘I am indeed the cause of all the

trouble,' said she. 'But who could have guessed, that to ask for a rose in the middle of summer would lead to this?

'But as I am the cause, it is only just that I should suffer for it. I will go back with my father to keep his promise.'

At first nobody would hear of this, and her father and brothers, who loved her dearly, swore that nothing should make them let her go. But Beauty was firm.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART VIII

As the time drew near, she shared all that she had between her sisters, and said good-bye to everything she loved.

When the last day came she tried to cheer her father.

‘Do not fret,’ she said, ‘all may yet be well,’ as they mounted together the horse which had brought him back.

It seemed to fly rather than gallop,



but it went so smoothly, that Beauty was not at all afraid.

Indeed, she would have been very glad, at having so good a ride, if she had not feared what might happen to her at the end of it.

Her father still begged her to go

back, and let him go alone, but in vain.

While they were talking the night fell, and then, to their great surprise, bright lamps were lit all about them. They were of all colours, and the forest was as light as in the day.

They were so bright, that the forest began to seem quite warm, though it had been very cold before.

This lasted until they reached the long walk shaded by orange trees.

Here were long lines of men holding flaming torches, and when they got nearer to the palace, they saw that it was lit up from the roof to the ground. Sweet music sounded softly on every hand.

‘The Beast must be very hungry,’ said Beauty, trying to laugh, ‘if he makes all this show because his supper is coming,’ for she thought the Beast wanted to eat her.

But, though she was so sad, she could not help gazing at all the strange things she saw.

The horse stopped at the foot of the flight of steps leading to the castle. When they had got off the horse, her father led her to the little room he had been in before.

Here they found a bright fire burning, and the table spread with supper.

He knew that this was meant for them, and Beauty, who was not so much afraid, now that she had passed through so many rooms and seen nothing of the Beast, was quite willing to begin, for her long ride had made her very hungry.

But they had hardly done their meal, when the noise of the Beast's footsteps was heard, and Beauty clung to her father in fear, which became all the greater when she saw how much afraid he was.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART IX

BUT when the Beast really came, though she shook with fear at the sight of him, she did her best to hide it, and spoke bravely and kindly to him.

This pleased the Beast. After looking at her he said, in a tone that might have struck fear into the boldest heart, though he did not seem to be angry :

‘ Good-evening, old man. Good-evening, Beauty.’

The father was not able to speak with fear, but Beauty said, very sweetly :

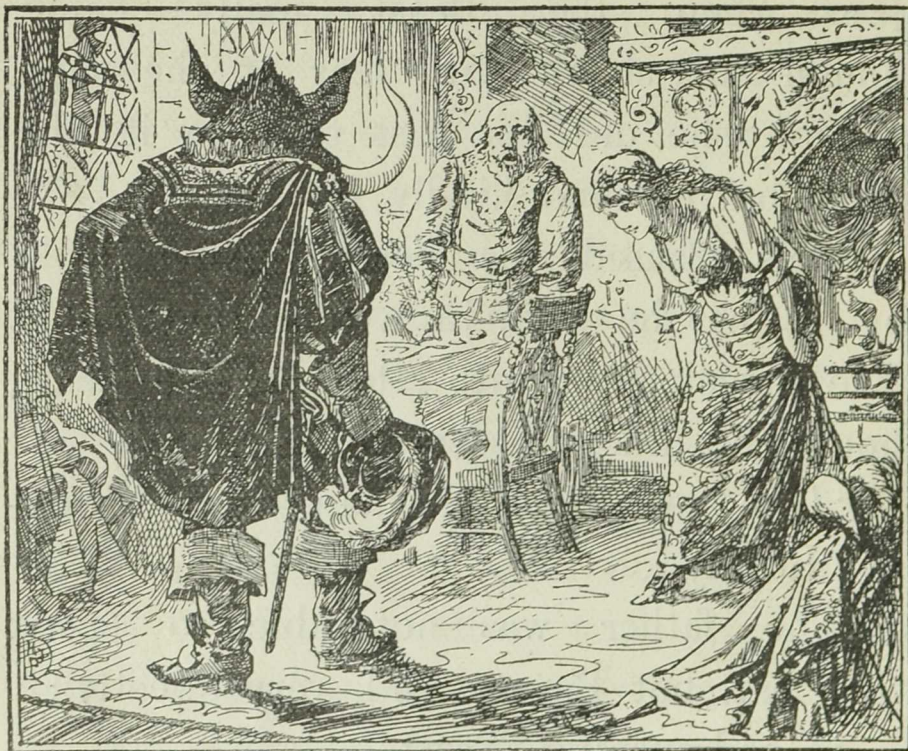
‘ Good-evening, Beast.’

‘ Have you come willingly ?’ asked the Beast. ‘ Will you stay here when your father goes away ?’

Beauty told him bravely that she had come to stay.

‘I am pleased with you,’ said the Beast. ‘As you have come of your own free-will, you may stay.

‘As for you, old man,’ he added,



turning to her father, ‘at sunrise tomorrow you will leave for home.

‘When the bell rings get up quickly and eat your breakfast, and you will find the same horse waiting to take you

home; but you must never expect to see my palace again.'

Then, turning to Beauty, he said:

'Take your father into the next room, and help him to choose everything, you think your brothers and sisters would like to have.

'You will find two trunks there. Fill them as full as you can. It is only just that you should send them something very rich and fine, so that they may never forget you.'

Then he went away, after saying, 'Good-bye, Beauty; good-bye, old man.'

Though Beauty was very sad at the thought of her father leaving her, she felt bound to do what the Beast told her. So they went into the next room, which had shelves all round it.

There were dresses fit for a queen, with all the jewels that were to be worn with them.

And when Beauty opened the cupboards, she was quite dazzled by the precious stones, that lay in heaps upon every shelf.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART X

AFTER choosing a great number, which she divided between her sisters—for she had made a heap of the fine dresses for each of them—she opened the last chest, which was full of gold.

‘I think, father,’ she said, ‘that, as the gold will be more useful to you, we had better take out the other things again, and fill the trunks with it.’

So they did this. But the more they put in, the more room there seemed to be, and at last they put back all the jewels and dresses they had taken out,

and Beauty even added as many more of the jewels, as she could carry at once.

Then the trunks were not too full, but they were so heavy that an elephant could not have carried them !

‘The Beast was mocking us,’ cried the merchant ; ‘he said I might have all these things, knowing that I could not carry them away.’

‘Let us wait and see,’ said Beauty. ‘I do not think he meant to mock us. All we can do is to tie them up and leave them ready.’

So they did this and went back to the little room, where they found breakfast ready.

The father was so much more cheerful that he made a good meal.

The great kindness of the Beast made him begin to think that, after all, he might see Beauty again, and perhaps

soon come back and see her in her new home.

But she felt sure that her father was leaving her for ever, so she was very sad when the bell rang sharply for the second time, and warned them that the time was come for them to part.

They went down into the yard, where two horses were waiting, one loaded with the two trunks, the other for the old man to ride.

They were pawing the ground, and so restless in their hurry to start, that he was forced to bid Beauty a hasty farewell.

As soon as he was mounted, he went off at such a pace, that she lost sight of him in an instant.

Then Beauty began to cry, and went sadly back to her own room. But she soon found that she was very sleepy, and as she had nothing better to do, she lay down and at once fell asleep.

And then she dreamed, that she was walking by a brook that flowed under trees, and crying over her sad fate, when a young prince, nobler than anyone



she had ever seen, and with a voice that went straight to her heart, came and said to her :

‘ Ah, Beauty ! you are not so unlucky as you think. Here you will be

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better off than ever you have been before. Everything you ask for you shall have.

‘Only try to find me out, no matter in what form I may come to you, as I love you dearly, and in making me happy you will find your own happiness. Be as good as you are pretty, and we shall have nothing left to wish for.’

‘What can I do, Prince, to make you happy?’ said Beauty.

‘Only be grateful,’ he said, ‘and do not trust too much to your eyes. And, above all, do not leave me until you have saved me from my cruel fate.’

After this, she thought she found herself in a room with a stately and lovely lady, who said to her :

‘Dear Beauty, try not to be sorry for all you have left behind you, for you will again be very happy.’

‘Only be careful and watchful, and always make quite sure that things are what they seem to be.’

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART XI

BEAUTY liked her dreams so much, that she was in no hurry to awake.

But at last the clock roused her by calling her name softly twelve times, and then she got up and found her dressing-table set out with everything she could want. When she had dressed, she found dinner was waiting in the room next to hers.

But dinner does not take very long when you are all by yourself, and very soon she sat down in the corner of a sofa, and began to think about the

charming. Prince she had seen in her dream.

‘He said I could make him happy,’ said Beauty to herself.

‘It seems, then, that this dreadful Beast keeps him shut up all alone. How can I set him free? I wonder why they both told me not to trust to how things looked? I don’t know what to think.

‘But, after all, it was only a dream, so why should I trouble myself about it? I had better go and find something to do to pass away the time.’

So she got up, and began to look into some of the many rooms of the palace.

The first she went into was lined with looking-glasses, and Beauty saw herself which ever way she looked. She thought she had never seen such a charming room.

Then a bracelet which was hanging from a lamp caught her eye, and on taking it down, she saw that it held a picture of the unknown Prince, just as she had seen him in her dream.

With great delight she slipped the bracelet on her arm, and went on into a room full of pictures.

Here she soon found a picture of the same handsome Prince, as large as life, and so well painted, that as she looked at it he seemed to smile kindly at her.

Tearing herself away from the picture at last, she passed through into a room which held all kinds of music under the sun.

Here she spent a long while in trying some of them, and singing until she was tired.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART XII

THE next room was full of books, and she saw everything she had ever wanted to read, as well as everything she had read.

It seemed to her that a whole lifetime would not be enough, even to read the names of the books, there were so many.

By this time it was growing dusk, and wax candles were beginning to light themselves in every room.

Beauty found her supper served just at the time she wished to have it.

But she did not see anyone or hear a sound, and, though her father had warned her that she would be alone, she began to find it rather dull.

But soon she heard the Beast coming. 'Now,' thought she, 'he means to kill and eat me.'

However, as he did not seem at all fierce, and only said gruffly :

'Good-evening, Beauty,' she spoke to him quite gaily, and hid from him that she was afraid.

Then the Beast asked her what she had been doing to pass away the time, and she told him of all the rooms she had seen.

Then he asked if she thought she could be happy in his palace. Beauty told him that everything was so lovely, that she would be very hard to please if she could not be happy.

After about an hour's talk, Beauty began to think that the Beast was not nearly so bad, as she had thought at first. Then he got up to leave her, and said in his gruff voice :

‘Do you love me, Beauty? Will you marry me?’

‘Oh! what shall I say?’ cried Beauty, for she was afraid to make the Beast angry by saying ‘no.’

‘Say “yes” or “no” without fear,’ he said.

‘Oh! no, Beast,’ said Beauty at once.

‘Since you will not, good-night, Beauty,’ he said. And she said:

‘Good-night, Beast,’ very glad to find that he was not angry because she had said ‘no.’

And after he was gone she was very soon in bed and asleep, and dreaming of her unknown Prince. She thought he came and said to her:

‘Ah, Beauty! why are you so unkind to me? I fear I am fated to be unhappy for many a long day still.’

And then her dreams changed, but the charming Prince was in them all.

When morning came, her first thought was to look at the picture, and see if it was really like him, and she found that it was.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART XIII

THIS morning she made up her mind to spend her time in the garden, for the sun shone, and all the fountains were playing.

But when she looked about her, she seemed to know the place quite well.

‘Surely I have been here before?’ said she.

Then she came to the brook where the trees were growing, where she had first met the Prince in her dream, and that made her think more than ever, that he must be kept shut up by the Beast,

When she was tired, she went back to the palace, and found a new room full of things for every kind of work—ribbons to make into bows, and silks to work into flowers.

Then there was a very large cage full of rare birds, which were so tame, that they flew to Beauty as soon as they saw her, and perched upon her shoulders and her head.

‘Pretty little dears,’ she said, ‘how I wish that your cage was nearer to my room, that I might often hear you sing!’

So saying, she opened a door, and found, to her delight, that it led into her own room, though she had thought it was quite the other side of the palace.

There were more birds in a room farther on. There were parrots that could talk, and they called Beauty by her name.

Indeed, she found she could get so much fun out of them, that she took one or two back to her room, and they talked to her while she was at supper.

Then the Beast paid her his usual visit, and asked the same questions as before, and then with a gruff 'good-night,' he went away, while Beauty went to bed to dream of her unknown Prince.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART XIV

THE days passed swiftly in doing all kinds of things, and after a while Beauty found out another strange thing in the palace, which often pleased her when she was tired of being alone.

There was one room which she had not looked into before. It was empty,

except that under each of the windows stood a fine easy-chair.

The first time she had looked out of the window, it had seemed to her that a black curtain stopped her from seeing anything outside.

But the second time she went into the room, she was very tired, and sat down in one of the chairs.

All at once the curtain was rolled aside, and a play was acted before her.

There were dances, and bright lights of many colours, and music, and pretty dresses, and it was all so gay, that Beauty was charmed with it.

After that she tried the other seven windows in turn, and there was some new thing to be seen from each of them, so that Beauty never could feel lonely any more.

Every evening after supper the Beast came to see her, and always before say-

ing 'good-night' asked her in his loud voice :

'Beauty, will you marry me?'

And it seemed to Beauty, that when she said 'No, Beast,' he went away quite sad.

But her happy dreams of the handsome young Prince soon made her forget the poor Beast.

And the only thing that at all upset her, was to be told to let her heart guide her, and not her eyes, which, think about it as she would, she could not understand.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART XV

So everything went on for a long time, until at last, happy as she was, Beauty began to long for the sight of her father and her brothers and sisters.

One night, seeing her look very sad, the Beast asked her what was the matter. Beauty was no longer afraid of him.

Now she knew that he was really gentle, in spite of his fierce looks and his dreadful voice. So she told him that she was longing to see her home once more.

Upon hearing this, the Beast seemed very unhappy, and cried out sadly :

‘Ah ! Beauty, have you the heart to leave an unhappy Beast like this ? What more do you want to make you happy ? Is it because you hate me, that you want to get away ?’

‘No, dear Beast,’ said Beauty softly, ‘I do not hate you, and I should be very sorry never to see you any more, but I long to see my father again. Only let me go for two months, and I promise to come back to you and stay for the rest of my life.’

The Beast, who had been looking very, very sad while she spoke, now said :

‘I cannot refuse you anything you ask, even though it should cost me my life. Take the four boxes you will find in the room next to your own, and fill them with everything you wish to take with you.

‘But do not forget your promise. Come back when the two months are over, or you may have cause to repent it, for if you do not come in good time you will find your faithful Beast dead.

‘You will not need any coach to bring you back. Only say good-bye to all your brothers and sisters, the night before you come away, and when you have gone to bed turn this ring round upon your finger and say firmly :

“I wish to go back to my palace and see my Beast again.”

‘Good-night, Beauty. Fear nothing, sleep peacefully, and before long you shall see your father once more.’

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART XVI

As soon as Beauty was alone, she filled the boxes with all the rare and precious things she saw about her.

Only when she was tired of heaping things into them did they seem to be full.

Then she went to bed, but could hardly sleep for joy.

And when at last she did begin to dream of her beloved Prince, she was very sorry to see him stretched upon a grassy bank sad and weary, and hardly like himself.

‘What is the matter?’ she cried.

But he looked at her, and said :

‘How can you ask me, cruel one? Are you not leaving me to my death, perhaps?’

‘Ah! don’t be so sad,’ cried Beauty; ‘I am only going to let my father see that I am safe and happy.’

‘I have promised the Beast that I will come back, and he would die of grief if I did not keep my word!’

‘What would that matter to you?’ said the Prince. ‘Surely you would not care?’

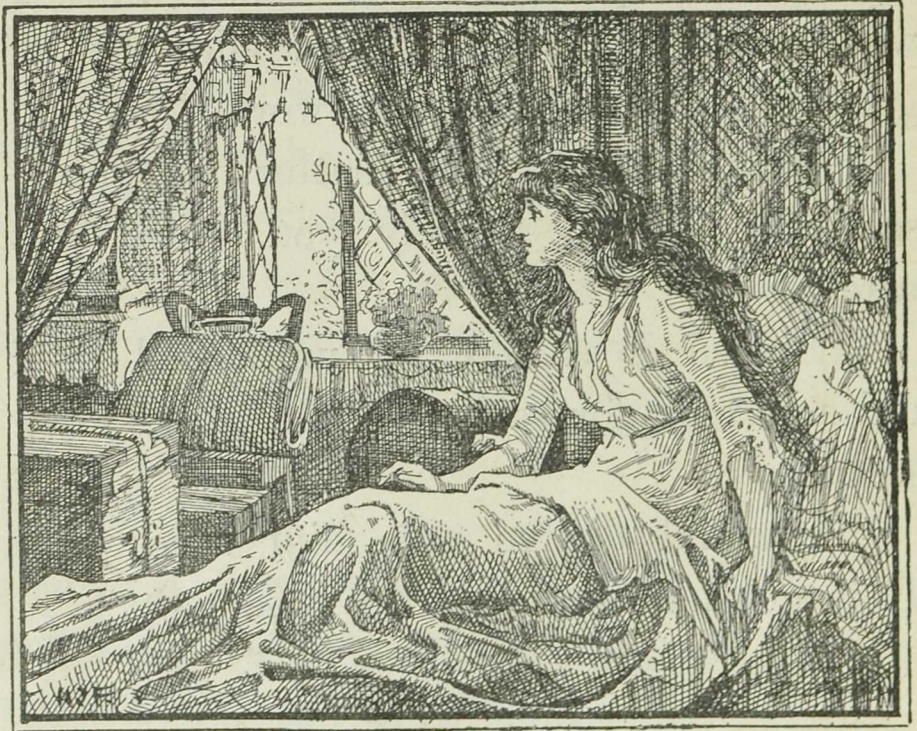
‘Indeed I should be ungrateful if I did not care for such a kind Beast,’ cried Beauty.

‘I would die to save him from pain. It is not his fault that he is so ugly.’

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART XVII

JUST then a strange sound woke her—some one was speaking not very far away ; and, opening her eyes, she found herself



in a room she had never seen before, which was not nearly so grand as those she was used to in the Beast's palace.

Where could she be? She got up and dressed hastily, and then saw that the boxes she had packed the night before, were all in the room.

While she was wondering, how the Beast had carried them and herself to this strange place, she heard her father's voice, and rushed out and greeted him joyfully.

Her brothers and sisters were all very much surprised, as they had never hoped to see her again, and there was no end to the questions they asked her.

She had also much to hear, about all they had been doing, while she was away, and of her father's journey home.

But when they heard that she had only come to be with them for a short time, and then must go back to the Beast's palace for ever, they all fell a-weeping.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART XVIII

THEN Beauty asked her father, what he thought could be the meaning of her strange dreams, and why the Prince always begged her not to trust to the looks of things, but rather to trust her feelings.

After much thought he said: 'You tell me yourself that the Beast, frightful as he is, loves you dearly, and deserves your love for his gentleness and kindness. I think the Prince must mean you to understand, that you ought to reward him by doing as he wishes you to, in spite of his ugliness.'

Beauty could not help seeing that this seemed very likely to be the case.

Still, when she thought of her dear Prince, who was so handsome, she did

not feel as if she could marry the Beast.

At any rate, for two months she need not make up her mind, but could enjoy herself with her sisters.

But though they were rich now, and lived in a town again, and had plenty of friends, Beauty found that nothing pleased her very much.

She often thought of the palace, where she was so happy, the more so that at home she never once dreamed of her dear Prince, and she felt quite sad without him.

Then her sisters seemed to have got quite used to being without her. Sometimes they even found her rather in the way.

So she would not have been sorry when the two months were over, but for her father and brothers, who begged her to stay.

They seemed so sad at the thought of her leaving them again, that she could not make up her mind to say good-bye to them.

Every day when she got up she meant to say it at night, and when night came she put it off again, until at last she had a bad dream which helped her to make up her mind.

She thought she was walking in a lonely path in the palace gardens, when she heard groans, which seemed to come from some bushes hiding the entrance of a cave.

And, running quickly to see what could be the matter, she found the Beast stretched out upon his side, nearly dead.

He told her that she was the cause of his death, and at the same moment a stately lady came and said very gravely :

‘ Ah ! Beauty, you are only just in

time to save his life. See what happens when people do not keep their promises! If you had stayed away one day more, you would have found him dead.'

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

PART XIX

BEAUTY was so upset by this dream, that the next morning she told them all that she should go back at once, and that very night she said good-bye to her father and all her brothers and sisters.

And as soon as she was in bed, she turned her ring round upon her finger, and said firmly :

'I wish to go back to my palace and see my Beast again,' as she had been told to do.

Then she fell asleep, and only woke up to hear the clock saying: 'Beauty, Beauty,' twelve times, which told her at once that she was really in the palace once more.

Everything was just as before, and her birds were so glad to see her.

But Beauty thought she had never known such a long day, for she wanted so much to see the Beast again, that she felt as if supper-time would never come.

But when it did come, and no Beast came to say good-night to her, she was really very much afraid.

So, after waiting for a long time, she ran down into the garden to search for him.

Up and down the paths and among the trees ran poor Beauty, calling him in vain, for no sound was to be heard, and not a trace of him could she find.

At last, quite tired, she stopped for a minute's rest, and saw that she was standing close to the shady path, that she had seen in her dream.



She rushed down it, and, sure enough, there was the cave, and in it lay the Beast—asleep, as Beauty thought.

Quite glad to have found him, she ran up and stroked his head, but to

her horror he did not move or open his eyes.

‘Oh! he is dead; and it is all my fault,’ said Beauty, crying sadly.

But then, looking at him again, she thought he still breathed, and, hastily fetching some water from the nearest well, she threw it over his face, and, to her great delight, he began to open his eyes.

‘Oh! Beast, how you frightened me!’ she cried. ‘I never knew how much I loved you until just now, when I feared I was too late to save your life.’

‘Can you really love such an ugly thing as I am?’ said the Beast faintly. ‘Ah! Beauty, you only came just in time. I was dying because I thought you had forgotten your promise. But go back now and rest; I shall see you again by-and-by.’

Beauty, who had thought that he

would be angry with her, was cheered by his gentle voice, and went back to the palace.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

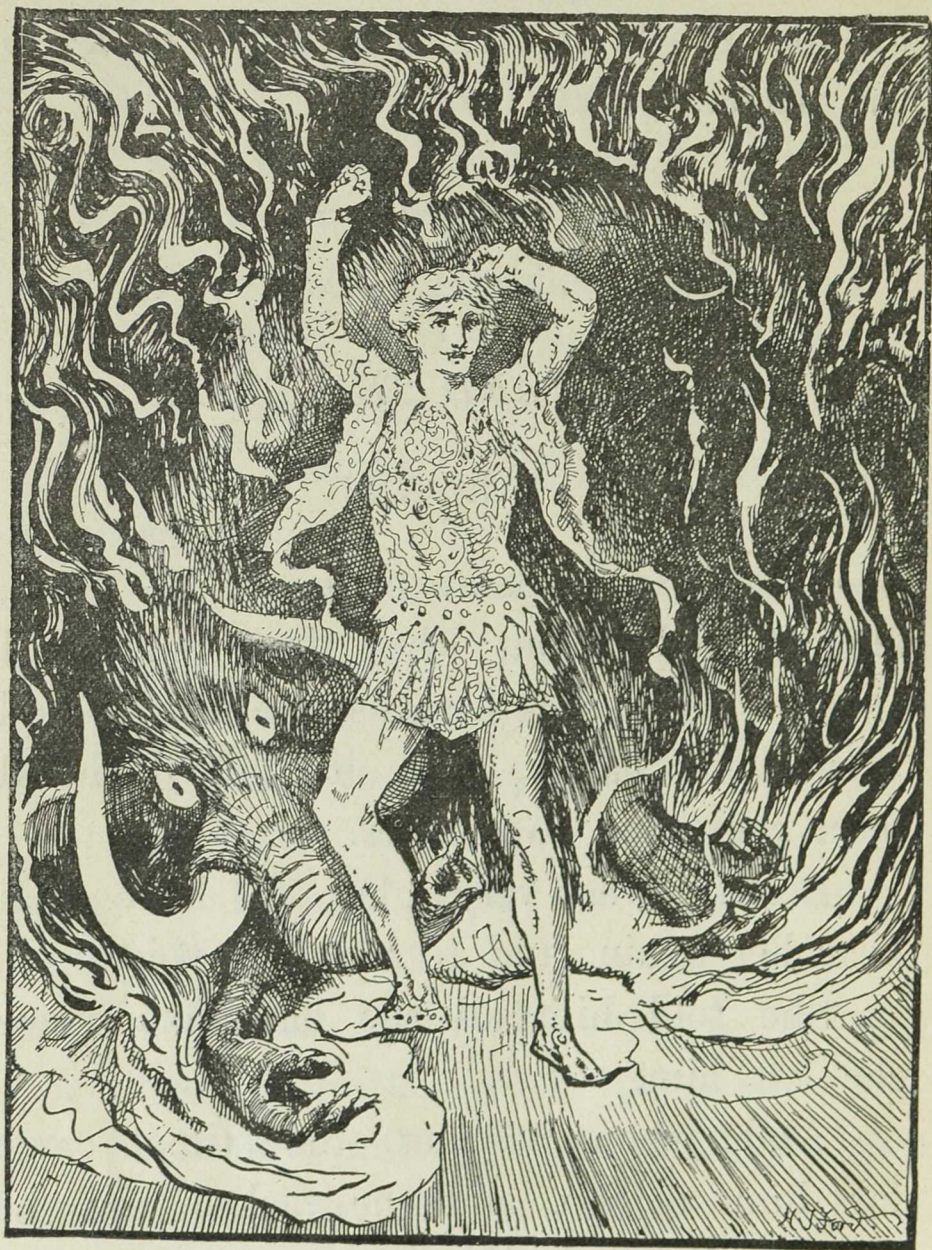
PART XX

SOON after, the Beast came in as usual, and talked about the time she had spent with her father, asking if she had been very happy, and if they had all been very glad to see her.

Beauty was very glad to have him near her again, and to hear his voice.

She told him all she had done since she left him.

And when at last the time came for him to go, and he asked, as he had so often asked before :



‘Beauty, will you marry me?’ she said softly :

‘Yes, dear Beast.’

As she spoke a blaze of light sprang up before the windows of the palace ; fireworks crackled and guns went off, and across the long row of orange trees, in letters all made of fire-flies, was written :

‘Long live the Prince and his Bride.’

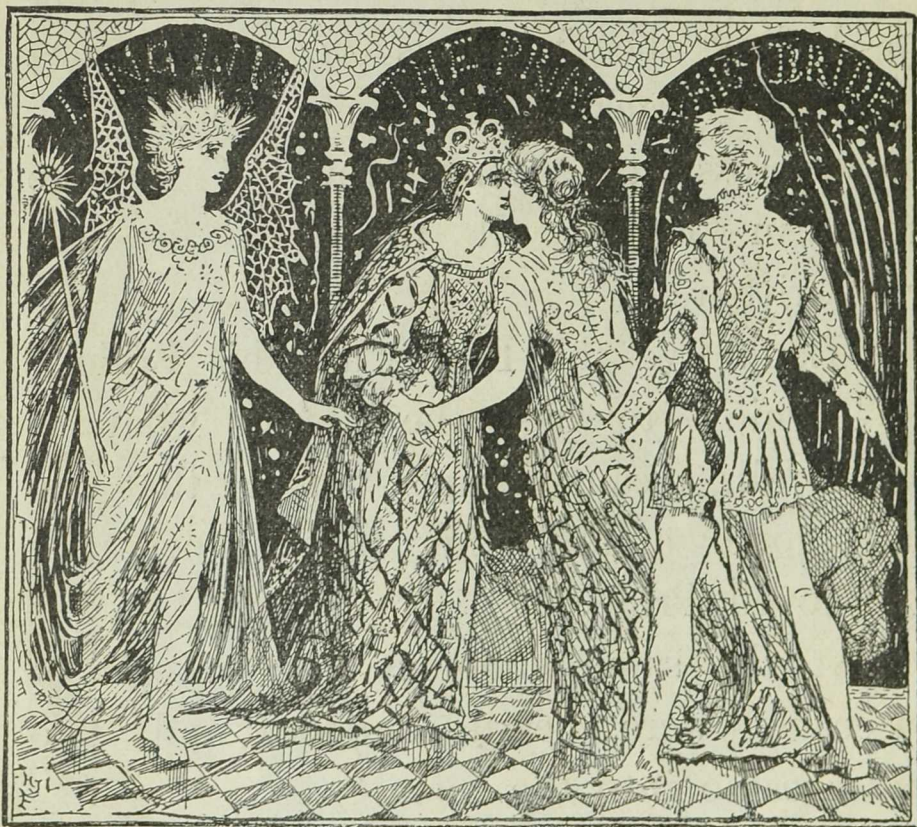
Turning to ask the Beast what it could all mean, Beauty found that he had gone, and in his place stood her long-loved Prince !

At the same moment the wheels of a coach were heard outside, and two ladies came into the room.

One of them Beauty knew at once to be the stately lady, she had seen in her dreams. The other was also so grand and queenly, that Beauty hardly knew which to greet first.

But the one she already knew said to her friend:

‘ Well, Queen, this is Beauty, who



has had the courage to love your son when he was in the form of a beast, and so has made him a prince again. They love one another, and only wait

for you to say you will be glad to see them married, to be quite happy.'

'I consent with all my heart,' cried the Queen. 'How can I ever thank you enough, my dear girl, for having given me back my dear son again?'

And then she kissed both Beauty and the Prince, who had been talking to the Fairy, and thanking her for all she had done for them.

'Now,' said the Fairy to Beauty, 'I suppose you would like me to send for all your brothers and sisters to dance at your wedding?'

And so she did, and they were married the very next day, and Beauty and the Prince lived happily ever after.

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