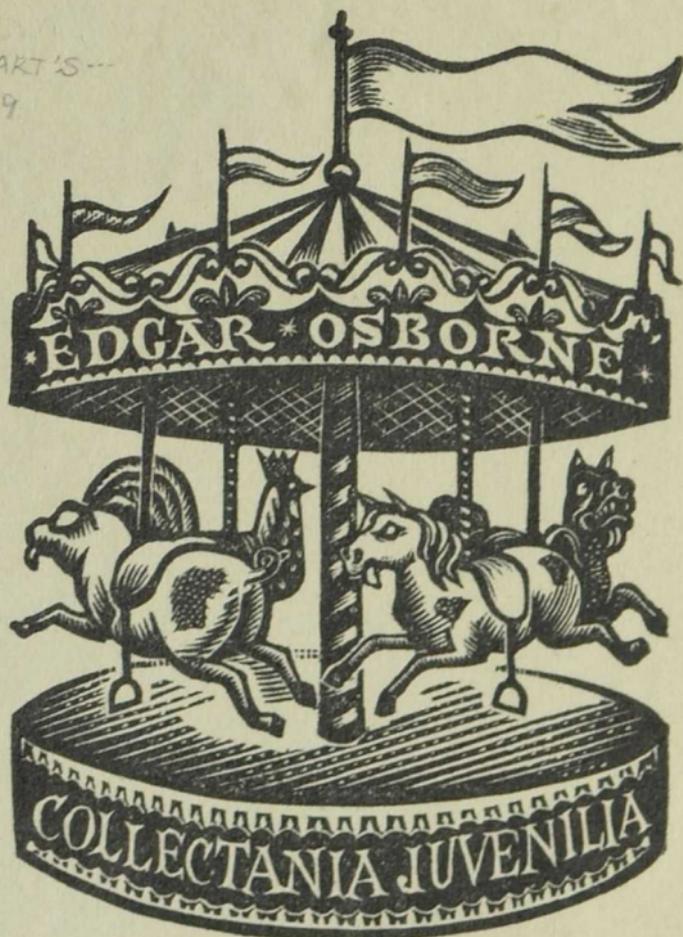




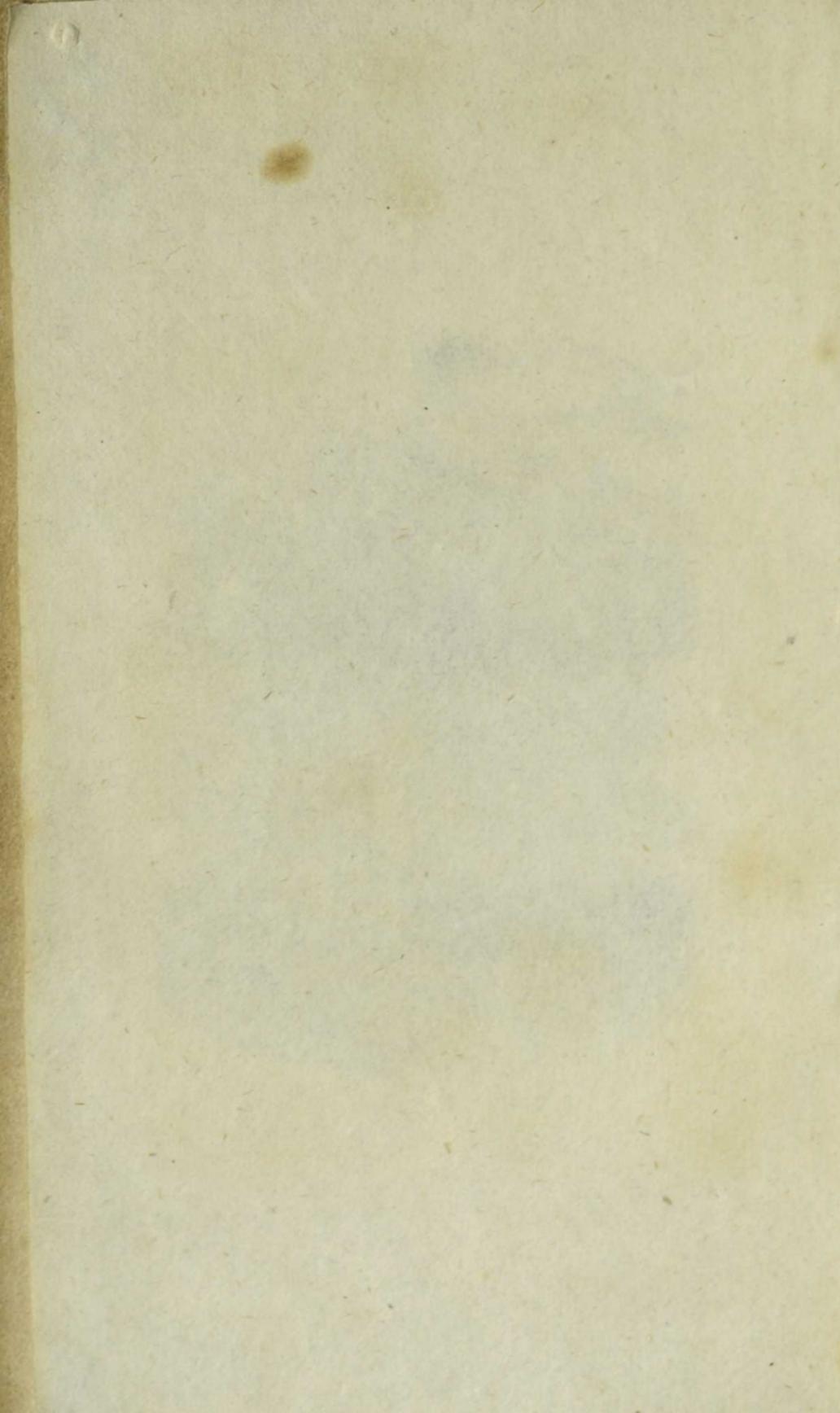
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Whittington.

London, Publish'd by Tabart & C^o Sep. 18-1804

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WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT.

IN the reign of the famous king Edward the third, there was a little boy called Dick Whittington, whose father and mother died when he was very young, so that he remembered nothing at all about them, and was left a dirty ragged little fellow running about a country village. As poor Dick was not old enough to work, he was in a sorry plight; he got but little for his dinner, and sometimes nothing at all for his breakfast: for the people who lived in the village were very poor themselves, and could spare him little more than the parings of potatoes, and now and then a hard crust.

For all this, Dick Whittington was a very sharp boy, and was always listening to what every one talked about. On Sundays he never failed to get near the farmers, as they sat talking on the tomb-stones in the church-yard before the parson was come: and once a week you might be sure to see little Dick leaning against the sign-post of the village ale-house, where people stopped to drink as they came from the next market-town; and whenever the barber's shop door was open, Dick listened to all the news he told his customers.

In this manner Dick heard of the great city called London; how the people who lived there were all fine gentlemen and ladies; that there was singing and music in it all day long; and that the streets were paved all over with gold.

One day a waggoner with a large waggon and eight horses, all with bells at their heads, drove through the village while Dick was lounging near his favourite sign-post.

The

The thought immediately struck him, that it must be going to the fine town of London; and, taking courage, he asked the waggoner to let him walk with him by the side of the waggon. The waggoner, hearing from poor Dick that he had no parents, and seeing by his ragged condition that he could not be worse off, told him he might go if he would; so they set off together.

The writer of Dick Whittington's history could never find out how the little fellow contrived to get meat and drink upon the road, or how he could walk so far (for the distance was very great), or what he did at night, when he found himself ready to die with fatigue, for a place to lie down and sleep in. To be sure, it is not impossible that some good-natured people in the towns he passed through, seeing a poor little ragged boy, gave him something to eat, and the waggoner perhaps allowed him to get into the waggon at night, and take a nap upon one of the boxes.

Dick however got safe to London; and so eager was he to see the fine streets paved all over with gold, that I am afraid he did not even stay to thank the kind waggoner, but ran off as fast as his legs would carry him through several streets, expecting every moment to come to those that were all paved with gold; for Dick had three times seen a guinea in his own little village, and observed what a great deal of money it brought in change; so he imagined he had only to take up some little bits of the pavement, to have as much money as he could desire.

Poor Dick ran till he was tired, and had quite forgot his friend the waggoner; at last, finding it grow dark, and that whichever way he turned he saw nothing but dirt instead of gold, he sat down in a dark corner, and cried himself asleep.

Little Dick remained all night in the streets; and next morning finding himself very hungry, he got up and walked about, asking those he met to give him a half-penny

penny to keep him from starving; but nobody stayed to answer him, and only two or three gave him a halfpenny, so that the poor boy was soon in the most miserable condition.

At length a good-natured looking gentleman observed his hungry looks: "Why don't you go to work, my lad?" says he to Whittington. "That I would," replied the boy, "but I do not know how to get any." "If thou art willing," says the gentleman, "come along with me;" and so saying, he took him to a hay-field, where Dick worked briskly and lived merrily till the hay was all made.

He now found himself again in the same miserable condition; and being almost starved, he laid himself down at the door of one Mr. Fitzwarren, a great rich merchant. Here he was soon perceived by the cook-maid, who was an ill-tempered creature, and happened just then to be very busy dressing dinner for her master and mistress: so see-

ing poor Dick, she called out: "What business have you there, you lazy rogue? There is nothing else but beggars: if you do not take yourself away, we will see how you will like a sousing of some dish-water I have here that is hot enough to make ye caper."

Just at this time Mr. Fitzwarren himself came home from the city to dinner, and seeing a dirty ragged boy lying at the door, said to him: "Why do you lie there, my lad? You seem old enough to work. I fear you must be somewhat idle." "No, indeed, sir," says Whittington, "that is not true; for I would work with all my heart; but I know nobody, and I believe I am very sick for want of food." "Poor fellow!" answered Mr. Fitzwarren, "pr'ythee get up, and let us see what ails thee."

Dick now tried to rise, but was obliged to lie down again, being too weak to stand; for he had not eaten any thing for three days, and was no longer able to run about,
and

and beg a halfpenny of people in the streets : so the kind merchant ordered that he should be taken into his house, and have a good dinner immediately, and that he should be kept to do what dirty work he was able for the cook.

Little Dick would have lived very happily in this worthy family, had it not been for the crabbed cook, who was finding fault and scolding at him from morning to night ; and was withal so fond of roasting and basting, that, when the spit was out of her hands, she would be at basting poor Dick's head and shoulders with a broom, or any thing else that happened to fall in her way ; till at last her ill usage of him was told to miss Alice, Mr. Fitzwarren's daughter, who asked the ill-tempered creature if it was not a shame to use a little friendless boy so cruelly ? and added, she would certainly be turned away if she did not treat him with more kindness, for she should
not

not fail to acquaint Mr. and Mrs. Fitzwarren with the whole of her behaviour.

But though the cook was so ill-tempered, Mr. Fitzwarren's footman was quite the contrary: he had lived in the family many years, was rather elderly, and had once a little boy of his own, who died when about the age of Whittington; so he could not but feel compassion for the poor boy, and pretty often gave him a halfpenny to buy gingerbread, or a top.

As the footman was very fond of reading, he used generally in the evening to entertain his fellow-servants, when they had done their work, with some amusing book. The pleasure our little hero took in hearing him, made him very much desire to learn to read too: so the next time the good-natured footman gave him a halfpenny, he bought a hornbook with it; and with a little of his help Dick soon learned his letters, and afterwards to read.

About

About this time miss Alice was going out one morning for a walk ; and the footman happening to be out of the way, little Dick, who had received from Mr. Fitzwarren a neat suit of clothes to go to church on Sundays, was ordered to put them on and walk behind her. As they walked along, miss Alice, seeing a poor woman with one child in her arms and another at her back, pulled out her purse and gave her some money ; and as she was putting it again into her pocket, she dropped it on the ground and walked on. Luckily Dick, who was behind, saw what she had done, picked it up, and immediately presented it to her.

Another time, as miss Alice was sitting at the window, which was open, and amusing herself with a favourite parrot, it suddenly flew away and lighted upon a branch of a high tree, where all the servants were afraid to venture after it. As soon as Dick heard of it, he pulled off his coat and climbed
up

up the tree as nimbly as a squirrel; and after a great deal of trouble, for Poll hopped about from branch to branch, he caught her and brought her down in safety to his mistress: for which she liked him ever after.

Besides the ill-humour of the cook, which now however was somewhat mended, Whittington had another hardship to get over; this was, that his bed, which was of flock, was placed in a garret where there were so many holes in the floor and walls, that he never went to bed without being awaked in his sleep by great numbers of rats and mice, which generally ran over his face, and kept such a noise, that he sometimes thought the walls were tumbling down about him.

One day a gentleman who paid a visit to Mr. Fitzwarren happened to have dirtied his shoes, and begged they might be cleaned. Dick took great pains to make them shine, and the gentleman gave him a penny. This he resolved to lay out in buying a cat,
if

if possible ; and the next day seeing a little girl with a cat under her arm, he went up to her, and asked if she would let him have it for a penny ; to which the girl replied, she would with all her heart, for her mother had more cats than she could maintain, adding, that the one she had was an excellent mouser.

This cat Whittington concealed in the garret, always taking care to carry her a part of his dinner ; and in a short time he had no further disturbance from the rats and mice, but slept as soundly as he could desire.

Soon after this, the merchant, who had a ship ready to sail richly laden, and thinking it but just that all his servants should have some chance for good luck as well as himself, called them into the parlour, and asked them what commodity they chose to send.

All mentioned something they were willing to venture but poor Whittington, who, having no money nor goods, could
send

send nothing at all, for which reason he did not come in with the rest: but miss Alice, who guessed what was the matter, ordered him to be called, and offered to lay down some money for him from her own purse: but this the merchant observed would not do, for it must be something of his own.

Upon this poor Dick said he had nothing but a cat, which he bought for a penny that was given him.

“Fetch thy cat, boy,” says Mr. Fitzwarren, “and let her go.”

Whittington brought poor puss, and delivered her to the captain with tears in his eyes; for he said “he should now again be kept awake all night by the rats and mice.”

All the company laughed at the oddity of Whittington’s adventure; and miss Alice, who felt the greatest pity for the poor boy, gave him some halfpence to buy another cat.

This, and several other marks of kindness

ness shown him by miss Alice, made the ill-tempered cook so jealous of the favours the poor boy received, that she began to use him more cruelly than ever, and constantly made game of him for sending his cat to sea; asking him if he thought it would sell for as much money as would buy a stick to beat him.

At last the unhappy little fellow, being unable to bear this treatment any longer, determined to run away from his place; he accordingly packed up the few things that belonged to him, and set out very early in the morning on All-hallows day, which is the 1st of November. He travelled as far as Holloway, and there sat down on a stone, which to this day is called Whittington's Stone, and began to consider what course he should take.

While he was thus thinking what he could do, Bow-bells, of which there were then only six, began to ring; and it seemed

to him that their sounds addressed him in this manner :

Turn again Whittington,
Lord mayor of London.

“ Lord mayor of London ! ” says he to himself. “ Why, to be sure, I would bear any thing to be lord mayor of London, and ride in a fine coach ! Well, I will go back, and think nothing of all the cuffing and scolding of old Cicely, if I am at last to be lord mayor of London. ”

So back went Dick, and was lucky enough to get into the house and set about his business before old Cicely came down stairs.

The ship with the cat on board was long beating about at sea, and was at last driven, by contrary winds, on a part of the coast of Barbary inhabited by Moors that were unknown to the English.

The natives of this country came in great numbers, out of curiosity, to see the people on board, who were all of so different a colour

colour from themselves, and treated them with great civility, and, as they became better acquainted, showed marks of eagerness to purchase the fine things with which the ship was laden.

The captain, seeing this, sent patterns of the choicest articles he had to the king of the country; who was so much pleased with them that he sent for the captain and his chief mate to the palace. Here they were placed, as is the custom of the country, on rich carpets flowered with gold and silver; and the king and queen being seated at the upper end of the room, dinner was brought in, which consisted of the greatest rarities.

No sooner, however, were the dishes set before the company, than an amazing number of rats and mice rushed in and helped themselves plentifully from every dish, scattering pieces of flesh and gravy all about the room.

The captain, extremely astonished, turned

to the king's favourites, and asked if these vermin were not very offensive.

“ Oh yes,” said they, “ very offensive ; and the king would give half his treasure to be free of them ; for they not only destroy his dinner, as you see, but they disturb him even in his chamber, so that he is obliged to be watched while he is sleeping, for fear of them.”

The captain was ready to jump for joy : he remembered poor Whittington's hard case, and the cat he had entrusted to his care ; and told the king he had a creature on board his ship that would destroy them all.

The king was still more overjoyed than the captain. “ Bring this creature to me,” says he ; “ and if she can really perform what you say, I will load your ship with wedges of gold in exchange for her.”

The captain, to make quite sure of his good luck, observed, that she was a cat of
such

such uncommon skill in catching rats and mice, that he knew not how to part with her: but added, "that to oblige his majesty he would fetch her." "Run, run," said the queen; "for I am impatient to see the dear creature that will do us such a service."

Away flew the captain, while another dinner was providing, to the ship, and taking puss under his arm returned to the palace in time to see the table covered with rats and mice, and the second dinner in a fair way to meet with the same fate as the first.

The cat, at sight of them, did not wait for a bidding; but sprang from the captain's arm, and in a few moments laid the greatest part of the rats and mice dead at her feet, while the rest in the greatest fright imaginable scampered away to their hiding places.

The king and queen were quite delighted to be so easily rid of enemies who, as long as they could remember, had prevented

their having any comfortable meal by day or any quiet sleep by night, and desired that the creature who had done them so great a kindness might be brought for them to look at.

Accordingly, the captain called out "Puss puss," and the cat went up to him and jumped upon his knee: he then presented her to the queen, who started back, and was afraid to touch a creature which was able to kill so many rats and mice: but when she saw how gentle she appeared, and how pleased with being stroked by the captain, she ventured to touch her too; saying all the time, "Poot, poot," for she could not speak English. The queen at length consented to take puss on her lap, and by degrees became quite familiar with her, till at last puss purred herself to sleep.

The king having seen and considered of the wonderful exploits of Mrs. Puss, and being informed she would soon have young ones, which might in time destroy all the
rats

rats and mice in the country, bargained with the captain for his whole ship's cargo, and afterwards agreed to give a prodigious quantity of wedges of gold, of still greater value, for the cat ; with which, after taking leave of their majesties and other great personages belonging to the court, he, with all his ship's company, set sail with a fair wind for England, and after a happy voyage arrived safely in the port of London.

One morning, Mr. Fitzwarren had just entered his counting-house and seated himself at the desk, when somebody came tap, tap, tap, at the door. " Who is there ?" says Mr. Fitzwarren. " A friend," answers some one opening the door ; when, who should it be but the captain and mate of the merchant ship the Unicorn, just arrived from the coast of Barbary, and followed by several men bringing with them a prodigious quantity of wedges of gold, that had been paid by the king of Barbary in exchange for the merchandise !

They

They then related the adventures of the cat, and produced the rich present the king had sent to Mr. Whittington in exchange for her; upon which the merchant called out eagerly:

“Go fetch him, we will tell him of the same; Pray call him Mr. Whittington by name.”

The reader perhaps may think Mr. Fitzwarren was not a good poet: we will, however, though we do not doubt he thinks so already, convince him he was a good man; for when some of his clerks said so great a treasure was too much for such a boy as Whittington, he replied: “God forbid that I should keep back the value of a single penny! It is all his own, and he shall have every farthing’s-worth of it to himself.”

He then sent for Mr. Whittington, who at that time happened to be scouring the cook’s kettles, and in a dirty condition, so that he wished to excuse himself, by saying the

the great nails in his shoes would spoil his master's fine rubbed floor.

Mr. Fitzwarren, however, made him come in, and ordered a chair to be set for him; so that poor Dick, thinking they were making sport of him, as they too often did in the kitchen, began to beg his master not to mock a poor simple boy, but to let him go down again to his work.

“Indeed, Mr. Whittington,” said the merchant, “we are all quite in earnest with you; and most heartily do I rejoice in the news these gentlemen have brought you: for the captain has sold your cat to the king of Barbary, and brought you in return more riches than I possess in the whole world; and may you long enjoy them!”

Mr. Fitzwarren then desired the men to open the immense treasure they had brought, and added, that Mr. Whittington had now nothing to do but to put it in some place of safety.

Poor

Poor Dick could scarce contain himself for joy; he begged his master to take what part of it he pleased, since to his kindness he was indebted for the whole. "No, no, this wealth is all your own, and justly so," answered Mr. Fitzwarren, "and I have no doubt you will use it generously."

Whittington next entreated his mistress and then miss Alice, to accept a part of his good fortune; but this they refused; at the same time assuring him of the joy they felt at his good success. But the poor fellow was too kind-hearted to keep all himself; and accordingly made a handsome present to the captain, the mate, and every one of the ship's company, and afterward to his excellent friend the footman, and the rest of Mr. Fitzwarren's servants, not even excepting crabbed old Cicely.

After this Mr. Fitzwarren advised him to send for proper tradespeople, and get himself dressed as might become a gentleman,

man, and made him the offer of his house to live in, till he could provide himself with a better.

When Mr. Whittington's face was washed, his hair curled, his hat cocked, and he was dressed in a fashionable suit of clothes, he appeared as handsome and genteel as any young man who visited at Mr. Fitzwarren's; so that miss Alice, who had formerly thought of him with compassion, now considered him as fit to be her lover; and the more so, no doubt, because Mr. Whittington was constantly thinking what he could do to oblige her, and making her the prettiest presents imaginable.

Mr. Fitzwarren, perceiving their affection for each other, proposed to unite them in marriage, to which without difficulty they each consented: and accordingly a day for the wedding was soon fixed, and they were attended to church by the lord mayor, the court of aldermen, the sheriffs, and a great number of the wealthiest merchants in London;

London; and the ceremony was succeeded by a most elegant entertainment.

History tells us that the said Mr. Whittington and his lady lived in great splendour, and were very happy; that they had several children; that he was sheriff of London in the year 1340, and several times afterward lord mayor; that in the last year of his mayoralty he entertained king Henry the fifth, on his return from the battle of Agincourt. Upon which occasion the king, in consideration of Whittington's gallantry, said: *Never had prince such a subject.* This being told Whittington at the table, he replied: *Never had subject such a king.* Going with an address from the city, on one of his majesty's victories, he received the honour of knighthood.

Sir Richard Whittington constantly fed great numbers of the poor: he built a church and a college to it, with a yearly allowance to poor scholars, and near it erected a hospital.



Children in the Wood.

London, Published by Tabart & Co. Sep. 13-1801



The effigy of sir Richard Whittington was to be seen, with his cat in his arms, carved in stone, over the archway of the late prison of Newgate that went across Newgate-street.

THE CHILDREN IN THE WOOD.



A GREAT many years ago there lived in the county of Norfolk a gentleman and his lady. The gentleman was brave, generous, and honourable; and the lady gentle, beautiful, and virtuous: they were extremely beloved by all who knew them; for they were always endeavouring to do the kindest services to every one who came near them.

This lady and gentleman had lived together in perfect happiness for several years, for they loved each other with the greatest
 VOL. I. D tender-

tenderness: they had two children as yet very young; for the eldest, a boy, was but three years old, and the youngest, a girl, not quite two. The boy was the exact likeness of his father, and the girl no less so of her mother.

By the end of this time the gentleman fell sick, and day after day grew worse. His lady, who, as we have before said, loved him with excessive fondness, was so much grieved by his sufferings that she too fell sick: no help that was afforded them was of the least use, for their disorder daily increased, and they were sensible they should soon be snatched away from their two innocent little babes.

This they bore as patiently as so hard a trial would admit of: they talked to each other in the tenderest manner concerning the future management of these two little creatures, and agreed to send for the gentleman's brother, and give their darlings into his care.

The

The gentleman's brother, as soon as he heard the news, made what speed he could to the bedside where these virtuous and unhappy parents lay.

“ Ah! brother,” said the dying man, “ you see how short a time I can expect to live; yet neither death, nor pain, can pierce my heart with half such anguish as that I feel at the thought of what these dear babes will do without a parent's care: brother, brother,” continued he, stretching out his hand as well as he could, and pointing to the children, “ they will have none but you to be kind to them; none but you to see them clothed and fed, and to teach them to be good and happy.”

“ Dear, dear brother,” said the dying lady, “ you must be father, mother, and uncle too, to these dear innocent lambs. First let little William be taught to read; and then he should be told how good his father was. And little Jane,—Oh! brother, it wrings my heart to talk of her: think

of the gentle usage she will need, and take her fondly on your knee, brother, and she and William too will pay your care with love."

"How does it grieve my heart to see you, my dearest relatives, in this mournful condition!" replied the uncle. "But be comforted, there may yet be hope of your well-doing: but should we have the misfortune to lose you, I will be all you can desire for your darling children. In me they shall find father, mother, and uncle. William shall learn to read, and much shall he be told how good his father was. Jane shall be used with all her sex's gentleness, and kindly shall be fondled on the knee. But, dear brother, you have said nothing of the wealth you must leave behind. I am sure you know my heart too well to think that I could talk of this for any other reason than your dear children's good."

"I pray you, dear brother, not to grieve me with such a thought; for how could you, who

who will be their father, mother, and uncle too, once think of wronging them? H-e-r-e, h-e-r-e, brother, is my will. You will see how I have provided for my babes."

The gentleman, a few moments after pronouncing these words, pressed his stone-cold lips to those of the children; the lady did the same, and a short time after they both died.

The uncle shed a few tears at this melancholy sight, and then proceeded straight to open the will, in which he found that to William was bequeathed the sum of three hundred pounds a year, when he should come of age, and to little Jane the sum of five hundred pounds in gold, to be paid her on her marriage day. But if the children should chance to die before coming of age, then all their wealth was to be enjoyed by their uncle. The will of the unfortunate gentleman next desired that he and his beloved wife should be buried side by side in the same grave.

The two little innocents were now taken to the house of their uncle; who, for some time, recollecting what their parents said so sorrowfully upon their death-bed, behaved to them with great kindness. But when he had kept them about a twelve-month, he by degrees forgot to think both how their parents looked when they gave their children to his care, and the promises he made to be their father, mother, and uncle, all in one.

After a little more time had passed, the uncle could not help thinking that he wished the little boy and girl would die, for he should then have all their wealth for himself; and when he had begun to think this, he went on till he could think scarcely of any thing else; and at last, says he to himself: "It will not be very difficult for me to kill them so as for nobody to know any thing of the matter, and then their gold is mine."

When the barbarous uncle had once brought his mind to kill the helpless little creatures,

creatures, he was not long in finding a way to execute his cruel purpose. He hired two sturdy ruffians, who had already killed many travellers in a dark thick wood at some distance, and then robbed them of their money. These two wicked creatures agreed, for a large reward, to do the blackest deed that ever yet was heard of; and the uncle began to prepare every thing accordingly.

He told an artful story to his wife, of what good it would be to put the children forward in their learning; how he had a relation in London who would take the greatest care of them. He then said to the innocent children: "Should you not like, my pretty ones, to see the famous town of London, where you, William, can buy a fine wooden horse to ride upon all day long, and a whip to make him gallop, and a fine sword to wear by your side? And you, Jane, shall have pretty frocks, and pretty dolls,
and

and pretty pincushions; and a nice gilded coach shall be got to take you there."

"Oh yes, I will go, uncle," said William;
"Oh yes, I will go, uncle," said Jane: and the uncle, with a heart of stone, soon got them ready for the journey.

The unsuspecting little creatures were a few days after put into a fine coach, and with them the two inhuman butchers who were soon to end their joyful prattle and turn their smiles to tears. One of them served as coachman, and the other sat between little William and little Jane.

When they had reached the entrance to the dark thick wood, the two ruffians took them out of the coach, telling them they might now walk a little way and gather flowers; and while the children were skipping about like lambs, the ruffians turned their backs to them and began to consult about what they had to do.

"In good truth," says the one who had
been

been sitting all the way between the children, "now I have seen their cherub faces, and heard their pretty speech, I have no heart to do the bloody deed: let us fling away the ugly knife, and send the children back to their uncle." "That will not I," says the other: "what boots their pretty speech to us? And who will pay us for being so chicken-hearted?" Think of your own infants," answered the first. "Think how much money I shall get for them if I do not turn coward," answered the other.

At last the two ruffians fell into so great a passion about butchering the innocent little creatures, that he who wished to spare their lives suddenly opened the great knife he had brought to kill them, and stabbed the other to the heart, so that he fell down dead.

The one who had killed him was now greatly at a loss what to do with the children, for he wanted to get away as fast as he could for fear of being found in the wood.

wood. He was not, however, long in determining that he must leave them in the wood to the chance of some traveller passing by. "Look ye, my pretty ones," said he, "you must each take hold and come along with me." The poor children took each a hand and went on, the tears bursting from their eyes and their little limbs trembling with fear.

Thus did he lead them for about two miles further on in the wood, and then told them to wait there till he could come back from the next town, where he would go and get them some food.

William took his sister Jane by the hand, and they wandered fearfully up and down the wood. "Will the strange man come with some cakes, Billy?" says little Jane. "Presently, dear Jane," says William. And soon again, "I wish I had some cakes, Billy," said she. They then strained their little eyes to every part of the wood; and it would have melted a heart of stone

stone to see how sorrowful they looked, and how they listened to every sound of wind in the trees.

After waiting very long, they tried to satisfy their hunger with blackberries: but they soon devoured all that were within their reach; and night too coming on, William, who had tried all he could to comfort his little sister, now wanted comfort himself; so when Jane said once more, "How hungry I am, Billy, I believe—I cannot help crying—" William burst out a-crying too; and down they lay upon the cold earth: and putting their arms round each other's neck, there they starved, and there they died.

Thus were these pretty innocents murdered; and, as no one knew of their death, so no one sought to give them burial.

The wicked uncle, supposing they had been killed as he desired, told all who asked for them an artful tale of their having died
in

in London of the small-pox; and accordingly took possession openly of their fortune.

But all this did him very little service; for soon after his wife died; and being very unhappy, and always thinking too that he saw the bleeding innocents before his eyes, he neglected all his business; so that instead of growing richer, he every day grew poorer. His two sons also, who had embarked for a foreign land, were both drowned at sea, and he became completely miserable.

When things had gone on in this manner for some years, the ruffian who for pity would not kill the children, committed another robbery in the wood; and being pursued by some men, he was laid hold of and brought to prison, and soon after was tried at the assizes and found guilty; so that he was condemned to be hanged for the crime.

As soon as he found what his unhappy
end

end must be, he sent for the keeper of the prison, and confessed to him all the crimes he had been guilty of in his whole life, and thus declared the story of the pretty innocents; telling at the same time, in what part of the wood he had left them to starve.

The news of the discovery he had made soon reached the uncle's ears; who, being already broken-hearted for the misfortunes that had befallen him, and unable to bear the load of public shame that could not but await him, lay down upon his bed and died that very day.

No sooner were the tidings of the fate of the two children made public, than proper persons were sent to search the wood; when, after many fruitless endeavours, the pretty babes were at length found stretched in each other's arms, with William's arm round the neck of Jane, his face turned close to hers, and his frock pulled over her body. They were covered all over with leaves, which in all that time had never

withered; and on a bush near this cold grave a robin red-breast watched and chirped: so that many gentle hearts still think that piteous bird did bring the leaves which made their grave.

PERONELLA.



THERE was once upon a time a queen so very old, that all her teeth had dropped out and all her hair had fallen off: her head shook like an aspen leaf, nor could she scarcely see at all even with spectacles: her nose and chin almost touched each other: she was shrunk to somewhat more than half of her former height; was all of a heap, and her back so very round that one could not but imagine she had been hunch-backed all her life.

A fairy who had been present at the birth of the queen just now paid her a visit,
and,

and, seeing her burthened with age and infirmity, asked her majesty if she wished to grow young again.

“How can you doubt it?” replied the queen: “there is not a jewel in my caskets but I would give to be once more only twenty years of age.”

“If it be so,” continued the fairy, “we must immediately look out for some young blooming creature, who for the sake of your majesty’s great riches will take upon her the hundred years you would fain get rid of. Does your majesty think we shall be able to find such a person?”

“We will try,” replied the queen; and immediately ordered the strictest search to be made throughout her dominions, for a young lass who should be willing to give her youth in exchange for age, infirmities, and riches.

It was not long before several covetous creatures made their appearance to accept the proffered conditions: but when they

saw how the old queen coughed, and spit, and rattled in her throat; how she lived upon spoon-meat; how dirty she was; that she was wrinkled, and her person smelled disagreeably; what pain she suffered; and how many times she said over the same thing, they said they preferred their own condition, poor and miserable as it was, to riches and the hundred years of her majesty.

Afterward there came some persons of a still more ambitious temper: to these the queen promised the most profitable places and the highest honours. At first they were extremely willing; but when they had stayed a short time with her majesty, they shook their heads as they left the room, saying: "Of what use would all the queen possesses be to us, since, being so very hideous and disgusting, we could not venture to show ourselves to any one?"

At length a young lass from a country village presented herself. She was extremely beautiful, and declared herself willing to
accept



Peronella.

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accept of the crown in exchange for the youth:—her name was Peronella.

At first the queen was very angry; but what end could it answer to be angry, since it was her determination to grow young again?

She proposed to Peronella to divide the kingdom with her: “You shall have one half, and I the other,” said she: “this surely is enough for you, who are but a poor country girl.”

No,” replied Peronella: “this will by no means satisfy me. I will have the whole: or let me be still a country girl with my blooming complexion and my briskness, and do you keep your wrinkles and your hundred years, with Death himself treading upon your heels.”

“But,” continued the queen, “what shall I do if I give away my whole kingdom?” “Do?” said Peronella. “Your majesty will laugh, dance and sing as I do:” and so saying, she laughed, danced and sung before her.

The queen, who could do nothing like this, asked Peronella how she would amuse herself if she were in her place, a stranger as she was to the infirmities of age?

“ I really cannot be quite sure what I would do,” answered Peronella: “ but I have a great mind to try the experiment, since every one says it is so fine a thing to be a queen.”

While the queen and Peronella were thus making their agreement, the fairy herself entered the room, and said to the country lass: “ Are you willing to make the trial, how you should like to be a queen, extremely rich, and a hundred years old?”

“ I have no objection,” said Peronella.

In a single instant her skin is all over wrinkles; her hair turns grey; she becomes peevish and ill-natured; her head shakes; her teeth drop out: she is already a hundred years old.

The fairy next opened a little box, and a numerous crowd of officers and courtiers,
all

all richly dressed, came out of it; who immediately rose to their full stature, and all paid a thousand compliments to the new queen.

A sumptuous repast is set before her: but she has not the least appetite; she cannot chew; she knows not what to say, or how to behave, and is quite ashamed at the figure she makes; she coughs till she is almost dead; she drivels, and a drop hangs at her nose which she has not strength to wipe away; she sees herself in the looking-glass, and perceives she is as ugly and deformed as an old grandam ape.

In the mean while the real queen stood in a corner, smiling all the time to see how fresh and comely she was grown; what beautiful hair she had; and how her teeth were become white and firm.

Her complexion was fair and rosy, and she could skip about as nimbly as a deer: but then she was dressed in a short filthy

rag

rag of a petticoat, and her cap and apron seemed as if she had sifted cinders through them.

She scarcely dared to move in such clothes as these, to which she had never been accustomed; and the guards, who never suffered such dirty ragged-looking people within the palace gates, pushed her about with the greatest rudeness.

Peronella, who all the time was looking on, now said to her: "I see it is quite dreadful to you not to be a queen, and it is still more so to me to be one: pray take your crown again, and give me my ragged petticoat."

The change was immediately made. The queen grew old again, and Peronella as young and blooming as she had been before.

Scarcely was the change complete, than each began to repent of what she had done, and would have tried a little longer: but it

was

was now too late. The fairy condemned them for ever after to remain in their own conditions.

The queen cried all day long, if her finger did but ach ; saying : “ Alas ! if I were now but Peronella, I should, it is true, sleep in a poor cottage, and live on potatoes ; but I should dance with the shepherds under a shady elm, to the soft sounds of the flute. Of what service is a bed of down to me, since it procures me neither sleep nor ease ? or so many attendants, since they cannot change my unhappy condition ? ”

Thus the queen’s fretfulness increased the pain she suffered : nor could the twelve physicians, who constantly attended her, be of the least service. In short, she died about two months after.

Peronella was dancing with her companions, on the fresh grass by the side of a transparent stream, when the first news of the queen’s death reached her : so she said
to

to her companions: "How fortunate I was in preferring my own humble lot to that of a kingdom!"

Soon after, the fairy came again to visit Peronella, and gave her the choice of three husbands: the first was old, peevish, disagreeable, jealous, and cruel; but, at the same time, rich, powerful, and a man of high distinction, who would never suffer her by day or night to be, for a single moment, out of his sight.

The second was handsome, mild, and amiable; he was descended from a noble family, but was extremely poor, and unlucky in all his undertakings.

The third, like herself, was of poor extraction, and a shepherd; but neither handsome nor ugly: he would be neither overfond nor neglectful; neither rich nor very poor. Peronella knew not which to choose; for she was passionately fond of fine clothes, of a coach, and of great distinction.

But the fairy, seeing her hesitate, said:

"What

“ What a silly girl you are ! If you would be happy, you must choose the shepherd.

“ Of the second you would be too fond ; the first would be too fond of you ; either would make you miserable : be content, if the third never treat you unkindly.

“ It is a thousand times better to dance on the green grass, or on the fern, than in a palace ; and to be poor Peronella in a village, than a fine lady who is for ever sick and discontented at court.

“ If you will determine to think nothing of grandeur and riches, you may lead a long and happy life with your shepherd, in a state of the most perfect content.”

Peronella took the fairy's advice, and became a proof of the happiness that awaits a simple life.

FORTUNATUS.

IN the city of Famagosta, in the island of Cyprus, there lived a gentleman possessed of immense riches. His name was Theodorus: he married the most beautiful lady in Cyprus, and she was as rich as himself: she was called Graciana.

They thought themselves, to be sure, extremely happy in being able to keep the finest house and gardens imaginable; and in entertaining their friends not only with the most delicate repasts, but diversions of every kind. Among the rest, they rode out on the most stately horses ever beheld, which were covered with the richest housings; they had pleasure-boats painted with the finest colours, to take them on the water when the weather was not too hot; and had beside all sorts of musical instruments.

In

In addition to all this, the lady Graciana brought her husband a fine little son: so that one would think nothing could have prevented Theodorus and the lady Graciana from being the happiest and most contented persons in all the world.

This, however, was not long the case. The lady Graciana, it is true, was as contented as could be; but Theodorus, when he had enjoyed all those gratifications for some time, grew tired of them: not even the smiles of the pretty little Fortunatus, for he was christened by that name, could prevent him from thinking he should find more pleasure in going into company with the gayest gentlemen of Famagosta.

Theodorus accordingly made acquaintance with some young noblemen of the court, with whom he sat up all night, drinking, and playing cards; and in a few years spent with them his whole fortune: so that he was obliged to send away his servants; and, a last, had no longer the means of

providing his family with even a loaf of bread.

He was now very sorry for what he had done; but it was too late; and there was no remedy for his foolish conduct, but to work at some trade to support his wife and child.

For all this, the lady Graciana did not say affronting things to him; but continued to love her husband as before; saying: "Dear Theodorus, I do not, it is true, know how to work at any trade; but, if I cannot help you in getting money, I will help you to save it: for I will clean the house, and make the bread, and wash our clothes, all with my own hands; and though they have not been used to such hard work, they will soon be able to bear it, if you will but love your Graciana and your Fortunatus."

So Theodorus set to work: and the lady Graciana, who had always been accustomed to ring her bell for every thing she wanted, now scoured the kettles and washed the clothes with her own hands.

They

They went on in this manner for several years, till Fortunatus was sixteen years of age. One day when they were all seated at dinner, Theodorus fixed his eyes very sorrowfully on his son, and sighed deeply. "What ails you, my father?" said Fortunatus. "Ah! my boy," says Theodorus, "I have reason enough to be sorrowful, when I think of the noble fortune I have squandered, and that my folly will be the means of obliging you to labour, as I do, for subsistence."

"Father," replied Fortunatus, "never grieve about it: I have often thought that it is time I should do something for myself; and though I have not been brought up to any trade, yet I trust I can find out how to gain a subsistence in some way or other."

When Fortunatus had finished his dinner, he took his hat and wandered to the sea-side, determined to employ himself in thinking of what steps he could pursue, so

as to be no longer a burthen to his father and mother.

It happened that just as he reached the sea-shore, the earl of Flanders, who had been to Jerusalem, and on his return home had touched at Cyprus, was getting on board his ship with all his retinue to set sail for Flanders. Fortunatus instantly thought of offering himself to be his page. The earl, seeing he was a very smart-looking lad, and hearing the quick replies he made to the questions he asked him, was very willing to engage him; so without further ceremony he went on board.

On their way the ship touched at Venice; where Fortunatus had an opportunity of seeing many new and surprising things, which both helped to raise his desire of travelling, and to improve his understanding.

Soon after they arrived in Flanders, and had not been long on shore before the earl his master was married to the daughter of
the

the duke of Cleves; and the ceremony was accompanied by all sorts of public rejoicings, tilts, tournaments, and entertainments, which lasted several days: among the rest, the earl's lady gave two jewels as prizes to be tilted for, each of the value of one hundred crowns.

One of these was won by Fortunatus, and the other by Timothy, an attendant on the duke of Burgundy; who afterwards challenged Fortunatus to run another tilt with him, so that he that should win should have both the jewels. Accordingly they tilted; and at the fourth course Fortunatus hoisted Timothy a full spear's length from his horse, and thus won both the jewels; which pleased the earl and countess so much, that they praised Fortunatus, and held him in greater esteem than ever.

Upon this occasion, also, Fortunatus received many rich presents from the nobility who were present: but the high favour he enjoyed made his fellow-servants jealous;

and one among them, whose name was Robert, who had always pretended a great friendship for Fortunatus, made him believe that, notwithstanding all the earl's kindness, he in secret envied Fortunatus his great skill at tournaments and tilting; assuring him that he had heard the earl give private orders to one of his servants to find some means of killing him next day while they should all be out a-hunting.

Fortunatus thanked the treacherous Robert for what he thought a great kindness, and next day at daybreak he took the swiftest horse in the earl's stables and left his dominions.

The earl, hearing that Fortunatus had suddenly withdrawn himself, was much surprised, and questioned all his servants respecting what they knew of the affair; but they all denied knowing any thing about it, or for what reasons he had left them: to which the earl replied, "that he was a lad for whom he had a great esteem; that some
of

of them must have offered him an affront ; and that, whenever he found it out, he would not fail to punish it severely."

In the mean time Fortunatus, being out of the earl's dominions, stopped at an inn for some refreshment : he here began to consider what he was worth ; and having taken out all his fine clothes and jewels to look at, he could not help putting them on, and looking at himself in the glass, admiring vastly what a fine smart fellow he looked like : then taking out his purse, he counted the money that had been given him by the lords and ladies at the tournament.

Finding that, in all, he was worth five hundred crowns, he bought a horse, taking care to send back that which he had taken from his master's stables. He then set off for Calais ; crossed the channel, landed safely at Dover, and proceeded to London ; where he soon introduced himself into genteel company, and had once the honour to dance with the daughter of a duke at the
lady

lady mayoress's ball: but this sort of life; as it may well be supposed, soon exhausted his little stock of money.

When Fortunatus found himself pennyless, he began to think of returning to France, and soon after embarked in a ship bound to Picardy: here he landed; but finding no means of employing himself, he set off for Brittany; when happening to cross a wood he lost his way, and was obliged to stay in it all night.

The next morning he was but little better off than before, for he could find no path: so he wandered about from one part of the wood to another, till at length, on the evening of the second day, he happened to meet with a spring, at which he drank very heartily; but still he had nothing to eat, and was ready to die of hunger.

When night again came on, hearing the growling of wild beasts, he climbed up a high tree for safety; and scarcely had he seated himself in it before a lion walked
fiercely

fiercely up to the spring to drink : this frightened him exceedingly. The lion being gone, a bear came to drink also ; and as the moon shone very bright, he looked up and saw Fortunatus, and immediately began to climb up the tree to get at him.

Fortunatus however drew his sword, and sat quietly till the bear was come within arm's length, and then pierced him with it in the body several times ; which made the bear so very furious, that, making a great effort to get to Fortunatus, the bough broke, and down he fell, and lay sprawling and making a hideous yell on the ground.

Fortunatus, looking round on all sides and seeing no more wild beasts near, thought this would be an excellent opportunity to get rid of the bear at once : so down he comes, and kills him at a single blow : being almost famished for want of food, he stooped down and was going to suck the blood of the bear ; when, once more looking round, to see if any wild beast was

was

was coming, what was his astonishment at beholding a beautiful lady standing by his side, with a bandage over her eyes, leaning upon a wheel, and looking as if she intended to speak!

The lady did not make him wait long before she pronounced the following words: "Know, young man, that my name is Fortune: I have the power to bestow on mortals, wisdom, strength, riches, health, beauty, and long life: one of these I am willing to bestow on thee; choose for thyself which it shall be."

Fortunatus was not a moment before he answered: "Gracious lady, I prefer to have riches in such abundance that I may never again know what it is to be so very hungry as I now find myself."

The lady then presented him with a purse, telling him that, in whatever country he might happen to be, he had only to put his hand into the purse as often as he pleased, and he would be sure to find in it ten pieces
of

of gold ; that the purse should never fail of producing the like sum as long as it remained in the possession of him and his children ; but that, when he and his children should be dead, then the purse should lose this extraordinary quality.

Fortunatus could scarce contain himself for joy, and began to thank the lady very eagerly : but she told him he had better think of making the best of his way out of the wood, and accordingly directed him which path to take, and then bade him farewell.

He walked by the light of the moon as fast as his weak condition would allow of, till he came near an inn : before he went in, however, he thought it would be prudent to see if the lady Fortune had been as good as her word : so he put his hand in his purse, and to his great joy counted ten pieces of gold.

Having nothing to fear, Fortunatus walked boldly into the inn, and called for the best supper they could get ready in a minute :

“ for,”

“for,” says he, “I must wait till to-morrow before I am very nice: with my present appetite any thing will do.”

Fortunatus very soon satisfied his hunger, and called for every sort of wine the house afforded; and after supper began to think what sort of life he should now lead: “for,” says he, “I shall now have money enough for every thing I can desire.”

He slept that night on the very best bed in the house; and the next day ordered the most sumptuous provisions of every kind: if he rang his bell, all the waiters tried who should run fastest to inquire what he pleased to want; and the landlord himself, hearing what a princely guest was come to his house, took care to be standing at the door to bow to him when he should be passing out.

Fortunatus inquired of the landlord, if any fine horses could be got in the neighbourhood; also, if he knew of some smart-looking clever men-servants who wanted places.

places. The landlord fortunately was able to get him provided with both, to his great liking.

Being thus furnished with every thing he wanted, he set out on the handsomest horse that was ever seen, attended by two servants, for the nearest town; where he bought some magnificent suits of clothes, and put his two servants in liveries laced with gold, and then proceeded to Paris.

Here he took the finest house that was to be got, and lived in great splendour; he entertained the nobility, and gave the finest balls to all the most beautiful ladies of the court. He went to all public places of entertainment, and the first lords in the country constantly invited him to their houses.

He had lived in this manner for about a year, when he began to think of returning to Famagosta to visit his parents, whom he had left in a very poor condition. "But," says Fortunatus, "as I am young and inexperienced, I should like to meet with some

person of more knowledge than I have, who would make my journey both useful and pleasing to me."

He had not long wished this, before he fell into company with a venerable old gentleman called Loch Fitty, who he found was a native of Scotland, and had left a wife and ten children a great many years ago in hopes to better his fortune; but was now, owing to different accidents, poorer than ever, and had not money enough even to take him back to his family.

Loch Fitty, finding how much Fortunatus desired to obtain knowledge, related to him many of the strange adventures he had met with; and gave him an account of all the kingdoms he had been in, as well as of the customs, dress, and manners of the inhabitants.

Says Fortunatus to himself: "This is the very man I stand in need of;" so, without further ceremony, he made him a very advantageous proposal, which the old gentleman

man accepted, on condition that he should be first permitted to go and visit his family.

Fortunatus assured him he had not the least objection: "And," added he, "as I am a little tired of being always in the midst of such noisy pleasures as one finds at Paris, I will, with your leave, go with you to Scotland and see your wife and children."

They set out the very next day, and arrived at the house of Loch Fitty; Fortunatus not having once, in all the way, desired to change his kind companion for the splendid entertainments he had quitted.

Loch Fitty embraced his wife and children, five of whom were daughters, and the most beautiful creatures he had ever beheld. When they had taken some refreshment, his wife said to him: "Ah! dear lord Loch Fitty, how happy I am to see you once again! now I trust we shall enjoy each other's company for the rest of our lives! What signifies that we are poor! We will

be content, if you will but promise you will not again think of leaving us to get wealth, only because we have a title."

Fortunatus listened with great surprise. "What," said he, "are you a lord? Then you shall be a rich lord too. And that you may not think you owe me any obligation for the fortune I shall give you, I will put it in your power to make me, on the contrary, much your debtor. Bestow on me your youngest daughter, called Cassandra; and let us have the pleasure of your company as far as Famagosta; and take your whole family with you, that you may have pleasant company on your way back, when you have rested in that place from your fatigue."

Lord Loch Fitty shed some tears of joy, to think he should at last see his family restored to all the honours it had once enjoyed; and after accepting Fortunatus as a husband for his daughter Cassandra, he related to him the misfortunes that obliged
him

him to live in poverty at Paris, and call himself by the plain name of Loch Fitty.

When lord Loch Fitty had ended his story, they agreed that the lady Cassandra should the very next morning be asked to accept the hand of Fortunatus; and that, should she consent, they would embark in a few days for Famagosta.

The next morning the proposal was made in form, as was agreed on, and Fortunatus had the pleasure of hearing from the lips of the beautiful Cassandra, that the very first time she cast her eyes on him she thought him the most handsome and accomplished gentleman in all the world.

Every thing was soon ready for their departure. Fortunatus, lord Loch Fitty, his lady, and their ten children, embarked in a large commodious ship; they had prosperous winds, and landed happily at the port of Famagosta. They spent a few days in the necessary preparations, and the marriage

was then celebrated with all the magnificence and rejoicings imaginable.

As Fortunatus found that his parents were both dead, he begged lord Loch Fitty would be kind enough to stay and keep him and his lady company: so they lived all together in the finest house that was to be got in the city of Famagosta, and gave the most splendid entertainments.

By the end of the first year, the lady Cassandra had a little son, who was christened Ampedo; and the year following, another, who was christened Andolocia.

For twelve years Fortunatus lived the happiest life imaginable with his wife and children and his wife's relations; and each of her sisters having received a fortune from the bountiful purse of Fortunatus, they soon married to great advantage: but by this time his taste for travelling returned; and he thought, as he was now so much older and wiser than when he

was

was at Paris, he should not want a companion ; for lord Loch Fitty was at this time too old to bear fatigue.

After obtaining, with great difficulty, the consent of the lady Cassandra, who, at last, insisted on his staying only two years, he got every thing ready for his departure ; and taking his lady into one of his private rooms, showed her three chests of gold, one of which he desired she would keep for herself, and take charge of the other two for their sons, in case any accident should befall him. He then led her back to the apartment where the whole family were sitting ; and after tenderly embracing them all one by one, he set sail with a fair wind for Alexandria.

Fortunatus being told, on his arrival in this place, that it was customary to make a handsome present to the sultan, sent him a piece of plate that cost five thousand ducats. The sultan was so extremely pleased, that he ordered a hundred casks of spices to

be

be presented to Fortunatus in return : these Fortunatus sent immediately to the lady Cassandra, with the tenderest letters imaginable, by the very ship that brought him, and was then going back to Famagosta.

Fortunatus took an early opportunity of telling the sultan he wished to travel through his dominions by land : so the sultan immediately ordered him such passports and letters of recommendation as he might stand in need of to the neighbouring princes. He then purchased a camel, hired proper attendants, and set off on his travels.

He went through Turkey, Persia, and from thence to Carthage ; he next proceeded to the country of Prester John, who rides upon a white elephant, and has kings to wait on him.

Fortunatus made him some rich presents, and went on to Calcutta ; and, returning, took Jerusalem in his way, and so back to Alexandria, where he had the good fortune to find the same ship which had brought him,

him, and to learn of the captain that his wife and family were all in perfect health.

The first thing he did was to pay a visit to his old friend the sultan, to whom he again made a handsome present, and was invited to dine at his palace.

After the repast, the sultan said: "It must be vastly amusing, Fortunatus, to hear an account of the different places you have seen: pray favour me with a history of your travels."

Fortunatus did as he was desired; and pleased the sultan extremely, by relating the many curious adventures he had met with, particularly the manner of his acquaintance with the lord Loch Fitty, and the desire of that nobleman to maintain the honours of his ancestors.

When he had finished, the sultan expressed himself much delighted with what he had heard; and added, that he had in his possession a greater curiosity than any thing Fortunatus had told him of: and immediately

diately leading him into a room nearly filled with jewels, he opened a large closet, and taking out a cap, told Fortunatus it was of greater value than all the rest.

Fortunatus imagined the sultan was jesting, and told him he had seen many a better cap than that—"Ah!" said the sultan, "that is because you do not know its value. Whoever puts this cap on his head, and wishes himself in any part of the world, is instantly conveyed thither."

"Indeed!" says Fortunatus: "and pray is the man living who made it?"

"That I know nothing about," said the sultan.

"Really one would scarcely have believed it," says Fortunatus. "Pray, sir, is it very heavy?"

"Not at all," replied the sultan: "you may feel it."

Fortunatus took up the hat, put it on his head, and could not help wishing himself on board the ship that was going back to

to Famagosta. In less than a moment he was carried through the winds on board of her, just as she was ready to set sail; and there being a brisk gale, they were out of sight in less than half an hour.

The ship arrived in safety at Famagosta after a happy passage, and Fortunatus had the satisfaction to find his wife and children well; but lord Loch Fitty and his lady had died of old age, and were buried side by side.

Fortunatus now began to take great pleasure in educating his two boys; and accustomed them to all sorts of manly exercises, such as wrestling, tilts, and tournaments. Now and then he recollected the wonderful cap he had in his possession, and at such times would wish he could just take a peep at what was passing in different countries; when, though his wish never failed to be accomplished, yet, as he always contented himself with staying only an hour or two, the lady Cassandra never missed him,
and

and had no further uneasiness about his love of travelling.

At last, Fortunatus began to get old, and the lady Cassandra fell sick and died. The loss of her caused him so much grief, that soon after he fell sick; and believing he had not long to live, he called his two sons to his bedside, and told them the secret of the purse and cap, which he desired they would on no account disclose to any one: "Follow my example," says Fortunatus: "I have had the purse these forty years, and no living creature knew from what source I obtained my riches."

He then recommended to them to make use of the purse between them, and to live together in harmony; and, embracing them, died soon after.

Fortunatus was buried in great pomp by the side of the lady Cassandra, in his own chapel, and was for a long time mourned by the people of Famagosta.

It was not long after the death of Fortunatus,

natus, when Andolocia came to his brother Ampedo; who, being the eldest, had the purse in his possession, and begged he would let him have it for a certain time, as he wished to set out on his travels for distant countries: to this Ampedo would by no means consent; and they came to high words concerning it. At length, however, Ampedo consented to let his brother have the purse for six years; and accordingly, after filling all his coffers, he gave it into his hands; with this agreement, however, that he was afterward to keep it for as long a time himself.

As Andolocia possessed exactly his father's temper in his love of travelling to distant countries, he was overjoyed to think he had obtained the purse, and immediately began his preparations for setting out. The first place he visited was Paris.

In this place there was a famous wrestler called Strongfist, who had never yet been thrown by any man. Andolocia sent him

a challenge, which Strongfist willingly accepted, and a day was appointed for the combat: in the mean while the news reached all the inhabitants of Paris, who accordingly resolved to be witness of the scene.

The combatants met at the time and place appointed, and fell to with great spirit; but it was soon seen that Strongfist was not half so skilful as Andolocia, who, after a few blows, made him cry out he could fight no longer.

No sooner, however, was Strongfist recovered of the blows he had received, than, enraged to think he had been conquered by a stranger, and lost his reputation, he sent Andolocia another challenge; and they accordingly met as before.

But Strongfist gained nothing by this second attempt; for Andolocia made him once more cry out, "He was satisfied;" so that the air resounded with the acclamations bestowed on Andolocia, while Strong-
fist

fist was so maimed he could never after engage in wrestling.

After staying some time longer in Paris, where he was loaded with every mark of distinction, the news of his great skill reached England, and he was invited by the king to the court of London; for, being just at that time going to war with the king of Scotland, he wished to have Andolucia's advice how to conduct his army.

Andolucia accepted the proposal with joy; for it was the king of Scotland's father who had deprived his grandfather, the lord Loch Fitty, of all his fortune, and caused him to leave his lady and his home and live in a mean condition in Paris.

He lost no time in preparing for the journey, and reached London in safety, where he was received with marks of the greatest kindness by the king and the whole court: and Andolucia informing his majesty of the ill-will he owed the king of

Scotland, on the late king's account, it was immediately agreed on that he should head an army of the choicest troops in the English dominions and march against him.

They accordingly set out for Scotland; had a furious battle with the king, and defeated him and his whole army; and, returning to London, was loaded with the highest honours at the court of the king of England.

Andolocia took a magnificent house in the finest square in London, and frequently entertained the king and all his nobles, whom he treated in so sumptuous a manner, that the king could not help wondering how a private gentleman could possibly have so much wealth.

One day Andolocia being at court, he happened to see the king's daughter Agrippina, with whom he fell violently in love, and made her such costly presents as surprised the king more than before, so that
he



Fortunatus.

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he could not help telling the queen he could not imagine how he came by such a fortune.

The queen immediately set herself to work to find out the secret, and accordingly she told her daughter Agrippina, when she should be alone with him to find it out if possible.

Soon after Andolocia, being seated by the princess, told her how very beautiful he thought her, and how much he wished for the honour of having her for his wife.

The princess thought this a very good opportunity for finding out the secret, so she answered: That she liked him very well, but supposed he could not possibly have sufficient fortune to maintain the daughter of a king.

Upon this Andolocia pulled out his purse, and threw ten pieces of gold at a time into her lap; and at length told her how it came into his father's possession, and every particular concerning it.

The princess Agrippina hastened to tell the queen all she had heard ; who pretending the greatest fondness for Andolocia, took him into her closet, and presented him with a glass of the richest cordial, into which she had put a drug that soon threw him into a sound sleep ; when, putting her hand into his pocket, she took his purse, and had him immediately conveyed to his own house fast asleep.

The queen then gave the purse to the young princess, saying, as it was for her sake she had taken it, it was but right that it should be in her possession.

When Andolocia waked and missed his purse, he was almost frantic : when he had run about the house for a long time, not knowing what to do, he at last thought of what had happened to him at the palace, whither he immediately went and asked to speak with the queen, and was told she could not be seen. He then inquired for the princess, and obtained the same answer.

All

All this convinced Andolocia that the queen had taken his purse and did not intend to return it. The first thing he did was to borrow a hundred crowns of his steward, by means of which he got to Famagosta as fast as he could, and, with great difficulty, prevailed on his brother to spare him the cap for a short time, that he might transport himself, in a moment, wherever he pleased.

Having obtained it he put it on, and instantly wished himself in princess Agrippina's chamber, whom he intended to consult about getting back his purse from the queen.

But no astonishment could be greater than his, when, looking at the princess, he saw his purse fastened to her girdle. Andolocia perceiving this, desired of the princess to restore it, which she refusing, he clasped her in his arms and wished himself in an orchard full of fruit-trees in the neighbourhood of Constantinople.

His

His wish was instantly accomplished, and they found themselves sitting under a large fig-tree: when the princess, seeing what fine figs were on it, intreated him to get her one to eat. Andolocia, who loved Agrippina very much, notwithstanding she had used him so unkindly, immediately threw his cap upon the ground and began to climb the tree.

The princess, quite ignorant of the virtue in the cap, being greatly fatigued with the scorching of the sun, put it on her head, and happening at the same moment to be wishing she was in her cold bath at the palace of her father, she was immediately taken up into the air and was out of sight in a minute.

When Andolocia looked round and saw that both the princess and his cap were gone, he knew not, so great was his vexation, what step to take; but after walking about for some time, finding himself thirsty, he began to eat some apples, when two
large

large horns sprang directly out of his forehead.

He now ran like a madman about the orchard, and his cries were heard by an aged hermit, who came up to him and inquired what was the matter? When Andolocia had related the manner in which the accident had happened, the hermit assured him that if he would eat some apples from another tree he would soon find his horns disappear.

Andolocia lost no time in doing as he was desired; and the horns accordingly disappeared. Having first filled his pockets with some of both sorts of these extraordinary apples, he set out on foot for the palace of princess Agrippina's father, where he stood at the gate disguised as a poor man who had the finest apples to sell that ever were seen in England.

The princess as she passed out observed the apples, and seeing that they were as fine as those she had seen in the orchard
near

near Constantinople, began to buy them with great eagerness, and turned back again to the palace to eat them.

Immediately two great horns sprang from her forehead; upon which the princess screamed so loud as to alarm every one in the palace; and the king, among the rest, came in to her assistance.

Seeing what had happened, he called in all the physicians, to obtain a cure if possible; but not one was found who understood her case.

At length Andolocia, disguising himself as a physician with a great false nose, went to the palace and offered his services, which were willingly accepted.

Upon being shown into her room, he perceived his cap lying disregarded on a chair: so pretending he must speak with his patient in private, he sent the nurse out of the room, and in the mean while found an opportunity to put the cap into his pocket.

Andolocia

Andolocia then produced some of the apples that were a cure for the horns occasioned by those he had sold her, and having cut them very small, he desired her to eat them immediately; when the horns from that moment began to grow less.

The princess was so delighted at this, that she thought she could not too handsomely reward her physician; so taking out her purse, he snatched it from her, clapped on his cap, and wished himself at Famagosta, whither he was immediately conveyed. But as he was in love with the princess, he took care not to give her enough of the apples to remove the horns entirely, that no other gentleman might fall in love with her.

Having related his adventures to his brother Ampedo, the latter said he had no inclination to have either the cap or purse, since they brought their possessor into so much danger, and would give them wholly to Andolocia, provided he consented to

to pay him a handsome allowance as long as he lived.

Thus Andolocia kept his purse and cap to himself; but though he had such immense treasures, and besides, the power of conveying himself wherever he pleased in a moment, he was not quite happy.

Being however convinced that nothing was wanting to make him so but Agrippina, he first set about building a magnificent palace, taking care every now and then to put on his cap and wish himself at the court of London, where he sometimes had the good fortune to see the princess as she took an airing in her carriage, and found means to know if the horns still remained on her head as before.

When the palace was finished, Andolocia equipped himself with all the splendour imaginable; and taking with him some of the handsomest gentlemen of Famagosta, who looked like great lords, and in addition the most costly jewels that were to be got as presents

presents for the princess, he set out for England to demand her formally in marriage.

The king of England received him very courteously: the queen, supposing it impossible that any prince would offer to marry a princess with horns on her head, and perceiving there was no other way of getting the purse, gave her consent also; and the princess Agrippina, who had always wished to bestow on him her hand, said, she really loved the prince, but that she would never bring so great a misfortune on him as to be his wife while she had horns on her head.

“Dear princess Agrippina,” replied Andolocia, “then all our wishes will be gratified, for I have the power to make them disappear immediately.”

Saying this he left the room, and returned in a few minutes with some of the apples he had given her once before, and which he had taken care to be provided with; when

presenting them to the princess, he asked her if she did not remember the physician with the great nose, who some time before had made her horns grow less.

The princess fell to eating the apples presented her by Andolocia, and the horns immediately disappeared. She embraced Andolocia with tenderness; they were married that very day, and shortly after were conducted in the greatest pomp to the palace built for her reception at Famagosta, where they lived a long and happy life.

Andolocia kept his cap and purse in a cabinet set apart for that purpose; and for fear of further accidents he never suffered the key of it to be touched by any one but himself.

GRISELDA.

IN the times of knight-errantry Italy was divided into many sovereignties, the princes of which governed as they pleased, and were entirely independent of each other. Lombardy, the northern part of Italy, was the most frequented and populous, and of all the parts of Lombardy, the marquisate of Saluzzo, was the most delicious.

The present marquis of Saluzzo, Walter by name, was young, handsome, and well made; he was kind to every body; granted all the petitions of his subjects; and was always upon the watch to relieve their distresses. There was no sovereign of Lombardy, or of Europe, more beloved than Walter, marquis of Saluzzo.

Yet he had one fault. Somebody, I cannot tell who, had put it into his head,

while he was a boy, that he should take care to preserve his liberty; and that, if he was not upon his guard, he would be brought into subjection before he was aware, and not be able to rise and go to bed; to ride, or to walk; to eat, or to fast; to be in company, or alone, just when and how he liked.

Walter was exceedingly fond of hunting and hawking; and of all things in the world, he was most afraid of a wife, who, if she had a mind to talk, would not let him sleep; and, if she frowned, would be grieved if he was happy.

The subjects of Walter, marquis of Saluzzo, were exceedingly sorry that he had got such a strange notion into his head. They loved Walter; they and their forefathers had lived content under him and his ancestors; but every now and then they said to each other: "If any thing should happen to our dear Walter, marquis of Saluzzo, what would become of us? We shall

shall become slaves to a foreign lord, and people will no longer read of the marquisses of Saluzzo among the great sovereigns of Europe.”

They thought so much of this, that at last they could no longer keep their thoughts to themselves, and prevailed upon one of their number, whom the marquis loved to hear talk, to tell lord Walter their grievance. “ We love you very much, sir,” said he; “ no subjects love a prince so much; but why will you not make us happy by giving us a marchioness, and presenting us with children who may reign after you, if we should ever be so unfortunate as to see you die? If you please, sir, we have fixed upon a lady, who we have no doubt will exactly suit you: she is of a very rich and noble family, and will make both you and us as happy as the day is long.”

Lord Walter looked very grave at this speech; he took a moment to think, and at length, breaking silence, spoke thus:

“ My friends, I did never think to wed ; I have always been of opinion that a rich and noble wife would have too many humours to leave her husband free to act as he pleased. I have always been used to have my own way, and I must have it ; yet I see that your petition rises out of your love for me, and I will grant it.”

At these words the whole assembly set up a general shout, and cried with one voice : “ Long live Walter, marquis of Saluzzo ! ”

“ Yet one thing,” said the marquis, “ I must add : I excuse you from the performance of your kind offer of choosing a wife for me : since I must marry, I will choose with my own eyes : and this thing I exact from you, that you shall all solemnly promise, whoever I make choice of, be she young or old, handsome or ugly, rich or poor, you shall obey her as your lady and mistress, and behave as lovingly to her as you have always done to me.” They all promised :—
they

they thought in their hearts, our lord marquis, who is so young and handsome, will never choose a wife that is ugly and old; and if she is poor, or of decayed nobility, he has fortune enough for both.

They begged, however, that they might make one more petition; the same person spoke for them that had spoken at first, "Ah! dear lord Walter," said he, "the news you tell us is so joyful that we know not how to believe it: you have often said to your friends and those who go a-hunting with you, that you never would marry, and we are afraid you are not in earnest; would you be so good as fix the day of your marriage? and we shall then be easy and light of heart, and not one person here will doubt of your goodness to us." Said lord Walter, "I will be married this day month, the 14th of July."

Not far from the palace of the marquis of Saluzzo, there was an exceedingly poor village; all the houses were of plaister, and
their

their roofs covered with thatch; nobody lived in this village but the shepherds and people who took care of the cattle. One house belonged to the herds, and one to the herdsmen, all through the village. Of the people who lived there, there was one poorer than all the rest, and his name was Janicola. He had been a herdsman, but he was past his labour; he was lame and almost blind. This poor old man had one daughter, her name was Griselda; her person was extremely beautiful, but her mind was a thousand times more virtuous than her countenance was pleasing; she was simple in her diet, constant in her labour, and never sought for idleness or indulgence; her drink was water of the spring, and her bed was the hardest of any maiden in the village. But all her care was to attend upon her father: she got money to support him by her spinning; she collected and prepared the fruits and herbs that made his dinner; and many times, when the old
man

man would have died of infirmity and age, Griselda by her kindness and care still kept him alive. Lord Walter had often observed this poor girl as he went a-hunting: he looked upon her with eyes of admiration; pleased with her simplicity, her industry, and her love of her father, and entertaining no desire to disturb her in these honest pursuits.

In the mean time the 14th of July was near at hand, and no man in the domain of Saluzzo could perceive that the marquis had frequented more than usually the houses of his rich neighbours, or had asked any one of their daughters in marriage. They began to fear that he was deluding them with the hopes of a wife and children. The preparations for the marriage however went on; the palace was new painted and new furnished: plenty of delicacies of all sorts were provided for the wedding-dinner: and robes, and gold,
and

and jewels, prepared as presents for the bride.

At length the day for the marriage arrived. The marquis dressed himself in clothes all covered with gold and silver, his lords and ladies did the like: they were mounted on fine horses with glittering trappings, and horns, and trumpets, and fifes, and drums went before them. But where was lord Walter's bride?

The way they were to go, led by the village in which poor Janicola lived: Griselda heard that this was the day upon which lord Walter was to be married, and she did her work very early that she might see the procession. As lord Walter rode along, all the doors and windows were crowded with the cottagers and the maidens; and Griselda, among the rest, stood at her door, and pushed forward her head that she might see the marquis.

Lord Walter stopped exactly at Janicola's

la's door ; he called to Griselda, and said :
“ Griselda, where is your father ? ” “ My
lord,” said the poor maiden, “ I will go
and fetch him. ” “ No,” replied the mar-
quis, “ I will come in and speak to him. ”
Lord Walter went in and spoke to him
alone, and told him that if he approved of
it, he was resolved to make Griselda his
wife. He then called for Griselda.

“ Poor maiden,” said he, “ you have
heard that I am to be married to-day ; I
and your father have agreed that you shall
be my bride, and marchioness of Saluzzo :
do you consent to it ? Do not deceive
yourself, Griselda ;—Why do you think I
am willing to marry you, a poor herdsman's
daughter, and not one of the daughters of
the lords, marquisses, and dukes, my neigh-
bours ? It is because I will have a wife that
will honour and obey me. When I say yea,
you must not say nay ; you must neither
contradict me by words, nor cross me by
frowning looks ; and whatever I shall think
proper

A short time after their marriage, Griselda brought the marquis a daughter. The marquis and all his people were exceedingly rejoiced at this; for though they had rather it had been a son, they said: "Perhaps the next child the marchioness brings us may be a son."

Who now so happy as lord Walter, marquis of Saluzzo? He had a child; he had an obedient wife; he had subjects that loved him, and applauded his choice of a marchioness. Lord Walter could not forget the thoughts which had run in his head before he was married, and how he had supposed that a bachelor's life was freedom, and marriage was nothing but a state of slavery. He determined, therefore, though he had indeed seen enough already of Griselda's goodness, to put her to a further trial: and thus he proceeded.

He came into Griselda's chamber one summer's evening, just when the sun was setting, and looking with a stern countenance,

nance, as if he had something very heavy upon his mind, he said : “Griselda, I hope the prosperity and magnificence in which you now live have not made you forget the russet gown and poor way of living out of which I have taken you ; it is no long time ago, and it would be a sad disgrace if you were to forget what you so lately were. Griselda, there is no living creature that hears me but ourselves, and I must speak my mind to you freely. I love you very much ; I have no fault to find with you ; you have always proved yourself a good wife to me ; but there are people in Saluzzo who do not think so kindly of you as I do ; the lords of my court think it a great shame to be subject to a poor herdsman’s daughter, and the ladies are still more displeas’d to pay attendance to a woman of so mean parentage : particularly since the birth of your daughter, they are more restless and discontented than ever. Griselda, what shall I do ? I am unwilling to give you pain,

but I must attend to the speeches of my subjects, and give satisfaction to their desires. Are you prepared for the consequences?"

Griselda meekly replied: "My lord, I and my child are yours; do with us as you please, there is nothing that you can command that I will think hardly of." "Very well," said the marquis, and went away.

A few minutes after, one of lord Walter's attendants came into Griselda's chamber. He was a serjeant-at-arms, a very tall man with a fierce look and rough voice. As soon as he saw her, he said: "Madam, I am very sorry for the errand upon which I come; but lords must be obeyed, and wives and subjects must not say nay: I am come to take your child from you."

Saying this, he snatched the little girl out of the cradle, and made a face as if he was going to kill it in a moment. Griselda looked on, but uttered no sigh and shed no tear; she said: "All that my lord orders
you



Griselda.

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you to do, do ; but let me kiss my child before it is killed." He then gave it to her, and she put it to her bosom, almost smothered it with kisses, and said : " God bless you, my child, for you must die to-night." Griselda said besides : " One thing I would beg of you, unless my lord has given orders to the contrary ;—bury this child in a coffin and a grave, and do not let the birds and beasts tear it to pieces." The serjeant answered never a word, and went away.

Lord Walter ordered the serjeant to carry the child to his sister, the countess of Pavia, and wrote a letter with it, desiring her to bring it up with the greatest tenderness, but to tell no one whose child it was

Lord Walter went soon after into his wife's chamber, and carefully watched her then and for many following days, whether she would betray any resentment or displeasure for the calamity he had put upon her. But Griselda was always the same ; she received him with smiles and

affection ; was eager to do him service, and prepare for him every thing that might give him pleasure ; and never, either in jest or earnest, did her daughter's name drop from her lips, or did she make the least allusion to her unhappy fate.

Lord Walter and Griselda lived thus four years longer, and at the end of four years she brought the marquis a son. This event gave both him and his subjects the highest pleasure ; the child was very beautiful, and was every where gladly acknowledged as heir to the marquisate. It thrived well till it was two years old, and was able to walk, and speak, and do fifty things by which little children amuse their friends.

Lord Walter might now have been content, but still the same thoughts haunted his mind, and he was determined to make another trial of Griselda. He said to his wife : “ I am grieved to inform you, that my people, since the birth of my son, are more discontented and seditious than ever ;
they

they say that this is worst of all, and that they could endure any thing rather than that the grandson of Janicola, a poor herdsman, should, after my death, become their master, and marquis of Saluzzo. Griselda, you must submit, and must part with your son, this pretty little boy of two years old, as you parted with your baby-daughter." What lord Walter spoke was no sooner said than done; the child was taken away: Griselda thought it was killed; and it was sent as the former had been, to the countess of Pavia.

After this event lord Walter and Griselda lived together for eight years more, without any considerable accident, till at a certain time, when the marquis was celebrating his birth-day before all the lords of his court, and the dinner was finished, and the tables removed, he said publicly to his wife: "Griselda, I have unpleasing tidings to tell you; you must leave my house, and cease to be my wife, for I am going to
marry

marry a young lady of high quality, and of admirable beauty. My people, as you know, have long been discontented with my having married so much below my dignity. They wish for an heir to my marquisate; and they will not admit the grandson of a poor herdsman to assume that state. I am very sorry for this: I could have been contented with you for my wife to my life's end; but I may not do as every ploughman may in this respect; in short, I have yielded to the prayers of my people: the pope has granted me a divorce, and I expect my new wife the day after to-morrow. Go you back to your father's house, he is still living, and will still love you; and that you may have no reason to complain of my want of liberality, I grant you to carry back with you your dower and all the fortune you brought me in marriage.

Griselda, without changing countenance, meekly replied: "My lord, I am not surprised at what you now say. I
never

never thought myself worthy to be your wife, or even your chambermaid. I thank God and you for all the happiness I have enjoyed for fourteen years, and now willingly submit to your pleasure, and will return to the cottage in which I was born. As for the fortune, my lord, that I brought with me in marriage, it consisted only of the russet gown, and coarse clothes that I had then on my back, and which now I suppose it would be hard to find. This one thing then, I request of you ; I willingly restore to you my robes and my jewels ; I restore to you here on the spot the wedding ring with which I was married ; but do not, my lord, send me naked out of your house. Let me keep the shift I have on, and do you of your bounty, give me the mantle in which I sometimes used to see you when you returned home late from a day's sport ; in that I will wrap myself, and return bare-headed and bare-footed, as you first saw me, to my father's house."

The

The day following Griselda's departure from the palace, lord Walter sent a message desiring to speak with her. "Griselda," said he, "to-morrow is my wedding-day; I expect the count of Pavia, with my sister his countess, and in their company the beautiful maiden whom I have elected marchioness of Saluzzo. I am desirous of giving her a costly reception, and making of my wedding the most splendid festival that ever was seen in Lombardy. But I have no dame for my housekeeper that understands the management of my apartments, my furniture, and my table, so well as you do. I therefore request the favour of you, that you would come once more to my palace, and see all things done properly on this happy occasion."

"My lord," replied Griselda, "your requests are to me commands, and there is nothing that can give me greater pleasure, than to find that I can still render some small service to a nobleman to whom I owe more than I can ever pay."

Having

Having said this, Griselda bestirred herself about the house, conjuring the chambermaids to hasten, and sweep, and shake, and put every thing in order ; she herself set out the tables, and regulated the buffets and the side-boards, and directed all the dishes, and the jellies, and custards, and sweetmeats, for the intended feast. This took up all that evening and the following morning.

About noon the new marchioness, with the count of Pavia, and a royal attendance, entered Saluzzo ; the young lady was only fourteen years of age, and as beautiful as the day : her young brother, ten years old, rode beside her. The common people, as the procession passed along the streets and arrived at the palace, clapped their hands and shouted, saying that lord Walter was no fool, and that this young lady was more beautiful and tender of age, as well as no doubt of higher descent than Janicola's daughter.

Griselda understood by the shouting that the lady was arrived, and she went down into the hall with the other servants to receive her. Before the dinner was ready, lord Walter shewed his brother-in-law the count of Pavia, and all his company, the different apartments of the palace; and he ordered Griselda to attend with the rest. When they had seen the curiosities with which it abounded, the marquis led his guests into the drawing-room, who debated secretly with themselves what sort of person this Griselda could be. She had on a russet gown, and was in other respects very meanly clad; yet there was a grace, a dignity, an ease and courteousness in her manner, that seemed more befitting a princess than a servant.

The dinner was now almost ready, and lord Walter was informed that in half an hour the guests would be summoned to the table: he sent once more for Griselda: "Griselda," says he, "you are a woman
of

of excellent judgment, and I want your opinion in this matter ; what think you of my new chosen bride, and of her beauty ?”

“ My lord,” replied Griselda, “ a fairer creature, in my opinion, never trod the face of the earth ; she seems worthy of a throne ; I hope you will be happy together ; I hope you will have some consideration and forbearance for her tender years, and seeming gentle temper, and God give you many many years of concord, prosperity, and peace !”

Lord Walter had now seen the patience and unalterable sweetness of Griselda ; she was at all times cheerful and mild, and obedient and obliging : innocence was conspicuous in her demeanour, and duty in every action of her life.

“ Griselda, it is enough :—I have seen your faith and your benignity ; I have tried you with princely magnificence, and the poorest and meanest attire ; no woman was ever brought to so severe and perilous a

touchstone as you have been. Griselda, you are my wife: I never had, and I never will have any other. This young lady, whom you have looked upon as my intended bride, tall and womanly as she looks, is your daughter and mine. This young boy, ten years of age, is her brother, and shall be my heir: I sent them away to my sister, the countess of Pavia, and charged her to rear them tenderly and royally."

Saying this, lord Walter kissed her again and again, and presented her children to her. She took them in her arms, and wept as if her heart would burst.

"My lord," said she, "may God reward you for your kindness! You have done me a thousand benefits, but this is the greatest of all. I have ever loved you above all the world; all my care has been, how I could please you; and now I am restored to your love and your grace, I shall die content whenever providence shall call me."

She then turned to her children: "Oh, dear!

dear! oh, tender! oh, young children mine!" said she, "your woeful mother steadfastly believed that the dogs had eaten you, or that the birds of the air had torn you to pieces: what a good and a tender father is yours, who has brought you up so carefully, and now in his benignity has restored you to your mother, who despaired ever to see you again!"

While she talked thus, and thus was agitated with passion and gratitude, the whole assembly wept; there was not a dry eye in the place: the ladies then took her and conducted her to her chamber, where they stripped her of her russet gown, and put on her a most beautiful garment of cloth of gold. They then passed into the saloon, where the dinner was set, and this festival was a more splendid and happy one than that of her marriage. Lord Walter never attempted to put her to any further proof; he knew by experience that she was superior to every temptation. She was

L 2

happy

happy in her son and daughter, who were always dutiful to her ; and thus her patience and her meekness, her good-temper and invincible fortitude, met with their full reward.

THE WHITE CAT.



THERE was once a king who had three sons, all remarkably handsome in their persons, and in their tempers brave and noble. Some wicked courtiers made the king believe that the princes were impatient to wear his crown, and that they were contriving a plot to deprive him of his sceptre and his kingdom.

The king felt he was growing old ; but as he found himself as capable of governing as he had ever been, he had no inclination
to



The White Cat.
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to resign his power ; and therefore, that he might pass the rest of his days peaceably, he determined to employ the princes in such a manner, as at once to give each of them the hope of succeeding to the crown, and fill up the time they might otherwise spend in so undutiful a manner.

He sent for them to his cabinet, and after conversing with them kindly, he added : “ You must be sensible, my dear children, that my great age prevents me from attending so closely as I have hitherto done to state affairs. I fear this may be injurious to my subjects ; I therefore desire to place my crown on the head of one of you ; but it is no more than just, that in return for such a present you should procure me some amusement in my retirement, for I shall leave the capital for ever. I cannot help thinking, that a little dog, that should be handsome, faithful, and engaging, would be the very thing to make me happy, so that, without bestowing a

preference on either of you, I declare that he who brings me the most perfect little dog shall be my successor. The princes were much surprised at the fancy of their father to have a little dog; yet they accepted the proposition with pleasure: and accordingly, after taking leave of the king, who presented them with abundance of money and jewels, and appointed that day twelvemonth for their return, they set off on their travels.

Before taking leave of each other, however, they took some refreshment together, in an old palace about three miles out of town; where they mutually agreed to meet in the same place on that day twelvemonth, and go altogether with their presents to court. They also agreed to change their names, that they might be unknown to every one.

Each took a different road; but we intend to relate the adventures of only the youngest, who was the handsomest, most amiable,

amiable, and accomplished prince that could be imagined.

No day passed, as he travelled from town to town, that he did not buy all the handsome dogs that fell in his way ; and as soon as he saw one that was handsomer than those he had before, he made a present to some one of the last ; for twenty servants would have been scarce sufficient to take care of all the dogs he was continually buying, and the prince was quite alone.

At length wandering he knew not whither, he found himself in a forest ; night suddenly came on, and with it a violent storm of thunder, lightning and rain : to add to his perplexity, he lost his path, and could find no way out of the forest. When he had groped about for a long time, he perceived a light, which made him suppose he was not far from some house : he accordingly pursued his way toward it, and in a short time found himself at the gates of the most magnificent palace ever beheld.

beheld. The door that opened into it was made of gold covered with sapphire stones, which cast so resplendent a brightness over every thing around, that scarcely could the strongest eye-sight bear to look at it : this was the light the prince had seen from the forest. The walls of the building were of transparent porcelain, variously coloured, and represented the history of all the fairies that had existed from the beginning of the world. The prince, coming back to the golden door, observed a deer's foot fastened to a chain of diamonds : he could not help wondering at the magnificence he beheld, and the security in which the inhabitants of the earth seemed to live ; “ for,” says he to himself, “ nothing can be easier than for thieves to steal this chain, and as many of the sapphire stones as would make their fortune.”

He pulled the chain, and heard a bell, the sound of which was so sweet, that he concluded it must be made either of silver

or of gold. In a few moments the door was opened ; but he perceived nothing but twelve hands in the air, each holding a torch. The prince was so astonished that he durst not move a step ; when he felt himself pushed gently on by some other hands from behind him. He walked on in great perplexity ; and to be secure from danger, he put his hand upon his sword : he entered a vestibule inlaid with porphyry and lapis-stone, when the most melodious voice he had ever heard chanted the following words :

Welcome, prince, no danger fear,
Mirth and love attend you here ;
You shall break the magic spell,
That on a beauteous maiden fell.
Welcome, prince, no danger fear,
Mirth and love attend you here.

The prince now advanced with confidence, wondering what these words could mean ; the hands moved him forward toward a large door of coral, which opened of
itself

itself to give him admittance into a splendid apartment built of mother-of-pearl, through which he passed into others so richly adorned with paintings and jewels, and so resplendently lighted with thousands of lamps, girandoles and lustres, that the prince imagined he must be in an enchanted palace.

When he had passed through sixty apartments, all equally splendid, he was stopped by the hands, and a large easy chair advanced of itself toward the chimney; the fire immediately lighted of itself; and the hands, which he observed were extremely white and delicate, took off his wet clothes, and supplied their place with the finest linen imaginable, and then added a commodious wrapping-gown, embroidered with the brightest gold, and all over enriched with pearls. The hands next brought him an elegant dressing-table, and combed his hair so very gently that he scarcely felt their touch. They held before him a
beautiful

beautiful bason, filled with perfumes, for him to wash his face and hands, and afterwards took off the wrapping-gown and dressed him in a suit of clothes of still greater splendour.

When his dress was complete, they conducted him to an apartment he had not yet seen, and which also was magnificently furnished. There was in it a table spread for a repast, and every thing upon it was of the purest gold adorned with jewels. The prince observed there were two covers set; and was wondering who was to be his companion, when a great number of cats marched by two and two into the room, and placed themselves in an orchestra at one end of it; some had books which contained the strangest-looking notes he had ever seen; others guitars; and one of them held a roll of paper, with which he began to beat the time, while the rest played a concert of music.

As he was reflecting on the wonderful things

things he had seen in this palace, his attention was suddenly caught by a small figure not a foot in height, which just then entered the room, and advanced toward him. It had on a long black veil, and was supported by two cats dressed in mourning, and with swords by their sides ; they were followed by a numerous retinue of cats, some carrying cages full of rats, and others mouse-traps full of mice.

The prince was at a loss what to think. The little figure now approached, and throwing aside her veil, he beheld a most beautiful white cat : she seemed young and melancholy, and addressing herself to the prince, she said : “ Young prince, you are welcome ; your presence affords me the greatest pleasure.” “ Madam,” replied the prince, “ I would fain thank you for your generosity, nor can I help observing that you must be a most extraordinary creature, to possess with your present form, the gift of speech, and the magnificent palace I
have

have seen." "All this is very true," answered the beautiful cat: "but, prince, I am not fond of talking, and least of all do I like compliments; let us therefore sit down to supper."

The trunkless hands then placed the dishes on the table, and the prince and the white cat seated themselves. The first dish was a pie made of young pigeons, and the next was a fricasee of the fattest mice imaginable: the view of the one made the prince almost afraid to taste the other; till the white cat, who guessed his thoughts, assured him that there were certain dishes at table in which there was not a single morsel of either rat or mouse, and that these had been dressed on purpose for him: accordingly he ate heartily of such as she recommended.

When supper was over, the prince perceived that the white cat had a portrait set in gold hanging to one of her feet. He begged her permission to look at it; when

what was his astonishment to see the portrait of a handsome young man, that exactly resembled himself! He said to himself, there was something very extraordinary in all this; yet as the white cat sighed, and looked very sorrowful, he did not venture to ask any questions. He conversed with her on different subjects; and found her extremely well versed in every thing that was passing in the world.

When night was far advanced, the white cat wished him a good night, and he was conducted by the hands to his bed-chamber, which was different still from any thing he had seen in the palace, being hung with the wings of butterflies, mixed with the most curious feathers. His bed was of gauze, festooned with bunches of the gayest ribbands, and the looking-glasses reached from the floor to the ceiling.

The prince was undressed and put into bed by the hands, without speaking a word: they then left him to repose. He however
slept

slept but little, and in the morning was awakened by a confused noise. The hands took him out of bed, and put on him a handsome hunting-jacket. He looked into the court-yard, and perceived more than five hundred cats, all busily employed in preparing for the field, for this was a day of festival. Presently the white cat came to his apartment; and having politely inquired after his health, and how he had passed the night, she invited him to partake of their amusement. The prince willingly accepted, and mounted a wooden horse richly caparisoned, which had been prepared for him, and which he was assured would gallop to admiration. The beautiful white cat at the same time mounted a monkey, dressed in a dragoon's bonnet, which made her look so fierce that all the rats and mice ran away in the utmost terror.

Every thing being ready, the horns sounded, and away they went: no hunting was ever more agreeable; the cats ran faster

than the hares and rabbits; and when they caught any they were hunted in the presence of the white cat, and a thousand cunning tricks were played. Nor were the birds in safety; for the monkey made nothing of climbing up the trees, with the white cat on his back, to the nests of the young eagles.

When the hunting was over, the whole retinue returned to the palace; when the white cat immediately exchanged her dragoon's cap for her veil, and sat down to supper with the prince, who, being extremely hungry, ate heartily, and afterwards partook with her of the most delicious liquors, which being often repeated, made him forget that he was to procure a little dog for the old king. He thought no longer of any thing but of pleasing the sweet little creature who received him so courteously, and accordingly every day was spent in new amusements.

The prince had almost forgot his country
and

and relations, and sometimes even regretted that he was not a cat, so great was his affection for his mewling companions. "Alas!" said he to the white cat, "how will it afflict me to leave you whom I love so much! Either make yourself a lady, or make me a cat." She smiled at the prince's wish; but made him scarcely any reply.

At length the twelvemonth was nearly expired; the white cat, who knew the very day when the prince was to reach his father's palace, reminded him that he had but three days longer to look for a perfect little dog. The prince, astonished at his own forgetfulness, began to afflict himself; when the cat told him not to be so sorrowful, since she would not only provide him with a little dog, but also with a wooden horse which should convey him safely in less than twelve hours. "Look here," said she, showing him an acorn, "this contains what you desire." The prince put the acorn to his ear, and heard the

barking of a little dog. Transported with joy, he thanked the cat a thousand times, and the next day bidding her tenderly adieu, he set out on his return.

The prince arrived first at the place of rendezvous, and was soon joined by his brothers; they mutually embraced, and began to give an account of their success; when the youngest shewed them only a little mongrel cur, telling them, he thought it could not fail to please the king from its extraordinary beauty. The brothers stepped on each other's toes under the table; as much as to say, We have not much to fear from this sorry-looking animal.

The next day they went together to the palace. The dogs of the two elder princes were lying on cushions, and so curiously wrapped round with embroidered quilts, that scarcely would one venture to touch them. The youngest produced his cur dirty all over, and every one wondered how the prince could hope to receive a crown
for

for such a present. The king examined the two little dogs of the elder princes, and declared he thought them so equally beautiful, that he knew not to which, with justice, he could give the preference. They accordingly began to dispute; when the youngest prince, taking the acorn from his pocket, soon ended their contention; for a little dog appeared which could with ease go through the smallest ring, and was besides a miracle of beauty.

The king could not possibly hesitate in declaring his satisfaction; yet, as he was not more inclined than the year before to part with his crown, he could think of nothing more to his purpose than telling his sons that he was extremely obliged to them for the pains they had taken; and that, since they had succeeded so well, he could not but wish they would make a second attempt: he therefore begged they would take another year for procuring him
a piece

a piece of cambric, so fine as to be drawn through the eye of a small needle.

The three princes thought this very hard; yet they set out in obedience to the king's command. The two eldest took different roads, and the youngest remounted his wooden horse, and in a short time arrived at the palace of his beloved white cat, who received him with the greatest joy, while the trunkless hands helped him, as before, to dismount, and provided him with immediate refreshment; after which the prince gave the white cat an account of the admiration which had been bestowed on the beautiful little dog, and informed her of his father's further injunction.

“Make yourself perfectly easy, dear prince,” said she: “I have in my palace some cats that are particularly expert in making such cambric as the king requires; so you have nothing to do but to give me the pleasure of your company while it is making;

making ; and I will take care to procure you all the amusement possible." She accordingly ordered the most curious fire-works to be immediately played off in sight of the window of the apartment in which they were sitting ; and nothing but festivity and rejoicing was heard throughout the palace for the prince's return.

As the white cat continually gave proofs of an excellent understanding, the prince was by no means tired of her company ; she talked with him of state affairs, of theatres, of fashions ; in short, she was at a loss on no subject whatever ; so that when the prince was alone he had plenty of amusement in thinking how it could possibly be, that a small white cat could be endowed with all the powers of human creatures.

The twelvemonth in this manner again passed insensibly away ; but the cat took care to remind the prince of his duty in proper time. " For once, my prince," said she, " I will have the pleasure of equipping you as suits

suits your high rank ;” when, looking into the court-yard, he saw a superb car, ornamented all over with gold, silver, pearl, and diamonds, drawn by twelve horses as white as snow, and harnessed in the most sumptuous trappings ; and behind the car a thousand guards richly apparelled were in waiting to attend the prince’s person.

She then presented him with a nut : “ You will find in it,” said she, “ the piece of cambric I promised you : do not break the shell till you are in the presence of the king your father :” then to prevent the acknowledgments he was about to offer, she hastily bade him adieu.

Nothing could exceed the speed with which the snow-white horses conveyed this fortunate prince to his father’s palace, where his brothers had just arrived before him. They embraced each other, and demanded an immediate audience of the king, who received them with the greatest kindness. The princes hastened to lay at the feet of
his

his majesty the curious present he had required them to procure. The eldest unwrapped a piece of cambric that was indeed extremely fine, so that his friends had no doubt of its passing through the eye of the needle, which was now delivered to the king, having been kept locked up in the custody of his majesty's treasurer all the time. Not one of them but supposed he would certainly obtain the crown. But when the king tried to draw it through the eye of the needle, it would not pass, though it failed by the smallest difference imaginable. Then came the second prince, who made as sure of obtaining the crown as his brother had done ; but, alas ! with no better success : for though, to all appearance, his piece of cambric was exquisitely fine, yet it could not be drawn through the eye of the needle. It was now the youngest prince's turn, who accordingly advanced, and opening a magnificent little box inlaid with jewels, he took out a walnut and cracked
the

the shell, imagining he should immediately perceive his piece of cambric; but what was his astonishment to see nothing but a filbert! He did not, however, lose his hopes; he cracked the filbert, and it presented him with a cherry-stone. The lords of the court, who had assembled to witness this extraordinary trial, could not, any more than the princes his brothers, refrain from laughing, to think he should be so silly as to claim with them the crown, on no better pretensions. The prince, however, cracked the cherry-stone, which was filled with a kernel: he divided it, and found in the middle a grain of wheat, and in that a grain of millet seed. He was now absolutely confounded, and could not help muttering between his teeth: "Oh! white cat, white cat, thou hast deceived me!" At this instant he felt his hand severely scratched by the claw of a cat: upon which he again took courage, and, opening the grain of millet seed, to the astonishment of all

all present, he drew from it a piece of cambric four hundred yards in length, and fine enough to be drawn, with perfect ease, through the eye of the needle.

When the king found he had no pretext left for refusing the crown to his youngest son, he sighed deeply, and it was plain to be seen that he was sorry for the prince's success. "My sons," said he, "it is so gratifying to the heart of a father to receive proofs of his children's love and obedience, that I cannot refuse myself the satisfaction of requiring of you one thing more. You must undertake another expedition; and whichever, by the end of a year, shall bring me the most beautiful lady, shall marry her, and obtain my crown."

The two eldest princes took care enough not to murmur, for they had now another chance for success, and the youngest was too dutiful to complain of the great injustice he had suffered: so they again took leave of the king and of each other,

and set out without delay, and in less than twelve hours our young prince again arrived in his splendid car at the palace of his dear white cat, who received him as before. He gave her an account of all that had passed, and the new request of the king his father. "Never mind it, my prince," said she, "I engage to provide you with what you want; and, in the mean time, let us be as merry as we can; for it is only when I have the pleasure of your company that I am the least inclined to entertainments or rejoicings of any kind." Accordingly every thing went on as before, till the end of another year; only that the prince felt great uneasiness at being unable to discover by what means it could be that his companion had at once the sense of a creature like himself, and the form of a cat.

At length only one day remained of the year, when the white cat thus addressed him: "To-morrow, my prince, you must present yourself at the palace of your father,

and

and give him a proof of your obedience. It depends only on yourself to conduct thither the most beautiful princess ever yet beheld : for the time is come when the enchantment by which I am bound may be ended. You must cut off my head and tail," continued she, "and throw them into the fire." "I!" answered the prince hastily, "I cut off your head and tail! You surely mean to try my affection, which, believe me, beautiful cat, is truly yours." "You mistake me, generous prince," said she, "I do not doubt your regard; but if you wish to see me in any other form than that of a cat, you must consent to do as I desire: when you will have done me a service I shall never be able sufficiently to repay you."

The prince's eyes filled with tears as he spoke, yet he considered himself obliged to undertake the dreadful task; and the cat continuing to press him with the greatest eagerness, with a trembling hand he

drew his sword, cut off her head and tail, and threw them into the fire. No sooner was this done, than the most beautiful lady his eyes had ever seen stood before him : and before he had sufficiently recovered from his surprise to speak to her, a long train of attendants, who, at the same moment as their mistress, were changed to their natural shapes, came to offer their congratulations to the queen, and inquire her commands. She received them with great kindness ; and then ordering them to withdraw, she thus addressed the astonished prince :—

“ Do not imagine, dear prince, that I have been always a cat, or that I am of obscure birth. My father was the monarch of six kingdoms ; he tenderly loved my mother, leaving her always at liberty to follow her own inclinations. Her prevailing passion was to travel ; and, a short time before my birth, having heard of some fairies who were in possession of the largest gardens filled with the most delicious fruits imaginable,

nable, she had so strong a desire to eat some of them, that she set out for the country in which they lived. She arrived at their abode, which she found to be a magnificent palace, on all sides glittering with gold and precious stones. She knocked for a long time at the gates; but no one came, nor could she perceive the least sign that it had any inhabitant. This difficulty, however, did but increase the violence of my mother's longing; for she saw the tops of the trees above the garden walls loaded with the most luscious fruits. The queen, in despair, ordered her attendants to place tents close to the door of the palace, as she was determined to watch for an opportunity of speaking to the persons who should go in and out, and remained in them for six weeks with her whole court. But in all this time not a single creature had passed the door of the palace; so that the queen fell sick of vexation, and her life was despaired of.

“ One night, as she lay half asleep, she turned herself about, and opening her eyes perceived a little old woman, extremely ugly and deformed, seated in the easy chair by her bed-side. ‘ I, and my sister fairies,’ said she, ‘ take it extremely ill that your majesty should so obstinately persist in getting some of our fruit ; but, since so precious a life is at stake, we consent to give you as much as you can carry away with you, provided you will give us in return what we shall ask.’ ‘ Ah ! kind fairy,’ cried the queen, ‘ I will give you any thing I possess, even my very kingdoms, on condition that I eat of your fruit.’ The old fairy then informed the queen that what they required was, that she would give them the child she would shortly have, as soon as she should be born, adding, that every possible care should be taken of her, and that she should become the most accomplished princess. The queen replied, that however cruel the condition, she must accept it, since

since nothing but the fruit could save her life.

“The fairy immediately touched her with a small gold wand, telling her she would now be able to see the door open when she should knock, and to hear the voice that answered her: ‘for,’ added the fairy, ‘our palace is well filled with inhabitants, and they pass in and out continually, though your majesty had not the gift of seeing them.’”

“In short, my prince,” continued the cat, “my mother instantly got out of bed, was dressed by her attendants, entered the palace, and satisfied her longing. When the queen had eaten her fill, she ordered four thousand mules to be procured, and loaded with the fruit, which had the virtue of continuing all the year round in a state of perfection. Thus provided, she returned to the king my father, who with the whole court received her with rejoicings, as it was before imagined she would die of dis-
appoint-

appointment. All this time the queen said nothing to my father of the promise she had made,—to give her daughter to the fairies;—so that when the time was come that she expected my birth, she grew extremely melancholy; till at length, being pressed by the king, she declared to him the truth.

“Nothing could exceed his affliction when he heard that his only child, when born, was to be given to the fairies: he bore it, however, as well as he could, for fear of adding to my mother’s grief; and also believing he should find some means of keeping me in a place of safety, which the fairies would not be able to approach. As soon therefore as I was born, he had me conveyed to a tower in the palace, to which there were twenty flights of stairs, and a door to each, of which my father kept the key; so that no one came near me without his permission.

“When the fairies heard of what had
been

been done, they sent first to demand me ; and on my father's refusal, to be revenged, they let loose a monstrous dragon, who devoured men, women and children, and the breath of whose nostrils destroyed every thing it came near, so that the trees and plants began to die in great abundance.

“ The grief of the king at seeing this, could scarcely be equailed ; and finding that his whole kingdom would in a short time be reduced to famine, he determined to give me into their hands. I was accordingly laid in a cradle of mother-of-pearl, magnificently ornamented with gold and jewels, and carried to their palace ; and the dragon immediately disappeared.

“ The fairies placed me in a tower of their palace, magnificently furnished, but to which there was no door ; so that whoever approached me was obliged to come by the windows, which were a prodigious height from the ground : from these I had the liberty of getting out into a delightful garden,

garden, in which were baths, and every sort of cooling fruit. In this place was I educated by the fairies, who behaved to me with the greatest kindness : my clothes were extremely splendid, and I was instructed in every kind of accomplishment : in short, my prince, if I had never seen any one but themselves, I should have remained perfectly happy.

“ When they visited me, it was always seated on the back of the dragon I have already mentioned : they never spoke of my parents ; and as they called me their child, I believed myself really so : my only companions in the tower were a parrot and a little dog, and both were endowed with the gift of speech.

“ One of the windows of my tower overlooked a long avenue shaded with trees, so that I had never seen in it a human creature. One day, however, as I was talking at this window with my parrot, I perceived a young gentleman who was listening to

our conversation. As I had never seen a man, but in pictures, I was not sorry for the opportunity of gratifying my curiosity. I thought him a very pleasing object, and he at length bowed in the most respectful manner, without daring to speak, for he knew that I was in the palace of the fairies. When it began to grow dark he went away, but I vainly endeavoured to see which road he took.

“ The next morning, as soon as it was light, I again placed myself at the window, and had the pleasure of seeing that the gentleman had returned to the same place. He now spoke to me through a speaking-trumpet, and informed me he thought me a most charming lady, and that he should be very unhappy if he did not pass his life in my company. I dared not reply; but I threw him some flowers, which he seemed to consider as a mark of my being pleased with what he said. He next begged my permission to come every day at the same
hour

hour to speak with me, desiring me, if I consented, to throw down something by way of token. I accordingly threw down a ring, at the same time making a sign for him to withdraw hastily, as I heard the approach of the fairy Violent on her dragon, who brought me my breakfast.

“The first words she uttered, after getting in at the window, were: ‘I smell the voice of a man.’ You may imagine my terror. Finding no one, she appeared satisfied, and said no more. At length she left me, leaving me a new distaff, and recommending me to employ myself more in spinning: ‘for,’ said she, ‘you have done scarcely any thing these two days.’ No sooner was she gone, than I flung away the distaff, and again placed myself at the window; and having a spying-glass in my tower, I discovered my new acquaintance at some distance, richly dressed, and surrounded by a number of attendants. I concluded from this that he was the son of some king in
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the neighbourhood; and fearing he might think of paying me another visit that day, I sent my parrot to him with a message, requesting him to avoid the danger I feared of his meeting the dragon.

“The prince, for such he was, sent back my parrot, having first delivered to her a ring and a picture, of which he begged my acceptance. The picture was of himself, and my joy was inexpressible at thus being able to see the features of the prince so near.

“Just at this time, the fairies took it into their heads to think of choosing me a husband from their own race, and accordingly appointed a day for his paying me a visit, desiring me to look as engagingly as I could. When I was alone with my parrot, she began to tell me how much she should pity me if the fairies obliged me to marry Migonnet, the prince they had thought of: ‘for,’ said she, ‘he is a dwarf not two feet high; he has a hunch upon his back, his

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head is larger than his whole body; his nose is so long that twenty birds may roost upon it; he has the feet of an eagle, and walks on stilts.' I was ready to die with horror when I thought of this creature as my husband; and from that moment I resolved to find some means of escaping from my tower with the engaging prince I had seen. I was not long in devising a means for the execution of my project; I begged the fairies to bring me a netting-needle, a mesh, and some cord, saying I wished to make some nets to amuse myself with catching birds at my windows. This they readily complied with, and in a short time I completed a ladder long enough to reach the ground.

“ I now sent my parrot to the prince, to beg he would come to the usual place, as I wished to speak with him. He did not fail; and, finding the ladder, mounted it, and precipitately entered my tower. I was at first somewhat alarmed; but the charms of his conversation had restored me to perfect

fect tranquillity, when all at once the window opened, and the fairy Violent, seated on the dragon's back, rushed into the tower, followed by the hideous Migonnet in a chariot of fire, and a troop of guards, each upon the back of an ostrich.

“ My beloved prince thought of nothing but how to defend me from their fury ; for I had had time to relate to him my story, previous to this cruel interruption ; but their numbers overpowered him, and the fairy Violent had the barbarity to command the dragon to devour my prince before my eyes. In my despair I would have thrown myself also into the mouth of the horrible monster ; but this they took care to prevent, saying, my life should be preserved for greater punishment. The fairy then touched me with a wand, and I instantly became a white cat. She next conducted me to this palace, which belonged to my father, and gave me a train of cats for my attendants, together with the twelve hands which waited

on you, my prince. She then informed me of my birth, and the death of both my parents, and pronounced upon me what she imagined would be the greatest of maledictions: that I should not be restored to my natural figure, till a young prince, the perfect resemblance of him I had lost, should cut off my head and tail.

“ You, my prince, are that perfect resemblance; and, accordingly you have ended the enchantment.

“ I need not add, that I already love you more than my life; let us therefore hasten to the palace of the king your father, and obtain his approbation to our marriage.”

The prince and princess accordingly set out side by side in a car of still greater splendour than before, and reached the palace just as the two brothers had arrived with two beautiful princesses. The king, hearing that each of his sons had succeeded in finding what he had required, again began to think of some new expedient to
delay

delay the time of resigning his crown ; but when the whole court were with the king assembled to pass judgment, the princess who accompanied the youngest, perceiving his thoughts by his countenance, stepped majestically forward, and thus addressed him :

“ What pity that your majesty, who is so capable of governing, should think of resigning the crown ! I am fortunate enough to have six kingdoms in my possession ; permit me to bestow one on each of the elder princes, and to enjoy the remaining four in the society of the youngest. And may it please your majesty to keep your own kingdom, and to make no decision concerning the beauty of the three princesses, who, without such a proof of your majesty’s preference, will no doubt live happily together !”

The air resounded with the applauses of the assembly : the young prince and princess embraced the king, and next their

brothers and sisters : the three weddings immediately took place, and the kingdoms were divided as the princess had proposed, in each of which nothing for a long time prevailed but rejoicings.

ROBIN HOOD.



THE times of Richard the First, king of England, were very different from the times we live in. There are at least ten towns in England at present that are as big as London was then. The other cities were in proportion ; the villages and hamlets were not half as big as they are at present, and there were not half as many of them. If you took a journey, the roads were bad, and the ways were solitary ; you traversed immense heaths, and desolate plains ; you journeyed perhaps twenty miles in a day, and scarcely saw a house

house from the rising to the setting sun. I have heard, that people when they set out for a journey of a hundred miles, were accustomed to make their wills first, conceiving that the chances were so many that they should never return alive.

In these times there were many robbers : robbery is always most likely to be committed in solitary places. There were then no bank notes, and no bills upon great merchants and traders ; rich travellers therefore carried a large amount of coin along with them. Thieves were so much to be feared, that men who made a journey were accustomed to inquire who travelled the same way ; and to go in companies of ten, twenty, or more, as people now do in the deserts of Arabia. The poor people lived in cottages then as they do, because they had nothing to lose ; but there were no gentlemen's houses. Noblemen, and rich men, lived in castles that could not be taken but by a little army of soldiers ; the poorer
people

people too, that they might be protected against the violence of their neighbours, joined in clans, and chose some rich person for their lord, whom they served for state and in war, and who was sure to protect them from all injuries but his own.

There was in these times but very little trade; therefore there were a great many poor people and beggars, and a great many persons who lived in humble idleness, and crowded the halls of the great as useless servants. Those who had too much spirit for this turned robbers.

There were a great many forests; the king had sixty-eight to his own share, besides above seven hundred parks in different parts of England: these were all well stocked with deer. The English at this time excelled all other nations in the use of the cross-bow: it was their chief weapon of war; and when peace came, the soldier, who had no longer any lawful use for his bow, and who loved idleness, was fond of shooting

shooting at the king's deer. Whoever had once shot the king's deer never dared to appear in towns again, for fear of punishment, and had no other means of subsistence but deer-stealing and robbery.

In the reign of king Richard the First lived the famous Robin Hood ; he was born in the village of Locksley, in Nottinghamshire, and his father was very skilful in the use of the cross-bow. His mother had a brother whose name was Gamewell, of Great Gamewell-hall, near Maxwell, in the same county, but at the distance of twenty miles from Robin Hood's father.

Said the mother of Robin Hood one day to her husband (Robin Hood was now about thirteen years old) : " Let Robin and me ride this morning to Gamewell-hall, to taste of my brother's good cheer." Said the husband, " Do so, my love : let Robin Hood take my tall grey gelding, and my best bridle and saddle ; the sun is rising, therefore pray make haste, for to-morrow will be

be Christmas-day. The good wife made no more ado but put on her holiday petticoat and gown, that were of Lincoln green. Robin got his basket-hilt sword and dagger, and his new suit of clothes, and so rode with his mother behind him till he came to Gamewell-hall.

You cannot imagine how glad squire Gamewell was to see his sister and his nephew, who was now within a head as tall as his uncle. He kissed the mother, and shook hands with the boy, and told them they were welcome twenty times. The next day six tables were set out in the hall for dinner; and when the company was come, the squire came to them and made a short speech. It was,—Gentlemen, you are welcome all, but not a man here shall taste my March ale till he has sung a Christmas carol." Then all clapped their hands, and shouted, and sang, till the hall and the parlour rung again. When dinner was ended the chaplain said grace, and the
squire

squire once again bid his friends be merry. "It snows and it blows without, but we are snug here; let us call for more ale, and lay some logs upon the fire." He then called for Little John, "for Little John is a fine lad at gambols, and juggling, and all sorts of tricks, and it will do your hearts good to see him." Little John justified the squire's applauses; but what do you think? Why, as true as you are alive, Robin Hood excelled him in every thing. The squire was joyful to see the sight, and said, "Cousin Robin, thou shalt go no more home, but shalt tarry and dwell with me; my land thou shalt have when I die, and till then shalt be the staff of my age." Robin Hood agreed upon one condition, that his uncle would give him Little John to be his page and companion.

Squire Gamewell was a rich man; and as he had determined to make Robin Hood the heir to all his fortunes, he gave him an education accordingly. He kept him three

or four fine horses ; one for the road, one for hunting, and so on. He had him taught all kinds of warlike exercises ; he made him a companion for the young noblemen of the neighbourhood, and taught him to expect to take to wife one of their sisters.

One time, when Robin Hood was gone to spend a week with his father and mother, squire Gamewell was taken suddenly ill. These were the times of the Roman catholic religion ; there was a monastery of priests near Gamewell-hall, called Fountain abbey ; and the squire sent for one of the priests, or monks, to come and read prayers by his bed-side. Fountain abbey was a very fine building, had a spacious mansion in the centre, and a capital wing on the right side ; but there was no wing on the left, and the building was not complete. The monk who came to Gamewell-hall was very sorry about this, and would have given any thing in the world to have a left wing

to his abbey : he persuaded the poor squire, that he could not die like a good man, unless he gave the whole of his estate to Fountain abbey. The squire was very ill, and scarcely knew what he did ; he forgot Robin Hood, and all he had promised him, and signed a paper that the monk brought him, to give away his estate. Robin Hood heard that his uncle was very ill, and made haste to come home ; but his uncle was dead a quarter of an hour before he arrived. The monks turned him out of the hall ; his father had been unfortunate and was poor, and Robin Hood was thrust out in the world to seek his fortune.

Robin Hood did not know what to do ; he had been used to live like a gentleman, and did not know how to work ; he had learned no trade. In this situation he associated with him as companions a number of young gentlemen, who had been as foolishly educated, and were as poor as himself, and they went together to live,

what they called a merry life, in Sherwood forest, near Nottingham. Here there was plenty of deer, and Robin Hood and his companions were excellent marksmen ; but as they wanted something besides meat to eat, they supplied their other wants by robbery. No man could travel alone through Sherwood forest, but he must expect to be stripped of his money or other property. Robin Hood and his companions also did not confine themselves to Sherwood forest, but sometimes extended their depredations to various parts of England. His gang soon increased to upwards of a hundred. They were some of the tallest and finest men in the kingdom ; bold, enterprising, and fearless. Robin Hood dressed them in an uniform ; he himself, as their captain, was always clothed in scarlet ; and each of his men had a coat, a pair of breeches, and a cap of Lincoln green.

Though Robin Hood was a robber, which,

to be sure, is a very bad thing, he behaved himself in such a manner as to have the good word and good wishes of almost all the poor people in the neighbourhood. He never loved to rob any body except people that were very rich, and who had not the spirit to make good use of their riches. As he had lost his estate by the cunning of a popish priest, he had a great resentment to the whole set; and the popish priests behaved, at that time, in such a manner that scarcely any body loved them; so that Robin Hood lost no credit by his harsh treatment of them. When he met with poor men in his cruises, instead of taking any thing from them, he willingly gave them money of his own. He never suffered any woman to be oppressed, insulted, or otherwise molested; and, when instances of injustice and tyranny came before him, he always took the part of the weak and the injured against the strong; so that the oldest histo-

rian that mentions his name, says : "That of all thieves, he was the gentlest and most generous thief."

Robin Hood was very fond of doing odd and surprising things ; and he loved a joke full as well as he loved a good booty. One day, as he strolled in the forest, and happened to be quite alone, he saw a jolly butcher riding upon a fine mare with panniers on each side filled with meat. "Good-morrow, good fellow," said Robin, "whither are you going so much betimes?" Said the other, "I am a butcher, and I am going to Nottingham market to sell my meat." "I never learned any trade," said Robin, "I think I should like to be a butcher. What shall I give you, and you shall sell me your mare and your panniers, and all that is in them?" "They will not be too dear," said the butcher, "at four marks, and I will not sell them for less." Robin made no words, but counted out the money, and
made

made the butcher give him his blue linen coat and his apron in exchange for Robin Hood's fine uniform of scarlet.

Thus equipped, Robin Hood rode straight to Nottingham : the sheriff of Nottingham was master of the market ; and Robin Hood hired a stall. But you will suppose that he did not understand much of his trade : and, as long as he had any meat to sell, no other butcher could sell a joint ; for Robin Hood sold more meat for one penny than the others could do for five. " Surely," said they, " this is some prodigal that has sold his father's land." The butchers stepped up to Robin Hood : " Come, brother," said one, " we are all of one trade, will you go and dine with us ?" I should be a shabby fellow," said Robin, " if I was ashamed of my calling, and I will certainly go with you." The sheriff was the tavern-keeper, and sat at the head of the table ; and after dinner Robin Hood insisted upon paying the bill. The sheriff was a cunning old

miser, and seeing how madly Robin Hood behaved, thought he would not miss such an opportunity of turning a penny. "Good fellow," said the sheriff, "hast thou any horned beasts to sell to me?" "That I have, good master sheriff; I have a hundred or two, if you will please to go and see them." The sheriff saddled his good palfrey, and took three hundred pounds in gold, and away he went with Robin Hood.

The road they took led through the forest of Sherwood; and the sheriff exclaimed: "God preserve us this day from a man they call Robin Hood!" But when they came a little further, there chanced to come out of the thicket a hundred head of good fat deer, skipping very near them. "How like you my horned beasts, good master sheriff?" said Robin Hood. "These are the cattle I told you of." "I tell you, good fellow," replied the sheriff, "I would I were gone, for I like not thy company." Then Robin Hood put his bugle-horn to his

his

his mouth and blowed just three times ; when suddenly there came out of the wood Little John and Robin Hood's hundred men, clothed in green, and running all of a row. "What is your will, master?" then said Little John. "I have brought hither the sheriff of Nottingham this day to dine with me." He is welcome," said Little John: "I hope he will honestly pay." Robin Hood made the sheriff sit down under the greenwood tree ; and after they had all eaten and drunk, he opened the sheriff's portmanteau, and told out his three hundred pounds. He then seated the sheriff on his palfrey, and conducted him out of the forest. "Remember me kindly to your wife," said Robin Hood, and so went laughing away.

As Robin Hood was walking one day in the forest, he took notice of a handsome young man, dressed in very gallant attire, frisking it over the plain, and he chanted a roundelay. As Robin Hood happened to

pass the next morning near the same spot, he spied this very young man come drooping along the way : his fine clothes were laid aside, his hair was neglected and slovenly, and at every step he fetched a sigh, Alas ! and well-a-day ! Robin Hood sent one of his companions to fetch the young man to his presence. “ What is the distress,” said Robin Hood, “ that hangs so heavy on your heart ? Why were you so merry yesterday, and why are you so sad to-day ? ” The young man pulled out his purse. “ Look at this ring,” said he : “ I bought it yesterday ; I was to have married a young maiden, whom I have kept company with for seven long years, and this morning she is gone to church to be married to another.” “ Do you think she loves you ? ” said Robin Hood. “ She has told me so,” said Allen-a-Dale, “ a hundred times.” “ Then she is a capricious and worthless maid,” said Robin Hood, “ to suffer her affections to be seduced by another.”

ther.” “She does not love him,” replied Allen-a-Dale. “Why do you think so?” cried Robin Hood. “He is a poor shrivelled and decrepit old fellow,” said Allen-a-Dale, “and quite unfit for so young and lovely a lass.” “And why does she marry him?” said Robin Hood. “The old knight is wealthy,” replied Allen, “and her father and mother insist upon it, and have threatened and stormed at her, and she is as gentle as a lamb.” “And where is the ceremony to be performed?” said Robin Hood. “At our parish church, five little miles from the place where we stand; and the bishop of Hereford, who is the knight’s brother, is to read the service.”

Robin Hood said no more, but put off his scarlet suit, and dressed himself like a minstrel, with a harp in his hand. He ordered twenty-four of his companions to follow at a little distance; he then went alone into the church, and found the bishop putting on his robes. “What do you want

want here?" said the bishop. "I am a harper," quoth Robin Hood, "the best in four counties round; I heard there was to be a wedding, and I am come to offer my service." "And welcome, thrice welcome," the bishop said, "I shall be glad to hear your minstrelsy." Presently came in the bride and bridegroom. The knight hobbled along, and was hardly able to make his way to the altar; and after him came a maiden, beautiful as the day, and blushing like the summer morning. "This is not a fit match," quoth Robin Hood, "and I cannot consent to its taking place; but since we are come to the church, the bride shall choose her own dear." Then Robin Hood put his horn to his mouth, and had no sooner breathed into it than four-and-twenty archers came leaping along the church-way path, and entered at the porch. The first man was Allen-a-Dale, to give Robin Hood his bow.

Robin Hood now turned to the fair maiden,

maiden, and said: "Now, my love, you are free; tell me who you will have for your husband—will you have this withered and gouty old knight, or will you have one of the six-and-twenty bold young fellows you see now before you?" "Alas!" said the young maid, and dropped her eyes on the ground as she spoke, "young Allen-a-Dale has courted me for seven long years, and he is the man I would choose for my dear." "Then," said Robin Hood, "you and Allen shall be married before we quit this place." "That shall not be," said the bishop; "the law of the land requires that they should be three times asked in the church, and a marriage cannot be huddled up in the way you think." "That we will try," said Robin Hood; and saying this, he pulled off the bishop's gown and put it upon Little John. "In faith," said Robin Hood, "you make a grave clergyman." When Little John went into the choir, the people began to laugh. He asked them seven times

times in the church, lest three times should not be enough. Robin Hood gave away the maiden : the bishop slunk out of the church ; and his brother, the knight, hobbled after as well as he could : the whole company had a dinner upon two fat bucks in Sherwood forest, and Robin Hood from this very day had a friend in Allen-a-Dale as long as he lived.

In the times when Robin Hood performed his wondrous feats, the bishops under the direction of the pope of Rome were great magistrates and great soldiers. Robin Hood lived in the diocese of the bishop of Hereford. Robin had a great animosity to the popish clergy, because one of them had cheated him of his uncle's estate ; and the bishop of Hereford was no less hostile to Robin, because of the trick Robin had played him in the marriage of Allen-a-Dale, and because he did not think it right that so renowned a robber should infest the good people of his diocese. The
bishop

bishop therefore made several excursions into the forest of Sherwood, for the purpose of taking Robin prisoner, and bringing him to the gallows.

One time, when Robin was wandering alone in the forest of Sherwood, he heard the trampling of horses; and looking round, saw his old enemy the bishop of Hereford, with six attendants. The bishop was very near Robin Hood before Robin looked round and saw him, and he had nothing to trust to but the swiftness of his heels to deliver him from this terrible danger.

As Robin scudded along, he chanced to come up to a cottage where an old housewife lived all by herself: he rushed into the cottage, and begged the old woman to save his life. "Who are you?" said the old woman, "and what can I do for you?" "I am an outlaw," replied the stranger, "and my name is Robin Hood; and yonder is the bishop of Hereford, with all his men, who has resolved to bring me to the gallows."

lows." "If thou be Robin Hood," said the old woman, "as I do think thou art, I would as soon lose my own life as not do every thing in my power to save thee: many a time and oft have Little John and thou done me a thousand kindnesses, and brought me venison; and no longer ago than last Saturday night, thou gavest me a pair of new shoes and this green kirtle." "Then give me," said Robin Hood, "thy green kirtle, and thy close-eared cap, and put into my hands thy distaff and spindle, and do thou take my scarlet mantle, and my quiver and bow."

No sooner had they made this exchange, than Robin Hood went out of the house and hastened to the place where all his companions were to be found. He looked a hundred times behind him for the bishop and his company; but the bishop had no suspicion of him in this disguise. One of the robbers, who was a malicious fellow, as Robin Hood came near them, cried out:
"A witch,

“A witch, a witch, I will let fly an arrow at her.” “Hold thy hand,” said Robin Hood, “and shoot not thy arrows so keen, for I am Robin Hood, thy master.” Then, addressing himself to Little John, he said: “Come kill me a good fat deer, for the bishop of Hereford is to dine with me to-day.”

While this was doing, the bishop came to the old woman's house; and seeing a man, as he thought, with a mantle of scarlet, and a quiver and a bow in his hand, he shook his head, and said angrily: “I am afraid you are one of that Robin Hood's gang: if you have not a mind to be hanged immediately, bring me to the place where that traitor is, and set him before me.” The old woman cheerfully consented: “Go with me,” said she to the bishop, “and I think I can bring you to the man you want.” The bishop mounted her upon a milk-white steed, and himself rode upon a dapple gray; and for joy that he should get

Robin Hood, he went laughing all the way. But as they were riding along the forest, the bishop chanced to spy a hundred brave bowmen, drawn up together under the greenwood tree. "Oh! who is yonder," said the bishop, "ranging within the wood?" "Marry," said the old woman, "I think it is a man they call Robin Hood." "Why, who art thou?" said the bishop. "To tell thee the truth, I thought thou hadst been Robin Hood himself." "Oh! my lord, said she, "I am nothing but an old woman."

By this time Robin Hood and his companions came up to the bishop; and Robin Hood taking him by his hand, said: "My lord, you must dine with me to-day under my bower in merry Barnsdale. I cannot feast like a bishop, but I can give you venison, ale, and wine, and I hope you will be content." After dinner Robin Hood caused the music to strike up, and insisted upon the bishop's dancing a horn-pipe

pipe in his boots; who found no remedy, and was obliged to submit. The day was now far spent, and the bishop begged leave to go away. "You have regaled me very handsomely," said he to Robin Hood, "and I take it for granted I must pay for it: tell me what is the reckoning." "Lend me your purse, master," said Little John, "and I will settle it for you." Saying this, he spread the bishop's cloak upon the ground, and, opening his portmanteau, told out of it five hundred pounds. "Now," said Robin Hood "we thank you for your company; and to show you that we know what is due to courtesy, we will see you part of the way home." Saying this, they led the bishop and his attendants quite through the wood, till they brought him to the high road: then Robin Hood's gang set up three cheers, and bad him remember, that though he had come there with an intention to hang them all, they had done

him no harm, but taken from him a little money that he could very well spare.

One day in summer time, when the leaves grew green, and the flowers were fresh and gay, Robin Hood and his merry men were all disposed to play. Some would leap, and some would run; some shot at a mark, and some wrestled with each other on the green. Robin Hood felt haughty and proud; and said, "Now, my good fellows, do you think there is a man in the world that could wrestle or play the quarter-staff, or kill a doe or buck so certain as I? For my own part, I would willingly ride my horse five hundred miles to see the tall fellow that should be a match for me."

As Robin Hood boasted himself in this manner, Will Scarlet stepped out from the rest. Will Scarlet was a distant relation of Robin Hood, and thought he had as good a right as his kinsman to be commander of the gang; he was beside of a malicious disposition:

position: he it was that was just going to let fly an arrow at Robin Hood, when he saw him dressed up like an old woman. "If you wish to meet with your match," said Scarlet, "I can tell you where you can find him. There is a friar in Fountain Abbey" (Fountain Abbey was the monastery that was built with the produce of uncle Gamewell's estate, and perhaps he had an additional pleasure on that account to throw it in Robin Hood's teeth). "I had as soon you had talked of the gallows," said Robin Hood. "No matter for that," said Scarlet: "there is a friar in Fountain abbey, that can draw a strong bow against any man in the world; he can handle a quarter-staff, and I will answer for him, he will beat you and your yeomen, set them all of a row."

Robin Hood was a man of a bold spirit, and he could not rest till he had seen this wonderful friar; he slung his bow across his shoulder, and took his quarter-staff in his hand, and away he went to Fountain Dale.

Dale. He had not gone far, before he saw a tall brawny friar striding away by the water side. Robin Hood had no doubt of his man the moment he saw him; he needed no one to tell him that this was that extraordinary champion. The water by the side of which the friar was walking, was the very piece of water which his uncle Gamewell had made to adorn his park. Robin Hood, when a boy, had caught fish in it a thousand times; the sight of the man, and the sight of the place, both served to inflame his choler.

Robin Hood alighted from his horse, and tied him to a thorn. "Carry me over this water, thou brawny friar," said he, "or thou hast not another hour to live." The friar made no muttering, but placed himself in a convenient posture, and took Robin Hood upon his back. The water was deep, and the passage long and difficult, and neither of these rivals spoke a single word, good or bad, till they came to
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the other side. Robin Hood leaped lightly off the friar's back, and seemed going away : " Stop," said the friar, " carry me over this water, thou fine fellow, or it will breed thee pain." Robin Hood took the friar upon his back ; the water was deep, and the passage long and difficult, and neither of these rivals spoke a single word, good or bad, till they came to the other side. The friar leaped lightly off Robin Hood's back, while Robin said to him again : " Carry me over the water, thou brawny friar, or it shall breed thee pain." The friar once more took Robin upon his back ; but this time he did not carry him over, but, as soon as he had got to the middle stream, threw him into the water. " And now choose thee, fine fellow," said he, " whether thou wilt sink or swim." Robin Hood swam to the shore ; and when the friar was come to the same place, Robin Hood said to him, " I see by this trial that thou art worthy to be my match." Robin Hood challenged him
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in wrestling, in shooting, and at the quarter-staff; but in none of these could Robin Hood beat the friar, or the friar beat Robin Hood. "I wish from my soul," said Robin Hood, "you would quit this lazy life of a friar, and come and be one of us. We range the forest merry and free, and are as happy as the day is long." "I wish from my soul," said the friar, "thou wouldst leave thy rambling and unlawful life, and come and live in our monastery. Thy robberies will bring thee to an untimely end, but I shall live out my days quiet and respected." Robin Hood could not persuade the friar, and the friar could not persuade Robin Hood: so they shook hands and parted; but ever after had a high esteem and good word for each other.

Robin Hood was not insensible that his way of life was contrary to the laws, and that, if he were once brought before a judge and jury, it would be like to go hard with him. He had now followed his lawless profession

profession for several years, and began to wish that he could exchange the jollity and enterprize of Sherwood forest for a peaceable habitation in his native village. Guided by thoughts of this sort, one time that he had made several valuable prizes he determined to make a rich present to the queen. The name of the queen was Eleanor, mother to king Richard the First, who had great authority in her son's government.

Queen Eleanor was extremely pleased with Robin Hood's present, and said to herself: "If I live one year to an end, I will be thy friend, bold Robin Hood, and that of all yeomen gay."

Soon after king Richard made a grand match in his court of all the bowmen of his guards and his army. Queen Eleanor thought this a good opportunity for the purpose she had in her mind. She called to her her favourite page, whose name was Richard Partington, and gave him his errand.

errand. The page set out immediately; sometimes he walked, and sometimes he ran, till he came to Sherwood forest. When he came to Robin Hood, he fell down upon one knee, and said: "Queen Eleanor doth greet you well; she bids you post to fair London court, where there is to be a match at the cross-bow, and she has chosen you and your companions to be her champions."

The day of this great match was now arrived; the best archiers in all England were ranged on one side, and were the king's bowmen. After a time the queen's champions came in and were ranged on the other side; they were all strangers, no man in the court knew any one of them. King Richard then declared what the prize was that should be bestowed upon the conquerors, and the lords of the court began to make bets upon the venture. The bets were three to one in the king's favour. "Is there never a knight of privy council," said

said queen Eleanor, "who will venture his money on my side? Come hither to me, sir Robert Lee, thou art a knight of high descent." Sir Robert Lee requested the queen to excuse him from so unequal a wager. "Come hither to me, thou bishop of Hereford," (this was Robin Hood's old adversary) said queen Eleanor, "for a noble priest art thou." "By my silver mitre," said the bishop, "I will not bet a penny." "If thou wilt not bet on the queen's side," said Robin Hood, "what wilt thou bet on the king's?" "On the king's side," said the bishop, "I will venture all the money in my purse." "Throw thy purse on the ground," said Robin Hood, "and let us see what it contains." It was a hundred pounds. Robin Hood took a bag of equal value from his side, and threw it upon the green.

The match was just going to begin. Queen Eleanor fell upon her knees to her son. "A boon, a boon," said she, "I must

ask a boon of thee before the trial begins.”

“What is it?” said king Richard. “That you will be angry with none of those that are of my party. They shall be free to stay in our court all the days of the match, and shall then have forty days to retire wherever they like.” The king consented. Before the match began, the king’s marksmen used very lofty words; and when the keepers of the course were measuring out the distance from which they should shoot at the butt, Clifton their captain, like a bold boaster as he was, exclaimed: “Measure no mark for us, my sovereign liege, we will shoot at the sun and the moon.” But Clifton was mistaken: Robin Hood and his party cleft with their arrows every wand and stick that was set up, and won all the money. Says the bishop of Hereford, “I know very well now who these fellows are: it is Robin Hood and his gang.” Cried the king, “If I had known that, I would not have granted them free leave to depart;

depart; but I cannot break my royal word." Saying this, king Richard ordered a magnificent feast for Robin Hood and his yeomanry, and then dismissed them with honour.

King Richard reflected a thousand times upon what he had seen of Robin Hood and his fellows. He was passionately fond of archery; he had heard a hundred generous actions that were reported of them, and he admired their gallant carriage and demeanour. Thought he, "If I could but make these men my faithful liege-men and subjects, what an ornament they would be to my court!" These reflections occurred to the king so frequently, that at last he fixed upon a plan by which he might once more see Robin Hood.

He called together twelve lords of his court, and communicatēd his plan to them: he and his lords all dressed themselves like so many monks, and away they rode to Sherwood forest. Robin Hood saw them

at a distance, as they were coming, and determined to rob them. The king was taller than the rest, and Robin Hood judged that he was the abbot; he took the king's horse by the bridle, and said: "Abbot, I bid you stand: it was a priest that first worked my ruin, and I have sworn to spare none of his brotherhood." "But we are messengers from the king," said Richard. Robin Hood let go his hold upon the bridle. "God save the king!" said he, "and confusion to all his enemies!" "Thou curst thyself," said Richard, "for thou art a robber, an outlaw, and a traitor." "If you were not his messenger," said the other, "I should say, You lie; for I never yet hurt man that was honest and true, but only those who give their minds to live in idleness upon other people's earnings. I never hurt the husbandman who uses to till the ground; I am the protector of women and children, and the poor for twenty miles round are the better for me."

Robin

Robin Hood asked the stranger and his company to dine with him. "Thou wouldst not be so used," quoth he, "but that thou art the king's messenger: yet, for king Richard's sake, if thou hadst as much money as ever I told, I would not deprive thee of a penny." Then Robin Hood put his horn to his mouth, and blew a blast, loud and clear, till a hundred and ten of Robin Hood's companions came marching all of a row; and as they came before their leader, each man did bend his knee. "Oh!" thought the king, "this is a seemly sight; these men of Robin Hood are more exactly obedient to their captain than my attendants are to me; so that the court may learn of the woods."

After dinner, as the king sat next to Robin Hood, he said: "What would you give, my brave fellow, if I could get your pardon from your sovereign? Would you set your mind firmly in every thing to be an obedient and useful subject?"

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This was the very thing that Robin Hood wanted; it was the wish that had haunted his thoughts night and day; it was with the hope of this, that he made the rich present that has been mentioned to queen Eleanor.

“My friend,” said Robin Hood, “I am tired of the lawless and uncertain life that I lead; I never loved it; other men may praise my bold enterprises and generous actions, but I loathe my employments, and every thing that belongs to them. King Richard is a noble prince, and a gallant soldier; and if he would take me into his favour, he should never have reason to repent his clemency, but should find me the most attached and affectionate of his subjects.”

“I am king Richard,” said the stranger.

As he said this, Robin Hood and all his companions were astonished, and fell upon their knees before him.

“Stand up, my brave fellows,” said the king;

king; “ you have been robbers, and you ought not to have been such. The greatest miser in my kingdom ought not to be treated with violence; but to be persuaded to dispose of his money, properly. But these are times of violence: hereafter, the people of England will know better their interests, and there will be no gangs of robbers, as at present: but you are brave fellows; you say that you are well inclined, and you have power and skill to do me service. I freely grant to every one of you my pardon. You shall none of you be called to account for any of your past irregularities; only take care that you conduct yourselves in such a manner in future, that I never may have reason to repent my good opinion, and the kindness with which I now treat you.”

END OF VOL. I.

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