

MISS BRADDON'S

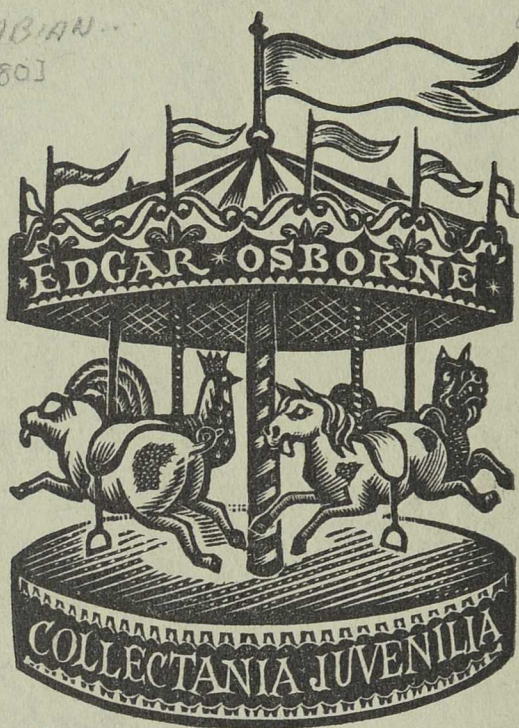
REVISED EDITION OF

ALADDIN
OR THE
WONDERFUL LAMP
SINDBAD THE SAILOR
OR THE
OLD MAN OF THE SEA
ALI BABA
OR
THE FORTY THIEVES

ILLUSTRATED BY GUSTAVE DORÉ & OTHER ARTISTS

ET
ARABIAN...
[1880]
c. 1

fol



37131 032 425 548

I, 19

Edward Davis Poole

Xmas 18th 79.



LADDIN;

OR, THE WONDERFUL LAMP



SINDBAD, THE SAILOR;

OR, THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA



LI



BABA;

OR, THE FORTY THIEVES

Revised by M. E. BRADDON, Author of "LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET," &c.



ILLUSTRATED BY GUSTAVE DORÉ
AND OTHER ARTISTS

LONDON: JOHN & ROBERT MAXWELL, PUBLISHERS,
MILTON HOUSE, SHOE LANE, FLEET STREET

(All Rights reserved) 1880



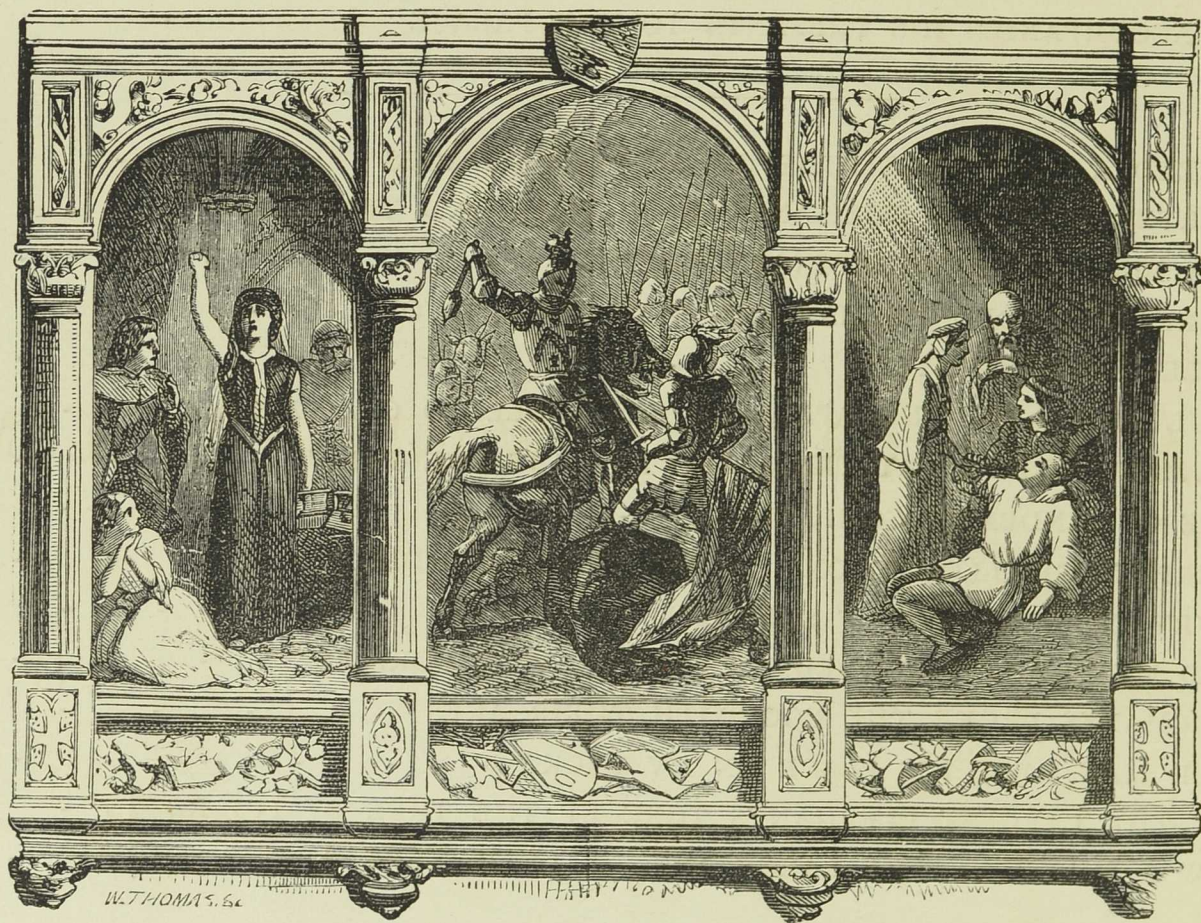
P R E F A C E

THE stories of "Aladdin, or the Wonderful Lamp," of "Sindbad the Sailor," and of "Ali Baba" have been the delight of youth for many a generation since Antony Galland, Professor of Arabic in the Royal College of Paris, first gave these marvellous fairy-tales of the East to the European world. The "Arabian Nights' Entertainments," that rich repertory of fairy lore, was for a considerable time regarded as a literary fraud; and that worthy scholar Galland, to whom the world owes so much, was looked upon as a clever impostor. Clever indeed he must have been, if he could have invented stories so vivid, with all the light and colour of Oriental life, so true in every detail to Oriental manners and customs, and so steeped in the spirit of Islamism! Some learned pundits have traced the stories to an Indian origin, just as the familiar European story of "Patient Grisél" has been discovered in an Indian legend. Others claim them for Persia. Mr. Lane, whose translation, though painfully prolix, is admirable in its fidelity to the style and spirit of the text, is of opinion that the work is not wholly original, nor the first of its kind. "Many of the tales which it contains," he says, "are doubtless of different and early origins, and its general plan is probably borrowed from a much older production bearing the same title of the 'Thousand and One Nights,' a translation of a Persian work having a corresponding title." For one hundred and seventy-five years these stories have been known to European children. The day when boy or girl first opens this volume of wonders is a day never to be forgotten. The work is the revelation of a new world of splendour and beauty, jewelled fruits in enchanted caverns, flying horses, potent magicians, princesses of surpassing loveliness, dexterous robbers, sacks of gold, moving islands, magnetic rocks, Brobdignagian serpents, gigantic birds laying gigantic eggs, valleys where diamonds, like the Koh-i-noor, lie thick as hail-stones, drinking-cups made out of a single emerald, caskets fashioned of a single ruby, elephants wiser than senators, jewelled windows, talking monkeys, palaces whisked up into the air and wafted swift as thought from Asia to Africa. What child that has imagination to realise these things—and to the imaginative child they seem more real than the common things of this work-a-day world—can forget the hour when the gates of that fairy paradise first opened to admit him? Dickens has told us how the boy David Copperfield forgot his boyish griefs amidst those enchanted scenes. Thackeray has described how the boy artist in his dingy London parlour saw the Eastern forest, and Ali Baba with his sacks of gold, and Sindbad in his diamond valley, and Aladdin with his wonderful lamp. Years pass, and we read the unforgotten tales to our children, and wonder at their freshness and reality. Centuries hence they will be as fresh and vivid as they are to-day. Only such an artist as Doré, who is still more a poet than a painter, could give form to the pictures which every young reader conjures up, before his dreaming eyes, in the winter twilight, as he sits poring over the stories that he loves with all the earnestness of early affection.



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
1. ALADDIN ENTERS THE CAVE	9
2. ALADDIN APPROACHES THE LAMP	13
3. THE GENIE OF THE LAMP APPEARS TO THE WIDOW MUSTAFA	16
4. ALADDIN SHOWS THE SILVER DISH TO A JEWELLER	17
5. THE WIDOW MUSTAFA AND THE SULTAN	24
6. THE PROCESSION OF SLAVES	25
7. ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCESS BADROUL BOUDOUR AT ALADDIN'S PALACE	32—33
8. ALADDIN ACCOMPANIES HIS PRESENTS TO THE PALACE	41
9. "WE BEHELD A VAST MULTITUDE OF HIDEOUS SAVAGES"	49
10. "THE PORTER MADE HIS OBEISANCE WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING"	52
11. "I SAW A BIRD OF EXTRAORDINARY SIZE"	53
12. "THE OGRES PROVIDED THEMSELVES WITH LARGE STONES"	56
13. THE VALLEY OF SERPENTS	57
14. "I CONSULTED THOSE WHO APPEARED BEST ABLE TO GIVE ME ADVICE"	60
15. "I SHOT MANY ARROWS AT THEM, AND AT LAST ONE FELL"	61
16. THE FATE OF SINDBAD'S COMPANION	62
17. "THE SERPENT SWALLOWED ONE OF MY TWO COMRADES"	62
18. THE COURT OF THE KING OF SERENDIB	64—65
19. "I FOUND MYSELF SURROUNDED BY INNUMERABLE CORPSES"	68
20. THE MERCHANTS BROKE THE EGG WITH THEIR AXES"	69
21. "THE OLD MAN KEPT HIS PLACE ON MY BACK"	72
22. "ONE OF THE LARGEST ELEPHANTS TORE UP THE TREE BY ITS ROOTS"	73
23. "WE SAW A MULTITUDE OF LARGE AND SMALL MONKEYS"	77
24. "OPEN, SESAME!"	81
25. ALI BABA LOADS HIS ASSES WITH THE SACKS OF GOLD	84
26. THE ROBBERS KILL CASSIM	85
27. THE ROBBER DISGUISES HIMSELF SO THAT HIS OWN COMRADES HARDLY KNOW HIM	88
28. THE PRETENDED MERCHANT ASKS FOR SHELTER	89
29. MORGIANA CONDUCTS THE COBBLER TO HER MASTER'S HOUSE	91
30. THE ROBBER MARKS ALI BABA'S DOOR	91
31. MORGIANA DISCOVERS THE CAPTAIN'S SECRET	92
32. ALI BABA CELEBRATES HIS SON'S MARRIAGE WITH MORGIANA	93
33. CASSIM'S WIDOW BEWAILS HER HUSBAND'S DEATH	96



ALADDIN ; OR, THE WONDERFUL LAMP



ALADDIN; OR, THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

IN the capital of one of the richest and most extensive kingdoms of Cathay, there lived a tailor whose name was Mustafa, who had no other distinction than that of his trade.

This tailor was very poor, as the profits of his business barely produced a subsistence for himself, his wife, and a son, with whom God had blessed him.

Mustafa's son, whose name was Aladdin, had been brought up in a very negligent manner, and had been left so much to himself, that he had contracted the most vicious habits of idleness and mischief, and had very little respect for the commands of his father or mother. Before he had passed the years of childhood, his parents could no longer keep him in the house. He generally went out early in the morning, and spent the whole day in playing in the public streets with other boys, about the same age, who were as idle as himself.

When the boy was old enough to learn a trade, his father, who was unable to have his son taught any other business than that he himself followed, took him to his shop, and began to show him how he should use his needle. But neither kindness nor the fear of punishment was able to restrain Aladdin's volatile and restless disposition; nor could his father by any method make him industrious, or teach him to interest himself in his daily occupations. No sooner was Mustafa's back turned than Aladdin was off, and returned no more during the whole day. His father repeatedly punished him, yet still Aladdin remained incorrigible;



ALADDIN ENTERS THE CAVE.

and Mustafa, to his great sorrow, was obliged to abandon him to his idle, vagabond kind of life. This behaviour of his son gave him great pain, and the vexation of not

being able to induce him to pursue a proper and reputable course of life, brought on a fatal disease, which at the end of a few months put an end to his existence.

As Aladdin's mother saw that her son never would follow the trade of his father, she shut up his shop and converted all his stock and implements of trade into money, upon which, added to what she could earn by spinning cotton, she and her son subsisted.

Aladdin, now no longer restrained by fear of his father, and regarding whatever his mother might say so little that he even threatened her with violence whenever she attempted to remonstrate with him, gave himself completely up to a life of indolence and dissipation. He continued to associate himself with persons of his own age, and was fonder than ever of entering into all their tricks and fun. He pursued this course of life till he was fifteen years old without showing the least improvement, and without making the slightest reflection upon what was to be his future lot. He was in this state when, as he was one day playing with his companions in one of the public places, as was his usual custom, a stranger, who was going by, stopped and looked at him.

This stranger was, in fact, a noted and learned magician, known among those of his craft as the African magician. And, indeed, he was so styled with the greater propriety, as he was a native of Africa, and had arrived from that part of the world only two days before.

Whether this magician, who was well skilled in reading the human countenance, had remarked in Aladdin the signs of such a disposition as was best adapted to the purpose for which he had undertaken so long a journey, or not, is uncertain; but he very adroitly made himself acquainted with the boy's circumstances, discovered who he was, and the sort of character and disposition he possessed. Having obtained this information he went up to the young man, and taking him to a little distance from his companions, he asked him if his father were not called Mustafa, and a tailor by trade.

"Yes, sir," replied Aladdin, "but he has been dead this long time."

At this speech the African magician threw his arms around Aladdin's neck, embraced and kissed him, while the tears seemed to run from his eyes, and his bosom to heave with sighs. Aladdin astonished at this behaviour, asked the stranger what reason he had to weep. "Alas! my child," replied the magician, "how can I do otherwise? I am your uncle; for your father was my most esteemed brother. I have been several years upon my journey, and in the very hour of my arrival in this place, and when I was anticipating the delight of seeing him, and giving him joy on my return, you inform me of his death. Can I be so unfeeling as not to suffer the most violent grief, when I thus find myself deprived of all my expected consolation? What, however, in a small degree alleviates my affliction is, that as far as my recollection carries me, I discover many traces of your father in your countenance, and I have not in fact been deceived in having addressed myself to you."

He then asked Aladdin, putting at the same time his hand into his purse, where his mother lived, and as soon as he was answered, the African magician gave the lad a handful of small money, and said to him, "My son, go to your mother, make my respects to her, and tell her that I will come and see her to-morrow, if I have an opportunity, in order to afford myself the consolation of seeing the spot where my good brother lived so many years, and where he too early departed from this world."

The African magician had no sooner quitted his new-created nephew, than Aladdin ran to his mother, highly delighted with the money his supposed uncle had given him. "Pray tell me, mother," he cried, the instant of his arrival, "whether I have not an uncle."—"No, my child," replied she, "you have no uncle, either on your poor father's side or mine."—"I have, however, just left a man," answered the boy, "who told me he was my father's brother, and my uncle. He even cried and embraced me, when I told him of my father's death. And to prove to you that he spoke the truth," added Aladdin, showing her the money which he had received, "see, what he has given me. He bid me also be sure and give his kindest remembrances to you, and to say that he would, if he had

time, come and see you himself to-morrow, as he was desirous of beholding the house where my father lived and died."—"It is true, indeed, my son," replied Aladdin's mother, "that your father had a brother, but he has been dead a long time, and I never heard him even mention any other." After this conversation, they said no more on the subject.

The next day the African magician again accosted Aladdin, while that idle youth was playing in some other part of the city, with three other boys. He embraced him as before, and putting two pieces of gold into his hand, "Take this, my dear nephew," said he, "and carry it to your mother. Tell her that I intend to come and sup with her this evening, and that this is for her to purchase what is necessary for us to regale ourselves with; but first inform me in what quarter of the city I shall find your house." Aladdin gave him the necessary information, and the magician took his departure.

Aladdin carried the two pieces of gold to his mother, and when he had told her of his supposed uncle's intentions, she went out and procured a large supply of good provisions. And as she was unprovided with a sufficient quantity of china or earthenware, she went and borrowed what she might want of her neighbours. She was busily employed, during the whole day, in preparing for night; and in the evening, when everything was ready, she desired Aladdin, as his uncle might not know where to find the house, to go out into the street, and if he should see him, to show him the way.

Although Aladdin had pointed out to the magician the exact situation of his mother's house, he was nevertheless very ready to go, and at the very moment that he was approaching the door, he heard some person knock. Aladdin instantly opened the door, and saw the African bringing several bottles of wine in his hand, and several sorts of fruit for them all to regale with.

He had no sooner given to Aladdin all the things that he had brought, than he paid his respects to the widow, and requested her to show him the place where his brother Mustafa was accustomed to sit upon the sofa. She had no sooner pointed out the spot, than the visitor immediately prostrated himself before it; kissed the place several times, while the tears seemed to run in abundance from his eyes. "My poor brother!" he exclaimed, "how unfortunate am I not to have arrived soon enough to have received your embraces once more before you died." The mother of Aladdin begged this pretended brother to sit in the place her husband used to occupy, but he would by no means hear of it. "No," he cried, "I will take care how I do that: give me leave, however, to seat myself opposite, that if I am deprived of the pleasure of seeing my beloved brother here in person, sitting like the father of a family, I may at least look at the spot, as if he were present." Aladdin's mother pressed him no further, but permitted him to take whatever seat he chose.

When the African magician had placed himself where he liked, he began to enter into a conversation with the widow. "Do not be surprised, my good sister," he said, "at never having seen me during the whole of the time you have been married to my late brother Mustafa, of happy memory. It is full forty years since I left this country, of which I am a native, as well as himself. In the course of this long period, I first travelled through India, Persia, Arabia, Syria, and Egypt; and after passing some considerable time in all the finest and most remarkable cities in those countries, I went into Africa, where I resided for a great length of time. At last, as it is the natural disposition of man, however distant soever he may be from the place of his birth, never to forget his native country, nor lose the recollections of his family, his friends, and the companions of his youth, the desire of seeing mine, and of once more embracing my dear brother, took so powerful a hold of my mind, that I felt myself sufficiently bold and strong again to undergo the fatigue of so long a journey. I instantly therefore set about all the necessary preparations and began my travels. It is useless to dwell upon the length of time I was thus employed, the various obstacles I had to encounter, and all the fatigue I suffered, before I

arrived at the end of my labours. Nothing, however, so much mortified me, or gave me so much pain, in all my travels, as the intelligence of the death of my poor brother, whom I so tenderly loved, and whose memory I must ever regard with a respect truly fraternal. I have traced almost every feature of his countenance in the face of my nephew ; and it was this that enabled me to distinguish him from the other young persons with whom he was. He can inform you in what manner I received the melancholy news that my brother no longer lived. We must, however, praise God for all things ; and I console myself in finding him again alive in his son, who thus preserves his most remarkable features."

The African magician, who perceived that Aladdin's mother was very much affected at this conversation about her husband, changed the subject, and turning towards Aladdin, he asked him his name. "I am called Aladdin," he answered. "Well then, Aladdin," said the magician, "what do you employ yourself about? Are you acquainted with any trade?"

At this speech Aladdin hung down his head : but his mother, seeing this, answered for him. "Aladdin," she said, "is a very idle boy. His father did all he could, while he was alive, to make him learn his business, without success ; and since his death, in spite of everything I can say, he will learn nothing, but leads the idle life of a vagabond. He spends all his time at play with other boys, as you saw him, without considering that he is no longer a child ; and if you cannot make him ashamed of himself, and profit by your advice, I fear he will never be good for anything. He knows very well that his father left us nothing at his death to live upon, and sees that though I pass the whole day in spinning cotton, yet that I can hardly get bread for us to eat."

Saying this, the good woman burst into tears. "This is not right, Aladdin," said the African magician, "you must, nephew, think of supporting yourself, and working for your bread. There is a variety of trades. Perhaps that which your father followed displeases you, and you would rather be brought up to some other. Come, come, don't conceal your opinion, give it freely, and I may perhaps assist you." As he found that Aladdin made him no answer, he went on thus : "If you have an objection to learning any trade, and yet wish to be a respectable and honest character, I will procure you a shop, and furnish it with rich stuffs, and fine sorts of linens ; you shall sell the goods, and with the money you make, you shall buy other merchandise ; and in this manner your life will pass very respectably. Consult your own inclinations, and tell me candidly what you think of the plan. You will always find me ready to perform my promise."

This offer flattered the vanity of Aladdin very much ; because he knew well enough that the shops which contained goods of this sort were much frequented, and the merchants themselves well dressed, and highly esteemed. He hinted, therefore, to the African magician, whom he considered as his uncle, that he was more inclined to the latter plan, and that he should all his life continue sensible of the obligation he was under to him. "Since then this employment is agreeable to you," replied the magician, "I will take you with me to-morrow, and have you properly and handsomely dressed, as becomes one of the richest merchants of this city, and then we will procure a shop in the way I propose."

The mother of Aladdin, who had not hitherto been convinced that the magician was in fact the brother of her husband, no longer doubted it, when he promised to do so much good for her son. She thanked him sincerely for his kind intentions, and, after having charged Aladdin to conduct himself so as to prove worthy of the good fortune his uncle had led him to expect, she served up the supper. The conversation, during the whole time the supper lasted, turned on the same subject, and continued till the magician, who perceived that the night was far advanced, took leave of Aladdin and his mother, and retired.

The African magician did not fail to return the next morning to the widow of Mustafa, the tailor, as he had promised. He took Aladdin away with him, and con-

ducted him to a merchant's where ready-made clothes suited to every description of people, and made of the finest stuffs, were sold. He made Aladdin try on such as seemed to fit him, and, when Aladdin had made choice of one, the magician bought it, together with everything that was necessary to complete the dress, and paid for the whole, without asking the merchant to make any abatement.

When Aladdin saw himself thus magnificently dressed from head to foot, he returned his uncle a thousand thanks ; the magician, on his part, again promised never to forsake him. He then conducted Aladdin to the most frequented parts of the city, particularly where the shops of the most opulent merchants were ; and when he was come to the street where the shops of fine stuffs and linens were, he said to Aladdin, "You will soon become a merchant such as one of these. It is proper that you should frequent this place, and become acquainted with them." After this, he conducted him out at a gate that led to some magnificent palaces, to each of which there was a beautiful garden, in which they had the liberty of walking. At each palace they came to, he asked Aladdin if it were not very beautiful ; while the latter often prevented this question by exclaiming, when a new one presented itself : "O ! uncle, here is one much more beautiful than those we have before seen." In the meantime they kept going on into the country, and the cunning magician, who wanted to go still further, for the purpose of putting a design, which he had in his head, into execution, went into one of these gardens, and sat down by the side of a large basin of pure water, which received its supplies through the jaws of a bronze lion. He then pretended to be very tired, in order to give Aladdin an opportunity of resting. "My dear nephew," he said, "you must be fatigued, as well as myself. Let us rest ourselves here a little while, and get fresh strength to pursue our walk."

When they were seated, the magician took out from a piece of linen cloth, which was attached to his girdle, various sorts of fruits, and some cakes, with which he had provided himself ; he then spread them all on the bank before them. He divided a cake between himself and Aladdin, and gave him leave to eat whatever fruit he liked best. While they were eating, he gave his pretended nephew much good advice, desiring him to leave off playing with boys, and to associate with intelligent and prudent men ; to pay every attention to them, and to profit from their conversation. "You will very soon," said he, "be a man yourself, and you cannot too soon accustom yourself to their manners and behaviour." When they had finished their slight repast, they got up, and pursued their way by the side of gardens which were separated from each other by a small ditch, that served chiefly to mark the limits of each, and not to prevent the communication between them ; the honesty and good understanding of the inhabitants of this city made it unnecessary for them to take any other means of preventing any injury from being done to each other. The African magician insensibly led Aladdin on, much further than the gardens extended ; and they walked on through the country, till they came into the neighbourhood of the mountains.

Aladdin, who had never in his whole life before taken so long a walk, felt himself very much tired. "Where are we going, my dear uncle?" said he ; "I can see nothing but hills and mountains before us. And if we go on any further, I know not whether I shall have strength enough to walk back to the city."—"Take courage, nephew," replied his pretended uncle, "I wish to show you another garden, which far surpasses all you have hitherto seen. It is not far from hence ; and after your arrival, you will readily own how sorry you would have been to have come thus near it and not gone on to see it." Aladdin was persuaded to proceed, and the magician led him on considerably further, amusing him all the time with entertaining stories to beguile the way.

They at length came to a narrow valley, situated between two mountains, of nearly the same height. This was the particular spot to which the magician wished to bring Aladdin, in order to put in execution the grand

project which was the sole cause of his coming to Cathay. "We shall now," he said to Aladdin, "go no further, and I shall here unfold to your view some extraordinary things, hitherto unknown to mortals; and which, when you shall have seen, you will thank me a thousand times for having made you an eye-witness of. I am now going to strike a light, and do you, in the meantime, collect all the dry sticks and leaves that you can find, in order to make a fire."

There were so many pieces of dry sticks scattered about this place, that Aladdin had collected more than was sufficient for his purpose by the time the magician had lighted his match. He then set them on fire; and as soon as they were in a blaze, the African threw a certain perfume, which he had ready in his hand, upon them. A thick and dense smoke immediately arose, which seemed to unfold itself in consequence of some mysterious words pronounced by the magician, and which Aladdin did not in the least comprehend. At the same instant, the ground slightly shook, and opening in the spot where they stood, discovered a square stone about a foot and a half across, placed horizontally, with a brass ring fixed in the centre, for the purpose of lifting it up.

Aladdin was dreadfully alarmed at all these things, and was about to run away, when the magician, to whom his presence in this mysterious affair was absolutely necessary, stopped him in an angry manner, and gave him, at the same moment, a blow which not only beat him down, but nearly knocked some of his teeth out. Poor Aladdin, with tears in his eyes, and the blood streaming from his mouth, and trembling in every limb, got up. "My dear uncle," he cried, "what have I done to deserve such severity?"—"I have my reasons for it," replied the magician, "I am your uncle, and consider myself as your father, and you ought not to make me any answer. Do not, however, my boy," added he in a milder tone of voice, "be at all afraid; I desire nothing of you, but that you obey me most implicitly; and this you must do, if you wish to render yourself worthy of, and to profit by, the great advantages I mean to afford you." These fine speeches of the magician in some measure lessened the fright of Aladdin, and when the former saw him less alarmed, "You have observed," he said, "what I have done by virtue of my perfumes, and the words that I pronounced. You are now to be informed that under the stone, which you see here, there is a concealed treasure, destined for you; and which will one day render you richer than any of the most powerful potentates of the earth. It is moreover the fact, that no one in the world but you can be permitted to touch, or lift up, this stone, and go beneath it. Even I, myself, am not able to approach it, and to take possession of the treasure which is under it. And, in order to ensure your success, you must observe and execute in every respect, even to the minutest point, what I am now going to instruct you in. This is a matter of the greatest consequence both to you and to myself."

Wrapped in astonishment at everything he had seen and heard, and full of the idea of this treasure, which the magician said was to make him for ever happy, Aladdin forgot everything else that had passed. "Well, my dear uncle," he exclaimed, as he got up, "what must I do? Tell me, I am ready to obey you in everything."—"I heartily rejoice, my boy," replied the magician, embracing Aladdin, "that you have made so good a resolution. Come to me; take hold of this ring, and lift up the stone."—"I am not strong enough, uncle," said Aladdin, "you must help me."—"No, no," answered the African magician, "you have no occasion for my assistance; we shall neither of us do any good if I attempt to help you; you must lift it up entirely by yourself. Pronounce only the name of your father and your grandfather, take hold of the ring, and lift it; it will come without any difficulty." Aladdin did exactly as the magician told him; he raised the stone without any trouble, and laid it by the side of him.

When the stone was taken away, a small cavern was

visible, between three and four feet deep, at the bottom of which there appeared a door, with steps to go down still lower. "You must now, my good boy," said the African magician to Aladdin, "observe very exactly everything I am going to tell you. Go down into this cavern, and when you have come to the bottom of the steps which you see, you will perceive an open door, which leads into a large vaulted space, divided into three successive halls. In each of these you will perceive, on both sides of you, four bronze vases as large as tubs, full of gold and silver; but you must take particular care not to touch any of it. When you get into the first hall, take up your robe and bind it round you. Then observe and go on to the second without stopping, and from thence in the same manner to the third. Above all, however, be very particular not to go near to the walls, nor even to touch them with your robe; for if any part of your dress comes in contact with them, your instant death will be the inevitable consequence. This is the reason of my having desired you to fasten your robe firmly round you. At the extremity of the third hall there is a door which leads to a garden, planted with beautiful trees, all of which are full of fruit. Go on straight forward, and pursue a path which you will perceive, and which will bring you to the bottom of a flight of fifty steps, at the top of which is a terrace. When you shall have ascended the terrace, you will observe a niche before you, in which there is a lighted lamp. Take the lamp, and extinguish it. Then throw out the wick, and the liquid that is within, and put it in your bosom. When you have done this, bring it to me. Do not be afraid of staining your dress, as what is within the lamp is not oil; and when you have thrown it out, the lamp will dry directly. If you should feel yourself very desirous of gathering any of the fruit in the garden, you may do so."

When the magician had given these directions to Aladdin, he took off a ring, which he had on one of his fingers, and put it on to his pretended nephew; telling him, at the same time, that it was a preservative against every evil that might otherwise happen to him, "Go, my child," added he, "descend boldly, we shall now, both of us, become immensely rich for the rest of our lives."

Aladdin gave a spring, jumped into the opening, and went down to the bottom of the steps. He found the three halls, and passed through them with the greatest precaution possible; as he was fearful he might be killed, if he did not most strictly observe all the directions he had received. He went on to the garden, and ascended to the terrace without stopping. He took the lamp, as it stood lighted in the niche, threw out its contents, and, observing that it was, as the magician had said, quite dry, he put it into his bosom. He then came down the terrace, and stopped in the garden to examine the fruit, which he had only seen for an instant as he passed along. The trees of this garden were all full of the most extraordinary fruit. Each tree bore a sort of a different colour. Some were white, others sparkling and transparent, like crystal; some were red, and of different shades, others green, blue, violet; some of a yellowish hue, in short, of almost every colour. The white were pearls; the sparkling and transparent were diamonds; the deep red were rubies, the paler, a particular sort of ruby, called balass; the green, emeralds; the blue, turquoises; the violet, amethysts; those tinged with yellow, sapphires; in the same way, all the other coloured fruits were varieties of precious stones; and the whole of them were of the largest size, and more perfect than were ever seen in the world. Aladdin, who knew neither their beauty nor their value, was not at all struck with the appearance of them, which did not the least suit his taste, like the figs, grapes, and other excellent fruits common in Cathay. He thought they were all pieces of coloured glass, and did not therefore attach any other value to them. The variety, however, and contrast of so many beautiful colours, as well as the brilliancy and extraordinary size of each sort, nevertheless tempted him to gather some of each. And he took so many of every colour, that he filled both his pockets, as well as his two new purses, that the magician had bought for him at the time he made him a present of his new dress; and as his

pockets, which were already full, could not hold his two purses, he fastened them on each side of his girdle, or sash, and also wrapped some in its folds, as it was of silk, and very wide. In this manner he carried them so as they could not fall out. He did not even neglect to fill his bosom quite full, between his robe and shirt.

Laden in this manner with immense treasure, though ignorant of its value, Aladdin made haste through the three halls, in order that he might not make the African magician wait too long. Having proceeded through them with the same caution as before, he began to ascend the steps he had come down, and presented himself at the entrance of the cave, where the magician was impatiently waiting for him. As soon as Aladdin had perceived him, he called out, "Give me your hand, uncle, to help me up."

"You had better, my dear boy," replied the magician, "first give me the lamp, as that will only embarrass you."—"It is not at all in my way," said Aladdin, "and I will give it to you when I am out." The magician still persevered in wishing to get the lamp before he helped Aladdin out of the cave; but the latter had in fact so covered it with the fruit of the trees, that he absolutely refused to give it till he had got out of the cave. The African magician was then in the greatest despair at the obstinate resistance the boy made; he put himself into the most violent rage; he threw a little perfume upon the fire, which he had taken care to keep up, and he had hardly pronounced two magic words, before the stone, which served to shut up the entrance to the cavern, returned of its own accord to the place, with all the earth over it, exactly in the same state it was when the magician and Aladdin first arrived there.

There is no doubt but that this African magician was not the brother of Mustafa, the tailor, as he had formerly boasted, and consequently not the uncle of Aladdin. He was most probably originally of Africa, being born there; as that is a country where magic is more studied than in any other: he had given himself up to it from his earliest youth; and after nearly forty years, spent in enchantments, experiments in geomancy, fumigations, and reading books of magic, he had at length discovered that there was in the universe a certain wonderful lamp, the possession of which would make him the most powerful monarch of the universe, if he were so fortunate as to obtain it. By a late experiment in geomancy he had discovered that this lamp was in a subterraneous place in the middle of Cathay, in the very spot, and under the very circumstances that

have just been detailed. Thoroughly persuaded with the truth of this discovery, he had come from the furthest part of Africa, and after a long and painful journey, had arrived in the city that was nearest this treasure. But though the lamp was certainly in the place which he had found out, yet he was nevertheless not permitted to take it away himself, nor to go in person to the very spot where it was. It was absolutely necessary that another person should go down to take it, and then put it into his hands. It was therefore for this reason that he had addressed himself to Aladdin, who seemed to him to be an artless youth, and well adapted to perform the service he expected from him; and he had resolved, as soon as he had got the lamp from him, to raise the last fumigation, pronounce the two magic words which produced the

effect already seen, and sacrifice poor Aladdin to his avarice and wickedness, that there might be no witness of his being in possession of the lamp. The blow he had given Aladdin, as well as the authority he exercised over him, were only for the purpose of accustoming him to fear him, and obey all his orders without hesitation; that when Aladdin had got possession of the wonderful lamp, he might instantly deliver it to him. The reverse, however, of what he both wished and expected came to pass; for he was so much in a hurry to put an end to poor Aladdin, only because he was afraid that while he was contesting the matter with him some person might come and make that public which he wished to be quite secret, that he completely failed in his object.

When the magician found all his hopes and expectations forever blasted, he had only one method to pursue, and that was to re-

turn to Africa, which he in fact did the very same day. He pursued his journey along the most private roads, in order to avoid the city where he had met with Aladdin. He was also afraid to meet any person who might have seen him walk out with him, and come back without him.

When Aladdin found himself, as it were, buried alive, he called aloud a thousand times to his uncle, telling him he was ready to give him the lamp. But all his cries were useless, and having no other means to make himself heard, he remained in perfect darkness. Giving at length a little cessation to his tears, he went down to the bottom of the flight of stairs, intending to look for the light in the garden where he had before been. But the walls, which had been opened by enchantment, were now shut, by the same means. He felt all around him, to the right and left, several times, but could not discover the least opening.



ALADDIN APPROACHES THE LAMP.

He then redoubled his cries and tears, sat down upon the step of his dungeon, without the least ray of hope ever again to see the light of day, and with the melancholy conviction that he should only pass from the darkness which now encompassed him to the shades of an inevitable and speedy death.

Aladdin remained two days in this state, without either eating or drinking. On the third day, regarding his death as certain, he lifted up his hands, and, joining them as in the act of prayer, he wholly resigned himself to the will of God, and uttered in a loud tone of voice: "There is no strength or power but in the high and great God." In this action of joining his hands, he happened, without at all thinking of it, to rub the ring which the African magician had put upon his finger, and of the virtue of which he was as yet ignorant. Upon its being thus rubbed, a Genie of a most enormous figure, and most horrid countenance, instantly rose, as it were, out of the earth before him; he was so tall, that his head touched the vaulted roof, and he addressed these words to Aladdin: "What do you wish? I am ready to obey you as your slave; as the slave of him who has the ring on his finger; I and the other slaves of the ring."

At any other moment, and on any other occasion, Aladdin, who was totally unaccustomed to such appearances, would have been so frightened at the sight of such a wonderful figure, he would have been unable to speak; but he was so entirely pre-occupied with the danger of his situation, that he answered without the least hesitation, "Whoever you are, take me, if you are able, out of this place." He had scarcely pronounced these words, when the earth opened, and he found himself on the outside of the cave, and at the very spot to which the magician had brought him. Looking round towards the city, he perceived it surrounded by the gardens, and thus knew the road he had come with the magician. He returned the same way, thanking God for having again suffered him to behold and revisit the face of the earth, which he had quite despaired of doing.

He arrived at the city, but it was with great difficulty that he got home. When he was within the door, the joy he experienced at again seeing his mother, added to the weak state he was in, from not having eaten anything for the space of three days, made him faint, and it was some time before he came to himself. His mother, who had already wept for him as lost or dead, seeing him in this state, did not omit anything that could tend to restore him to life. At length he recovered, and the first thing he said to his mother was, "Bring me something, my dear mother, to eat, before you do anything else. I have tasted nothing these three days." His mother instantly set what she had before him. "My dear child," said she, at the same moment, "do not hurry yourself, it is dangerous; eat also but little, and at your leisure. Do not even speak to me; you will have plenty of time to relate to me everything that has happened to you, when you shall have regained your strength. I am sufficiently satisfied at seeing you once more, after all the affliction I have suffered since Friday, and all the trouble I have also taken to learn what was become of you, when I found the night approach and you did not return home."

Aladdin followed his mother's advice; he ate slowly, and not a great deal, and drank sparingly. "I have great reason, my dear mother," said he, when he had done, "to complain of you, for putting me in the power of a man whose object was to destroy me, and who, at this very moment, supposes my death to be so sure, he cannot doubt either that I am no longer alive, or at least that I shall not remain so another day. But you took him to be my uncle, and I was also equally deceived. Indeed, how could we suppose him to be anything else, as he almost overwhelmed me with his kindness and generosity, and made me so many promises of future advantage. But I must tell you, mother, that he was a traitor and a cheat."

Aladdin then related to his mother everything that had happened to him and the magician. He omitted no circumstance of what passed, or what had he seen in

going backwards or forwards through the three halls, in the garden, or on the terrace, whence he had taken the wonderful lamp, which he took out of his bosom and showed to his mother, as well as the transparent and different-coloured fruits that he had gathered as he returned through the garden, all of which he gave his mother, who however did not set much value upon them. The fruits, however, were in fact precious stones; and the lustre which they threw round, by means of a lamp that hung in the chamber, and which almost equalled the sun in brightness, ought to have informed her they were of the greatest value; but the mother of Aladdin had no greater knowledge of their value than her son. She had been brought up in a middle station in life, and her husband had never been rich enough to bestow any jewels upon her. It was not therefore at all surprising that she considered them as things of no value, and only fit to please the eye by the variety of their colours. Aladdin, therefore, put them all behind one of the cushions of the sofa, on which they were sitting.

Aladdin had no sooner concluded his recital, than his mother began to abuse this impostor in the strongest terms. She called him a traitor, a barbarian, a cheat, an assassin, a magician, the enemy and destroyer of the human race. "Yes, my child," she exclaimed, "he is a magician; and magicians are public evils. They hold communication with demons by means of their sorceries and enchantments. Blessed be God, that he has not suffered the wickedness of this wretch to have its full effect upon you. Your death would have been inevitable if God had not come to your assistance, and you had not implored His aid."

As Aladdin had not been able to take any repose in the subterranean vault in which he had been, as it were, buried with the idea of certain destruction, it is no wonder that he passed the whole of that night in the most profound sleep, and that it was even late the next morning before he awoke. He at last got up, and the first thing he said to his mother was, that he was very hungry, and that she could not oblige him more than by giving him something for breakfast. "Alas! my child," replied his mother, "I have not a morsel of bread to give you. You ate last night all the trifling remains of food there was in the house. Have, however, a little patience, and it shall not be long before I will bring you some. I have a little cotton of my own spinning, which I will go and sell, and purchase something for our dinner."—"Keep your cotton, mother," said Aladdin, "for another time, and give me the lamp which I brought with me yesterday. I will go and sell that, and the money it will fetch will serve us for breakfast and dinner too, nay, perhaps also for supper."

Aladdin's mother took the lamp from the place she had put it in. "Here it is," she said to her son, "but it is, I think, very dirty. If I were to clean it a little, perhaps it might sell better." She then took some water and a little fine sand to clean it with. But she had scarcely begun to rub this lamp, when instantly, and while her son was present, a hideous and gigantic Genie rose out of the ground before her, and cried with a voice as loud as thunder: "What do you wish? I am ready to obey you as your slave, and the slave of those who have the lamp in their hands; I and the other slaves of the lamp." The mother of Aladdin was not in a condition to answer this address. She was unable to endure the sight of a figure so hideous as that of the Genie; and her fears were so great, that she fell down in a fainting fit.

As Aladdin had once before seen a similar appearance in the cavern, and did not either lose his presence of mind, or his judgment, he instantly seized the lamp; and supplied his mother's place by answering for her in a firm tone of voice, "I am hungry, bring me something to eat." The Genie disappeared, and returned the moment after with a large silver basin, which he carried on his head, and twelve covered dishes of the same material, filled with the nicest meat, properly arranged, and six loaves as white as snow, upon as many plates; two bottles of the most excellent wine, and two silver cups in his hand.

He placed them all upon the sofa, and instantly vanished. All this passed so quickly, that Aladdin's mother had not recovered from fainting, before the Genie had disappeared the second time. Aladdin endeavoured to bring her to herself, but at the very instant he was going to set about it, whether her scattered spirits returned of themselves, or that the smell of the dishes, which the Genie had brought, produced the effect, she quite recovered. "My dear mother," cried Aladdin, "there is nothing the matter. Get up, and come and eat; here is what will put you in good spirits again; and at the same time satisfy my violent appetite. Come, do not let us suffer these good things to get cold before we begin."

His mother was extremely astonished when she beheld the large basin, with twelve dishes, the six loaves, the two bottles of wine and two cups, and perceived the delicious odour that exhaled from them. "My child," she said, "how came all this abundance here, and to whom are we obliged for such liberality? The sultan surely cannot have got acquainted with our poverty, and have had compassion upon us?"—"My good mother," replied Aladdin, "come and sit down, and begin to eat; you are as much in want of something as I am. I will tell you of everything when we have broken our fast." They then sat down, and both of them ate with the greater appetite, as neither mother nor son had before ever seen a table so well covered.

During the repast, the mother of Aladdin could not help stopping frequently to look at and admire the basin and dishes; although she was not quite sure whether they were silver or any other material, so little was she accustomed to things of this sort; and, in fact, without regarding their value, of which she was ignorant, it was only the novelty of their appearance that attracted her admiration. Nor indeed was her son better informed than herself. Although they both merely intended to make a simple breakfast, yet they sat so long, that the hour of dining came before they had risen. When they had made an end of their double repast, they found enough remaining, not only for supper, but even for two as good meals the next day as they had just made.

When Aladdin's mother had taken away the things, and put aside what they had not consumed, she came and seated herself on the sofa, near her son. "I now am waiting, my boy," she said, "for you to satisfy my impatient curiosity, and to hear the account you have promised me." Aladdin then related to her everything that had passed between him and the Genie, from the time her alarm had made her faint, till she again came to herself. At this discourse of her son and the account of the appearance of the Genie, his mother was in the greatest astonishment. "But what do you tell me, child, about your Genie? Never since I was born have I heard of any person of my acquaintance that has seen one. How comes it then, that this villainous Genie should have presented himself to me? Why did he not rather address himself to you, to whom he had before appeared in the subterraneous cavern?"

"Mother," replied Aladdin, "the Genie who appeared just now to you is not the same that appeared to me. In some things, indeed, they resemble each other, being both as large as giants, but they are very different both in their countenance and dress, and they belong to different masters. If you recollect, he whom I saw called himself the slave of the ring which I had on my finger; and the one who appeared to you was the slave of the lamp you had in your hand, but I believe you did not hear him, as you seemed to faint the instant he began to speak."—"What," cried his mother, "is it then your lamp that was the reason why this cursed Genie addressed himself to me, rather than to you? Ah! child, take the lamp out of my sight, and put it where you please, so that I never touch it again. Indeed, I would rather that you should throw it away or sell it, than run the risk of almost dying with fright by again touching it. And if you would also follow my advice, you would put away the ring as well. We ought to have no commerce with Genii; they are demons, and our prophet has told us so."

"With your permission, however, my dear mother,"

replied Aladdin, "I shall take care how I sell this lamp in a hurry, which has already been so useful to us both. Do you not see what it has procured us, and that it will also continue to furnish us with enough for our entire support? You may easily judge, as well as myself, that it was not for nothing that my pretended wicked uncle gave himself so much trouble, and undertook so long and fatiguing a journey, since it was merely to get possession of this wonderful lamp, which he preferred to all the gold and silver which he knew was in the three halls, and which I myself saw, as he had before said I should. He was too well acquainted with the worth and qualities of this lamp to wish for any other part of that immense treasure. Since chance then has discovered its virtues to us, let us profit by them; but in such a manner that we shall not make any bustle, and by such means draw down the envy and jealousy of our neighbours. I will take it indeed out of your sight, and put it where I shall be able to find it whenever I shall have occasion for it, since you are so much alarmed at the appearance of Genii. Neither can I resolve to throw the ring away. Without this ring you would never have seen me again; and even if I should now have been alive, it would have been almost the last moment of my existence. You must permit me, then, to keep and to wear it always very carefully on my finger. Who can tell if some danger may not one day or other again happen to me, which neither you nor I can now foresee, and from which it may deliver me?"

As the arguments of Aladdin appeared very just and reasonable, his mother had nothing to say in reply. "Do as you like, my son," she cried; "as for me, I wish to have nothing at all to do with Genii."

After supper, the next evening, nothing remained of the good provisions which the Genie had brought. The following morning, Aladdin, who did not like to wait till hunger compelled him, took one of the silver plates under his robe, and went out early, in order to sell it. He addressed himself to a Jew, whom he happened to meet. Aladdin took him aside, and showing him the plate, asked him if he would buy it.

The Jew, who was both clever and cunning, took the plate and examined it. He had no sooner ascertained that it was good silver, than he desired to know how much he expected for it. Aladdin, who knew not its value, nor had ever had any dealings of the sort before, was satisfied with saying that he supposed the Jew knew what the plate was worth, and that he would depend upon his honour. Being uncertain whether Aladdin was acquainted with its real value or not, he took out of his purse a piece of gold, which was exactly worth one seventy-second part as much as the plate, and offered it to Aladdin. The latter eagerly took the money, and as soon as he had got it, went away so quickly that the Jew, not satisfied with the exorbitant profit he had made by this bargain, was very sorry he had not foreseen Aladdin's ignorance of the value of the plate which he had brought to sell, and in consequence offered him much less for it.

In his way home, Aladdin stopped at a baker's shop, where he bought enough bread for his mother and himself, which he paid for out of his piece of gold, and received the change. When he got back, he gave what remained to his mother, who went to the market, and purchased as much provision as would last them for several days.

Thus they continued to live in an economical manner; that is, till Aladdin had sold all the twelve dishes one after the other, to the same Jew, exactly as he had done the first, when they found they wanted more money. The Jew, who had given him a piece of gold for the first, durst not offer him less for the other dishes, for fear of losing so good a bargain. He bought them all therefore at the same rate. When the money for the last plate was expended, Aladdin had recourse to the basin, which was at least ten times as heavy as any of the others. He wished to carry this to his usual merchant, but its great weight prevented him; he was obliged, therefore, to go and look for the Jew, and bring him to his mother's. After having examined the weight of the basin, the Jew counted out ten pieces of gold, with which Aladdin was satisfied.

While these ten pieces lasted, they were employed in the daily expense of the house. In the meantime, Aladdin, thus accustomed to lead a sort of idle life, abstained from going to play with other boys of his own age, from the time of his adventure with the African magician. He now passed his days in walking about, or conversing with such men as he got acquainted with. Sometimes he stopped in the shops belonging to large and extensive merchants, where he listened to the conversation of such people of distinction and education as came there, and who made these shops a sort of meeting-place. The information he thus acquired gave him a slight knowledge of the world.

When nothing remained of his ten pieces of gold, Aladdin

The Genie disappeared, and in a short time returned, loaded with a similar service to that he had brought before, which he placed upon the sofa, and vanished in an instant.

As Aladdin's mother was well aware of the intention of her son, she had gone out on business, that she might not even be in the house when the Genie again made his appearance. She soon after came in, and saw the table and sideboard well set out; nor was she less surprised at the effect of the lamp this time than she had been at the first. Aladdin and his mother immediately placed themselves at the table; and after they had finished their repast, there still remained sufficient food to last them two days.

When Aladdin again found that all his provisions were



THE GENIE OF THE LAMP APPEARS TO THE WIDOW MUSTAFA.

had recourse to the lamp. He took it up, and looked for the particular spot that his mother had rubbed. As he easily perceived the place where the sand had touched it, he applied his hand to the same place, and the same Genie whom he had before seen instantly appeared. But, as Aladdin had rubbed the lamp in a more gentle manner than his mother had done, the Genie spoke to him also in a more softened tone. "What do you wish?" said he to him, in the same words as before; "I am ready to obey you, as your slave, and the slave of those who have the lamp in their hands; I, and the other slaves of the lamp."—"I am hungry," cried Aladdin, "bring me something to eat."

gone, and that he had no money to purchase any, he took one of the silver dishes, and went to look for the Jew, whom he was before acquainted with, in order to sell it him. As he walked along, he happened to pass a goldsmith's shop belonging to a respectable old man whose probity and general honesty were unimpeachable. The goldsmith, who perceived him, called him to come into the shop. "My son," said he, "I have often seen you pass, loaded as you are at present, and join such a Jew; and then, in a short time, come back again empty-handed. I have thought that you went and sold him what you carried. But perhaps you are ignorant that this Jew is a

very great cheat ; nay, that he will even deceive his own brethren, and that no one who knows him will have any dealings with him. Now what I have more to say to you is only this, and I wish you to act exactly as you like in the matter ; if you will show me what you are now carrying, and are going to sell it, I will faithfully give you what it is worth, if it be anything in my way of business ; if not, I will introduce you to other merchants, who will not deceive you."

The hope of making a little more of his silver dish induced Aladdin to take it out from under his robe, and show it to the goldsmith. The old man, who knew at first sight that the dish was of the finest silver, asked him

he made him observe, that, according to the weight of the dish, it was worth seventy-two pieces of gold, which he immediately counted out to him. "This," said he, "is the exact value of your dish ; if you doubt it, you may go to any one of our goldsmiths you please ; and if you find that he will give you any more for it, I promise to forfeit to you double the sum. All we get is by the fashion or workmanship of the goods we buy in this manner ; and this is what even the most equitable Jews do not." Aladdin thanked the goldsmith for the good advice he had given him, and for the future he carried his dishes to no one else. He took the basin also to his shop, and always received the value, according to its weight.



ALADDIN SHOWS THE SILVER DISH TO A JEWELLER.

if he had sold any like this to the Jew, and asked how much he received for them. Aladdin ingenuously told him that he had sold twelve, and that the Jew had given him a piece of gold for each. "Ah ! the thief," cried the merchant ; "but, my son, what is done cannot be undone, and let us therefore think of it no more ; but, in letting you see what your dish, which is made of the finest silver we ever use in our shops, is really worth, we shall know to what extent the Jew has cheated you."

The goldsmith took his scales, weighed the dish, and after explaining to Aladdin how much a mark of silver was, what it was worth, and the different divisions of it,

Although Aladdin and his mother had an inexhaustible source for money in their lamp, by which they could procure what they wished, and whenever they wanted anything, they nevertheless continued always to live with the same frugality as before, except that Aladdin put a little apart for some innocent amusements, and to procure some things that were necessary in the house. His mother took the care of her dress upon herself, and supplied it from the cotton she spun. From such a quiet mode of living it is easy to conjecture how long the money arising from the sale of the twelve dishes and the basin, at the rate Aladdin had sold them at, must have lasted them.

They lived in this manner for some years, with the profitable assistance which Aladdin occasionally procured from the lamp.

During this interval, Aladdin did not fail to resort frequently to those places where persons of distinction were to be met with; such as the shops of the most considerable merchants in gold and silver stuffs, in silks, fine linens, and jewellery; and by sometimes taking a part in their conversations, he insensibly acquired the style and manners of the best company. It was at the jewellers' more particularly that he became undeceived in the idea he had formed, that the transparent fruits he had gathered in the garden which contained the lamp were only coloured glass, and that he learnt they were jewels of inestimable price. By means of observing all kinds of precious stones that were bought and sold in these shops, he acquired a knowledge of their value; and as he did not see any that could be compared with those he possessed, either in brilliancy or in size, he concluded that he was possessed of a most invaluable treasure. He had, however, the prudence not to mention it to any one, not even to his mother.

One day, as he was walking in the city, Aladdin heard a proclamation of the sultan, ordering all persons to shut up their shops and retire into their houses, until the princess Badroul Boudour, the daughter of the sultan, had passed by on her way to the bath, and again returned.

This public order created in Aladdin a curiosity to see the princess unveiled; which, however, he could not accomplish but by going to some house where he was acquainted and by looking through the lattices. Yet, this by no means satisfied him, because the princess usually wore a veil as she went to the bath. He thought at last of a plan which by its success completely gratified his curiosity. He went and placed himself behind the door of the bath, which was so constructed that he could not fail to see her face.

Aladdin did not wait long in his place of concealment before the princess made her appearance; and he saw her through a crevice perfectly well, without being at all seen. She was accompanied by a great crowd of females and eunuchs, who walked on each side of her, and others who followed her. When she had come within three or four paces of the door of the bath, she lifted up the veil, which not only concealed her face, but encumbered her, and thus gave Aladdin an opportunity of seeing her quite at his ease as she approached the door.

Till this moment, Aladdin had never seen any other female without her veil, except his mother, who was rather old, and who, even in her youth, had not possessed any beauty. He had no sooner beheld the princess Badroul Boudour, than he forgot that he had ever supposed all women similar to his mother. His opinions were now very different, and his heart could not help surrendering itself to the object whose appearance had so charmed him. The princess was, in fact, the most beautiful brunette that ever was seen. Her eyes were large, well placed, and full of fire; yet the expression of her countenance was sweet and modest; her nose was properly proportioned and pretty; her mouth small; her lips like vermilion, and beautifully formed; in short, every feature of her face was perfectly lovely and regular. It is, therefore, by no means wonderful that Aladdin was dazzled at beholding such a combination of charms, to which he had been hitherto a stranger. Besides all these perfections, the figure of the princess was elegant, and her air majestic.

Even after she had entered the bath Aladdin stood for some time like a man distracted. He at last came to himself, and recollecting that the princess had gone by, and that it would be perfectly useless for him to keep his station in order to see her come out, as her back would then be towards him, and she would also be veiled, he determined to quit his post and retire.

After he had got home, Aladdin was unable to conceal his disquietude and distress from his mother. She was much surprised to see him appear so melancholy, and with such

an unusually confused manner; and asked him if anything had happened to him, or if he were not well. He gave her, however, no answer whatever, and continued sitting on the sofa in a negligent manner for a great length of time, entirely taken up with retracing, in his imagination, the lovely image of the princess Badroul Boudour. His mother, who was employed in preparing supper, did not continue to trouble him. As soon as it was ready, she served it up close to him on the sofa, and sat down to table. But as she perceived that Aladdin was too much absorbed to attend to it, she invited him to partake of the cheer; but it was with great difficulty she could get him even to change his situation. He at length ate, but in a much more sparing manner than usual; casting down his eyes all the time, and keeping a profound silence.

It is not necessary to inquire how Aladdin passed the night, struck as he was with the beauty and charms of the princess Badroul Boudour; but the next morning, as he was sitting upon the sofa opposite his mother, who was spinning her cotton as usual, he addressed her as follows: "I am going, mother, to break the long silence I have kept since my return from the city yesterday morning. I am very certain, nay indeed I have perceived, that it has pained you. I was not ill, as you seemed to think; yet I can assure you that what I at this moment feel, and what I shall ever continue to feel, is much worse than any disease. I am myself ignorant of the nature of my feelings, but doubtless, when I have explained myself, you will understand them."

"It was not known in this quarter of the city," continued Aladdin, "and therefore you are of course ignorant of it, that the princess Badroul Boudour, the daughter of our sultan, went, after dinner yesterday, to the bath: I learnt this intelligence during my walk in the city. An order was consequently published, that all the shops should be shut up, and every one keep at home. As I was not far from the bath at the time, the desire I felt to see the princess unveiled made me take it into my head to place myself behind the door of the bath, supposing, as indeed it happened, that she might take off her veil just before she went into it. You recollect the situation of this door, and can therefore very well judge with what ease I could obtain a full sight of her, if what I conjectured should actually take place. She did, in fact, take off her veil in going in; and I had the happiness and supreme satisfaction of seeing this beautiful princess. This, my dear mother, is the true cause of the state you saw me in yesterday, and the reason of the silence I have hitherto kept. I feel such a violent passion for this princess, that I know not terms strong enough to express it; and as my ardent desire increases every instant, I am convinced it can only be satisfied by the possession of the amiable princess Badroul Boudour, whom I am resolved to ask in marriage of the sultan."

Aladdin's mother listened with the greatest attention to the whole account of her son, till he came to the last sentence; but when she heard that it was his intention to demand the princess Badroul Boudour in marriage, she could not help interrupting him with a most violent fit of laughter. Aladdin wished to resume his speech, but she prevented him. "Alas! my son," she cried, "what are you thinking of? You must surely have lost your senses to talk thus."—"Mother," replied Aladdin, "I assure you I have not lost my senses, I am perfectly in my right mind. I foresaw that you would reproach me with folly and extravagance; but, whatever you may say, nothing will prevent me from again declaring to you that my resolution to demand the princess Badroul Boudour of the sultan, her father, in marriage, is absolutely fixed."

"Truly, my son," replied his mother, very seriously, "I cannot help telling you that you seem entirely to have forgotten who you are; and even if you are determined to put this resolution in practice, I do not know who will have the audacity to make this request to the sultan."—"You yourself must," answered he instantly. "I!" cried his mother, in a tone of the greatest surprise: "I go to the sultan! Not I, indeed; I will take care how I engage in such an enterprise. And pray, son, who do

you suppose you are," she continued, "to have the impudence to aspire to the daughter of the sultan? Have you forgotten that you are the son of one of the poorest tailors in his capital, and that your mother's family cannot boast of anything better? Are you ignorant that sultans do not deign to bestow their daughters even upon the sons of other sultans, unless they have some chance of coming to the throne?"

"My dear mother," replied Aladdin, "I have already told you that I perfectly foresaw everything you have said, and am aware of all that you can add more; but neither your reasons nor your remonstrances will in the least change my sentiments. I have told you that I would demand the princess Badroul Boudour in marriage, and that you must make the request. It is a favour which I require of you, and ask with all the respect I owe to you; and I entreat you not to refuse me, unless you would rather see me die than, by granting it, give me life, as it were, a second time."

Aladdin's mother was very much embarrassed when she saw with what obstinacy her son persisted in his mad design. "My dear son," she said, "I am your mother, and like a good mother, I am ready to undertake anything reasonable for your sake. If this business were merely to ask the daughter of one of our neighbours, in a condition of life similar to yours, I would willingly employ all my abilities in the cause. And to hope for success, even in such a case, you ought to possess some little fortune, or at least be master of some business. When poor people like us wish to marry, the first thing we ought to think about is how to live. While you, not to mention the lowness of your birth, and the little merit or fortune you have, at once aspire to the highest degree of fortune, and pretend to nothing less than to ask in marriage the daughter of your sovereign, who need only open his lips to blast all your designs, and destroy you at once."

Aladdin listened with the greatest patience to everything his mother said in order to dissuade him from his purpose; "I readily acknowledge to you, my dear mother," he said, "that it is a great piece of rashness in me to dare to carry my pretensions so high as I do, and that it must also appear very inconsiderate to request you to go and propose this marriage to the sultan, without first having taken the proper means of procuring an audience and a favourable reception. I freely ask your pardon for doing so; but you must not wonder if the violence of the passion that possesses me has prevented me from thinking about everything that was necessary to procure me the gratification I seek."

"You say that it is customary for him who seeks an audience of the sultan to bear a present in his hand, and that I have nothing worthy to offer him. I agree with you about the present, and also that I never once thought of it. But with regard to what you say about my having nothing worthy of his acceptance, that is a different matter. Do you not remember, mother, what I brought home with me from the cave where I so narrowly escaped death, in the two purses, in my sash, and in my vest, and which we have both hitherto taken for coloured glass. I am now undeceived, and can inform you that they are precious stones of almost inestimable value, and exactly suitable to the state and dignity of a great sovereign. I became acquainted with their value by frequenting the shops of jewellers; and you may, I assure you, depend upon the truth of what I say. None of those which I have seen at our jewellers are to be compared with those we have, either for size or beauty; and yet the dealers set a very high price upon them. I am well persuaded such a present cannot but be very agreeable to the sultan. You have a porcelain dish sufficiently large, and of a very good shape for holding them. Bring it here, and let us see the effect it will produce, when we have arranged them according to their different colours."

Aladdin's mother brought the dish, and he took the precious stones out of the two purses, and arranged them. The effect they produced in broad day light by the variety of their colours, by their lustre and brilliancy, was so great

that both mother and son were absolutely dazzled, and were in the greatest astonishment, because they had both only seen them by the light of a lamp.

After having for some time admired the beauty of the present; "You cannot now," said Aladdin resuming the conversation, "excuse yourself any longer from going and presenting yourself to the sultan under the pretence that you have nothing to offer him. Here is a present which, in my opinion, will procure for you the most favourable reception."

Although the mother of Aladdin, notwithstanding its great beauty and brilliancy, did not think this present near so valuable as her son did, yet she nevertheless supposed it would be very acceptable; she was therefore aware that she had nothing to answer respecting that point. She then again recurred to the nature of the request which Aladdin wished her to make to the sultan; this was a constant source of disquietude to her. "I cannot, my son," she said, "possibly conceive that this present will produce the effect you wish, or that the sultan will look upon you with a favourable eye. And it becomes necessary for me to acquit myself with propriety in the business you wish me to undertake. I feel convinced I shall not have courage enough to carry me through, but be struck quite dumb; and thus not only lose all my labour, but the present also, which according to what you say, is most uncommonly rich and valuable."

As it was now very late, and the time of going to the palace to be presented to the sultan was past for that day, they let the matter rest till the next. Aladdin and his mother talked of nothing else during the rest of the day, and the former took every opportunity of saying to her all he could think of, to confirm her resolution of going to present herself to the sultan. But notwithstanding all that he could say, his mother could not be persuaded that she should ever succeed in this affair; and indeed there appeared every reason for her to be doubtful of it. "My dear child," said she, "even if the sultan should receive me as favourably as my regard for you would lead me to wish, and should listen with the greatest patience to the proposal you request me to make, will he not, even after so gracious a reception, inquire of me what property you possess, and where your estates are? for he will of course in the first instance rather ask about this matter than about your personal appearance; if, I say, he should ask me this question, what answer do you wish me to make?"

"Do not, mother, let us distress ourselves," replied Aladdin, "about a thing that may never happen. Let us first see how the sultan will receive you, and what answer he will give to your request. If he should wish to be informed of what you mention, I will find out some answer to make him. I put the greatest confidence in my lamp, by means of which we have been able for some years past to live in the manner we have done. It will not desert me when I have most need of it."

His mother had not a word to say to this speech of Aladdin. She might naturally suppose that the lamp which he mentioned would be able to perform much more astonishing things than simply to procure them the means of subsistence. This satisfied her; and at the same time smoothed all the difficulties that seemed to oppose themselves to the business she had promised to undertake for her son, respecting the sultan. Aladdin, who easily penetrated into his mother's thoughts, said to her: "Above all things, observe to keep this matter secret; for upon that depends all the success we may either of us expect in this affair." They then separated for the night, and retired to bed; but love, joined to the great schemes of aggrandisement which the son had in view, prevented him from passing the night so tranquilly as he wished. He got up at daybreak, and went immediately to call his mother. He was anxious that she should dress herself as soon as possible, in order that she might repair to the gate of the sultan's palace, and enter at the same time that the grand vizier, the subordinate viziers, and the other officers of state went into the divan or hall of audience, where the sultan always held his council in person.

Aladdin's mother did everything as her son wished. She took the porcelain dish, in which the present of jewels was, and folded it up in a very fine and white linen cloth. She then took another cloth, which was not so fine, and tied the four corners of it together, that she might carry it with less trouble. She afterwards set out, to the great joy of Aladdin, on the road towards the palace of the sultan. The grand vizier, accompanied by the other viziers and the proper officers of the court, had already gone in before she arrived at the gate. The crowd of persons who had business at the divan was very great. The doors were opened, and the mother of Aladdin went into the divan with the rest. It was a beautiful saloon, very spacious, and with a magnificent entrance. She stopped, and placed herself opposite to the throne of the sultan, near the grand vizier, and other officers who formed the council on both sides. The different parties who had suits to press were called up one after the other, according to the order in which their petitions had been presented; and their different affairs were heard, pleaded, and determined, till the usual hour of breaking up the council. The sultan then rose, took leave of the members, and went back to his apartment, into which he was followed by the grand vizier. The other viziers and officers, who formed the council, then went away, as also did all those whose private business had brought them there.

Aladdin's mother, who saw the sultan rise and retire, rightly imagined that he would not appear any more that day, as she observed that every one was going away: she therefore determined to return home. When Aladdin saw her come back with the present in her hand, he knew not at first what to think of the success of her journey. He could hardly open his mouth to inquire what intelligence she brought him, from the fear that she had something unfortunate to announce. This good woman who had never before set her foot within the walls of a palace, and of course knew not in the least the customs of the place, very soon relieved her son from the embarrassment in which he was, by saying to him with an air of gaiety: "I have seen the sultan, my son, and I am persuaded he has seen me also. I placed myself directly opposite him; and there was no person in the way to prevent his seeing me; but he was so much engaged in speaking with those on each side of him, that I really felt compassion to see the patience and trouble he had to listen to them. This lasted so long, that I believe, at length, he was quite worn out; for he got up before any one expected it and retired very suddenly, without staying to hear a great many others, who were all ranged in readiness to address him in their turn; and indeed, this gave me great pleasure, for I began to lose all patience, and was extremely tired with remaining on my feet so long. There was, however, no other restraint; and I will not fail to return to-morrow; the sultan will not then, perhaps, be so much engaged."

The next morning, quite as early as on the preceding day, Aladdin's mother set out for the sultan's palace with the present of jewels; but her journey was useless. She found the gate of the divan shut, and learned that the council never sat two days together, but alternately, and that she must come again on the following morning. She went back with this intelligence to her son, who was again obliged to exert his patience. She returned again to the palace six different times on the appointed days, always placing herself opposite to the sultan; but she was every time as unsuccessful as at first, and would probably have gone a hundred times as uselessly, if the sultan, who constantly saw her standing opposite to him every day the divan sat, had not taken notice of her. This is the more probable, as it was only those who had petitions to present, or causes to be heard, that approached the sultan, each in his turn, pleading his cause according to his rank; and Aladdin's mother was not in this situation.

One day, however, when the council was broken up, and the sultan had retired to his apartment, he said to the grand vizier: "For some time past, I have observed a certain woman who has come regularly every day I

hold my council, and who carries something in her hand, wrapped up in a linen cloth. She remains standing from the beginning of the audience till it is concluded; and always takes care to place herself opposite to me. Do you know what she wants?"

The grand vizier, who did not wish to appear ignorant of the matter, though in fact he knew no more about it than the sultan himself, replied: "Your majesty, sire, is not ignorant that women often make complaints upon the most trivial subjects; she appears to have come to your majesty with some complaint that they have sold her some bad meat, or something else of equal insignificance." This answer, however, did not satisfy the sultan. "The very next day the council sits," said he to the grand vizier, "if this woman returns, do not fail to call her, that I may hear what she has to say." The grand vizier only answered by kissing his hand, and placing it on his head, to show that he would rather lose it than fail in his duty.

The mother of Aladdin had already been so much in the habit of going to the palace on the days the council met, that she now thought it no trouble, provided she by these means proved to her son that she neglected nothing that depended upon her, and that he had therefore no reason to complain of her. She consequently returned to the palace the next day the council met, and placed herself near the entrance of the divan, opposite to the sultan, as had been her usual practice.

The grand vizier had not made his report of any business, before the sultan perceived Aladdin's mother. Touched with compassion at the excessive patience she had shown: "In the first place," said he to the grand vizier, "and for fear you should forget it, do you not observe the woman whom I mentioned to you the last time? Order her to come here, and we will begin by hearing what she has to say, and expedite her business." The grand vizier immediately pointed out this woman to the chief of the ushers, who was standing near him ready to receive his orders, and desired him to go and bring her before the sultan. The officer went directly to the mother of Aladdin, and having made a sign to her, she followed him to the foot of the throne, where he left her, and went back to his place near the grand vizier.

Aladdin's mother, following the example that so many others, whom she had seen approach the sultan, had set her, prostrated herself, with her face towards the carpet which covered the steps of the throne; and she remained in that situation, till the sultan commanded her to rise. She did so; and the sultan then addressed her in these words: "For a long time past, my good woman, I have seen you regularly attend my divan, and remain near the entrance from the time it began to assemble till it broke up. What is the business that brings you here?" On hearing this, she prostrated herself a second time, and on rising, thus answered: "High monarch, mightier than all the monarchs of the world, before I inform your majesty of the extraordinary and almost incredible cause that compels me to appear before your sublime throne, I entreat you to pardon the boldness, nay I might say the impudence, of the request I am going to make to you. It is of so uncommon a nature that I tremble, and feel almost overcome with shame to propose it to my sultan." In order, however, that she might have full liberty to explain herself, the sultan commanded every one to leave the divan, and remained with only his grand vizier in attendance; he then told her that she might speak, and discover everything without any fear.

"Sire," said Aladdin's mother, again addressing the sultan, "I once more entreat your majesty to assure me of your pardon beforehand, in case you should think my request at all injurious or offensive."—"Whatever it may be," replied the sultan, "I pardon you from this moment; not the least harm shall happen to you from anything you may say; speak therefore with confidence."

When Aladdin's mother had thus taken every precaution, like a woman who dreaded the anger of the sultan, she faithfully related to him by what means Aladdin had seen the princess Badroul Boudour, and with what a violent passion this fatal sight had inspired

him ; the declaration that he had made concerning her ; and the mission with which he had charged his mother, together with all the remonstrances the latter had urged, in order to avert his thoughts from this passion. "A passion," added she, "as injurious to your majesty as it is to the princess, your daughter ; but my son would not profit by anything I could say, nor would he acknowledge his temerity ; he obstinately persevered and even threatened me to be guilty of some rash action or other through his despair, if I refused to come and demand of your majesty the princess in marriage."

The sultan listened to this speech with the greatest patience and good humour, and showed not the least mark of either anger or indignation at the request ; nor did he even turn it into ridicule. Before he returned any answer to this good woman, he asked her what she had got thus tied up in a cloth. Upon this she immediately took up the porcelain dish, which she had at first set down at the foot of the throne, and having uncovered it, she presented it to the sultan.

It is impossible to express the surprise and astonishment which this monarch felt, when he saw, collected together in that dish, such a quantity of the most precious, perfect, and brilliant jewels, the size of every one of which was greater than any he had before seen. His admiration for some time was such that it rendered him absolutely motionless. When, however, he began to recollect himself, he took the present from the hands of Aladdin's mother, and exclaimed in a transport of joy, "Ah ! how very beautiful, how extremely rich !" And then, having admired them all one after another and put each again in the same place, he turned to his grand vizier, and showing him the dish, asked him if it was not also his opinion that he had never before seen any jewels so perfect and valuable. The vizier was himself delighted with them. "Well," added the sultan, "what do you say to such a present ? Is not the donor worthy of my daughter ; and must I not give her to him who comes and demands her at such a price ?"

This speech of the sultan very much agitated the grand vizier, because the former had, some time since, given him to understand that he had an intention of bestowing the hand of the princess upon his only son. He was afraid, therefore, and his fears were not without foundation, that the sultan would be dazzled by so rich and extraordinary a present, and would, in consequence of it, alter his mind. He approached the sultan, and whispering in his ear, "Sire," said he, "every one must allow that this present is not unworthy of the princess ; but I entreat you to grant me three months before you absolutely determine. I hope that long before that time, my son, for whom you have had the condescension to express that you feel a great inclination, will be able to offer you a much more considerable present than that of Aladdin, whom your majesty does not know." Although the sultan was in his own mind quite persuaded that it was impossible for his grand vizier to enable his son to make so valuable a present to the princess, he nevertheless paid every attention to what he said, and even granted him this favour. He, therefore, turned towards Aladdin's mother, and said to her : "Go, my good woman ; return home ; and tell your son that I agree to the proposal he has made through you, but that I cannot bestow the princess, my daughter, in marriage, until I have ordered and prepared a variety of furniture and ornaments, which will not be ready for three months. At the end of that time do you come hither again."

The mother of Aladdin went back, and felt the greater joy because she had, in the first place, conceived even the access to the sultan for a person of her condition as absolutely impossible ; and because also she had received so favourable an answer, when, on the contrary, she had expected a rebuke that would have overwhelmed her with confusion. When Aladdin saw his mother enter the house, there were two circumstances that led him to suppose she brought him good news ; the one was, that she had returned that morning much sooner than usual ; and the other, that her countenance expressed pleasure

and good humour. "Well, mother," said Aladdin, "what have I to hope ? Am I doomed to die with despair ?" When she had taken off her veil, and sat down on the sofa by his side : "My son," she said, "that I may not hold you any longer in suspense, I will, in the first place, tell you that so far from thinking of dying you have every reason to be satisfied." She then told him in what manner she had obtained an audience before every other person, which was the reason that she had come back so soon ; the precautions she had taken to make her request to the sultan, in such a way that he should not be offended, when he came to know that it was to demand of him the princess Badroul Boudour in marriage for her son, and the very favourable answer the sultan had given her from his own lips. She then added that, as far as she could judge from everything the sultan did, it was the present that had such a powerful effect upon his mind as to induce him to return so favourable an answer as that she now brought back. "At least, I think so," added she, "because, before the sultan returned me any answer at all, the grand vizier whispered something in his ear, and I was afraid that it would tend to lessen the good intentions he seemed to have towards you."

When Aladdin received this intelligence he thought himself the happiest of mortals. He thanked his mother for all the pains she had taken throughout the whole of this transaction, and for the happy success which was so important to his repose. So impatient was he, however, to possess the object of his affection, that three months seemed to him to be an age ; he nevertheless endeavoured to wait with patience, as he relied upon the word of the sultan, which he considered as irrevocable. In the meantime, he not only reckoned the hours, the days, and the weeks, but even every moment, till this period should elapse.

It happened one evening, when about two months of this time was past, that as Aladdin's mother was going to light her lamp, she found that she had no oil in the house. She, therefore, went out to buy some ; and on going into the city, she found that there was some festivity and rejoicing going forward. In fact, all the shops, instead of being shut, were open and ornamented with branches and decorations, and every preparation making for an illumination, each person endeavouring to excel his neighbour in splendour and magnificence. Every one also was giving marks of his pleasure and rejoicing. The streets were even crowded with the different officers in their dresses of ceremony, mounted upon horses most richly caparisoned, and surrounded with a great number of attendants and domestics on foot, who were traversing the city in every direction. Upon seeing all this, she asked the merchant of whom she bought the oil what it all meant. "Where do you come from, my good woman," said he, "not to know that the son of the grand vizier is this evening to be married to the princess Badroul Boudour, the daughter of our sultan ? She is just now coming from the bath, and the officers, whom you see, have assembled here in order to escort her back to the palace, where the ceremony is to be performed."

Aladdin's mother did not wait to hear any more. She returned home with all possible speed, and quite out of breath. She found her son there, who was not in the least prepared for the bad news she brought him. "Everything, my son," she exclaimed, "is lost. You depended upon the fair promises of the sultan, and it will all come to nothing." Aladdin, who was alarmed at these words, instantly inquired : "On what account, mother, will not the sultan keep his word ? How do you know anything about it ?"—"This very evening," answered she, "the son of the grand vizier is to marry the princess Badroul Boudour at the palace." She then related to him in what way she had learned the news, and informed him of all the circumstances which prevented her from having the least doubt of its truth.

Aladdin, at this intelligence, was struck quite motionless. He received it like a thunder-stroke. Any person but himself would have been quite overwhelmed by it ; but a sort of secret jealousy prevented him from remaining long

in this state. He instantly brought the lamp to his recollection ; that lamp, which had hitherto been so useful to him ; and then, without at all venting his rage in vain reproaches against the sultan, or the grand vizier, or the son of that officer, he only said : " This minister's son, mother, shall not be very happy on his wedding night. While I am gone for a few moments into my chamber, do you prepare supper."

His mother easily comprehended that Aladdin intended to make use of the lamp, in order, if possible, to prevent the marriage of the grand vizier's son with the princess Badroul Boudour from being completed. Nor did she deceive herself, for he was no sooner in his own room than he took the wonderful lamp, which he kept there that his mother might never be again alarmed at it, as she had been when the Genie had put her into so great a fright. He had no sooner taken the lamp, and rubbed it in the usual place, than the Genie instantly appeared before him. " What do you wish?" said he to Aladdin ; " I am ready to obey you as your slave, and the slave of those who have the lamp in their hands, I, and the other slaves of the lamp."—" Attend to me then," answered Aladdin ; " you have hitherto brought me only what I have wanted to eat and drink. I have now a business for you of more importance. I have demanded of the sultan the princess Badroul Boudour, his daughter, in marriage. He promised her to me ; and only requested a delay of three months. Instead, however, of keeping his word, he has this very evening, before that period has elapsed, given his daughter in marriage to the son of his grand vizier. I have just now been informed of it, and the thing is certain. What, therefore, I have to order you to do, is this ; as soon as the bride and bridegroom shall have retired for the night, take them up, and bring them both instantly here in their bed."—" Master," replied the Genie, " I will obey you ; have you anything else to command?"—" Nothing at present," added Aladdin. The Genie instantly disappeared.

Aladdin then went back to his mother, and supped with her in the same tranquil manner as usual. After supper he entered into conversation with her for some time respecting the marriage of the princess, as of a thing that did not in the least embarrass him. He afterwards returned to his chamber, and left his mother to repose whenever she pleased. He, of course, did not retire to rest ; but waited in expectation of the return of the Genie, and the execution of the orders he had given him.

In the meantime everything was prepared in the sultan's palace to celebrate the nuptials of the princess, and the whole evening was spent in ceremonies and rejoicings, till the night was far advanced. When all this was concluded, the son of the grand vizier, at a sign that the chief of the eunuchs belonging to the princess privately gave him, retired unperceived ; and this officer then introduced him into the apartment belonging to the princess, his wife, and conducted him to the chamber where the nuptial couch was prepared. He retired to bed first ; and in a short time after, the sultana, accompanied by her own women, and those of her daughter, brought the bride into the room. The sultana assisted in undressing her, and after she had embraced her and wished her a good night, she retired with all the other females, the last of whom shut the door of the chamber.

Scarcely had this taken place, before the Genie, like a faithful slave of the lamp, endeavouring with the greatest exactness to execute the commands of those in whose hands the talisman he obeyed might be, took up the bed in which were the bride and the bridegroom, and, to the great astonishment of both, transported them in an instant to Aladdin's chamber, where he set them down.

Aladdin, who was waiting for this event with the greatest impatience, did not long suffer the son of the grand vizier to remain in peace beside his bride. " Take this bridegroom," said he to the Genie, " and shut him up in the closet above the sewer, and return again in the morning, just at daybreak." The Genie instantly took the grand vizier's son out of bed in his shirt, and transported him to the place Aladdin had commanded, where

he left him ; having first breathed upon him in such a way that the effects of it in every limb were felt in a lassitude that prevented him from stirring from his place.

How violent soever the passion was which Aladdin felt for the princess, he did not enter into any long conversation with her, when he was with her alone. " Fear nothing, most adorable princess," he exclaimed with an impassioned air, " you are here in safety ; and however violent the love which I feel for you may be, with whatever ardour I adore your beauty and your charms, be assured that I will never exceed the limits of the profound respect I have for you. If I have been forced," he added, " to proceed to this extremity, it has not been with the intention of offending you ; but to prevent an unjust rival from possessing you, contrary to the promise which the sultan, your father, has made in my favour."

The princess, who knew nothing of all these particulars, paid very little attention to what Aladdin said. She was indeed no longer in a condition to answer him. The alarm and astonishment into which this surprising and unexpected adventure had thrown her, had such an effect upon her, that Aladdin could not get a single word from her. He did not, however, remain long in this state, but immediately undressed himself, and laid down in the place of the grand vizier's son ; with his back turned towards the princess ; having first taken the precaution to place a sabre between the princess and himself.

Aladdin was satisfied with having thus deprived his rival of the happiness with the enjoyment of which he had this night flattered himself, and slept very tranquilly. But how different was the case with the princess ! Never in her whole life did she pass so unpleasant and disagreeable a night. And it is only necessary to reflect for an instant on the place and situation in which the Genie had left the son of the grand vizier, to judge that the bridegroom spent the hours of darkness in a still more afflicting manner.

Aladdin had no occasion to rub his lamp the next morning to call the Genie. He returned at the appointed hour, and while Aladdin was dressing himself. " Here I am," said he to Aladdin, " what commands have you for me?"—" Go," answered Aladdin, " and bring back the son of the grand vizier from the place where you have put him, place him again in this bed, and transport it back to the palace of the sultan, whence you brought it." The Genie instantly went to relieve the grand vizier's son from his post, and as soon as he appeared, Aladdin took away his sabre. He placed the bridegroom by the side of the princess, and in a moment replaced the bed in the very same chamber of the sultan's palace whence he had before taken it.

It is necessary to remark that during all these transactions, the Genie was invisible to the princess and the son of the grand vizier. His hideous form would have killed them with fright. They did not even hear a single word of the conversation that passed between Aladdin and him, and perceived only the agitation of the bed, and the transporting of it from one place to another ; and indeed it is easy to imagine that this frightened them quite enough.

The Genie had no sooner put the nuptial couch in its place, than the sultan entered the chamber, and wished his daughter a good morning. The son of the grand vizier, half dead with the cold he had suffered all night, and not yet having had time to warm himself, jumped out of bed as soon as he heard some person opening the door, and went into the dressing-room where he had undressed himself in the evening.

The sultan came up to the bedside of the princess, and kissed her between the eyes, as is the usual custom in wishing any one a good morning. But when he lifted up his head and looked at her with greater attention, he was extremely surprised to observe her in the most dejected and melancholy state. She cast upon him the most sorrowful looks, and showed by her whole manner that she laboured either under the most severe affliction or the greatest degree of discontent. The sultan again spoke to her, but as he found he was unable to get a word from

her, he retired. He could not, however, but suspect from her continued silence that something very extraordinary had happened. He went immediately to the apartment of the sultana, to whom he mentioned the state in which he had found the princess and the reception she had given him.

As soon as the sultana was dressed, she went to the apartment of the princess, who was not yet risen. She approached the bed, and wishing her a good morning, embraced her ; but her surprise was excessive when she found that the princess was not only silent, but that she was in the greatest distress. She therefore concluded that something which she could not comprehend had happened to her. "My dear daughter," said the sultana to her, "what is the reason that you so ill repay the caresses I bestow upon you? You ought not to act thus towards your mother. Tell me candidly the cause of your grief."

At length, fetching a deep sigh, the princess Badroul Boudour broke silence. "Alas ! my most honoured mother," she cried, "pardon me, if I have failed in any respect that is due to you. My mind is so entirely absorbed by the strange and extraordinary things that have happened to me this night, that I have not yet recovered from my astonishment and fears, and have some difficulty to recollect myself." She then related in the most lively colours, how, the instant after she and her husband had reclined, the bed had been taken up and transported into an ill-furnished and dismal chamber, where she found herself quite alone and separated from her husband, without in the least knowing what was become of him ; and that she found in this apartment a young man, who after having addressed a few words to her, which her terror prevented her from understanding, lay down in her husband's place, having first put his sabre between them ; and that, when morning approached, her husband was restored to her, and the bed again brought back to its place in an instant of time. "The whole of this transaction," she added, "was but just completed, when the sultan, my father, came into my chamber. I was then so absorbed in grief, that I could not answer him a single word ; and I am afraid that he was very angry at the manner in which I received the honour that he did me. I hope, however, that he will pardon me when he shall become acquainted with my melancholy adventure."

The sultana listened with great attention to everything the princess had to relate ; but she could not give full credit to the account. "You have done well, my child," she said to the princess, "not to inform the sultan, your father, of this matter. Take care that you mention it to no one, unless you wish to be taken for one who has lost her reason, which will certainly be the case if you should talk in this way to any other person."—"Madam," replied the princess, "I assure you that I am in my right senses, and know what I say : you may ask my husband, and he will tell you the same thing."—"I will take care and inform myself of it," answered the sultana ; "but even if he gives me the same account you have done, I shall not be more persuaded of the truth of it ; in the meantime, however, do you get up and drive this fancy from your mind. It would be indeed a curious thing to see you troubled with such a delusion during the feasts that have been ordered on account of your nuptials, and which will last for many days, not only in the palace, but all over the kingdom. Do you not already hear the trumpets, tymbals, and other instruments? All this ought to inspire you with joy and pleasure, and make you forget the fanciful dreams which you have mentioned to me." The sultana then called her woman ; and after she had made the princess get up, and seen her at her toilet, she went to the sultan's apartment, and told him that some fancy seemed to have got into the head of his daughter, but that it was a mere trifle. She then ordered the son of the grand vizier to be called, in order to inquire of him about what the princess had told her. But he felt himself so highly honoured by this alliance with the sultan, that he determined to feign ignorance of everything.

The festivities in the palace continued throughout the

day ; and the sultan forgot nothing that he thought might inspire the princess with joy. He endeavoured to make her partake of the diversions and various exhibitions that were going on ; but the recollection of what had passed on the preceding night made such a strong impression on her mind, that it was very perceptible something occupied her whole attention. The son of the grand vizier was not less afflicted at the wretched night he had passed ; but his ambitious views made him dissemble ; and therefore, if any persons had judged from his appearance, they would have thought him the happiest bridegroom in the world.

Aladdin, who was well informed of everything that had passed in the palace, did not doubt but that the newly married pair would again sleep together, notwithstanding the distressing adventure that happened to them the night before. He did not choose, however, to leave them to repose in quiet. A short time before night came on, he again had recourse to his lamp. The Genie instantly appeared. "The grand vizier's son and the princess Badroul Boudour," said Aladdin, "are again to sleep together this night. Go, and as soon as they have lain down, bring the bed hither, as you did yesternight."

The Genie obeyed Aladdin with the same fidelity as on the night before, and the vizier's son passed this night in as cold and unpleasant a situation as he did the former ; while the princess had the mortification of having Aladdin for her bedfellow, with the sabre, as before, placed between them. In the morning, the Genie came, according to Aladdin's orders, replaced the bridegroom in the bed, and took it back to the chamber of the palace, whence he had taken it.

After the extraordinary reception which the princess Badroul Boudour had given the sultan on the preceding morning, he was very anxious to learn how she had passed the second night. He went therefore to her apartment early in the morning, that he might satisfy himself. The grand vizier's son, still more mortified at his bad treatment the second night than he had been on the first, no sooner heard the sultan, than he got up as fast as possible and ran into the dressing-room. The sultan came to her bedside, and wished the princess a good morning, after having caressed her in the same manner as he had done the day before. "Well, my daughter," he said, "are you in as bad a humour this morning as you were yesterday? Tell me how you have passed the night." The princess retained the same silence, and the sultan perceived that she was still more dejected than she had been the morning before. He could therefore but infer that something very extraordinary had happened to her. Irritated at the mystery she made of it to him : "Daughter," said he, in an angry tone, and at the same time drawing his sabre, "either tell me what you thus conceal, or I will instantly strike off your head."

The princess, terrified at the sight of the drawn sabre, at length broke silence. "My dear father," she exclaimed with tears in her eyes, "if I have offended your majesty, I earnestly entreat your pardon. From your known goodness and clemency, I trust I shall change your anger into compassion when I shall have related the occasion of the distressing situation in which I have been placed both last night and the night before." This preamble appeased and softened the sultan. She then related at length what had happened to her on both these horrible nights, and in a manner so affecting, that he was penetrated with grief for the suffering of his beloved daughter. She thus concluded her narrative : "If your majesty has the least doubt of any part of what I have said, you can easily inquire of the husband you have bestowed upon me ; I am very well persuaded that he will prove to you the truth of everything I have related."

The sultan entered very fully into the distressing feelings this surprising adventure must have excited in his daughter's mind. "My child," said he, "you were wrong not to explain to me yesterday the strange business which you have just related, and in which I am not less interested than yourself. I have not bestowed you in marriage with the view to render you unhappy, but, on the contrary, to

increase your happiness. Drive away then from your memory the melancholy ideas of what you have been relating to me. I will take care that you shall experience no more nights so disagreeable as those which you have now suffered."

When the sultan got back to his apartment, he immediately sent for the grand vizier. "Have you seen your son," he asked him, "and has he mentioned anything in particular to you?" When the latter replied that he had not seen him the sultan reported to him everything he had heard from the princess Badroul Boudour. He then added, "I have no doubt but that my daughter has told me the truth. I wish, nevertheless, to have this matter confirmed by your son. Go therefore, and ask him what has happened to him."

The grand vizier instantly went to his son: he informed him of what the sultan had said, and commanded him not

which I had for the princess my wife; though I confess to you most sincerely, that with all the honour and splendour that I derive from having the daughter of my sovereign for my wife, I would much sooner die than enjoy, for any length of time, this high alliance, if I must continue to undergo the horrible treatment I have already suffered. I am sure the princess must be of the same opinion as myself; and there is no doubt but that our separation is as necessary for her comfort as for my own. I entreat you therefore, my dear father, by all the affection which led you to obtain this great honour for me, to endeavour that the sultan should agree to have our marriage declared null and void."

However great might be the ambition of the grand vizier to have his son so nearly allied to the sultan, yet the fixed resolution which he found he had formed of dissolving his connection with the princess, made him think



THE WIDOW MUSTAFA AND THE SULTAN.

to disguise the truth. "I will conceal nothing from you, my father," replied his son, "and everything the princess has told the sultan is true; but she was unable to give an account of the bad treatment which I in particular have experienced. Since my marriage, I have spent two of the most dreadful nights you can possibly conceive. I do not mention the fright I was in at finding myself lifted up in my bed four different times, without being able to see any one; and being transported from one place to another, without being able to conceive in what way it was brought about. But you can yourself judge of the dreadful state I was in, when I tell you that I passed both nights, standing upright in a narrow and loathsome closet, with nothing upon me but my shirt; and without having the power of moving from the spot where I was placed, or making the least motion. Let me however add, that all this has by no means lessened the respect and affection

it necessary to request his son to have patience for a few days before it was finally settled, in order to see whether this unpleasant business might not have an end. He then left his son, and returned with the answer to the sultan, to whom he acknowledged that everything was true, as he had himself learned from his son. And then, without waiting till the sultan himself spoke to him about annulling the marriage, to which he observed that the latter was very much inclined, he requested permission for his son to leave the palace and return to him, under the pretext that it was not just that the princess should be exposed an instant longer to so terrible a persecution through regard for his son.

The grand vizier had no difficulty in obtaining his request. The sultan, who had already determined on the matter in his own mind, immediately gave orders for the rejoicings to be put a stop to, not only in his own palace,

but in the city, and throughout the whole extent of his dominions; and in a short time every mark of public joy and festivity within the kingdom ceased. This sudden change gave rise to a variety of different conjectures. Every one was inquiring why these contrary orders were issued, and all affirmed that the grand vizier had been seen coming out of the palace, towards his own house, accompanied by his son, and that they both seemed very much dejected. Aladdin was the only person who was acquainted with the actual reason; and he rejoiced most sincerely at the happy success arising from the use of the lamp. And having now learnt for a certainty that his

any application. But when the whole period was expired, he did not omit to send his mother on the very next morning to the palace, in order to remind the sultan of his promise. She went therefore to the palace and stood at her usual place, near the entrance of the divan. The sultan no sooner cast his eyes that way than he recollected her, and she instantly brought to his mind the request she had made, and the exact time to which he had deferred it. As the grand vizier approached to make some report to him, the sultan stopped him by saying "I perceive that good woman who presented us with the beautiful collection of jewels some time since; order her



THE PROCESSION OF SLAVES.

rival had left the palace, and that the marriage between the princess and him was absolutely annulled, he had no further occasion to rub his lamp and have recourse to the Genie, in order to prevent the completion of the marriage. What, however, was most singular was, that neither the sultan nor the grand vizier, who had completely forgotten Aladdin and the request he had made, entertained the least idea that he had any part in the enchantment which had been the occasion of the dissolution of the marriage of the princess.

Aladdin suffered the three months which the sultan wished to elapse before the marriage of the princess Badroul Boudour and himself to pass without making

to come forward, and you can make your report after I have heard what she has to say." The grand vizier directly turned his head towards the entrance of the divan, and perceived also the mother of Aladdin. He immediately called to the chief of the ushers, and desired him to bring her forward.

Aladdin's mother advanced to the foot of the throne where she prostrated herself in the usual manner. After she had risen, the sultan asked her what she wished. "Sire," she replied, "I again present myself before the throne of your majesty, to represent to you in the name of my son Aladdin, that the three months, which you had desired him to wait in consequence of the request I had

to make to your majesty, are expired; and to entreat you to have the goodness to recall the circumstance to your remembrance."

When the sultan had desired a delay of three months before he answered the request of this good woman the first time he saw her, he thought he should hear no more of a marriage which, from the apparent poverty and low situation of Aladdin's mother, who always presented herself before him in a very coarse and common dress, appeared to him so little suited to the princess, his daughter. The application, therefore, which she now made to him to keep his word embarrassed him very much, and he did not think it prudent to give her, at the moment, a direct answer. He consulted his grand vizier, and told him the repugnance he felt at concluding a marriage between the princess and an unknown person, whom fortune, he conjectured, had not raised much above the condition of a common subject.

The grand vizier did not hesitate to give his opinion on the subject. "Sire," said he to the sultan, "it seems to me that there is a very easy method to avoid this unequal marriage, and of which this Aladdin, even if he were known to your majesty, could not complain; it is to set so high a price upon the princess, your daughter, that all his riches, however great they may be, cannot reach the amount."

The sultan approved of this advice, and after some reflection, he said to Aladdin's mother: "Sultans, my good woman, ought always to keep their words; and I am ready to keep mine, and render your son happy by marrying him to the princess, my daughter; but as I cannot bestow her in marriage till I am better acquainted how she will be provided for, tell your son that I will fulfil my promise as soon as he shall send me forty large basins of massive gold, quite full of the same kind of jewels which you have already presented to me from him, brought by an equal number of black slaves, each of whom shall be conducted by a white slave, young, well made, of good appearance, and richly dressed. These are the conditions on which I am ready to bestow upon him the princess, my daughter. Go, my good woman; and I will wait till you bring me his answer."

Aladdin's mother again prostrated herself at the foot of the throne, and retired. In her way home, she smiled within herself at the foolish thoughts of her son. "Where indeed," said she, "is he to find so many golden basins, and such a great quantity of coloured glass to fill them? Will he attempt to go back to the subterranean cavern, the entrance of which is shut up, in order to gather them off the trees? And where truly can he procure all these handsome slaves, which the sultan demands?" When she entered the house, with her mind occupied by these thoughts, from which she judged Aladdin had nothing more to hope: "My son," said she, "I advise you to think no more of your marriage with the princess Badroul Boudour. The sultan, indeed, received me with great goodness, and I believe that he was well inclined towards you; the grand vizier, however, if I am not mistaken, made him alter his opinion, as you will yourself think when you have heard the account I am going to give you." Aladdin's mother then gave him an exact detail of everything the sultan had said, and of the conditions upon which he consented to the marriage of the princess, his daughter. "He is even now, my son," added she, "waiting for your answer; but between ourselves," she continued, with a smile, "he may wait long enough."—"Not so long as you may think, mother," replied Aladdin; "and the sultan deceives himself if he supposes, by such exorbitant demands, to prevent me thinking any more of the princess Badroul Boudour. I expected to have had much greater difficulties to surmount, and that he would have put a much higher price upon my incomparable princess. While I am considering how to comply with his demands, do you go and see about something for dinner, and leave me to myself."

As soon as his mother was gone out to purchase some provisions, Aladdin took the lamp, and having rubbed it, the Genie instantly appeared, and demanded of him, in

the usual terms, what it was that he wanted, for he was ready to obey him. "The sultan agrees to give me the princess, his daughter, in marriage," said Aladdin; "but he first demands of me forty large, heavy basins of massive gold, filled to the very top with the various fruits of the garden from which I took the lamp, of which you are the slave. He requires, also, that these forty basins should be carried by as many black slaves, preceded by an equal number of young, handsome, and elegant white slaves, very richly dressed. Go, and procure me this present, as soon as possible, that I may send it to the sultan before the sitting of the divan is over." The Genie merely said that his commands should be instantly executed, and disappeared.

In a very short time the Genie returned with forty black slaves, each carrying upon his head a large golden basin of great weight, full of pearls, diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, equal in brilliancy and size to those which had already been presented to the sultan. Each basin was covered with a cloth of silver, embroidered with flowers of gold. All these slaves, with their golden basins, together with the white ones, entirely filled the house, which was but small, as well as the court in front, and a garden behind it. The Genie asked Aladdin if he were contented and whether he had any further commands for him: and, on being told he had not, he immediately disappeared.

Aladdin's mother now returned from market, and was in the greatest surprise on coming home to see so many persons, and so much riches. When she had set down the provisions which she had brought with her, she was going to take off her veil, but Aladdin stopped her. "My dear mother," he cried, "there is no time to lose. It is of consequence that you should return to the palace before the divan breaks up, and should immediately conduct there the present and dowry which the sultan demands for the princess Badroul Boudour, that he may judge from my diligence and exactness of my ardent desire to procure for myself the honour of an alliance with him."

Without waiting for his mother's answer, Aladdin opened the door that led into the street, and ordered all the slaves to go out, one after the other. He then placed a white slave before each of the black ones, who carried the golden basins on their heads. When his mother, who followed the last black slave, was gone out, he shut the door, and remained quietly in his chamber, with the full expectation that the sultan, after receiving such a present as he had required, would readily consent to accept him for a son-in-law.

The first white slave that went out of Aladdin's house occasioned every one who was going past to stop, and before all the eighty slaves, alternately a black and a white one, had finished going out, the street was filled with a great crowd of people, who collected from all parts, to see so extraordinary a sight. The dress of each slave was made of a rich stuff, and so studded with precious stones, that persons who thought themselves the best judges reckoned each of them worth many thousand pounds. The graceful manner and elegant form of each slave, together with their marching at regular distances from each other, and the dazzling lustre shed by the jewels that were set in their girdles of massive gold, produced in the multitude of spectators who were assembled such excessive admiration, that they could not take their eyes from them so long as any one of them remained in sight.

As it was necessary to pass through several streets before they could arrive at the palace, the procession went through a great part of the city; and most of the inhabitants, of every rank and quality, were witnesses to this delightful spectacle. When the first of the eighty slaves arrived at the gate of the first court of the palace, the porters, as soon as they perceived this astonishing procession approaching, were in the greatest haste to open it, as they took the first for a king, so richly and magnificently was he dressed. They were advancing to kiss the hem of his robe, when the slave, instructed by the Genie, stopped them, and in a grave tone of voice, said, "Our master will appear when the time shall be proper."

The first slave, followed by all the rest, advanced as far as the second court, which was very spacious, and contained the apartments inhabited by the sultan, when the divan sat. The officers, who were at the head of the sultan's guards, were very handsomely clothed; but they were completely eclipsed by the eighty slaves who were the bearers of Aladdin's present, and who themselves formed a part of it. Nothing, in short, throughout the sultan's whole palace appeared so beautiful and brilliant; and however magnificently dressed the different nobles of the court might be, their splendour was as nothing in comparison with what was now to be seen.

As the sultan had been informed of the arrival of these slaves, he had given orders to have them admitted. As soon, therefore, as they presented themselves before it, they found the door of the divan open. They entered in regular order, one part going to the right, and the other to the left. After they were all within the hall, and had formed a large semi-circle before the throne of the sultan, each of the black slaves placed the basin which he carried upon the carpet. They then all prostrated themselves so low that their foreheads touched the ground. The white slaves also, at the same time, performed the same ceremony. They then all got up, and in doing so the black slaves skilfully uncovered the basins, which were before them, and then remained standing with their hands crossed upon their breasts in a very modest attitude.

The mother of Aladdin, who had in the meantime advanced to the foot of the throne, having first prostrated herself, thus addressed the sultan: "My son Aladdin, sire, is not ignorant that this present, which he has sent to your majesty, is very much beneath the inestimable worth of the princess Badroul Boudour. He nevertheless hopes that your majesty will favourably accept it, and that you will endeavour to make his alliance agreeable to the princess. He has the greater reliance that his expectations will be fulfilled, because he has tried to comply with the conditions which it pleased you to impose."

The sultan hardly heard the complimentary address of Aladdin's mother. The very first look he cast upon the forty golden basins, heaped up with the most brilliant jewels he had ever seen, as well as the eighty slaves, who seemed like so many kings, both from the magnificence of their dress and their fine appearance, made such an impression upon him, that he could not restrain his admiration. Instead, therefore, of making any answer to the compliments of Aladdin's mother, he addressed himself to the grand vizier. "Well, vizier," he exclaimed, in the hearing of all, "what do you think of the person, whoever he may be, who has now sent me so wonderful a present; a person, of whom neither I nor you have the least knowledge? Do you not think he is worthy of the princess, my daughter?"

Whatever jealousy the grand vizier might feel at thus seeing an unknown person become the son-in-law of the sultan in preference to his own son, he was afraid to dissemble his real opinion on the present occasion. It was very evident that Aladdin had become, in the eyes of the sultan, very deserving of being honoured with so high an alliance. He, therefore, answered the sultan in these terms: "Far be it from me, sire, to suppose that he who makes your majesty so worthy a present should himself be undeserving the honour you wish to bestow on him. I would even say that he deserved still more, if indeed all the treasure of the universe could be put in competition with the princess, your daughter." All the nobles who attended and formed the divan, showed by their applause that their opinion was the same as that of the grand vizier.

The sultan hesitated no longer. He did not even think of informing himself whether Aladdin possessed any other qualification that would render him worthy of becoming his son-in-law. The sight alone of such immense riches easily persuaded him that Aladdin would not be deficient in anything that could render him as accomplished and deserving as he could wish. That he might therefore send back Aladdin's mother as well satisfied as she could pos-

sibly expect, he said to her, "Go, my good woman, and tell your son that I am waiting with open arms to receive and embrace him; and that the greater haste he makes to come and receive from my hands the gift I am ready to bestow upon him, in the princess, my daughter, the greater pleasure he will afford me."

Aladdin's mother had no sooner departed, happy in seeing her son exalted to a situation beyond her greatest expectations, than the sultan closed the audience; and coming down from his throne, he ordered the eunuchs belonging to the princess to be called and to take up the basins, and carry them to the apartment of their mistress, where he himself went, in order to examine them with her at their leisure.

The eighty slaves were not forgotten; they were conducted into the interior of the palace, and when, some time after, the sultan was speaking of their splendour to the princess, he ordered them to come opposite to her apartment, that she might see them through the lattices, and be convinced that so far from having given an exaggerated account of them, he had said much less than they deserved.

In the meantime Aladdin's mother got home, and showed by her manner that she was the bearer of most excellent news. "You have every reason, my dear son," she said "to be satisfied. I must inform you that the sultan, with the applause of his whole court, has announced that you are worthy to possess the princess Badroul Boudour; and he is now waiting to embrace you, and to conclude the marriage."

Aladdin was so delighted with this intelligence, and so taken up with the thoughts of the object of his love, that he hardly answered his mother, but instantly retired to his chamber. He then took up the lamp that had thus far been so friendly to him by supplying all his wants and fulfilling all his wishes, and had no sooner rubbed it, than the Genie again showed his ready obedience to its power, by instantly appearing to execute his commands. "Genie," said Aladdin to him, "I have called you to take me immediately to a bath; and when I shall have finished bathing, I wish you to have in readiness for me a more magnificent dress than was ever worn by any monarch." Aladdin had no sooner concluded his speech than the Genie rendered him invisible like himself, took him in his arms, and transported him to a bath formed of the finest marble. Without being able to see any one who waited upon him, Aladdin was undressed in a large and handsome saloon. From thence he was conducted into the bath, moderately heated, and was here washed and rubbed with various sorts of perfumed waters. After having passed through the different chambers by which the various degrees of heat in the bath were regulated, he went out, but quite a different person, as it were, from what he was before. His skin was white and fresh, his countenance blooming, and his whole body felt lighter and more active. He then went back to the saloon, where, instead of the dress he had left, he found the one he had desired the Genie to procure. By his assistance he dressed himself, showing the greatest admiration at each part of it as he put it on: and the whole of it was even beyond what he could possibly have conceived. This business was no sooner over, than the Genie transported him back into the same chamber of his own house whence he had brought him; he then inquired if he had any other commands. "Yes," replied Aladdin, "I am waiting till you bring me a horse which shall surpass in beauty and excellence the most valuable horse in the sultan's stables; the housings, saddle, bridle, and other furniture of which shall be worth more than a million of money. I also order you to get me at the same time twenty slaves, as well and richly clothed as those who carried the present, to attend on each side and behind my person, and twenty more to march in two ranks before me. You must also procure six female slaves to attend upon my mother, all as richly clothed as those of the princess Badroul Boudour, each of whom must carry a complete dress, fit in point of splendour and magnificence for any sultana. I want also ten thousand pieces of gold in ten separate purses.

These are all my commands at present. Go, and be diligent."

Aladdin had no sooner given his orders to the Genie, than he disappeared, and, a moment after, returned with the horse, the forty slaves, ten of whom had each a purse with ten thousand pieces of gold in every one, and the six female slaves, each carrying a different dress for Aladdin's mother, wrapped up in a piece of silver tissue, and presented the whole to him.

Aladdin took only four out of the ten purses, and presented them to his mother for any purpose, as he said, for which she might want them. He left the other six in the hands of the slaves, desiring them to keep them, and to throw out the gold pieces by handfuls to the populace as they went along the street in the way to the palace of the sultan. He ordered them also to march before him with the others, three on one side and three on the other. He then presented the six female slaves to his mother; telling her that they would for the future consider her as their mistress; and that the dresses they had in their hands were for her use.

When Aladdin had arranged everything as he wished, he told the Genie that he would summon him when he had any further occasion for his service. The latter instantly vanished. Aladdin then employed himself in hastening to fulfil the wishes the sultan had expressed, to see him as soon as possible. He sent one of the forty slaves, whom it is useless to call the best made or most handsome, for they were all equally so, to the palace, with an injunction to address himself to the chief of the ushers, and inquire of him when his master might have the honour of throwing himself at the feet of the sultan. The slave was not long in delivering this message; and brought back word that the sultan was waiting for him with the greatest impatience.

Aladdin instantly mounted his horse, and began his march in the exact order that has been mentioned. Although he had never been on horseback in his life, he nevertheless appeared perfectly at his ease, and those who were the best skilled in horsemanship would never have taken him for a novice. The streets through which he passed were in an instant filled with crowds of people, who made the air resound with their acclamations, their shouts of admiration and benedictions, particularly when the six slaves who carried the purses threw handfuls of gold on all sides. These expressions of joy and applause, however, did not only come from the crowd, who were employed in picking up the money, but chiefly from those of a superior rank in life, who thus publicly bestowed all the praise that such liberality as Aladdin's deserved. Not only they who had seen him playing about the streets, even when he was no longer a child, like a vagabond, did not now in the least recognise him, but even those persons who had seen and known him very lately had great difficulty to bring him to their minds, so much were his features and bearing changed. This all arose from the power possessed by the wonderful lamp, of acquiring for those who had it in their keeping, every perfection adapted to the situation which such persons arrived at. When the report spread about that the sultan had bestowed upon Aladdin the hand of the princess Badroul Boudour, and this was soon universally known, no one ever thought about his birth, or even envied him his great fortune, because he appeared so well to deserve it.

He at length arrived at the palace, where everything was ready for his reception. When he came to the second gate, he wished to alight agreeably to the custom observed by the grand vizier, the generals of the army, and the governors of the superior provinces; but the chief of the ushers, who attended him by the sultan's orders, prevented him, and accompanied him to the hall of audience, where he assisted him in dismounting from his horse, though Aladdin opposed it as much as possible, not wishing to receive such a distinction. In the meantime, all the ushers formed a double row at the entrance into the hall; and their chief, placing Aladdin on his right, went up through the midst of them, and conducted him to the foot of the throne.

As soon as the sultan perceived Aladdin, he was not more surprised at seeing him more richly and magnificently clothed than he was himself, than most unexpectedly astonished at the propriety of his manner, his beautiful figure, and a certain air of grandeur, very far removed from the degraded state in which Mustafa's widow appeared in his presence. The sultan's astonishment, however, did not prevent him from rising, and quickly descending two or three steps of his throne, in order to prevent Aladdin from throwing himself at his feet, and to embrace him with the most evident marks of friendship and affection. After this civility, Aladdin again endeavoured to cast himself at the sultan's feet; but he held his hand, and compelled him to ascend and sit between him and his grand vizier.

Aladdin then addressed the sultan in these words: "I receive the honours which your majesty has the goodness to bestow upon me, because it is your pleasure; but you must permit me to say that I have not forgotten that I was born your slave, that I am well aware of the greatness of your power, and that I know how much my birth places me beneath the splendour of that superior rank to which you are elevated. If there can be the shadow of a reason," he continued, "from which I can in the least merit so favourable a reception, I candidly avow that I am indebted for it to a boldness which chance alone brought about, and in consequence of which I have raised my eyes to the divine princess who is the sole object of my eager wishes. I request your majesty's pardon for my rashness, but I cannot dissemble that grief would occasion my death if I should lose the hope of seeing my desires accomplished."

"My son," replied the sultan, again embracing him, "you would do me injustice to doubt my sincerity; your life is too dear to me not to endeavour to preserve it, by presenting you with the remedy that is in my power. I prefer the pleasure I derive from seeing and hearing you, to all our united treasures."

As he concluded this speech, the sultan made a sign, and the air was immediately filled with the sound of trumpets, hautbois, and kettle-drums, and the sultan then conducted Aladdin into a magnificent saloon, where a great feast was served up. The sultan and Aladdin ate by themselves; the grand vizier and nobles of the court, each according to their dignity and rank, waited upon them during their repast. The sultan entered into conversation with Aladdin on a variety of topics. And while they sat at table, whatever the subject of their conversation happened to be, Aladdin spoke with so much information and knowledge, that he confirmed the sultan in the good opinion which he had at first formed of him.

When the repast was over, the sultan ordered the grand judge of his capital to attend, and commanded him instantly to prepare a contract of marriage between the princess Badroul Boudour and Aladdin.

When the judge had drawn out the contract with all the requisite forms, the sultan asked Aladdin if he wished to remain in the palace and conclude all the ceremonies that day. "Sire," he replied, "however impatient I may be to have entire possession of all your majesty's bounties, I request you to permit me to defer my happiness, until I shall have built a palace for the reception of the princess that shall even be worthy of her merit and dignity. And for this purpose I request that you will have the goodness to point out a suitable place, situated near your own palace, that I may always be ready to pay my court to your majesty. I will then neglect nothing to get it finished with all possible diligence."—"My son," answered the sultan, "take whatever spot you think proper. There is a large open space before my palace, and I have thought for some time about filling it up; but remember that to have my happiness complete, I cannot too soon see you united to my daughter." Having said this, he again embraced Aladdin, who now took leave of the sultan in as polished a manner as if he had spent all his life at court.

Aladdin then mounted his horse, and returned home with his suite in the same order in which they came, going back through the same crowd and receiving the same

acclamations from the people, who wished him all happiness and prosperity. As soon as he had entered the court and alighted from his horse, he retired to his own chamber. He instantly rubbed the lamp, and called the Genie as usual. "Genie," said Aladdin to him, "I have hitherto had every reason to praise the promptitude with which you have executed whatever I have required of you, by means of the power of your mistress, this lamp. You must now, through your regard for her, make greater despatch than you have yet done. I command you, therefore, to build me a palace, in as short a time as you possibly can, opposite to that belonging to the sultan, and at a proper distance; and let this palace be every way worthy to receive the princess Badroul Boudour, my bride. I leave the choice of the materials to yourself, that is to say, whether it shall be of porphyry, jasper, agate, lapis lazuli, or of the finest and greatest variety of marble; and also the form of the palace. I only request that at the top there shall be erected a large saloon, with a central dome, and four equal sides, the walls of which shall be formed of massive gold and silver, in alternate layers, with twenty-four windows, six on each side; that the lattices of each window, except one, which is to be purposely left unfinished, shall be enriched with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, set with the greatest taste and symmetry, and in such a style that nothing in the whole world can equal it. I also wish this palace to have a large court in the front, another behind, and a garden. But above everything else, be sure that there is a place, which you will point out to me, well supplied with money, both in gold and silver. There must also be kitchens, offices, magazines, receptacles for rich and valuable furniture, suited to the different seasons, and all very appropriate to the magnificence of such a palace, and also stables filled with the most beautiful horses, with the grooms and attendants for the kitchen and offices, and female slaves, for the service of the princess. You understand what I mean. Go, and return as soon as it is completed."

The sun had set by the time that Aladdin had finished giving his orders to the Genie. The very next morning, when the day first broke, Aladdin, whose love for the princess prevented him from sleeping, had scarcely risen before the Genie presented himself. "Sir," said he, "your palace is finished, come and see if it be according to your wish." Aladdin had no sooner signified his assent, than the Genie transported him to it in an instant. He found it to exceed his utmost expectation, and he could not sufficiently admire it. The Genie conducted him through every part of it, and he everywhere found the greatest riches, the most perfect taste. There were, also, the proper officers and slaves, all dressed according to their rank, and suited to their different employments. Amongst other things, the Genie did not omit to show Aladdin the treasury, the door of which was opened by a treasurer of whose fidelity the Genie confidently assured him. Aladdin here observed large vases, filled to the very top with purses of different sizes, according to the sums they contained. The Genie then carried Aladdin to the stables, where he made him take notice of the most beautiful horses in the world, with all the officers and grooms busily employed about them.

When Aladdin had examined the whole palace, without omitting a single part, from the top to the bottom, and more particularly the saloon, with the four-and-twenty windows, and had seen all the riches and magnificence it contained. "Genie," said he, "no one can be better satisfied than I am, and I should be very wrong to make the least complaint. There is one thing only, which I did not mention to you, because it escaped my recollection; it is to have a carpet of the finest velvet, laid from the gate of the sultan's palace to the door of the apartment in this palace which is to be appropriated to the princess."—"I will return in an instant," replied the Genie; and he had not been gone a moment, before Aladdin saw what he wished done, though without knowing by what means. The Genie again made his appearance, and carried Aladdin back to his own house,

just as the gates of the sultan's palace were about to be opened.

The porters, who came to open the gates, and who were accustomed to see an open space where Aladdin's palace now stood, were much astonished at observing it filled up, and at seeing a velvet carpet, which came from that part directly opposite to the gate of the palace. They could not at first make out what it was; but their astonishment increased when they beheld the superb palace of Aladdin. The news of this wonderful event soon spread itself throughout the palace, and the grand vizier, who had arrived just as the gates were open, was not less astonished than the rest. The first thing he did was to go to the sultan; but he wished to make the whole business pass for enchantment. "Why do you endeavour, vizier," replied the sultan, "to make this appear the effect of enchantment? You know as well as I do, that this is the palace of Aladdin, which I, in your presence yesterday, gave him permission to build for the reception of the princess, my daughter. After the immense display of riches which we have seen, can you think it so very extraordinary that he should be able to build a palace in so short a time. He wished, no doubt, to surprise us, and we every day see what miracles riches can perform. Own to me, that you wish, through motives of jealousy, to make this appear an enchantment."

When Aladdin had returned and dismissed the Genie, he found that his mother was up, and had begun to put on one of the dresses which he had ordered for her the day before. About the time that the sultan left the council, Aladdin requested his mother to go to the palace, attended by the same female slaves that the Genie had procured for her use. He desired her also, if she should see the sultan, to inform him that she came for the purpose of having the honour of accompanying the princess in the evening, when it was proper for her to go to her own palace. She then set out; but, although she and her slaves were dressed as richly as any sultanas, there was much less crowd to see them, as they were veiled, and the richness and magnificence of their habits were hidden by a sort of cloak, that quite covered them. Aladdin himself mounted his horse, and left his paternal house, never more to return; but he did not forget his wonderful lamp, whose assistance had been the cause of all his happiness. He went to his own palace in the same public manner, surrounded with all the pomp with which he had presented himself to the sultan on the preceding day.

As soon as the porters of the sultan's palace perceived the mother of Aladdin, they gave notice of it through the proper officer to the sultan himself. He immediately sent orders to the bands, who played upon trumpets, tabors, fifes, and hautbois, and who were already placed in different parts of the terrace, and in a moment the air echoed with their joyful sounds. The merchants began to dress out their shops with rich carpets and seats, adorned with foliage, and to prepare illuminations for the night. The artificers quitted their work, and all the people thronged to the great square, between the palaces of the sultan and Aladdin. That of the latter first attracted their admiration, not merely because they had been accustomed to see only that of the sultan, which could not be put in comparison with that of Aladdin's; but their greater surprise arose from not being able to comprehend by what unheard-of means they should be able to behold so magnificent a palace, in a spot where the days before there were neither any materials brought nor any foundations laid.

Aladdin's mother met with the most honourable reception, and was introduced by the chief of the eunuchs into the apartment of the princess Badroul Boudour. As soon as the latter perceived her, she ran and embraced her, and made her take a place upon her own sofa. And while her women were adorning her person with the most valuable of jewels, with which Aladdin had presented her, she entertained her with a most magnificent collation.

When the evening approached, the princess took leave of the sultan, her father. Their parting was tender, and accompanied by tears. They embraced each other

several times, without uttering a word : and the princess at last left her apartment, and proceeded towards her new residence with Aladdin's mother on her left hand, followed by a hundred female slaves, all magnificently dressed. All the bands of instruments, which had been incessantly heard since the arrival of Aladdin's mother, united at once, and marched with them. These were followed by a hundred black eunuchs in two rows, with their proper officers at their head. Four hundred young pages belonging to the sultan marched in two troops on each side, with flambeaux in their hands. The brilliancy of these, joined to the illuminations in both palaces, made the loss of day unfelt.

In this order did the princess proceed, walking upon the carpet which was spread from Aladdin's palace to that of the sultan. And as she continued to advance, the musicians, who were at the head of the procession, went on, and mixed with those who were placed on the terrace in front of Aladdin's palace, thus forming a concert, which, confused and extraordinary as it was, augmented the general joy, not only amongst those in the open square, but in the two palaces, in all the city, and to a considerable distance around.

The princess at length arrived at the new palace, and Aladdin ran with every expression of joy to the entrance of the apartments appropriated to her, in order to welcome her. His mother had taken care to point out her son to the princess, in the midst of the officers and attendants who surrounded him ; and when she perceived him, her joy at finding him so handsome was excessive. "Adorable princess," cried Aladdin, accosting her in the most respectful manner, "if I should have the misfortune to have displeased you by the temerity with which I have aspired to possess so amiable a person, and the daughter of my sultan, I must confess that it was to your beautiful eyes, and to your charms alone, that you must attribute it, and not to myself."—"Prince, for it is thus that I must now call you," replied the princess, "I obey the will of the sultan, my father ; and now that I have seen you, I own that I obey him without reluctance."

Aladdin was delighted at so charming an answer. He took the princess by the hand, which he kissed with the greatest demonstrations of joy, and conducted her into a large saloon, illuminated by an immense number of tapers, where, through the attention of the Genie, there was a table spread with everything that was rare and excellent. The dishes were of massive gold ; the vases, the basins, and the goblets, with which the sideboard was amply furnished, were also of gold, and of the most exquisite workmanship. The princess, enchanted at the sight of such an assemblage of riches in one place, said to Aladdin, "Nothing, I thought, prince, in the whole world was more beautiful than my father's palace, but the sight of this saloon alone tells me I was deceived."

The princess Badroul Boudour, Aladdin, and his mother sat down, and instantly a band of the most harmonious instruments, played upon by females of great beauty, to whose voices they formed an accompaniment, began a concert, which lasted till the repast was finished. The princess was so delighted with it, that she said she had never heard anything to equal it in the palace of her father. But she knew not that these musicians were fairies, chosen by the Genie, the slave of the lamp.

When the supper was concluded, and everything had been removed with the greatest diligence, a troop of dancers, of both sexes, took the place of the musicians. They performed dances of various figures, as was the custom of the country, and concluded by one executed by a male and female, who danced with the most surprising activity and agility, and each of them gave the other, in turn, an opportunity of showing all the grace and address they were master of. It was near midnight, when, according to the custom at that time observed in Cathay, Aladdin rose, and presented his hand to the princess Badroul Boudour, in order to dance together, and thus finish the ceremony of their nuptials. They both danced with such grace, that they were the admiration of all present. When it was over, Aladdin did not let the hand

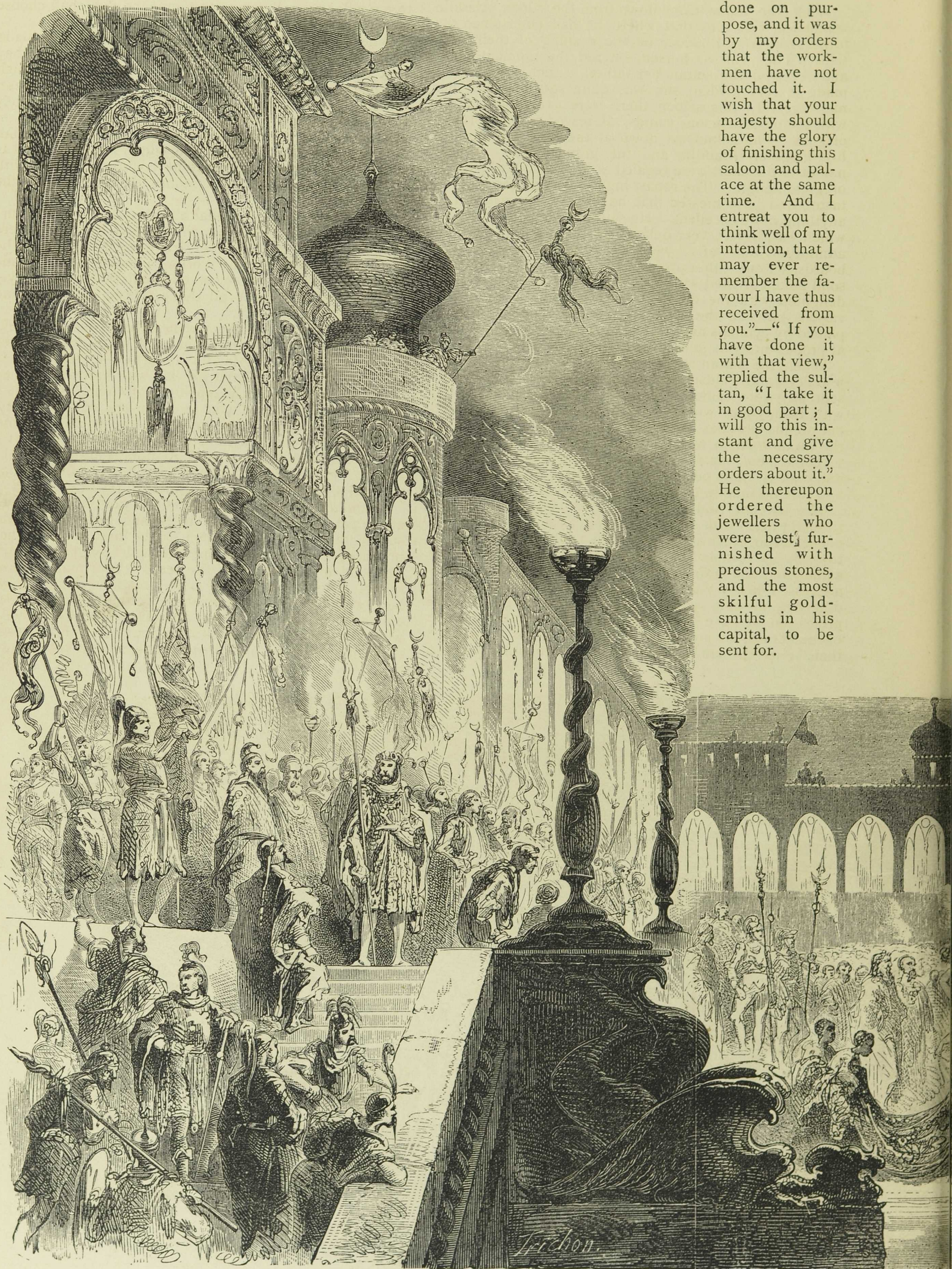
of the princess go, but they went to the nuptial chamber together. In this manner did the ceremonies and rejoicings, on account of the marriage of Aladdin and the princess Badroul Boudour, conclude.

The next morning, when Aladdin awoke, his chamberlains presented themselves to dress him. When he was dressed they brought him one of the horses that were appropriated to his use. He mounted it, and rode to the palace of the sultan, surrounded by a large troop of slaves. The sultan received him with the same honours he had done before. He embraced him, and, after having placed him on the throne, close by his side, ordered breakfast to be served up. "Sire," said Aladdin to the sultan, "I beseech your majesty to dispense with conferring this honour upon me to-day ; I come for the express purpose of entreating you to go and partake of a repast in the palace of the princess, together with your grand vizier, and the nobles of your court." The sultan readily granted his request. He rose at the same instant, and as the distance was not great, he wished to go on foot. He proceeded, therefore, in this manner, with Aladdin on his right, hand, and the grand vizier on his left, followed by the nobles the principal officers of his palace going before them.

The nearer the sultan came to the palace of Aladdin, the more was he struck with its beauty ; yet this was but little to what he felt on entering. His expressions of surprise and pleasure continued in all the apartments through which he passed ; but when they came to the saloon with twenty-four windows ; when the sultan had seen its ornaments, and had cast his eyes on the lattices, enriched with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, all of the finest sort, and most appropriate size, and when Aladdin had made him observe that the outside was equally rich and superb as the other, he was so much astonished that he stood absolutely dumbfounded. After remaining some time in that state, "Vizier," he at length said to that minister, who was near him, "is it possible that there should be in my kingdom, and so near my own, so superb a palace, and yet that I should, till this moment, be ignorant of it?"—"Your majesty," replied the grand vizier, "may remember that the day before yesterday you gave Aladdin, whom you then acknowledged for your son-in-law, permission to build a palace opposite to your own ; on the same day, when the sun went down, not the smallest part of this palace was on this spot, and yesterday I had the honour to announce to your majesty that the palace was built and finished."—"I remember it," replied the sultan, "but I never imagined that this palace would be one of the wonders of the world. Where, throughout the universe, will you find walls built with alternate layers of massive gold and silver, instead of stone or marble, and windows having the lattices studded with diamonds rubies, and emeralds? Never in the whole world has there been anything similar heard of."

The sultan wished to see more closely, and observe the beauty of the twenty-four lattices ; when in reckoning them he only found twenty-three that were equally rich, and he was, therefore, in the greatest astonishment that the twenty-fourth should remain imperfect, "Vizier," said he, for that minister made it a point not to leave him, "I am very much surprised that so magnificent a saloon as this is, should remain unfinished in this particular."—"Sire," replied the grand vizier, "Aladdin, apparently was pressed for time, and therefore was unable to finish this window like the rest. But I doubt not he has jewels fit for the purpose, and that the window will be finished the first opportunity."

Aladdin, who had left the sultan to give some orders, came and joined them during this conversation. "My son," said the sultan, "this truly is a saloon worthy the admiration of all the world. There is, however, one thing that surprises me ; and that is to observe this lattice unfinished. Is it through forgetfulness," added he, "or because the workmen have not had time to put the finishing stroke to such a beautiful specimen of architecture?"—"Sire," answered Aladdin, "it is not for any of these reasons that this lattice remains in the state your majesty now sees it. It has been



done on purpose, and it was by my orders that the workmen have not touched it. I wish that your majesty should have the glory of finishing this saloon and palace at the same time. And I entreat you to think well of my intention, that I may ever remember the favour I have thus received from you."—"If you have done it with that view," replied the sultan, "I take it in good part; I will go this instant and give the necessary orders about it." He thereupon ordered the jewellers who were best furnished with precious stones, and the most skilful goldsmiths in his capital, to be sent for.

When the sultan came down from the saloon, Aladdin conducted him into that where he had entertained the princess Badroul Boudour on the evening of their nuptials. The princess herself entered the moment after, and received the sultan, her father, in such a manner as made it very evident she was quite satisfied with her marriage. In this saloon there were two tables set out with the most delicious viands, all served up in services of gold. The sultan sat down at the first, and ate with his daughter, Aladdin, and the grand vizier. All the nobles of the court were regaled at the second, which was of great length. The repast highly pleased the sultan's taste; and he confessed that he had never partaken of anything more excellent. He said the same of the wine, which was, in fact, very delicious. But what excited his admiration most of all were four large recesses or sideboards, set out with a profusion of flagons, vases, cups of solid gold, enriched with precious stones. He was also delighted with the different bands of music placed in various parts of the saloon, while the trumpets, accompanied by cymbals and drums, were heard at a distance, at proper intervals joining with the music within.

When the sultan rose from table, he was told that the jewellers and goldsmiths, whom he had ordered to be sent for, were come. He then went up to the saloon with twenty-four windows; and, when there, he pointed out to the jewellers and goldsmiths who followed him the window which was imperfect. "I have ordered you to come here," said the sultan, "to finish this window, and make it quite perfect like the rest. Examine them; and lose no time in completing it."

The jewellers and goldsmiths examined all the twenty-three lattices with great attention; and after having consulted together about what they could each contribute towards its completion, they presented themselves to the sultan, and the jeweller in ordinary to the palace thus addressed him: "We are ready, sire, to employ all our diligence to obey your majesty, but amongst all our profession we have not jewels, either sufficiently valuable or numerous, to complete so great a work."—"I have then," cried the sultan, "and more than you want. Come

to my palace, I will show you them, and you shall choose which you like best."

When the sultan had got back to his palace, he made his slaves bring to the jewellers all his jewels; and they took a great quantity of them, particularly of those which had been presented by Aladdin. They used up all these, without appearing to have made much progress. They went back for more several times, and in the course of more than a month they had not finished more than half their work. They used all the sultan's jewels, with as many of the grand vizier's as he could spare, and with all these they could not do more than finish half the window.

Aladdin was well aware that all the sultan's endeavours to make the lattice of this window like the others were vain, and that he would never arrive at that honour: he went up therefore to the workmen, and not only made them stop working, but even undo all that they had yet finished, and carry back all the jewels to the sultan, and the grand vizier.

All the work which the jewellers had been six weeks in performing was destroyed in a few hours. They then went away and left Aladdin alone in the saloon. He took out the lamp, which he had with him, and rubbed it. The Genie instantly appeared. "Genie," said Aladdin to him, "I ordered you to leave one of the twenty-four lattices of this saloon imperfect, and you obeyed me. I now inform you I wish it to be made like the rest." The Genie disappeared, and Aladdin went out of the saloon. He entered it again in a few moments, and found the lattice as he wished, and similar to the others.

In the meantime the jewellers and goldsmiths arrived at the palace, and were introduced and presented to the sultan, in his own apartment. The first jeweller then produced the precious stones he had brought with him, and said in the name of the rest: "Your majesty, sire, knows for what length of time, and how diligently we have worked, in order to finish the business your majesty employed us upon. It was already very far advanced, when Aladdin obliged us not only to leave off, but even to destroy what we had already done, and to bring back



BOUDOUR AT ALADDIN'S PALACE.

these jewels, as well as those that belonged to the grand vizier." The sultan then asked them whether Aladdin had given them any reason ; and when they told the sultan that he had said nothing on the subject, the former immediately ordered his horse to be brought. He mounted, as soon as it came, and went without any other attendants than those who happened to be about his person, who accompanied him on foot. When he arrived at Aladdin's palace, he dismounted at the foot of the flight of stairs that led to the saloon with twenty-four windows. He immediately went up, without letting Aladdin know of his arrival ; but the latter happened luckily to be in the saloon ; and had barely time to receive the sultan at the door.

The sultan, without giving Aladdin time to chide him for not sending word of his intention to pay him a visit, said : " I am come, my son, to ask the reason why you wished to leave this magnificent saloon in an unfinished state ? "

Aladdin dissembled the true reason, which was, that the sultan was not sufficiently rich in jewels to go to so great an expense. " It is true, sire," he said, " that your majesty did behold this saloon unfinished, but I entreat you to examine, if, at this moment, there be anything wanting ? "

The sultan immediately went to the window where he had observed the lattice imperfect ; but when he saw that it was like the rest, he thought he was mistaken. He not only examined the window on each side of it, but looked at them all one after the other ; and when he was convinced that the lattice upon which his people had so long employed themselves was finished in such an instant, he embraced Aladdin, and kissed him between his eyes. " My dear son," said he, filled with astonishment, " what a man are you who can do such wonderful things, and almost, as it were, instantaneously ? There is not your equal in the world ; and the more I know you, the more I find to admire in you. "

Aladdin received the sultan's praises with great modesty, and replied to them in these terms : " It is, sire, my greatest glory to deserve the approbation of your majesty, and I can assure you that I will never neglect anything that will tend to make me still more worthy of your good opinion. "

When the sultan returned to his palace, he found the grand vizier waiting his arrival. Still full of admiration at the wonder to which he had been witness, the sultan related everything to him in such terms that the vizier did not doubt for a moment that the matter was exactly as the sultan told it. But this still more confirmed that minister in the belief that the palace of Aladdin was built by enchantment, which opinion he had expressed to the sultan on the very morning that the palace was first seen. He again wished to repeat the same sentiments. " Vizier," said the sultan, suddenly interrupting him, " you have before said the same thing ; but I very plainly perceive you have not forgotten my daughter's marriage with your son. "

Aladdin himself in the meantime did not remain shut up in his palace, but took care to go through different parts of the city at least once every week : sometimes to attend prayer at various mosques ; at others to visit the grand vizier, who regularly came on stated days to pay his pretended court ; and sometimes he honoured with his presence the houses of the principal nobles, whom he frequently entertained at his own palace. Every time he went out, he ordered two of the slaves who attended him as he rode, to throw handfuls of gold in the streets and public places through which he passed, and where the people always collected in crowds to see him. Besides this, a poor person never presented himself before the gate of his palace but went away well satisfied with the liberality he experienced.

Aladdin also so arranged his different occupations that there was not a week in which he did not once, at least, enjoy the diversion of the chase ; sometimes hunting in the neighbourhood of the city, and at others going to a

greater distance ; and he gave proofs of the same liberality in the roads and villages through which he passed. This generous disposition made the people load him with blessings ; and it became the common custom to swear by his head. In short, without giving the least cause of displeasure to the sultan, to whom he very regularly paid his court, it may be asserted that Aladdin had attracted, by the affability of his manners and the liberality of his conduct, the affection of every one ; and that he was even more beloved than the sultan himself. To all these good qualities he joined a great degree of valour, and an ardent zeal for the good of the state. He had also an opportunity of giving the strongest proofs of it in a revolt that took place on the confines of the kingdom. He no sooner became apprised that the sultan meant to levy an army to quell it, than he requested to have the command of it. This he had no difficulty in obtaining. He instantly put himself at its head, marched against the rebels, and conducted the whole expedition with so much judgment and activity, that the sultan heard of their defeat, punishment, and dispersion, quite as soon as of the arrival of the army at its point of destination. This action, which made Aladdin's name celebrated throughout the whole empire, did not in the least alter his disposition.

Many years passed, and Aladdin continued prosperous and beloved, when the African magician, who had procured for him, but without intending it, the means by which he was raised to so exalted a situation, frequently thought of him while he was in Africa, where he had returned. Although he was well persuaded that Aladdin had pined out a miserable existence in the subterranean cavern where he had left him, he nevertheless thought he might as well learn the particulars of his end. As he had a complete knowledge of the science of geomancy, he took out of a drawer a square covered box, such as he used when he made any observations in this science. He then sat down on the sofa, and placed the square instrument before him. He uncovered it, and after making the sand, with which it was filled, quite smooth and even, with a view of discovering whether Aladdin died in the subterranean cave, he arranged the points, drew the figures, and formed his horoscope. When he examined it, in order to form his judgment, instead of finding Aladdin dead in the cave, he discovered that he had got out of it, that he lived in the greatest splendour, was immensely rich, highly respected and honoured, and was the husband of a princess.

No sooner had the African magician learnt by his diabolical art that Aladdin was in the enjoyment of these honours, than the blood rushed into his face. " This miserable son of a tailor," he exclaimed in a rage, " has discovered the secret and virtues of the lamp. I thought his death certain ; and now he enjoys the fruits of my long and laborious exertions. I will either prevent his enjoying them long, or perish in the attempt. " He did not hesitate as to the method he should pursue. Early the next morning, he mounted a horse from Barbary, which he had in his stable, and began his journey. Travelling from city to city, and from province to province, without stopping anywhere longer than was necessary to rest his horse, he at last arrived in Cathay, and very soon reached the capital where the sultan lived, whose daughter Aladdin had married. He alighted at a public khan, where he ordered an apartment for himself. He remained there the rest of the day and following night in order to recover from the fatigue of his journey.

The first thing the African magician did, the next morning, was to inquire what was the general opinion of Aladdin, and how the people spoke of him. In walking about the city, he went into the most frequented place, where people of the greatest consequence assembled, to drink a warm liquor of a particular kind. Here he heard some person speaking of Aladdin's palace. When he had finished his cup, he approached those who were conversing on this subject, and inquired what there was in particular about this palace, of which they spoke so highly.

Where do you come from ? " said one of those, to

whom he addressed himself. "You must surely be but lately arrived in this city, if you have not seen, or even heard of the palace of prince Aladdin." It was thus that Aladdin, since his union with the princess Badroul Boudour, was always called. "I do not say," continued the same person, "that it is one of the wonders of the world, but that it is the only wonder in the world. Nothing has ever been seen so rich, so grand, or magnificent. You must have come from a great distance, since you seem never even to have heard of it. In fact, it ought to be spoken of everywhere since it has been erected. But see it, and you will then know if I have said anything but the truth."—"Pardon my ignorance, I beg of you," replied the African magician, "I arrived here only yesterday, and I have come from such a distance that the fame of it had not reached that spot when I left it. I shall not, however, fail to go and see this wonderful palace. My impatience indeed is so great that I would this moment go and satisfy my curiosity, if you would do me the favour to show me the way."

The person to whom the African magician had addressed himself took a pleasure in pointing out to him the way he must go in order to see Aladdin's palace, and the latter immediately set out. When he arrived, and had accurately examined the palace on all sides, he had not the least doubt but that Aladdin had availed himself of the power of the lamp in building it. He well knew it was in the power of the Genii, who were the slaves of the lamp, to produce such wonders. Stung to the very soul by the happiness and greatness of Aladdin, he returned to his khan.

The great thing to discover was, whether Aladdin carried the lamp about with him, or where he kept it; and this discovery he was able to make by a certain operation in geomancy. As soon, therefore, as he got back to his lodging, he took his square box and his sand, which he always carried with him. Having completed the operation, he found that the lamp was in Aladdin's palace, and his joy was so great on knowing this, that he could hardly contain himself. "I shall get this lamp," he cried, "and I defy Aladdin to prevent my obtaining it, and compelling him to sink into the native obscurity from which he has taken so high a leap."

It happened most unfortunately for Aladdin that he was absent upon a hunting expedition, which was to last eight days, and only three of them were yet elapsed. Of this the African magician got information in the following way. When he had finished the operation, which had afforded him so much joy, he went to see the master of the khan, under the pretence of conversing with him, and he had no difficulty in finding a proper subject. He told him that he was just returned from the palace of Aladdin; and after giving him an exaggerated account of all the most remarkable and surprising things he saw, and such as generally attracted the attention of every one, "My curiosity," he added, "goes still further; and I shall not be satisfied till I have seen the master, to whom so wonderful a building belongs."—"That will not be at all a difficult matter," replied the keeper of the khan, "for hardly a day passes that will not afford you an opportunity, when he is at home; but he has been gone these three days on a grand hunting party, which is to last at least eight."

The African magician did not want to know more; he took leave of the master of the khan, and returned to his own apartment. "This is the time for action," said he to himself, "nor must I let the moment slip." He then went to the shop of a person who made and sold lamps. "I want," said he to the master, "a dozen copper lamps; can you supply me with them?" The man replied, that he had not quite so many finished, but that if he would wait till the next day, he would have them ready for him at any time he wished. The magician agreed to wait; and desired him to take care and have them very well polished: and having first promised to give a good price for them, he returned to the khan.

The next morning, the African magician received the twelve lamps. He put them into a basket, which he had

provided for the express purpose, and went with this on his arm, towards Aladdin's palace, and when he was near it, he began to cry with a loud voice, "Who will change old lamps for new?" As he kept going on, the children, who were at play in the open square heard him; they ran and collected round him, hooting and shouting at him, as they took him for a fool or a madman.

The African magician was not at all surprised at the shouts of the children, nor at anything that was said of him. In order, therefore, to dispose of his merchandise, he continued to cry, "Who will change old lamps for new?" He repeated this so often, while he walked backwards and forwards on all sides of the palace, that at last the princess Badroul Boudour, who was in the saloon with twenty-four windows, heard his voice; but as she could not distinguish what he said, on account of the shouting of the children, who followed him, and whose number increased every instant, she sent one of her female slaves, who went close to him, in order to understand what was the reason of all the noise and bustle.

It was not long before the female slave returned, and entered the saloon laughing very heartily. "Well, silly one," said the princess, "why do you not tell me what it is you are laughing at?"—"Princess," replied the slave, "who can possibly help laughing at seeing that fool with a basket on his arm, full of beautiful new lamps, which he does not wish to sell, but exchange for old ones? It is the crowd of children, who surround him, that make all the noise we hear, in mocking him."

Hearing this account, another of the female slaves said: "Now you speak of old lamps, I know not whether the princess has taken notice of one that lies upon the cornice; whoever it belongs to, he will not be very much displeased in finding a new one instead of that old one. If the princess will give me leave, she may have the pleasure of trying whether this fellow is fool enough to give a new lamp for an old one, without asking anything for the exchange."

The lamp, of which the slave spoke, was the identical wonderful lamp which had been the cause of Aladdin's great success and happiness, and he had himself placed it upon the cornice, before he went to the chase, from the fear of losing it. It was the usual precaution which he took every time he hunted. But neither the female slaves, the eunuchs, nor the princess herself had paid the least attention to it, during his absence, till this moment. Except when he hunted, Aladdin always carried the lamp about him.

The princess, who was ignorant of the value of this lamp, and that Aladdin, not to say herself, was so much interested in its preservation, consented to the joke, and ordered a eunuch to go and get it exchanged. The eunuch obeyed: he went out from the saloon, and no sooner came out of the palace gate than he perceived the African magician. He immediately called to him, and when he came, he showed him the old lamp, and said, "Give me a new lamp for this."

The magician did not doubt but that this was the lamp he was seeking; because he thought there would not, of course, be any other lamp in Aladdin's palace, where everything, that could be, was of gold or silver. He eagerly took the lamp from the eunuch, and after having thrust it as far as he could into his bosom, he presented his basket, and bid him take which he liked best. The eunuch chose one, and leaving the magician, he carried the new lamp to the princess.

As soon as the African magician was out of the square, between the two palaces, he went along the most unfrequented streets, and as he had no further occasion either for the remainder of his lamps or his basket, he set them both down in the middle of a street, where he thought no one would see him. He then turned down another street, and made all the haste he could, to get to one of the gates of the city. As he continued his walk through the suburb, which was very extensive, he bought some provisions before he left it. And when he was in the open country, he turned down a by-road, where there was not a probability of seeing any person; and here he remained

till he thought a good opportunity occurred to execute the design he had in coming there. He did not regret the horse he left at the khan where he lodged, but thought himself well recompensed by the treasure he had acquired.

The African magician passed the remainder of the day in the same spot, and stayed also until the night was far advanced. He then drew the lamp out of his bosom, and rubbed it. The Genie instantly obeyed the summons. "What do you wish?" cried the Genie, "I am ready to obey you, as your slave, and the slave of those who have the lamp in their hands, I, and the other slaves of the lamp."—"I command you," replied the African magician, "instantly to take the palace, which you and the other slaves of the lamp have erected in this city, exactly as it is, with everything in it both dead and alive, and transport it, with me at the same time, into the furthest part of Africa." Without making any answer, the Genie, assisted by the other slaves of the lamp, took both him and the whole palace, and transported it in a very short time to the spot he had pointed out.

It is now necessary to leave the African magician, the princess Badroul Boudour, and the palace in Africa, and take notice of the sultan's surprise.

The sultan no sooner rose the next morning, than he did not fail, as usual, to go to the cabinet and look out, that he might have the pleasure of contemplating Aladdin's palace. He cast his eyes towards the side where he was accustomed to see this palace, but discovered only an open space. He thought he must be deceived; he rubbed his eyes, but still he could see nothing more than at first, though the air was so serene, the sky so clear, and the sun so near rising, that every object was distinct and plain. He looked on both sides, and out of both windows, but could not perceive what he had been accustomed to. His astonishment was so great that he remained for some time in the same place, with his eyes turned to the spot where the palace had stood, but where he could no longer see it, endeavouring to comprehend what was beyond his power; that is, how so large and so visible a palace as that of Aladdin's, which he had constantly seen every day, since he had given permission to have it erected, and even so lately as the day before, should so suddenly and completely vanish that not the smallest vestige remained. "I cannot be deceived," he said to himself, "it was in this very place that I beheld it. If it had fallen down, the materials at least would have appeared; and if the earth had swallowed it, we should have perceived some marks of it." He returned to his apartment, and ordered his grand vizier to be instantly sent for.

The grand vizier came in so much haste that neither he nor his attendants in the least observed, as they passed, that the palace of Aladdin was no longer in the same place. Even the porters, when they opened the gates, did not perceive the difference.

"Sire," said the grand vizier the moment he entered, "the eagerness with which your majesty has sent for me leads me to suppose that something very extraordinary has happened."—"What has happened is indeed very extraordinary, as you have said; and you will agree it is so. Tell me, where is Aladdin's palace?"—"I have just now passed, it sire," replied the vizier, with the utmost surprise; "and it seemed to me to be in the same spot. A building, so solid as that is, cannot easily change its situation."—"Go into my cabinet," answered the sultan "and come and tell me if you can see it."

The grand vizier went as he was ordered, and the very same thing happened to him as to the sultan. When he was quite sure that the palace of Aladdin did not stand in the place where it had been, he went back to the sultan. "Well," demanded the latter, "have you seen Aladdin's palace?"—"Your majesty, sire, may remember," replied the grand vizier, "that I had the honour to tell you that this palace was the work of magic; but your majesty did not then pay any attention to what I said."

The sultan, who could not deny the former representations of the grand vizier, was in the greater rage

because he was also unable to disavow his own incredulity. "Where is this impostor?" he exclaimed, "this wretch, that I may strike off his head?"—"It is some days," answered the grand vizier, "since he came to take leave of your majesty; we must send to him, to inquire about his palace; he cannot be ignorant where it is."—"This would be to treat him with too great indulgence," exclaimed the monarch, "go, and order thirty of my horsemen to bring him before me in chains."

The grand vizier instantly gave the orders, and instructed their officer how they might prevent his escape and take him. They set out, and met Aladdin, who was returning from the chase, about five or six leagues from the city. The officer, when he first accosted him, said that the sultan was so impatient to see him again that he had sent them to inform him of it, and to accompany him on his return.

Aladdin had not the least suspicion of the true cause that had brought this detachment of the sultan's guard. He continued hunting on his way home; but when he was within half a league of the city, the detachment surrounded him, and the officer then said, "Prince Aladdin, it is with the greatest regret that I must inform you of the orders we have received from the sultan to arrest you, and conduct you like a state criminal. We entreat you not to take it ill in us, that we do our duty, but on the contrary, that you will pardon us." This declaration astonished Aladdin to the greatest degree. He felt himself innocent; and asked the officer if he knew of what crime he was accused; but he replied that neither he nor his men were acquainted with it.

As Aladdin perceived that his own attendants were much inferior to the detachment, and even that they went to some distance, he dismounted, and said to the officer, "Here I am, execute whatever orders you have received. I must, however, aver that I am guilty of no crime, either towards the person of the sultan or the state." They immediately put a long chain about his neck, which they then bound round his body, so that he had not the use of his arms. When the officer had put himself at the head of the troop, one of the horsemen took hold of the end of the chain, and going on behind the officer, he led Aladdin, who was obliged to follow on foot; and in this state he was conducted through the city.

When the guards entered the suburbs, the first person who saw Aladdin conducted in this way, like a state criminal, did not doubt but that he was going to lose his head. As he was generally beloved, some seized a sabre, others whatever arms they could, and those who had none took up stones, and in this manner followed the guards. Some of those who were in the rear wheeled about, as if they wished to disperse them, but the people increased so fast that the guards thought it better to dissemble, well satisfied if they could conduct Aladdin safe to the palace without his being rescued. In order to succeed the better, they took great care, as the streets happened to be more or less wide, to occupy the whole space, sometimes extending and at others compressing themselves. In this manner they arrived in the open square before the palace, where they all formed into one line, and faced about towards the armed multitude, while the officer and guard, who led Aladdin, entered the palace, and the porters shut the gates, to prevent any one from entering.

Aladdin was conducted before the sultan, who waited for him, accompanied by the grand vizier, in a balcony. And he no sooner saw him, than he commanded the executioner, who was already present by his orders, to strike off his head, as he wished not to hear a word, or any explanation whatever.

When the executioner had seized Aladdin, he took off the chain that was round his neck and body, and after laying down on the ground a large piece of leather, stained with the blood of the many criminals he had executed, he desired him to place himself on his knees, and then tied a bandage over his eyes. Having drawn his sabre, he was about to give the fatal stroke, only making the three usual flourishes in the air, and waiting for the sultan's signal to separate Aladdin's head from his body.

At this very instant the grand vizier perceived that the populace, which had forced the guards, and filled the square, were scaling the walls of the palace in many places. Before therefore the sultan could give the signal, he said to him, "I beseech your majesty to think maturely of what you are going to do; you will run the risk, sire, of having your palace forced."—"My palace forced!" replied the sultan, "who can dare attempt it?"—"If your majesty, sire, will cast your eyes towards the walls in that part, you will acknowledge the truth of what I say."

When the sultan saw such eager and violent commotion, his fear was very great. He instantly ordered the executioner to put up his sabre, to take the bandage off Aladdin's eyes, and set him at liberty. He also commanded an officer to proclaim that he pardoned Aladdin, and that every one might retire.

When Aladdin found himself at liberty, he lifted up his head towards the balcony, and perceiving the sultan, he raised his voice, and addressed him in the most pathetic manner. "I entreat your majesty," he said, "to add a new favour to the pardon you have just granted me; and that is, to inform me of my crime."—"What thy crime is, perfidious wretch!" replied the sultan, "dost thou not know it? Come up here, and I will show thee."

Aladdin ascended, and when he presented himself, "Follow me," said the sultan, walking on before, without taking any other notice of him. He led the way to the cabinet that opened towards the place where Aladdin's palace stood. When they came to the door; "Go in," said the sultan, "you ought to know where your own palace is. Look on all sides, and tell me what is become of it." Aladdin looked, but saw nothing. He perceived the space which his palace had lately occupied; but as he could not conceive how it should have disappeared, this extraordinary event so confused and astonished him, that he could not answer the sultan a single word. "Tell me," said the latter, impatient at his silence, "where is your palace, and what is become of my daughter?"—"Sire," replied Aladdin, at last breaking silence, "I plainly see, and must own, that the palace, which I built, is no longer in the place where it was, I see it has disappeared; but I can assure your majesty that I have had no part in this event."

"I care not what is become of your palace; that gives me no pain," replied the sultan. "I esteem my daughter a million times beyond it; unless therefore you discover and bring her again to me, no consideration shall yet prevent my taking off your head."—"Sire," said Aladdin, "I entreat your majesty to grant me forty days to make the most diligent inquiries, and if I do not, during this period, succeed in my search, I give you my word that I will lay my head at the foot of your throne, that you may dispose of me according to your pleasure."—"I grant your request," answered the sultan, "but do not think to abuse my favour, and endeavour to escape my resentment. In whatever part of the world you are, I will take care to discover you."

Aladdin then left the sultan's presence in the deepest humiliation, and in a state truly deserving of pity. He passed through the courts of the palace with downcast eyes; and the principal officers of the court, not one of whom had he ever disobliged, instead of coming to console him, or offer him a retreat at their houses, turned their backs upon him, both that they might not be supposed to see him, nor he be able to recognise them.

At length, as Aladdin could not in his wretched state remain any longer in the city, where he had hitherto lived in such splendour, he departed towards the country. He soon turned out of the high road, and after walking over a great deal of ground in the most dreadful state of mind, he arrived towards the close of day on the borders of a river. He now gave himself up entirely to despair. "Whither shall I go to seek my palace?" he exclaimed to himself. "In what country, in what part of the world, shall I find either that, or my dear princess, whom the

sultan demands of me? Never shall I be able to succeed! It is much better, then, that I at once free myself from all my labours, which must end in nothing, and all the cutting sensations that distract me." He was then going to throw himself into the river, according to his resolution; but being a good mussulman, and faithful to his religion, he thought he ought not to do it without first repeating his prayers. In order to perform this ceremony, he went close to the bank to wash his face and hands, as was the custom of his country, but as this spot was rather steep, and the ground moist from the water that had washed against it, he slipped down and would have fallen into the river, if he had not been stopped by a piece of stone, or rock, that projected about two feet from the surface. Happy was it for him, too, that he still had with him the ring which the African magician had put upon his finger, when he made him go down into the subterraneous cavern to bring away the precious lamp, which was so near remaining buried with him. In holding against the piece of rock, he rubbed the ring so strongly, that the same Genie instantly appeared whom he had before seen in the subterraneous cavern. "What do you wish?" cried the Genie: "I am ready to obey you, as your slave, and as the slave of him who has that ring on his finger, I and the other slaves of the ring."

Aladdin was most agreeably surprised by a sight he so little expected in the despair he was in; and directly replied, "Save my life, Genie, a second time, by informing me where the palace is, which I have built, or by procuring it to be again placed where it was."—"What you require of me," answered the Genie, "is beyond my ability: I am only the slave of the ring; you must address yourself to the slave of the lamp."—"If that be the case, then," added Aladdin, "at least transport me to the spot where my palace is, let it be in what part of the world it will; and place me under the window of the princess Badroul Boudour." He had barely said this, before the Genie transported him to Africa, near a great city, and in the midst of a large meadow, in which the palace stood, and set him down directly under the windows of the apartment of the princess, and there left him. All this was the work of an instant.

Notwithstanding the obscurity of the night, Aladdin very readily recognised both his own palace and the apartment of the princess; but as the night was far advanced, and everything in the palace was quiet, he retired to one side, and seated himself at the foot of a tree. Full of hopes, and reflecting on the good fortune which chance alone had procured him, he here felt himself in a much more tranquil state than since he had been arrested by the sultan's order, brought before him, and again delivered from the danger of losing his head. He amused himself for some time with these agreeable thoughts; but as he had for five or six days enjoyed hardly any rest, he could not prevent himself being overcome by sleep.

The next morning, as soon as the sun began to appear, Aladdin was most agreeably awakened by the notes of the birds, which had perched for the night, not only upon the tree under which he lay, but also among the other thick trees in the garden of his palace. He cast his eyes upon this beautiful building, and felt an inexpressible joy at the thoughts of being again master of it, and once more possessing his dear princess. He got up, and approached the apartment of the princess. He walked for some time under the window, waiting till she rose, in hopes that she might observe him. While in expectation of this, he considered within himself what could have been the cause of his misfortune; and after meditating some time, he entertained no doubt but that it arose from his having left his lamp. He accused himself of negligence and carelessness in having suffered the lamp to be out of his possession a single moment. He was, however, the most embarrassed in trying to discover who could be so jealous of his happiness. He would at once have comprehended it, if he had known that both he and his palace were in Africa; but the Genie, who was the slave of the ring, had not informed him. The name alone of

Africa would have brought his declared enemy, the magician, to his recollection.

The princess Badroul Boudour rose this morning much earlier than she had yet done since she had been transported into Africa by the artifice of the magician, whose sight she was compelled to endure once every day, as he was master of the palace ; but she constantly treated him so ill, that he never yet had the boldness to sleep there. When she was dressed, one of her women, looking through the lattice, perceived Aladdin, and instantly ran and informed her mistress. The princess, who could scarcely believe this news, immediately went to the window, and saw him herself. She opened the lattice ; the noise of which made Aladdin raise his head. He instantly recognised her, and saluted her in a manner highly expressive of his joy. "Lose not a moment," cried the princess, "they are gone to open the secret door, ascend this instant." She then shut the lattice.

This secret door was directly below the apartment of the princess. It was open, and Aladdin entered her apartment. It is impossible to express the joy they both felt in again seeing each other, after having concluded that their separation was eternal. They embraced each other with tears of joy many times, and gave all imaginable proofs of the tenderest affection, after so cruel and so unforeseen a separation. They at length sat down. "Before you mention anything else, my princess," said Aladdin, "tell me, in the name of God, as well for your own sake, and for that of the sultan, your ever respected father, as for mine, what has become of that old lamp, which I placed upon the cornice of the saloon with twenty-four windows, before I went on the hunting party?"—"Ah ! my dear husband," replied the princess, "I doubt very much whether our mutual misfortunes have not arisen from that lamp : and what the more distresses me is, that I am myself the cause of it."—"Do not, princess," resumed Aladdin, "attribute the matter to yourself ; I only am to blame, for I ought to have been more careful in its preservation. But let us now only think of repairing that loss : and for this purpose, inform me, I beg of you, of everything that has happened, and into whose hands this lamp has fallen."

The princess then related to Aladdin everything that had passed, relative to the exchange of the old lamp for a new one, which she showed him ; and how, on the following night, after having been sensible of the removal of the palace, she found herself the next morning in the unknown country, where she was now ; and that this country was Africa, a fact she had learned from the traitor, who, by his magic art, had transported her there.

"Princess," replied Aladdin, interrupting her, "by informing me that we are in Africa, you have at once unmasked the traitor. He is the most infamous of men. But this is neither a proper time nor place to enter into a detail of his crimes. I entreat you only to tell me what he has done with the lamp, and where he has put it."—"He constantly," rejoined the princess, "carries it carefully wrapped up in his bosom. I am sure of this, because he once took it out in my presence, showing it to me in triumph."

"Do not be offended, my princess," continued Aladdin, "at all the questions I put to you ; they are of equal importance to us both. But to come at once to what most interests me ; tell me, I conjure you, how you have been treated by so infamous and perfidious a wretch."—"Since I have been in this place," answered the princess, "he has presented himself before me only once during the day ; and I am persuaded that the little satisfaction he has derived from his visits makes him repeat them less often. All that he has ever said to me has only been for the purpose of persuading me to be faithless to you, and to take him for my husband ; wishing to convince me that I ought never to expect to see you again ; that you are no longer alive, and that the sultan, my father, has ordered your head to be cut off. And to prove to me that you were an ungrateful wretch, he said that you owed all your good fortune to him, with a thousand other

injuriously expressions that I cannot repeat. And as he never had any other answer than my complaints and tears afforded him, he was obliged to retire with as little satisfaction as he came. I have nevertheless no doubt but that he means to suffer the most violent effects of my affliction to subside, with the hope and expectation that I shall change my mind ; and if, in the end, I should persevere in my resistance, to make use of violent methods ; but your presence, my dear husband, at once dissipates all my fears."

"Princess," interrupted Aladdin, "I trust you will not be deceived, as I think I have discovered the means of delivering you from our common enemy. For this purpose, however, I must go into the town ; I will return about noon, and tell you the nature of my design, for you must yourself contribute towards its success. Do not be astonished if you see me return in a different dress ; and be sure you give orders that I may be admitted the instant I knock." The princess promised that somebody should be ready to open the secret door on his arrival.

When Aladdin left the apartment by the same door he had entered, he looked about on all sides, and at last discovered a peasant, who was going into the country. As this peasant had got to some distance beyond the palace, Aladdin hastened to overtake him ; and as soon as he joined him, he proposed to change clothes, and made him such an offer that the peasant readily agreed to it. This took place behind a small bush ; and when the exchange was completed, they separated, and Aladdin took the road that led to the town. When he got there, he turned down a street which led from the gate, and then getting into those streets which were most frequented, he came to that part where each street was occupied by a particular profession or trade. He went into that appropriated to druggists, and going to the shop which appeared the largest and best supplied, he asked the owner if he had a certain powder, the name of which he mentioned.

The merchant, who, from looking at Aladdin's dress, did not conceive that he had money enough to pay for it, replied that he had it, but that it was very dear. Aladdin readily entered into the merchant's thoughts, and therefore took out his purse, and showing him the gold, desired to have half a drachm of the powder. The merchant weighed it, wrapped it up, and giving it to Aladdin, demanded one piece of gold for it. The latter immediately paid him, and without stopping in the town any longer than was necessary to take some nourishment, returned to the palace. He had no occasion to wait at the secret door : it was instantly opened, and he went up to the apartment of the princess Badroul Boudour. "The aversion, my princess," said Aladdin to her as soon as he came in, "which you have expressed for your ravisher, may probably occasion you some pain in complying with the instructions I am about to give you. But permit me, in the first place, to tell you that it is necessary for you to dissemble, if you wish to be delivered from his persecution."

"If you will follow my advice," continued Aladdin, "you will this moment begin to adorn yourself in one of your most elegant dresses, and when the African magician shall come, make no difficulty in receiving him with all the affability you can assume. In your conversation with him give him to understand that you are making the greatest efforts to forget me ; and that he may be still more convinced of your sincerity, invite him to sup with you, and tell him that you are desirous of tasting some of the best wine this country can produce. On this, he will not fail to leave you, in order to procure some. While he is gone, do you go to the sideboard, which will, of course, be set out, and put into one of the cups you usually drink out of, this powder ; set the cup on one side, and tell one of your women to fill it, and bring it to you at a certain signal, which you must explain to her, warning her not to make any mistake. When the magician shall be returned, and you shall again have sat down to table, after having eaten and drunk as much as you think proper, make them bring you the particular goblet in which the powder was

put, and then do you make an exchange with him. He will find the flavour of that you give him so excellent he will not refuse it, but drink it up to the last drop. Scarcely shall he have emptied the cup than you will see him fall backwards. If you should feel any repugnance at drinking out of his cup, you only need pretend to do so, and you can very easily manage this, for the effect of the powder will be so sudden, that he will not have time to pay any attention to what you do."

When Aladdin had finished his instructions, the princess answered, "I must confess that I shall violently shock my own feelings, in agreeing to make these advances to the magician. But I will do as you direct, since your happiness depends upon it, as well as mine."

When these matters were all arranged with the princess, Aladdin took his leave, and passed the remainder of the day in the neighbourhood of the palace, and as the night came on, he approached the secret door.

The princess Badroul Boudour feeling herself inconsolable, not only at her separation from her dear husband Aladdin, but also at being separated from the sultan, her father, had hitherto completely neglected her person from the very moment she knew of this distressful separation.

But now, in obedience to Aladdin, she went to her toilet, and made her women dress her in the most becoming manner. She put on one of her richest habits. Her girdle was of gold, set with diamonds of the largest size, and the best chosen. She put on only a necklace of pearls; six of which, on each side the centre one, which was the largest and most valuable, were so beautifully proportioned, that the proudest sultanas and greatest queens would have thought themselves happy in possessing a necklace equal to the two smallest. Her bracelets, which were formed of diamonds and rubies, admirably corresponded to the richness of her girdle and necklace.

When the princess was completely dressed, she consulted her mirror, and asked the opinion of her women upon her appearance; and finding she was not deficient in any of those charms that might flatter the foolish passion of the African magician, she seated herself upon the sofa, in expectation of his arrival.

The magician did not fail to make his appearance at the usual hour. As soon as the princess saw him come into the saloon with the twenty-four windows, where she was waiting to receive him, she rose in all the splendour of her beauty and charms. She pointed to the most honourable seat, and remained standing till he had reached it, that she might sit down at the same time. This distinguished civility she had never before shown him.

The African magician, more dazzled by the lustre of her eyes than the brilliancy of the jewels she wore, was greatly struck. Her majestic air, the gracious manner she had put on, so opposite to the rebuffs he had hitherto met with from her, absolutely confused him. He at first wished to sit at the very end of the sofa; but as he saw that the princess declined taking her seat until he was seated where she wished, he at last obeyed.

No sooner was he in his place, than the princess said to him: "You are doubtless astonished at seeing me appear to-day quite a different person from what I have hitherto done; but you will no longer be surprised at it, when I tell you that I am naturally of a disposition so much the reverse of melancholy or distress, that I endeavour to drive them from me by every means in my power, as soon as the cause of them has been a short time over. I have reflected upon what you have said respecting the destiny of Aladdin, and from the disposition of the sultan, my father, which I well know, I am persuaded, like yourself, that the former could not possibly avoid the terrible effects of his rage. I concluded, therefore, that even if I were to weep and lament all the remainder of my life, that my tears would not revive him. These are the motives which have produced the change you see. In order, then, to begin to drive away all sorrow, which I have now resolved to banish from my mind, and being persuaded that you will assist me in the endeavour, I have

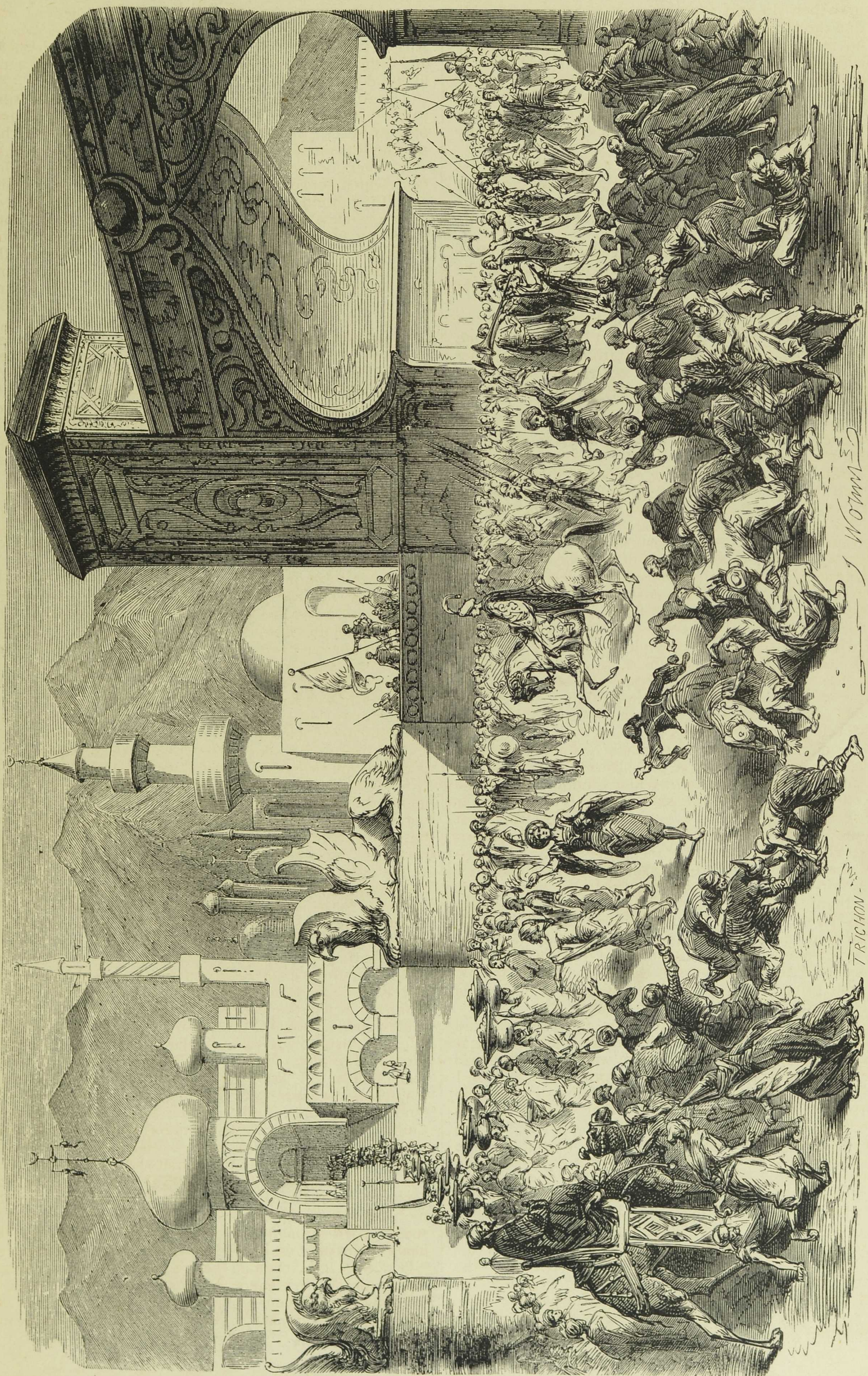
ordered a supper to be prepared; but as I have only some wine which is the produce of Cathay, and am now in Africa, I have a great desire to taste what is made here and I thought if there were any that you would be most likely to have the best."

The African magician, who had conceived it impossible to have so soon, and so easily, acquired the good graces of the princess Badroul Boudour, did not fail to tell her that he was unable sufficiently to express how sensible he was of her goodness; and to put an end to a conversation from which he would find it difficult to disengage himself if it continued any longer, he adverted to the wine of Africa, which she had mentioned, and told her that among the many advantages which that country boasted of possessing, that of producing most excellent wine was the principal, particularly in the part where she then was; and that he had some seven years old, and it was not saying too much to aver that it surpassed all others in the whole world. "If my princess," added he, "will permit me, I will go and bring two bottles, and will return in an instant."—"I should be sorry to give you that trouble," replied the princess, "it would be better surely to send some one."—"It is necessary for me to go myself," resumed the magician, "no one but myself has the key of the cellar; nor does any one else know the secret of opening it."—"The longer you are gone the more impatient I shall be to see you again; remember that we sit down to table on your return."

Full of the ideas of his expected happiness, the African magician not only ran, but absolutely flew to fetch the wine, and was back almost instantly. The princess did not doubt but that he would make haste, and therefore threw the powder, which Aladdin had given her, into a goblet, and set it aside against she should call for it. They then sat down opposite to each other, so that the magician's back was towards the sideboard. The princess, helping him to what appeared the best, said to him, "If you have any inclination, I will give you some music, but as we are only by ourselves, I think that conversation will afford us most pleasure." The magician regarded this choice as a fresh mark of her favour.

After they had eaten for some little time, the princess asked for some wine, and drank to the magician's health. "You are right," she cried, when she had drunk, "in praising your wine; I have never tasted any so delicious."—"Charming princess," replied he, holding the goblet they had given him in his hand, "my wine acquires a fresh flavour by the approbation you have bestowed upon it."—"Drink to my health," resumed the princess; "you must confess I understand it." He did as she ordered him, and in returning the goblet, he added, "I esteem myself very happy, princess, to have reserved this wine for so good an occasion; and I confess I have never in my whole life drunk any in so agreeable a manner."

When they had continued eating some time longer, and had taken three cups each, the princess, who had completely fascinated the African magician by her obliging manners, at length gave the signal to her woman to have some wine, at the same time desiring her to bring a gobletful, and also to fill that of the magician, which they presented to him. When they each held their goblet in their hands, "I know not," said she to the African magician, "what is your custom, when those, who are fond of each other, drink together as we do. With us in Cathay, each person presents his own goblet to the other, and the lovers then drink to each other's health." At the same time she presented the goblet she held, and put out her other hand to receive his. The African magician hastened to make this change, with which he was the more delighted, as he looked upon this favour as the surest mark of having made an entire conquest of the heart of the princess; and this completed his happiness. "Princess," he exclaimed before he drank, and holding the goblet in his hand, "never shall I forget that in drinking out of your goblet I have regained that life which your cruelty, had it continued, would most infallibly have destroyed."



ALADDIN ACCOMPANIES HIS PRESENTS TO THE PALACE.

"Drink," cried the princess, interrupting him, "you may then say what you please to me." At the same time she appeared to carry the goblet she held to her mouth, but barely suffered it to touch her lips, while the African magician did not leave a single drop. As he drained the goblet, he fell upon his back, and expired without the least struggle.

The princess had no occasion to order them to go and open the secret door, to admit Aladdin. Her women, who were stationed at different parts, gave the word one to the other from the saloon to the bottom of the staircase, so that the African magician had no sooner fallen backwards than the door was opened.

Aladdin went up to the saloon, and as soon as he saw the African magician extended on the sofa, he stopped Badroul Boudour, who had risen to congratulate him on the joyful event. "My princess," he cried, "there is at this moment no time for rejoicing ; do me the favour to retire to your apartment, and to suffer me to be alone, while I prepare for our return to Cathay as quickly as you went from it." In fact, the princess, her women, and the eunuchs, were no sooner out of the hall, than Aladdin shut the door ; and then going up to the body of the African magician, which was lying lifeless on the sofa, he opened his vest, and took out the lamp, which was wrapped up exactly in the manner the princess had described. He took it out and rubbed it. The Genie instantly presented himself, and made the usual speech. "Genie," said Aladdin, "I have called you, to command you in the name of this lamp, your good mistress, immediately to take this palace, and transport it to the same spot in Cathay whence it was brought here." The Genie, first showing by an inclination of his head that he would obey, vanished. The journey was in fact made, and only two slight shocks were perceptible ; one when the palace was taken up from the place where it stood in Africa, and the other when it was set down in Cathay, opposite to the sultan's palace ; and this was all done in a very short space of time.

Aladdin then went down to the apartment of Badroul Boudour. "Our joy, my princess," exclaimed Aladdin, embracing her, "will be complete by to-morrow morning." As the princess had not finished her supper, and as Aladdin was much in want of food, she ordered them to bring the things from the saloon with twenty-four windows, where the supper had been served, and which they had not yet removed. The princess and Aladdin drank together, and found the old wine of the magician most excellent.

Since the removal of Aladdin's palace, and the loss of his daughter, as he thought for ever, the sultan had been inconsolable. He slept neither night nor day ; and instead of going only every morning to the cabinet to satisfy himself as it were only with the recollected sight of what he was in fact unable to perceive, he went several times during the day to renew his tears, and overwhelm himself with grief at the loss of what he esteemed the most of anything in the world. The sun had not yet risen, when the sultan entered this cabinet, as usual, on the very morning that Aladdin's palace had been brought back to its place. When he first came in, he was so much absorbed in his own feelings, that he threw his eyes over the accustomed spot in the most melancholy manner, with the expectation of beholding, as he thought, only a vacant space, unoccupied by the palace. But when he first found the void filled up, he conjectured that it was only a mist. He then looked with greater attention, and could not at last doubt but it was the palace of Aladdin which he saw. Chagrin and sorrow were succeeded by the most delightful sensations of joy. He hastened back to his apartment, and instantly ordered them to saddle and bring him a horse. It was no sooner brought than he mounted it and set out, thinking he could not arrive soon enough at Aladdin's palace.

Aladdin, who had conjectured what might be the consequence, had risen at daybreak ; and as soon as he had dressed himself in one of his most magnificent robes, he went up to the saloon with twenty-four windows, from

which he perceived the sultan as he was coming along. He then descended ; and was in time to receive him at the bottom of the grand staircase, and assist him in dismounting. "Aladdin," cried the sultan, "I cannot speak to you, till I have embraced my daughter."

He then conducted the sultan to the apartment of the princess Badroul Boudour. She had just finished dressing. The sultan eagerly embraced her, bathing her face with his tears, while the princess, on her part showed the greatest marks of delight at again beholding him. "My dear daughter," exclaimed the sultan, at length recovering his speech, "I wish to believe that the joy you feel at again seeing me, makes you appear so little changed as if not even an unpleasant circumstance had happened to you. I am sure, however, that you must have suffered a great deal. No one can have been suddenly transported as you have been, and with a whole palace at the same time, without the most dreadful feelings. Relate to me, I beg of you, everything as it happened, and do not conceal the least circumstance."

When the princess had related to her father all that happened in Africa, Aladdin conducted the sultan to the saloon, and showed him the dead body of the magician, whose face was already become livid by the strength of the poison. He embraced Aladdin with the greatest tenderness. "Do not think ill of me, my son," cried he, "for having used you in the manner I have done ; paternal affection forced me to it, and I deserve to be pardoned for the excess to which it carried me."—"Sire," replied Aladdin, "I have not the least reason to complain of your majesty's conduct. This magician, this infamous wretch, the most detestable of men, was the sole cause of my disgrace."

Aladdin ordered the magician's body to be thrown away, that it might serve for the beasts and birds to prey upon. In the meantime, the sultan had a festival proclaimed of ten days' continuance, in honour of the return of the princess Badroul Boudour, of Aladdin, and his palace.

It was in this manner that Aladdin a second time escaped an almost inevitable death ; but even this was not the last ; he was in danger a third time ; the circumstances attending which are now going to be related.

The African magician had a younger brother, who was not inferior to him in his knowledge of magic ; and who surpassed him in wicked intentions and diabolical machinations. As they did not always live together, nor even in the same city, one sometimes being at the eastern extremity, while the other travelled in the most western part of the world, they did not fail once every year to inform themselves, by means of their knowledge of geomancy, in what part of the world the other was, how he was going on, and whether either wanted the assistance of the other.

Some time after the African magician had failed in his attempt against Aladdin, his younger brother, who had not received any intelligence of him for a year, and who was not in Africa, wished to know where he was, whether he was well, and what he was about. Into whatever place he travelled, he never went without his square geomantic box, like that of his brother. He took then this box, and having arranged the sand, he cast the points, drew the figures, and formed his horoscope. In examining each part, he discovered that his brother was no longer alive, that he had been poisoned, and that his death was sudden. On searching further, he found that his body had been carried to a capital, situated in a particular part of Cathay ; and that he by whom he had been poisoned was a man of low birth, but was married to a princess, the daughter of a sultan.

When the magician was thus apprised of the melancholy fate of his brother, he did not waste his time in useless regrets ; but he took the instant resolution to avenge his death : he mounted his horse and directly began his journey towards Cathay. After a long journey, accomplished in the midst of almost incredible fatigue and difficulty, he at length reached Cathay, and in a short

time afterwards arrived at that capital which his experiment in geomancy had pointed out.

The very next morning the magician went out, and in walking through the city, with the intention of commencing his measures in order to put his pernicious design into execution, he introduced himself into the most frequented places, and was very attentive to the conversation that passed. At a place where many people spent their time in playing a variety of games, and where, while some are playing, others entertain themselves with the news of the day, he observed that they spoke much of, and highly praised, the piety of a woman, called Fatima, who led a retired life, and even of the miracles she performed. As he thought that this woman might perhaps be in some way useful in the business he was about, he took one of the persons aside, and begged him to give a more particular account of this holy woman, and what sort of miracles she performed.

"What," exclaimed this man, "have you never seen or even heard of her? She is the admiration of the whole city, by her fasting and austere life, and by the good example she sets. Except on Mondays and Fridays she never leaves her hermitage; but on these days she comes into the city, and she does an infinite deal of good, for there is no one who is afflicted with a pain in the head whom she does not cure by laying her hands upon them."

The magician did not want to know more on this subject, he only inquired of the same person in what quarter of the city the hermitage of this holy woman was. He informed him: upon which, after first forming the horrible design about to be mentioned, and that he might be the more sure of its success, he observed all her conduct on the very first day she went out after this inquiry, and did not lose sight of her the whole day, till she returned in the evening to her cell. When he had accurately remarked the spot, he returned to one of those places where, as has been said, a certain warm liquor is prepared and sold, and where, if you choose it, you may pass the night, particularly during the hot weather, when the inhabitants of Cathay prefer sleeping upon a mat, rather than a bed.

The magician having first paid the owner for what he had, which did not amount to much, went out about midnight, and took the road to the hermitage of Fatima, the holy woman, the name by which she was distinguished throughout the city. He had no difficulty in opening the door, as it was only fastened by a latch. As soon as he entered, he shut it again without making any noise. He then perceived Fatima, by the light of the moon, lying almost in the open air, upon a couch with a ragged mat, close to the side of her cell. He approached, and after taking out a poniard he had by his side, he awoke her.

On opening her eyes, poor Fatima was very much astonished at seeing a man on the point of plunging a poniard into her. Holding the point of the dagger against her breast, ready in an instant to plunge it into her heart, "If you cry out," said he, "or make the least noise, I will murder you. Get up, and do what I bid you." Fatima, who always slept in her clothes, got up, trembling with fear. "Fear nothing," said the magician, "I only want your habit; give it me, and take mine." When this was done, and the magician was dressed in Fatima's clothes, he said to her, "Paint my face like yours, so that I shall resemble you, and the colour will not come off." As he saw that she still trembled, he added, in order to give her courage, and that she might do what he wanted of her the better, "Fear nothing, I tell you again, I swear, in the name of God, that I will spare your life." Fatima then led him into the interior of her cell, lighted her lamp, and taking a certain liquid in a basin, and a pencil, she rubbed it over his face; assuring him it would not change, and that there was no difference in colour between her complexion and his. She then put upon him her own head-dress, with a veil, and instructed him how she concealed her face with it in walking through the city. She finished, by hanging a large necklace, or chaplet, round his neck, which came down nearly to his waist; she then

put the stick she was accustomed to walk with into his hand, and giving him a mirror, "Look," she said, "and you will find that you cannot possibly resemble me more. The magician found everything as he wished; but he did not keep the oath he had so solemnly taken in her presence. But that no one might see the blood which would fall if he stabbed her with his poniard, he strangled her, and when he found that she was dead, he drew the body by the feet to the cistern of the hermitage, and threw it in.

The magician, thus disguised like the holy woman, passed the remainder of the night in the hermitage. Very early the next morning, he went out, and as the first thing he did, on his arrival in the city, had been to go and observe the palace of Aladdin, and as it was there he meant to put his scheme in execution, he took the road towards it.

As soon as the people saw the holy woman, as every one imagined him to be, the magician was surrounded by a great crowd of people. Some recommended themselves to his prayers, others kissed his hand; some still more respectful, kissed the hem of his robe, while others, either because they had the head-ache, or wished to be preserved from it, bent down before him, that he might lay his hands upon them; he did so, muttering at the same time, a few words, like a sort of prayer. In short, he so well imitated the holy woman, that every one was deceived, and took him for her. After stopping very often, he at last arrived in the square before Aladdin's palace, where, as the crowd increased, the difficulty to get near him was also greater. The strongest and most zealous beat off the crowd to get a place for themselves, and hence several quarrels arose, the noise of which reached the ears of the princess Badroul Boudour, who was sitting in the saloon with twenty-four windows.

The princess demanded what the occasion of the noise was; and as no person could inform her, she ordered some one to go and see, and bring her an account. One of her women, without leaving the saloon, looked through the lattice, and then came and told her that it arose from a crowd of people who were collected round the holy woman, to be cured of a pain in their heads by her laying her hands upon them.

The princess, who for some time past had heard every one speak in praise of this holy woman, but who had never yet beheld her, felt a desire to see and converse with her. Having mentioned something to this effect, the chief of the eunuchs, who was present, said that if she wished it, he was sure he could get her to come, and that she had only to give her orders. The princess consented to it, and he instantly despatched four eunuchs, with an order to bring back this pretended old woman with them.

When the magician, clothed in this sanctified dress, but with a heart the most diabolical, was introduced into the saloon with twenty-four windows, and perceived the princess, he began a prayer, which contained a long catalogue of exhortations and wishes for her piety, her prosperity, and the accomplishment of everything she could desire. He then displayed all his hypocritical and deceitful rhetoric, in order to insinuate himself, under the cloak of great piety, into the good opinion of the princess.

When the false Fatima had finished her long harangue, "My good mother," replied the princess, "I am much obliged to you for your kind prayers. Approach, and sit down near me." The pretended Fatima sat down with the greatest appearance of modesty; when the princess, continuing her speech, said: "My good mother, I have a request to make to you, which you must not refuse me, and that is, that you come and live with me, that I may have you constantly to converse with, and may learn from your advice, and the good example you set me, how I ought to serve God."

"Princess," replied the false Fatima, "I entreat you not to require my compliance in a thing to which I cannot agree, without breaking in upon my prayers and devotions."—"Do not let that give you any pain," resumed the

princess, "I have many apartments which are not occupied, you shall choose that which you like best, and you shall have the power of attending to your devotions with as much liberty there as if you were in your own hermitage."

The magician, who had no other view but to introduce himself into Aladdin's palace, did not make much difficulty in acceding to the obliging offer of Badroul Boudour. "Princess," he replied, "whatever resolution a poor and miserable woman like myself may have made, to renounce the world, its pomps and vanities, I nevertheless dare not resist either the wish or the command of so pious and charitable a princess."

Upon this answer, the princess herself got up, and said to the magician, "Rise, and come with me, that I may show you all the apartments that are unoccupied; you may then make your choice." He followed the princess through all the apartments she showed him, which were very good, and handsomely furnished. He chose the one which appeared to be the least so, saying at the same time that it was much too good for him, and that he only made choice of it to oblige her.

The princess wished to take this impostor back with her to the saloon with twenty-four windows, and dine with her; but as it was necessary in the act of eating to uncover his face, which he had hitherto kept concealed by the veil, and as he was afraid she might not then suppose him to be Fatima, the holy woman, he begged her so earnestly to excuse him, saying that he never ate anything but bread and dried fruits, and to permit him to take his trifling meal in his own apartment, that she readily complied with his wishes. "My good mother," she said, "you are quite at liberty; do as you would in the hermitage; I will order them to carry you in some food; but remember that I shall expect you as soon as you have finished your repast."

The princess then dined, and the false Fatima did not fail to return to her when she rose from table. "My good mother," said the princess, "I am delighted at enjoying the society of such a holy woman as you are, who will, by your presence, bring down blessings upon the whole palace. And now I mention this palace, pray tell me how you like it? But before I show you every particular part, tell me how you like this saloon?"

At this inquiry the pretended Fatima, who, in order to act her part with more appearance of truth, had till now kept her head cast down towards the ground, at length raised it, and looked at everything in the saloon, from one end to the other, and when she had thoroughly examined it, she said, "Indeed, princess, this saloon is truly beautiful, and worthy of admiration. But as far as a recluse can judge, who knows nothing of what is reckoned beautiful by the world in general, I think only one thing is wanting."—"What is that, my good mother?" inquired Badroul Boudour, "I entreat you to tell it me. For my part, I thought, and had also heard it said, that nothing was wanting; but whatever may be deficient, I will have supplied."

"Pardon me this liberty, princess," replied the still-dissembling magician, "my opinion, if it can be of any value, is, that if the egg of a roc were suspended from the centre of the dome, this saloon would not have its equal in either of the four quarters of the globe, and your palace would be the whole wonder of the universe."

"My good mother," resumed the princess, "what kind of bird is a roc, and where could the egg of one be found?"—"Princess," answered the feigned Fatima, "the roc is a bird of prodigious size, which inhabits the summit of Mount Caucasus, and the architect who designed your palace can procure you one."

After having thanked the pretended Fatima for her kind information, the princess Badroul Boudour continued the conversation upon various subjects; but she by no means forgot the egg of the roc, and of which she fully intended to inform Aladdin, when he returned from hunting. He had already been absent six days, and the magician, who was well aware of this circumstance, wished to take advantage of his absence. Aladdin returned on the same

evening, at a time when the false Fatima had taken leave of the princess, and had retired to the apartment allotted to her. As soon as he entered the palace, he went to the apartment of the princess, to which she had already retired. She seemed to him to receive him with rather less affection than usual. "I do not find you, my princess," said he, "in your usual good spirits. Has anything happened during my absence that has vexed you? Do not, in the name of God, conceal it from me, for there is nothing in my power that I will not do to endeavour to dispel it."—"It is a mere trifle," replied the princess, "and it really gives me so little anxiety, that I did not suppose it would be so apparent in my face and manner. But since you have observed some alteration in me, I will not conceal the cause, inconsiderable as it is."

"I thought, as well as you did," the princess went on "that our palace was the most superb and the most beautiful of any in the whole world. I will tell you, however, what has come into my head, after having thoroughly examined the saloon with twenty-four windows. Do you not think with me, that if the egg of a roc were suspended from the centre of the dome, that we should have nothing to wish for?"—"It is enough, princess," replied Aladdin, "that you think the want of a roc's egg is a defect. You shall find by the diligence with which I am going to repair it, that there is nothing I will not do through my love for you."

Aladdin instantly left the princess, and went up to the saloon with twenty-four windows; and then taking the lamp, which he now always carried about him, since the danger he had experienced from the neglect of that precaution, out of his bosom, he rubbed it. The Genie immediately appeared before him. "Genie," said Aladdin, "there wants to be the egg of a roc suspended from the centre of this dome in order to make it perfect; I command you, in the name of the lamp, to get this defect rectified."

Aladdin had scarcely pronounced these words, before the Genie uttered so loud and dreadful a scream, that the very room shook, and Aladdin trembled so violently he was ready to fall. "What! wretch," exclaimed the Genie, in a voice that would have made the most courageous man tremble, "is it not enough that I and my companions have done everything thou hast chosen to command, but that thou repayest our services by an ingratitude that is unequalled, and commandest me to bring thee my master, and hang him up in the midst of this vaulted dome? Thou art deserving, for this crime, of being instantly torn to atoms, with thy wife and palace with thee. But thou art fortunate that the request did not originate with thee, and that the command is not in any way thine. Learn who is the true author. It is no other than the brother of thy enemy, the African magician, whom thou hast destroyed as he deserved. He is in thy palace, disguised under the appearance of Fatima, the holy woman, whom he has murdered; and it is he who has suggested the idea to thy wife, to make the destructive request thou hast done. His design is to kill thee, therefore take care of thyself." As the Genie said this, he vanished.

Aladdin lost not a syllable of the last words the Genie spoke. He had before heard of the holy woman Fatima, and was not ignorant of the manner in which she could cure a pain in the head, at least as they pretended. He then returned to the apartment of the princess, but did not mention what had happened to him. He sat down, and complained of a violent pain that had suddenly seized his head, and at the same time, he held his hand up to his forehead. The princess directly ordered them to call the holy woman, and while they were gone, she related to Aladdin the manner in which she had induced her to come to the palace, where she had given her an apartment.

The pretended Fatima came; and as soon as she entered, Aladdin said to her, "I am very happy, my good mother, to see you. I am tormented with a violent headache, which has not long attacked me. I request your assistance, and I hope you will not refuse me that favour which you grant to all who are thus afflicted." When he had said this, he bent his head forward, and the false

Fatima also advanced, putting at the same time her hand upon a poniard, which was concealed in her girdle under her robe. Aladdin, who watched what she did, seized her hand before she could draw it, and piercing her to the heart with her own weapon, he threw her dead upon the floor.

"What have you done, my dear husband!" exclaimed the princess in the greatest surprise; "you have killed the holy woman!"—"No, no, my princess," answered Aladdin, without the least emotion, "I have not killed Fatima, but a villain, who was going to assassinate me, if I had not prevented him. It is this wretch, whom you behold," added he, showing his face, "who has strangled

Fatima, and who has disguised himself in her clothes in order to murder me. And to convince you still further, I must inform you that he is the brother of the African magician who carried you off." Aladdin then related to her in what manner he had learnt these particulars, and he then ordered the body to be removed.

It was in this manner that Aladdin was delivered from the persecution of the two magicians. A few years after, the sultan, being now very old, died. As he left no male issue, the princess Badroul Boudour, as his legitimate heir, succeeded to the throne, and, of course, transferred the supreme power to Aladdin. They reigned together many years, and left an illustrious and numerous progeny.



SINDBAD, THE SAILOR

SHADAB THE SAILOR



SINDBAD, THE SAILOR



"WE BEHELD A VAST MULTITUDE OF HIDEOUS SAVAGES."

IN the reign of the famous caliph Haroun Alraschid, there lived in Bagdad a poor porter, whose name was Hindbad. One day, during the excessive heats of summer, he was carrying a heavy load from one extremity of the city to the other; and being much fatigued by the length of the way he had already come, and having still much ground to traverse, he arrived in a street where the pavement was sprinkled with rose-

water, and a gentle breeze refreshed the air. Delighted with this cool and pleasant situation, he placed his load on the ground, and took his station near a large mansion. The scent of aloes and frankincense issuing from the windows and mixing with the rose-water perfumed the air, together with a charming concert within, which was accompanied by the melody of the nightingales and other birds peculiar to the climate of Bagdad, and the smell of different sorts of viands led him to suppose that some

grand feast was given there. He wished to know whose residence it was; for, not having frequent occasion to pass that way, he was unacquainted with the names of the inhabitants. To satisfy his curiosity, therefore, he approached some servants magnificently dressed, who were standing at the door, and inquired who was the master of that mansion. "What," replied the servant, "are you an inhabitant of Bagdad, and do not know that this is the residence of Sindbad, the sailor, that famous voyager who has sailed over all the seas under the sun?" The porter, who had heard of the immense riches of Sindbad, could not help comparing his situation, which appeared so enviable, with his own, which was so deplorable; and distressed by the reflection, he raised his eyes to heaven, and exclaimed in a loud voice: "Almighty Creator of all things, be pleased to consider the difference between Sindbad and myself; I daily suffer a thousand ills, and find the greatest difficulty to supply my wretched family with bad barley bread, whilst the fortunate Sindbad expends his riches with profusion, and enjoys every pleasure. What has he done to obtain so happy a destiny, or I to merit one so rigorous?" Saying this, he struck the ground with his foot, as if entirely given up to despair, when, still musing on his fate, a servant came towards him from the house, and taking him by the arm, said: "Come, follow me; my master, Sindbad, wishes to speak with you."

It may easily be imagined that Hindbad was not a little surprised at the compliment that was paid him. After the words he had uttered, he began to fear that Sindbad had sent for him in order to reprimand him. He tried to excuse himself from going, saying that he could not leave his load in the middle of the street; but the servant, assuring him that it should be taken care of, pressed him so much to go, that the porter could no longer refuse.

He was conducted to a spacious room, where a number of persons were seated round a table covered with delicate viands. In the principal seat was a venerable personage, whose long white beard hung down to his breast, behind whom were standing a crowd of officers and servants. This person was Sindbad. The porter, confused by the number of the company, and the magnificence of the entertainment, made his obeisance with fear and trembling. Sindbad told him to approach, and seating him at his right hand, helped him with his own hands to the choicest dishes, and gave him some excellent wine, with which the sideboard was plentifully stocked, to drink.

Towards the end of the repast, Sindbad, perceiving that his guests had done eating, began to speak, and addressing Hindbad by the title of brother, according to the custom amongst the Arabians when they converse familiarly, he inquired his name and profession. "My name, sir," he replied, "is Hindbad."—"I am rejoiced at your presence," replied his entertainer, "and my pleasure is shared by all those who are now assembled; but I sent for you hither to learn from your own lips what it was you said just now in the street;" for Sindbad, before he went to dinner, had heard the whole of the discourse from the window, and that was the reason he sent for him. At this request, Hindbad hung down his head in confusion, and replied: "Sir, I must confess that my fatigue had put me out of humour and caused me to utter some indiscreet words, for which I entreat your pardon."—"Nay, do not imagine," resumed Sindbad, "that I am so unjust as to harbour resentment. I feel for your situation, and pity you heartily; I would undeceive you, however, on one point respecting myself, since you seem to be in error. You, no doubt, imagine that the riches and comforts which I enjoy have been got without labour or trouble; this is the mistake I desire to rectify. To arrive at the state in which you see me, I have endured, for many years, mental as well as bodily sufferings of such a description as you have no conception of. Yes, gentlemen," continued he, addressing himself to the whole company, "my sufferings, I assure you, have been sufficiently great and extraordinary to deprive the most avaricious miser of his love of riches. You may have heard a confused account of my adventures in the seven voyages I have made on different seas; now that an opportunity offers, I will, with your leave, relate the dangers I have encountered, which I think will not be uninteresting to you."

As it was chiefly on the porter's account that Sindbad was going to relate his history, before he began it, he gave orders that his burden, which had been left in the street, should be brought in and placed where Hindbad desired; which done, he proceeded in these words:—

THE FIRST VOYAGE OF SINDBAD, THE SAILOR.



I WASTED the greatest part of my paternal inheritance in youthful debaucheries; but seeing my folly, I at length became convinced that riches, applied to such purposes as I had employed them in, were of little use; and I reflected, moreover, that nothing was more deplorable than an old age of poverty. I remembered the words of the wise Solomon, so often repeated to me by my father, that it is better to be in the grave than poor. I resolved, therefore, to collect the fragments of my patrimony, and publicly to dispose of all my goods; then forming connections with some merchants who had negotiations by sea, I consulted those who appeared best able to give me advice. In short, I determined to employ as profitably as possible the small sums I had remaining. No sooner was this resolution formed, than I put it into execution. I went to Balsora, where I embarked with several merchants, in a vessel equipped at our joint expense.

We set sail, and steered by the Persian Gulf, which washed the coast of Arabia Felix on the right, and that of Persia on the left, towards the East Indies, and is commonly supposed, in the widest part, to be seventy leagues in breadth. Beyond this gulf, the Western Sea or Indian Ocean is very spacious, being bounded by the coast of Abyssinia, extending in length four thousand five hundred leagues to the island of Vavak. I was troubled at first with what is termed sea-sickness, but I soon recovered my health, and from that period the same malady has never recurred. In the course of our voyage we touched at many islands, selling and exchanging our merchandise. One day, when in full sail, we were unexpectedly becalmed before a small island appearing just above the water, and which, from its verdure, resembled a beautiful meadow. The captain ordered the crew to lower the sails, and gave permission to all who wished it to go ashore, an opportunity which I eagerly embraced. But during the time we were eating and drinking and regaling ourselves, by way of relaxation from the fatigues we had endured at sea, the island suddenly trembled, and we felt a severe shock.

Those who were in the ship, perceiving the earthquake in the island, called to us to re-embark as speedily as possible, for that what we supposed to be an island was the back of an enormous whale, and that, unless we acted upon their injunctions, we should all assuredly perish. The most active of the party at once jumped into the boat, while others threw themselves into the water to swim to the ship; as for me, I had not been able to quit the island, or more properly speaking the whale, ere it plunged into the sea. I seized hold of a piece of wood, which had been brought to make a fire with, and which was the only thing within my reach that offered the chance of escape.

Meantime the captain, willing to avail himself of a fair breeze which had just sprung up, hoisted sail, and put to sea, leaving me to the mercy of the waves. In this situation I remained the whole of that day and the following night; and when day broke the next morning, I had neither strength nor hope left. At length, when I was beginning to sink, a breaker happily cast me upon an un-

known island. The shore was high and steep, and on recovering from the stupor into which I had been thrown by pain and exhaustion, I should have found great difficulty in landing, had not some roots of trees, which fortune seemed to have furnished for my preservation, assisted me. I threw myself on the ground, where I lay half dead till the sun arose.

Although extremely enfeebled, I tried to creep along in search of some herbs or fruit to satisfy my hunger, and having found some, I had next the good luck to light upon a stream of excellent water, which helped not a little to refresh me. It was not long before I recovered sufficient strength to enable me to explore the island; and proceeding a short distance beyond the rocky boundary of the coast, I entered a beautiful and fertile plain, where I perceived at some distance a horse grazing. I bent my steps that way, trembling between fear and joy, for I knew not whether I was advancing to safety or to danger. As I approached the steed, I remarked that it was a mare of exceeding beauty. Whilst I was admiring her, however, I heard the voice of a man underground, who shortly after appeared, and coming to me, asked civilly who I was. I recounted to him my adventure, when he took me by the hand and led me into a cave, in which were some other persons, who appeared to be not less astonished to see me than I was to find them there.

I ate of the food which they offered me; and having asked what they did in a place which appeared so desolate, they replied that they were grooms to Mihrage, the sovereign of the isle, and that they came at the same period every year, with some mares belonging to the king, which, with their foals, remained at grass for some time in the rich pastures of the island. "To-morrow," said they, "is the day fixed for our departure, and had you been one day later, you must certainly have perished, since the city where we dwell is so far off, it would have been impossible for you to reach it without a guide."

The following day they returned with the mares and foals to the capital of the island, whither I also accompanied them. On our arrival king Mihrage, to whom I was presented, asked me who I was, and by what chance I had reached his dominions, and when I had told him my adventures, he expressed pity at my misfortune. At the same time, he gave orders that I should be taken care of, and be furnished with everything I might want, which directions were executed in a manner which proved the king's generosity, and the obedience of his officers.

Being a merchant, I associated chiefly with persons of my own profession. I sought, in particular, such as were foreigners, hoping to hear news of Bagdad, and if possible to meet with a person in whose company I might return; for the capital of king Mihrage is situated on the sea-coast, and has a beautiful port, where vessels from all parts of the world daily arrive. I also sought the society of the Indian sages, in whose conversation I found great pleasure; but that did not prevent me from attending at court regularly, nor from conversing with governors, and even with kings, who were about the person of Mihrage, being less powerful than he, and his tributaries, each of whom asked me a thousand questions about my country, which I, being scarcely less inquisitive about the laws and customs and whatever appeared to merit my curiosity in their different states, was not slow to answer.

In the dominions of king Mihrage is an island, called Cassel. I had been told that in that island was heard every night the sound of kettle-drums, which had given rise to the sailors' opinion that Degial had chosen that spot for his residence. I felt a great desire to witness some of the wonders of which I had heard such extraordinary rumours; and during my voyage, which I undertook for that purpose, I saw some fish, a hundred and even two hundred cubits in length, which cause much fear to the mariners, but do no harm; they are so timid, indeed, as to be frightened away by beating on a board. I remarked also some other fish that were not above a cubit long, and whose heads resembled those of owls.

After my return, as I was standing one day near the port, I saw a ship come towards the land, from which,

when the sailors had cast anchor, they began to unload its cargo; and the merchants to whom the various goods belonged took them away to their warehouses. Happening to cast my eyes on some of the packages, I saw my name written, and on attentively examining them, I concluded them to be the same with which I had embarked in the ship that brought me from Balsora. I also remembered the captain, but as I was persuaded he thought me dead, I went up to him and asked him to whom those parcels belonged. "I had on board with me," replied he, "a merchant of Bagdad, named Sindbad. One day when we were near an island, or at least what appeared to be such, though it was no other than an enormous whale which had fallen asleep on the surface of the water, he, with other passengers, went ashore, and kindling a fire on the back of a fish to cook the provisions they had carried with them, the supposed island began to move, and at last sank down into the sea. The greater number of the persons who were on it were drowned, and along with them the unfortunate Sindbad. These parcels belonged to him, and I have resolved to sell them, that if I should meet with any of his family I may be able to return them the profit I shall have made of the principal."—"Captain," said I, when he had concluded, "I am that Sindbad, whom you supposed dead; these parcels are, therefore, my merchandise."

When the captain of the vessel heard me speak thus, he exclaimed: "Great God, whom shall I trust? There is no longer truth in man. I with my own eyes saw Sindbad perish; the passengers I had on board were also witnesses of it; and you have the assurance to say that you are the same Sindbad! At first sight I took you to be a man of probity and honour, and yet you assert an impious falsehood in order to possess yourself of property which cannot belong to you."—"Have patience," replied I, "and have the goodness to listen to what I have to say."—"Well," said he, "what have you to say. Speak, and I will attend." I then related in what manner I had been saved, and by what accident I had met with king Mihrage's grooms, who had brought me to his court.

He was, at first, rather staggered at my discourse, but soon became convinced that I was not an impostor; for some people who just then arrived from his ship knew me, and began to congratulate me on my fortunate escape. At last, recollecting me himself, he embraced me and said: "Heaven be praised that you have survived so great a danger; I cannot express the pleasure I feel on the occasion. Here are your goods; take them, for they are yours, and do with them what you please." I thanked him, and praising his honourable conduct, begged him, by way of recompense, to accept part of my recovered merchandise, which, however, he persisted in refusing.

I selected the most precious and valuable things in my bales, as presents for king Mihrage, who, having been informed of my misfortunes, asked me where I had procured such rare curiosities. I related to him the manner in which my property had been restored, and he expressed his joy on the occasion, and accepting my presents, gave me others of far greater value. After that I took my leave of him, and re-embarked in the same vessel, having first exchanged what merchandise remained for that of the country, consisting of aloes and sandal-wood, camphor, nutmegs, cloves, pepper and ginger, in order to trade with in other ports. We touched at several islands, and at last landed at Balsora, whence I came hither, having gained about a hundred thousand sequins. My return to my family was hailed by them with the joy which a sincere friendship inspires. I purchased slaves of both sexes, and bought a magnificent house and grounds. Having thus established myself, I determined to forget the disagreeable things I had endured, and to enjoy the pleasures of life.

Sindbad here ceased, and ordered the musicians to go on with their concert, which he had interrupted by the recital of his history. The company continued to eat and drink till night approached, and when it was time to retire, Sindbad ordered a purse, containing a hundred

sequins, to be brought him, and giving it to the porter, he said : " Take this, Hindbad, return to your home, and come again to-morrow to hear the continuation of my adventures." The porter retired, astonished at the honour conferred on him, and the present he had received. The

Sindbad thus addressed his guests : " Gentlemen, I request you to listen to me while I relate the adventures of my second voyage. They are more worthy of your attention than were those of the first." The company were silent, and Sindbad began as follows :—



" THE PORTER MADE HIS OBEISANCE WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING."

account he gave of this occurrence to his wife and children rejoiced them very much, and they did not fail to return thanks to Providence for the bounties bestowed on them through Sindbad's means.

On the following day, Hindbad dressed himself in his best clothes and returned to the house of his patron, who again received him with smiles and a friendly air. As soon as the guests were all arrived, the table was served, and they sat down to eat. When the repast was finished,

THE SECOND VOYAGE OF SINDBAD, THE SAILOR.



AFTER my first voyage I had resolved, as I told you yesterday, to pass the rest of my days in tranquillity at Bagdad. But soon growing weary of an idle life, the desire of seeing foreign countries, and carrying on negotiations by sea, returned. I therefore bought such merchandise as I thought most likely

to succeed in the traffic I meditated, and set off a second time, with some merchants whose probity I could rely on. We embarked in a good vessel, and recommending ourselves to the care of the Almighty, set out on our voyage.

We went from island to island, making some very advantageous exchanges, till one day, landing on one which was covered with a variety of fruit-trees, we found it so deserted that we were unable to discover any habitation or trace of a human being. We walked in the meadows and along the brooks that watered them, and whilst some of my companions were amusing themselves with gathering fruit and flowers, I took out some of the wine and provisions I had brought with me, and seated myself by a little stream under some trees which afforded a delightful shade. I made a good meal of the provisions I had with me, and having satisfied my hunger, sleep gradually stole over my senses. I cannot say how long I slept, but when I awoke I saw that the ship had quitted her anchorage. I was much surprised at this circumstance, and got up to seek for my companions, but they were all gone; and I could only perceive the vessel in full sail, at such a distance that it soon vanished entirely from my sight.

You may imagine the reflections that occurred to me in this dismal state. I thought I should have died with grief; I groaned and cried aloud, beating my head, and throwing myself on the ground, where I remained a long time overwhelmed with conflicting thoughts, and utterly confounded. A thousand times I reproached myself for my folly in not being contented with my first voyage, which ought to have satisfied my thirst for adventures; but my repentance came too late. At length I resigned myself to the will of Heaven, and not knowing what would become of me, I ascended a high tree, whence I



"I SAW A BIRD OF EXTRAORDINARY SIZE."

looked on all sides to see if I could not discover some object that might inspire me with hope. Casting my eyes towards the sea, I could discern nothing but water and sky, but perceiving something white on the land side, I descended from the tree, and taking with me the remainder of my provisions, I walked towards the object, which, however, was so distant that I could not distinguish what it was. As I approached, I perceived it to be a large white ball of prodigious size, and when I got near enough to touch it, I found it was soft. I walked round it to see if there was an opening, but could find none; and it appeared so even, that it was impossible to climb up it. The circumference might be about fifty paces.

It was then near sunset; and the air grew suddenly dark, as if obscured by a thick cloud. I was surprised at this change, but much more so when I perceived it to be occasioned by a bird of extraordinary size, which was flying towards me. In my youth I had heard sailors speak of a bird called a roc, and I conceived that the great white ball which had drawn my attention must be the egg of this bird; nor was I mistaken; for shortly after it lighted on the spot, and assumed the attitude of a sitting bird. When I saw it coming I drew near to the egg, so that I had one of the claws of the bird close by me; this claw was as big as the trunk of a large tree. In my despair I tied myself to the talon with the linen of my turban, in hopes that the roc, when it took its flight next morning, would carry me with it out of the desert island. My project succeeded, for at daybreak the roc flew away, and carried me to such a height that I could not distinguish the earth, and after some time descended with such rapidity that I almost lost my senses. When the roc had alighted I quickly untied the knot that confined me to its foot, and had scarcely loosed myself when it

darted on a serpent of immeasurable length, and seizing it in its beak, flew away.

The place in which the roc left me was a deep valley, surrounded on all sides by mountains of such a height that the tops of them were lost in the clouds, and so steep that there was no possibility of climbing them. This embarrassed me afresh, and when I compared it with the island I had left, I soon found that I had no reason to be satisfied with my change of situation.

In walking along this valley I remarked that it was strewn with diamonds, some of which were of an astonishing size. For some time I amused myself with examining them, but I soon perceived from afar some objects which converted my sensations of pleasure into fear; these were a great number of serpents, so long and large that the smallest of them would have swallowed an elephant with ease. They hid themselves in caves during the day on account of the roc, their mortal enemy, and only came out during the night. I passed the day, therefore, in walking about the valley, resting myself occasionally where an opportunity offered, and when the sun set, I retired into a small cave, where I thought I should be in safety. I closed the entrance, which was low and narrow, with a stone large enough to ensure me from the serpents, but which yet admitted a glimmering of light. I supped on part of my provisions, during which I heard the fearful hissings of the serpents, which now began to make their appearance. These sounds continued during the night, and, as you may suppose, struck me with great apprehension. At daybreak the serpents retired; but with such awe had they inspired me that I left my cave with trembling, and though I walked upon a path of diamonds, I may truly say it was without feeling the least desire for them. At last I sat down, and after having made another hearty meal on my provisions, notwithstanding the agitation I was in, as I had not closed my eyes during the whole night, I fell asleep. I had scarcely begun to doze, when something falling, with a dull, heavy sound, awoke me. It was a large piece of fresh meat, and on looking up I saw a number of similar pieces rolling down the rocks from above.

I have always supposed the account which I have heard related by seamen and others of the valley of diamonds, and of the means by which merchants procured them, to be fictitious: but I now knew it to be true. The method adopted is this: the merchants go to the mountains which surround the valley, about the time that the eagles hatch their young. They cut large pieces of meat, which they throw into the valley; and to these the diamonds, on which they fall, adhere. The eagles, which are larger and stronger in that country than in any other, seize these pieces of meat to carry to their young at the top of the rocks. The merchants then run to their nests, and by various noises oblige the eagles to retreat; they then take the diamonds that have stuck to the pieces of meat, which, as the valley is inaccessible on every side, they could not otherwise procure. I had supposed it impossible ever to leave this valley, and began to look upon it as my tomb but this sight changed my opinion, and turned my thoughts to some device for the preservation of my life. Having conceived a project of rescue, I began by collecting the largest diamonds I could find, and with them filled the leathern bag in which I carried my provisions; next I took one of the largest pieces of meat, and tied it tight round me with the linen of my turban; and in this state I laid myself on the ground, having first fastened my leathern bag around my body.

I had not lain long before the eagles began to descend, and each seizing a piece of meat, flew away with it. One of the strongest, having darted on the piece to which I had attached myself, carried me up with it to its nest; and when the merchants by their cries had frightened away the eagles, and obliged them to quit their prey, one of them approached me. On seeing me, however, he was seized with apprehension, but soon recovering from his fear, instead of inquiring by what means I came there, began to quarrel with me for trespassing on what he considered his property. "You will speak to me with

pity instead of anger," said I, "when you learn by what means I reached this place. Console yourself, for I have diamonds enough for you and myself, of more value than those of all the other merchants added together; I have myself chosen a number of the finest from the bottom of the valley, and have them here in this bag." On saying this I showed him the bulk, and had scarcely finished speaking, when the other merchants, perceiving me, flocked round me with great astonishment, which I increased by the recital of my history. They were all less surprised at the stratagem I had conceived to save myself than at my courage in putting it in execution.

Having conducted me to the place where they lived together, I showed them my diamonds, upon seeing which they all expressed their admiration, and declared they had never seen any equal to them either in size or quality. I entreated the merchant to whom the nest belonged into which I had been transported, for each merchant has his own, to choose for himself as many as he pleased. He contented himself with taking only one, and that too of the smallest size. I pressed him to take more, without fear of depriving me. "No," replied he, "I am perfectly satisfied with this, which is sufficiently valuable to spare me the trouble of making any more voyages to complete my little fortune."

I passed the night with these merchants, to whom I recounted my history a second time, for the satisfaction of those who had not heard it before; and when I reflected on the perils I had gone through, I could scarcely moderate my joy: it appeared to me as if the security in which I found myself was merely a dream, and I could not for a time believe that I had nothing more to fear.

The merchants had been for some days in that spot, and as they now appeared to be contented with the diamonds they had collected, we set off on the following day together, travelling over high mountains, where there were a great number of prodigious serpents, which, however, we had the good fortune entirely to avoid. We reached the nearest port in safety, and from thence embarked for the island of Roha, which produces the camphor tree, the foliage of which is so large and thick that a hundred men may be shaded by it with ease. The gum which forms the camphor runs out at a wound made at the top of the trunk, and is received into a vase, where it acquires consistency, and assumes the form in which it is disposed of as a drug. The juice being thus extracted, the tree withers and dies.

The rhinoceros, too, which is a smaller animal than the elephant, though larger than the buffalo, is a native of this island. On its nose it has a horn about a cubit in length, solid and cut through the middle from one extremity to the other, on which are some white lines, which represent the figure of a man. The rhinoceros fights with the elephant, and piercing him in his belly with his horn, carries him off on his head; but as the fat and blood of the elephant run down on his eyes and blind him, he falls to the ground, and what will astonish you, the roc comes and seizes them both in its claws, and carries them off together to feed its young.

Exchanging, therefore, some of my diamonds for other merchandise, I departed to more distant islands, and at last, after having touched at several ports, reached Balsora, whence I again returned to Bagdad. Afterwards I distributed much money amongst the poor, and enjoyed with credit and honour the rest of my immense riches, which I had acquired with so much labour and difficulty.

Sindbad, having completed the relation of his second voyage, again ordered a hundred sequins to be given to Hindbad, whom he once more invited to come on the morrow, to hear the history of the third.

The guests returned home, and on the following day repaired at the same hour to the house of Sindbad, where the porter, who had almost forgotten his misery, also made his appearance. They sat down to table, and when the meal was ended, Sindbad requested the company to give him their attention, while he should detail the adventures of his third voyage.

THE THIRD VOYAGE OF SINDBAD, THE SAILOR.



HE comfortable way of life into which I had settled myself soon dispelled the remembrance of the dangers I had experienced in my two voyages ; and as I was in the prime of life, I grew tired of passing my days in repose ; and banishing all thoughts of the perils I might encounter, I once more quitted Bagdad with some rich merchandise of the country, which I conveyed to Balsora. There I embarked with other merchants, bound for a long voyage, during which we touched at several ports, and transacted very profitable commercial business.

One day, when we were in the open sea, we were overtaken by a violent tempest, which made us lose our course. It continued for several days, and drove us near an island, which the captain would gladly have been excused from touching at, but we were under a necessity of casting anchor there. When the sails were furled, the captain told us that this, as well as some of the neighbouring isles, was inhabited by savages who would come to attack us ; and that, although they were but dwarfs, we must not attempt to make any resistance ; for as their number was inconceivable, if we should happen to kill one, they would infest us like locusts and destroy us. This account put the whole crew in terrible consternation, and we were too soon convinced that the captain had spoken the truth. We saw coming towards us an innumerable multitude of hideous savages about two feet high, and entirely covered with red hair. Throwing themselves into the sea, they swam to the ship, which they soon completely surrounded, and as they approached they spoke to us in an unknown language. On reaching the vessel, they began to climb the sides and ropes with so much swiftness and agility that their feet scarcely seemed to touch them ere they were upon deck.

You may imagine the situation we were in, not daring to defend ourselves, nor even to speak to them, to endeavour to avert the impending danger. They unfurled the sails, cut the cable from the anchor, and after dragging the ship to shore, obliged us to disembark ; after this, they conveyed us to another island, whence they had come. All voyagers carefully avoided this island, for the dismal reason you are going to hear ; but our misfortune having led us there, we were obliged to submit.

Leaving the shore, and advancing farther into the island, we found some fruits and herbs, of which we ate, to prolong our lives as much as possible, for we all expected to be sacrificed. As we walked we perceived at some distance a large edifice, towards which we bent our way. It was a large and high palace, with a folding door of ebony, which opened as we pushed it. We entered the court-yard, and facing us saw a vast department with a vestibule, on one side of which was a heap of human bones, and on the opposite one a number of spits for roasting. We trembled at this spectacle ; and as we were fatigued with walking, our legs failed us, and we fell on the earth, where we remained a considerable time powerless from fear.

The sun was setting, and while we were in the piteous state I have described, the door of the apartment suddenly opened with a loud noise, and a hideous black man, as tall as a palm-tree, came forward. In the middle of his forehead one eye, red and fiery as a burning coal, stood alone ; his front teeth were long and sharp, and projected from his mouth, which was as wide as that of a horse, with the under lip hanging on his breast ; his ears resembled those of an elephant, and covered his shoulders ; and his long and curved nails were like the talons of an immense bird. At the sight of this frightful being we all fainted, and remained a long time like dead men.

At last our senses returned, and we saw him seated under the vestibule, examining us with his piercing eye. When he had viewed us well, he advanced towards us, and extending his hand to me, he took me up by the hair, and turned me round all ways to examine me, as a butcher would the head of a sheep. After having

well considered the matter, he released me, finding me little more than skin and bones. He took up each of the others in their turn, and inspected them in the same manner, and the captain, being the fattest of the party, was held up in one hand as I should a sparrow, while the monster with the other ran a spit through his body. Then kindling a large fire, he roasted and ate him for his supper, in the apartment whither he retired. Having finished his repast, he retired to the vestibule, where he laid down to sleep, and snored louder than thunder. As may be readily conceived, we passed the night in the most agonising suspense ; and when daylight returned, the ogre awoke and went abroad, leaving us in the palace.

When we supposed him at some distance, we began to give vent to our lamentations, for the fear of disturbing the ogre had kept us silent during the night. The palace resounded with groans. Although we amounted to a considerable number, and had but one common enemy, yet the idea of delivering ourselves by his death never occurred. This enterprise, however difficult to accomplish, was nevertheless the first we ought to have attempted.

We deliberated on various methods, but could not determine on any ; and submitting ourselves to the will of God, we passed the day in walking over the island, and eating what plants and fruit we could meet with, as on the preceding one. Towards evening we sought for some sheltered place in which to pass the night, but finding none, were obliged to return to the palace.

The ogre did not fail to return to sup on one of our companions, after which he again fell asleep and snored till daybreak, when he arose and went out as before. Our situation appeared to be so helpless that some of my comrades were on the point of throwing themselves into the sea, rather than be sacrificed in so dreadful a manner, and advised the rest to follow their example ; but one of the company thus addressed them. "We are forbidden," said he, "to kill ourselves ; and even were that permitted, would it not be more rational to endeavour to destroy the barbarous monster who has destined us to such a cruel death?"

As I had already formed a project of that nature, I now communicated it to my fellow-sufferers, who approved of it. "My friends," said I then, "you know that there is a great deal of wood on the sea-shore ; if you will take my advice, we can make some rafts, and when they are finished we will leave them in a proper place, till we can find an opportunity to make use of them. In the meantime we can put into execution the design I proposed to you to deliver ourselves from the ogre ; if it succeeds, we may wait here with patience till some vessel passes, by means of which we may quit this fatal isle ; if, on the contrary, we miss our aim, we shall have recourse to our rafts, and put to sea. I own that, in exposing ourselves to the fury of the waves on such fragile barks, we run a great hazard of losing our lives ; but if we are destined to perish, is it not preferable to meet with a watery grave than to be buried in the entrails of the monster who has already devoured two of our companions?" My advice was approved by all, and we immediately built some rafts, large enough to contain three persons on each.

We returned to the palace towards evening, and the ogre arrived a short time after us. Again one of our party was sacrificed to his inhuman appetite. But we were soon revenged of his cruelty : after he had finished his horrible meal, he as usual laid himself down to sleep ; and as soon as we heard him snore, nine of the most courageous of us, and myself, took each a spit, and heating the points red-hot, thrust them into his eye, and blinded him.

The pain which he suffered made him groan hideously ; he suddenly raised himself, and extended his arms on all sides to seize some one and sacrifice him to his rage ; but fortunately we had time to get to some distance from him, and to throw ourselves on the ground in places where he could not set his feet on us. After having sought us in vain, he at last found the door, and went out bellowing with pain.

We quitted the palace immediately after the ogre, and

repaired to the shore, in that part where our rafts lay. We set them afloat, and waited till daybreak to board them, in case we should see the ogre approach with some guide to lead him to us ; but we hoped that, if he did not make his appearance by that time, and if his cries and groans, which resounded through the air, were

At this sight we ran precipitately to our rafts, and rowed away as fast as possible. The ogres, seeing this, provided themselves with large stones, hastened to the shore, and even ventured to their middles into the sea, to throw them at us, which they did so adroitly as to sink all the rafts excepting that which I was upon, so



"THE OGRES PROVIDED THEMSELVES WITH LARGE STONES."

discontinued, we might suppose him dead ; and in that case we proposed remaining in the island, till some safer conveyance should offer. The sun, however, had scarcely risen above the horizon when we perceived our cruel enemy, accompanied by two ogres of nearly his own size, who conducted him, and a great number of others, walking with quick steps before him.

that myself and two companions were the only persons who escaped, our unfortunate brethren being all drowned.

As we rowed with all our strength, we soon got out of reach of the stones. When we were in the open sea we became the sport of wind and wave, and passed that day and night in the most cruel suspense. On the morrow we had the good fortune to be thrown on an island,



THE VALLEY OF SERPENTS.

where we landed with great joy. We found some excellent fruits, which served to restore exhausted nature.

Towards night we went to sleep on the sea-shore; but were awakened by the noise which the scales of an immense serpent, long as a palm-tree, made on the ground. It was so near to us that it devoured one of my companions, notwithstanding the efforts he made to extricate himself; for the serpent shook him several times, and then, crushing him on the earth, quickly swallowed him.

My other comrade and myself immediately took to flight; and when we had gone some distance, we heard a noise which made us suppose that the serpent was vomiting the bones of the unhappy man it had destroyed. On the following day we perceived our suspicions to have been well founded. "Great Heaven," I then exclaimed, "to what are we exposed? Yesterday we were rejoicing at our escape from the cruelty of an ogre and the fury of the waves, and to-day we have again to encounter a peril not less imminent."

As we walked along, we remarked a large and high tree, on which we proposed to pass the following night, to be in safety. We ate some fruit, as on the preceding day, and at the approach of night we climbed into the tree. We soon heard the serpent, which came hissing to the foot of the tree; it raised itself against the trunk, and meeting with my companion, who was lower than I was, it swallowed him and retired.

I remained on the tree till daybreak, when I descended, more dead than alive; indeed, I could only expect to meet with the same fate. This idea chilled me with horror, and I advanced some paces to throw myself into the sea; but as life is desirable as long as it will last, I resisted the first impulse of my despair, and submitted to the will of God, who disposes of our lives as is best for us.

I collected a great quantity of small wood and furze, and tying it in faggots put it round the tree in a large circle, and tied some across the top to cover my head. This being done, when the evening came on, I enclosed myself within the circle, having the dismal consolation that I had done all in my power to preserve my life. The serpent did not fail to return for the purpose of devouring me, but he could not succeed on account of the rampart I had formed. The whole night he was besieging me, as a cat would a mouse; at last day returned, and he retired, but I did not venture out of my fortress till the sun was high in the heavens.

I was so fatigued with watching, as well as with the exertion of forming my retreat, and had suffered so much from the serpent's pestilential breath, that death appearing preferable to a repetition of such horror, I again ran to the sea, with the intention of putting an end to my existence, but God pitied my condition, and at the moment that I was going to throw myself into the sea I perceived a vessel at a great distance. I cried with all my strength, and unfolded the linen of my turban to attract the attention of those on board. This had the desired effect; I was seen by the crew, and the captain sent a boat for me.

As soon as I was on board, the merchants and seamen were eager to learn by what chance I had reached that desert island; and after I had related to them all that happened, the eldest of them told me that they had often heard of the ogres who lived there—that they were man-eaters, and were addicted to devour their own kind, raw as well as roasted. With regard to the serpents, they added that there were many in the island, which hid themselves in the day, and appeared at night.

After they had expressed their joy at my fortunate escape from so many perils, as they supposed I must be in want of something to eat, they pressed me to take whatever was best; and the captain, observing that my dress was much torn, had the generosity to give me one of his.

We remained a considerable time at sea, and touched at several islands; at length we landed on that of Salahat, where the sandalwood is cultivated, which is much used in medicine. We entered the port and cast anchor, and

the merchants began to unload their goods for the purposes of sale or exchange. One day, the captain called me to him and said: "Brother, I have in my possession some goods which belonged to a merchant who was for some time on board my ship. As this merchant is dead, I am going to have them valued, that I may render an account of them to his heirs should I ever meet with them." The bales he was speaking of were already upon deck. He showed them to me, saying: "These are the goods in question; I wish you to take charge of them, and negotiate them, on the condition of receiving the usual commission for your trouble." I consented, and thanked him for the opportunity he afforded me of employing myself.

The writer of the ship registered all the bales, with the names of the merchants to whom they belonged; when he asked the captain by what name he should register those destined for my charge, the captain replied: "By the name of Sindbad, the sailor." I could not hear my own name without emotion, and looking intently at the captain, I recognised him to be the very same person who, in my second voyage, had left me on the island, where I had fallen asleep by the side of a brook, and who had put to sea without waiting for me. I did not at first recollect him, so much was he changed from the time I had seen him. As he thought me dead, it is not to be wondered that he did not recognise me. "Captain," said I to him, "was the merchant to whom these things belonged called Sindbad?"—"Yes," returned he, "that was his name; he was from Bagdad, and embarked on board my vessel at Balsora. One day when we went ashore on an island for fresh water, I know not by what mistake, he was left behind; none of the crew perceived it till four hours after, when the wind blew so fresh against us that it was impossible to return."—"You believe him to be dead?" resumed I. "Most assuredly," replied the captain. "Well, then," said I, "open your eyes, and know that the same Sindbad whom you left in the desert island is now before you. I fell asleep on the banks of a little stream, and when I awoke I perceived that the ship was gone."

At these words the captain fixed his eyes on me, and after having examined me very attentively, at last recollected me. "God be praised!" cried he, embracing me. "I am delighted that fortune has given me an opportunity of repairing my fault. Here are your goods, which I have preserved with care, and always had valued at every port I stopped at. I return them to you, with the profit I have made on them." I received them with the gratitude which such an action demanded.

From the island of Salahat we went to another, where I furnished myself with cloves, cinnamon, and other spices. When we had sailed some distance from it, we perceived an immense tortoise, that was twenty cubits in length and breadth. We also saw a fish that had milk like a cow; its skin is so hard, that bucklers are frequently made of it. I saw another fish of the make and colour of a camel. At length, after a long voyage, we arrived at Balsora, whence I came to Bagdad, with so much wealth that I did not know the amount of it. I gave a great deal to the poor, and made considerable additions to my landed estates.

Sindbad thus finished the history of his third voyage, and again gave Hindbad a hundred sequins, inviting him to the usual repast on the morrow, when he should hear the account of the fourth voyage. Hindbad and the other guests retired, and the following day returned at the same hour. After the dinner was over, Sindbad continued the relation of his adventures.

THE FOURTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD, THE SAILOR.



HE pleasures and dissipations I entered into after my third voyage had not sufficient charms to deter me from venturing on the sea again. I gave way to my love for adventure and novelty; and having settled my affairs, and furnished myself with the mer-

chandise suited to the places I intended to visit, I set out, and travelled towards Persia, some of the provinces of which I traversed, and at last reached a port, where I embarked. We set sail, and touched at several ports of Asia and Africa, and of some oriental islands; but one day, making a great tack, we were surprised by a sudden squall of wind, which obliged the captain to lower the sails. He gave the necessary orders for preventing the danger we were threatened with, but all our precautions were fruitless; the manœuvre did not succeed; the vessel, becoming ungovernable, was driven on a sand-bank and went to pieces, by which a great number of the crew, as well as the cargo, perished.

I had the good fortune, as well as some other merchants and seamen, to get hold of a plank, on which we were all drawn by the strength of the current towards an island that lay before us. We found some fruits and fresh water,

companions were intoxicated, and did not know what they said. They then served us with some rice dressed with the oil of the cocoa-nut, and my comrades, not being sensible of what they did, ate it ravenously. I ate some also, but very little.

The blacks had presented the herb first to affect our heads, and thus banish the sorrow which our miserable situation would create, and the rice was given to fatten us. As they were cannibals, they designed to feast on us when we were in good condition. My poor companions fell victims to their barbarous custom, because they had lost their senses, and could not foresee their destiny. But for me, instead of fattening as the others had done, I grew thinner every day. The fear of death, which constantly haunted me, turned the aliments I took to poison, and I fell into a state of languor, which was in the end very beneficial; for the blacks, having eaten my comrades



"I CONSULTED THOSE WHO APPEARED BEST ABLE TO GIVE ME ADVICE." (See page 50.)

which re-established our strength, and we laid down to sleep on the spot where the waves had thrown us, without seeking any farther; the grief we felt at our misfortunes rendered us careless of our fate. The next morning, when the sun was risen, we left the shore, and advancing into the island, perceived some habitations, towards which we bent our way. When we drew near, a great number of blacks came out to us, and surrounding us, seized our persons, of which they seemed to make a division, and then conducted us to their houses.

Five of my comrades and myself were taken into the same place. They made us sit down, and then offered us a certain herb, inviting us by signs to eat of it. My companions, without considering that they who gave it us did not eat of it, only consulted their appetites, and devoured it with avidity. I, who had a sort of presentiment that it was for no good purpose, refused even to taste it, and it was well I did, for a short time after I perceived that my

were contented to let me remain till I was better worth picking.

In the meantime I was allowed a great deal of liberty, and my actions were scarcely observed. This one day afforded me an opportunity of quitting the habitation of the blacks, and escaping. An old man, who saw and guessed my intention, called to me to return, but I only quickened my pace, and soon got out of his sight. This old man was the only person in the place; all the other blacks had absented themselves, and were not to return till evening, as was their frequent custom. Being therefore certain that they would be too late to come in search of me when they returned home, I continued my flight till evening, when I stopped to take a little rest, and satisfy my hunger. I soon proceeded, and walked without intermission for seven days; taking care to avoid those places which appeared inhabited, and living on cocoa-nuts, which furnished me with drink as well as food.

On the eighth day I came to the sea-shore, where I saw some white people like myself, employed in gathering pepper, of which, in that country, there was abundance. Such an occupation was a good omen to me, and I approached them without fear of danger. They came towards me as soon as they perceived me, and asked me in Arabic whence I came.

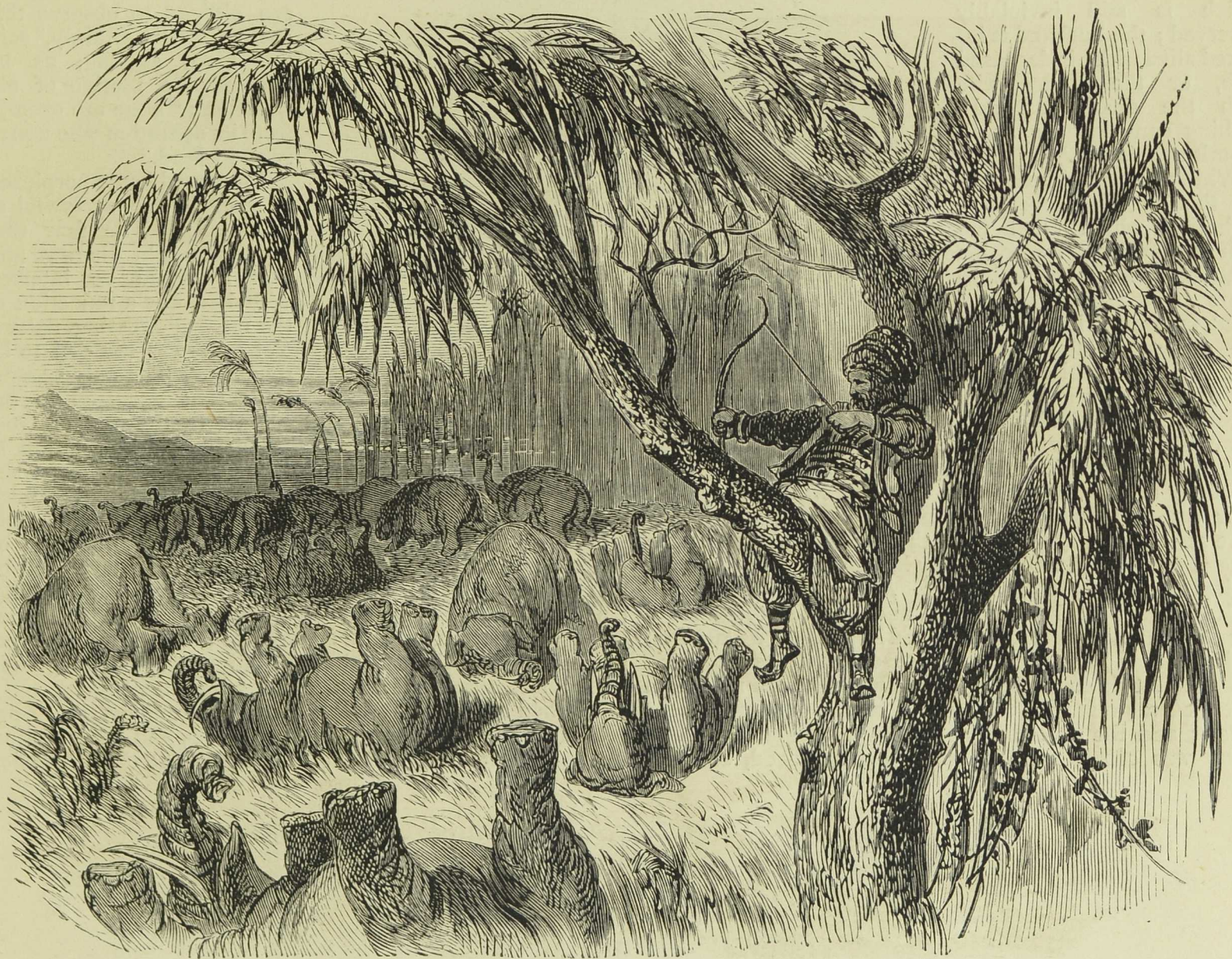
Delighted to hear my native language once more, I readily complied with their request; and related to them the manner in which I had been shipwrecked, and got to that island, where I had fallen into the hands of the blacks. "But these blacks," said they, "eat men; by what miracle then could you escape their cruelty?" I gave them the same account which you have been listening to, and they were very much surprised.

I remained with them until they had collected as much pepper as they chose, after which they made me embark with them in the vessel which had conveyed them, and

excluded, and from his replies it was quite evident that he was entirely ignorant of what I meant.

I immediately went to a workman and gave him a model to make a saddle-tree, from which, on being finished, covered with leather, richly embroidered in gold, and stuffed with hair. I then applied to a locksmith, who made me a bit and some stirrups, according to the patterns which I made him.

When these things were completed, I presented them to the king, and tried them on one of his horses; the prince then mounted it, and was so pleased with the invention that he testified his approbation by making me considerable presents. I was then obliged to make several saddles for his ministers and the principal officers of his household, who all rewarded me with very rich and handsome presents. I also made some for the most respectable inhabitants of the town, by which I obtained great reputation and credit.



"I SHOT MANY ARROWS AT THEM, AND AT LAST ONE FELL."

we soon reached another island, from which they had come. They presented me to their king, who was a good prince. He listened to the recital of my adventures, which astonished him; and he ordered me new clothing, and desired that I might be taken care of. The island was very populous, and abounded in all sorts of articles of commerce, a flourishing trade being carried on in the town where the king resided. This agreeable retreat began to console me for my misfortunes, and the kindness of the generous prince made me completely happy. Indeed I appeared to be his greatest favourite; and consequently all ranks of people endeavoured to please me, so that I was considered in the light of a native rather than a stranger.

I remarked one thing which appeared to me very singular. Every person, the king not excepted, rode on horseback without either saddle or stirrups. One day I took the liberty to ask his majesty why such things were

As I constantly attended at court, the king said to me one day: "Sindbad, I love you, and I know that all my subjects who have any knowledge of you follow my example, and entertain a high regard and esteem for you. I have one request to make, which you must not deny me."—"Sire," replied I, "there is nothing that your majesty can command which I will not undertake, to prove my obedience to your orders. Your power over me is absolute."—"I wish you to marry," resumed the prince, "that you may have a more tender tie to attach you to my dominions, and prevent your returning to your native country." As I did not dare to refuse the king's offer, I was shortly afterwards married to a lady of his court, who was noble, beautiful, rich, and accomplished. After the ceremony of the nuptials I took up my abode in the house of my wife, and lived with her for some time in perfect harmony. Nevertheless I was discontented with my situation, and designed to make my escape the first

convenient opportunity, in order to return to Bagdad, which the splendid establishment I was then in possession of could not obliterate from my mind.

These were my sentiments when the wife of one of my neighbours, with whom I was very intimate, fell sick and died. I went to console him, and finding him in the deepest affliction, "May God preserve you," said I to him, "and grant you a long life."—"Alas!" replied he, "how can I obtain what you wish? I have only one hour to live."—"Oh," resumed I, "do not suffer such dismal ideas to take possession of your mind; I hope that will not be the case, and that I shall enjoy your friendship yet for many years."—"I wish with all my heart," said he, "that your life may be of long duration; but for me the die is cast, and this day I shall be buried with my wife; such is the custom which our ancestors have established in this island, and which is still inviolably observed; the husband is interred alive with his deceased wife, or the living wife with the dead husband; nothing can save me, as all submit to this law."

Whilst he was relating to me this singular species of barbarity, which filled me with the greatest terror, his relations, friends, and neighbours arrived to be present at the funeral. They dressed the corpse of the woman in the richest attire, as on the day of her nuptials, and decorated her with all her jewels. Then they placed her uncovered on a bier, and the procession set out. The husband, dressed in mourning, went immediately after the body of his wife, and the rest followed. They bent their course towards a high mountain, and when they were arrived, a large stone which covered the mouth of a cavern was raised, and the body let down into it without taking off any of the ornaments. After that, the husband took his leave of his relations and friends, and without offering the least resistance, suffered himself to be placed on a bier, with a jug of water and seven small loaves by his side, and let down as his wife had been. This mountain extended a great way, and served as a boundary to the ocean; and the cavern was very deep. When the ceremony was completed the stone was replaced, and the

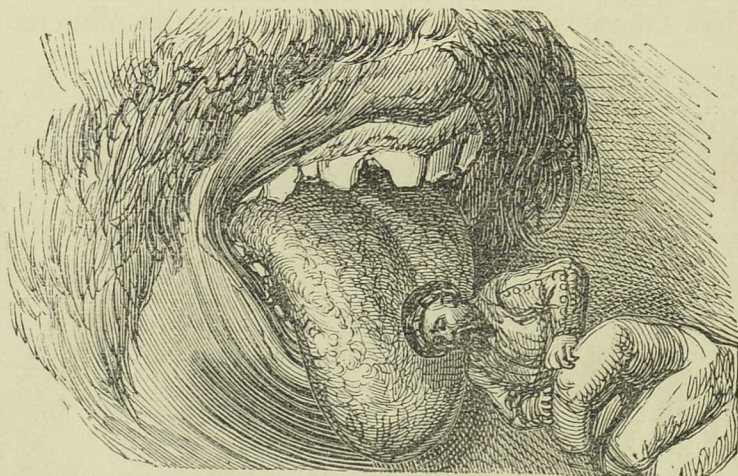
company retired. I need scarcely say that I was greatly affected at this ceremony. None of the rest, however, who were present, appeared to feel it, probably from being habituated to the repetition of the same kind of scene. So great was the detestation and horror with which I regarded the custom that I could not forbear to express to the king my sentiments on it. "Sire," said I, "the strange custom which subsists in your dominions of interring the living with the dead inspires me with feelings both of astonishment and disgust; I have visited many nations, but in the whole course of my travels I never heard of so cruel and unjust a law."—"What can I do, Sindbad?" replied the king; "it is a law common to all ranks, and even I must submit to its decree; I shall be interred alive with the queen, my consort, if I happen to

survive her."—"Sire," resumed I, "will your majesty allow me to ask if foreigners are obliged to observe this custom?"—"Certainly," said the king, smiling, as he guessed the motive of my question; "none are exempt from its operation who marry in the island."

I returned home perplexed in thought and sorrowful at this reply. The fear that my wife might die first, and that I should be interred with her, was a reflection of the most distressing nature. Yet how was the evil to be remedied? The only suggestions that occurred to me

were to have patience, and submit to the will of God. Nevertheless I trembled at the slightest indisposition of my wife, and alas! I soon had good reason to fear; she was taken dangerously ill, and died in a few days. Judge how my mind was disturbed at the prospect immediately before me. To be interred alive did not appear to be a more desirable end than that of being devoured by cannibals; yet I was obliged to comply. The king, accompanied by his whole court, promised to honour the procession with his presence; and the principal inhabitants of the city also, out of respect to me, signified their intention to be present at my interment.

When all was in readiness for the ceremony, the corpse of my wife, decorated with her jewels, and in her most magnificent dress, was placed on a bier, and the procession



THE FATE OF SINDBAD'S COMPANION.



"THE SERPENT SWALLOWED ONE OF MY TWO COMRADES." (See page 59.)





set out. Being the second personage in this tragedy, I followed the body of my wife, my eyes bathed in tears, and deploring my miserable destiny. Before we arrived at the mountain I wished to make a trial of the compassion of the spectators ; accordingly I addressed myself first to the king, then to those who were near me, and bowing to the ground to kiss the hem of their garments, I entreated them to have pity on me. "Consider," said I, "that I am a stranger, who ought not to be subject to so severe a law, and that I have another wife and children in my own country." I pronounced these words in an affecting tone, but no one seemed moved ; on the contrary, they hastened to lower the corpse into the cavern, and soon after I was also let down on another bier, with a jug of water and seven loaves. At last, the fatal ceremony being completed, they replaced the stone over the mouth of the cave, notwithstanding my piteous lamentations.

As I approached the bottom I discovered, by the little light that shone from above, the shape of this subterraneous abode. It was a vast chamber, which I judged to be about fifty cubits deep. I soon smelt an insupportable stench arising from the carcasses that were spread around. I even fancied that I heard the last sighs of some who had lately fallen victims to this inhuman law. No sooner had I reached the bottom than I left the bier, and stopping my nostrils, went to a distance from the dead bodies, where I threw myself on the ground, and remained for a long time bathed in tears ; then reflecting on my cruel fate, "It is true," said I, "that God disposes of us as seems best to His all-seeing providence ; but, unhappy Sindbad, is it not your own fault that you are now brought to this singular death ? Would to heaven I had perished in one of the dreadful wrecks from which I have been saved ! I should not now have had to languish in this miserable abode of lingering death. And my accursed avarice has brought it all upon myself ! Wretch that I am ! I ought to have remained with my family, and enjoyed peaceably the fruits of my former labours."

Such were the useless expressions of rage and despair with which I made the cavern re-echo. I beat my head and breast, and gave way to the most violent grief. Nevertheless, I confess to you that instead of calling on death to release me from this habitation of despair, the love of life still glowed within me, and induced me to seek for the means of prolonging my days. I felt my way to the bier on which I had been placed ; and notwithstanding the intense obscurity which prevailed, I found my bread and water, and ate of it. When my eyes had become more accustomed to the gloom I was enabled to perceive that the cave was more spacious, and contained more bodies than I had at first supposed. I subsisted for some days on my provisions, but as soon as they were exhausted I prepared to die. I had just become resigned to my fate, when I heard the stone above raised ; and a corpse and another living person were let down. The deceased was a man. It is natural to have recourse to violent methods when reduced to the last extremity. While the woman was descending I approached the spot where her bier was to be placed, and when I perceived the aperture above to be closed, I gave the unhappy female two or three heavy blows on the head with a large bone, which stunned, or, more properly speaking, killed her ; but I only committed this inhuman action to obtain the bread and water which had been allowed her. I had now provisions for some days, and before they were entirely expended a dead woman and her living husband were let down. I killed the man in a similar manner ; and at that time there happened fortunately for me a mortality in the city, with every victim to which I obtained, in the way described, a fresh supply of food.

One day, when I had just put an end to an unfortunate woman, I heard sounds like those of breathing and a footstep. I advanced to the part from whence the sound proceeded, and hearing a louder breathing at my approach, fancied I saw something fleeing from me. I followed this shadow, which occasionally stopped and then again retreated, panting as I drew near. I pursued it so long, and went so far, that at last I perceived a

small speck of light resembling a star. I continued to walk towards this light, sometimes losing it, as obstacles arose to preclude my vision, but always recovering it again, till I arrived at an opening in the rock large enough to allow me to pass.

At this discovery I stopped for some time to recover from the violent emotion occasioned by my walking quickly ; then passing through the crevice, I found myself on the sea-shore. You may imagine the excess of my joy ; it was so great that I could scarcely be satisfied that my imagination did not deceive me. When I became convinced that it was a reality, and that my senses were still sound, I perceived that the creature which I had followed was an animal that lived in the sea, and was in the habit of going into the cave to devour the dead bodies.

I examined the mountain, and observed that it stood between the city and the sea, without any communication between them, for it was so steep as to be inaccessible. I prostrated myself on the shore to thank God for the mercy He had shown me, and then returned to the cave to get some bread, which I brought out, and ate with much better appetite than I had enjoyed since my interment in that gloomy mansion.

I returned again to collect, as well as I could, by feeling on the different biers, all the diamonds, rubies, pearls, golden bracelets, and in short everything of value that I could find, all of which I brought to the shore. I tied them up in several packets with the cords which had served to let down the biers, and of which there was a great quantity. I left them in a convenient place till a proper opportunity should offer, without fear of their being spoiled by the rain ; for it was not the season for wet weather.

At the end of two or three days I perceived a vessel just sailing out of the harbour, and passing by the spot where I was, I made signs with the linen of my turban, and cried aloud with all my strength. They heard me on board, and despatched the boat to fetch me. When the sailors inquired by what misfortune I had got into that place, I replied that I had been wrecked two days since on that shore, with all my merchandise. Fortunately for me these people did not consider whether my story was probable, but satisfied with my answer, they took me on board with my bales.

When we had reached the vessel, the captain, happy at having been instrumental to my safety, and occupied with the management of the ship, believed, without any difficulty, the tale of the wreck, to convince him of which I offered him some precious stones, but he refused them.

We passed several islands, amongst others the island of Bells, distant about ten days' sail from that of Serendib, sailing with a fair wind, and six days from the isle of Kela, where we landed. Here there were some lead-mines, some Indian canes, and excellent camphor.

The king of the isle of Kela is very rich and powerful. His authority extends over the island of Bells, which is two days' journey in extent ; the inhabitants are still so uncivilised as to eat human flesh. After we had made an advantageous traffic in this island, we again set sail, and touched at several ports. At length I arrived happily at Bagdad, with immense riches, of which it is needless to give you a detail. To evince my gratitude to Heaven for the mercies shown me, I spent a great deal in charity, some for the support of mosques, and some for the subsistence of the poor. I then entirely gave myself up to the society of my relations and friends, and passed my time in feasting and entertainments.

Sindbad here concluded the relation of his fourth voyage, which occasioned still more surprise in his audience than the three preceding ones had done. He repeated his present of a hundred sequins to Hindbad, whom he requested, with the rest of the company, to return the following day to dine, and hear the detail of his fifth voyage. Hindbad and the others took their leave and retired. The next day, when all were assembled, they sat down to table, and when the repast was over, Sindbad began the account of his fifth voyage, as follows :—

THE FIFTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD, THE SAILOR.



HE pleasures I enjoyed soon made me forget the pains I had endured ; yet they were not sufficiently attractive to prevent my forming the resolution of venturing a fifth time on the sea. I again provided myself with merchandise, packed it, and sent it by

of a roc, as large as that I spoke of on a former occasion ; it contained a small roc, which was just ready to hatch, its beak having begun to make its appearance. The merchants who were with me broke the egg with hatchets, and cut out the young roc, bit by bit, and roasted it. I had seriously advised them not to touch the egg, but they would not attend to me.

They had scarcely finished their meal when two im-



" I FOUND MYSELF SURROUNDED BY INNUMERABLE CORPSES."

land-carriage to the nearest seaport, where, unwilling to trust any more to a captain, and wishing to have a vessel of my own, I built and equipped one at my own expense. As soon as it was finished, I loaded it and embarked ; and as I had not sufficient cargo to fill it myself, I received several merchants of different nations, with their goods.

We hoisted our sails the first fair wind, and put to sea. After sailing a considerable time, the first place we stopped at was a desert island, where we found the egg

mense clouds appeared in the air, at a considerable distance from us. The captain, whom I had hired to have the care of the vessel, knowing by experience what it was, cried out that it was the father and mother of the young roc, and warned us to re-embark as quickly as possible, to avoid the danger which threatened us. We took his advice, and set sail immediately.

The two rocs approached, uttering the most frightful screams, which they redoubled on finding the state of

their egg, and that the young one was no more. Designing to revenge themselves, they flew away towards the part from whence they came, and disappeared for some time, during which we used all diligence to sail away, and prevent what nevertheless befel us.

They returned, and we perceived that they each had an enormous piece of rock in their claws. When they were exactly over our ship, they stopped, and, suspending themselves in the air, one of them let fall the piece of rock he held. By the address of the pilot, who suddenly turned the vessel, it did not tumble on us, but fell close to us into the sea, in which it made such a chasm that we could almost see the bottom. The other bird, unfortunately for us, let his piece of rock fall so immediately on the ship, that it broke and split it into a thousand pieces. The sailors were all either crushed to death or drowned. I was myself under water for some time, but rising again to the surface, I had the good fortune to seize a piece of the wreck. Thus, swimming sometimes with one hand and

flections led me so far that I began to form a project against my life, but day returning, with its cheerful light, dissipated my gloomy ideas. I arose and walked among the trees, though not without some degree of apprehension.

When I had advanced a little way in the island, I perceived an old man, who appeared much broken down. He was seated on the bank of a little rivulet; at first I supposed he might be, like myself, shipwrecked. I approached and saluted him, to which he made no other return than a slight inclination of the head. I asked him what he was doing, but instead of replying, he made signs to me to take him on my shoulders and cross the brook, making me understand that he wanted to gather some fruit.

I supposed he wished me to render this piece of service; so taking him on my back, I stemmed the stream. When I had reached the other side, I stooped and desired him to alight; instead of which (I cannot help laughing whenever I think of it) this old man, who appeared to me so decrepit, nimbly threw his legs, which I now saw were



"THE MERCHANTS BROKE THE EGG WITH THEIR AXES."

sometimes with the other, still holding what I had fixed myself to, and having both the wind and the current in my favour, I at length reached an island, where the shore was very steep. I nevertheless overcame this difficulty, and got on land.

I seated myself on the grass to rest from my fatigue, after which I arose and advanced into the island, to reconnoitre the ground. It seemed to be a delicious garden. Wherever I turned my eyes, I saw beautiful trees, some loaded with green, others with ripe fruits, and transparent streams meandering between them. I ate of the fruits, which I found to be excellent, and quenched my thirst at the inviting brooks.

Night being arrived, I laid down on the grass in a convenient spot, but I did not sleep an hour at a time; my sleep was continually interrupted by the fear of being alone in such a desert place, so that I employed the greater part of the night in lamenting and reproaching myself for the imprudence of venturing from home, when I had everything to make me comfortable there. These re-

covered with a skin like a cow's, over my neck, and seated himself fast on my shoulders, at the same time squeezing my throat so violently that I expected to be strangled; this alarmed me so much that I fainted away.

Notwithstanding my situation, the old man kept his place on my neck; he only loosened his hold sufficiently to allow me to breathe. When I was a little recovered, he pushed one of his feet against my stomach, and kicking my side with the other, obliged me to get up. He then made me walk under some trees, and forced me to gather and eat the fruit we met with. He never quitted his hold during the day, and when I wished to rest at night, he laid himself on the ground with me, always fixed to my neck. He never failed to awaken me in the morning, which he effected by pushing me, and then he made me get up and walk, kicking me all the time. Conceive, gentlemen, the torture of bearing this burthen without the possibility of getting rid of it.

One day, having found on the ground several dried gourds, which had fallen from the tree that bore them, I

took a pretty large one, and after having cleared it well, squeezed into it the juice of several bunches of grapes, which the island produced in great abundance. When I had filled the gourd, I placed it in a particular spot, and some days afterwards returned with the old man, when, tasting the contents, I found it to be converted into excellent wine, which for a little time made me forget the ills that oppressed me. It gave me new vigour, and raised my spirits so high that I began to sing and dance as I went along.

The old man, perceiving the effect this draught had taken on my spirits, made signs to me to let him taste; I gave him the gourd, and the liquor pleased his palate so well that he drank it to the last drop. There was enough to inebriate him, and the fumes of the wine very soon rose into his head; he then began to sing after his manner, and to stagger on my shoulders. His legs loosened by degrees, so that finding he no longer held me tight, I threw him on the ground, where he remained motionless; I then took a large stone and crushed him to death.

Much rejoiced at having so effectually got rid of this old man, I walked towards the sea-shore, where I met some people who belonged to a vessel which had anchored there to get fresh water. They were much astonished at seeing me, and hearing the account of my adventure. "You had fallen," said they, "into the hands of the Old Man of the Sea, and you are the first whom he has not strangled; he never left those he had once mastered till he had put an end to their existence; and this island is famous for the number of persons he has killed. The sailors and merchants who land here never dare approach except they are in a strong body."

Having informed me of this, they took me to their ship, where, when I related what had befallen me, the captain received me with the greatest politeness. He set sail, and in a few days we landed at the port of a large city, where the houses were built of stone.

One of the merchants of the ship having contracted a friendship for me, entreated me to accompany him, and conducted me to the lodging destined for foreign merchants. He gave me a large sack, and then introduced me to some people belonging to the city, who were also furnished with sacks; then having desired them to take me with them to gather cocoa-nuts, "Go," said he, "follow them and do as they do; and do not stray from them, for if you do so, your life will be in danger." He gave me provisions for the day, and I set off with them.

We arrived at a large forest of tall, straight trees, the trunks of which were so smooth that it was impossible to climb up to the branches where the fruit grew. They were all cocoa-trees, and we wanted to knock down the fruit and fill our sacks. On entering the forest, we saw an amazing number of monkeys, of all sizes, which fled at our approach and ran up the trees with surprising agility. The merchants I was with collected some stones and threw them with great force at the monkeys, which had reached some of the highest branches. I did the same, and soon perceived that these animals were aware of our design; they gathered the cocoa-nuts and threw them down at us, with gestures that plainly showed their anger and animosity. We picked up the cocoa-nuts, and at intervals threw up stones to irritate the monkeys. By this contrivance we filled our sacks with the fruit—a thing utterly impracticable by any other method.

When we had got a sufficient quantity we returned to the city, where the merchant who had sent me to the forest gave me the value of the cocoa-nuts I had collected. "Continue to do the same every day," said he, "till you have amassed sufficient money to convey you to your own country." I thanked him for the good advice he gave me, and by degrees I acquired such a quantity of cocoa-nuts that I sold them for a considerable sum.

The vessel in which I came had sailed with the merchants, who had loaded it with the cocoa-nuts they had purchased. I waited for the arrival of another, which shortly after came into harbour for a lading of the same materials. I sent on board all the cocoa-nuts which belonged to me, and when it was ready to sail, I

took leave of the merchant, to whom I was under so many obligations. As he had not yet been able to settle his affairs he could not embark with me.

We set sail, and steered towards the island where pepper grows in such abundance. From thence we made for the island of Comari, where the best species of the aloe grows, and whose inhabitants submit themselves to a law not to drink wine or suffer any kind of debauchery. In these two islands I exchanged all my cocoa-nuts for pepper and aloe-wood; and I then engaged myself with the other merchants in a pearl fishery, in which I employed many divers on my own account. By these means I collected a great number of very large and perfect ones, with which I joyfully put to sea and arrived safely at Balsora, from whence I returned to Bagdad, where I sold the pepper, aloes, and pearls which I brought with me for a large sum. I bestowed a tenth part of my profit in charity, as I had done on my return from every former voyage, and endeavoured to recover from my fatigues by every kind of diversion.

Having concluded this narrative Sindbad gave a hundred sequins to Hindbad, who retired with all the other guests. The same party returned to the rich Sindbad the next day, and after regaling them he began the account of his sixth voyage in the following way:—

THE SIXTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD, THE SAILOR.



YOU are, no doubt, gentlemen, surprised how I could be tempted again to expose myself to the caprice of fortune, after having undergone so many perils in my other voyages. I am astonished myself when I think of it. It was fate alone that urged me, at the expiration of a year, to venture myself a sixth time on the unstable sea, notwithstanding the tears and entreaties of my relations and friends, who did all in their power to persuade me to stay.

Instead of taking the route of the Persian Gulf, I passed again through some of the provinces of Persia and the Indies, and arrived at a seaport, where I embarked in a good ship, with a captain who was determined to make a long voyage. Long indeed it proved; but at the same time so unfortunate that the captain and pilot lost their way, and did not know how to steer. They at length got right again, but we had no reason to rejoice on the occasion, for the captain astonished us all by suddenly quitting his post and uttering the most lamentable cries. He threw his turban on the floor, tore his beard and beat his head, as if his senses were distracted. We asked what had occasioned these signs of affliction. "I am obliged to announce to you," said he, "that we are in the greatest peril. A rapid current carries the ship, and we shall probably all perish in less than a quarter of an hour. Pray God to deliver us from this imminent danger, for unless he takes pity on us, nothing can save us." He then gave orders for setting the sails, but the ropes broke in the attempt, and at last it became so impossible to manage the ship that it was suffered to go free with the current, and became dashed against the foot of a rock, where it split and went to pieces; we had, however, time to provide for our own safety, and secure part of our provisions, as well as the most valuable part of the lading.

This being effected, the captain said: "God's will be done. Here may we dig our graves and bid each other an eternal farewell; for we are in so desolate a place that none who were ever cast upon this shore returned to their own homes." This speech increased our affliction, and with tears in our eyes we embraced each other, deploring our wretched fate.

The mountain at the foot of which we then were formed one side of a large and long island. The beach was covered with fragments of vessels which had been wrecked on the inhospitable coast, and by the infinity of bones which everywhere met the eye, we were convinced

that many lives had been lost in this spot. It is almost incredible what quantities of merchandise of every sort were strewn upon the shore, all of which were objects that only served to increase our despair.

In every other part of the world it is common for rivers to discharge themselves into the sea; but instead of this, in the island upon which we had been cast, a large river of fresh water takes its course from the sea, and runs along the coast through a dark cave, the opening of which is extremely high and wide. What is most remarkable, however, is that the mountain is composed of rubies, crystals, and other precious stones. Here, too, a kind of pitch, or bitumen, distils from the rocks into the sea, and the fishes, eating it, return it again in the form of ambergris, which the waves leave on the shore. The trees are principally aloes, and are equal in beauty and value to those of Comari.

This place may be termed a whirlpool, as nothing that once enters it ever returns. It is impossible that a ship can avoid being dragged thither if it comes within a certain distance. If a sea-breeze blows that assists the current, there is no remedy; and if the wind comes from the land, the high mountain impedes its effect, and causes a calm, which allows the current full force, and then it whirls the ship against the coast and dashes it to pieces, as ours was. In addition to this the mountain is so steep that it is impossible to reach the summit, or, in fact, to escape by any means.

We remained on the shore distracted with apprehension, and expecting to die. We had divided our provisions equally, so that each individual might live more or less time, according to the consumption he made of his portion.

They who died first were buried by the others. I had the office of burying my last companion; for besides managing what provisions were allowed me with more care than the rest, I had also a store which I had kept concealed from my comrades. Nevertheless, at the time I buried the last I had so little left that I imagined I must soon follow him, upon which I dug a grave, and resolved to throw myself into it and die there, since no one remained to perform the last duties to my remains. I must confess, however, that whilst I was thus employed I could not avoid reproaching myself as the sole cause of my misfortunes, and most heartily repented of this last voyage. But I was not satisfied with reproaches only; I bit my hands in despair, and was near putting an end to my existence.

But God still had compassion on me, and inspired me with the thought of going to the river which lost itself in the hollow of the cave. I examined it with great attention, and it occurred to me that as the river ran underground, it must, in its course, come out to daylight again, so that if I should construct a raft and place myself upon it, the current of the water would probably bring me to some inhabited country; and even should I perish, it would be but changing the manner of my death, while, on the contrary, if I got safely out of this fatal place, I should not only avoid the cruel death by which my companions perished, but might also meet with some fresh opportunity of enriching myself. "Who knows," I said to myself, "that fortune does not await me on my arrival out of this frightful cavern, to recompense me for all the losses I have sustained?"

I worked at my raft with fresh vigour after these reflections, making it of thick pieces of wood and great cables, of which there was an abundance on the beach. I tied them closely together and formed a strong vessel. When it was completed, I placed on it a cargo of rubies, emeralds, ambergris, crystal, and also some gold and silver stuffs. Having placed all these things in a proper equilibrium, and fastened them to the planks, I embarked on my raft, taking with me two poles, which I meant to use for oars, and, trusting to the current, resigned myself to the will of God.

As soon as I was under the vault of the cavern I lost the light of day; and the current carried me on without my being able to discern its course. I rowed for some days in this obscurity without ever perceiving the least ray of light. At one time the vault of the cavern was so

low that it almost knocked my head, which rendered me very attentive to avoid the danger again. During this time I consumed no more of my provisions than was absolutely necessary to sustain nature; but however frugal I might be, I consumed them all. I then fell into a sweet sleep. I cannot tell whether I slept long, but when I awoke I was surprised to find myself in an open country, near a bank of the river, to which my raft was fastened, and in the midst of a large concourse of blacks. I rose as soon as I perceived them, and saluted them; they spoke to me, but I could not understand their language.

At this moment I felt so transported with joy that I could scarcely believe myself awake. Being at length convinced that it was not a dream, I exclaimed, in the words of the Koran: "Invoke the Almighty and He will come to thy assistance; thou needest not care for aught besides. Close thine eye, and while thou sleepest God will change thy fortune from bad to good."

One of the blacks, who understood Arabic, having heard me pronounce these words, advanced towards me and spoke as follows: "Brother," said he, "be not surprised at seeing us; we live in this country, and came hither to-day to water our fields from this river which flows from the neighbouring mountain, through canals cut in the earth to admit its passage.

"We observed that the current bore something along, and we immediately ran to the bank to see what it was, and perceived this raft; one of us instantly swam to it and conducted it to shore. We fastened it as you see, and were waiting for you to awake. We entreat you to relate to us your history, which must be very extraordinary; tell us how you could venture on this river, and whence you come." I first requested him to give me some food, after which I promised to satisfy their curiosity.

They produced several kinds of meat, and when I had satisfied my hunger, I related to them all that had happened to me, which they appeared to listen to with great admiration. As soon as I had finished my history, their interpreter told me that I had astonished them with my relation, and I must go myself to the king to recount my adventures; for they were of too extraordinary a nature to be repeated by any one but him to whom they had happened. I replied that I was ready to do anything they wished. The blacks then sent for a horse, which arrived shortly after; they placed me on it, and whilst some walked by my side to show me the way, others, of a more robust make, hauled the raft out of the water, and carried it on their shoulders with the bales of rubies, and followed me.

We went together to the city of Serendib, for this was the name of the island; and the blacks presented me to their king. I approached his throne where he was seated, and saluted him as it is usual to accost the kings of India; that is to say, I prostrated myself at his feet, and kissed the earth. The prince made me rise, and receiving me with an affable air he placed me by his side. He first asked me my name; I replied that I was called Sindbad, and surnamed the Sailor, from having made several voyages, and added that I was a citizen of Bagdad. "But," replied he, "how then came you into my dominions, and from whence are you arrived?"

I concealed nothing from the king, and related to him what you have just heard; he was so pleased with it that he ordered the history of my adventures to be written in letters of gold, that it might be preserved amongst the archives of his kingdom. The raft was then produced, and the bales were opened in his presence. He admired the aloe-wood and ambergris, but above all the rubies and emeralds, as he had none in his treasury equal to them in value.

Perceiving that he examined the precious stones with pleasure, and that he looked repeatedly at the rarest of them, I prostrated myself before him, and took the liberty of saying: "Sire, not only my person is at your command, but the cargo of my raft also, if your majesty will do me the honour of accepting it, and disposing of it as you think fit." He smiled, and replied that he did not desire anything which belonged to me; for as God had given it me I ought not to be deprived of it; that instead

of diminishing my riches, he would add to them ; and that when I left his dominions, I should carry with me proofs of his liberality. I could only reply to this by praying for his prosperity, and by praising his generosity.

He ordered one of his officers to attend me, and gave me servants to wait upon me at his own expense. The officers faithfully fulfilled the charge they were entrusted with, and conveyed all the bales to the place destined for my lodging.

I went every day at certain hours to pay my court to the king, and employed the rest of the time in seeing the city and whatever was most worthy of my attention.

The island of Serendib is situated exactly under the equinoctial line so that the days and nights are of equal length. It is eighty parasangs long, and as many in breadth. The principal town is situated at the extremity

grant me permission to return to my native country, which he did in the most obliging and honourable manner. He compelled me to receive a rich present, which was taken from his treasury ; and when I went to take my leave, he deposited in my care another still more considerable than the first, and at the same time gave me a letter for the Commander of the Believers, our sovereign lord, saying : " I beg you to present from me this letter and this present to the Caliph Haroun Alraschid, and to assure him of my friendship." I took the present and the letter with the greatest respect, and promised his majesty to execute the orders with which he was pleased to honour me with the greatest punctuality. Before I embarked, the king sent for the captain and the merchants with whom I was to sail, and charged them to pay me all possible attention.

The letter of the king of Serendib was written on the



" THE OLD MAN KEPT HIS PLACE ON MY BACK."

of a beautiful valley formed by a mountain, which is in the middle of the island, and which is by far the highest in the world ; it is discernible at sea within three days' navigation of it. Rubies and many sorts of minerals are found in it, and most of the rocks are formed of emery, which is a sort of metallic stone used in the cutting of precious stones.

All kinds of rare and curious plants and trees, particularly the cedar and cocoa-tree, grow here in great abundance, and there are pearl fisheries on the coast at the mouth of the rivers ; some of its valleys, too, produce diamonds. I made a devotional journey up the mountain, to the spot where Adam was placed on his banishment from Paradise, and had the curiosity to ascend to the summit.

When I came back to the city, I entreated the king to

skin of a certain animal, highly prized in that country on account of its rareness. The colour of it approaches to yellow. The letter itself was in characters of azure, and it contained the following words in the Indian language :—

THE KING OF THE INDIES, WHO, IN HIS JOURNEYS,
IS PRECEDED BY A THOUSAND ELEPHANTS ;
AND WHOSE RESIDENCE IS A PALACE, THE
ROOF OF WHICH GLITTERS WITH THE
LUSTRE OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND
RUBIES, AND WHO POSSESSES IN HIS
TREASURY TWENTY THOUSAND
CROWNS, ENRICHED WITH
DIAMONDS, TO THE CALIPH
ABDALLAH HAROUN
ALRASCHID.



"ONE OF THE LARGEST ELEPHANTS TORE UP THE TREE BY ITS ROOTS."

"Although the present that we send you be inconsiderable, yet receive it as a brother and a friend, in consideration of the friendship we bear you in our heart; and we feel happy in having an opportunity of testifying it to you. We ask the same share in your affections, as we hope we deserve it, being of a rank equal to that you hold. We salute you as a brother. Farewell."

The present consisted of several items;—first, a vase made of one single ruby, pierced and worked into a cup of half a foot in height and an inch thick, filled with fine round pearls all weighing half a drachm each; second, the skin of a serpent, which had scales as large as a common piece of money, the peculiar property of which was to preserve those who lay on it from all disease; third, fifty thousand drachms of the most exquisite aloë-wood, with thirty grains of camphor as large as a pistachio nut: and lastly, all this was accompanied by a female slave of the most enchanting beauty, whose clothes were covered with jewels.

The ship set sail, and after a long though fortunate voyage, we landed at Balsora, from whence I returned to Bagdad. The first thing I did after my arrival was to execute the commission I had been entrusted with. I took the letter of the king of Serendib, and presented myself at the gate of the Commander of the Faithful, followed by the beautiful slave and some of my family, who carried the presents which had been committed to my care. I mentioned the reason of my appearance there, and was immediately conducted before the throne of the caliph. I prostrated myself at his feet, and after having made a short speech, gave him the letter and the present. When he had read the contents, he inquired of me whether it was true that the king of Serendib was as rich and powerful as he reported himself to be in his letter. I prostrated myself a second time, and when I arose, "Commander of the Faithful," said I, "I can assure your majesty that he does not exaggerate his riches and grandeur; I have been witness to it. Nothing can excite greater admiration than the magnificence of his palace. When this prince wishes to appear in public, a throne is prepared for him on the back of an elephant; on this he sits and proceeds between two files, composed of his ministers, favourites, and others belonging to the court. Before him, on the same elephant, sits an officer with a golden lance in his hand, and behind the throne another stands with a pillar of gold, on the top of which is placed an emerald about half a foot long and an inch thick. He is preceded by a guard of a thousand men, habited in silk and gold stuffs, and mounted on elephants richly caparisoned.

"While the king is on his march, the officer who sits before him on the elephant from time to time cries with a loud voice: 'This is the great monarch, the powerful and magnanimous sultan of the Indies, whose palace is covered with a hundred thousand rubies, and who possesses twenty thousand diamond crowns. This is the crowned monarch, greater than ever was Solyma or the great Mihrage.'

"After he has pronounced these words, the officer who is behind the throne cries in his turn: 'This monarch, who is so great and powerful, must die, must die, must die.' The first officer then replies: 'Hail to Him who lives and dies not!'

"The king of Serendib is so just that there are no judges in his capital, nor in any other part of his dominions; his people do not want any. They know and observe with exactness the true principles of justice, and never deviate from their duty; therefore tribunals and magistrates would be useless amongst them." The caliph was satisfied with my discourse, and said: "The wisdom of this king appears in his letter; and after what you have told me, I must confess that such wisdom is worthy of such subjects, and such subjects worthy of it." At these words he dismissed me with a rich present.

Sindbad here finished his discourse, and his visitors retired; but Hindbad, as usual, received his hundred sequins. They returned the following day, and Sindbad began the relation of his seventh and last voyage, in these terms:—

SEVENTH AND LAST VOYAGE OF SINDBAD, THE SAILOR.



ON my return from my sixth voyage, I absolutely relinquished all thoughts of ever venturing again on the seas. I was now arrived at an age which required rest, and besides this, I had sworn never more to expose myself to the perils I had so often experienced; I prepared, therefore, to enjoy my life in quiet and repose.

One day, when I was regaling a number of friends, one of my servants came to tell me that an officer of the caliph wanted to speak to me. I got up from the table and went to him. "The caliph," said he, "has ordered me to acquaint you that he wishes to see you." I followed the officer to the palace, and he presented me to the prince, whom I saluted by prostrating myself at his feet. "Sindbad," said he, "I am in want of you; you must do me a service, and go once more to the king of Serendib with my answer and presents; it is but right that I should return him the civility he has shown me."

This order of the caliph was a thunderbolt to me. "Commander of the Faithful," replied I, "I am ready to execute anything that your majesty may desire; but I humbly entreat you to consider that I am worn down with the unspeakable fatigues I have undergone; I have even made a vow never to leave Bagdad." I then took occasion to recount the long detail of my adventures, which he had the patience to hear attentively. When I had done speaking, "I confess," said he, "that these are extraordinary adventures; nevertheless they must not prevent you making the voyage I propose, for my sake; it is only to the island of Serendib; execute the commission I entrust you with, and then you will be at liberty to return. But you must go; for you must be sensible that it would be highly indecorous, as well as derogatory to my dignity, to be under obligations to the king of that island."

As I plainly saw that the caliph had resolved on my going, I signified to him that I was ready to obey his commands. He seemed much pleased, and ordered me a thousand sequins to pay the expenses of the voyage.

In a few days I was prepared for my departure; and as soon as I had received the presents of the caliph, together with a letter written with his own hand, I set off and took the route of Balsora, from whence I embarked. After a pleasant voyage I arrived at the island of Serendib. I immediately acquainted the ministers with the commission I was come upon, and begged them to procure me an audience as soon as possible. They did not fail to attend to my wishes, and conducted me to the palace. I saluted the king by prostrating myself according to the usual custom.

This prince immediately recollected me, and evinced great joy at my return. "Welcome, Sindbad," said he; "I assure you I have often thought of you since your departure. Blessed be this day, in which I see you again." I returned the compliment, and thanking him for his kindness, delivered the letter and present of the caliph, which he received with every mark of satisfaction and respect.

The caliph had sent him a complete bed of gold tissue, estimated at a thousand sequins; fifty robes of a very rich stuff, a hundred more of white linen, the finest that could be procured from Cairo, Suez, Cufa, and Alexandria; another bed of crimson, and also a third of a different make; a vase of agate, greater in width than in depth, of the thickness of a finger, on the sides of which was sculptured in bas-relief a man kneeling on the ground with a bow and arrow in his hand, which he was going to let fly at a lion; and besides these he sent him a richly ornamented table, which was supposed from tradition to have belonged to Solomon. The letter of the caliph was written in these terms:—

HEALTH, IN THE NAME OF THE SOVEREIGN
WHO DIRECTETH IN THE RIGHT ROAD, TO
THE POWERFUL AND HAPPY SULTAN,
FROM ABDALLAH HAROUN ALRASCHID,
WHOM GOD HAS PLACED ON THE
SEAT OF HONOUR, AFTER HIS
ANCESTORS OF HAPPY
MEMORY.

"We have received your letter with joy, and send you this, emanating from the council of our porte, the garden of superior minds. We hope that in casting your eyes over it, you will perceive our good intention, and think it agreeable. Adieu."

The king of Serendib was rejoiced to find that the caliph returned a testimony of his friendship. Soon after this audience I requested another to take my leave, but had some difficulty in obtaining it. At length, however, I succeeded, and the king, at my departure, ordered me a very handsome present. I re-embarked immediately, intending to return to Bagdad, but had not the good fortune to arrive so soon as I expected, for God had disposed it otherwise.

Three or four days after we had set sail, we were attacked by corsairs, who easily made themselves masters of our vessel, as we were not in a state for defence. Some persons in the ship attempted to make resistance, but it cost them their lives. All who had the prudence not to oppose the intention of the corsairs, among whom my destiny was cast, were made slaves. After they had stripped us and substituted bad clothes for our own, they bent their course towards a large distant island, where, on their arrival, they sold us.

I was purchased by a rich merchant, who conducted me to his house, gave me food to eat, and clothed me as a slave. Some days after, as he had not been well informed who I was, he asked me if I knew any trade. I replied that I was not an artisan, but a merchant by profession, and that the corsairs who had sold me had taken from me all I possessed. "But tell me," said he, "do you think you could shoot with a bow and arrow?" I informed him that it had been one of my youthful sports, and that I had not entirely forgotten it. He then gave me a bow and some arrows, and causing me to mount behind him upon an elephant, he took me to a vast forest at a distance of several hours' journey from the city. After proceeding a great way, we reached a spot where he wished to stop, when, bidding me alight, he showed me a large tree: "Ascend this tree," said he, "and shoot at the elephants that pass under it, for there are a prodigious number in this forest: if one should fall, come quickly and acquaint me of it." Having said this, he left me some provisions and returned to the city, while I remained in the tree, on the watch, the whole night.

I did not perceive any during that time, but the next day, as soon as the sun had risen, a great number made their appearance. I shot many arrows at them, and at last one fell. The others immediately retired, and left me at liberty to go and inform my master of my success. To reward me for this good intelligence he regaled me with an excellent repast, and praised my address. We then returned together to the forest, where we dug a pit to bury the elephant I had killed. It was my master's intention to let it rot in the earth, and afterwards to take possession of its teeth for commerce.

I pursued this occupation for two months, and scarcely a day passed in which I did not kill an elephant. I did not, however, always place myself on the same tree, but sometimes ascended one, sometimes another, till one morning, when I was waiting for a troop of elephants to pass, I perceived, to my great astonishment, that instead of traversing the forest as usual, they stopped and came towards me with a terrible noise, and in such numbers that the ground was covered with them, and trembled under their footsteps. They approached the tree in which I had stationed myself, and surrounding it, all extended their trunks and fixed their eyes upon me. At this surprising spectacle I remained motionless, and was so agitated by fright that my bow and arrows fell from my hands.

Nor were my fears groundless. After the elephants had viewed me for some time, one of the largest twisted his trunk round the body of the tree, and shook it with so much violence that he tore it up by the roots, and threw it on the ground. I fell with the tree; but the animal took me up with his trunk, and placing me on his

shoulders, where I remained more dead than alive, he put himself at the head of his companions, who followed him in a troop, and carried me to a spot whence, having set me down, he and the rest retired.

Conceive my situation! I for a time thought it a dream. At length, having been seated some time, and seeing no other elephants, I arose, and perceived that I was on a little hill of some breadth, entirely covered with the bones and teeth of elephants. This sight filled my mind with a variety of reflections. It occurred to me that I had been brought to this spot through the fine instinct and superior sagacity of these animals, to teach me that this was their cemetery, or place of burial, and that I might safely desist from destroying them, merely for the sake of possessing their teeth, as here I could obtain plenty without such necessity. I did not stay long on the hill, but turned my steps towards the city, and having walked a day and a night, at last arrived at my master's house. I did not meet any elephant in my way, which plainly evinced that they had entered farther into the forest, to leave me an unobstructed passage from the hill.

As soon as my master saw me, "Ah! poor Sindbad," he exclaimed, "I was in pain to know what had become of you. I have been to the forest, and found a tree newly torn up by the roots and a bow and arrows on the ground; after having sought you everywhere in vain I despaired of seeing you again. Pray relate to me what has happened to you, and by what good fortune you are still alive." I satisfied his curiosity, and on the following day, having accompanied me to the hill, he was, with great joy, convinced of the truth of my history. We loaded the elephant on which we had come with as many teeth as he could carry, and when we returned he thus addressed me: "Brother, after the discovery you have imparted to me, and which cannot fail to enrich me, I will no longer treat you as a slave; may God pour on you all sorts of blessings and prosperity! In His presence I here give you your liberty. I have hitherto concealed from you what I am now going to relate. The elephants of our forest destroy annually an infinite number of slaves, whom we send in search of ivory. Whatever advice we give them, they are sure, sooner or later, to lose their lives by the wiles of these animals. God has delivered you from their fury, and has conferred this mercy on you alone. It is a sign that He cherishes you, and that He has ordained you to remain in the world to be of use to mankind. You have procured me a surprising advantage; we have not hitherto been able to get ivory without risking the lives of our slaves, and now our whole city will be enriched by your means. Do not suppose that I think I have sufficiently recompensed you by giving you liberty; I intend to add to it considerable presents. I might engage the whole city to join and make your fortune, but that is an honour I will enjoy alone."

To this obliging discourse I replied: "Master, God preserve you; the liberty you grant me acquits you of all obligation towards me; and the only recompense which I desire for the service I have had the good fortune to render to you and the inhabitants of your city is permission to return to my own country."—"Well," resumed he, "the monsoon will soon bring us the vessels which trade hither for ivory. I will then send you away, with the means of paying your expenses home." I again thanked him both for the liberty he had given me and the goodwill he exhibited towards me, and afterwards continued to abide with him till the season of the monsoon, in the interim making frequent excursions to the hill and filling his magazines with ivory. The other merchants in the city did not fail to do the same, for the secret soon became noised abroad.

The ships at length arrived, and my master, having chosen that in which he wished me to embark, loaded it with ivory, placing the half of it to my account. He did not omit an abundance of provisions for my voyage, and pressed me to accept some rare curiosities of that country besides. I thanked him with unfeigned gratitude for all the obligations he had conferred upon me, and embarked. We then set sail, and as the adventure which had pro



"WE SAW A MULTITUDE OF LARGE AND SMALL MONKEYS,"

cured me liberty was a very extraordinary one, it was always present to my mind.

We touched at several islands to procure refreshments. Our vessel having sailed from a port of the Indian Continent, we went there to land; and fearful of the dangers of the sea to Balsora, I landed the goods that belonged to me, and resolved to continue my journey by land. I sold my ivory for a large sum of money, and purchased a variety of curious things for presents; when I was equipped I joined a caravan of merchants; but from remaining a long time on the road I suffered a good deal, which, however, I bore with patience, consoling myself with the reflection that I had neither tempests, nor corsairs, nor serpents, such as I had before encountered, to fear.

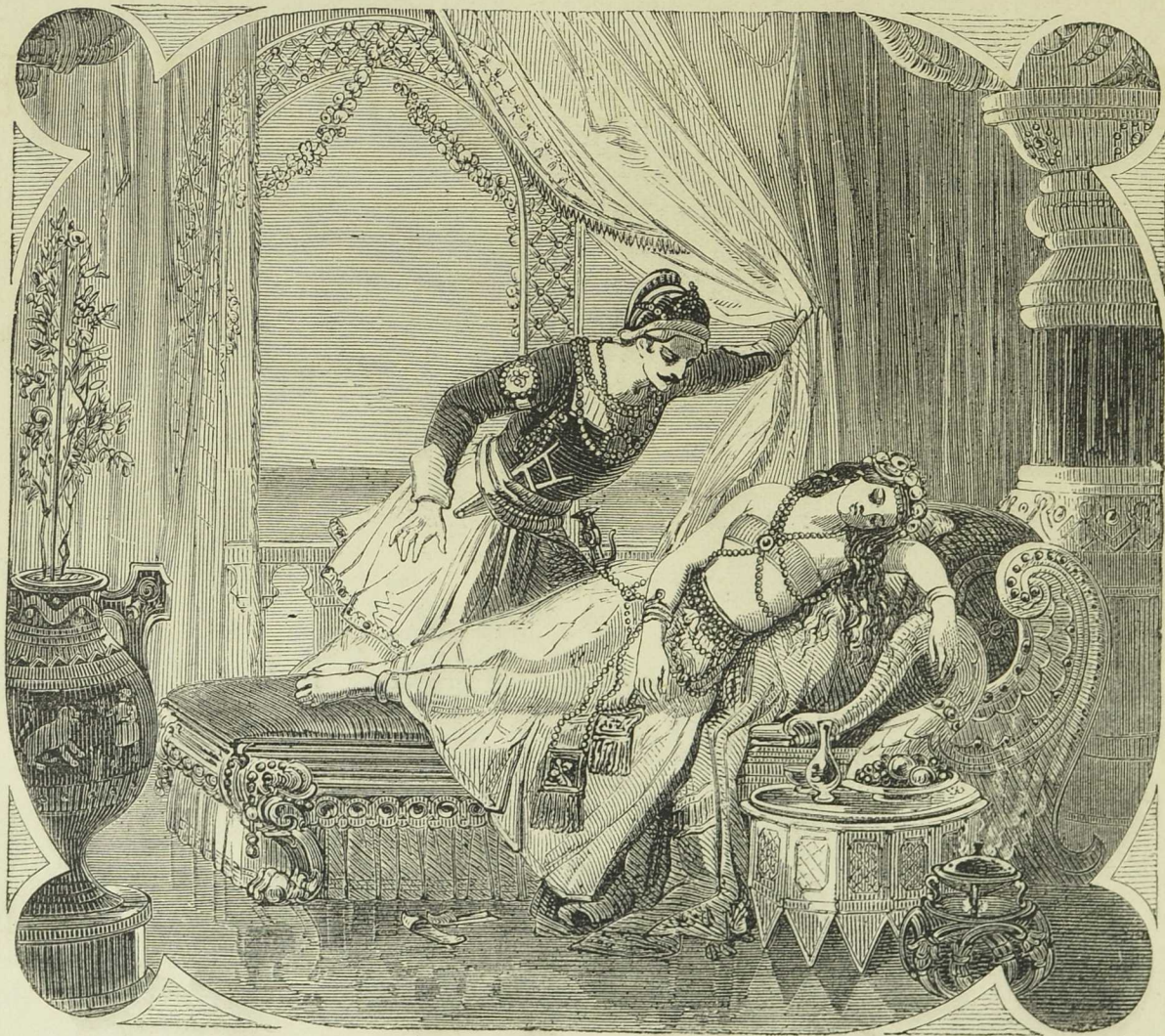
All my fatigues being at last concluded, I arrived happily at Bagdad, and went immediately to present myself to the caliph, and give him an account of my embassy. This prince told me that my long absence had occasioned him some uneasiness, but that he had always hoped God would not forsake me.

When I related the adventure of the elephants he appeared much surprised, and would have disbelieved it had not my sincerity been well known to him. He thought this, as well as the other histories I had detailed to him, so curious, that he ordered his secretary to write

it in letters of gold, to be preserved in his treasury. I retired satisfied with the presents and honours he conferred on me, and then resigned myself entirely to my family, my relations, and friends.

Sindbad thus concluded the recital of his seventh and last voyage; and addressing himself to Hindbad, "Well, my friend," said he, "have you ever heard of one who has suffered more than I have, or been in so many trying situations? Is it not just that after so many troubles I should enjoy an agreeable and quiet life?" As he finished these words, Hindbad approaching him, kissed his hand and said: "I must confess, sir, that you have encountered frightful perils; my afflictions are not to be compared to yours. If I feel them heavily during the period of suffering, I console myself with the small profit which they produce. You not only deserve a quiet life, but are worthy of all the riches you possess, since you make so good a use of them, and are so generous. May you, therefore, continue to live happily till the hour of your death."

Sindbad ordered him to have another hundred sequins, admitted him to his friendship, and told him to quit the profession of a porter and continue to eat at his table, for that he should all his life have reason to remember Sindbad, the sailor.



ALI BABA ; OR, THE FORTY THIEVES



ALI BABA; OR, THE FORTY THIEVES



"OPEN, SESAME !"

IN a certain town of Persia there lived two brothers, one of whom was called Cassim, and the other Ali Baba. Their father, at his death, left them but a moderate fortune, which they divided equally between them. It might therefore be naturally conjectured that their riches would be the same. Fate, however, ordered it otherwise.

Cassim married a woman who, very soon after her nuptials, became heiress to a very well-furnished shop, a warehouse filled with merchandise, and some considerable property in land. He thus became one of the richest merchants in the town.

Ali Baba, on the other hand, who had taken a wife in no better circumstances than he himself was, lived in a very poor house, and had no other means of gaining his livelihood, and supporting his wife and children, than by going to cut wood in a neighbouring forest, and carrying it about the town on three asses, which formed the whole of his capital, to sell.

Ali Baba went one day to the forest, and had nearly finished cutting as much wood as his asses could carry when he perceived a thick column of dust rising in the air, which appeared to rise from the right of the spot where he was, and to be advancing towards him. He looked at it very attentively, and was able to distinguish a numerous company of horsemen, who were approaching at a quick pace.

Although that part of the country was never spoken of as being infested with robbers, Ali Baba nevertheless conjectured that these men were of that denomination. Without therefore at all considering what might become of his asses, his first and only care was to save himself. He instantly climbed up into a large tree, the branches of

which, at a very little height from the ground, spread out so close and thick that they were separated only in one small space. He placed himself therefore in the midst of these with the greatest assurance of security, as he could see everything that passed without being observed. The tree itself grew at the foot of a sort of isolated rock, considerably higher than the tree, and in a manner so steep that it could not be easily ascended.

The men, who appeared stout, powerful, and well mounted, came up to the very rock, where they alighted. Ali Baba counted forty of them, and was very sure, both from their appearance and mode of equipment, that they were robbers. Nor was he wrong in his conjecture; for they were, in fact, some banditti who, without committing any depredations in the neighbourhood, carried on their system of plunder at a considerable distance, and had only their place of rendezvous in that spot; and what he almost immediately saw them do confirmed him in this opinion. Each horseman took the bridle off his horse, and hung over its head a bag, filled with barley, which he had brought with him; and having all fastened their horses to something, they took their travelling-bags, which appeared so heavy that Ali Baba thought they were filled with gold and silver.

The robber who was nearest to him, and whom Ali Baba took for their captain, came with his bag on his shoulder close to the rock, at the very spot where the tree was in which he had concealed himself. After the robber had made his way among some bushes and shrubs that grew there, he very distinctly pronounced these words, "Open, Sesame," which Ali Baba heard as distinctly as they were uttered. The captain of the band had no sooner spoken them than a door immediately opened, and after having made all his men pass before him and go in through the door, he entered also, and the door closed.

The robbers continued within the rock for a considerable time; and Ali Baba was compelled to remain on the tree, and wait with patience for their departure, as he was afraid if he left his present situation, and endeavoured to save himself by flight, either some or all of them might come out. He was nevertheless strongly tempted to creep down, seize two of their horses, mount one, and lead the other by the bridle, and thus, driving his three asses before him, gain the town. The uncertainty, however, of success, made him follow the safer mode.

At length the door opened, and the forty robbers came out; the captain, contrary to what he did when they entered, first made his appearance. After he had seen all his troop pass out before him, Ali Baba heard him pronounce these words, "Shut, Sesame." Each man then returned to his horse, put on its bridle, fastened his bag, and mounted. When the captain saw that they were all ready to proceed, he put himself at their head, and they departed the same way they came.

Ali Baba did not immediately come down from the tree, because he thought that they might have forgotten something, and be obliged to come back, and that he should thus be discovered. He followed them with his eyes as far as he could, nor did he, in order to be thoroughly safe, come down till a considerable time after he had lost sight of them. As he recollected the words the captain of the robbers made use of to open and shut the door, he had the curiosity to try if the same effect would be produced by his pronouncing them. He made his way therefore through the bushes, and perceived the door which they concealed. He went up to it, and called out, "Open, Sesame," when the door instantly flew wide open!

Ali Baba expected to find only a dark cave; and was much astonished at seeing a spacious, well-lighted, and vaulted room, dug out of the rock, and higher than a man could reach. It received its light from the top of the rock, cut out in a similar manner. He observed in it a large quantity of provisions, numerous bales of rich merchandise piled up, silk stuffs and brocades, rich and valuable carpets, and besides all this great quantities of money, both silver and gold, some in heaps, and some in large leather bags, placed one on another. At the sight of all these things,

it seemed to him that this cave had been used, not only for years, but for centuries, as a retreat for robbers, who had regularly succeeded each other.

Ali Baba did not hesitate long as to the course he should pursue. He went into the cave, and as soon as he was there the door shut; but as he knew the secret by which to open it, this gave him no sort of uneasiness. He paid no attention to the silver, but made directly for the gold coin, and particularly that which was in the bags. He took up, at several times, as much as he could carry; and when he had got together what he thought sufficient for loading his three asses, he went and collected them, as they had each strayed to some distance. He then brought them as close as he could to the rock, and loaded them; and in order to conceal the sacks, he so covered the whole over with wood that no one could perceive anything else. When he had finished all this, he went up to the door, and had no sooner pronounced the words, "Shut, Sesame," than it closed; for although it shut of itself every time he went in, it remained open on coming out, but by command.

This being done, Ali Baba took the road to the town; and when he got to his own house, he drove his asses into a small court, and shut the gate with great care. He threw down the small quantity of wood that covered the bags, and carried the latter into his house, where he laid them down in a regular manner before his wife, who was sitting upon a sofa.

His wife felt the sacks, to know their contents; and when she found them to be full of money, she suspected her husband of having stolen them, so that when he brought them all before her, she could not help saying, "Ali Baba, is it possible that you should—" He immediately interrupted her: "Peace, my dear wife," exclaimed he, "do not alarm yourself; I am not a thief, unless that title be attached to those who take from thieves. You will change your bad opinion of me when I shall have told you my good fortune." He emptied the sacks, the contents of which formed a great heap of gold that quite dazzled his wife's eyes; and when he had done, he related his whole adventure from beginning to end; and as he concluded, he above all things conjured her to keep it secret.

His wife, recovering from her alarm, began to rejoice with Ali Baba on the fortunate circumstance which had befallen them, and was going to count over the money that lay before her, piece by piece. "What are you going to do?" said he; "you are very foolish, wife; you would never have done counting. I will immediately dig a pit to bury it in; we have no time to lose."—"It is proper, though," replied the wife, "that we should know about what quantity there may be. I will go for a small measure in the neighbourhood; and whilst you are digging the pit, I will measure the gold."—"What you want to do, wife," replied Ali Baba, "is of no use; and if you will take my advice, you will give up the intention. However, do as you please, only do not betray the secret."

In order to satisfy herself, the wife of Ali Baba set off and went to her brother-in-law, Cassim, who lived a short distance from her house. Cassim was from home, so she addressed herself to his wife, whom she begged to lend her a measure for a few minutes. Cassim's wife inquired if she wanted a large or a small one, to which Ali Baba's wife replied that a small one would suit her. "That I will, with pleasure," said the sister-in-law; "wait a moment, and I will bring it you." She went to seek a measure, but being acquainted with the poverty of Ali Baba, she was curious to know what sort of grain his wife wanted to measure; she therefore thought of putting some tallow at the bottom of the measure, which she did, without its being perceptible. She returned with it, and presenting it to the wife of Ali Baba, apologised for having made her wait so long, with the excuse that she had some difficulty to find it.

The wife of Ali Baba returned home, and placing the measure on the heap of gold, filled and then emptied it at a little distance on the sofa, till she had measured the

whole; her husband having by this time dug the pit for its reception, she informed him how many measures there were, with which they were both very well contented. While Ali Baba was burying the gold, his wife, to prove her diligence and punctuality, went back with the measure to her sister-in-law, but without observing that a piece of gold had stuck to the bottom of it. "Here, sister," said she, on returning it, "you see I have not kept your measure long; I am much obliged to you for lending it me."

The wife of Ali Baba had scarcely turned her back when Cassim's wife looked at the bottom of the measure, and was inexpressibly astonished to see a piece of gold sticking to it. Envy instantly took possession of her breast. "What," said she to herself, "Ali Baba measures his gold! and where can that miserable wretch have gotten it?" Her husband, Cassim, as was before mentioned, was from home; he had gone, as usual, to his shop, whence he would not return till evening. The time of his absence appeared an age to her, she was so eager to acquaint him with a circumstance which she concluded would surprise him as much as it had done her.

On his return home, his wife said to him, "Cassim, you think you are rich, but you are deceived; Ali Baba has infinitely more wealth than you are possessed of; he does not count his money as you do; he measures it." Cassim demanded an explanation of this enigma; and she unravelled it by acquainting him with the expedient she had used to make this discovery, and showing him the piece of money she had found adhering to the bottom of the measure—a coin so ancient that the name of the prince which was engraven on it was unknown to her.

Far from feeling any satisfaction at the good fortune which his brother had met with to relieve him from poverty, Cassim conceived an implacable jealousy on the occasion. He passed almost the whole night without closing his eyes. The next morning, before sunrise, he went to him. He did not treat him as brother; that endearing appellation had been forgotten since his marriage with the rich widow. "Ali Baba," said he, addressing him, "you are very reserved in your affairs; you pretend to be poor and miserable, and a beggar, and yet you measure your money."—"Brother," replied Ali Baba, "I do not understand your meaning; pray explain yourself."—"Do not pretend ignorance," resumed Cassim, showing him the piece of gold his wife had given him. "How many pieces," added he, "have you like this, that my wife found sticking to the bottom of the measure which yours borrowed of her yesterday?"

From this speech Ali Baba soon conjectured that Cassim, and his wife also, in consequence of his own wife's obstinacy, were already acquainted with what he was so interested to conceal from them; but the discovery was made, and nothing could now be done to remedy the evil. Without showing any vexation, he frankly owned to his brother the whole affair, and told him by what chance he had found the retreat of the thieves, and where it was situated; and he offered, if Cassim would agree to keep it secret, to share the treasure with him.

"This I certainly expect," replied Cassim, in a haughty tone; and added, "but I desire to know also the precise spot where this treasure lies concealed—the marks and signs which may lead to it, and enable me to visit the place myself, should I feel inclined; otherwise I will go and inform the officer of the police of it. If you refuse to comply, you will not only be deprived of all hope of obtaining any more, but you will even lose that you have already taken; and I, instead, shall receive my portion for having informed against you."

Ali Baba, led more by his natural goodness of heart than intimidated by the insolent menaces of a cruel brother, gave him all the information he desired, and even told him the words he must pronounce, both on entering the cave and on quitting it. Cassim made no further inquiries of Ali Baba, but left him with the determination to prevent him from deriving any further benefit from the treasure he had discovered. Full of the hope of

possessing himself of the whole, he set off the next morning, before break of day, with ten mules charged with large hampers, which he proposed to fill, still indulging the prospect of taking a much larger number in a second expedition, according to the sums he might find in the cave. He took the road which Ali Baba had pointed out, and arrived at the rock and the tree, which, from description, he knew to be the same that had concealed his brother. He looked for the door, and soon discovered it, and pronounced the words, "Open, Sesame;" the door opened, he entered, and it immediately afterwards closed. Examining the cave, Cassim was in the utmost astonishment to see much more riches than the description of Ali Baba had led him to expect; and his admiration increased as he examined each thing separately. Avaricious as he was, he could have passed the whole day in feasting his eyes with the sight of so much gold; but he reflected that he was come to take away and load his ten mules with as much as he could amass; he took up a number of sacks, and coming to the door, his mind filled with a multitude of ideas, far removed from that which was of most consequence to him, he found that he had forgotten the important words, and instead of pronouncing "Sesame," he said, "Open, barley."* He was struck with astonishment on perceiving that the door, instead of flying open, remained closed. He named various other kinds of grain; all but the right were called upon, and the door did not move.

Cassim was not prepared for an adventure of this nature; in the imminent danger in which he beheld himself, fear took entire possession of his mind; the more he tried to recollect the word "Sesame," the more was his memory confused, and he remained as ignorant of it as if he had never heard the word mentioned. He threw the sacks he had collected on the ground, and paced with hasty steps backward and forward in the cave; the riches which surrounded him had no longer charms for his imagination.

The robbers returned to their cave towards noon; and when they were within a short distance of it, and saw the mules belonging to Cassim laden with hampers, standing about the rock, they were a good deal surprised at such a novelty. They advanced at full speed, and drove away the ten mules, which Cassim had neglected to fasten, and which, therefore, soon took flight and dispersed in the forest. The robbers did not give themselves the trouble to run after the mules, for their chief object was to discover him to whom they belonged. While some were employed in examining the exterior recesses of the rock, the captain, with the others, alighted, and with sabres in their hands went towards the door, pronounced the words, and it opened.

Cassim, who from the inside of the cave heard the noise of horses trampling on the ground, did not doubt that the robbers were arrived, and that his death was inevitable. Resolved, however, to attempt one effort to escape, and reach some place of safety, he placed himself near the door, ready to run out as soon as it should open. The word "Sesame," which he had in vain endeavoured to recall to his remembrance, was scarcely pronounced than it opened, and he rushed out with such violence that he threw the captain on the ground. He did not, however, avoid the other thieves, who, having their sabres drawn, cut him to pieces on the spot.

The first care which occupied the robbers after this execution was to enter the cave. They found the sacks near the door, which Cassim, after having filled them with gold, had removed there for the convenience of loading his mules. These they put in their places again without observing the deficiency of those which Ali Baba had previously carried away. Deliberating and consulting on this event, they could easily account for Cassim's not having been able to effect his escape; but they could not in any way imagine how he had been able to enter the cave. They conceived that he might have descended from

* Sesame is a grain, used chiefly as food for cattle, but sometimes also for men.

the top of the cave, but the opening which admitted the light was so high, and the summit of the rock was so inaccessible on the outside, that they all agreed it was impossible for him to have entered that way. They could not suppose he had entered by the door, unless he had been acquainted with the secret which caused it to open; but they felt quite secure that they alone were possessed of this secret.

But as the manner in which this circumstance had happened was incomprehensible, and their united riches were no longer in safety, they agreed to divide the carcase of Cassim into four quarters, and place them in the cave,

utmost alarm to Ali Baba, and said to him, "Brother, you, I believe, are not ignorant that Cassim is gone to the forest, and for what purpose; he is not yet come back, and night is already advancing; I fear that some accident may have befallen him."

Ali Baba suspected his brother's intention, after the conversation he had held with him; and for this reason he had desisted from visiting the forest on that day, that he might not offend him. However, without uttering any reproaches that could have given either her or her husband, had he been still living, the slightest offence, he replied that she need not yet feel any uneasiness con-



ALI BABA LOADS HIS ASSES WITH THE SACKS OF GOLD.

near the door, two quarters on one side and two on the other, to frighten away any one who might have the boldness to hazard a similar enterprise, resolving themselves not to return to the cave for some time. This determination formed, they put it in execution; and when they had nothing further to detain them, they left their place of retreat well secured, mounted their horses, and set off to scour the country in such roads as were most frequented by caravans, which afforded them favourable opportunities for plunder.

The wife of Cassim, in the meantime, was in the greatest uneasiness when she observed night approach, and yet her husband did not return. She went, in the

cerning him, for that Cassim, most probably, thought it prudent not to return to the city until the night was considerably advanced. The wife of Cassim felt satisfied with this reason, and was the more easily persuaded of its truth as she considered how important it was that her husband should use the greatest secrecy for the accomplishment of his purpose. She returned to her house, and waited patiently till midnight; but after that hour her fears redoubled, and were attended with still greater grief, as she could not proclaim her terror, nor even relieve it by cries, since she saw the necessity of concealing the cause of her anxiety from the neighbourhood. She then began to repent of the curiosity and envy which had

induced her to endeavour to penetrate into the private affairs of her brother and sister-in-law. The night was spent in weeping, and at the break of day she ran to them, and announced the cause of her early visit, less by her words than by her tears.

Ali Baba did not wait for his sister's entreaties to go and seek for Cassim. He immediately set off with his three asses, and went to the forest. As he drew near the rock, he was much astonished on observing that blood had been shed near the door, and not having in his way met either his brother or the ten mules, he conceived no favourable omen. He reached the door, and on pro-

conceal them. The other two asses he expeditiously loaded with sacks of gold, putting wood over them, as on the preceding occasion; and having finished all he had to do, and commanded the door to close, he took the road to the city, using the precaution to wait at the entrance of the forest until night was closed, that he might return without being observed. When he got home, he left the two asses that were laden with gold, desiring his wife to take care to unload them; and having told her what had happened to Cassim, he led the other ass to his sister-in-law.

Ali Baba knocked at the door, which was opened to



THE ROBBERS KILL CASSIM.

nouncing the words it opened. He was struck with horror when he distinguished the body of his brother cut into four quarters; yet he did not hesitate on the course he was to pursue in rendering the last act of duty to his brother's remains, notwithstanding the small share of fraternal affection he had received from him during his life. He found materials in the cave to wrap up the body, and making two packets of the four quarters, he placed them on one of his asses, covering them with sticks, to

him by Morgiana. This Morgiana was a female slave, crafty, cunning, and fruitful in inventions to forward the success of the most difficult enterprise, in which character Ali Baba knew her well. When he had entered the court, he took off the wood and the two packages from the ass, and taking the slave aside, "Morgiana," said he, "the first thing I have to request of you is inviolable secrecy; you will soon see how necessary it is, not only to me but to your mistress; these two packets contain

the body of your master, and we must endeavour to bury him as if he had died a natural death; let me speak to your mistress, and be particularly attentive to what I shall say to her."

Morgiana went to acquaint her mistress, and Ali Baba followed her. "Well, brother," asked Cassim's wife "what news do you bring of my husband? alas! I perceive no traces of consolation in your countenance."—"Sister," replied Ali Baba, "I cannot answer you unless you will first promise to listen to me from the beginning to the end of my story without interruption. It is of no less importance to you than to me, under the present circumstances, to preserve the greatest secrecy."—"Ah!" cried the sister, without elevating her voice, "this preface convinces me that my husband is no more; but at the same time I feel the necessity of the secrecy you recommend, whatever violence it may do my feelings; speak, I conjure you."

Ali Baba then related to her all that had happened during his journey until his arrival with the body of Cassim. "Sister," added he, "here is a new cause of affliction for you, the more distressing as it was unexpected; although the evil is without remedy, if, nevertheless, anything can afford you consolation, I offer to join the small property God has granted me to yours by marrying you; I can assure you my wife will not be jealous, and you will live comfortably together. If this proposal meets your approbation, we must contrive to bury my brother as if he had died a natural death; and this is a trust which, I think, you may safely repose in Morgiana, and I will, on my part, do all in my power to assist her."

The widow of Cassim reflected that she could not do better than consent to this offer; for Ali Baba possessed greater riches than she was left with, and besides, by the discovery of the treasure, might increase them considerably. She did not, therefore, refuse his proposal. She wiped away her tears, which had begun to flow abundantly, and suppressed those mournful cries which women usually utter on the death of their husbands, and thereby sufficiently testified to Ali Baba that she accepted his offer.

Ali Baba left the abode of Cassim in a happy disposition of mind, and after having strongly recommended to Morgiana to acquit herself properly in the part she was to perform, he returned home with his ass.

Morgiana did not belie her character for cunning. She went out with Ali Baba and repaired to an apothecary who lived in the neighbourhood; she knocked at the shop door, and when it was opened asked for a particular kind of lozenge, of great efficacy in dangerous disorders. The apothecary gave her as much as the money she offered would pay for, asking who was ill in her master's family. "Ah," exclaimed she, with a deep sigh, "it is my worthy master, Cassim himself. No one can understand his complaint, he can neither speak nor eat." Saying this, she went away with the lozenges, which, in fact, Cassim was no longer in need of.

On the following day, Morgiana again went to the same apothecary, and with tears in her eyes inquired for an essence which it was customary only to administer when the patient was reduced to the last extremity, and when no hopes were entertained of life but what the properties of this essence might create. "Alas!" cried she, as she received it from the hands of the apothecary, apparently in the deepest affliction, "I fear this remedy will not be of more use than the lozenges. I shall lose a good master."

On the other hand, as Ali Baba and his wife were seen going backward and forward to the house of Cassim in the course of the day, no one was surprised, towards the evening, on hearing the piercing cries of his widow and Morgiana which announced the death of Cassim. At a very early hour the next morning, when day began to appear, Morgiana, knowing that a good old cobbler lived near, who was one of the first to open his shop, went out in search of him. Coming up to him, she wished him a good day, and put a piece of gold into his hand.

Baba Mustapha, known to all the world by this name,

was naturally of a gay turn, and had always something laughable to say; examining the piece of money, as it was yet scarcely daylight, and seeing that it was gold, "A good hansom," said he; "what's to be done? I am ready to do what I am bid."—"Baba Mustapha," said Morgiana to him, "take all you want for sewing and come directly with me—on this condition though, that you let me put a bandage over your eyes when we have got to a certain place." At these words Baba Mustapha began to make difficulties. "Oh, oh," said he, "you want me to do something against my conscience, or my honour;" then putting another piece of gold into his hand, "God forbid," said Morgiana, "that I should require you to do anything that would stain your honour, only come with me, and fear nothing."

Baba Mustapha suffered himself to be led by the slave, who, when they had reached the place she had mentioned, bound a handkerchief over his eyes, and conducted him to her deceased master's, nor did she remove the bandage until he was in the chamber where the body was deposited, each quarter in its proper place. Then taking it off, "Baba Mustapha," said she, "I have brought you here that you might sew these pieces together. Lose no time, and, when you have done, I will give you another piece of gold."

When Baba Mustapha had finished his job, Morgiana bound his eyes again before he left the chamber, and having given him the third piece of money, according to her promise, and earnestly recommended him to secrecy, she conducted him to the place where she had first put on the handkerchief; and having again taken it off, she left him to return to his house, following him, however, with her eyes until he was out of sight, lest he should have the curiosity to return and watch her movements.

Morgiana had heated some water to wash the body of Cassim; and Ali Baba, who entered just as she returned, washed it, perfumed it with incense, and wrapped it in the burying-clothes with the accustomed ceremonies. The undertaker also brought the coffin, which Ali Baba had taken care to order. That he might not observe anything particular, Morgiana took the coffin at the door, and having paid him and sent him away, she assisted Ali Baba to put the body into it. When he had nailed down the boards which covered it, she went to the mosque to give notice that everything was ready for the funeral. The people belonging to the mosque, whose office it was to wash the bodies of the dead, offered to come and perform the usual function; but she told them that all was done and ready.

Morgiana was scarcely returned when the Imaun and the other ministers of the mosque arrived. Four of the neighbours took the coffin on their shoulders and carried it to the cemetery, following the Imaun, who repeated prayers as he went along. Morgiana, as slave to the deceased, went next, with her head uncovered, bathed in tears, and uttering the most piteous cries from time to time, beating her breast, and tearing her hair; Ali Baba closed the procession, accompanied by some of the neighbours, who occasionally took the place of the others to relieve them in carrying the coffin, until they reached the cemetery.

As for the widow of Cassim, she remained at home, to lament and weep with the women of the neighbourhood, who, according to the usual custom, repaired to her house during the ceremony of the burial, and joining their cries to hers, filled the air with sounds of woe. In this manner the fatal end of Cassim was so well concealed by Ali Baba, his wife, the widow of Cassim, and Morgiana, that no one in the city had the least suspicion of the affair.

Three or four days after the interment of Cassim, Ali Baba removed the few goods he was possessed of, together with the money he had taken from the robber's store, which he only conveyed by night, into the house of the widow of Cassim, in order to establish himself there, which proclaimed his recent marriage with his sister-in-law; and as such marriages are by no means extraordinary in the Mahommedan religion, no one showed any marks of surprise on the occasion.

Ali Baba had a son, who had lately ended an apprenticeship with a merchant of considerable repute, and who had always bestowed the highest commendations on his conduct ; to this son he gave the shop of Cassim, with a further promise that if he continued to behave with prudence, he should, ere long, marry him advantageously.

But let us now leave Ali Baba to enjoy the first dawn of his good fortune, and return to the forty thieves. They came back to their retreat in the forest when the time they had agreed to be absent had expired ; but their astonishment was indescribable when they found the body of Cassim gone, and it was greatly increased on perceiving a visible diminution of their treasure. "We are discovered," said the captain, "and lost beyond recovery, if we are not very careful, and do not take immediate measures to remedy the evil ; we shall by insensible degrees lose all these riches which our predecessors, as well as ourselves, have amassed with so much trouble and fatigue. All that we can at present judge of the loss we have sustained is that the thief whom we surprised at the fortunate moment when he was going to make his escape knew the secret of opening the door. But he was not the only one who possessed it ; another must have the same knowledge. His body being removed, and our treasure diminished, are incontestable proofs of the fact ; and as we have no reason to suppose that more than two persons are acquainted with the secret, having destroyed one, we must not suffer the other to escape. What say you, my brave men ? Are you not of my opinion ?"

This proposal of the captain was thought so reasonable by the whole troop that they all approved it ; and they agreed that it would be advisable to relinquish every other enterprise, and occupy themselves solely with the task of detecting the thief.

"I expected no otherwise, from your known bravery," resumed the captain, "but the first thing to be done is that one of you who is bold, courageous, and possessed of some address, should go to the city without arms, and in the dress of a traveller and stranger, and employ all his art to discover if the singular death we inflicted on the culprit whom we destroyed as he deserved is the common topic of conversation, who he was, and where he lived. This it is absolutely necessary we should be acquainted with, that we may not do anything of which we may have to repent, by making ourselves known in a country where we have been so long forgotten, and where it is so much to our interest to remain so. But in order to inspire him who shall undertake this commission with ardour, and to prevent his bringing us a false report, which might occasion our total ruin, I propose that if he fail in the mission in which he is entrusted, he shall submit to the penalty of death."

Without waiting for the rest to give their opinions, one of the robbers said : "I willingly submit, and glory in exposing my life in the execution of such a commission. If I fail in the attempt, you will at least remember that neither courage nor good will have been deficient in my offer to serve the whole troop."

The robber, after being thanked and lauded by the captain and his companions, disguised himself in such a way that no one could have suspected him to be what he in reality was. He set off at night, and entered the city just as day was breaking. He went towards the square, where he saw only one shop open, which was that of Baba Mustapha, a poor shoemaker.

Baba Mustapha was seated on his stool, with his awl in his hand, ready to begin his work. The robber went up to him and wished him a good morning, and perceiving him to be advanced in years, "My good man," said he, "you rise betimes to your work ; it is scarcely possible that you can see clearly at this hour, so old as you are ; and even if it were broad day I doubt whether your eyes are good enough to see with."

"Whoever you are," replied Baba Mustapha, "you do not know much of me. Notwithstanding my age I have excellent eyes ; and so you would have said had you known that not long since I sewed up a dead body in a

place where there was not more light than we have now."

The robber felt great satisfaction at having, on his arrival, addressed himself to a man who immediately gave him, of his own accord, that intelligence which, he did not doubt, was the very same he was in search of. "A dead body," replied he, with feigned astonishment, "why sew up a dead body ? I suppose you mean that you sewed the shroud in which he was buried."—"No, no," said Baba Mustapha, "I know what I say ; you want me to tell you more about it, but you shall not know another syllable."

The robber needed no further proof to be fully persuaded that he was in the way to discover what he was in search of. He drew out a piece of gold, and putting it into Baba Mustapha's hand, he said : "I have no desire to become acquainted with your secret, although I can assure you I should not divulge it even if you had entrusted me with it. The only thing which I entreat of you is to have the goodness to direct me to, or to come with me and show me, the house where you sewed up the dead body."

"Should I even feel myself inclined to grant your request," replied Baba Mustapha, holding the piece of money in his hand, ready to return it, "I assure you that I could not do it, and this you may take my word for. And I will tell you the reason : they took me to a particular place, and there they bound my eyes, from whence I suffered myself to be led to the house ; and when I had finished what I had to do, I was conducted back to the same place, in the same manner. You see, therefore, how impossible it is that I should be of any service to you."—"But at least," resumed the robber, "you must remember nearly the way you went, after your eyes were bound ; pray come with me ; I will put a bandage over your eyes at that place, and we will walk together along the same streets, and follow the same turnings, which you will probably recollect to have gone over before ; and as all trouble deserves a reward, here is another piece of gold ; come, grant me this favour." Saying these words, he put another piece of money into the cobbler's hand.

The two pieces of gold tempted Baba Mustapha ; he looked at them in his hand for some time without saying a word, consulting within himself what he should do. At length he drew his purse from his bosom, and putting them in it, "I cannot positively assure you," said he, "that I remember exactly the way they took me ; but since you will have it so, come along ; I will do my best to recall it."

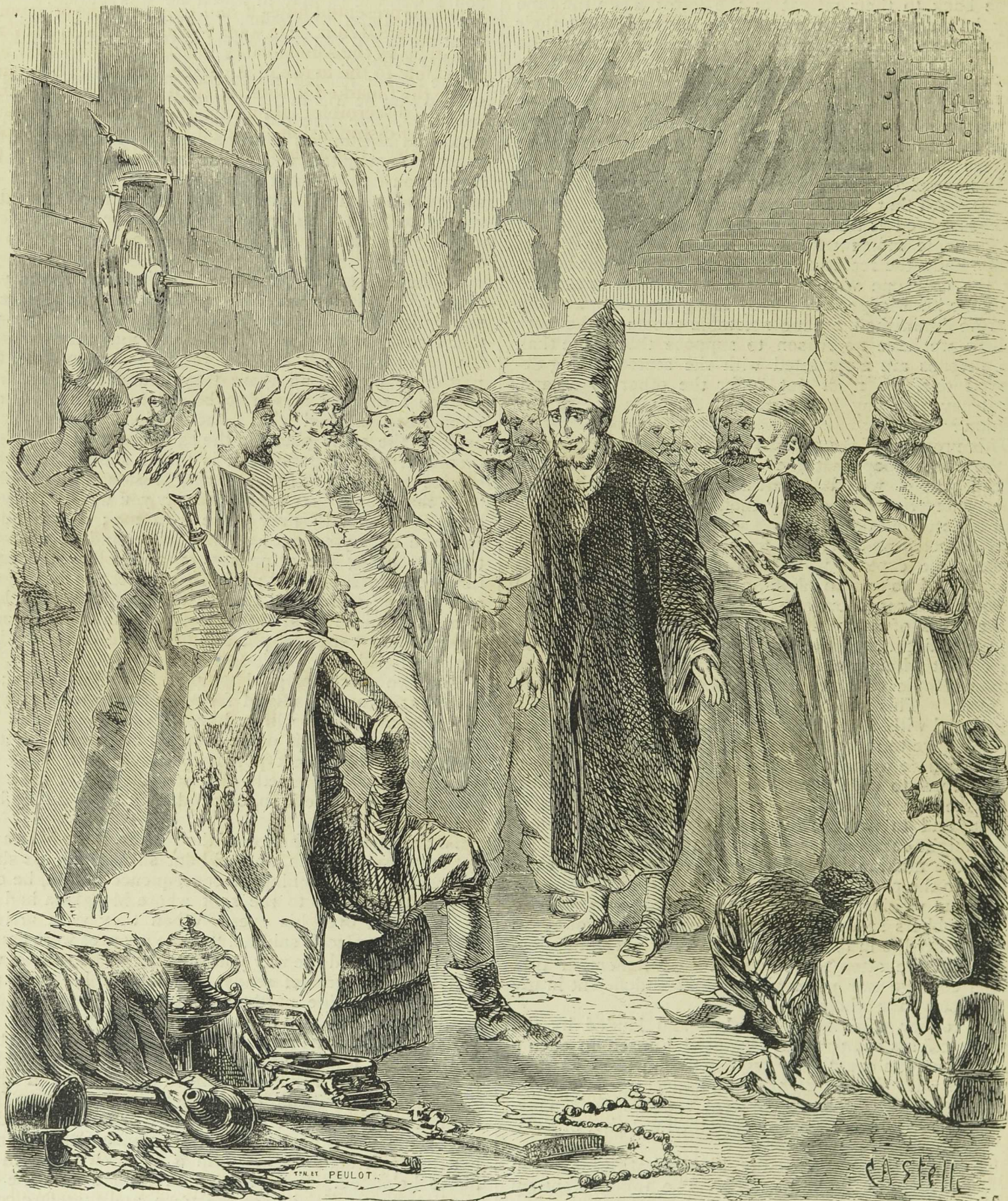
To the great satisfaction of the robber, Baba Mustapha got up to go with him, and without shutting up his shop, where there was nothing of consequence to lose, he conducted the robber to the spot where Morgiana had put the bandage over his eyes. When they were arrived, "This is the place," said he, "where my eyes were bound, and I was turned the way you see me." The robber, who had his handkerchief ready, tied it over his eyes, and walked by his side, partly leading him, and partly being conducted by him, till he stopped.

Baba Mustapha then said, "I think I did not go further than this ;" and he was, in fact, exactly before the house which formerly belonged to Cassim, and where Ali Baba now resided. Before he took the bandage from his eyes, the robber quickly made a mark on the door with some chalk he had for the purpose ; and when he had taken it off, he asked him if he knew to whom the house belonged. Baba Mustapha replied that he did not live in that division of the town, and therefore could not give any information respecting it. As the robber found he could gain no further help from Baba Mustapha, he thanked him for the trouble he had taken ; and when he left him, to return to his shop, he took the road to the forest, where he was persuaded he should be well received.

Some time after the robber and Mustapha had separated, Morgiana had occasion to go out on some errand, and when she returned, she observed the mark which the

robber had made on the door of Ali Baba's house. She stopped to consider it. "What can this mark signify?" thought she; "has any one a spite against my master, or has it been done only for diversion? But be the motive what it may, it will be well to use precautions against the worst that may happen." She therefore took some chalk, and as several of the doors both above and below her

soon the very man who could give him the best information on the subject he went about, and which no one but him could have acquainted him with. They all listened to him with great satisfaction; and the captain, after praising his diligence, thus addressed the party: "Comrades," said he, "we have no time to lose; let us arm ourselves, yet conceal our weapons, and depart; and



THE ROBBER DISGUISES HIMSELF SO THAT HIS OWN COMRADES HARDLY KNOW HIM.

master's were alike, she marked them in the same manner, and then went in without saying anything of what she had done, either to her master or mistress.

The robber in the meantime continued on his road, and he rejoined his companions at an early hour. He related the success of his journey, dwelling much on the good fortune that had befriended him, in discovering so

when we have entered the city, which, not to create suspicion, we had best do separately, let us all assemble in the great square, some on one side of it, some on the other, and I will go and find out the house with our companion who has brought us this good news, by which I shall be able to judge what method will be most advantageous."

The robbers all applauded their captain's proposal, and they were very shortly equipped for their departure. They went in small parties of two or three together; and walking at a proper distance from each other, they entered the city without occasioning any suspicion. The captain, and he who had been there in the morning, were the last to enter it, and the latter conducted the captain to the street in which he had marked the house of Ali Baba. When they reached the first house, that had been marked by Morgiana, he pointed it out, saying that was the one. But as they continued walking on without stopping, that they might not raise suspicion, the captain perceived that the next door was marked in the same manner, and on the same part, which he observed to his guide, and inquired whether this was the house, or that they had passed. His guide was quite confused, and

deserving of death, and he joined in his own condemnation, by owning that he should have been more cautious in taking his measures; he presented his head with firmness to him who advanced to sever it from his body.

As it was necessary for the safety and preservation of the whole band that so great an injury should not pass off unrevenge, another robber, who flattered himself with hopes of better success than he who had just been punished, presented himself and requested the preference. It was granted him. He went to the city, corrupted Baba Mustapha by the same artifice that the first had used, and he led him to the house of Ali Baba with his eyes bound.

The thief marked it with red, in a place where it would be less discernible, thinking that would be a sure method of distinguishing it from those that were marked with white. But a short time after Morgiana went out



THE PRETENDED MERCHANT ASKS FOR SHELTER.

knew not what to answer; and his embarrassment increased when, on proceeding with the captain, he found that four or five doors successively had the same mark. He assured the captain, with an oath, that he had marked but one. "I cannot conceive," added he, "who can have imitated my mark with so much exactness, but I confess that I cannot now distinguish that which I had marked."

The captain, who found that his design did not succeed, returned to the great square, where he told the first of his people whom he met to acquaint the rest that they had lost their labour, and made a fruitless expedition, and that now nothing remained but to return to their place of retreat. He set the example, and they all followed in the same order they came.

When the troop had re-assembled in the forest, the captain explained to them the reason of his having ordered them to return. The conductor was unanimously declared

as on the preceding day, and on her return the red mark did not escape her piercing eye. She reasoned as before, and did not fail to make a similar red mark on the neighbouring doors.

The robber, when he returned to his companions in the forest, boasted of the precautions he had taken, which he declared to be infallible, to distinguish the house of Ali Baba from the others. The captain and the rest thought with him that he was sure of success. They repaired to the city in the same order, and with as much care, as before, armed also in the same way, ready to execute the blow they had meditated; the captain and the robber went immediately to the street where Ali Baba resided; but the same difficulty occurred as on the former occasion. The captain was irritated, and the robber in as great a consternation as he who had preceded him in the same business.

Thus was the captain obliged to return again on that day with his comrades, as little satisfied with his expedition as he had been on the preceding one. The robber who was the cause of the disappointment underwent the punishment to which he had before voluntarily submitted himself.

The captain, seeing his troop diminished by two brave associates, feared it might still decrease if he continued to trust to others the discovery of the house where Ali Baba resided. Their example convinced him that they did not excel in affairs that depended on the head so greatly as in those in which strength of arms was required. He therefore undertook the business himself; he went to the city, and with the assistance of Baba Mustapha, who was ready to perform the same service for him which he had done to the other two, he found the house of Ali Baba, but not choosing to amuse himself in making marks on it, which had hitherto proved so fallacious, he examined it so thoroughly, not only by looking at it attentively, but by passing before it several times, that at last he was certain he could not mistake it.

The captain, satisfied of having obtained the object of his journey, by becoming acquainted with what he desired, returned to the forest, and when he had reached the cave, where the rest of the robbers were waiting his return, "Comrades," said he, addressing them, "nothing now can prevent our taking full revenge for the injury that has been done us. I know with certainty the house of the culprit, and on the road I have meditated a way of making him feel our vengeance so privately that no one shall be able to discover the place of our retreat, any more than that where our treasure is deposited; for this must be our principal object in our enterprise, otherwise it will only prove fatal to us all. He then told them in what manner he intended to conduct the affair, and as they all gave their approbation, he charged them to divide into small parties and go into the neighbouring towns and villages, and to buy nineteen mules and thirty-eight large leathern jars to carry oil, one of which must be full, and all the others empty.

In the course of two or three days the robbers had completed their purchase; and as the empty jars were rather too narrow at the mouth for the purpose he intended them, the captain had them enlarged. Then having made one of his men enter each jar, armed as he thought necessary, he closed them so as to appear full of oil, leaving however that part open which had been unsewed to admit air for them to breathe; and the better to carry on the deception he rubbed the outside of the jars with oil, which he took from the full one.

Things being thus disposed, the mules were laden with the thirty-seven robbers, each concealed in a jar, and the jar that was filled with oil, when their captain, as conductor, took the road to the city at the hour that had been agreed, and arrived about an hour after sunset, as he proposed. He went straight to the house of Ali Baba, intending to knock and request admission for the night for himself and his mules. He was, however, spared the trouble of knocking; he found Ali Baba at the door, enjoying the fresh air after supper. He stopped his mules, and addressing himself to Ali Baba, "Sir," said he, "I have brought the oil which you see from a great distance to sell it to-morrow at the market, and at this late hour I do not know where to go to pass the night. If it would not occasion you much inconvenience, do me the favour to take me in for the night; you will confer a great obligation on me."

Although Ali Baba had seen the man who now spoke to him in the forest, and had even heard his voice, yet he had no idea that this was the captain of the forty robbers disguised as an oil merchant. "You are welcome; pray come in," said he, and immediately made room for him and his mules to go in. At the same time Ali Baba called one of his slaves, and ordered him, when the mules were unladen, not only to put them under cover in the stable, but also to give them some hay and corn. He also took the trouble of going into the kitchen to desire

Morgiana to get supper quickly for a guest who was just arrived, and to prepare him a chamber and bed.

Ali Baba not only remained with his perfidious guest, who sought his life in return for his hospitality, until Morgiana had served the supper, but he conversed with him on various subjects which he thought might amuse him, and did not leave him till he had finished the repast he had provided. He then said, "You are at liberty to do as you please; you have only to ask for whatever you may want, and everything I have is at your service."

The captain of the robbers rose with Ali Baba and accompanied him to the door, and while the latter went into the kitchen to speak to Morgiana, he went into the court, with the pretext of going to the stable to see after his mules.

Ali Baba having again enjoined Morgiana to be attentive to his guest, and to observe that he wanted nothing, added: "I give you notice that to-morrow before daybreak I shall go to the bath. Take care that my bathing linen is ready, and give it to Abdalla (this was the name of his slave), and make me some good broth to take when I return." After giving these orders he went to bed.

The captain of the robbers, in the meantime, on leaving the stable, went to give his people the necessary orders for what they were to do. Beginning from the first jar, and going through the whole number, he said to each, "When I shall throw some pebbles from the chamber where I am to be lodged to-night, do not fail to rip open the jar from top to bottom with the knife you are furnished with and to come out; I shall be with you immediately after." The knives he spoke of were pointed and sharpened for the purpose. This being done, he returned, and when he got to the kitchen door Morgiana took a light and conducted him to the chamber she had prepared for him, and there left him, first asking if he were in want of anything more. Not to create any suspicion he put out the light a short time after, and lay down in his clothes, to be ready to rise as soon as he had taken his first sleep.

Morgiana did not forget Ali Baba's orders; she prepared his linen for the bath and gave it to Abdalla, who was not yet gone to bed, put the pot on the fire to make the broth, but while she was skimming it the lamp went out. There was no more oil in the house, and she had not any candle. She knew not what to do. She wanted a light to see to skim the pot, and mentioned her disaster to Abdalla. "Why are you so much disturbed at it?" said he. "Go and take some oil out of one of the jars in the court."

Morgiana thanked Abdalla for the hint, and while he retired to bed in the next room to that of Ali Baba, that he might be ready to go with him to the bath, she took the oil cruse and went into the court. As she drew near the first jar that presented itself, the thief who was concealed within said in a low voice, "Is it time?"

Although he had spoken softly, Morgiana was nevertheless struck with the sound, which she heard the more distinctly as the captain, when he had unladen his mules, had opened all the jars, and this amongst the rest, to give a little air to his men, who, though not absolutely deprived of breathing-room, were nevertheless in an uneasy situation.

Any other slave except Morgiana, in the first moment of surprise in finding a man in the jar instead of some oil, as she expected, would have screamed and made a great uproar, which might have caused the ruin of her master and his household. But Morgiana was superior to her station; she was instantly aware of the importance of secrecy in the affair, and the extreme danger in which Ali Baba and his family, as well as herself, were, and also of the urgent necessity of devising a speedy remedy. Her quick imagination soon conceived the means. She collected her thoughts, and without showing any emotion she assumed the manner of the captain, and answered, "Not yet, but presently." She approached the next jar, and the same question was asked her; she went on to them all in succession, making the same answer to the

same question, till she came to the last, which was full of oil.

Morgiana by this means discovered that her master, who supposed he was giving a night's lodging to an oil-merchant only, had afforded shelter to thirty-eight robbers, including the pretended merchant, their captain. She quickly filled her cruse from the last jar, and returned into the kitchen; and after having put some oil in her lamp and lighted it, she took a large kettle and went again into the court to fill it with oil from the jar. This done, she brought it back again, put it over the fire, and made a great blaze under it with a quantity of wood; for the sooner the oil boiled, the sooner her plan, which was for the welfare of the whole family, would be executed; and it required the utmost despatch. At length the oil boiled. She took the kettle and poured into each jar, from the first to the last, sufficient boiling oil to scald the robbers and deprive them of life, which she effected to her wishes.

This act, so worthy of the intrepidity of Morgiana,

was attended to. The captain was at a loss to account for this mystery. He descended into the court in the utmost alarm, with as little noise as possible, and approaching the first jar, as he was going to ask if the robber contained in it, and whom he supposed still living, was asleep, he smelt a strong scent of hot and burning oil issuing from the jar, by which he suspected his enterprise against Ali Baba to destroy him, pillage his house, and carry off, if possible, all the money which he had taken from him and the community, had failed. He proceeded to the next jar, and to all in succession, and discovered that all his men had shared the same fate, and by the diminution of the oil in the jar which he had brought full he guessed the means that had been used to deprive him of the assistance he expected. Mortified at having thus missed his aim, he jumped over the garden gate which led out of the court, and going from one garden to another by getting over the walls, succeeded in making his escape.

When Morgiana perceived that all was silent, and that



MORGIANA CONDUCTS THE COBBLER TO HER MASTER'S HOUSE.



THE ROBBER MARKS ALI BABA'S DOOR.

being performed without noise or disturbance to any one, she returned to the kitchen with the empty kettle and shut the door. She put out the large fire she had made up for this purpose, and only left enough to finish boiling the broth for Ali Baba. She then blew out the lamp and remained perfectly silent, determined not to go to bed until she had observed, as much as the obscurity of night would allow her to distinguish, what would ensue, from a window of the kitchen which overlooked the court.

Morgiana had scarcely waited a quarter of an hour when the captain of the robbers awoke. He got up, and opening the window, looked out; all was dark, and a profound silence reigned; he gave the signal by throwing the pebbles, many of which fell on the jars, as the sound plainly proved. He listened, but heard nothing that could lead him to suppose his men obeyed the summons. He became uneasy at this delay, and threw some pebbles down a second, and even a third time. They all struck the jars, yet nothing appeared to indicate that the signal

the captain or the thieves did not return, she concluded he had decamped by the garden instead of attempting to escape by the house door, which was fastened with double bolts. Overjoyed at having succeeded in securing the safety of the whole family, she at length retired to bed, and soon fell asleep.

Ali Baba went out before daybreak and repaired to the bath, followed by his slave, totally ignorant of the surprising event which had taken place in his house during his sleep, for Morgiana had not thought it necessary to wake him, particularly as she had no time to lose while she was engaged in her perilous enterprise, and it was useless to interrupt his repose after she had averted the danger.

When he returned from the bath, the sun being risen, Ali Baba was surprised to see the jars of oil still in their places, and that the merchant had not taken them to the market, with his mules; he inquired the reason of Morgiana, who let him in, and who had left everything in its original state in order to show him the deceit which had

been practised on him, and to convince him more sensibly of the effort she had made for his preservation.

"My good master," said Morgiana in reply to Ali Baba's question, "may God preserve you and all your family. You will be better informed of what you wish to know when you shall have seen what I am going to show you, if you will take the trouble to come with me." Ali Baba followed Morgiana, and when she had shut the door, she took him to the first jar, and bid him look in and see if it contained oil. He did as she desired; and perceiving a man in the jar, he hastily drew back, uttering a cry of surprise. "Do not be afraid," said she; "the man you see there will not do you any harm; he has attempted it, but he will never hurt either you or any one else again, for he is now a lifeless corpse."—"Morgiana," exclaimed Ali Baba, "explain this mystery!"—"I will explain it," replied Morgiana, "but moderate your asto-

Baba went into his room Morgiana returned to the kitchen to get the broth; and when she brought it, before Ali Baba would take it, he said, "Begin to relate this wonderful history, and satisfy the extreme impatience I feel to know all its circumstances."

Morgiana, in obedience to Ali Baba's request, told him all the events of the previous night, adding, in conclusion: "This is the detail you required of me, and I am convinced that it is the climax of a scheme which I observed the beginning of two or three days ago, but which I did not think it necessary to trouble you with an account of. One morning, as I returned from the city at an early hour, I perceived the street door to be marked with white, and on the following day with red, near the white mark; each time, without knowing for what purpose these marks were made, I made the same kind of mark, and in the same part, on the doors of three or four of our neighbours,



MORGIANA DISCOVERS THE CAPTAIN'S SECRET.

nishment, and do not awaken the curiosity of your neighbours to learn what it is of the utmost importance that you should keep secret. Look first at all the other jars."

Ali Baba examined all the rest of the jars, one after the other, from the first till he came to the last, which contained the oil; and he remarked that its contents were considerably diminished. This operation being completed, he remained motionless with astonishment, sometimes casting his eyes on Morgiana, then looking at the jars, yet without speaking a word, so great was his surprise. At length, as if speech were suddenly restored to him, he said, "And what has become of the merchant?"

"The merchant," replied Morgiana, "is just as much a merchant as I am. I can tell you who he is, and what is become of him. But you will hear the whole history more conveniently in your own chamber, for it is now time, for the sake of your health, that you should take your broth after coming out of the bath." Whilst Ali

both above and below this house. If you connect that with what has happened, you will find that the whole is a machination contrived by the robbers of the forest, whose troop, I know not wherefore, seems to be diminished by two. But be that as it may, it is now reduced to three at most. This proves that they had determined on your death, and you will do right to be on your guard against them so long as you are certain that one still remains. On my part, I will do all in my power towards your preservation, which indeed I consider my duty."

When Morgiana ceased speaking, Ali Baba, penetrated with gratitude for the great obligation he owed her, replied: "I will recompense you as you deserve before I die. I owe my life to you, and to give you an immediate proof of my feelings on the occasion I from this moment give you your liberty, and will soon reward you in a more ample manner. I am persuaded, as well as yourself, that the forty robbers laid this snare for me; Providence,

through your means, has delivered me from the danger. What we have now to do is to use the utmost despatch in burying the bodies of these pests of the human race, yet with so much secrecy that no one can entertain the slightest suspicion of their fate; and for this purpose I will instantly go to work with Abdalla."

Ali Baba's garden was of considerable length, and ter-

and after having covered them with the earth they had previously removed, they spread about what remained to make the surface of the ground appear even, as it was before. Ali Baba carefully concealed the oil-jars and the arms; and as for the mules, which he was not then in want of, he sent them to the market at different times, where he disposed of them by means of his slave.



ALI BABA CELEBRATES HIS SON'S MARRIAGE WITH MORGIANA.

minated by large trees. He went without delay, with his slave, to dig a grave underneath these trees large enough to contain the bodies he had to inter. The ground was soft and easy to remove, so that they were not long in completing their work. They took the bodies out of the jars, and set apart the arms with which the robbers had furnished themselves. They then carried the bodies to the bottom of the garden and placed them in the grave,

Whilst Ali Baba was taking these precautions to prevent its being publicly known by what means he had become so rich in so short a space of time, the captain of the forty robbers had returned to the forest; and in the agitation which he experienced at having met with such bad success, so contrary to what he had promised himself, he had reached the cavern without coming to any resolution as to what he should do respecting Ali Baba.

The dismal solitude of this gloomy habitation appeared to him insupportable. "Brave companions," cried he, "partners of my labours and my pains, where are ye? What can I accomplish without your assistance? Did I select and assemble you only to see you perish all at one moment, by a destiny so fatal and so unworthy of your courage? My regret for your loss would not have been so strong had you died with your sabres in your hands, like valiant men. When shall I be able to collect together another troop of intrepid men like you? and even should I wish it, how could I undertake it without exposing so much specie, in gold and silver, to the mercy of him who has already enriched himself with a part of this treasure? I cannot, I must not, think of such an enterprise until I have put a period to his existence. What I have not been able to accomplish with such powerful assistance I will perform alone; and when I shall have secured this immense property from being exposed to pillage, I will then endeavour to provide a master and successors for it after my decease, that it may not only be preserved, but increased, to the latest posterity."

The next morning the captain of the robbers awoke at an early hour, and put on a dress which was suitable to the design he meditated, and repaired to the city, where he took a lodging in a khan. As he supposed that what had happened in the house of Ali Baba might have become generally known, he asked the host if there were any news stirring, in reply to which the host talked on a variety of subjects, but none relating to what the captain wished to be informed of. By this he concluded that the reason why Ali Baba kept the transaction so profoundly secret was that he did not wish it to be divulged that he had access to so immense a treasure, and also that he was apprehensive of his life being in danger on this account. This idea excited him to neglect nothing that could hasten his enemy's destruction, which he intended to accomplish by means as secret as Ali Baba had adopted towards the robbers.

The captain provided himself with a horse, which he made use of to convey to his lodging several kinds of rich stuffs and fine linens, bringing them from the forest at various times, with every precaution for keeping the place from whence he brought them still concealed. In order to dispose of this merchandise, when he had collected together as much as he thought proper he hired a shop, furnished it with his goods, and established himself in it. The shop that was exactly opposite to his was that which had belonged to Cassim, and was now occupied by the son of Ali Baba.

The captain of the robbers, who had assumed the name of Cogia Houssain, did not fail in proper civilities to the merchants, his neighbours. But the son of Ali Baba being young, and of a pleasing address, and the captain having more frequent occasion to converse with him than with the others, he very soon formed an intimacy with him. This friendship he soon resolved to cultivate with greater care, when, three or four days after he was settled in his shop, he recognised Ali Baba, who came to see his son, as he was in the constant habit of doing; and on inquiring of the son after his departure, discovered that he was his father. He now increased his attentions towards him; he made him several little presents, and often invited him to his table, where he regaled him very handsomely.

The son of Ali Baba did not choose to receive so many obligations from Cogia Houssain without returning them. But his lodging was small, and he had no convenience for regaling him as he wished. He mentioned his intention to his father, adding that it was not proper that he should delay any longer to return the favours he had received from Cogia Houssain.

Ali Baba very willingly took the charge of the entertainment. "My son," said he, "to-morrow is Friday; and as it is a day on which the most considerable merchants, such as Cogia Houssain and yourself, keep their shops shut, invite him to take a walk with you after dinner, and as you return, direct your course so that you may pass my house, and then beg him to come in. It

will be better to manage thus than to invite him in a formal way. I will give orders to Morgiana to prepare a supper, and have it ready by the time you come."

On the Friday Cogia Houssain and the son of Ali Baba met in the afternoon to take their walk together, as had been agreed. On their return the son of Ali Baba, as if by accident, led Cogia Houssain through the street in which his father lived; and when they had reached the house, he stopped him, and knocked at the door. "This," said he, "is my father's house; he has desired me to procure him the honour of your acquaintance after what I told him of your friendship for me. I entreat you to add this favour to the many I have received from you."

Although Cogia Houssain had now reached the object of his desires, which was to gain admission into the house of Ali Baba and to attempt his life without hazarding his own or creating any suspicion, yet he now endeavoured to excuse himself, and pretended to take leave of the son; but as the slave of Ali Baba opened the door at that moment, the son, in an obliging manner, took him by the hand, and going in first drew him forward, and, as it were, forced him to comply.

Ali Baba received Cogia Houssain in a friendly manner, and gave him as hearty a welcome as he could desire. He thanked him for his kindness to his son. "The obligation he is under to you," added he, "as well as myself, is so much the more considerable as he is a young man who has not yet seen much of the world, and you have the goodness to form his manners."

Cogia Houssain did not spare his compliments in return for Ali Baba's, assuring him that although his son had not acquired the experience of older men, yet that he was possessed of a portion of good sense which was of more service to him than experience was to many others.

After a short conversation on other topics of an indifferent nature, Cogia Houssain was going to take his leave, but Ali Baba stopped him. "Where are you going, sir?" said he. "I entreat you to do me the honour of staying to sup with me. The humble meal you will partake of is little worthy of the honour you will confer on it, but such as it is, I hope you will accept the intention with as much goodwill as I offer it."

"Sir," replied Cogia Houssain, "I am fully persuaded of your kindness, and although I beg you to excuse me if I take my leave without accepting your obliging invitation, yet I entreat you to believe that I refuse you, not from incivility or contempt, but because I have a very strong reason, and which I am sure you would approve were it known to you."

"What can this reason be, sir?" resumed Ali Baba, "might I take the liberty of asking you?"—"I do not refuse to tell it," said Cogia Houssain, "it is this; I never eat of any dish that has salt in it; judge then of the figure I should make at your table."—"If this be your only reason," replied Ali Baba, "it need not deprive me of the honour of your company at supper. In the first place, the bread which is eaten in my house does not contain any salt, and as for the meat and other dishes, I promise you there shall be none in those which are served before you; I will go to give orders to that effect; you will therefore do me the favour to remain, and I will be with you in an instant."

Ali Baba went into the kitchen, and desired Morgiana not to put any salt to the meat she was going to serve for supper, and also to prepare two or three dishes of those he had ordered without any salt.

Morgiana, who was just going to serve the supper, could not avoid expressing some discontent at this new order, and making some inquiries of Ali Baba. "Who," said she, "is this difficult man, that cannot eat salt? Your supper will be good for nothing if I delay it any later."

"Do not be angry," replied Ali Baba; "he is a good man; do what I desire you."

Morgiana obeyed, though much against her will, and she felt some curiosity to see this man who did not eat salt. When she had finished, and Abdalla had prepared the table, she assisted him in carrying the dishes.

On looking at Cogia Houssain, she instantly recollected him to be the captain of the robbers, notwithstanding his disguise, and examining him with great attention, she perceived that he had a dagger concealed under his dress. "I am no longer surprised," said she to herself, "that this villain will not eat salt with my master; he is his bitterest enemy, and means to murder him, but I will still prevent him from accomplishing his purpose."

When Morgiana had finished serving the dishes and assisting Abdalla, she availed herself of the time while they were at supper, and made the necessary preparations for the execution of an enterprise of the boldest and most intrepid nature; and she had just completed them when Abdalla came to acquaint her that it was time to serve the fruit. She carried it in, and when Abdalla had taken away the supper, she placed it on the table. She then put a small cup near Ali Baba, with the wine and three cups, and left the room with Abdalla as if to go to supper together, and leave Ali Baba, according to custom, at liberty to converse and entertain himself with his guest, and to push the wine about.

The captain of the forty robbers now thought that a favourable opportunity for revenging himself on Ali Baba was arrived. "I will make them both intoxicated," thought he, "and then the son, against whom I bear no malice, will not prevent my plunging my dagger into the heart of his father, and I shall escape by the garden, as I did before, while the cook and the slave are at their supper, or perhaps asleep in the kitchen."

Instead, however, of going to supper, Morgiana, who had penetrated into the views of the pretended Cogia Houssain, did not allow him time to put his wicked intentions into execution. She dressed herself like a dancer, put on a head-dress suitable to that character, and wore a girdle round her waist of silver gilt, to which she fastened a dagger made of the same metal. Her face was covered by a very handsome mask. When she had thus disguised herself, she said to Abdalla, "Take your tabor, and let us go and entertain our master's guest, who is the friend of his son, as we do sometimes, by our performances."

Abdalla took his tabor, and began to play as he walked before Morgiana, and entered the room; Morgiana, following him, made a low curtsy, to attract notice, as if to request permission to perform what she could to amuse the company. Abdalla, perceiving that Ali Baba was going to speak, ceased striking his tabor. "Come in, Morgiana," cried Ali Baba; "Cogia Houssain will judge of your skill, and tell us his opinion; do not, however, suppose, sir," continued he, addressing the robber captain, "that I have been at any expense to procure you this entertainment. We have it all within ourselves, and it is only my slave and my cook and housekeeper whom you see. I hope you will find it amusing."

Cogia Houssain did not expect Ali Baba to add this entertainment to the supper he had given him. This made him apprehensive that he should not be able to carry out his intention. But he still consoled himself with the hope of meeting with another opportunity if he continued the acquaintance of Ali Baba and his son. Therefore, although he would gladly have dispensed with this addition to the entertainment, he nevertheless declared that whatever gave Ali Baba pleasure could not fail of being agreeable to him.

When Abdalla perceived that Ali Baba and Cogia Houssain had ceased speaking he again began to play on his tabor, singing to it an air for Morgiana to dance to; she, who was equal to any who practised dancing for their profession, performed her part so admirably that every spectator who had seen her must have been delighted, independently of the present company, of which, perhaps, Cogia Houssain was the least attentive to her excellence.

After having performed several dances with equal grace and agility, she at length drew out the dagger, and dancing with it in her hand, she surpassed all she had yet done by her light movements and high leaps, and by the wonderful postures which she introduced in the figure; sometimes presenting the dagger as if to strike, and at

others holding it to her own bosom, pretending to stab herself.

At length, as if out of breath, she took the tabor from Abdalla with her left hand, and holding the dagger in her right, she presented the tabor, with the hollow part upwards, to Ali Baba, in imitation of the dancers by profession, who make use of this practice to excite the liberality of the spectators.

Ali Baba threw a piece of gold into the tabor, Morgiana then presented it to his son, who followed his father's example. Cogia Houssain, who saw that she was advancing towards him for the same purpose, had already taken his purse from his bosom to contribute his present, and was putting his hand in it, when Morgiana, with a courage equal to the resolution she had taken plunged the dagger into his heart, so deep that the life-blood streamed from the wound when she withdrew it.

Ali Baba and his son, terrified at this action, uttered a loud cry. "Wretch!" exclaimed Ali Baba, "what hast thou done? Thou hast ruined me and my family for ever."

"What I have done," replied Morgiana, "is not for your ruin, but for your preservation." Then opening Cogia Houssain's robe to show Ali Baba the poniard which was concealed under it, "See," continued she, "the cruel enemy you had to deal with; examine his countenance attentively, and you will recognise the pretended oil merchant, and the captain of the forty robbers. Do you not recollect that he refused to eat salt with you? Can you require a stronger proof of his malicious intentions? Before I even saw him—from the moment you told me of this peculiarity in your guest—I suspected his design, and you now are convinced that my suspicions were not ill-founded."

Ali Baba, who was now aware of the fresh obligation he owed to Morgiana for having thus preserved his life a second time, embraced her, and said: "Morgiana, I gave you your liberty, and at the same time promised to give you stronger proofs of my gratitude at some future period. This period is now arrived, and I present you to my son as his wife." Then addressing his son, "I believe you," said he, "to be so dutiful a son that you will not take it amiss if I should bestow Morgiana upon you without previously consulting your inclinations. Your obligation to her is not less than mine. You plainly see that Cogia Houssain only sought your acquaintance in order to insure success in his diabolical treachery, and had he sacrificed me to his vengeance, you cannot suppose that you would have been spared. You must further consider that in marrying Morgiana you connect yourself with the preserver of my family."

His son, far from showing any symptoms of discontent, said that he willingly consented to the marriage, not only because he was desirous of proving his ready obedience to his father's wishes, but also because his inclination already strongly urged him to the union. They then began to prepare for the burial of the captain of the robbers, by the side of his former companions, and this was performed with such secrecy that the circumstance was not known till the expiration of many years, when no one was any longer concerned in keeping this memorable history concealed.

A few days after Ali Baba had the nuptials of his son and Morgiana celebrated with great solemnity by a sumptuous feast, accompanied by dances and other customary diversions, and he had the satisfaction to observe that the friends and neighbours he had invited, who did not know the true reason of the marriage, but who knew the good qualities of Morgiana, admired his generosity and discrimination.

After the marriage was solemnised, Ali Baba, who had not revisited the cave since he had brought away the body of his brother Cassim on one of the three asses, together with the gold with which the other two were laden, lest he should meet with any of the robbers, and be surprised by them, still refrained from going even after the death of the thirty-seven robbers and their captain, as he was ignorant of the fate of the other two, and supposed them to be still alive.

At the expiration of a year, however, finding that no scheme had been attempted to disturb his quiet, he had the curiosity to make a journey to the cave, taking the necessary precaution for his safety. He mounted his horse, and when he had nearly reached the cave, seeing no traces of either men or horses, he conceived it to be a favourable omen ; he dismounted, and fastening his horse

robbers was dispersed or exterminated, and that he was the only person in the whole world who was acquainted with the secret for entering the cave, and consequently that the immense treasure it contained was entirely at his disposal. He had provided himself with a portmanteau, and he filled it with as much gold as his horse could carry, after which he returned to the city.



CASSIM'S WIDOW BEWAILS HER HUSBAND'S DEATH.

that he should not go astray, he went up to the door and repeated the words, "Open, Sesame," which he had not forgotten. The door opened, and he entered. The state in which everything appeared in the cave led him to judge that no one had been in it from the time that the pretended Cogia Houssain had opened his shop in the city, and he therefore concluded that the whole troop of

From that time Ali Baba and his son, whom he took to the cave and taught the secret to enter it, and after them their posterity, who were also entrusted with the important secret, enjoying their riches with moderation, lived in great splendour, and were honoured with the most dignified situations in the city.

THE END

