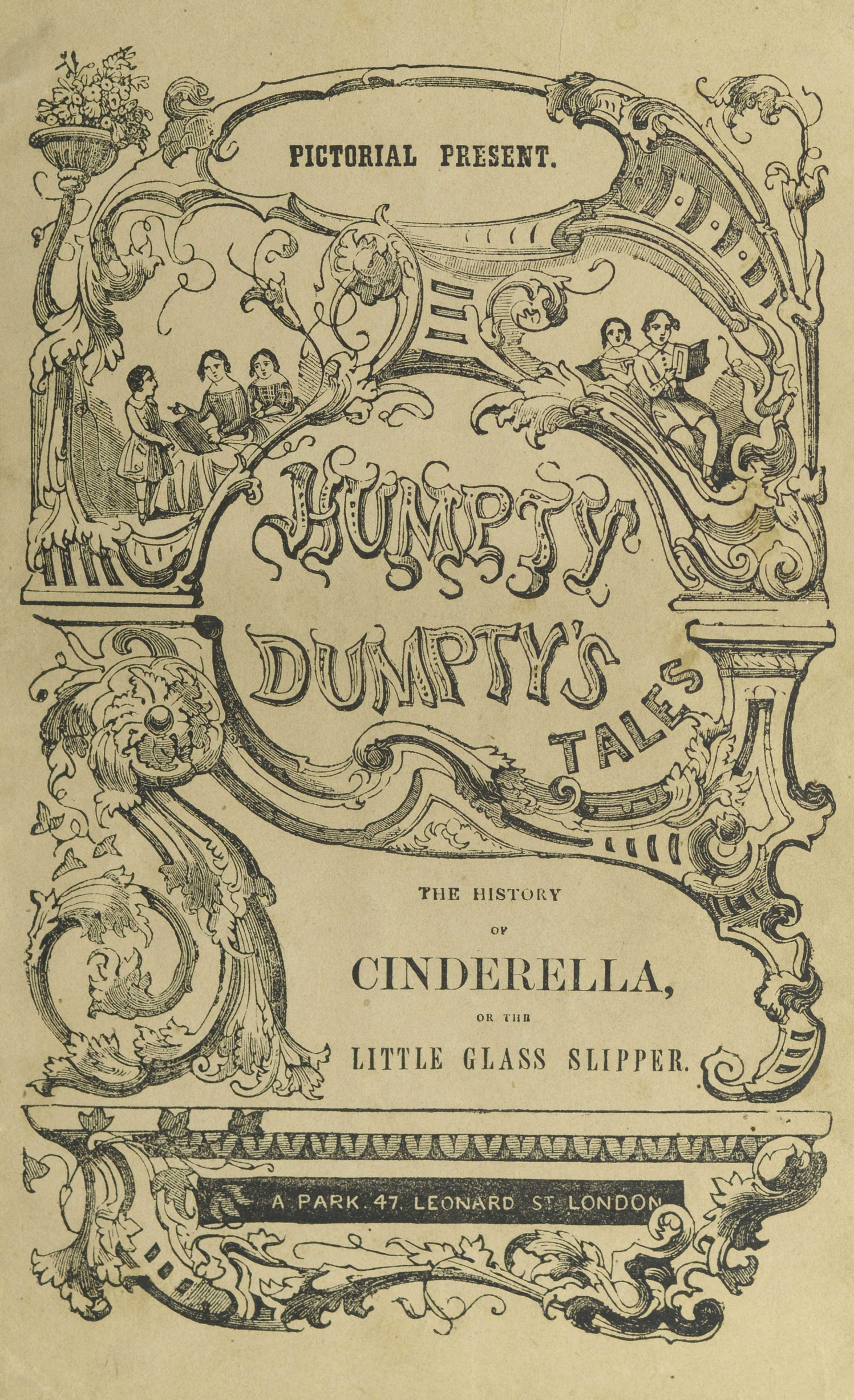
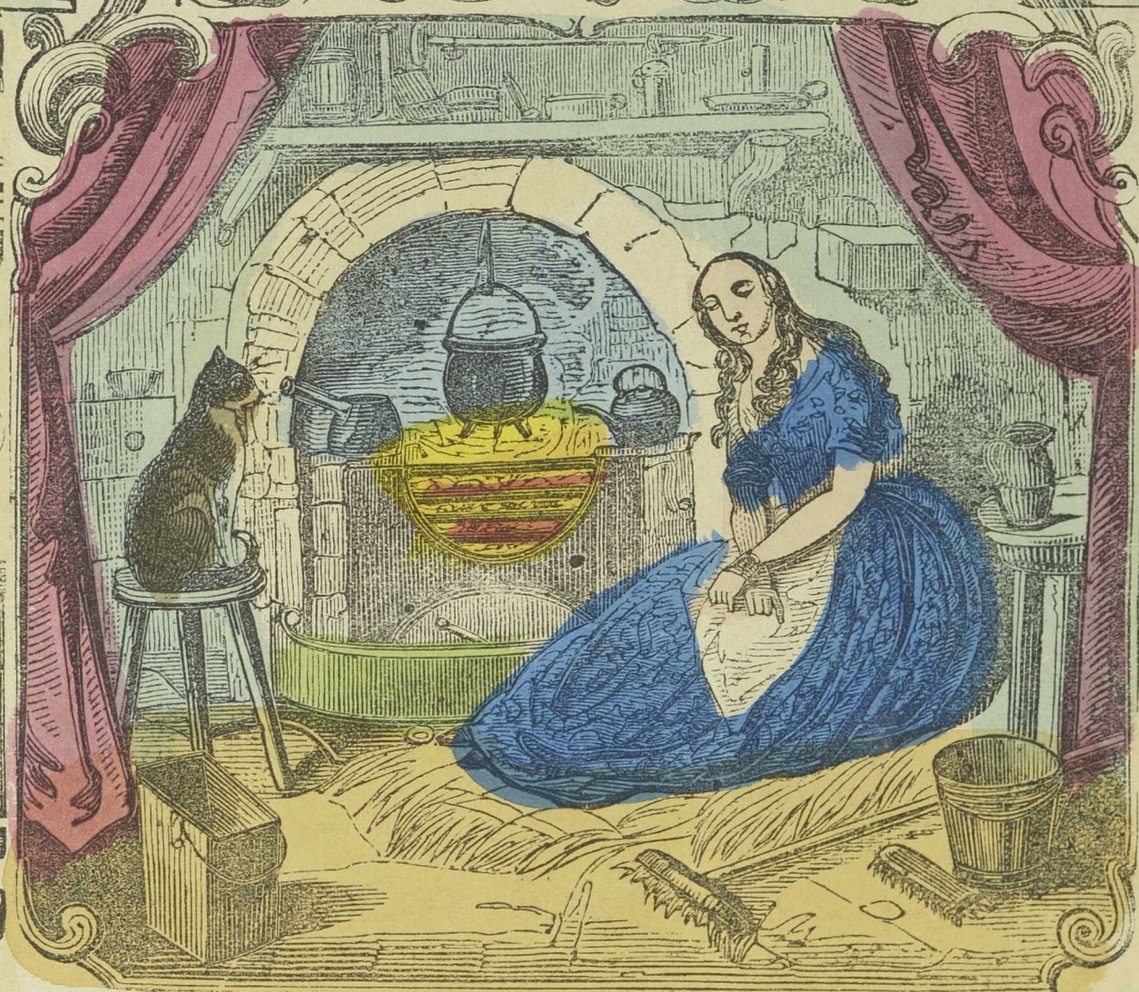
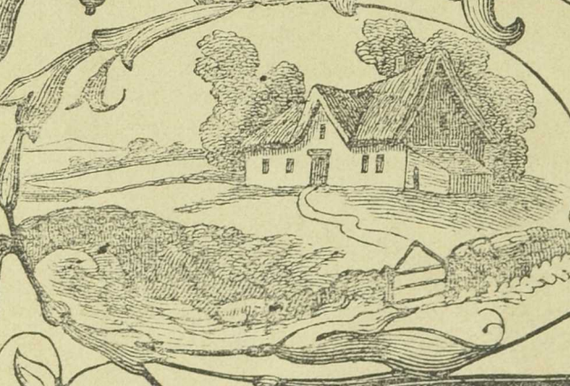

PICTORIAL PRESENT.
HUMPTY DUMPTY'S TALES
THE HISTORY
OF
CINDERELLA,
OR THE
LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.
A PARK. 47. LEONARD ST. LONDON

CINDERELLA
AND THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPERS





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CINDERELLA,

OR THE

LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.

A GENTLEMAN and lady who were married, and who were exceedingly fond of each other, had a daughter; but before the little girl grew up, the lady died, and of course, she was left motherless.

Her father, however, who had been much attached to his wife, now devoted his attention to his daughter; but as she was very young, and unable, by conversation, to withdraw his recollection and his sorrow from the lady he had lost, he thought it prudent to endeavour to find another, who might, in some measure, revive the happy days he had passed with his deceased wife.

He soon afterwards met a lady in company, who was about the same age with himself: her husband was dead, and had left her with two daughters.

It occurred to the gentleman, that this lady would feel for the condition of his little girl, by a comparison with the state of her own; and he and this lady were quickly married.

It often happens that persons who affect a great deal of politeness in company, and who wish to be thought very kind and amiable, are in private life violent in their dispositions, and turbulent in their manner.

This lady was somewhat of this description: in the parties where this gentleman saw her, she was apparently so mild and patient, that anything inconsistent with benignity itself seemed unnatural to her disposition. But we must not always trust to appearances, for this lady was, in reality, perhaps, among the proudest and haughtiest of her sex; nor could any kindness on his part win her to use his child well, or to return his affection with any thing like good temper.

Her daughters, whose minds were formed upon the model of their mother's, were idle in their habits, ill-tempered and overbearing in

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their manners, thought it beneath them to learn to work, and far from profiting by the lessons of the masters who attended them, they passed the time, that should have been devoted to study, in wrangling, for they could seldom agree about anything, except using poor Cinderella ill; and thus, by neglecting their books, they lost the benefit of education. The consequence was, they were disliked by every one who knew them. Young as they were, they had become infected with the most disgusting pride, and began to show their consequence by rudeness and ill-temper.

The truly amiable disposition and obliging manners of the gentleman's daughter, of course, did not please them. And their mother, who perceived how despicable her daughters appeared, when in comparison with his good little girl, instead of admonishing them to imitate her, secretly disliked the excellent child.

Her husband, who was dotingly fond of his daughter, was truly the gentleman; of a most amiable disposition, excessively mild and bland in his manners, courteous to his equals, condescending so his domestics, very kind and considerate to the poor, and obliging to every one, so that he was greatly esteemed by all his acquaintance, and generally beloved. By his union with this woman, he was the means of introducing both her and her daughters into the society of many families who would otherwise never have had anything to do with them. But finding how unable he was to resist the incessant violence of his wife's temper, grief preyed upon his spirits, and within a short time, he died; thus leaving the darling of his heart, a prey to the ill-temper and cruel treatment of his wife, and to the still more rancorous hatred and turbulent disposition of her two unruly and ill-bred daughters.

This melancholy event had not long happened, when the oppression of this lady and her girls toward this little orphan displayed itself in the most malevolent manner. She was denied every little indulgence, obliged to wait upon her sisters, and wear their cast-off clothes; their harsh language made her tremble.

She was soon ordered to live in the kitchen; and, if ever she had occasion, in the character of servant, to bring anything into the room where the lady and her daughters sat, she was sure to be scolded until she was out of sight.

Her employment was with the servants: she was obliged to perform even the most menial offices, to wash dishes, and rub the tables and chairs. She had, also, to clean the chambers of her step-mother and her daughters.

But this poor girl was obliged to sleep in a garret, and upon a straw bed, without curtains or decorations, or even moderate comforts.

She endured all this with the greatest patience,—not a complaint or a murmur escaped her lips.

When her work was finished in the evening, she used to sit in the chimney corner of the kitchen, among the cinders. The two young damsels, therefore, thought it afforded them a pretext for calling her Cinder-wench; the younger of the two, however, with wonderful civility, improved this appellation into the name of Cinderella.

Dirty and ragged, however, as the unpro-

tected orpnan became, she was, nevertneless, much more handsome than either of her imperious relatives.

It happened that the king's son gave a magnificent ball, to which all the persons of fashion in the kingdom were invited; amongst whom the two young ladies of this family were included, Cinderella was not invited; for she had neither been seen nor heard of among people of fashion.

The two sisters immediately began to be very busy in preparing themselves for the happy evening. Nothing, indeed, could exceed their joy; every moment of their time was occupied in fancying what sort of gowns, shoes, and head-dresses, would set them off to the greatest advantage.

They did not, however, make these preparations without indulging themselves in endeavouring to mortify poor Cinderella. She had to wash and plait their fineries; which she did with as much care as if the things were to have been worn by herself.

"I," said the elder, "will wear my scarlet velvet suit, richly embroidered with silver, and trimmed with blond lace, with a new-fashioned turban, fastened with my beautiful large topaz; my stomacher shall be the most splendid and costly that can be purchased.

"And I," said the younger, "will have a beautiful French white satin dress, covered over with superb gold muslin, which shall sweep in a train of at least two yards! my head-dress shall consist of the rarest and most beautiful flowers tha can be produced, tied together in a fanciful manner with pearl strings.

A hair-dresser was obtained from a distance of several miles, and all the ornaments with which these young ladies were attired, were procured from the most fashionable and expensive shops.

But, even in their own favourite pursuit. Cinderella was their superior: for, though she did not chatter about the form of a head-dress, or the colour of a gown, yet her taste was infinitely surpassing all their efforts.

While she was busily engaged in dressing them, they could not restrain their accustomed derision. One of them said to her, "Should you not like to go to the ball, Cinderella?" "Ah!" replied the poor girl, "you are only laughing at me: it is not for such girls as I am to think of going to balls!" "You are in the right," said they; "folk might laugh to see a cinder-wench in a ball-room."

The two sisters had scarcely allowed themselves time to eat during the two preceding days, and, indeed, some of their efforts to improve their forms were truly ridiculous. More than a dozen laces were broken in attempting to give them fine slender shapes.

At length the moment arrived, for which they had been so anxious: the proud misses stepped into a beautiful carriage, followed by servants in handsome liveries, and drove toward the royal palace.

Cinderella's eyes followed them as far as she could see the carriage; and this evening, for the first time, she bewailed her cruel degradation.

It has not been mentioned yet, that Cinderella's godmother was a fairy; and the first time the poor girl ever saw her, that she knew, was this evening.

Cinderella, perceiving a little old woman in the kitchen, soon after her sisters were gone, and whilst she was crying in the chimney-corner, was curious to know who she was, and what she wanted: yet she did not ask questions of her rudely, as the sisters would have done, but spoke with great good-nature to this veneable stranger.

"I," said the fairy, "am your godmother, my dear, and I have come to you because I know you wish to go to the ball. Dry up your tears, for I mean that you shall go."

Cinderella now recollected that she had heard both her father and mother speak of her godmother, and from what they had said, she knew this was a fairy; her spirits therefore began to revive.

She then took Cinderella into another room. "Now," said she, "my dear, go into the garden and bring me a pumpkin." Cinderella almost flew, and brought back the finest one she could meet with. Her godmother scooped out the inside, leaving nothing but the rind; she then struck it with her wand, and it instantly became an elegant gilt coach.

She then sent the good girl to bring all the mouse traps that were in the pantry: she did so; and there being six very lively little fellows in them, her godmother desired her to lift up the door very gently, so that they might go out one at a time.

The fairy then touched them as they came out, and they instantly changed into beautiful horses, one by one, as they were touched.

"Now," said the fairy, "here are, my dear, a coach and horses as handsome as your sisters' equipage, to say the least of them; but we must have a postilion: run and see if there be not a rat in the trap; make haste, my dear."

Cinderella made no delay, but immediately returned with the rat-trap, which contained two fine handsome rats. The fairy touched each of them, and one instantly became a postilion, and the other made a fine comely coachman

"You must now, my girl, go into the garden; look behind the watering-pot, and you will find six lizards; bring them to me."

Cinderella went, found them, and returned with them.

This was no sooner done, than a touch of the fairy's wand converted them into six footmen; who immediately jumped up behind the carriage in their laced liveries, as cleverly as if they had been accustomed to nothing else all their lives.

The fairy then said to Cinderella, "Well, my dear, is not this such an equipage as you could have wished for to take you to the ball? Are you not pleased with it?"

"Yes," replied Cinderella, with some little hesitation, "but must I go in these rags, god mother?"

The fairy touched her, also, with her wand, and the rags immediately became magnificent apparel, ornamented with the most costly jewels that ever were seen. To these she added a beautiful pair of glass slippers, and bade her set out for the palace.

The fairy, however, before she took leave of Cinderella, strictly charged her, on no account whatever, to stay at the ball after the clock had struck twelve: telling her that if she should remain but a single moment beyond that time, her coach, horses, coachman, postilion, footmen, and her own dress, would all return to their

original shapes of pumpkin, mice, rats, lizards, and filthy rags.

Cinderella promised to be faithfully obedient to every thing her godmother desired, and almost wild with joy, she drove away to the palace.

As soon as she arrived, the king's son, who had been informed that a lady, evidently a princess had arrived, but whom no one knew, came himself to the door of the carriage, handed her out, and conducted her to the ball-room.

Cinderella no sooner appeared than every one was silent. Both the dancing and music were suspended, and every body was employed in gazing at the extreme beauty and uncommon splendour of the unknown stranger.

Nothing was heard but whispers of, "How handsome she is!" "How elegantly she is dressed!"

The king himself, old as he was, could not behold her with indifference, but continually repeated to the queen, that it was a very long time since he had seen so lovely a creature.

The king's son conducted her to the most distinguished seat, and soon afterwards begged her to consent to dance with him.

She moved so gracefully, and danced with such precise, but easy exactness, that every one admired her more than they had done; admiration was extended to wonder, and the whispers of praise changed into acclamations of applause.

After some time, an elegant and delicious collation was served up, including the most exquisite fruits and confectionary; but the young prince was so deeply engaged in attending to her, that he did not taste any thing himself,

Cinderella seated herself near her sisters, paid them a number of attentions, and offered them part of the delicacies with which she had been presented by the prince; but they had no suspicion who she was, and quite astonished at such civilities from a lady whom they did not know.

Whilst they were conversing, Cinderella heard the clock strike eleven and three quarters; she arose from her seat, and, hastily taking leave of the company, returned to her carriage.

As soon as she reached home she found her godmother, whom she thanked most earnestly for her goodness. She ventured, however, to hint a modest desire to be present at the ball which was to be given the ensuing night; for the prince had particularly entreated her to be there.

Her godmother told her, that for this evening's entertainment, she had only to reflect upon her own past patience and good conduct to ascertain the reason; she promised her that her wish to be present at the next ball should also be gratified; and she assured her, as real worth never goes unrewarded altogether, so Cinderella should find that her amiable mind and manners would, in the end, obtain all the blessings her godmother's power could confer, and all the happiness she could wish herself. While they were thus talking, a loud knocking at the door announced the return of the two sisters.

When Cinderella opened the door, she said to them with an affected weariness, "How late you have stayed!" She appeared also to yawn and rub her eyes, as if just awakened from the sleep into which she had fallen whilst waiting for them.

"If you had been at the ball," said one of them, "let me tell you, sleepiness would not have fallen upon you; for there came thither

the most beautiful—yes, the very handsomest princess ever beheld! She paid us a thousand attentions, and made us take some of the fruit and other delicacies which the prince had given her."

Cinderella had some difficulty in restraining the laugh which was ready to burst forth: she asked her sisters the name of this princess, to which they replied, that nobody had been able to discover who she was; that the king's son was extremely grieved on that account, and had offered a large sum of money to any person who could find out where she came from.

Cinderella smiled and said, "How very beautiful she must have been! how fortunate you were! Oh! if I could but see her for a single moment! dear Miss Charlotte, will you lend me your old yellow gown, that I may go and see her?"

"Would you not think I was mad if I were to lend my clothes to a cinder-wench? Do you really suppose that I am such a fool? No, no; pray mind your own business, and leave dresses and balls to your betters."

Cinderella naturally expected an answer like this; nor was she sorry that their own ill-nature was thus subservient to her purpose.

The next day the two sisters went again to the ball, and so did Cinderella: but she was dressed on the second evening far more magnificently than she had been on the first. The king's son was continually by her side, and was unremitting in his attention to her.

The charming girl was, of course, far from displeased with the respect and kindness she experienced; on the contrary, she was so delighted, that she entirely forgot the injunction of her godmother.

Cinderella at last heard the clock strike twelve though she had not supected it could be eleven. She instantly arose, and almost flew out of the room.

The prince endeavoured to overtake her, but poor Cinderella's fright made her run the faster. However, in her great hurry, she dropped one of the glass slippers, which the prince picked up and kept with the greatest care.

Cinderella reached home tired and breathless, but in her dirty old clothes, without either coach or attendants, and having nothing of her magnificence left but the remaining glass slipper.

In the meantime the prince had inquired of the guards at the palace gates, if they had not seen a magnificent princess pass out, and which way she went? But the men said that no princess had passed the gates, and that they had not seen a creature but a little ragged girl, who looked more like a beggar than a princess.

When the two sisters returned home from the ball, Cinderella asked them if they had been as much entertained as on the preceding night, and if the beautiful princess had been there. They told her that she had; but that, as soon as the clock struck twelve, she hurried away from the ball-room, and in the great haste she made had dropped one of the glass slippers, which was of the most beautiful shape.

The king's son, they said, picked it up, and during the remainder of the ball he scarcely did any thing but look at the beautiful memento.

A few days afterwards, the prince caused it to be proclaimed that he would marry the lady whose foot should fit the slipper he had found.

The royal messenger took the slipper, and carried it to all the princesses and ladies of the court. He then brought it to the two sisters, each

of whom tried all she could to squeeze her foot into the slipper, but without avail.

Cinderella, who was looking at them all the while, and who knew her slipper, could not help smiling, and at last modestly said, "Pray, sir, may I be allowed to try to get the slipper on?"

The two sisters burst into a loud laugh: "Very likely," said they, "that your clumsy foot will do!" The gentleman observing that Cinderella was very handsome, said that he was ordered by the prince to try it on every one that pleased; and therefore Cinderella must be allowed.

She put the slipper to her foot, and it fitted her exactly. The two sisters were astonished; but they were still more surprised when she drew the other slipper from her pocket, and put it on. At this moment, the fairy entered, and unperceived, touched Cinderella's clothes; whose appearance was now more magnificent than ever.

The sisters now recognised the beautiful princess they had seen dance at the ball. They were ready to die with vexation, to think that, after all their ill-treatment, and in spite of all their efforts to keep Cinderella out of sight, she should nevertheless have risen so far above them both, in rank and beauty; but it always happens that those who are overbearing to servants and dependants, are the most abject to their superiors.

She was then conducted to the young prince, who, finding her more beautiful in person, and more splendid in appearance, than he had ever seen her, instantly entreated the honour and blessing of her hand in marriage. The nuptial ceremony took place within a few days, and was the most magnificent ever remembered in that kingdom. The theme of every one's conversation, was the beauty, sweet temper, and and charming disposition of the much-injured Cinderella, who made a most excellent wife, and lived to a good old age, universally beloved and respected. The amiable temper of this excellent creature still continued; and she soon promoted the interests of her cruel sisters, by having them married to two great lords of the court.

But not all the placidity of her disposition, her most unremitting kindness, and perfect forgiveness of all past injuries, added to the attentions and friendly solicitude of the prince, could conquer the bad feeling and confirmed ill-temper of her two sisters: they were always complaining of neglect, and that something or other which they thought ought to have been done for them, was left undone; they wearied out their husbands with their importunities and fanciful grievances, and soon found cause to quarrel with them. They were generally disliked at court: and after wrangling and jangling for several years, they were at last separated from their lords, obliged to retire into the country, a prey to the violence of their own tempers, and a mutual plague to each other; so much so, that the youngest of the two, to get rid of her sister, retired into a monastery, where, under the consolations of religion and the kind attentions of the nuns, she in some measure became reformed in her temper, and died sincerely regretting that ever she had indulged in habits which she found, but too late, bad, instead of affording her pleasure, been the source of all her disquietude.

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