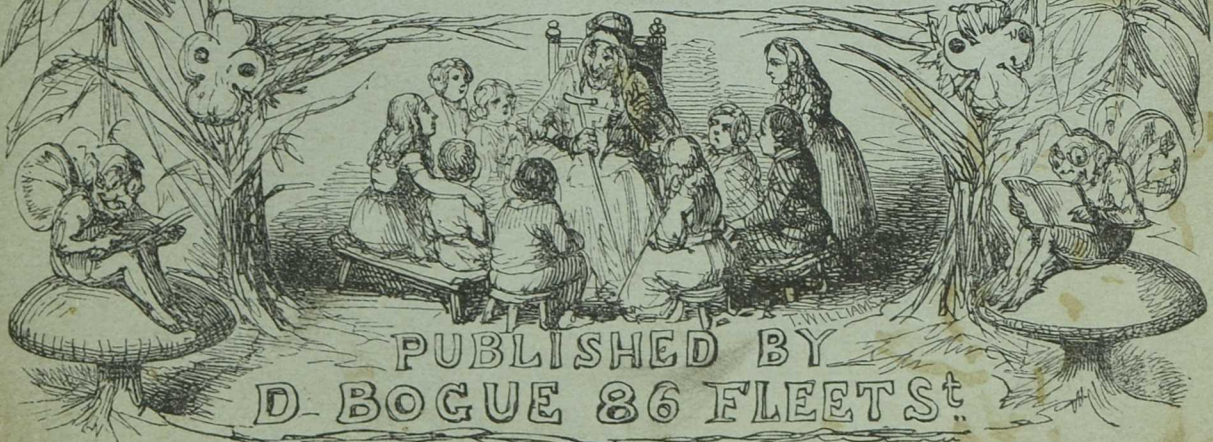


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CHOP O MY THUMB
AND
THE
SEVEN LEAGUE
BOOTS.



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Hop-o-my-thumb & the Seven League Boots

The Father proposes to lose the Children !!



*They leave Hop-o-my-thumb
and his Brothers in the Wood
George Cruikshank*

George Cruikshank's Fairy Library.

HOP-O'MY-THUMB

AND

THE SEVEN-LEAGUE BOOTS.

EDITED AND ILLUSTRATED

WITH SIX ETCHINGS

BY

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK.

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HOP-O'MY-THUMB

AND

THE SEVEN-LEAGUE BOOTS.

ONCE upon a time there was a certain Count, who possessed many castles and large domains. He was a very good man, but, unfortunately, he had some very bad companions, who led him into drinking habits, card-playing, betting on horse-races, and all sorts of foolish gambling; and these bad men, by these means, got all his money from him. So he was obliged to sell one estate after another until all his property was gone. When he was reduced to extreme poverty, all his evil companions left him; and as he had never been taught any trade or business, he was compelled to cut wood in the forest to get food for his wife and his children. The Countess, his wife, was a dear, good lady, and did all she could to make him and her children happy and comfortable; but she found it a difficult matter to do this, for what the Count earned was very little, and the greater part of that he

spent in buying strong drink—of which he used to take a great deal too much—so that he was very often tipsy : this was one of the bad habits he had learnt of his bad companions. They had six children—all boys ; but one of them was such a *very little fellow* that he could hide himself in his father's shoe, and they called him "Hop-o'my-Thumb," or sometimes "little Hop." He was at this time about seven or eight years old, with an extraordinary sweetness of disposition or good temper, which it is a great blessing for anybody to have, and he possessed a degree of intelligence much beyond his age ; and his strength and activity were also surprising, considering the smallness of his size. He used to try, by the most affectionate attentions, and by playing all sorts of funny pranks, to soothe the gloomy hours which his father passed in reflecting upon his former foolish conduct, that had brought himself and his family to such distress, for they were sometimes almost starved for want of food. And matters grew worse and worse with them every day ; for it so happened at this time that there was a famine in the land, and the father, instead of trusting in Providence, and exerting himself to do something to relieve his family from their miserable condition, gave way to despondency, and still kept on drinking and smoking ; whilst the money that he spent in the drink that made him tipsy, and on the nasty tobacco which he smoked, would have bought bread enough for his family to live upon.

The dear mother had brought up her boys to go to bed early, which they all did, like good children, without any grumbling or crying, little Hop-o'my-Thumb always being the first to say, "I'm ready to go to bed, mother;" but before he did so he would play some droll tricks to amuse his dear mother and his five brothers, which made them all laugh, even if they had no supper. One night, after they had said their prayers, and she had put them to bed (and when, as she thought, they were all asleep), the father came home and sat down by the side of his wife before the fire, and then began to tell her all the news about the scarcity of all sorts of food, and that he was unable any longer to get bread either for themselves or the children, and that they must, therefore, all starve to death. There was, to be sure, just enough for her and himself for a couple of days, but there was none for the boys; and as it would be a shocking sight to see them all starving, he proposed to his wife that they should take the children out with them in the morning when he went to cut fuel, and that they should leave the children in the great forest.

"No, indeed," cried the tender mother, "I shall do no such thing! If the poor dear children are to die, I will die with them." But the father insisted that it should be done, got quite angry, and talked so loud that he woke little Hop-o'my-Thumb, who was a very light sleeper, so he sat up in bed and heard all the talk; and after a great deal of crying and opposition, the mother at last

consented; for she saw that the Count had been drinking, and she knew it was of no use arguing with him when he was in that state, for he did not know what he was about; so, although she consented, she thought in her own mind that she would mark the road and go back herself, and take them to some place where she would beg the people to keep them for charity until times got better, and then she could pay for their board and bring them home, and surprise and delight their father.

Hop-o'my-Thumb, who had heard all the talk about leaving him and his brothers in the forest, immediately thought of a plan whereby he should be able to find his way back, and return home again with his brothers; he, therefore, got up before the dawn of day, and went to a brook that was close by the hut, and there he filled his pockets with little white pebbles, returned to the house again, and crept into bed before his parents or his brothers were awake. However, not long after they all awoke and got up, and washed themselves in cold water (which they did winter and summer, because it is most refreshing and healthy to do so); and when they had said their prayers, they sat down to a scanty breakfast. The Countess was in very low spirits, although she had determined in her own mind to take care that the boys should come to no harm; yet she anxiously watched her husband, in the hope that when he had quite recovered himself, he would give up the horrid notion of losing the children; but he had drunk so

much the night before that he was not yet quite sober, but seemed to be in a desperate mood, which he kept up by taking a little more strong drink out of a bottle that he had spent his last penny to buy. But he did not eat any breakfast; for people who get tipsy cannot take much food, so they soon get ill and die. After the Countess and the boys had taken their scanty breakfast, the Count put on his cap, took his hatchet, and said, in a surly tone, "Come along, let us go to work!" They all used to help the Count in his labour by gathering up the sticks that he cut away with his axe, and making them up into bundles,—Hop-o'my-Thumb, as well as the other boys: but they all used to laugh at the little tiny bundles that little Hop made; but although he did not do much himself, he used to lighten their work by singing songs and telling them funny stories.

When they were all ready to set out, the Countess gave each of them a little bit of bread to put in their pockets, as they had to go a long way from home, she told them. They then set out on their journey to the great forest; but, as they went along, little Hop-o'my-Thumb took care to drop a little white pebble at different places; and although he had no doubt but that he should find his way back by these means, nevertheless he also took notice of particular trees, rocks, and streams, that they passed; and he also took care to mark which side of the road the sun was shining

upon ; as he knew if it were on one side in the morning, it would be on the opposite side in the evening.

At length they entered the wood, and the father began chopping away, and the Countess and the children gathering and binding. The Count kept his wife close by him all the time, in order that they might be ready to set off the first opportunity ; but whenever he was about to steal away, he always found that little Hop was alongside of him. So, in order to get rid of Master Hop, he told the boys they might leave off work for a little while, and have a bit of play ; and he proposed that they should join hands and form a ring, and put little Hop in the middle and dance round him. The boys were all delighted with this game except little Thumb, who tried hard to get out of the ring, but his brothers would not let him ; and thus, while they were all dancing and shouting, the Count took the opportunity of slipping away, dragging the Countess along with him. The poor mother, although she had determined to go back for the children, was, nevertheless, fearful that they might be lost or come to some harm. So she began to cry, and beg of her husband to let her go back for the children ; but he had been draining his bottle, and only gave her harsh words and made her go on quickly, in order that they might get entirely away from the children.

Little Hop-o'my-Thumb's brothers kept on dancing away until

they were tired and out of breath, and then they all sat down to rest themselves. But when they looked round and could not see either their father or mother, they jumped up and ran about to look for them; but little Hop stood where he was, for he had noticed which way his parents had gone off. But, oh! when his brothers could not find their parents anywhere, they all looked at one another, and said, "Oh dear, we are lost! oh dear, where's father and mother? What shall we do?" and they set up such a cry, and came back to the place where little Hop was, who told them that instead of crying they ought to try what they could do to get out of the wood; and if they would help him to do so by carrying him, he thought he could show them the road home. So they left off crying, and the biggest boy took little Hop up in his arms and carried him; and then Master Hop-o'-my-Thumb directed him which way to go, for he had noticed particular trees, and had marked others with his knife.* So they soon got clear of the wood; and then Hop told his brother to set him on the ground, and then the first thing that he did was to see whereabouts the sun was; and although it was not shining out at that time, he could tell in what direction it was; and, as he began to feel hungry, he knew that it was about twelve o'clock, that being their usual dinner-hour, but he could also pretty well tell the time by the height of the sun.

* This is what the Indians do,—they notch the trees, and so find their way through the largest forests.

Hop next began to look for one of the white pebbles, and having found one, he called out to his brothers to come along ; and on he went, leading the way. And at last, by the aid of the pebbles and the observations he had made in the morning, he had brought them nearly half the way home ; when, as they were passing a steep bank by the side of a hill, they heard a voice calling loudly to them, and upon looking up they saw somebody coming down hastily towards them,—it was their mother ! At first they all screamed, “ Oh, here’s mother ! ” and then set off as fast as they could to meet her, and in the hurry pushed over poor little Hop-o’my-Thumb ; but he was up in a minute, and ran after his brothers as fast as his little legs could carry him.

“ O my dear boys ! ” the Countess exclaimed ; “ and have I found you ? Come to my arms, my little darlings ! ” and then she began to cry, and then the children began to cry, and they all had a good cry together. She then took up her dear little Hoppy, as she called him, in her arms, and said, “ Come, dears, let us make haste home. You must be very hungry ; and I hope by the time we get back, there will be some nice food for you ; for your father has been sent for by a rich farmer in the neighbourhood to do some writing for him, and he is to bring back a large basket of provisions.” And as they were trudging along, who should they see coming to meet them but the Count their father, who, with tears in his eyes, embraced all the children ; and after embracing

his wife, he took little Hop from her and put him on his shoulder. They soon got home, and they had a good, hearty supper that night, and were all very happy,—not that much eating at supper is good generally, but not having had any dinner, it was all very well in such a case.

All the boys were glad to get to bed, they being, as you may suppose, thoroughly tired out, and were soon fast asleep, except little Hop, who, although very sleepy and tired, tried hard to keep awake to hear what his father and mother would say. And he soon began to understand that his mother never intended to leave them to perish in the wood; and she pointed out to his father the horrible cruelty of deserting the children in this way, and also the wickedness in spending money in drink and tobacco that would buy bread; and also the sin of getting tipsy, so that he was not able to work properly for their support.

The father was very sorry for what he had done, and seemed quite heart-broken; and then the dear good Countess began to comfort him, and they both knelt down and prayed together, little Hop joining in their prayers. And when he heard the deep sobs of repentance of his father, mingled with the sobs and thankfulness of his mother, his little tears rolled down his tiny cheeks upon his pillow until he went off into a quiet and refreshing sleep.

After this they lived very comfortably for some time, for the rich farmer employed the Count to do a great deal of writing for

him, as he was engaged in a lawsuit, and the Count entirely left off his drinking habits. This made the Countess very happy; and she had now such confidence in her husband, that she thought she could leave the children in his care with safety; and that she could now set out on a journey she had long wished to take, to seek out a brother of hers, who was a rich Baron, and whom she had not seen or heard of for many years, as he had been in the wars in foreign countries. And she was anxious to find her brother the Baron, as she knew he would take them out of their poverty, educate her boys, and put them in a way of getting an honest and respectable livelihood. Having saved up a little money, she packed up her Sunday clothes in a bundle, put some bread and cheese in a basket, and kissing all the children and bidding them be good boys until her return, she set out upon her journey, the Count accompanying her a little way on the road. After the Count had taken an affectionate farewell of the Countess, and wished her a safe journey and a successful one, he turned to go to his hut and his children; but on the road he unfortunately met with one of his former drinking companions, who prevailed upon him, after a great deal of persuading, to go into an ale-house just to have *one* glass, which he had no sooner taken than he forgot all his promises to the Countess not to take strong drink. And after getting quite tipsy that night, he went on, day after day, in the old bad way, so that he did not know what he was about, and the farmer would not give

him any more writing to do ; so he fell into greater distress than ever, for the dear clever Countess was not there to manage his domestic affairs.

Well, one night he came home late in a terrible state ; knocked the stools and the table over, and frightened little Hop and his brothers very much. And in the morning he made the children get up very early, and told them they must go to work in the forest again : this frightened all the boys, except little Hop, who thought that if his father left them again, he should be able to find his way back in the same way as he did before ; for they recollected how they had been lost in the forest, to which place they had never been since that time. Poor little Hop was about to slip out to the brook to get some white pebbles, as before ; but his father called him back, and bade him and his brothers take their share of the last loaf for their breakfast. The boys ate their bread very sorrowfully ; but Hop did not eat all his, for he thought that he would drop bits of bread instead of pebbles.

The Count now took a different road to the forest than he had done the last time, and a longer way about ; so that when they arrived in a thick and shady part of the wood, the Count said they might sit down and rest themselves, which they were very glad to do ; and little Hop-o'my-Thumb was so tired, that he could not have gone on any farther, for the Count had made him walk a great part of the way ; but he had taken good notice again, and

had dropped bits of bread as he came along. The father laid himself down and fell asleep, or pretended to do so; and when Hop saw his father fast asleep, as he thought, he himself lay down to rest; but he and his brothers were so tired, and had had so little sleep the night before, that they all went to sleep as sound as tops. This was still early in the day; and when they awoke the sun was high up, and their father was gone. They would have given way to grief again; but as Hop-o'my-Thumb had shown them the way home before, they looked to him to do the same again; and he said, "Come along, brothers!" But the most clever people sometimes meet with disappointments; for the clouds had quite hidden the sun, and it was a long time before they could get out of the wood. And when they arrived at the place where they had entered, little Hop found that the birds had eaten up the crumbs of bread which he had dropped. But although he had a little heart, it was a brave one, and he was sure he should recollect the trees and land-marks they had passed. But it began to get very dark, and as it was a cloudy night, he did not know which way to go. If the moon or the stars could have been seen, he would have known then which way to go, but he could not see either. He, therefore, looked out for a tall tree, which he asked his eldest brother to climb, and to look all round from the top to see if he could discover any kind of building, or a light burning anywhere. So the brother got up, and after looking first one way and then another, he cried

out that he could see a light, which seemed to come from a window. Upon which little Hop called out to his brother to break or cut off a small branch, and throw it down on the side of the tree where the light appeared. This was done ; and when the brother came down, he took up Hop on his shoulder, who kept his eye fixed upon some trees in the direction where his brother said the light was seen. So, after a tiresome walk over the rough ground, and being terrified by the howling of the wolves, who now came out of their dens, they at last came to a very large house ; and after they had knocked several times on the great gate with a large stone, it was opened by a great big woman, a sort of Giantess, who was very much surprised at seeing the children, and asked them what they wanted. Upon which Hop-o'my-Thumb told her that they were the six sons of a Count, and having lost their way, they had to beg for a little food and a night's lodging, upon which she said,—

“ You may be the sons of a Count, but I can only count five of you ; so I think you must have lost your wits as well as your way.”

So little Hop replied,—

“ Oh, yes, ma'am, there are six of us ; but I am so small that, perhaps, you can't see me.”

“ See you !” she cried ; “ why, where are you ?”

“ On my brother's shoulder, ma'am.”

So the Giantess was curious to see the little body from which the little voice came, and she said,—

“Dear me ! come into the light, and let me have a look at you.” So they all went into the house, and then they put Hop-o'my-Thumb on the table. Oh, such a big table ! And then the Giantess took the lamp and had a good look at little Hop, and seemed very much pleased with him ; so, without any ceremony, Hop begged she would be so kind as to give them something to eat, for that they were all dying with hunger. Now she was a very good-natured lady, as most of those Giantesses are, and gave them some food directly, and told them to make haste and eat it up,—which they would have done without being told, for if they were hungry before they came in, they were more so afterwards, as they could smell that meat was being roasted. So soon as the boys had eaten up the victuals, the Giantess took Hop off the table and gave him to his eldest brother, saying, “Now, my little men, you had better run away, for you must not stop here any longer.” Upon which little Hop begged very hard that they might be allowed to stop until the morning, if it was only in an outhouse or barn, as they were afraid of the wolves. Upon which she began to sigh, and said, “Ah, my little dears, you little think what kind of house you are in ; but I must tell you that my husband is a Giant-Ogre ; and if he does not come home tipsy, he is sure to get tipsy after his supper, and then he'll be *sure* to kill you and eat you up ; whereas if you go away, you may by chance escape from the wolves.” But all the boys were so afraid to go out into the dark forest where the wolves were,

and felt so warm and comfortable where they were, that they all begged and prayed of her to let them stay. So, as she was such a good-natured Giant-woman, she at last consented, as she thought she might be able to hide the children from her husband, who, she thought, would not perhaps smell them out in consequence of the smell of the meat which she was cooking for his supper. So she took them into the kitchen, where they were surprised to see a whole sheep roasting; and showed them a box that stood in a corner of the kitchen, and told them, when they heard a knock at the door, to run and hide themselves behind the box. They looked about, but as they could not see anything that looked like a box, little Hop asked her where it was; upon which she showed them a great square wooden thing that looked almost as big as their father's hut: but you must understand that everything in the house,—tables, stools, plates, dishes, and so on,—were of a very large size; even too big for the Giantess, who was obliged to use a small ladder herself to get the plates off the shelf; and the dish she had to put the sheep in was as much as she could lift, and the gravy-spoon was as big as a shovel. While she was busy getting all ready for the Giant's return, the boys looked about in wonder. By-and-by they heard a confused, rumbling sound, and then something like the roaring of a lion:—it was the Giant singing!—he was coming home merry!

“Ah!” said the Giantess, “he has had something to drink. Run

and hide yourselves!" And they had no sooner got behind the great box than a knock came at the door, so loud that it quite stunned them; and when the door was opened, and the Ogre-Giant walked in, and every step he took shook the house, big and strong as it was, it made all the little fellows tremble. As soon as he came in he said, in a loud, frightful voice,—

"Well, wife, what have you got for supper? something nice? It smells nice!"

"Here it is," she said; "it's a fine large sheep!"

"Ah! is there nothing else?" he asked. "I smell fresh meat!"

"Oh!" replied his wife, "it's the calf I've just killed."

With this answer he seemed satisfied, and sat himself down to supper. By this time, what with being over tired, having had a hearty full meal, and being very warm, Hop's five brothers had dropped off to sleep; but little Hop, although very sleepy himself, was curious to see a Giant-Ogre eat. The sharpening of his knife, which was as big as a sword, was something fearful to behold. He then cut off a shoulder of the mutton, and gave it to his wife for her supper, and then took the other shoulder himself, which he devoured in a very short time; and then one leg, and then the other; and then ate the neck, the ribs, and the loin, giving his wife some of the bones to pick. When he had finished eating, he filled out a cup that would hold about two gallons, from a great

bottle that he had been drinking from every now and then whilst he was eating. He then leaned with his elbows on the table, and began picking his teeth with a fork, by which Hop-o'my-Thumb judged that the Giant was not a gentleman. Hop's father and mother, of course, knew good manners, and had taught them to their children.

As the wife was clearing away the supper things, the Giant-Ogre kept on drinking; and just as little Hop was falling asleep, he heard the Giant taking long sniffs, and at last he cried out,—

“Wife, I know there is something else in the house besides the calf. I smell *fresh* meat—something delicate.”

“Ah, it is the veal, you may be sure: it *is* very delicate!”

But without noticing what she said, he went on taking long sniffs again, and said,—

“Fee, faw, fum,
I smell the blood of an Englishman;
Let him be alive, or let him be dead,
I'll grind his bones to make my bread!”

And with that he took his great knife in his hand, and went smelling about the room, till he came to the place where Hop and his brothers were hiding. The noise the Giant made woke them all up, and he cried out in a voice like the roaring of a bull,—

“Come out there!” The poor frightened boys crept out and stood trembling before him; when he saw that they were all come

out from their hiding-place, he sat down upon the box, and looking round to his wife, he roared out, "So, this is the way you deceive me! If you were not so old and tough, I would eat you up for my dinner to-morrow!" Upon which she burst into a loud laugh.

"Deceive you, indeed!" she said; "what should I deceive you for, darling? I only hid them for a bit of fun; I knew you would smell them out, and I thought it would be an agreeable surprise for you."

"Haw! haw!" laughed the Ogre; "is it so? Let us have a look at them;" and stooping down, he discovered poor little Hop for the first time. "Why, what have we here?" he exclaimed, as he lifted him up between his great finger and thumb. "Well, this *is* a delicate morsel!" and he was going to pop him into his ugly mouth, that looked like a great coal-tub; but although poor Hop was dreadfully frightened, he did not lose his senses, but cried out aloud to the Ogre-Giant for mercy, and to spare him; and the brothers, seeing their dear little Hop in such danger, all went down on their knees and cried out to the Ogre to spare their little brother. At the same moment his wife laid her hand upon his shoulder, and said,—

"What are you going to do? You'll spoil all! You've had a good supper, ten minutes ago, so you cannot be hungry already; and after all that mutton you would not be able to taste such a delicate relish. Besides, you know your brothers are coming here



The Giant Ogre, discovers Hop-o-my Thumb & his Brothers
whom his wife had endeavoured to conceal from him

to dine with you the day after to-morrow ; and, as the children are very thin, I intended to fatten them up and make them into a pie for the second course, and I thought your brothers would be amused to see such a little chap as that stuck on the top of the pie !”

This seemed to amuse the Ogre, who burst into a loud laugh at the idea of seeing little Hop stuck up outside the pie ; so, after taking a good look at poor Hop, and pretending to snap his head off, he put him down, and told his wife to fatten them all up and to make a nice pie ; he then set himself down again to his drink, pleased with the thought of having a nice relish in store for himself and his friends. The Giantess then put the children to bed in a sort of closet, saying,—

“There ! you *would* stay, when I told you what you had to expect. But I’ve done the best I could for you ; so say your prayers, and go to sleep ;” and she then burst into tears, and left the room.

Master Hop observed that she did not fasten the door when she left them, and he had taken notice as he came in that the key was in the lock on the outside of the door. Now, like good boys, they said their prayers, as the Giantess had told them ; but as to going to sleep, that was out of the question. So little Hop, who did not relish the idea of being stuck up as an ornament on the top of a pie, told his brothers not to be down-hearted, but to lend him a

hand to help to get out of the Giant's house. But as he thought the Giant might come to have a look at them before he went to bed, he told them to jump into bed again if they heard him coming, and pretend to be asleep. In a short time they heard the Ogre staggering along the passage, which shook with his tread, upon which they were all in bed in an instant. The Giant, with a lamp in his hand, stooped down, and put his great ugly head into the place to look at them; and then licking his chops, he shut the door and locked it. The sound of the key turning in the lock of the door was terrible to the ears of the poor boys; and they began to sob, thinking they were now doomed to the horrible fate of being eaten up by Ogres. But Hop told them to cheer up, and so soon as the Giant was asleep they would then set to work to try and get out. And almost before he had done speaking they heard a most fearful noise, as if there were a thousand pigs grunting and squeaking all at once,—it was the Giant snoring! Little Hop said,—

“Now, then, brothers, I am going to creep under the door, so you wait quietly until I come back.”

Accordingly, Hop got under the door and made his way to where he heard the snoring; and when he got to the Giant's bed-room, he found, to his great delight, that there was a lamp burning; but, nevertheless, he was a little disappointed to find that the Giant, although fast asleep, held the key that Hop wanted fast in his hand. The Giant's bed was nothing more than a great

straw mattress on the ground, upon which he lay with his clothes on. Hop looked about the room, and he found a long thin piece of stick, which was almost like a pole to him; nevertheless, with the end of this he managed to tickle the tip of the Giant's nose, who let go the key that he might rub his nose; and as soon as he began to snore again, little Hop dragged off the key, which was more than he could lift; and having got it to the door where his brothers were, he pushed it underneath, and crept in himself. They then set to, to drag the bed-clothes and place them against the door, and by climbing up the clothes, they reached the key-hole, and put in the key. They had hardly strength enough to turn it, but at length they succeeded in unlocking the door.

They had many difficulties to get over besides this, before they got out of the Giant's house altogether; which, however, they did at last, and glad enough they were when they found themselves outside, and the moon shining as bright as day. Some things are impossible to do, but there are many things which at first seem impossible, but which may be overcome by perseverance. Hop-o'my-Thumb knew by the moon in which direction their home lay; and off they set at a good pace, the elder brothers carrying Hop by turns. When the sun rose they happened to be on the top of a hill, from whence they could see the part of the country where their father lived, between them and which (in the valley) was part of the great forest; so Hop said they had better go

through the wood, as in case the Giant should come after them he would not be able to see them amongst the trees. So into the wood they went, and had hard work to get through it; but little Hop brought them out at last and showed them the road home, at which they were all pleased, and jumped for joy, and on they trudged again.

When the Giant's wife got up in the morning, she went to the closet to look for the children; and as they were not there, she looked all about the house; and finding that they were gone off, she went and told the Giant, who was a long time in waking up; but when he did so, he was in a great passion, and ran to look at the closet; and when he saw the key *inside*, he at once guessed that Hop had got under the door and taken the key out of his hand while he was asleep.

"But never mind," he said; "give me my Seven-league Boots, and I'll soon catch 'em; and I'll gobble up that tiny little rascal at once, so that *he* shall not have the chance of cheating me again!"

Off went the Giant-Ogre to look for the little boys; but as he was not quite sober, the boots, which had been made by a fairy, would not obey him, and tripped him up almost at every step he took, so that he tumbled about at a great rate, sometimes quite head over heels, and had some very heavy falls, so that he was not able to move for a long time. At last he got sober; and then he



The Giant Odre in his Seven League Boots,
pursuing Hop o'my Thumb & his Brothers, who hide in a Cave.

set off, first in one direction, and then in another, until he came to the great forest. But the Boots would not take him through or over the wood, so he was obliged to go round for many miles to get to the other side; and by the time he got there he was so tired that he threw himself down upon the first bank he came to, and almost on the instant fell asleep.

Now little Hop and his brothers saw the Giant coming towards them, but could not make out how he stepped from one hill to another just as if he were flying. But little Hop, who was very fond of reading, had read a story about a pair of Seven-league Boots in a book published by that capital bookseller and worthy man, Mr. David Bogue, of 86 Fleet Street; so he rightly thought that the Giant had on a pair of those wonderful boots. There was no time to be lost. Hop-o'my-Thumb looked about and luckily espied a small cave, into which he told his brothers to hide, and had just time to get in himself, when the Ogre, seeing the bank, which was over this cave, laid himself down, as we said, and went to sleep; and as soon as he began to snore, Hop said to his brothers,—

“Now's your time! run off home, and I'll follow you;” but they did not like to leave him behind. However, they trusted to his cleverness; and, as he made a sign to them to go, they did so. Hop-o'my-Thumb then got hold of one of the Boots, which he pulled off the Giant's leg without much difficulty; he then pulled

off the other, and thought he would try if they would fit a little foot as well as a big one, as he had read of in the story-book. To his great delight, as you may suppose, when he pulled them on they fitted him like a glove.

It was but a "hop, step, and a jump" to his father's hut, so he got there before his brothers. He found that his mother had returned home, and that she and his father were both in tears. They were overjoyed to see him, and eagerly inquired where his brothers were, upon which he told them they would be there almost directly. His mother took him in her arms, and sobbed and cried over him, but he said,—

"Cheer up, dear father and mother, for I think I have now made all our fortunes;" and he then told his father all about the Giant, and showed him the Seven-league Boots; and as he was telling this in came the other boys, crying,—

"O father! O mother!" and then they were soon all crying with joy, and laughing and hugging one another; and then they all sat down to breakfast; and as they were taking their breakfast, little Hop asked his father if he did not think it would be best for him to set off to court without a moment's delay, to present the Seven-league Boots to the King, and inform him about the Giant. The Count and Countess both approved of this plan; and accordingly, as soon as he had finished his breakfast—which was not long, for it did not take much time to fill such a little stomach as his—



The Giant Ogre falls asleep. Hop'o my Thumb, pulls off
the Seven League Boots whilst his Brothers run away --

Hop took his cap, and they all came out to the door to see him off. The Count pointed out the direction of the great city where the King's palace was, but Hop thought he would try if the Boots knew their way there ; so, after they had all kissed him and wished him success, he bade them good-bye, and said to the Boots,—

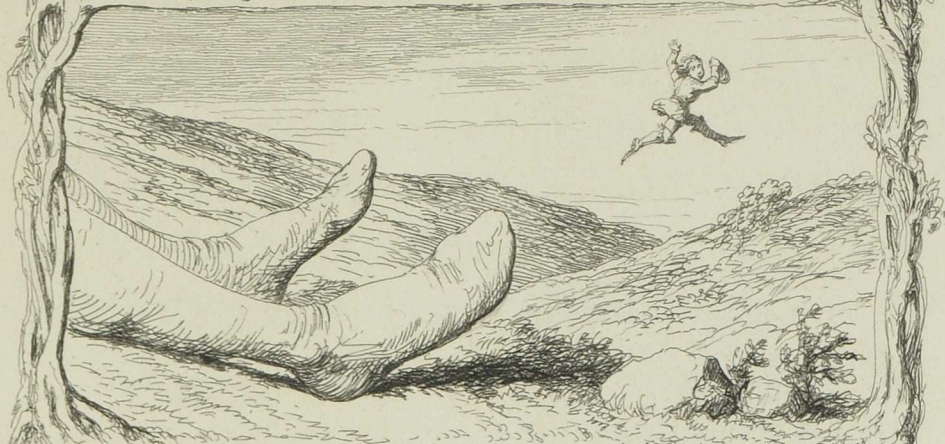
“To the King's palace!” Off they set ; and, as it was only a few leagues distance, he was there before you could count ten. Well, when he arrived at the palace, he came down into the courtyard at once, to the astonishment of all the officers and soldiers in the place ; and he demanded, as loudly as he could, to be led into the presence of the King without delay, as he had an important communication to make to his Majesty. Accordingly, he was led to the audience-chamber, where the King and Queen were seated upon a throne, and a young Prince by their side. The chamberlain having announced this extraordinary visitor, introduced him to the King and Queen, who were much surprised and amused at seeing such a tiny little gentleman. He made a fine bow, and informed his Majesty about the Giant-Ogre, and also described the wonderful Boots, which he took off and placed before the throne. The Boots, which were, of course, so very small when *he* had them on, when off expanded themselves into a pair of good-sized Boots, and they then made most polite bows to the King and the Queen, and also to the young Prince. The King at once saw the importance of possessing such invaluable Boots, and determining to buy them of the little

fellow, inquired his name. And when Hop told him whose son he was, the King, who had thought that the Count was dead, as he had not heard of him for many years, was delighted to find that he was still alive, for his Majesty and the Count had been companions in their youth. He, therefore, desired his Master of the Horse to forward carriages and an escort to bring the Count and Countess, with their family, to the palace. Poor little Hop's heart beat with joy when he heard this order given, and begged permission of his Majesty to be allowed to step home and inform his parents of his Majesty's intention. The King smiled at little Hop's request "to *step* home," a distance of some leagues, but said, "Wonders will never cease!" and graciously granted the little fellow permission so to do, who put on the Seven-league Boots again, and away went Hop, with a skip and a jump, and was at home again in a few minutes, telling the good news; at which, of course, they were all overjoyed.

In due time the carriages arrived, with a present of several boxes of fine clothes, in which they dressed themselves and left the old wooden hut, which they made a present of to a poor old woman and her son, and arrived safely at the palace, where they were received with great kindness, the King welcoming his old companion, the Count, with warm friendship; and, as the King was at that time in want of a Prime Minister, after having a long conversation with the Count, he appointed him to that



Little Thumb leads his Brothers out of the Wood.



Little Thumb puts on the Seven League Boots - escapes from the Giant, and goes home.



Little Thumb arrives at home before his Brothers, shows the Seven League Boots to his Father & tells him all about the Giant Ogre.

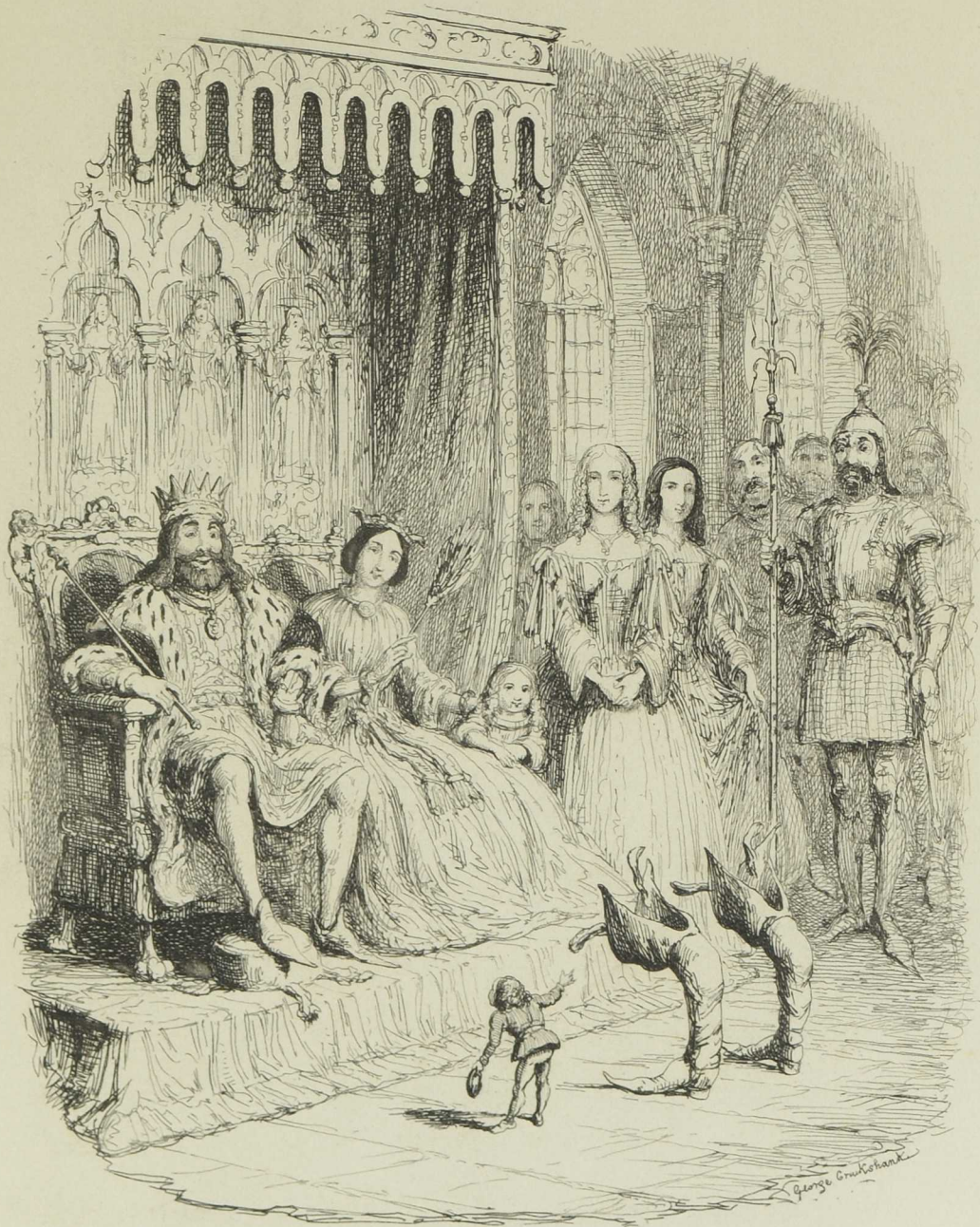
George Cruikshank fecit

important office ; and also promoted little Hop-o'my-Thumb to the post of Messenger Extraordinary to the King, and Director of Telegraphs ; and the Queen, who took a great liking to the Countess, appointed her Mistress of the Robes.

The first act of the Count as Prime Minister was to advise the sending an army to take all the Giants and Giant-Ogres in the land prisoners, which was done. And instead of putting them to death, he turned their enormous strength to useful purposes, and employed them, under guards, at different places where great national works and improvements were required,—such as new roads, draining marshes, and making harbours of refuge and security for ships. And he let them have their wives with them, who, although Giantesses, being of a more gentle nature, soothed and controlled the fierce and savage nature of their husbands ; and thus made them more manageable and useful to the country. The next thing the Count did, having suffered so much in himself and family from the scarcity of food, was to pass a law to admit foreign grain into their markets, which had not been allowed before. The Count having experienced the evils arising from gambling and betting, passed a law that the winner in either of these cases should always pay to the State for the support of the poor *double the amount of his winnings* ; and this soon put a stop to betting and gambling entirely. Finding that strong drinks were hurtful to all, and that they created a great deal of misery and all sorts of wickedness, his

next act was to pass a law to abolish the use of all intoxicating liquors ; the effect of which law was, that in a short time there were very few, if any, criminals in the land ; and the only paupers, or really poor, were those sick or aged persons who were unable to do any sort of work, for all the people in the land were industrious, and the country was rich.

The last great law that he made was that every child in the land should be educated, either by its parents or the State ; that *all* should be taught to read and write, and to know how to do something that might be useful to themselves or the State ; and he appointed moral teachers to those classes who required such assistance ; and compelled parents to instruct their children in their own religion. By these good laws and regulations, peace, comfort, health, and happiness, were felt and enjoyed by all classes in the kingdom, as well as by the Count and Countess, and their children ; including, of course, our little hero, Hop-o'my-Thumb ; who was, indeed, truly happy ! and was so good, that he was beloved by every one.



Hop'o my Thumb presenting the
Seven League Boots to the King

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. THE FATHER PROPOSES TO LOSE THE CHILDREN.
2. HOP-O'MY-THUMB AND HIS BROTHERS LEFT IN THE WOOD.
3. THE GIANT OGRE DISCOVERS HOP AND HIS BROTHERS.
4. THE GIANT OGRE IN HIS SEVEN-LEAGUE BOOTS.
5. THE GIANT OGRE ASLEEP.
6. HOP LEADS HIS BROTHERS OUT OF THE WOOD.
7. HOP ESCAPES IN THE SEVEN-LEAGUE BOOTS.
8. HOP ARRIVES AT HOME, AND SHOWS THE BOOTS.
9. HOP-O'MY-THUMB PRESENTING THE BOOTS TO THE KING.

Drawn and Etched by George Cruikshank.

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Preparing for Publication,

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