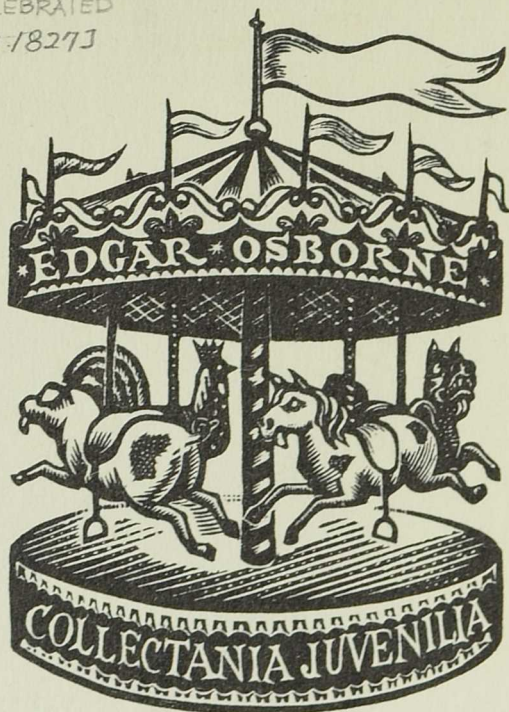




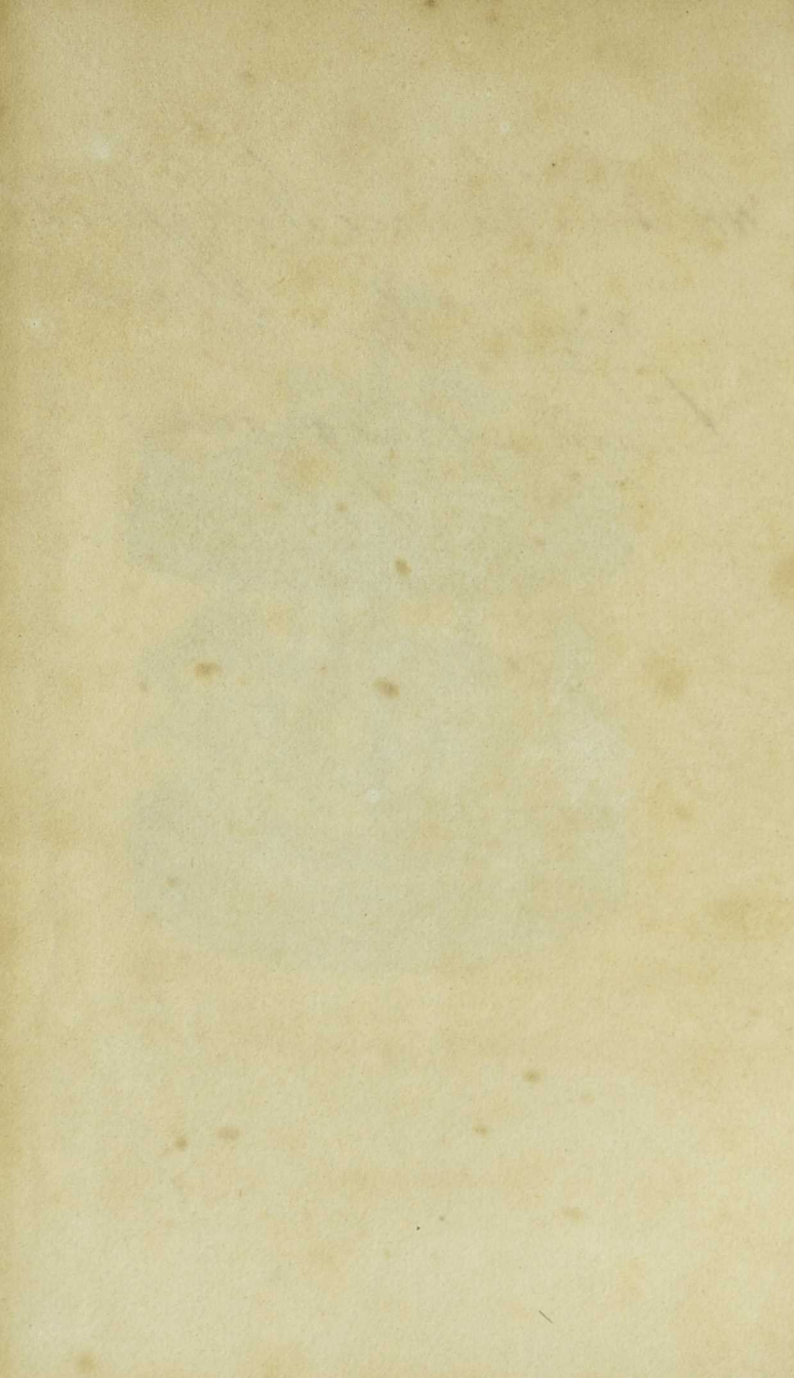
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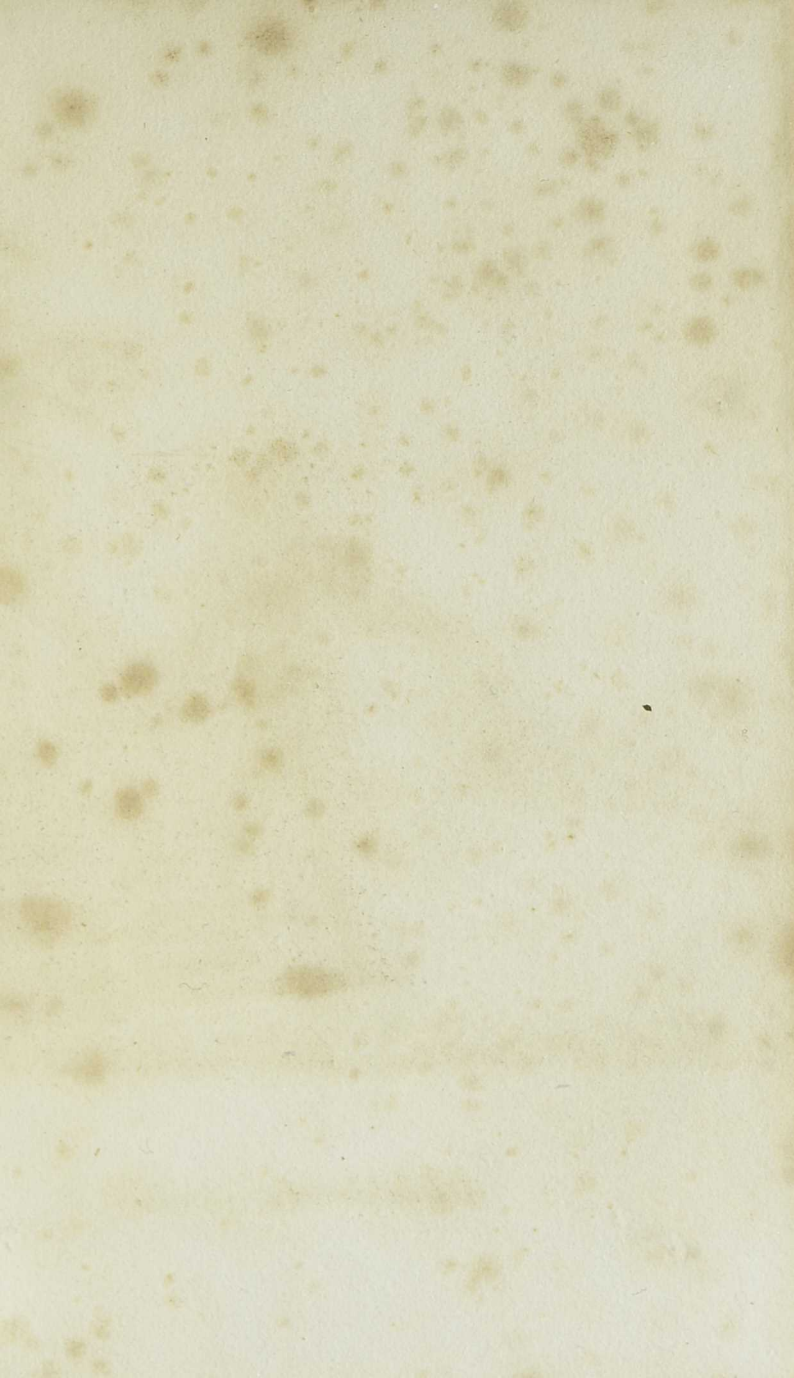


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Anne Frances Wingfield
given her by
Miss Musgrave
June 10th 1831







Elmidorus. page II5.

THE
CELEBRATED TALES
OF
MOTHER BUNCH,
AS
ORIGINALLY RELATED.

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THE
CELEBRATED TALES
OF
MOTHER BUNCH.

PRINCE LUPIN AND THE WHITE CAT.

A CERTAIN king had three sons, all handsome, brave, and fine young gentlemen; but, being apprehensive that they had formed a design to deprive him of his crown, he thought of a method to divert them from their intended purpose. Having called them one day into his closet, he spoke to them as follows: "My sons, I am now come to a great age, and cannot apply myself to public affairs with so much care as formerly; therefore I intend to resign my crown to one of you; but as it is but just to require some

proof of your abilities, in order to determine which is the most worthy of so valuable a present, I propose and promise, that he who shall bring me the most beautiful little dog, shall immediately take possession of my throne."

The three princes readily agreed to this proposal, each concluding himself most likely to succeed in fulfilling this extraordinary request. After taking leave of the king, they set out, with orders to return that day twelvemonth with their dogs. Each took a different road, without any attendants; but we shall leave the two eldest at present, and confine our story to the youngest.

This accomplished prince, as he was more desirous to shew his duty to his father than to become a king, was more fortunate in his undertaking than either of the others. One night, having travelled till it was very late, and being overtaken by a storm in a large forest, he discovered a light at a distance, and, pursuing his journey with all speed, he arrived at a stately castle, the gates of which were of massy gold, and

the walls of fine china, covered with paintings illustrative of the histories of all the fairies that ever appeared on earth. At the door hung a chain of diamonds, with a deer's foot at the end; on pulling which, the prince heard a bell of so pleasing a sound, that he concluded it to be made of silver. Immediately the door opened, and twelve hands, each holding a flambeau, conducted him into a hall of mother-of-pearl, and from thence through a vast variety of chambers, all richly covered with paintings and jewels. The beauty of these ornaments was also greatly heightened by a number of lights that hung from the ceiling in glass chandeliers of exquisite workmanship.

After having passed through sixty apartments, a fine easy chair moved towards him of its own accord, the fire lighted itself, and the hands pulled off his clothes, which had been wetted in the storm, and dressed him in others, so extraordinarily fine and rich, that it dazzled his sight to behold them. While the prince was in the

utmost astonishment at this uncommon adventure, he saw a multitude of cats enter the room, and seat themselves on a bench. One held a music-book, and some played on instruments, while others employed themselves in beating time. In the midst of this concert, a small figure came forward in a mourning veil, led by two cats in black cloaks, and followed by a long train of cats, some with rats, and others with mice in their mouths. The young prince was so surprised that he had not power to move; when the little figure, lifting up its veil, discovered the prettiest white cat that ever was seen. "Prince," said she, "be not afraid, but give me your company with cheerfulness. It shall be my ambition, and that of all my mewing attendants, to afford you pleasure."

On a signal given, supper was brought in; but the prince at first declined eating, till the White Cat, guessing the reason, assured him there were neither rats nor mice in any thing that was set before him. As the prince was

admiring this beautiful cat, he observed a small picture hanging upon her foot. He asked her to shew it him ; and how great was his surprise to see a charming young man, very much resembling himself ! yet observing the White Cat to sigh, he was afraid at that time to satisfy his curiosity concerning it, and so endeavoured to divert her by entertaining conversation, in which he found her to be extremely sensible, and acquainted with every thing that passed in the world. He slept every night in an apartment hung with tapestry made of the wings of butterflies, on a bed of the most delicious flowers ; and every day was spent in some delightful amusement.

In this manner almost a year had passed away insensibly ; and the prince had entirely forgotten his home, and the little dog he was to carry to his father. But the White Cat knew when he was to return ; and one day, as they were walking together in a grove near the palace, she said, “ Do you remember, prince, the

promise which you gave to your father? Your brothers have already procured some curious little dogs, and there remain but three days for you to find one more beautiful than theirs, or lose a kingdom." These words awoke the prince from his dream of pleasure. "Alas!" cried he, "what have I been doing? My honour is lost for ever!"

"Do not afflict yourself," said the White Cat; "I will find a horse that will carry you home in less than twelve hours. And as for the little dog, take this acorn, in which there is one: put it to your ear, and you will hear it bark."

The prince did so, and, transported with pleasure, thanked his benefactress a thousand times. Then bidding her farewell, he mounted the wooden horse, and arrived at his father's palace just as his brothers entered the courtyard. He ran to embrace them, and all three went together to the king. The two eldest presented their dogs, which were so equally beautiful, that it was impossible to know in whose

favour to determine. But the youngest soon put an end to the debate ; for, pulling the acorn out of his pocket, and opening it, they saw a little dog lying in cotton, so small that it might go through a ring ; it was of a mixture of colours, and its ears reached the ground. The king was convinced that nothing could be met with so beautiful ; but, being unwilling yet to part with his crown, he told his children, that he must make a farther trial of their love and diligence before he performed his promise ; they must take another year to find out a web of cloth fine enough to go through the eye of a small needle.

This request, though unjust, they thought it best to comply with ; and our prince mounted his wooden horse, and returned with speed to his White Cat, on whom alone he depended for assistance. He found her reposing on a quilt of white satin. As soon as she saw him, she expressed the utmost joy ; while the prince caressed her in the most tender manner, and

told her the result of his journey. The White Cat redoubled her efforts, to render the prince more happy, if possible, than before. He wished for nothing, but the hands brought it to him; and the second year rolled away so fast, that the prince would again have forgotten his orders, had not the White Cat refreshed his memory. "But make yourself perfectly easy concerning the web," said she, "for I have one wonderfully fine. Take this walnut; be sure to crack it in your father's presence, and you will find in it such a web as you want."

The prince thanked her in the most grateful manner; and was presently carried by the wooden horse to his father's palace, where his brothers had got before him, and pulled out their webs, which were exceedingly fine, and would go through the eye of a large needle, but could not be made to pass through the eye of a small one. The king was going to avail himself of this pretext, when the youngest prince unexpectedly entered, and produced a walnut, which he cracked. Finding only a ker-

nel of wax, the king and all present ridiculed him for thinking to find a web of cloth in a nut. However, he broke the kernel, and saw in it a corn of wheat, and in that a grain of millet : he then opened the millet-seed, and, to the utter astonishment of all beholders, drew out a web of cloth four hundred yards long. The needle was brought, and the web was passed through the eye of it five or six times, with the greatest ease.

The king heaved a deep sigh, and turning towards his sons, said, " I am desirous, my children, of putting you to a new trial : go for another year ; and he that brings me the most beautiful damsel, shall marry her, and be crowned king ; and I swear most solemnly, that I will require no other proof of your filial affection and discretion."

Our obedient prince heard this command without a murmur ; and, remounting his courser, hastened to his dear White Cat, who, knowing the moment of his return, was prepared to receive him in a chamber covered all over with gold.

" Prince," said she, " the king, I find, has refused you the crown ; however, I hope you

will take care to deserve it, and then I will provide you with a beautiful damsel who will gain the prize."

The prince grew more and more fond of his kind hostess; and in her abode enjoyed every magnificent entertainment that fancy could invent. When the third year was nearly expired, the White Cat thus addressed him: "If you are sensible of the favours I have conferred upon you, now is the time to make me amends. Do not hesitate, but cut off my head and tail, and throw them into the fire." Tears started from the prince's eyes at this request, and he was going several times to refuse; but the White Cat insisted upon it so earnestly, that at last, with a trembling hand, he chopped off her head and tail, and threw them, according to order, into the fire. In an instant, the body of the White Cat was changed into the most beautiful lady that ever was seen, and immediately a great number of gentlemen and ladies, holding their cat-skins over their shoulders, came and fell

prostrate at her feet, crying, "Long live our gracious queen! how great is our joy to see her once more in her natural shape!" The prince was rejoiced beyond description to behold so charming a creature, but could not help expressing an earnest desire to know the cause of this surprising transformation. "Restrain your curiosity," said the lovely queen, "till we arrive at your father's court, where I am now ready to accompany you, and where I will relate my unheard-of misfortunes. Come; see, the carriage waits." So saying, she gave her hand to the prince, who led her into a chariot, the inside of which was fine velvet set with brilliants, the outside gold; and the harness of the horses sparkled with emeralds.

Away they flew, and were presently at the gates of the king's palace, where the two eldest princes were already arrived with their two princesses, in fine coaches, painted blue, and embossed with gold. The courtiers crowded to present these three illustrious couples to the

king. The two eldest princes, with their ladies, advanced first, and were received very graciously by the monarch, who declared they had brought him two such beauties, that he knew not to which of them he should give the preference; but the moment the youngest approached with his queen, both full of grace and dignity, the king cried out in ecstasy, "This is the incomparable beauty, whose worth and excellence claim and deserve my crown!"

"I came not to rob you of your crown," answered the discreet queen; "I was born heiress to six kingdoms. Give me leave to present one of them to you, and one to each of your sons; for which I ask no other return than this amiable prince in marriage."

The king and all the court were struck with joy at this declaration; and the nuptials were celebrated that same day with great magnificence. Never were man and wife more happy; and the young prince, to the last moment of his life, blessed the accident that led him to the

abode of the sweet White Cat. The lovely bride embraced the first opportunity of gratifying her husband's curiosity with a recital of her surprising adventures, which the reader will find in the following tale.

ADVENTURES OF THE PRINCESS FRUTILLA,
AS RELATED BY HERSELF.

My father was king of six kingdoms, and loved my mother so tenderly, as readily to grant whatever she desired. A little while before I was born, my mother was so indiscreet, as to venture close to a garden belonging to some powerful fairies, where she saw and longed for some delicious fruit that grew against a high wall. Finding it impossible to reach it, she fell into the utmost despair; when a little ugly old woman appeared, and thus accosted her:

“Your majesty shall eat as much fruit as you please, provided you will make my sisters and me one present.”

“ I will give you my kingdoms,” replied the longing queen, “ rather than not taste your fruit.”

“ You must give us your daughter,” said the fairy, “ as soon as she is born, and you must never see her again till after she is married.”

“ It is a hard condition,” rejoined the queen ; “ but I find I must accept it.”

The fairy then touched my mother with her wand, who immediately found herself able to get at the fruit, of which she devoured vast quantities ; and when she had eaten as much as she could, the fairy gave her some baskets full to carry home. After some time I was born, and the queen began to be very melancholy at the promise she had made to the fairies. The king was much concerned, and pressed my mother to declare the cause of her sorrow, and with much difficulty she was prevailed upon to reveal the fatal secret ; at which my father was so enraged, that he loaded her with reproaches. The unhappy queen, unable to bear her husband's

anger, and the reflection of her own imprudence, soon after died with grief. The fairies, to whom I was promised, sent to demand me of my father; and on his refusal, let loose a terrible dragon, that poisoned all the places wherever he came, devoured men, women, and children, and killed all the trees with his pestilential breath. The king, finding himself reduced to extremity, and overpowered by the advice of his counsellors, consented to deliver me up, on the fairies' promising to take care of me. When I was grown up, they conducted me to a tower that stood by the side of a road, with orders never to look out at any one that passed by; and they gave me a parrot and dog to keep me company. One morning, hearing a noise, I was so frightened as to run to the window, where I perceived a gentleman of most enchanting aspect, who in a sweet voice entreated me to hear a few words, for on my consent to this request his life depended. I was going to reply, when the fairy Violence entered to bring me my breakfast. The first words she

spoke were, "I hear the voice of a man!" Luckily my lover quitted the place as soon as she spoke; and I endeavoured to appease her as well as I could, telling her it was impossible she could hear the voice of a man, for no one would be bold enough to approach that tower. "Well, child," said she, "I am glad to hear you say so; for I intend you shall never speak to any man till you are married to a little king, whom I will bring in a few days to be your husband;" and so saying, she left me. Soon after, my lover came a second time, and presented me with his picture, told me that he was a king's son, and made so many protestations of his affection, that I determined never to marry any other.

The next day he came again; and while we were discoursing together, all on a sudden the windows were broken open, and the fairies entered upon their frightful dragon, followed by Merlin in his fiery chariot. This horrid figure had feet like an eagle, no legs, but a head of monstrous size, and his nose long enough for a

dozen birds to perch upon it. The prince, not at all daunted, clapped his hand to his sword, in order to defend me from this monster; when the barbarous creature set the dragon upon him, which devoured him before my face. In all the horrors of despair, I threw myself into the mouth of this dreadful creature, that he might swallow me as he had done the prince: but the fairies, more cruel than the dragon, would not permit me so quick a death; but instantly touching me with their wand, they changed me into a White Cat, and carried me to the palace which belonged to my father, and turned all the lords and ladies into cats. As for the rest of my servants, they left them only the hands which you saw. Then telling me that my father was dead, they departed, with the assurance that I should never be released from my miserable condition but by a prince exactly resembling my late lover. You, sir, have that resemblance; for you it was reserved to restore me to my former figure, to liberty, and to six king-

doms. These obligations it shall be my study to repay, by a life of fidelity and affection.

THE YELLOW DWARF.

THERE was once a queen, who, though she had been the mother of several children, had buried them all except one daughter, of whom she was excessively fond, humouring and indulging her in all her ways and wishes. This princess was so extremely beautiful, that she was called All-Fair, and twenty kings were, at one time, paying their addresses to her. Her mother, being advanced in years, was anxious to see her married and settled before she died ; but as no entreaties could prevail, she determined to go to the Desert Fairy to ask advice concerning her stubborn daughter.

Now, this fairy being guarded by two fierce lions, the queen made a cake of millet, sugar-candy, and crocodiles' eggs, in order to appease

their fury and pass by them; and having thus provided herself, she set out. After travelling some time, she found herself weary; and lying down under a tree, fell asleep. When she awoke, she heard the roaring of the lions which guarded the fairy, and on looking for her cake, she found it was gone. This threw her into the utmost agony, not knowing how to save herself from being devoured; when, hearing somebody approach, she raised her eyes, and saw a little yellow man in a tree, nalf a yard high, picking and eating oranges.

“Ah! queen,” said the Yellow Dwarf, (for so he was called, on account of his complexion, and the orange-tree he lived in,) “how will you escape the lions? There is but one way; I know what business brought you here, promise me your daughter in marriage, and I will save you.”

The queen, though she could not look upon so frightful a figure without horror, was forced to consent; and having agreed to the terms pro-

posed, she instantly found herself in her own palace, and all that had passed seemed only as a dream ; nevertheless, she was so thoroughly persuaded of the reality of it, that she became melancholy.

The young princess, being unable to learn the cause of her mother's dejection, resolved to go and inquire of the Desert Fairy ; and accordingly, having prepared a cake for the lions, she also set off for her abode. It happened that All-Fair took exactly the same route her mother had done before her ; and coming to the fatal tree, which was loaded with oranges, she felt inclined to pick some ; therefore setting down her basket, in which she carried the cake, she plentifully indulged herself. The lions now began to roar ; when All-Fair looking for her cake, was thrown into the utmost trouble to find it gone ; and as she was lamenting her deplorable situation, the Yellow Dwarf presented himself to her with these words.

“Lovely princess, dry up your tears, and hear

what I am going to say. You need not proceed to the Desert Fairy, to know the reason of your mother's indisposition ; she is ungenerous enough to repent having promised you, her lovely daughter, to me in marriage."

"How !" interrupted the princess ; "my mother promised me to you in marriage ! *you*, such a fright as *you* !"

"None of your scoffs," returned the Yellow Dwarf ; "I wish you not to rouse up my anger. If you will promise to marry me, I will be the tenderest and most loving husband in the world ; if not—save yourself from the lions if you can."

The princess felt the full force of this shock, and was compelled to give her word that she would have the Dwarf ; but such was the agony of her mind, that she fell into a swoon, and, when she recovered, she found herself in her own bed, finely adorned with ribands, with a ring of a single red hair, so fastened round her finger that it could not be got off.

This adventure had the same effect upon All-

Fair, as the former had upon her mother. She grew melancholy ; which was remarked and wondered at by the whole court. The best way to divert her, they thought, would be to urge her to marry ; which the princess, who was now become less obstinate on that point than formerly, consented to ; and, thinking that such a pigmy as the Yellow Dwarf would not dare to contend with so gallant a person as the King of the Golden Mines, she fixed upon that prince for her husband, who was exceeding rich and powerful, and loved her to distraction. The most superb preparations were made for the nuptials, and the happy day was fixed ; when, as they were proceeding to the ceremony, they saw moving towards them, a box, upon which sat an old woman, remarkable for her ugliness.

“ Hold, queen and princess,” cried she, knitting her brows ; “ remember the promises you have both made to my friend the Yellow Dwarf. I am the Desert Fairy ; and unless All-Fair con-

sent to marry him, I solemnly swear I will burn my crutch."

The queen and princess were struck almost motionless by this unexpected address of the fairy; but the Prince of the Golden Mines was exceeding angry, and holding his sword to her throat, he said, "Fly, wretch! or thy malice shall cost thee thy life."

No sooner had he uttered these words, than the top of the box flying off, out came the Yellow Dwarf, mounted upon a large Spanish cat, who, placing himself between the king and the fairy, exclaimed, "Rash youth! thy rage shall be levelled at me, not at the Desert Fairy; I am thy rival, and claim her by promise, and a single hair round her finger."

This so enraged the king, that he cried out, "Contemtable creature! wert thou worthy of notice, I would sacrifice thee for thy presumption." The Yellow Dwarf, clapping spurs to his cat, and drawing a cutlass, now defied the

king to combat; and down they went into the court-yard. The sun was immediately turned as red as blood, the air became dark, it thundered heavily, and the flashes of lightning discovered two giants vomiting fire on each side of the Yellow Dwarf.

The king behaved with such undaunted courage, as to give the Dwarf great trouble; but he was dismayed when he saw the Desert Fairy, mounted on a winged griffin, and with her head covered with snakes, strike the princess so hard with a lance, that she fell into the queen's arms, covered with blood. He immediately left the combat, to go to her relief, but the Dwarf was too quick for him; and flying on his Spanish cat to the balcony where she was, he took her from her mother's arms, leaped with her upon the top of the palace, and immediately disappeared.

As the king stood confused and astonished at this strange adventure, he suddenly found a mist before his eyes, and felt himself lifted up in the air

by some extraordinary power ; for the Desert Fairy had fallen in love with him. To secure him for herself, therefore, she carried him to a frightful cavern, hoping he would there forget All-Fair, and tried many artifices to complete her designs. But finding this scheme ineffectual, she resolved to carry him to a place altogether as pleasant as the other was terrible ; and accordingly placed him by herself in a chariot drawn by swans. In passing through the air he was unspeakably surprised to see his beloved princess in a castle of polished steel, leaning her head on one hand, and wiping away her tears with the other. She happened to look up, and had the mortification to see the king sitting by the fairy ; who then, by her art, made herself appear extremely beautiful. Had not the king been sensible of the fairy's power, he would certainly then have tried to free himself from her, by some means or other ; but he knew it would be in vain, and therefore pretended to have a liking for her. At last they came to a stately palace,

fenced on one side by walls of emeralds, and on the other by a boisterous sea.

The king, by pretending an attachment to the fairy, obtained the liberty to walk by himself on the shore ; and, as he was one day invoking the powers of the sea, he heard a voice, and presently after was surprised with the appearance of a mermaid, which coming up with a pleasing smile, spoke to this effect :

“ O King of the Golden Mines, I well know all that has passed in regard to you and the fair princess. Do not suspect this to be a contrivance of the fairy to try you, for I am an inveterate enemy both to her and the Yellow Dwarf ; therefore, if you will place confidence in me, I will lend you my assistance to procure the release, not only of yourself, but of All-Fair also.”

The overjoyed king promised to do whatever the mermaid should direct, and seating himself, by her desire, upon her fish's tail, they sailed away in a rolling sea.

When they had sailed some time, "Now," said the mermaid to the king, "we draw near to the place where your princess is kept by the Yellow Dwarf. You will have many enemies to fight before you can come to her; take, therefore, this sword, with which you may overcome everything, provided you never let it go out of your hand." The king returned her all the thanks that the most grateful heart could suggest; and the mermaid landed and took leave of him, promising him farther assistance when necessary.

The king boldly advanced, and, meeting with two terrible sphinxes, laid them dead at his feet with the sword. Next he attacked six dragons that opposed him, and dispatched them also. Then he met with four-and-twenty nymphs, with garlands of flowers, at the sight of whom he stopped, being unwilling to destroy so much beauty; when he heard a voice say, "Strike! strike! or you lose your princess for ever!" He now threw himself into the midst of the

nymphs, and soon dispersed them, and he soon came in view of All-Fair, when he exclaimed, "O my princess, behold your faithful lover!"

"*Faithful* lover!" she exclaimed, drawing herself back: "Did I not see you passing through the air with a beautiful nymph? Were you faithful then?"

"Yes," replied the king, "I was. That was the detested Desert Fairy, who was carrying me to a place where I must have languished out all my days, had it not been for a kind mermaid, by whose assistance it is that I am now come to release you." So, having uttered these words, he threw himself at her feet; but, catching hold of her gown, he unfortunately let go the magic sword; which the Yellow Dwarf no sooner discovered, than, leaping from behind a shrub, where he had been concealed, he ran and seized it. By two cabalistical words he then conjured up a couple of giants, who laid the king in irons.

"Now," said the Dwarf, "my rival's fate is in my own hands; however, if he will consent to my marriage, he shall have his life and liberty."

“ No,” said the king, “ I scorn thy favour on such terms.” The Dwarf was so exasperated by this reply, that he instantly stabbed the king to the heart. The disconsolate princess, aggravated to the last degree at such barbarity, thus vented her grief: “ Thou hideous creature! since entreaties could not avail thee, perhaps thou now reliest upon force; but thou shalt be disappointed, and thy brutal soul shall know perpetual mortification from the moment I tell thee that I die for the love I have for the King of the Golden Mines!” and so saying, she sunk down upon his body, and expired without a sigh.

Thus ended the fate of these two faithful lovers, which the mermaid very much regretted; but as all her power lay in the sword, she could only change them into two palm-trees, which, preserving a constant and mutual affection for each other, fondly unite their branches together.

THE PIGEON AND DOVE.

THE queen of the country of Deserts, having lost the king her husband, and finding herself to draw nigh her end, earnestly entreated her old friend the Sovereign Fairy to take under her care the only child which fate had left her; a princess of incomparable beauty, and the darling of her heart. The fairy undertook the charge; and the queen, after most tenderly embracing Constantia, which was her daughter's name, expired in peace.

Upon consulting her books, the Sovereign Fairy foresaw that great misfortunes would happen to the princess, if she happened to be seen by a certain giant before she was sixteen years of age; and therefore carried her to a solitary place, at a great distance, where she thought it most likely that her fair charge might remain completely concealed. The fairy informed Constantia of the reason for bringing her to this retirement, and ordered her never to stray from

home, which injunction she very cheerfully promised to comply with.

To amuse herself whilst in this retreat, the princess had bred up a ram, named Ruson, which ate out of her hand and played a thousand pretty tricks, so that she became extravagantly fond of it. With this companion she remained, for a considerable time, in perfect security; but one day, hearing her favourite ram make the most pitiable bleatings, she ran out to see what was the matter; and had the mortification to see a wolf running off with poor Ruson. Forgetting the fairy's order, she pursued him, crying out, A wolf! a wolf! and throwing stones at him; till at last, passing by a grove, out started a giant, who immediately laid hands on her, exclaiming, "Long have I sought for a goddess, to marry her, and now I have found one!" The terrified Constantia making no reply, he put her into a large sack, where she met with the wolf and Ruson, a dog, a parrot, and a cat.

It happened that the giant was obliged to go and fight a duel with another giant, and the princess was unwilling to lose this opportunity of escaping; so taking out her scissors, she cut the bag, and let out all but the wolf. These creatures were very sensible of the obligations they lay under to the princess for their deliverance, and rendered her all the service in their power; for, it being night-time, the cat's glaring eyes served as a light, the dog acted as a sentinel, the crowing of the cock kept off the lions, and the parrot, by talking as much as twenty people, prevented their being attacked by thieves. When morning came, Constantia found herself by a river's side, but suddenly deserted by all her attendants, except Ruson.

Here, after reflecting upon her unfortunate situation, she laid herself down to rest; but she had not slept long before Ruson awoke her by his bleatings; and, looking round, she beheld, behind some bushes, a youth uncommonly handsome, and very magnificently dressed. Though

this stranger was a prince, yet he was so struck with Constantia's beauty, that he could not forbear speaking to her; and, as she seemed full of anxiety, desired to know if he could render her any service. She thanked him, and expressed her wish to take the charge of a flock of sheep. This he promised to procure from the queen his mother; but the discovery of his rank greatly confused the princess.

Constantio (for this was the prince's name) obtained the care of a flock for Constantia, and became so passionately fond of her, that he was continually going to see her, under pretence of visiting the flock.

Constantia had conceived an equal affection for the prince; but this she dissembled, and, notwithstanding his constant protestations of the sincerity of his love, she could not be prevailed upon to promise him any return. This threw him into such grief that he was seized with a fever, which, in spite of all his physicians, brought him almost to the grave. Constantia

was conscious of being the cause of his illness, and, after some time, informed one of his attendants that she knew of a preparation of simples that would cure him. Accordingly, she was introduced to the palace; and taking a few herbs in her hand, was conducted to the prince's apartment. No sooner had she entered the room than he found himself relieved, not from any effect of the herbs, but from the sight of his charming shepherdess, whose kindness he began to hope for, as she had invented such a pretence for coming to see him; and not finding himself deceived in this hope, he grew better every hour, and quickly recovered.

Constantia was then introduced to the king and queen, the former of whom received her very kindly; but the queen was so struck with her appearance, that she could not help uttering a violent shriek; recollecting herself, however, she thanked her for the cure of her son, and, by way of recompense, appointed her to take care of the flowers in her garden.

The queen had dreamed that the prince her son was married to a shepherdess, whose person exactly corresponded with that of Constantia ; and this was the reason of her shrieking out so violently at the sight of her. In consequence of this dream, she determined to watch them both narrowly, to see whether she could discover any fondness between them. A short observation convinced her that the prince was passionately attached to Constantia, and she to him. She therefore resolved to break off their acquaintance, if possible, by a separation. With this view she told the prince he must go to the court of a neighbouring king, there to contract a friendship with his daughter, in order to marry her ; with which the prince, after many excuses, promised to comply. Full of sorrow at this unexpected resolution of his mother, he hastened to acquaint his dear Constantia with it, who was almost overwhelmed with grief at the news. However, she took the opportunity of acquainting him that she was born a princess ; which

was an inexpressible pleasure to the prince, who assured her he would take care to avoid an engagement with the princess designed for him by his mother; and both thinking it best to obey the queen's order, they parted, after vowing the most constant fidelity towards each other.

The queen, not content with having sent her son to another court, tried several stratagems to take Constantia off, but in vain. Exasperated at her disappointment, she resolved to send the princess on board some ship bound for foreign parts; and accordingly sold her as a slave to the master of a vessel that was then just going to set sail. Our heroine was exceedingly terrified at this proceeding, but could make no resistance, and was hurried on board by three ruffians.

The prince Constantio's behaviour (as had been agreed on) was rather disgusting than otherwise at the court where he was sent; and the queen, pretending by a letter to him, that

Constantia was at the point of death, he set off in great agony of mind to return home, without taking any leave. When he arrived, the first thing he heard was that Constantia was dead and buried ; which threw him into such despair, that he shut himself up in his room, and would neither see nor speak to any body. At last he resolved to go to her grave ; where, having spent some time in uttering every exclamation of distress, he drew his sword, and was going to fall on its point, when the queen, who had accompanied him, interposed ; and, in order to make him desist, was obliged to confess the vile deed she had been guilty of, in having sold Constantia and sent her abroad.

The prince was thunderstruck at this intelligence, and loaded his mother with a thousand reproaches. But as he found his beloved princess was not dead, he resolved to go in quest of her, and actually embarked on board a vessel the next day. He left no means untried to discover the object of his pursuit ; for he even made

every shore which he approached resound with the name of Constantia. One night, the ship coming to an anchor behind a large rock, he landed, and perceiving a great light, made up to it, which proved to be a vast forge where thirty cyclops were making arms. Presently he heard a most delightful symphony of music; and, looking towards a furnace that was in the forge, he saw a beautiful child coming out of it, whom he soon knew to be Cupid, and who accosted him in these words:—"The Sovereign Fairy and myself have engaged to protect Constantia, whom you seek; but before we inform you where she is, you must give some proof of the sincerity and purity of your affection, by casting yourself into this furnace. If you love faithfully, you will be saved; but if not, you will be lost." "Be it so," rejoined Constantio; and immediately threw himself into the furnace; where having lost all sense for thirty hours, he at last seemed to awake as from sleep, and found himself changed into a beautiful pigeon, and re-

posing on a bed of roses. Nothing could equal his surprise at this transformation ; but he had lost the use of his speech, and this made him so disconsolate, that he determined to put an end to his life, since he could no longer inquire for Constantia. With this intent, he cast himself off from a high rock, but was kept up by his plumage. He therefore plucked out most of his feathers, and was going to make a second attempt, when he was surprised and caught by two young damsels who belonged to the Sovereign Fairy, to whom they carried him. As soon as she saw him, she knew who he was ; and touched with compassion, spoke to him to the following purport. “ Prince, I love you for the sake of my Constantia, of whom I will now give you some account. The ship on board which your cruel mother had embarked your love, was bound for the Indies ; but being overtaken by a storm, was forced to make for the first haven that could be got to. It happened to be in the territories of a giant who had formerly fallen in

love with her, and from whom she had escaped. He saw and instantly carried her to a high tower, where he has kept her a prisoner ever since. ‘Twelve months,’ said he, ‘I will allow you for consideration, and, if you will not then marry me, I will compel you.’ There is only one day of these twelve months to come; and the only way to save the princess is for you to fly to her with this little ring, which, being put on her finger, will change her into a dove; and then you may fly away together.”

The overjoyed prince bowed his head three times in token of thanks; and the fairy having placed the ring in his mouth, and rubbed him with an essence that instantly replumed him with feathers, away he flew to the place where Constantia was confined. He soon saw her come into the garden, bewailing her unhappy fate, which she resolved to put an end to by her death, rather than comply with the giant’s desires. The prince flew upon her shoulder, and

put the ring in her bosom, at which she was extremely surprised, especially when she observed some mysterious characters on it. At this moment the giant had come into the garden to learn her last resolution; when the princess, trembling at his approach, had the good luck to slip the ring on her finger, and, as the fairy had foretold, being immediately changed into a dove, she flew away with her faithful pigeon, to the inexpressible confusion of the monster whom she so much dreaded.

After flying a considerable distance they alighted in a shady wood; and the prince suddenly finding his tongue loosed, exclaimed, "See, my beloved Constantia, see your devoted prince that has suffered so many anxieties on your account; bless him with your affection, since by the powerful assistance of the good Sovereign Fairy he has at length recovered you." "Ah!" replied the princess, "am I then so happy as once more to be with you?—you! for whom only I

have wished to live?—Oh, let us hasten to the fairy with hearts full of gratitude for this never-to-be-forgotten favour.”

These words were no sooner uttered than the Sovereign Fairy and Cupid appeared before them, to congratulate them on their deliverance from all dangers; and the fairy, in particular, promised always to be their friend, and offered to restore them to their former shapes. They thanked her, but declined her offer, saying, that having made too much trial of the misfortunes attending human life, they did not wish to return into it; and that, being now free from the cares of crowned heads, they could spend their days free from ambition, and live for each other, the one a pigeon, the other a dove, in peaceful enjoyment of all the pleasures springing from a constant and virtuous love. The fairy approved of their choice; and having, by a stroke with her wand, adorned the wood with every delight, she and Cupid kindly bade them farewell. And ever since that time, the Pigeon and Dove have

been represented as appropriate emblems of love and constancy.

MIRANDA AND THE ROYAL RAM.

ONCE upon a time there lived a king, who had three beautiful daughters, the youngest of whom, named Miranda, was the most amiable, and the favourite of her father.

The king being a very superstitious person, and one who had great faith in dreams, desired his daughters, one evening, to tell him what they had dreamed on the preceding night. The eldest said she dreamed that he gave her a gown, the gold and jewels of which were brighter than the sun; the second said, she dreamed that he bought her a golden spinning-wheel and distaff, for her to spin herself some linen; and the youngest said her dream was, that he had given her second sister in marriage, and on the wedding day had held a golden basin, and said, "Come, Miranda, come and wash."

The king was so much disturbed by this last dream, that he went immediately and threw himself on his bed, tormented with the thought that it foreboded the loss of his crown. Nay he wrought himself up to such a pitch with this suspicion, that cruelty took place of affection, and he determined to have his once darling daughter dispatched out of the way. For this purpose he commanded the captain of his guards to carry her into the forest, and kill her ; and, that he might be sure of its being done, he ordered the officer to bring her heart and tongue to the palace, threatening him with the most cruel death in case of disobedience to this injunction.

The captain, with much sorrow, went at an early hour to the princess's apartment, telling her the king had sent him for her. She arose immediately and followed him, accompanied by a little Moor, called Patypata, who held up her train ; also by a young ape, named Grabugeon, and a little dog called Tintin ; which ran by her side.

Not finding the king in the garden, where the captain said he was taking the fresh air, he pretended he had gone into the forest, and said they must follow him thither. But as they were passing on, and the sun arose, the princess observed that her conductor was weeping; and with the utmost sweetness asked him the cause of his being so afflicted.

“Alas, madam!” he exclaimed, “how can I be otherwise? The king has ordered me to kill you, and to carry him your heart and tongue, upon pain of being put to a cruel death myself.”

The innocent princess turned pale at this intelligence, and said, fixing her eyes on the captain, “Are you hard-hearted enough to kill me, who never did you an injury in my life, but always spoke to the king in your favour?”

“Fear not, fair princess,” rejoined the officer; “I will sooner suffer the death I am threatened with than be guilty of so barbarous an action. But cannot we find out some way to persuade the king you are dead?”

“What way can we find out,” inquired Miranda, “since he will not be satisfied unless he see my tongue and heart?”

At these words the little Moor, who was affectionately attached to the princess, came and threw herself at Miranda’s feet, saying, “Dear madam, let me be the sacrifice; I shall be but too happy in dying to preserve so good a mistress.”

“No,” said the princess, kissing her; “your life ought now to be as dear to me as my own.”

Her young ape, Grabugeon, next advanced, and said, “Truly, my princess, your slave Patypata may be more serviceable to you than I can; therefore I offer you my heart and tongue with cheerfulness.”

“Oh my pretty Grabugeon,” returned Miranda, “I cannot bear the thought of taking your life away.”

Her faithful little dog Tintin then cried out, that he could not bear the thought of any one but himself dying for his beloved mistress.

In short, after a long dispute between Patypata, Grabugeon, and Tintin, which of them should suffer death instead of the princess, Grabugeon nimbly climbed up to the top of a tree, and throwing himself down, broke his neck. The captain of the guard, with much persuasion, got leave of the princess to cut out his tongue; but it proved too small to venture to cheat the king with.

“Alas! my poor little ape,” said the princess; “thou hast lost thy life without doing me any service!”

“That honour,” interrupted the Moor, “is reserved for me;” and instantly cut her throat with the knife which had taken out Grabugeon’s tongue. But here the intended service failed again, as the poor Moor’s tongue was too black to pass for Miranda’s. The princess bursting into bitter lamentation for the loss of the Moor and the ape, her little dog Tintin exclaimed, “If you had accepted of my offer, there would have been none to regret but myself, and real

service had been done you." Miranda, however, was by this time completely overpowered with grief, that she fainted away; and when she came to herself, she found the captain gone, and the little dog lying dead by the side of the ape and the Moor.

Having buried her three favourites in a hole under a tree, she began to think of her own safety; and, as the forest was not far from her father's court, she travelled for fear of being discovered, till she was almost ready to expire with weariness. At last, hearing the bleating of sheep, she supposed she drew near some shepherds with their flocks, and exerted all her strength to reach the place, in hopes of finding some relief. But how great was her surprise when she came to a spacious plain, to see a large Ram, as white as snow, with gilded horns, a garland of flowers about his neck, and his legs adorned with bracelets of pearl, of a prodigious size, lying on orange flowers, and shaded from the heat of the sun by a pavilion of cloth

of gold ! A hundred sheep, richly adorned, were in waiting about him ; some regaling themselves with the choicest herbage, while others diverted themselves with play. Miranda became motionless with astonishment, and looked about for the shepherd of so extraordinary a flock ; when the beautiful Ram, bounding and skipping, came up and said, “ Approach, lovely princess, and be not afraid of such gentle pacific creatures as we are.”

“ What ! ” exclaimed the princess, stepping back, “ is it possible that sheep can speak ? ”

“ Alas ! madam,” resumed the Ram, “ your ape and dog spoke by gift of a fairy ; and why may not the same happen to sheep ? Be not surprised, therefore ; but tell me, my princess, what has brought you hither ? ”

“ A thousand misfortunes,” answered Miranda ; “ I seek shelter from the rage of a cruel father.”

“ Come, then, with me, madam,” rejoined the Ram, “ and I will conduct you to a place where

you shall be secure from discovery, and be absolute mistress."

The Ram then ordered his chariot, which proved to be a gourd-shell, large enough to hold two persons with ease, and lined with velvet, which was drawn by six goats. The princess placed herself in it, admiring the novelty of such an equipage; and the Ram got in after her, and drove to a cavern's mouth, which, though stopped by a large stone, opened on the Ram's touching it with his foot.

Miranda, having descended a very numerous flight of steps, was exceedingly surprised to behold a vast plain enamelled with flowers, in the midst of which were fountains of wine and other exquisite liquors, forming cascades and pleasant purling brooks. Here and there clumps of trees formed an habitation for a variety of choice birds and fowls; and in other parts the air was darkened with showers of biscuits, tarts, cheesecakes, and all manner of sweetmeats; in short, there was

every necessary of life, besides great plenty of gold and silver coin, pearls, and diamonds.

The princely Ram told Miranda that he had reigned here several years, and had sufficient cause for grief; but that he refrained, being unwilling to renew her misfortunes. To which the princess courteously replied, that she could not sufficiently express her acknowledgment of the kindness of his treatment; but every thing seeming uncommonly strange to her, she should be glad to hear some particulars of his history. The gentle Ram, after endeavouring to remove every uneasiness that remained in the mind of Miranda, complied, and related as follows:—

“ Born and educated as a prince, I came into the possession of one of the most beautiful kingdoms in the world, and was beloved by my subjects and revered by foreigners. Being extremely fond of hunting, as I was one day pursuing a stag, he took to a pond, into which I very imprudently plunged my horse after him. Instead

of finding the water cold, I found it extraordinarily hot ; and the pond becoming dry all of a sudden, there issued out of a cliff a terrible fire, and I fell to the bottom from off a precipice, where I could see nothing but flames. At the same time I heard a voice exclaim, ‘ They must be fiercer flames that warm thy heart, ungrateful man !’

“ ‘ Alas !’ cried I, ‘ who complains of my coldness ?’

“ ‘ An unfortunate wretch,’ returned the voice, ‘ who adores you without hope.’

“ The fire then disappeared, and I saw a frightful fairy, whom I had known from my youth. ‘ What !’ cried I, ‘ Ragotte, was all this done by your orders ?’

“ ‘ By whose orders else, do you think ?’ said she : ‘ have you never known my sentiments till now ? Consider how low I stoop, and remember it is a fairy who addresses you.’

“ ‘ But what do you ask ?’ enquired I ; ‘ is it my crown, my cities, or my treasure ?’

“ ‘Neither,’ answered she, somewhat disdainfully; ‘but I ask your heart. Ah! grant me your affection, let me be your beloved Ragotte, and,’ added she, contracting her mouth to look the more agreeable, and rolling her eyes about, ‘I will give you twenty kingdoms beside your own, a hundred towers of gold, five hundred filled with silver, and every thing else you can possibly desire.’

“ In this dilemma I knew not how to act, but resolved to dissemble, and, pretending a regard for her, begged she would restore me to liberty, when I would endeavour to please her. But this gave her such offence that she called me a traitor, and very angrily told me I should stay and keep her sheep. She afterwards brought me into this plain, and showed me her flock; but all my regard was taken up by a young slave of incomparable beauty, who was loaded with chains of gold. My eyes betrayed me; which the cruel Ragotte observing, flew upon the unfortunate female and deprived her of life, by stab-

bing her in the eye with a bodkin. At this shocking sight I clapped my hand upon my sword, and was going to make an instant sacrifice of Ragotte; when by her wicked arts, she rendered me motionless, and with an ironical smile said, ‘I will make you feel my power: you are at present as a lion, but shall, ere long, become a sheep, and continue so for five years. Then touching me with her wand, I became such as you now see me, retaining my speech; and she presently disappeared. The sheep she spoke of acknowledged me for their king, and I comfort them under their several misfortunes, which are in some respects like my own.’

Miranda was so forcibly struck with the remarkable history of the Ram, that she could not tell what reply to make; however, paying him some civilities, she congratulated him upon the prospect of soon recovering his former shape and liberty. Indeed, the royal Ram, who was passionately in love with Miranda, had made such an impression upon her mind by his wit and

delicacy, that she began to feel a tender regard for him, especially when she considered that he was a king who would soon be restored to his throne. Thus the princess passed many days in sweet anticipation of a more happy fate, while the Ram, who completely idolized her, made a variety of entertainments, and did every thing in his power to divert her.

It is natural to suppose that the royal Ram was very fond of news, the best of which was constantly brought him by his courtiers. One evening they informed him that the eldest sister of the princess Miranda was going to marry a great prince, and that great preparations were making for the nuptials. Miranda was so vexed at the thought of not being present at so splendid an event, that she could not forbear dropping some expressions of regret, which so affected the royal Ram, that he cried out in great anxiety, "Madam, why do you complain? you shall have my consent to go to your sister's wedding, if you will but promise me to come

back again ; yet I cannot endure to live without you." The princess faithfully gave her word that nothing should prevent her return ; and accordingly she set off in a chariot of mother-of-pearl, drawn by six creatures that were half griffins, and attended by a very numerous train of officers.

With this equipage, Miranda arrived at her father's court just as the marriage ceremony was beginning, when the lustre of her beauty and jewels surprised the whole assembly. She observed the king to look at her with particular attention, which made her fearful of his knowing and ordering her to be stopped ; and, therefore, remembering her promise to the Ram, who had so kindly treated her, she suddenly stole away before the ceremony was over, in order to repair to him. The king being very desirous to know who she was, appeared quite disappointed when he found she was gone, and ordered his officers, the next time she came to court, to shut the doors and detain her.

The royal Ram waited with the utmost impa-

tience for the return of his beloved Miranda; and as soon as he saw her, he ran towards her, skipping and bounding, casting himself at her feet, and licking her hands: in short, he gave so many tokens of the most passionate fondness for her, that the princess was completely charmed with him.

It happened, some time afterwards, that the king married his second daughter, and Miranda begged leave to go again. This request touched the royal Ram to the heart, for he had a foreboding that she would never return; however, to shew his unfeigned desire of doing every thing to please the princess, he said, “ My beloved lady! I consent to your going, though some secret feeling intimates to me that you will never return; but if you do not, you shall see your royal Ram expire at your feet; since he never can make you a greater sacrifice!” Miranda assured him she would be as punctual in coming back as she had been before, and set off again for her father’s court with the same equipage.

As soon as she entered, there was a general shout, and the king immediately gave orders to have the doors shut. When the ceremony was over, the princess thought to have retired as before, but she found the doors closed; and the king, coming up, entreated her to stay and honour his court with her presence. He then led her into a very fine hall, and held a golden basin full of water for her to wash her hands in. Miranda immediately threw herself at his feet, saying, "See, sire, my dream is fulfilled; you hold a golden basin, and bid me come and wash at my second sister's wedding."

The king immediately recollected the features of Miranda, and shedding tears, cried out, "O my dear daughter! forgive the cruelty of a father who would have deprived you of life, because he thought your dream denoted the loss of his crown; but it shall still be so; both your sisters have crowns, and mine shall be yours; and with that he put his crown on the princess's head,

exclaiming, “ Long life and happiness to the queen Miranda.”

Time now passed rapidly with the princess, whilst the royal Ram waited with the most anxious eagerness for her return, but in vain. At last, having lost all patience, he resolved to venture to the court, where he asked admittance to the princess Miranda, but was scornfully refused by the soldiers who kept the gates. Thus disappointed, his grief vented itself in deep sighs, and lamenting his hard lot, he stretched himself upon the ground, and died; after stating, with his last breath, that Miranda’s cruelty had broken his heart!

The next day it was proposed, after dinner, that the princess should ride in her chariot through all the streets of the city, in order to show herself to the people;—but, alas! she had no sooner passed out of the gates, than she cast her eyes on the Ram, who had so lately expired for her sake. She was instantly seized with re-

morse for having neglected him, jumped from her chariot, kissed and bathed him with her tears, and, in short, was so overwhelmed with grief that she fell into a succession of fainting-fits, and soon met with the same fate as her disconsolate lover.

THE STORY OF FORTUNIO.

A CERTAIN king, who had been deprived of the greatest part of his dominions by an unjust and oppressive emperor, published an ordinance, requiring all gentlemen, who were his subjects, either to come and serve him in their own persons, or to send somebody in their room, well mounted and armed. This order proved very perplexing to an aged nobleman, who, from a state of grandeur, had, by ill fortune, been reduced almost to poverty; for he could neither go himself, on account of his infirmities, nor could he afford to hire a person to go for him. He had three fine daughters, who did every thing

in their power to comfort him; and in this dilemma the eldest offered to assume a military dress, and go to the army. The father opposed it at first; but, not knowing what else to do, he was afterwards forced to consent. The best clothes and horse their circumstances would allow were accordingly bought, and she set out.

After travelling several hours, she met with a shepherdess, who was endeavouring to pull a sheep out of a ditch.

“What are you doing there, shepherdess?” she inquired.

“Alas!” answered the shepherdess, “I am striving to save a sheep that is almost drowned; but I am so weak, I cannot draw her out.”

“I pity you,” replied the nobleman’s daughter; but, without offering any assistance, rode away: whereupon the shepherdess called out, “Good-b’ye, disguised fair!” This put our heroine into such surprise, that, thinking she should certainly be discovered, she resolved to return home.

When she got home, and told what had happened, the second daughter offered her service, and accordingly set out; but meeting with the shepherdess, and the same having passed between them as we have related in the account of her sister, she also turned back and went home.

The youngest, who was of a much better disposition than the others, now proposed to try her luck; and, after many arguments, persuaded her father to let her go. She soon came to the place where the shepherdess was pulling out her sheep, and asked her what she was doing. "I have been ever since daybreak," said she, "trying to get this sheep out, but in vain; and nobody will help me."

"Indeed, that is very hard," replied our young warrior; let me try;" and with that, jumping off her horse into the ditch, she worked till she got the sheep out.

"Now, charming maid," said the shepherdess, "since you have so much good nature, I will

henceforth be your friend. I am a fairy, and know who you are, and where you are going; and I will provide you with a horse and clothes, for those you now have are not worthy of you."

The fairy then struck the ground, and immediately there appeared a most beautiful horse, covered with the finest trappings that ever were seen.

"Superb as this horse is," resumed the fairy, "you must least value him on that account; for he is chiefly to be esteemed for the wonderful qualities with which he is endowed: he eats but once in eight days, and knows what is present, past, and to come; so that you must look upon him as a friend rather than a horse, and consult him whenever you are at a loss."

When the fairy had thus spoken, she again struck the ground, and there immediately arose a Turkey leather trunk, containing some dozen suits of the richest apparel, and a vast quantity of money and jewels. "Take what you like at present," said the fairy; "and as often as you

would have more, only stamp with your foot upon the ground, and the trunk shall instantly attend you." Our young warrior expressed her obligation by casting herself at the fairy's feet, who kindly raised her up, and giving her the name of Fortunio, set her upon the horse, which she called Comrade, in order to pursue her journey.

Fortunio (whom we are now to consider as a man) entered into some pleasing reflections upon what had passed, and thought how lucky it was that he had helped the sheep out of the ditch. At last he arrived at a great city, and his splendid appearance attracted the notice of all the people; even the governor offered him an apartment in the castle. Our knight, being willing his father and family should partake of his good fortune, retired to his chamber, and stamping upon the floor, had the pleasure to see an immediate appearance of the trunk. But now he found himself at a loss how to open it, for he had no key; he therefore went to his horse, and

said, "Comrade, pray tell me where I shall find the key of the Turkey leather trunk."—"In my ear," answered the horse; and sure enough there it was, tied to a green riband. The knight then opened the box, and taking out three little chests of diamonds and guineas, sent them by one of the governor's men as presents, one to his father, and one to each of his sisters.

Fortunio, being in haste to obey the king's edict, took leave of the governor the next day, and pursued his journey. As they travelled, they came to a large forest, when Comrade said to the knight, "Master, here lives a man who is gifted by fairies, and you must engage him to go with you." The knight, looking about, perceived a man making up a prodigious load of trees which he had cut down, whom he thus accosted:

"Where are your waggon and horses, good man, to carry that load?"

"Oh, sir," answered Strongback, (for that was his name,) "if I could not carry twice as much as this, I should not get salt to my broth."

“ Say you so ? ” replied the knight ; “ why then, if you will go with me, you shall eat of the best without working half so hard.”

Strongback thought this a good offer, and readily accepted of it.

In like manner, by advice of Comrade, our knight engaged six other gifted men, each one being most astonishing in his own way ; viz. a man named Lightfoot, who was obliged to tie his legs, that he might not run too fast when he hunted stags, hares, &c. ; another man named Marksman, who could see game four leagues off, and who always bound up his eyes when he shot, lest he should kill more than he wanted ; another named Fine-ear, who could even hear the grass grow ; another called Boisterer, who worked windmills by blowing at a vast distance from them ; another named Tippler, who could drink up a lake at a draught ; and another whose name was Grugeon, or great eater, who could devour sixty thousand loaves at one meal.

By the time our young knight had engaged all

these extraordinary men, he arrived at the place where the army was ordered to rendezvous. The elegance of his person, and the grandeur of his appearance, attracted the notice of the king and queen, who professed a great regard for him, and promised to promote him. It must now be remembered, that Fortunio was a lady, and, as such, she received an impression from the king, who was very handsome, and extremely engaging, which she found herself forced to give way to. On the other hand, the queen, who was the king's sister, supposing the knight really to be, as in appearance, a man, conceived an affection for him, which the great difference of their situations was not sufficient to remove; nay, it increased to such a degree, that she even made advances to him, and gave him hints in such plain terms, as left no room for him to doubt of her attachment. But our knight always returned evasive answers, pretending to consider her kindnesses in the light of friendship; till at last the queen, supposing his cold behaviour to proceed from con-

tempt, formed a resolution of being revenged upon him. A proper opportunity, as she thought, soon offered. There was in the king's dominions a terrible dragon, which spread desolation far and wide, and which the king had offered great rewards to have destroyed, but in vain. The queen, therefore, persuaded the king to let Fortunio go against this monster, secretly hoping that he would perish in the undertaking. The king refused for some time, but the queen falsely telling him it was the knight's own desire, he at length consented.

Fortunio, though he saw through the evil design of the queen, cheerfully complied; and going to the horse, said, "Comrade, I have promised to go against a terrible dragon; how must we proceed?"—"Get the king's commission," replied the horse, "set out directly, and we will do our duty."

These words afforded great comfort to our knight, who immediately took leave of the king, and set out, followed by the gifted men he had

hired ; for now was the time to try their services. When they drew near to the place where the dragon frequented, Fortunio consulted his horse what was to be done. “ Sir,” answered the horse, “ let Fine-ear listen whether the dragon be nigh at hand or not.” Fine-ear laid himself upon the ground, and heard the dragon about seven leagues off. Comrade, being informed of this, said, “ Let Tippler drink up all the water out of a large pond, and Strongback carry wine enough to fill it ; and let there be peppered meats and dried raisins set by it ; then order every body to keep within their houses, and see what will happen.” Every thing was done accordingly, and the knight with his attendants went into a house where he could see the pond. In a short time the dragon came, and drank a little ; then ate some of the meat and raisins ; and afterwards drank so much, that he became completely intoxicated. Fortunio, seeing him in this condition, attacked him sword in hand, and having disabled him from resisting, ordered

his servants to bind him, in order to carry him to the capital, that the king might kill him with his own hand. This being done, Fortunio returned in triumph to the king, to whom he now became more dear than ever. The queen, also, pretended to be highly pleased with his success : but this was only to devise some new plot for his destruction with the less suspicion.

Some time afterwards, she informed the king that Fortunio had been soliciting her for permission to go and make the emperor Metapa restore back the treasures he had taken from them, and that without an army. The king at first thought she joked ; but the queen assuring him Fortunio would pine with grief if he were refused, he consented. Fortunio was above exposing this artifice of the queen to the king ; and, as he was willing to die in the service of a prince whom he so much loved, he began to prepare for his journey without a murmur. Going to his horse, he said, “ Faithful Comrade, I believe the queen will be too crafty for us at last ; she has now

plunged us in an expedition in which we have no likelihood of succeeding.”

“Do not be cast down, master,” answered the horse. “Take your people with you; and we will perish, one and all, or be successful.”

They all set out together, and, being well mounted, soon arrived at the emperor’s palace, of whom Fortunio demanded an audience. This was granted; and our knight, with great address, declared his embassy. The emperor replied with a smile, “Were you at the head of five hundred thousand men, one might hearken to you; but what do you think to do with seven? However, an odd thought has just come into my head: if you can find a man who will eat as much bread for his breakfast as serves this city for a day, you shall have what you demand.” This proposal was agreed to; and the next day was appointed for a trial.

When the audience was over, Fortunio told Grugeon, the great eater, what had passed, who bade his master not to be uneasy, for he would

eat till they were tired. However, Fortunio thought it best for him to eat no supper, that he might have the keener appetite for his breakfast. The morning being come, the emperor, with his consort and daughter, appeared in a balcony; and Fortunio came with his little train to the place appointed, where he saw six great mountains of bread, at which he turned pale. But it was quite otherwise with Grugeon; for he longed for the signal to be given, that he might fall to; whilst the emperor laughed and jested with all his court at the extravagant attempt of our knight and his little retinue. At last, the drum beat; and Grugeon fell upon one of the heaps, which he devoured in a quarter of an hour; and afterwards all the rest, one after another, in about the same time. Never was greater astonishment! But the emperor was nettled as well as surprised; for he refused to keep his word with Fortunio, saying, "You, or some one of your train, must drink all the water in the aqueducts and fountains of the city, and all the

wine in the cellars, before I shall grant what you demand." This proposal was also agreed to: and all the spectators repaired to a fountain of seven marble lions, which threw up as much water as formed a large river. Tippler ran up to the basin, and, without even fetching his breath, drank it up; likewise all the water in the aqueducts, and all the wine in the cellars.

The emperor was now very much embarrassed: he was very unwilling to restore the treasures; and yet he could not refuse with honour. He therefore called a council, and after mature deliberation, a third proposal was made to Fortunio; namely, that if he could produce a person who should exceed the emperor's daughter in running, the utmost satisfaction should be given to the king his master. Fortunio thought it best to agree; and the emperor appointed the time to be within two hours.

The princess accordingly appeared, most curiously dressed, and Lightfoot was proposed by our knight as her antagonist. Before they started

the princess drank some liquor to heighten her spirits : and Lightfoot demanded the same ; but as he was not used to it, it got into his head, and he lay down, and fell asleep. In the mean time the signal was given, and the princess set off with wonderful swiftness, leaving Lightfoot asleep. This circumstance Fortunio was ignorant of, being at the other end of the walk ; and, when he saw the princess within half a mile of the goal, and Lightfoot not appearing, he exclaimed, “ O Comrade, we are lost ! I see nothing of Lightfoot ! ” — “ Sir,” answered the horse, “ let Fine-ear listen whereabouts he is.” Fine-ear did so, and said he was snoring at the starting-place, three miles off. “ Then,” said Comrade, “ let Marksman let fly an arrow into the tip of his ear.” This was immediately done, and Lightfoot awoke with the pain. Opening his eyes, he saw the princess almost at the goal, and heard great shoutings ; but being now pretty well roused, he immediately started up, and seemed as if he had been carried on the wind ;

in short, he arrived first at the goal, with the arrow in his ear.

The emperor could not for shame make more proposals, so ordering Fortunio into his presence, he said, "I consent that you take along with you as much of your master's treasure as any one man can carry." The knight bowed, and desired him to give orders for their delivery, which was complied with; and Strongback going to the place where the treasures were kept, carried away the whole, consisting of five hundred gigantic statues of gold, besides coaches, chariots, &c. and walked as nimbly with them as if he had not above a pound weight upon his back.

When it was told the emperor, that one man had taken away the whole of the treasures, his anger was equal to his astonishment; and he ordered his guards to fetch him back. Fortunio, with Strongback, and the rest of his attendants, were now got above ten miles on their return, when Fine-ear declared he heard a large body of

cavalry coming after them at full speed. Being come to a large river, Fortunio having no boats, ordered Tippler to drink it up, that they might pass, which he did ; and then the knight consulted his horse, who bade him not be uneasy, but let the enemy approach. By the time they also had come up to the river, it was full again, and they instantly embarked in boats, in hopes, no doubt, of destroying every individual of our knight's company ; but Boisterer swelled his cheeks, and with a sudden blast upset the boats ; so that every one of them was drowned.

The enemy being thus destroyed, Fortunio met with no farther opposition in his return. When he arrived at the city, the people all gathered about him, astonished and overjoyed at seeing the treasures ; and followed him with loud acclamations to the king's palace. His majesty was surprised beyond expression at our knight's wonderful success, and embraced him with open arms ; and even the queen, though she had designed his destruction in proposing the under-

taking, could not help admiring him the more, from the result of it. In short, her fondness for Fortunio was now so strong, that she took occasion to enter into a conversation with him, and in direct terms proposed marriage. This he of course declined, in the most gentle manner; but the queen was so violently incensed, that she fell into the most frantic fury, raving, and scratching, not only the knight, but herself also, till the blood ran in streams. She then went to the king, and, pretending that Fortunio had attempted to use her ill, insisted on his being prosecuted with the utmost rigour.

The king was thunderstruck at this account; but, fearing the violent spirit and power of the queen, he was constrained to give up Fortunio to trial, notwithstanding his great love for him, and his obligation for so many services. The judges, at the instigation of the queen, found Fortunio guilty of the accusation, without allowing him to plead for himself, and he was sentenced to receive three stabs in the heart.

The king was so incensed against the judges for this cruel sentence, that he banished them out of his dominions; but he could not save Fortunio, who was soon hurried to the place of execution, where the queen had posted herself, in order to feast her eyes with his death. The executioners had bound him, and were opening his breast, when, to the unspeakable surprise of all present, they beheld the delicate bosom of a female, and all present were immediately convinced of the innocence of the interesting prisoner. The queen was now overwhelmed with such confusion, that she poisoned herself to avoid approaching disgrace; and as for the king, his joy may be better imagined than expressed, when he found that his favourite knight was a young lady. He resolved to marry her, and the most magnificent preparations were made for the wedding; and our female knight having acquainted her father and sisters with her happy fortune, and requested their presence, the ceremony was performed with universal demonstra-

tions of joy ; which was rendered more brilliant by the unexpected appearance of the fairy our heroine met with on first setting out ; who came to congratulate her, not in the character of a shepherdess, indeed, but rather resembling an angel, in the lustre of her beauty and the magnificence of her ornaments.

Our young queen, being thus elevated to the summit of felicity, did not, like too many others, forget old friends and acquaintances ; for she had a stable built on purpose for Comrade, that was paved with ivory ; and mats of satin, instead of straw, were placed for him to lie upon : and Strongback, Lightfoot, Marksman, Fine-ear, Boisterer, Tippler, and Grugeon, were all knighted, and made happy with places of honour and emolument.

THE HISTORY OF
ELMEDORUS AND ALZAYDA.

ELMEDORUS, or, as he was sometimes called, The Knight of the Flaming Sword, was the son of the king of Granada and his queen Ermen-dina. Having, with many entreaties, obtained leave to travel, his mother, for his better security, gave him a ruby ring, which had the power of destroying enchantments. After visiting several courts, Elmedorus came to that of Leon, where he fell in love with the incomparable princess Alzayda; and having performed wonders in a war which the king her father was engaged in, he had a prospect of obtaining the object of his desires. At this time Zoroaster, the prince of Maroc, sent a challenge to all knights who would not acknowledge Zamea, the princess of Fez, whom he was in love with, to be the most beautiful person in the world; and this challenge arriving at Leon, where Elmedorus was,

this prince determined to go and maintain against Zoroaster the charms of the princess Alzayda. Accordingly, taking leave of the court, he set forward on his journey.

Being obliged to pass over a sea, he embarked on board a vessel, which he was told was bound for Fez; and here the knight was presently seized with such a drowsiness, that his utmost efforts could not prevent him from falling asleep. When he awoke, he found himself in a magnificent palace, surrounded with gardens and woods, the elegance of which is not to be described. While Elmedorus was reflecting on his strange situation, he was accosted by a beautiful lady in words to this effect:—"The Fairy Desideria, valiant prince, foreseeing the tournaments at Fez would have been fatal to you, has kindly conducted you to this happy abode. She desires your presence, in order to partake of the amusements of the place."

Elmedorus was exceedingly mortified at thus being prevented from asserting the honour of

Alzayda ; but yet judged it best to attend Desideria. She received him very courteously, and entering into conversation, proposed to him a race with one of her nymphs, which she said was customary for every knight who came to the island. The knight, unwilling to break the custom of the place, consented ; and a race was accordingly begun, which was won by our hero, who, becoming very thirsty, drank plentifully of a fountain of water that stood at the end of the walk. But, alas ! such was the quality of the water, that Elmedorus had no sooner drunk of it than he forgot Alzayda, and thought of nothing but rendering himself agreeable to the fairy Desideria. Thus the fairy's plot was crowned with success ; for, having fallen in love with Elmedorus, she took the opportunity of his setting out for Fez, by sending the vessel on board which he embarked, to get him into her own mansions. Our knight seemed quite charmed with the fairy's beauty, and spent his time in

hunting, fishing, dancing, and, in short, every diversion that could be thought of; when one day, as he was seeking the fairy in a grove of myrtles, he was addressed by a man of majestic appearance in the following manner:—

“How can you stay here, Elmedorus, when the beautiful Alzayda is in so much need of your help, being the prisoner of Asmonadus, who has conquered the kingdom of Leon? Look at her picture, and tell me; do not her charms infinitely surpass those of the fairy, with whom you are now so infatuated? Rouse! turn the point of the ring given you by your mother, and fly to assist Alzayda.”

Elmedorus, struck with this reproach, looked at his ring, and saw the point downwards. Upon turning it up, he found himself the same as when he was at Leon; and, blushing with shame at his late conduct, departed from that enchanted habitation immediately. The fairy sent a knight to force him to return; but Elme-

dorus engaged and vanquished him, granting his life, however, as some acknowledgment of Desideria's hospitality.

As he was travelling, he heard a most dismal account of his dear Alzayda ; how that Asmonadus, a wicked magician, falling in love with the princess, but being refused by the good king her father, had laid siege to, and made himself master of Leon, and that he had put the king and queen to death, and kept the princess a prisoner. Elmedorus, pierced with grief, immediately dispatched his squire to ascertain the truth of these tidings, and to inform the princess that he was hastening to her assistance. The squire found the palace in confusion, and went to Alzayda's apartment without hindrance, where she lay, to all appearance dead. However, on his saying that he came from Elmedorus, her faithful lover, she just opened her eyes, and spoke the following words :—" Tell Elmedorus, that as I die for my fidelity towards him,

I would have him live to revenge me," and then sunk into her former lethargy ; and as the squire was going down stairs, he heard an outcry that the princess was dead.

When the squire returned, and related what had passed, Elmedorus said and did all that rage could inspire and invent ; but as soon as his passion had somewhat subsided, " Yes," said he, " dear unhappy Alzayda, you shall be revenged ; I will preserve this life till I have obeyed your dying wish."

Thus resolved, his fury gave way to grief, which manifested itself in the most heart-rending sighs. He pursued his journey, however, to Leon, to see what was become of the body : there he learnt that the tyrant Asmonadus had taken Alzayda's body away with him, but nobody could tell whither. Elmedorus, nevertheless, determined to find him out, if possible ; and imagining he was probably gone to bury her in some strange country, set out in search of

him, and travelled through all Spain, passing his nights in forests, and his days in places best suited to indulge his melancholy.

He had spent almost a twelvemonth in this manner, when one night, having entered a thick grove, he heard a voice exclaim, "Forbear, Adeline, to persuade me to seek relief, since I can hope for none but from my despair."

Our knight immediately advanced towards the spot whence the sound proceeded, and presently beheld two women sitting on the grass, one of whom was so extremely beautiful, that she seemed little inferior to his Alzayda.

"Madam," said he, "from the plaintive words you have uttered, I judge you are suffering under some grievous misfortune. I am Elmedorus of Granada; if my service can in the least contribute to your relief, please to command it."

"Sir," answered the unknown lady, "your name is so justly celebrated in the world for your valiant achievements, that I believe nothing

is impossible to you. With gratitude, therefore, I accept your offer; and, the better to inform you of my enemies, give me leave to relate my adventures."

HISTORY OF THE
P R I N C E S S, Z A M E A
AND THE
PRINCE ALMANZON.

I AM daughter to Zamur king of Fez, and the queen Zamara; who, having been for several years without children, looked upon me as the richest gift of heaven. Among the great number of princes and knights who crowded to pay their addresses to me, at our court, was Zoroaster, prince of Maroc, to whom my father promised his consent, if he could obtain mine; but I could not endure him, from the extraordinary height of his stature, and the fierceness of his looks. Zoroaster, however, in order to obtain

my favour, published a tournament, and sent challenges to the courts of Spain and Africa for all the knights to come and confess the princess of Fez to be the greatest beauty in the world. This brought great numbers to Fez on the day appointed: and the king, queen, and myself, having taken our places, Zoroaster entered the lists with a fierce and lofty air, in gold armour set with emeralds, and posted himself at one end, to wait for any antagonist that should offer. Several presented themselves, but were easily vanquished by Zoroaster, who doubted not that he should gain the prize, which was my picture set in diamonds. At last, a confused noise excited new attention, which was occasioned by a young knight asking to enter the lists, clad in silver enamelled with blue, and mounted upon a horse as white as snow. How fatal was the sight to me! and what tears has that day cost me! The whole court seemed to admire this unknown knight; and I candidly confess I never felt such emotions of joy as when I saw

him, in the second career, throw the terrible Zoroaster to the ground. He was declared victor; and he received the prize from me in so noble a manner, as made me feel a secret satisfaction in bestowing it.

This stranger proved to be Almanzon, prince of Tunis; and I observed he took every opportunity, by tender looks and sighs, to indicate an attachment which he wished to reveal. One afternoon, when none were by but my women, he made an open declaration of his love, which he urged with such warmth and protestations of sincerity, that he made a very strong impression on my heart. However, I told him I could afford him no hope till he obtained the approbation of those who had a right to dispose of me.

I was now in a very perplexing situation: my father had promised me to Zoroaster, whom I hated; and I found myself to have the same affection for Almanzon as he had declared for me; but what infinitely increased my anxiety, was an order I received from the king to prepare to

marry Zoroaster within eight days. The queen my mother had always behaved to me with the most endearing kindness ; and, having previously acquainted her with the dislike I had to Zoroaster, I resolved, in the present crisis, to acquaint her with the mutual affection that subsisted between myself and Almanzon. The queen sighed at my grief ; but said it was out of her power to relieve me, for she had used all her interest with the king to set aside the marriage with Zoroaster, since it was so disagreeable to me ; but that the king, having given his promise to that prince, could not possibly be induced to break his word.

In the midst of this distress, news was brought me, that Almanzon, having fought a duel with Zoroaster, had dangerously wounded and disarmed him ; that Almanzon himself had received some hurt in the shoulder, and had retired to a short distance from Fez ; and that the king had ordered Zoroaster to be taken care of, and set a guard over him ; but he was so enraged against Almanzon as to forbid him the court.

At this sad account I fell into a swoon ; but was recovered from it by the tender care of the queen, who did every thing in her power to comfort me ; she even sent privately to Almanzon, to inquire after his health. This gave him such encouragement, that, charmed with her goodness, he wrote to her, begging leave to come to the palace next day disguised, as his wound was but slight ; which the queen consented to, with a design to persuade him to leave the kingdom, for fear Zoroaster should cause him to be assassinated.

Almanzon came accordingly at the hour appointed. After some pathetic discourse relative to our hard fortune, the queen told him that Zoroaster was perfectly cured of his wound by an enchanter ; and therefore she advised him, if he regarded my safety, to depart from the kingdom immediately, lest another duel should happen between him and Zoroaster, which in all probability would be attended with destructive consequences to me.

“ Ah ! madam,” replied Almanzon, “ it is impossible for me to follow your advice ; for I love the beautiful Zamea to such excess, that I would sooner suffer a thousand deaths than be banished from the sight of her. But, if I were to return to Tunis, how would that preserve the princess ? Would it not prove her destruction, to be forced to give her hand to a person, for whom she has a decided aversion ? Consider, dear madam, before it be too late ; and, if you are willing to grant her the only chance of avoiding the mischiefs which threaten her, suffer me to take her away privately to my own country, where I promise to place the crown of Tunis upon her head.”

The queen was at first very angry with Almanzon for making so bold a proposal ; yet, fearing that melancholy consequences would otherwise ensue, she at length consented to his earnest entreaties ; and that very night was fixed upon to put the design in execution.

Almanzon, overjoyed ; went to prepare for the

journey, but my preparations were made with a strange mixture of willingness and reluctance; for, at the same time that I would have gone any where to avoid Zoroaster, I was very much troubled at the thought of leaving my dear mother. Almanzon coming at the hour agreed on, I, with a flood of tears, took leave of the good queen, attended only by Adelinda. At the gate was the prince's 'squire with horses, which we mounted, congratulating ourselves on not being discovered.

We passed through the kingdom of Fez without any remarkable adventure; but one day, going through a dark forest, we heard somebody making most bitter lamentations; and Almanzon, riding up to the place, was addressed by a beautiful woman, seemingly in great affliction.

"Generous knight," said she, "come and deliver a princess out of the hands of a monstrous giant, who keeps her as a prisoner in a castle a mile distant."

I dissuaded Almanzon from this enterprize;

but he, eager to prove his courage, accompanied the woman. I followed, and saw, as soon as they were over the ditch which surrounded the castle, the bridge draw up, and the gates, after opening for the entrance of the unhappy prince, immediately shut up again. Judge of my distraction at this adventure. I called aloud on Almanzon all the remaining day and the next night, but in vain. However, I was determined not to leave that fatal place, till in the morning I saw a knight, who told me that I should nowhere find an end to my misfortune but on the banks of the river Tagus, and then disappeared. I followed his advice, and came hither, where I have been almost a twelvemonth without meeting with any thing to abate my woe. But, generous Elmedorus, I confess I now feel a secret joy from the offer of your service, which seems to forebode some happy event.

Here the princess Zamea finished her history,

which greatly affected Elmedorus, and engaged him warmly in her behalf.

“Whatever may be the success,” said he, “beautiful Zamea, I will not fail to attempt the release of Almanzon.”

He then desired to be informed where the castle was, which Zamea promised to conduct him to the next morning, desiring him, till that time, to take some refreshment in a hut which she had made the place of her residence since the loss of her prince.

The morning being come, they set out for the miserable Almanzon’s abode. After riding some hours, they stopped in a pleasant meadow to regale themselves, when suddenly Zamea, with a violent scream, cried out, “Zoroaster!” Elmedorus, turning round, saw a knight advancing towards them, whom he rightly judged to be the same that Zamea had named in her fright. Arming himself, therefore, he met and stopped him short with these words:—

“ Knight, I come to tell you, that you no longer deserve that title, since you use dishonourable means to possess a princess who loves you not.”

“ Who are you,” answered Zoroaster, “ who take upon yourself to censure me ?”

“ If I prove victor,” replied Elmedorus, “ I will tell you, but I shall not waste time at present.”

With these words, he pushed at him with his lance, which shivered to pieces ; and Zoroaster, in return, broke his against Elmedorus. Then they took to their swords. Zamea trembled for her defender during a long and furious combat ; till at last Zoroaster, pierced with wounds, fell at his antagonist’s feet, and eased her of her fear.

This caused so much delay, that the day was almost spent ; and Elmedorus having received a wound in his rencontre with Zoroaster, they took up their abode for that night at a little village a few miles farther on the road. Our knight was

here thrown into new agitations, on account of his beloved Alzayda. He dreamed that he saw her in a chamber of the same castle where Almanzon was confined, and that she seemed to be covered with a veil of black gauze. In the morning he told his dream to Zamea, who insisted upon it that Alzayda was not dead, but confined in the same prison with her dear prince. Elmedorus could not but allow that the dream naturally suggested such a notion; yet he was so firmly persuaded of the reality of his charmer's death, that all thoughts of that kind presently vanished.

As the wound which Elmedorus had received was not sufficiently healed to allow them to pursue their journey, the princess Zamea retired to a wood in the neighbourhood, in order to indulge her reflections. The sound of two female voices presently surprised her; and, drawing nearer towards it, she heard distinctly this exclamation:—

“ No, Phenisa, I will never see the happy Ca-

nary Isles again, till I have punished the prince of Numidia for his infidelity ?”

Zamea, advancing forwards, saw two young knights sitting on the grass ; but being certain, from what she had heard, that they were ladies in disguise, and guessing the one who appeared chief to be some princess, she ran up with open arms, and addressed her as follows :—

“ Madam, I am happy in being thus brought into your company. You seem to be in distress, I am so likewise ; let friendship, therefore, unite us, and let us endeavour to assuage each other’s misfortunes.”

“ Dear madam,” returned the stranger, “ I believe nothing would so much contribute to my relief as your sympathy, were not my grief of such a nature as not to be removed but by the death of him who is the cause of it.”

“ Pardon me,” replied Zamea ; “ but, if I guess rightly, the death of the person you think your enemy would prove no remedy. At present, however, come with me, and take some refreshments after your fatigues.”

So obliging an offer could not be resisted ; and they accordingly went together to the cottage.

Elmedorus was surprised to see so genteel a knight return with Zamea ; but, being told the adventure, he politely offered his arm and sword to revenge her.

“ No, generous Elmedorus,” said our young knight, “ he that has injured me must fall by my own arm, otherwise his death would be a trouble to me.”

“ Ay,” interrupted Zamea, “ I am sure I am not mistaken : love is at the bottom ; the sighs and repentance of the delinquent will sooner abate your passion than his blood.”

The surgeon now came to dress the prince's wound, which occasioned the ladies to retire ; and Zamea having requested the stranger to relate her history, she readily complied ; and the following are the words in which she delivered it.

THE HISTORY OF
ZALMAYDA AND ALINZOR.

I AM Zalmayda, princess of the Canary Islands. My mother died at the time of my birth ; and grief for her loss soon brought on the death of my father also. I was left to the care of an aunt ; and my dominions, till I should come of age, were committed to Zenorus, prince of the Summer Islands. As I grew towards maturity, he endeavoured to gain my affection, and paid his addresses to me ; but I could not like his person, and had still a greater aversion to him as knowing him to be a sorcerer.

Being desirous of going to the Temple of Diana, which stood upon the main land, I took an opportunity of so doing, whilst Zenorus was gone to quell an insurrection in his own dominions. Here a young knight, who proved to be Alinzor, prince of Numidia, fell in love with, and paid his addresses to me. I thought I dis-

covered in him every quality that could recommend him to my regard ; and accordingly fixed it upon him. When I was about to return home, he was very desirous of accompanying me to our court ; but being afraid of the anger of Zenorus, I could only permit him to come there on the day when we celebrated the feast of the sun.

When that day arrived, I was much surprised at not seeing Alinzor at the feast ; but, nevertheless, thought he would certainly be present at a tournament Zenorus had given out of compliment to me. At the appointed hour we took our seats ; and a knight very much resembling Alinzor entered the lists. I had no doubt of it, when I saw him victor, and pleased myself with the thoughts of bestowing on him the prize : but when he pulled up his vizor, and I saw it was not Alinzor, I had scarcely spirits enough left to give it him. I retired hastily to my apartment, and there rage and grief succeeded each other by turns.

Zenorus perceived my situation, and knowing that, so long as I loved Alinzor, he never would be able to persuade me to marry him, employed all his art to wean my affection from that prince. “Madam,” said he, “if Alinzor deserved your love, I would desist from my remonstrances; but you sigh for a false prince—a prince who, at this very moment, is at the feet of another person not possessed of half your charms; and of this you may have instant proof if you please.” Jealousy made me consent; and Zenorus took me in his chariot, which being drawn by flying dragons with an incredible swiftness through the air, we alighted in the gardens of Alinzor’s palace, where, indeed, I saw that prince at the feet of a young Numidian. I wished to have spoken to him, but Zenorus would not permit me; the chariot flew away, and I had only time to drop my picture as near my false lover as I could.

Though the infidelity of Alinzor seemed to be demonstrated, yet Zenorus derived no advantage

from it ; for in the passion I sometimes fell into on that account, I used to blame him for making me acquainted with it. One evening, as I was walking in the garden with Phenisa, my attendant, I saw a man lying on the grass, and attentively looking at a picture ; I turned into another path without farther notice, when, in a moment, I beheld the inconstant Alinzor at my feet.

“ My dear Zalmayda,” cried he, “ am I at last permitted to see you ?”

“ Hold, Alinzor !” said I ; “ think not that my heart can be the prize of your return, which is only owing to the picture I let fall, to remind you of what you have lost.”

He seemed utterly astonished, protested his innocence a thousand times over, and begged to be heard ; but, for fear of being discovered, I deferred to hear what he had to say till every body was retired, when Adelinda should conduct him to my apartment.

I was impatient to hear Alinzor’s justifica-

tion, which made me retire sooner than ordinary. I sent Adelinda to introduce him; but what was the state of my mind, when, after having waited almost the whole night, I saw her return without him! Love, rage, and jealousy, attacking me all at once, threw me into a fever, which for a considerable time confined me to my apartment. Zenorus endeavoured to avail himself of the perfidy of his rival, whom he represented in the blackest colours; and, indeed, I began to try all I could to forget him. But one day Phenisa coming to me, with some confusion in her looks, informed me, that she had been surprised in the garden by the presence of Alinzor; and that he had begged of her to procure him an interview with me; adding, that, if he could not recover my esteem by demonstrating his innocence, he would appease my rage by his death.

I was thrown into great agitation by this account. However, notwithstanding my eyes had been witness of his falsehood, love still

biassed me in his favour, and I resolved to give him a hearing. Phenisa attended me; and, as we were going to the place of meeting, whom should I behold but Alinzor galloping off with a fine young lady behind him! I could not forbear shrieking out; for it was impossible to restrain my indignation. “What!” cried I, “is it not enough for the ungrateful wretch to prefer another? must he insult me with her presence also? Most surely will I be revenged, and my own arm shall give the blow.”

Poor Phenisa said every thing she could think of to moderate my anger; but in vain. I disguised myself in a suit of armour, and obliging Phenisa to do the same, set out, determined not to return till I had taken ample vengeance on the traitor Alinzor. In order to know where to find him, I consulted the Magnificent Fairy, who told me that I should find an end to my troubles in the kingdom of Granada, whither I directed my course. Yesterday I came into the wood, where, as some alleviation of my sorrows,

I had the pleasure, my dear Zamea, of falling into your company.

Zalmayda having ended her narration, the princess Zamea was returning the compliment paid her at the conclusion, saying, fortune had done her a greater favour in bringing her acquainted with the princess of the Canary Islands; when a message was sent to them from Elmedorus, that he wished for their company, and should be able to pursue his journey the next day. They passed the remainder of that day with more cheerfulness than they had known for a long time before; for disclosing troubles to sincere friends always produces an alleviation of sorrow.

The next day they all set off together, and met with no extraordinary occurrence, till, in the evening, as they were entering upon the king of Granada's territories, they saw two knights fighting with great animosity. Elmedorus spurred on his horse to separate them; but

before he could get up, one of them had thrown the other to the ground, and putting the point of the sword to his throat, exclaimed,

“Thou traitor, Zenorus, tell me what thou hast done with my princess?”

“Here I come to punish thee for thy crimes,” exclaimed Zalmayda, at the same time darting at him a javelin she had in her hand, which pierced him.

Alinzor (for such the knight was) fell senseless by his enemy; when the hasty Zalmayda, believing she had really killed him, regretted that her revenge had succeeded so well. Zamea employed herself in comforting Zalmayda, while Elmedorus and his 'squire were trying if they could discover signs of life in Alinzor. The princesses' maids did also what they could to stop the bleeding of the miserable Zenorus, whose guilt now filled him with remorse not to be endured.

“Forbear,” said he, “to spare my life, which I desire not to be continued longer than to con-

fess my wickedness. Your hatred, beautiful Zalmayda, is due to me ; for I have been the cause of all Alinzor's seeming perfidy. His not coming to the feast of the sun was owing to a letter I sent to him as from you, and I raised a phantom in your shape, which Alinzor, supposing to be yourself, rode away with, and so innocently excited that spirit of revenge in you so contrary to your nature. For these deceits I am this day punished by the hand of the amiable prince I have injured ; but I have asserted his innocence, to make the best reparation in my power ; and may you both live happy together the remainder of your days !”

In uttering these words, Zenorus breathed his last ; when the attention of the whole company was attracted by an affecting scene between Zalmayda and Alinzor ; for the princess being now pierced with grief for what she had done, was bathing his wounds with her tears, and assisting Zamea to bind them up.

“Why, madam,” said he, “do you oppose a death inflicted by your own hand?”

“Ah! Alinzor,” said she, “since you are innocent, how guilty am I!”

“These marks of your tenderness,” replied the prince, “are too precious for your fault.”

Here the company interrupted their conversation, thinking it improper for Alinzor's present weak condition; so putting him upon a litter which they had provided, they carried him to the next habitation, where a skilful shepherd assured them he could apply some herbs that would cure him in two or three days, provided he were not disturbed. The company therefore retired, and walking down by the side of a river, in order to amuse themselves, they saw a knight coming towards them, whose horse's weariness shewed the little rest his master gave him. Casting his eyes on Elmedorus, he alighted, and addressed him thus:

“Generous knight, permit me to express the

joy I feel at this meeting; for I cannot be mistaken in the description of the knight whom the Magnificent Fairy bade me seek in this place, as the only person in the world who can break the fatal enchantment by which the cruel Amerdin keeps my princess confined in a castle a few days' journey from hence."

"If my own misfortunes would admit of any alleviation," answered Elmedorus, "it would be from relieving those of other persons. Be assured then, most obliging stranger, that I shall be truly rejoiced, if I can restore your princess to you, in fighting for the charming Zamea; on whose account I am going to undertake the adventure you propose, as soon as the wound of a worthy prince will permit him to accompany us. In the mean time it may be proper that you instruct me, by reciting your history, in what manner my arms can be best employed to your service." The stranger approved of the proposal: and the company having seated themselves, he thus began.

HISTORY OF
PRINCE ZALMANDOR
AND THE
PRINCESS AMANDINA.

I AM son to the king of Mauritania, and my name is Zalmandor. As it is customary with princes, I set out on my travels, and arriving at the court of the king of Castile, was very cordially received. Armandus, the prince of Arragon, was also there, whom I found to be in love with Amandina, the king's daughter, at which I felt a secret vexation; but why I could not tell, not having as yet seen that princess; for the king would not suffer her to appear but on particular occasions. This unaccountable vexation, however, soon explained itself; for a grand festival happening, at which Amandina appeared, I never was more astonished than at the sight of

her beauty, and in an instant felt the most violent affection for her. I perceived she was sensible of Armandus's attachment to her, and looked upon him with some kindness; and I also observed him to take every opportunity of ingratiating himself into her favour. But as I learned that every thing must be kept a secret from the king, I took a method different from that of my rival: I pretended to admire Celdina, a young lady of the court, and, in honour of her, gave a variety of entertainments.

This project answered my expectations, for Amandina used to come to be a spectator of these diversions, which I thought she beheld with a jealous eye, that seemed to reproach me for wearing any chains but hers. I could hardly restrain myself from declaring my love; but was still afraid, knowing that, if the prince of Arragon's passion were not received with kindness, it was heard without anger, as he had often private interviews with the princess, by means of one of her maids, and closely followed

her wherever she appeared in public. This proceeding of Armandus was remarked by the king, who, notwithstanding his friendship for him, desired him to leave the court.

One evening, after having danced some time at a ball I had given for Celdina, I went into the garden to repose myself a little; when the sound of the princess's voice excited my attention.

“No, Phedima,” said she to her attendant, “I cannot see Celdina preferred before me, without emotion. The prince of Arragon I esteem as a friend, but I cannot look upon Zalmandor without a sensation which I could wish him to be equally inspired with; in short, I love him, and envy the happiness of Celdina.”

I could forbear no longer; but casting myself at her feet, I exclaimed, “Adorable princess! it is not Celdina that I love; the courtship paid to her is only designed to cover that which I burn to make to you: you, and you only, are

the object for whom I have long sighed in secret."

Amandina was excessively confused at the suddenness of this event; but as she could not retract her words, told me the only way to prove the truth of my assertions, and to preserve her good will, was to slight Celdina as much as I had paid her respect. This I readily promised; and that very night I was the first to quit the assembly, that I might not hand Celdina to her apartment.

I mentioned before that Armandus was forbidden the court; nevertheless one night, as I was reflecting in the garden on the most proper method of proceeding, I saw him talking to the princess, who looked out of a window for half an hour. Twenty times I thought I must have sacrificed my respect to jealousy; however, I restrained myself till I saw him out of the palace, and then, stopping him, I said, "You cannot disobey the king's commands, Sir, without making me your enemy."

“ I could not have thought,” answered the prince of Arragon, “ that Zalmandor was one of the king’s spies, especially as being a lover of the princess.”

“ Whether I be one or the other,” replied I, drawing my sword, “ you shall no longer stay here.”

“ Let me see then,” said he, putting himself on his guard, “ if you can prevent it.” And with these words a combat began, which perhaps would have proved fatal to me, if the sword of Armandus had not broken; but that circumstance put an end to our duel.

This affair was kept a secret for a long time; but at last it reached the court, and the king sent to make Armandus a prisoner, and confined him in a castle. The princess Amandina reproached me for what I had done; but forgave me on the consideration of its having happened from the violence of my love, and on my promising to do my utmost to procure the release of Armandus. But the prince soon found means

to release himself out of a window; and the first use he made of his liberty was, by means of Phedima, to visit the princess. Amandina was glad to see him out of the king's power; and reflecting on the danger he was in of being retaken, begged him to leave the kingdom.

"Alas! madam," said the prince, "I did not expect so cruel an injunction from you; but, without doubt, Zalmandor—"

"Zalmandor," interrupted the princess, "has no part in the entreaty I make; though, perhaps, I may prefer that prince to all the world besides."

"Then I have nothing to do but to die," replied Armandus; and with that he drew his sword, and would have run himself through the body, had not Amandina and Phedima taken it from him; but being discovered, he ran out of the apartment in great disorder of mind.

The next morning he sent me a challenge, and appointed the place; where, without mentioning the occasion of this second duel, we

engaged, and I was so happy as to be victorious again; for Armandus having received two wounds, fainted and fell with the loss of blood. My 'squire and I carried him to the nearest house, and ordered him to be taken care of. Going to his bed-side, as soon as he was come to himself, I said, "Generous prince, since fortune has favoured me with the victory, of which you was as deserving as myself, suffer me to shew the esteem I have for you, by supplying you with all necessaries in a place where every one is your enemy."

"Brave Zalmandor," returned he, "your generosity is worthy of my warmest acknowledgments; but as you have robbed me of the heart of Amandina, leave me to die, for I cannot live to witness your happiness."

"I do not know," replied I, "whether you have not a greater share of that princess's esteem than myself; but however that be, let us be determined by her choice, and not by our duels deprive her of two faithful lovers."

Armandus having promised to comply with every thing necessary for his cure, I returned to the palace, where I found the king in great anger at the escape of the prince of Arragon, whom he had issued strict orders to have apprehended wherever he should be met with. This made me beg of Amandina to send Phedima to the prince, with a desire that he would suffer himself to be carried into his dominions; which, after many arguments, he at last consented to.

Things now assumed a very different aspect, for the king fell sick and died; and the queen fell a prey to her sorrow within a month. The princess was for a long time inconsolable for their loss; but, at length, the desires of the people corresponding, I prevailed upon her to appoint a day for our marriage.

It is natural to suppose, that the slight I had shewn Celdina filled her with the most malicious desire of revenge; this lady, therefore, seeing no obstacle to our happiness, had recourse to the sorcerer Amerdin, who makes a rivulet of

the tears of the unhappy persons he gets into his possession, by which he performs his wicked enchantments. That wretch, at the instigation of Celdina, stole my princess away, and carried her to his castle, where he torments so many princes and princesses. I became distracted, and should have made Celdina's life pay for her cruel revenge, but was ashamed to lay violent hands on a woman. I ran to the castle, but could not, either by entreaties or threats, get any body to answer me. At last I went to the Magnificent Fairy, who delights in assisting the unfortunate, and who ordered me to wait here for a certain knight, telling me, that the power of punishing Amerdin, and setting so many illustrious personages at liberty, was reserved for him alone. This knight, as an inward impulse assures me, I have now the happiness to be in company with.

The prince of Mauritania having finished his narration, Elmedorus again promised to expose his life to restore him his beloved Amandina, and release the other captives confined in Amerdin's detestable castle. Then Zalmayda, (who, since she had been convinced of Alinzor's innocence, was more in love than ever, and thought every minute of absence an hour,) making a proposal to return to their habitation, they all got up, and being arrived there, presented their new companion, Zalmandor, to the wounded prince.

The herb which the shepherd applied had the effect he foretold; so that, on the third day, the whole company proceeded on their journey towards the enchanted castle; the princess of the Canaries and her attendant having put on apparel suitable to their sex, as there was no farther occasion for their appearing in disguise.

It is but natural to suppose, they made all possible haste in accomplishing so interesting an undertaking; and as they travelled rapidly,

and met with no interruption, on the morning of the second day they came in sight of the wicked Amerdin's castle. Elmedorus now seemed elated with joy, and making a pause, he thus addressed his companions :—

“ My dear friends, the hour is come to prove the foundation of our hopes. You are only to accompany me farther with your good wishes ; for I must now advance alone ; and inflamed as I am with the idea of my adored Alzayda being still living in yon horrid mansion, I pledge my honour that I will fulfil the promises I have made to you, or perish in the attempt.” Then, desiring them not to wander from the place they were in, and recommending it to the princes to take care of the ladies, he saluted and left them.

Elmedorus soon got up to the castle, and after he had knocked loudly at the gates, a knight came forth, whom he knew to be Almanzon ; therefore, he would not make use of his sword, but presented the ring, which in the beginning

of the knight's history we mentioned to have been given to him by his mother, and which had the power of breaking all enchantments. Almanzon, being immediately released from his enchantment, let fall his lance and threw himself at the feet of Elmedorus, who raising and embracing him, said, "Accept from me, brave knight, both liberty and your princess," pointing to the place where he had left her; at which Almanzon, transported with joy, ran to his beloved Zamea.

A second enemy now came out, whom Elmedorus knew to be Asmonadus, and advanced towards him with his sword in his hand.

"What rash youth art thou," inquired Asmonadus, "that comest here to seek thy death?"

"I am Elmedorus of Granada," answered the prince, "and come to punish thee and the tyrant Amerdin, and to deliver the princess Alzayda, and other innocent captives, out of the hands of their enemies."

At these words they engaged, and fought with

such fury, that the princesses trembled for their valiant hero, and the princes, forgetting they were not to concern themselves with this adventure, ran to his assistance; but before they could get to him, he had brought his antagonist to the ground. Elmedorus thanked the knights for their readiness to assist, but begged them to return and protect the princesses.

Asmonadus was no sooner dispatched, than there came out of the castle a roaring lion to attack the prince; but, after an hour's fight, he fell lifeless by Asmonadus. Then appeared a knight, mounted on a griffin, with his vizor half lifted up, and his haggard eyes full of fury.

"Think not, Elmedorus," said he, "to accomplish thy rash undertaking; for though thou hast hitherto been victorious, thou canst not escape my revenge."

"That is yet to be tried," answered the knight; "we shall soon see whether thou art more invincible than thy defenders."

A dreadful combat now ensued, in which the

flying griffin gave the knight great annoyance ; but he, becoming outrageous, aimed so furious a stroke at Amerdin's sword-arm, that he cut it off ; when that vile magician, finding himself no longer able to make resistance, flew away. From his venomous blood there immediately sprung up numberless snakes and serpents, which turned their murderous tongues against Elmedorus. At these he thought proper to point his ring, as they were so many ; and so passed through the midst of them directly to the castle.

The entrance was guarded by two enormous bears, whose fierceness, perhaps, would have proved fatal to our knight, had they not, by virtue of the ring, been compelled to run away. The gates now opened, and a very stately knight advanced to defend the entry. It was the prince of Arragon, Zalmandor's rival. Elmedorus, willing to spare a prince who had many good qualities, desired him to desist from his opposition ; but he, having been told by the wicked magician, that Elmedorus was come to deliver Aman-

dina, struck our knight on the helmet with his sword; upon which he immediately attacked him, and though none was more brave than the prince of Arragon, laid him lifeless at his feet.

After this, Elmedorus, impatient to find out his dear Alzayda, rushed in; and having passed through several dismal apartments, came to a tower which had neither door nor window. Here he heard the moanings of those confined within, and, among the rest, thought he could distinguish the voice of his own princess. Striking his ring against the wall, it immediately opened, and disclosed to him a great number of illustrious personages, who by their tears formed a brook, which ran out at the bottom of the place, and with which, as we have said before, the villanous Amerdin performed all his enchantments. But what were his feelings, when he beheld his beautiful and beloved Alzayda, sitting by a tomb, on which was an exact image of himself, and bedewing it with her tears! He presented his ring, and in an instant the tomb

disappeared, and the walls of the tower were changed into a magnificent triumphal arch, on which the names of Elmedorus and Alzayda were written in golden letters, supported by Cupids. All the knights and ladies who had been kept prisoners there for several years, came to throw themselves at the feet of their deliverer, who raised them up in so obliging a manner, that they received an additional pleasure at being released by so generous a knight; and perceiving his impatience to console Alzayda, they retired to the farther part of the place.

“O my beloved princess,” said Elmedorus, “how great the grief your supposed death caused me! but how well am I requited by the unspeakable happiness which the present scene affords me!”

“Prince,” replied Alzayda, “you see by my punishment how dear you was to me, since for my disdain of Asmonadus, on your account, I was condemned to bewail your death all my days. But tell me how you have effected this

happy deliverance—how you entered this castle—and how you preserved yourself from the wicked Amerdin and Asmonadus your rival?”

“My rival,” replied the prince, “has paid for the injuries done us, by the loss of his life; and as to the Magician Amerdin, finding he was unable to defend himself against me, he flew away on his winged griffin.”

He was proceeding to give an account of his adventures, but Alzayda, representing the impropriety of conversing longer in the presence of so many illustrious personages, said, “Let us now leave this fatal place; and be assured, that the affection of Alzayda is the same as when you left her at Leon.”

Then going to the princes and princesses, who were still praising him for the liberty he had procured them, Elmedorus inquired which of the amiable ladies was Amandina; and upon her advancing forward, the prince told her, he only desired her pardon for the death of Armandus, which it was not in his power to prevent:

but that he could make amends by restoring Zalmandor to her. The princess could scarcely believe this good news ; but Elmedorus assured her she should soon be convinced of the truth of it ; and then, presenting his hand to Alzayda, led her out of the place, followed by the rest of the company.

As they passed through the porch, Amandina perceived the dead body of Armandus, which much affected her ; and his 'squire, casting himself at her feet, begged of her to allow him to erect a tomb to the memory of his master. This favour she readily granted ; at the same time inquiring of the 'squire what had brought Armandus to the castle.

“ The prince, madam,” he replied, “ after being cured of the wounds received in the last duel with Zalmandor, hearing that Amerdin had confined you in this fatal place, came to find you out ; and here the wicked magician received him, promising, if he could defend the castle against Elmedorus, to deliver you up to

him: in the attempt of which undertaking, alas! he has this day lost his life."

Leaving the 'squire to bury his master, the company went on, but were no sooner got over the moat that surrounded the castle, than the air appeared all on fire, accompanied with lightning and terrible claps of thunder; and an infinite number of demons having destroyed that dismal place, took their flight through the midst. This storm put an end to the enchantments; for shortly afterwards the day became perfectly clear, and not a vestige of the late horrible mansion remained.

Elmedorus then politely took leave of the strangers he had released; and the illustrious little company, who had attended Elmedorus to the castle, seeing its total destruction, came in haste to testify their joy; when Elmedorus taking Zalmandor by the hand, presented him to the lovely Amandina, saying, "You see, madam, I perform my promise:" upon which the princess gave her hand to her prince, and

was made happy in receiving every testimony of his sincere love. Thus was every one blessed, and mutual congratulations passed between them; but, above all, health and happiness were invoked upon Elmedorus, because to him the rest were indebted for their own felicity.

Nothing now remained to complete the bliss of all, but the amiable couples to go to their respective kingdoms, there to pledge their vows at Hymen's altar. Accordingly, after these heroes and heroines had travelled together as far as the different situations of their dominions would allow, the princesses embraced each other, and vowed an everlasting friendship; whilst the princes promised to enter into an alliance against all kings who should be their enemies.

Elmedorus was the first who reached his own dominions, where the king and queen of Granada, overjoyed to see a son again, whom they had supposed finally lost, united him in wedlock to his charming princess, and resigned to them the crown.

After some time Elmedorus received the welcome intelligence that all those princes, who had been the companions of his fortune, were in peaceable possession of their crowns and charming princesses; that the queen of Fez had crowned Almanzon and Zamea, the king being dead; that the prince of Numidia was resolved to stay in the Canaries, that he might not witness the inconstancy for which his own country was remarkable; and that Zalmandor, in order to be as near as possible to the friend to whom he owed the restoration of Amandina, had established his court at Castile.

THE STORY OF LITTLE GEORGE.

As a number of boys were one morning diverting themselves with play, they were interrupted by a wrinkled old woman, at whom some were so frightened that they ran away, whilst others treated her with rudeness and called her old witch. The tallest of them, whose name was Henry, had been taught to respect her; and Little George, who was the youngest, laid hold of Henry's hand for protection, as he had always been his particular friend. This old woman was a fairy, named Instruction; and bidding Henry and Little George take courage, she invited them to her castle, where she promised to make them as happy as the day was long.

The castle was an ancient, venerable building, and the path which led to it was almost covered with briars. Being arrived, the old woman put a large key, on which were engraven several

strange words, into the door, which opened immediately, and admitted them into a large hall. Then they sat down to a collation of cakes, biscuits, and sweetmeats, which were brought in by four beautiful damsels, called Innocence, Health, Mirth, and Good-humour.

The hall was supported by pillars of adamant, and the intermediate niches were adorned with statues. The principal one was Truth ; which seemed to be of one entire diamond, and represented a beautiful woman. The fairy having touched her with her wand, she stepped down from the pedestal, and addressing Little George, gave him some wholesome admonitions, and warned him particularly against telling lies. She then presented him with a little catechism bound in silver ; a pocket Bible, with ruby clasps ; and a small looking-glass in a gold case. “ These books,” said she, “ will teach you how to be good, great, and happy ; and whenever you look into the glass, if you continue true to me, you will behold yourself in your own natural shape ;

but if you see the resemblance of some monster, shudder to think that you have turned aside into the ways of Falsehood. In this case, call aloud upon me, and cease not till I come to your assistance." So saying, she withdrew to her former station.

Four other statues which stood on each side, being touched by the fairy's wand, now came down towards Little George. The first was a young woman, dressed in a snow-white robe, who changed colour every minute. She advanced slowly, and accosted him in a very low voice, as follows :—

"My name is Modesty; you will find the advice and assistance which I now offer you, very necessary in your progress to the top of this castle. Above all things fear Disgrace, which is a filthy puddle in this neighbourhood, and beware of the enchantress Flattery, who will offer you a pleasant cup. As, perhaps, you will be obliged to taste of it, take this nosegay, by smelling to which your head will be preserved

from dizziness, and your senses from stupefaction. Smelling to this nosegay will also defend you against the magician Pride, who will attempt either to effect your fall into the pool of Disgrace, or puff you up to so monstrous a size, that you will not be able to pass through the narrow ways which lead to True Honour."

Little George, with many thanks, took the nosegay, and put it into his bosom.

Natural Affection approached next. She wore rings on every finger, which had been given her by friends and relations.

"Dear George," said she, "I love you for the sake of your parents and friends, whose pictures are painted on this little enamelled box. It is gifted by a fairy; take it; and whenever you are in doubt how to act, look upon the paintings, and as your friends seem to smile or frown, you may judge whether your conduct be right or wrong."

Then Good Temper presented herself before our little hero. She was formed entirely of

sugar, but as fine and as clear as crystal. She gave him a small phial, filled with a particular kind of honey and oil. With this she charged him to touch his lips every morning, by which means he would be enabled to refrain from saying any thing peevish, or tending to breed quarrels.

The last figure was Diligence, dressed like a huntress, and remarkable for her activity. She ran nimbly towards George, and fixed two wings on his shoulders, saying, "These will be of great service to you by and by; but, as they will droop whenever the old witch Laziness comes near, with the wish to change you into a dormouse, you must gently run this golden spur into your side, on which they will immediately resume their vigour."

Little George and Henry were then conducted by the good old fairy into a small neat room, where they went to bed. In the morning Henry got up and dressed himself before George awoke; but a gentle touch with the spur, made him

jump up in an instant, all alive and merry. Presently after, as he was busily employed with the presents he had received, in came a sober-looking man named Application, who offered George a staff, without which he would not be able to make sure footing; but George disregarded what he said, and flew away to a large staircase, where he saw a great many little folks, like himself, going up. He stretched his wings, and made several attempts to attain the top; but when he thought he had just reached it, he constantly slid back, as if upon sloping ice, to the bottom. Those boys who had succeeded, laughed at his disappointment, at which he was so mortified, that he could not help crying; and what aggravated his misfortune, was, upon looking at his box, to see his parents and friends frowning, and very angry with him. In this dilemma his friend Henry gave him the nosegay, phial, and staff; by the proper use of which, Little George was enabled to get to the top.

And now a variety of rooms opened to his

view, every one of which had delightful prospects. One long gallery was hung with pictures, that represented a thousand agreeable stories. It was called the Gallery of Fiction, and was chiefly allotted to Poetry.

Next Little George entered the apartment of History; which, though not quite so gay, deserved examination better than the former. The master of it was very good-natured, and ready to satisfy our little hero in any inquiries; so that he was here at once both improved and delighted. A window, however, standing open, that overlooked a delightful play-field, little George could not help casting a longing eye upon it. At this moment the fairy Instruction appeared, and, with a smiling look, spoke to him as follows:—

“ I know your thoughts, my dear, and am willing to indulge you in every thing that is reasonable. I give you leave to go home to divert yourself with your friends; but, that you may return safely, take this key, which you see is

now bright, and has letters upon it. Be sure you rub it every morning, and keep it bright, so that the letters may be read, and then you will meet with a cordial welcome when you return to this happy seat of learning ; but take notice, if you let the key grow rusty, you will be in the utmost danger of falling into disgrace.”

She had scarcely done speaking, before there was a loud cry of “ The holidays are come ! The holidays are come ! ” Immediately a number of little cherubims appeared in the air, crowned with garlands, and away with them flew Little George ; but unluckily, in his haste, he left both the staff and the spur behind him.

His friends were extremely glad to see him, and listened with delight to his account of the surprising things he had seen. Little George, however, gave himself up so much to play, that he soon forgot his key ; nay, when he was one day reminded of it by seeing Henry very busy in brightening his, he called him a stupid, moping boy, and told him to come to play, for

it was time enough yet to do that slavish work. Henry, however, refused to move till he had cleaned his key ; for he was a steady and diligent boy, and knew the bad consequences of omitting to rub the key, though but for a single day. Little George, also, to his great sorrow, was soon convinced of the same ; for the time ran away rapidly, and, the last of the holidays being at hand, he tried and tried to stretch his wings ; but alas ! they drooped, and he now found, and lamented the want of his spur. Poor George could not think of any means by which he should return to the old fairy. At length, however, he met with unlooked-for assistance ; a cloud hung almost over his head, which he feared would every minute burst in thunder, when out of it flew a black eagle, who seized him in her talons, and in a moment carried him to the gates of the castle of Instruction.

It is true, Little George was at the castle, but how could he get in ? He looked at his key, but had the mortification to find it rustier than ever.

This threw him into the deepest trouble, and gave him a thorough sight of his folly; and he beheld many of his companions, and his friend Henry among the foremost, fly over his head with their polished keys, and enter with joyful acclamations into the apartments. Stung to the quick at his own situation, he wept bitterly, and at length, in the deepest distress, he cried out, "O Truth! Truth! come to my help; I have been very idle, but I am very sorry. Truth! Truth! come to my help." He fainted away with terror as he spoke; but when he recovered, he found himself within the castle, though a little stiff and sore with some rough methods that had been used to bring him to himself. Truth and Forgiveness then put him under the care of Amendment, who promised never to forsake him till he got to the top of the castle. As he was going on, he found himself struck a pretty hard blow by an angry-looking man; but, it being only to return him his staff and spur, George thanked him for his care and correction.

Little George now doubled his speed, to make up for his lost time. Indeed, he was so eager, that he soon overtook his companions; and when he came up with his old friend Henry, it is impossible to tell how glad they were to meet with one another again. "My dear George," said Henry, "I rejoiced to see you under the care of Amendment, by whose direction I knew you would be able to overcome all difficulties." — "Ah, dear Henry," answered George, "what I have suffered for my idleness and folly will, I am sure, keep me from being guilty of the same again."

And now being arrived at those wonderful rooms they had just had a view of before the holidays, they were immediately admitted. The fairy Instruction appeared to bid them welcome, and tenderly kissed them. Then presenting them with a most curious cabinet of pearl, she spoke as follows:—

"As you are now going to search into the inestimable treasures of these apartments, you will

have need of this cabinet. It is called the Cabinet of Memory, and contains an innumerable variety of boxes and drawers. They have this peculiar property, if you store them with things that are valuable, the more you put in, the more they will hold; but if you put in nothing but trash, they will soon become clogged, and full of cobwebs. Mind the advice I give you; for it is your own welfare that I wish to promote. Farewell!"

The fairy spoke these last words in so affectionate a manner, that both Henry and Little George burst into tears; and, falling on their knees, they kissed her hand, and gave her the thanks of hearts overflowing with gratitude. She gently raised them up, and, kissing them once more, left them to pursue their studies.

Little George and Henry immediately began to examine the curiosities, books, &c. and were every now and then calling out, to let one another know when they found any thing more remarkable than ordinary, which they placed very

carefully in their Cabinet of Memory. In this delightful, as well as profitable manner, they passed from room to room, each one being a step higher than the former, till at last they entered the Temple of Honour at the top. The interior was studded with numberless precious gems, every one of which shone like a sun; and the outside consisted of the most transparent crystal, that dazzled the eyes of all beholders. It commanded a boundless prospect; and though it was so high as to be seen in all parts by every body, yet very few were able to come near it: for there was but one entrance, and that could only be discovered by the good fairy Instruction. In this beautiful abode Little George and Henry passed the residue of their days, happy in themselves, beloved by their friends, and admired by the whole world besides.

JACK AND THE BEAN-STALK.

IN the days of the celebrated king Alfred, there lived a poor woman, whose cottage was situate in a remote country village, a great many miles from the metropolis.

She had been a widow some years, and had an only child, named Jack, whom she treated with such fond indulgence, that he soon became inattentive to every thing she said; and, though his disposition was not naturally bad, he gave himself up to habits of idleness and extravagance, till his mother was reduced to the brink of complete penury, and by degrees she disposed of all she possessed; nothing, in fact, remained but a cow.

One day the poor woman met Jack with tears in her eyes; and, for the first time in her life, she could not help reproaching him. "Alas! my son," she exclaimed, "you have at last brought me to ruin; I have not money enough

to purchase food for another week—nothing therefore remains for me but to sell my cow. I am very sorry to part with her; it grieves me to the heart; but we must not starve.”

For a few minutes Jack felt a degree of remorse, but this soon subsided, and he begged his mother to let him sell the cow at the next village. As he was going along, he met a butcher, who inquired why he was driving the cow from home? Jack replied, it was his intention to sell it. The butcher held some curious beans in his hat; which being of various colours, attracted Jack's notice; this did not pass unnoticed by the butcher, who, knowing Jack's easy temper, thought now was the time to take advantage of it. He accordingly asked what was the price of the cow, offering at the same time all the beans in his hat in exchange for her. The silly boy could not express his pleasure at what he supposed so great an offer; the bargain was instantly concluded; the cow was driven forward by her new master, and Jack

made the best of his way home, calling aloud to his mother before he reached the house, thinking to surprise her with his extraordinary good fortune.

When she saw the beans, and heard Jack's account, her patience quite forsook her; she dashed the beans out of his hat, in which he had proudly exhibited them; and, being in an agony of despair at the loss of her cow, and the gloominess of her prospects, she retired to bed without tasting a morsel of supper.

Several of the beans had been scattered about the little garden belonging to the widow's cottage; and when Jack awoke in the morning, he saw something uncommon from the window of his bed-chamber. He therefore hastened down stairs into the garden, where he soon discovered that some of the beans had taken root, and sprung up surprisingly; the stalks were of an immense thickness, and had entwined in such a manner as to form a sort of rope-ladder.

Looking upwards, he could not discern the

top, it appeared to be lost in the clouds; he then tried to step upon it, and found it firm, and not to be shaken. He quickly formed the resolution of endeavouring to climb up to the top, in order to seek his fortune, and ran to communicate his intention to his mother, not doubting but she would be equally willing with himself. She declared, however, that his absence would break her heart, and entreated him to desist; but all in vain. Jack began to ascend, and after climbing several hours, he reached the top of the bean-stalk, completely exhausted with fatigue. Looking around, he found himself in a strange country, which seemed to be a barren desert, without either trees, shrubs, houses, or inhabitants; here and there were scattered fragments of unhewn stone, and, at unequal distances, small heaps of earth were loosely thrown together. Jack seated himself pensively upon a block of stone, thought of his mother, and reflected with sorrow on his disobedience in climbing the bean-stalk against

her inclination ; concluding that he must now inevitably perish with hunger.

Whilst he was musing on his unfortunate situation, an old woman appeared at a distance, and as she approached he discovered that her face was covered with wrinkles, and her clothes were extremely mean. Walking up to our young adventurer she enquired how he came there ; and on hearing his account of the bean-stalk, she asked if he recollected his father ? He replied he did not ; and added there must be some mystery relating to him, for he had frequently asked his mother who his father was, but she always burst into tears, and appeared greatly agitated, nor did she recover herself for some hours after ; one thing, however, he could not avoid observing upon those occasions, which was, that she always carefully avoided answering him, and even seemed afraid of speaking, as if there were some secret connected with his father's history which she was compelled to conceal.

The old woman replied, " I will inform you of the particulars, though your mother must not. But before I begin, I require a solemn promise on your part to do what I command : I am a fairy, and if you do not perform exactly what I desire, you shall suffer the worst effects of my displeasure." Jack was frightened at the old woman's menace, and promised to fulfil her injunctions exactly ; and the fairy thus addressed him :—

" Your father was a rich man ; his disposition was remarkably benevolent ; and he was so good to the poor, that he made it a rule never to let a day pass without doing a kindness to some person. On one particular day in the week he kept open house, for persons who had been reduced in their circumstances. He always presided himself, and did all in his power to render his guests comfortable. The servants, as you may suppose, were all happy, and greatly attached to their master and mistress. Your father, though only a private gentleman, was as rich as a

prince, and he deserved all he possessed, for he only lived to do good. Such a man was soon known and talked of. A giant lived a great many miles off; this man was altogether as wicked as your father was good; he was in his heart envious, covetous, and cruel; but he had the art of concealing those vices; and as he had become poor through his own extravagance and folly, he resolved to enrich himself at any rate.

“Hearing your father spoken of, he determined to become acquainted with him, hoping to ingratiate himself into his favour. He accordingly removed into your neighbourhood, and caused it to be reported that he was a gentleman who had recently lost all he possessed by an earthquake, and found it difficult to escape with his life. Your father readily believed his story, gave him handsome apartments in his own house, and caused both him and his wife to be treated like visitors of consequence, little supposing that the giant was meditating a hor-

rid return for all his favours. Things went on in this way for some time, the giant becoming daily more impatient to put his plan into execution ; at last a favourable opportunity presented itself. Your father's house was at some distance from the sea-shore, but with a good glass the coast could be seen distinctly. The giant was one day using the telescope ; the wind was very high ; he saw a fleet of ships in distress off the rocks ; he hastened to your father, mentioned the circumstance, and eagerly requested he would send all the servants he could spare to relieve the sufferers. Every one was instantly dispatched, except the porter and your nurse ; the giant then joined your father in the library, and expressed a wish to amuse himself by reading. Your father recommended a favourite book, and was handing it down, when the barbarous wretch stabbed him to the heart, and laid him lifeless at his feet. He then sought out the porter and nurse, and presently despatched them. You were then only three months old ;

your mother had you in her arms in a remote part of the house, and was ignorant of what had passed, but on going into the library, how was she shocked, on discovering your father a corpse and weltering in his blood ! She was so completely stupified with horror and grief that she remained motionless. The giant, who was seeking her, found her in that state, and prepared to serve her and you as he had done her husband ; but she fell at his feet, and besought him so pathetically to spare your life and her's, that the cruel giant for a short time was struck with remorse, and granted her request ; but first he made her swear solemnly that she never would inform you who your father was, or answer any questions concerning him ; assuring her, that if she did, he would certainly discover her, and put both of you to death in the most cruel manner. Your mother then took you in her arms, and fled as quick as possible ; and though the giant was afterwards inclined to pursue and murder her, he found he

had no time to spare, as it was necessary he should be gone before the servants returned. Having gained your father's confidence, he knew where to find all his treasure; he, therefore, soon loaded himself and his wife, set the house on fire in several places, and when the servants returned, the edifice was entirely burnt down to the ground.

“ Your poor mother, distracted, forlorn, and abandoned, wandered with you a great many miles from this scene of desolation; till at last she settled in the cottage where you were brought up, and it was entirely owing to her fear of the giant that she never mentioned your father to you.

“ I became your father's guardian at the time of his birth; but fairies have certain laws to which they are subject as well as mortals. A short time before the giant went to your father's, I transgressed one of our rules, and was punished with a total suspension of power for a limited time. This unfortunate circumstance effectually

precluded me from succouring your father. The day on which you met the butcher, however, as you went to sell your mother's cow, my power was restored ; and it was I who secretly prompted you to take the beans in exchange for the cow. By my power the bean-stalk grew to so great a height and formed a ladder ; and by inspiring you with an earnest desire to ascend that ladder, I have introduced you to this country, where the murderer of your parent resides, and where you will have an opportunity of punishing him for his horrid wickedness.

“ You will have dangers and difficulties to encounter, but you must persevere in avenging the death of your father, or you will not prosper in any of your undertakings, but always be miserable. As to the giant's possessions, you may seize upon all with impunity : for every thing he has is your's, though now you are unjustly deprived of it. Now proceed along the road which lies before you, till you see the house where your cruel enemy lives. And remember the

severe punishment that awaits you if you disobey my commands."

The fairy now took leave of Jack, who continued to walk forward till after sunset, when he discovered a large mansion. A plain-looking woman was standing at the door, whom he respectfully accosted, begging she would give him a morsel of bread and a night's lodging. She expressed great surprise on seeing him, said it was quite uncommon to see a human being near their house, for it was well known that her husband was a large and powerful giant, who would never eat any thing but human flesh if he could possibly get it; and he did not regard the fatigue of walking fifty miles to procure it.

This account terrified Jack, but still he hoped to elude the giant, and therefore again he entreated the woman to take him in for one night, and conceal him in the oven. The good woman at last suffered herself to be persuaded, for she was of a humane disposition. She gave him

something to eat and drink, and then took him through the house.

First they entered a large hall, magnificently furnished; they then passed through several spacious rooms, all in the same style of grandeur, though they appeared to be forsaken and desolate. Next appeared a long gallery, which was but just light enough to shew that instead of a wall on one side, there was a grating of iron which parted off a dismal dungeon, whence issued the groans of those poor victims whom the giant reserved in confinement for his own voracious appetite. Poor Jack was half dead with fear, and would have given the world to be with his mother again; but this he feared could never be; for he gave himself up for lost, and now doubted the truth of what he had heard from the old woman. At the farther end of the gallery there was a winding staircase, which led them into a spacious kitchen: a very good fire was burning in the grate, and Jack, not seeing any thing to make him uncomfortable, soon forgot

his fears, and was just beginning to enjoy himself, when he was aroused by a loud knocking at the house-door. The giant's wife ran to secure Jack in the oven, and then made what haste she could to let her husband in ; and Jack heard him exclaim, in a voice like thunder, " Wife, I smell fresh meat." " O ! my dear," she replied, " it is nothing but the people in the dungeon." The giant appeared to believe her, and walked down stairs into the very kitchen where poor Jack was, who trembled from head to foot, and was more terrified than he had yet been.

At last the monster seated himself quietly by the fire-side, whilst his wife prepared supper. By degrees Jack recovered sufficient courage to look at the giant through the crevice : he was astonished to see how much he devoured, and thought he would never have done eating and drinking. When supper was ended, the giant desired his wife to bring him his hen. A very beautiful hen was brought, and placed upon the table before

him. Jack's curiosity was very great to see what would happen; he observed that every time the giant said "Lay," the hen laid an egg of solid gold. The giant amused himself with the hen, while his wife went to bed. At length he fell fast asleep by the fire-side, and snored like the roaring of distant cannon. At day-break, Jack finding the giant not likely to be soon roused, crept softly out of his hiding-place, seized the hen, and ran off with her.

He met with some difficulty in finding his way out of the house, but at last he reached the road in safety, without fear of pursuit; he easily found the way to the bean-stalk, and descended it much quicker than he expected. He found his mother crying bitterly, and lamenting his fate, for she concluded he had come to some shocking end through his rashness; but she was in transports of joy to see him return in safety.

Jack was impatient to show his hen, and inform his mother how valuable it was. He therefore produced it, and said, "Now, mother, I

have brought home that which will soon make you rich without any trouble. I hope I have made you some amends for the affliction I have formerly caused you through my indolence, extravagance, and folly.”—The hen produced as many eggs as they desired; they sold them, and in a little time became very comfortable. For some months Jack remained with his mother without once recollecting the Fairy’s injunctions; but when they recurred to his mind, he became desirous of again climbing the beanstalk, and paying the giant another visit, in order to carry off some more of his treasures; for during the time that he lay concealed in the oven, he learned from the conversation which took place between the giant and his wife, that he possessed some great curiosities. Jack thought on his journey again and again; but he could not determine how to name it to his mother, fearing that she would be resolved to prevent his going: and in this conjecture he was perfectly right; for when he told her one day that he

must take a journey up the bean-stalk, she begged he would not think of it, and tried all in her power to dissuade him, saying, that the giant could not fail of knowing him, and would desire nothing better than to get him into his power, that he might put him to a cruel death, in order to be revenged for the loss of his hen.

Jack, finding that all his arguments were useless, pretended to give up the point, though resolved to go at all events. He then procured a dress very different from that in which he took his first journey, and having discoloured his face and hands with a certain juice, so that he could not be easily recognised, he rose very early in the morning, and, unperceived by any one, ascended the bean-stalk. He was greatly fatigued when he reached the top, and very hungry. Having rested some time on one of the stones, he pursued his journey to the giant's mansion; and on his arrival, in the evening, he found the woman standing at the door, as at the time of his previous visit. Jack accosted her in a feign-

ed voice, relating a most piteous tale, and earnestly soliciting some victuals and drink, and a night's lodging. She told him what he knew before, concerning her husband, and also that she had one night admitted a poor distressed boy, who was half dead with travelling; that he stole one of the giant's treasures, and, ever since that, her husband was worse than before, and used her very cruelly, continually upbraiding her as having been the occasion of his loss. Jack knew that he was attending to the account of a story in which he was the principal actor; and though he exerted all his eloquence to persuade the good woman to admit him, he found it no easy matter to succeed.

At last, however, she consented, and as she led him along, Jack observed that every thing was just as he had seen it before: she took him into the kitchen, and concealed him in an old lumber-closet. The giant returned at the usual time, and walked in so heavily, that the house was shaken to the foundation. He then seated

himself by the fire, saying, "I smell fresh meat;" but his wife replied, it was merely a piece of flesh which the crows had brought and deposited upon the leads at the top of the house.

While supper was preparing, the giant appeared very ill-tempered and impatient, upbraiding his wife with the loss of his hen, and frequently lifting up his hand to strike her for not being quick enough; she, however, was always so fortunate as to elude the blow.

At length supper was served up; and when the giant had eaten till he had completely satisfied his voracious appetite, he said to his wife, "I must have something to amuse me, either my bags of money or my harp." For some time he knew not which to choose; but, at last, after a great deal of ill-humour, he commanded her to bring his bags of gold and silver. Jack, as before, peeped out of his hiding-place, and presently the woman brought two bags into the room; they were of an immense size, one was filled with new guineas, the other with new shil-

lings. When they were placed before the giant, he reprimanded his wife severely for staying so long: the poor woman replied, trembling with fear, that they were so heavy she could scarcely lift them, and concluded, at last, that she never could bring them down stairs, adding, that she had nearly fainted, owing to their weight. This so exasperated the giant, that he raised his hand to strike her; but she luckily stepped aside, and soon after went to bed, leaving him to amuse himself by counting over his treasures.

First, the bag containing the silver was emptied, and the contents placed upon the table. Jack viewed the glittering heaps with delight, and heartily wished the contents were in his own possession. The giant (little supposing that any person was watching him) reckoned the silver over and over again, then put it all carefully into the bag, and made it very secure. The other bag was opened next, and the guineas placed upon the table. If Jack were pleased at beholding the silver, he was much more de-

lighted when he saw such a heap of gold; he had the boldness even to think of seizing it; but soon recollecting himself, he feared the giant might feign sleep, in order the better to entrap any one who might be concealed. The gold was put up as the silver had been before, and, if possible, more securely. The giant then fell asleep and snored so loud, that Jack could compare his noise to nothing but the roaring of the sea in a high wind, when the tide is coming in. At last, concluding him to be really asleep, Jack crept out of his hiding-place, and approached the giant, in order to carry off his money; but, just as he laid his hand upon one of the bags, a little dog which he had not perceived before, started out from under the giant's chair, and barked at Jack most furiously. Our little adventurer now gave himself up for lost, and was so completely stupified by fear, that, instead of running back to his hiding place, he remained motionless, though expecting his enemy to awake every minute. Contrary to expect-

tation, however, the giant continued in a sound sleep, and the dog grew weary of barking : Jack then looked round, and seeing a large piece of meat, he threw it to the dog, who took it into the lumber-closet which Jack had just left.

Finding himself thus delivered from a noisy and troublesome enemy, and perceiving that the giant did not awake, Jack seized both the bags, and carried them through the apartments till he reached the street-door, which was fortunately unlocked, and it also proved to be moonlight. In his way to the top of the bean-stalk, therefore, the only difficulty he had to encounter, arose from the weight of the bags, for they were so heavy that he could hardly carry them. Jack was overjoyed when he found himself near the bean-stalk ; he soon reached the bottom, and immediately ran to seek his mother. To his great surprise, the cottage was deserted ; he went from one room to another, without being able to find any one ; he then went out into the street, hoping to see some of the neighbours,

who could inform him where he might find his mother. At last, an old woman said she was at a neighbour's ill of a fever, and directed him to the house where she was. He was shocked to find her apparently dying, and could scarcely bear his own reflections, as knowing his absence to have occasioned her illness. On being told of his return, by degrees she revived, and began to recover gradually. Jack presented her with his two valuable bags; they lived happily and comfortably; the cottage was repaired, and well furnished; and they lived together in perfect felicity for about three years; during which time the bean-stalk was never mentioned either by Jack or his mother; though it frequently occupied the thoughts of both. At length, notwithstanding all the comforts which our hero enjoyed, he found it impossible to conquer the inclination which he felt for another excursion. His mind now dwelt incessantly upon the bean-stalk; he could not think of any thing else; and it was in vain that he endeavoured to amuse himself. His

mother found that something preyed upon his mind, and endeavoured to discover the cause ; but Jack knew too well what the consequence would be to disclose the cause of his melancholy to her. He did his utmost, therefore, to conquer the desire he felt for another journey ; however, finding the inclination grow too powerful for him, he began to make secret preparations for setting out on a third expedition, and, on the longest day, arose as soon as it was light, ascended the bean-stalk, and reached the top with some trouble. He arrived at the giant's mansion in the evening, and found his wife standing at the door. Jack had disguised himself so completely, that she did not appear to have the least recollection of him ; however, when he pleaded hunger and poverty in order to gain admittance, he found it very difficult indeed to persuade her. At last he prevailed, and was concealed in the copper. When the giant returned in the evening, he said, " I smell fresh meat ;" but Jack felt quite composed, as he had said so before, and was soon

satisfied : however, the giant started up suddenly, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of his wife, he searched all around the room. Whilst this was going on, Jack was exceedingly terrified, and wished himself at home a thousand times ; but when the giant approached the copper, and put his hand upon the lid, Jack thought his destruction was inevitable. The giant, however, discontinued his search, without moving the lid of the copper, and seated himself quietly by the fire-side, whilst poor Jack remained in such terror, that he was afraid of moving, or even breathing, lest he should be discovered.

The giant at last sat down to supper ; and when he had finished, he ordered his wife to fetch down his harp. Jack peeped under the copper-lid, and soon saw the most beautiful harp that could be imagined, placed by the side of the giant. He said “ Play,” and it instantly played of its own accord, without being touched. The music was so uncommonly fine that Jack was completely delighted, and felt more anxious

to get the harp into his possession than either of the former treasures. Though the giant's soul was not attuned to harmony, the music soon lulled him into a profound sleep. Now, therefore, was the time to carry off the harp, and the giant appeared to snore much louder than usual. Jack, therefore, quickly got out of the copper, and seized the instrument to carry it off. The harp, however, was a fairy; and called out loudly, "Master! master! master!" The giant awoke, stood up, and tried to pursue Jack, but he had drunk so much that he could scarcely stand. Poor Jack ran as fast as he could, and in a little time the giant was sufficiently recovered to reel after him. Had he been sober, he must soon have overtaken him, but as he was tipsy, Jack contrived to arrive first at the top of the bean-stalk, the giant calling to him all the way he went. The moment Jack set his foot on the bean-stalk, he called for a hatchet, which was brought directly. He then came down into his mother's garden; and just as his enemy be-

gan to descend after him, he cut the bean-stalk asunder with his hatchet, so that the giant instantly fell to the ground and was killed by the fall.

Jack's mother was delighted when she saw the bean-stalk destroyed; and her pleasure was abundantly increased when she was made acquainted with the reasons which had induced her son repeatedly to absent himself from the cottage. Our hero also begged pardon for all his former indolence and extravagance, and assured his dear parent, that his future life should be uniformly marked by affection and dutiful obedience. This promise was fully realized by his subsequent behaviour, and Jack and his mother lived together many years in the enjoyment of every comfort.

THE END.

