PROCESSION OF SLAVES

CONVEYING ALADDIN'S PRESENTS TO THE SULTAN.

THE

ATHENIAN [illegible]

[illegible]

THE [illegible]

I. [illegible]

II. [illegible]

III. [illegible]

IV. THE [illegible]

[illegible] A [illegible] GIANT OF RA[illegible]

EMPE[illegible] WITH [illegible] ENG[illegible]

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TALES

FROM THE

ARABIAN NIGHTS'

ENTERTAINMENTS;

TRANSLATED BY

THE REVEREND EDWARD FORSTER:

CAREFULLY REVISED AND CORRECTED.

I. ALADDIN; OR, THE WONDERFUL LAMP.
II SINDBAD THE SAILOR'S SEVEN VOYAGES.
III. ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES.
IV. THE ENCHANTED HORSE.
V. ALI COGIA, A MERCHANT OF BAGDAD.

EMBELLISHED WITH BEAUTIFUL ENGRAVINGS.

LONDON:
WILLOUGHBY & Co., 22, WARWICK-LANE, & 26, SMITHFIELD.

1851.

PREFACE.

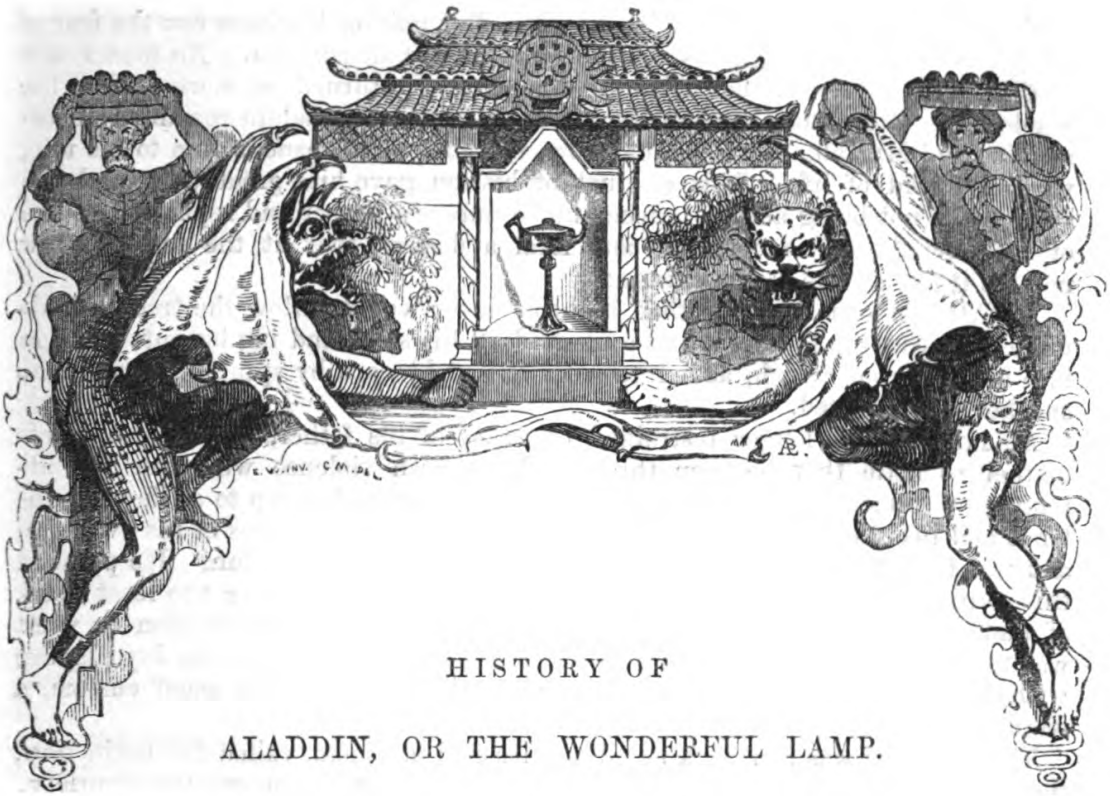
For nearly one hundred and fifty years these Arabian Tales have been a source of delight to all classes and varieties of readers. To the undisciplined imagination of youth they recal a glorious dream-land; and to the sedate mind of age they are no less capable of affording useful entertainment: even the great Canning turned to these charming tales to forget in their luxurious combination of the ideal and the real the tasking duties of government. Apart, moreover, from their attractions of the imaginative and the supernatural, they give as correct a delineation of oriental manners and customs, feelings and superstitions, at the present day as can be found in the last published diary of the last traveller who has taken notes in the East—allowing for the changes which lapse of time must produce in a people however wedded to old practices or prejudices.

It is therefore believed that the present selection of some of the most favourite and admired of these popular Tales will be received with pleasure by all; by enthusiastic youth, and calm, reflecting maturity.

It has been truly said that the power of eloquence and poetry, imagination, skill, and the witchery of words, can nowhere be found in such fascinating combination as in these Arab Stories. In European literature there are indeed tales that seize upon the fancy and sink deep into the imagination; but, with one or two exceptions, their component parts are of the earth, earthy: whilst to the narrative merit which these Tales intrinsically possess is added a pervading fascination of supernatural agency, and over all is thrown the rich mantle of Eastern imagery. Ah, those entrancing Arab Tales!—at the bare mention of them, a weight of many years slips off our shoulders, and, young again, we revel amid the gorgeous scenes of the fairy-land into which perforce they carry the fancy captive and "lap it in Elysium." The world of manhood is a sad, stern world, compared to that of boyhood, the world of sunshine, ere

Discord on the music fell, or darkness on the glory:

and the boy's world, as in part made up of the lavish extravagance of superstition, poetry, and imagery comprised in these Arabian Tales is an excellent brave world indeed!



HISTORY OF

ALADDIN, OR THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

In the capital of one of the richest and most extensive kingdoms of Cathay, the name of which does not at this moment occur, there lived a tailor, named Mustafa, who had no other distinction than that of his trade. This tailor was very poor, the profits of his trade barely producing enough for himself, his wife, and a son, with whom God had blessed him, to subsist upon.

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

When he was old enough to learn a trade, his father, being unable to have him taught any other than that he himself followed, took him to his shop, and began

to show him how he should use his needle. But neither kindness nor the fear of punishment could restrain his volatile and restless disposition. No sooner was Mustafa's back turned, than Aladdin was off, and returned no more during the whole day. His father continually chastised him, still Aladdin remained incorrigible; and Mustafa, to his great sorrow, was obliged to abandon him to his idle, vagabond kind of life. This conduct of his son gave him great pain, and the vexation of not being able to induce him to pursue a proper and reputable course of life, brought on so obstinate and fatal a disease, that at the end of a few months it put an end to his existence.

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

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

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

Whether this magician, who was well skilled in physiognomy, had remarked in the countenance of Aladdin the signs of such a disposition as was best adapted to the purpose for which he had undertaken so long a journey, or not, is uncertain;

but he very adroitly made himself acquainted with his family, discovered who he was, and the sort of character and disposition he possessed. He was no sooner informed of what he wished, than he went up to the young man; and, taking him apart from his companions, he asked him if his father's name was not Mustafa, and whether he was not a tailor by trade. "Yes, sir," replied Aladdin, "but he has been dead this long time."

At this speech the African magician threw his arms around Aladdin's neck, embraced and kissed him for some time, while the tears seemed to run from his eyes and his bosom to heave with sighs. Aladdin asked him what reason he had to weep. "Alas! my child," replied the magician, how can I do otherwise? I am your uncle; your father was my most excellent brother. I have been several years upon my journey, and at the very instant of my arrival in this place, and when I was congratulating myself in the hopes of seeing him, and giving him joy on my return, you inform me of his death. Can I then be so unfeeling as not to evince my grief when I thus find myself deprived of my expected consolation? What, however, alleviates my affliction is, that as far as my recollection carries me, I discover many traces of your father in your countenance, and that I have not been deceived in addressing myself to you." He then asked Aladdin, putting at the same time his hand into his purse, where his mother lived, and as soon as he was answered, the African magician gave him a handful of small money, and said to him. "My son, go to your mother, and make my respects to her; tell her that I will come and see her to-morrow, if I have an opportunity, in order to afford myself the consolation of seeing the spot where my good brother lived so many years, and where he at last finished his career."

The African magician had no sooner quitted his new-created nephew, than Aladdin ran to his mother, highly delighted with the money his supposed uncle had given him. "Pray tell me, mother," he cried the instant of his arrival, "whether I have not an uncle?" "No, my child," replied she, "you have no uncle, either on your poor father's side or mine." "I have, however, just left a man," answered the boy, who told me he was my father's brother, and my uncle. He even cried and embraced me, when I told him of my father's death. And to prove to you that he spoke the truth," added he, showing her the money which he had received, "see what he has given me. He bid me also give his kindest remembrances to you, and to say that he would, if he had time, come and see you to-morrow, as he was desirous of beholding the house where my father lived and died." "It is true, indeed, my son," replied Aladdin's mother, "that your father had a brother, but he has been dead a long time, and I never heard him mention any other." After this conversation, they said no more on the subject.

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

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

Although Aladdin had pointed out to the magician the exact situation of his

mother's house, he was nevertheless ready to go; but at the very moment that he reached the door, he heard some person knock. Aladdin instantly opened it, and saw the African, bringing several bottles of wine and various sorts of fruit for them to regale with.

When he had given Aladdin all the things that he had brought, he paid his respects to his mother, and requested her to show him the place where his brother Mustafa was accustomed to sit upon the sofa. She had no sooner pointed

it out, than he prostrated himself before it: kissed the place several times, while the tears seemed to run in abundance from his eyes. "My poor brother," he exclaimed, "how unfortunate am I not to have arrived time enough to receive your embraces once more before you died!" The mother of Aladdin begged this pretended brother to sit in the place her husband used to occupy, but he would by no means hear of it. "No," he cried, "I will not do that: give me leave, however, to seat myself opposite; that if I am deprived of the pleasure of seeing him here in person, sitting like the father of a family that is so dear to me, I may at least look at the spot as if he were present." Aladdin's mother pressed him no farther, but permitted him to take whatever seat he chose.

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

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

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

At this speech Aladdin hung down his head, and was much disconcerted: but his mother answered for him. "Aladdin," she said, "is a very idle boy. His father did all he could to make him learn his business, but he could not accomplish it; and since his death, in spite of everything I can say, he will learn nothing; but leads the idle life of a vagabond, though I talk to him on the subject every day of my life. He spends all his time at play with other boys, as you saw him, without considering that he is no longer a child; and if you cannot make him ashamed of himself, and profit by your advice, I shall utterly despair, that he will ever be good for anything. He knows very well that his father has left us nothing to live upon; and sees that, though I pass the whole day in spinning cotton, I can hardly get bread for us to eat. In short, I am resolved soon to shut my doors against him, and make him seek his own livelihood."

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

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

The mother of Aladdin, who had not hitherto been convinced that the magician was in fact the brother of her husband, no longer doubted it when he promised to do so much good for her son. She thanked him sincerely for his kind intentions, and after having charged Aladdin to conduct himself so as to prove worthy of the good fortune his uncle had led him to expect, she served up the supper.

The conversation, during the whole time the supper lasted, turned on the same subject, and continued till the magician, who perceived that the night was far advanced, took leave of Aladdin and his mother and retired.

The magician did not fail to return the next morning to the widow of Mustafa, the tailor, as he had promised. He took Aladdin with him, and conducted him to a merchant's, where clothes, made of the finest stuffs, were sold. He made Aladdin try on such as seemed to fit him, and, after selecting those he liked best,

"My nephew," said the magician, "choose such as you are most pleased with, out of this number." Delighted with the liberality of his new uncle, Aladdin made choice of one. The magician bought it, together with everything that was necessary to complete the dress, and paid for the whole without asking the merchant to make any abatement.

When Aladdin saw himself thus magnificently dressed from head to foot, he returned his uncle a thousand thanks; the magician, on his part, again promised never to forsake him, but to have him always with him. He then conducted Aladdin to the most frequented parts of the city, particularly where the shops of the most opulent merchants were; and when he was come to the street where the shops of stuffs and fine linens were, he said to Aladdin, "You will soon become a merchant such as one of these. It is proper that you should frequent this place, and become acquainted with them." After this, he took him to the largest and most noted mosques, to the khans, where all the foreign merchants lived, and through every part of the sultan's palace, where he had leave to enter. Having, at length, gone with him over every part of the city worth seeing, they came to the khan where the magician had hired an apartment. They found several merchants, with whom he had made some slight acquaintance since his arrival, and whom he had now invited to partake of a repast, in order to introduce his pretended nephew to them.

The entertainment was not over till the evening. Aladdin then wished to take leave of his uncle, and go home; the magician, however, would not suffer him to go alone, but conducted him back to his mother's. When she saw her

son so handsomely dressed, she was transported with joy; and bestowed a thousand blessings on the magician, who had been at so great an expense on her dear child's account. "Generous relation," she exclaimed, "I know not how to thank you enough for your great liberality. My son, I am aware, is not worthy of so much generosity; and he will be wicked indeed if he ever prove ungrateful to you, or does not conduct himself so as to deserve and be an ornament to the excellent situation you are about to place him in. For my part," added she, "I thank you with my whole soul; may you live many happy years, and witness my son's gratitude, who cannot prove his good intentions better than by following your advice."

"Aladdin," replied the magician, "is a good boy. He seems to pay attention to what I say. I have no doubt but we shall make him what we wish. I am sorry for one thing, and that is, that I am not able to perform all my promises to-morrow. It is Friday, and on that day the shops are shut; and it is impossible either to hire one, or furnish it with goods, because all the merchants are absent, and engaged in their several amusements. We will, however, settle this business on Saturday; and I will come here to-morrow to take Aladdin, and show him the public gardens, in which people of reputation constantly walk and amuse themselves. He has, probably, hitherto been ignorant of the way in which they pass their time there. He has associated only with boys, but he must now learn to live with men." The magician then took his leave and departed. In the meantime, Aladdin, who was delighted at seeing himself so well dressed, was still more pleased at the idea of going to the gardens in the environs of the city. He had never been outside of the gates, nor seen the neighbouring country, which was very beautiful.

The next morning, Aladdin got up and dressed himself very early, in order to be ready to set out the moment his uncle called for him. After waiting some time, and which he thought an age, he became so impatient that he opened the door and stood on the outside to watch for his uncle. The moment he saw him coming he went and informed his mother of it, took leave of her, shut the door and ran to meet him.

The magician behaved in the most affectionate manner to Aladdin. "Come, my good boy," said he, with a smile, "I will to-day show you some very fine things." He conducted him out at a gate that led to some large and handsome houses, or rather magnificent palaces, each having a beautiful garden, in which they had the liberty of walking. At each palace they came to, he asked Aladdin if it were not very beautiful; while the latter often prevented this question by exclaiming, when a new one presented itself: "O, uncle, here is one much more beautiful than those we have before seen." In the meantime they kept going on into the country, and the cunning magician, who wanted to go still further, for the purpose of putting a design which he had in his head into execution, went into one of these gardens, and sat down by the side of a large basin of pure water, which received its supplies through the jaws of a bronze lion. He then pretended to be very tired, in order to give Aladdin an opportunity of resting. "My dear nephew," he said, "you must be fatigued as well as myself. Let us rest ourselves here a little while, and get fresh strength to pursue our walk."

When they were seated, the magician took out from a piece of linen cloth, which was attached to his girdle, various sorts of fruits, and some cakes, with which he had provided himself, and spread them on the bank before them. He divided a cake between himself and Aladdin, and gave him leave to eat whatever fruit he liked best. While they were eating, he gave his pretended nephew much good advice, desiring him to leave off playing with boys, and to associate with intelligent and prudent men; to pay every attention to them, and to profit from their conversation. "You will very soon," said he, "be a man yourself, and you cannot too soon accustom yourself to their manners and behaviour."

When they had finished their slight repast, they got up, and pursued their way by the side of gardens, which were separated from each other by a small fosse, that served chiefly to mark the limits of each, and not to prevent the communication between them; the honesty of the inhabitants of this city making it unnecessary for them to take other means of preventing any injury. The magician insensibly led Aladdin much further than the gardens extended; and they walked on through the country, till they came into the neighbourhood of the mountain.

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

They at length came to a narrow valley, situated between two moderately sized mountains, of nearly the same height. This was the particular spot to which the magician wished to bring Aladdin, in order to put in execution the grand project that was the sole cause of his coming from the extremity of Africa to Cathay. "We shall now," said he to Aladdin, "go no further; and I shall here unfold to your view some extraordinary things hitherto unknown to mortals; and which, when you shall have seen, you will thank me a thousand times for having made you an eye-witness of. They are indeed such wonders as no one besides yourself will ever have seen. I am now going to strike a light, and do you, in the meantime, collect all the dry sticks and leaves that you can find, in order to make a fire."

There were so many pieces of dry sticks scattered about, that Aladdin had collected more than was sufficient for his purpose, by the time the magician had lighted his match. He then set them on fire; and as soon as they were in a blaze the magician threw a certain perfume,

which he had ready in his hand, upon them. A thick and dense smoke immediately arose, which seemed to unfold itself in consequence of some mysterious words pronounced by the magician, and which Aladdin did not in the least comprehend. At the same instant the ground slightly shook, and opening in the spot where they stood, discovered a square stone about a foot and a half broad, placed horizontally, with a brass ring in the centre, for the purpose of lifting it up.

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

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

When the stone was taken away, a small cavern was visible, between three and four feet deep, at the bottom of which there appeared a door, with steps to go down still lower. "You must now, my good boy," said the magician to Aladdin, "observe very exactly everything I am going to tell you. Go down into this cavern, and when you have come to the bottom of the steps which you see, you will perceive an open door, leading into a large vaulted space, divided into three successive halls. In each of these you will perceive, on both sides of you, four bronze vases, as large as tubs, full of gold and silver; but you must take particular care not to touch any of it. When you get into the first hall, take up your robe and bind it round you. Then observe, and go on to the second without stopping, and thence, in the same manner, to the third. Above all, however, be very particular not to go near the walls, nor even to touch

them with your robe; for if any part of your dress comes in contact with them, your instant death will be the inevitable consequence. This is the reason of my having desired you to fasten your robe closely round you. At the extremity of the third hall there is a door, leading to a garden planted with beautiful trees, all of which are full of fruit. Go on straight forward, and pursue a path which you will perceive, and which will bring you to the bottom of a flight of fifty steps, at the top of which is a terrace. When you shall have ascended the terrace, you will observe a niche before you, in which there is a lighted lamp. Take the lamp, and extinguish it. Then throw out the wick, and the liquid that is within, and put it in your bosom. When you have done this bring it to me. Do not be afraid of staining your dress, as what is within the lamp is not oil; and when you have thrown it out, the lamp will dry directly. If you should feel yourself very desirous of gathering any of the fruit in the garden you may do so · and there is nothing to prevent your taking as much as you please."

When the magician had given these directions to Aladdin, he took a ring from his finger, and gave it to his pretended nephew; telling him, at the same time, that it was a preservative against every evil that might otherwise happen to him, and again bade him be mindful of everything he had said to him. "Go, my child," added he, "descend boldly; we shall now both of us become immensely rich for the rest of our lives."

Aladdin gave a spring, jumped into the opening with a willing mind, and went down to the bottom of the steps. He found the three halls, exactly answering the description the magician had given of them. He passed through them with the greatest precaution possible; as he was fearful he might be killed, if he did not most strictly observe all the directions he had received. He went on to the garden, and ascended to the terrace without stopping. He took the lamp, as it

stood lighted in the niche, threw out its contents, and, observing that it was, as the magician had said, quite dry, he put it into his bosom. He then came down the terrace, and stopped in the garden to examine the fruit, which he had only seen for an instant, as he passed along. The trees of this garden were all full of

the most extraordinary fruit. Each tree bore a sort of a different colour. Some were white, others sparkling and transparent, like crystal; some were red, and of different shades, others green, blue, violet; some of a yellowish hue, in short, of almost every colour. The white were pearls; the sparkling and transparent were diamonds; the deep red were rubies; the paler, a particular sort of ruby, called balass; the green, emeralds; the blue, turquoises; the violet, amethysts: those tinged with yellow, sapphires; in the same way, all the other coloured fruits were varieties of precious stones; and the whole of them were of the largest size, and more perfect than were ever seen in the world. Aladdin, who knew neither their beauty nor their value, was not at all struck with the appearance of them, which did not the least suit his taste, like the figs, grapes, and other excellent fruits, common in Cathay. As he was not yet of an age to be acquainted with their value, he thought they were all only pieces of coloured glass, and did not therefore attach any value to them. The variety, however, and contrast of so many beautiful colours, as well as the brilliancy and extraordinary size of each sort, nevertheless tempted him to gather some of each. And he took so many of every colour that he filled both his pockets, as well as his two new purses that the magician had bought for him at the time he made him a present of his new dress, that everything he wore might be equally new; and as his pockets, which were already full, could not hold his two purses, he fastened them on each side of his girdle, or sash, and also wrapped some in its folds, as it was of silk, and made very full. In this manner, he carried them so as they could not fall out. He did not even neglect to fill his bosom quite full, between his robe and shirt.

Laden in this manner, with the most immense treasure, though ignorant of its value, Aladdin made haste through the three halls, in order that he might not make the magician wait too long. Having proceeded through them with the same caution as before, he began to ascend the steps he had come down, and presented himself at the entrance of the cave, where the magician was impatiently waiting for him. As soon as Aladdin had perceived him, he called out, "Give me your hand, uncle, to help me up." "You had better, my dear boy," replied the magician, "first give me the lamp, as that will only embarrass you." "It is not at all in my way," said Aladdin, "and I will give it to you when I am out." The magician still persevered in wishing to get the lamp, before he helped Aladdin out of the cave: but the latter had in fact so covered it with the fruit of the trees, that he absolutely refused to give it, till he had got out of the cave. The African magician was in

the greatest despair at the obstinate resistance the boy made; he put himself into the most violent rage; he threw a little perfume upon the fire, which he had taken care to keep up, and he had hardly pronounced two magic words, before the stone, which served to shut up the entrance to the cavern, returned of its own accord to the place, with all the earth over it, exactly in the same state it was when the magician and Aladdin arrived there.

There is do doubt that this African magician was not the brother of Mustafa, the tailor, as he had boasted, and consequently not the uncle of Aladdin. He was most probably originally of Africa, being born there; as that is a country where magic is more studied than in any other, he had given himself up to it from his earliest youth: and after nearly forty years spent in enchantments, experiments in geomancy, fumigations, and reading books of magic, he had at length discovered, that there was in the world a certain wonderful lamp, the possession of which would make him the most powerful monarch in the universe, if he were so fortunate as to obtain it. By a late experiment in geomancy, he had discovered, that this lamp was in a subterraneous place in the middle of Cathay, in the very spot, and under the very circumstances, that have just been detailed. Thoroughly persuaded of the truth of this discovery, he had come from the remotest part of Africa, and after a long and painful journey, had arrived in the city that was nearest this treasure. But though the lamp was certainly in the place which he had found out, he was nevertheless not permitted to take it away himself, nor to go in person to the very spot where it was. It was absolutely necessary that another person should go down to take it, and then put it into his hands. It was for this reason that he had addressed himself to Aladdin, who seemed to him to be an artless youth, and well adapted to perform the service he expected from him; and he had resolved, as soon as he had got the lamp from him, to raise the last fumigation, pronounce the two magic words, which produced the effect already seen, and sacrifice poor Aladdin to his avarice and wickedness, that he might not have an existing witness of his being in possession of the lamp. The blow he had given Aladdin, as well as the authority he exercised over him, were only for the purpose of accustoming him to fear him, and obey all his orders without hesitation; that when Aladdin had got possession of the wonderful lamp he might instantly deliver it to him. The reverse, however, of what he both wished and expected, came to pass: for he was so much in a hurry to put an end to poor Aladdin, only because he was afraid that, while he was contesting the matter with him, some person might come, and make that public which he wished to be kept secret, that he completely failed in his object.

When the magician found all his hopes and expectations for ever blasted, he had only one method to pursue, and that was to return to Africa, which he in fact did the very same day. He pursued his journey along the most private roads, in order to avoid the city where he had met with Aladdin. He was also afraid to meet any person who might have seen him walk out with him and come back without him.

To judge from all these circumstances, it might naturally be supposed that Aladdin was gone for ever; and indeed the magician himself, who thought he had thus destroyed him, had not paid any attention to the ring which he had placed on his finger, and which was now about to render Aladdin the most essential service, and to save him. Aladdin knew not the wonderful qualities either of that or the lamp; and it is indeed astonishing that the loss of both of them did not drive the magician to absolute despair: but persons of his profession are so accustomed to defeat, and so many events happen to them contrary to their wishes, that they never cease from endeavouring to conquer every misfortune, by charms, visions, and enchantments.

Aladdin, who did not expect this wicked action from his pretended uncle, after all the kindness and generosity which the latter had evinced towards him, expe-

rienced a degree of surprise and astonishment easier to conceive than explain. When he found himself as it were buried alive, he called aloud a thousand times to his uncle, telling him he was ready to give him the lamp. But all his cries were useless, and having no other means of making himself heard, he remained in perfect darkness. Giving, at length, a little cessation to his tears, he went down to the bottom of the flight of stairs, intending to look for the light in the garden where he had been before. But the walls, which had been opened by enchantment, were now shut by the same means. He felt all around him, to the right and left, several times, but could not discover the least opening. He then redoubled his cries and tears, sat down upon the step of his dungeon, without hoping ever again to see the light of day, and with the melancholy conviction, that he should only pass from the darkness which now encompassed him to the shades of an inevitable and speedy death.

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

At any other moment, and on any other occasion, Aladdin, who was totally unaccustomed to such appearances, would have been so frightened at the sight of such a wonderful figure, he would have been unable to speak; but he was so entirely pre-occupied with the danger and peril of his situation, that he answered without the least hesitation, "Whoever you are, take me, if you are able, out of this place." He had scarcely pronounced these words, when the earth opened, and he found himself on the outside of the cave, and at the very spot to which the magician had brought him. It is easy to be conceived, that after having re-

mained in complete darkness for so long a time, Aladdin had at first some difficulty in supporting the brightness of open day. By degrees, however, his eyes became accustomed to the light, and on looking round him he was surprised to find not the least opening in the earth. He could not comprehend in what manner he had so suddenly come out of it. There was only the place where the fire had been made, which he recollected was close to the entrance of the cave. Looking round towards the city, he perceived it surrounded by the gardens, and thus knew the road he had come with the magician. He returned the same way, thanking God for having again permitted him to behold and revisit the face of the earth, which he had quite despaired of doing.

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

Aladdin followed his mother's advice; he ate but little and slowly, and drank sparingly. "I have great reason, my dear mother," said he, when he had done, "to complain of you, for putting me in the power of a man whose object was to destroy me, and who, at this very moment, supposes my death sure, or at least that I should not live another day. But you took him to be my uncle, and I was also equally deceived. Indeed, how could we suppose him to be any thing else, as he almost overwhelmed me with his kindness and generosity, and made me so many promises of future advantage. But I must tell you, mother, that he was a traitor, a wicked man, a cheat. He was good and kind to me only that he might, after answering his own purpose, destroy me, as I have already told you, without either of us being able to know the reason. I can assure you I have not given him the least cause for the bad treatment I have received; and you will yourself be convinced of it by the faithful and true account I am going to give you of everything that has passed, from the moment that I left you till he put his wicked design in execution."

Aladdin then related to his mother everything that had happened to him and the magician, on the day when the latter came and took him away to see the palaces and gardens round the city; what had befallen him on the road, and at the place between the two mountains, where the magician worked such prodigies: how upon throwing the perfume into the fire and uttering some magical words, the earth instantly opened, and discovered the entrance to a cave, that led to most inestimable treasures. Neither did he forget the blow that the magician had given him, nor how, after having first coaxed him, he had persuaded him, by the means of the greatest promises, and by putting a ring upon his finger, to descend into the cave. He omitted no circumstance of what passed, or what he had seen in going backwards and forwards through the three halls, in the garden, or on the terrace whence he had taken the wonderful lamp. This he now drew from his bosom, and showed it to his mother, as well as the transparent and different coloured fruits that he had gathered as he

returned through the garden, and the two purses, quite full, all of which he gave her; she, however, did not set much value upon them. The fruits were in fact precious stones; and the lustre which they threw round, by means of a lamp that hung in the chamber, and which almost equalled the sun in brightness, ought to have informed her they were of the greatest value; but the mother of Aladdin had no more knowledge of their worth than her son. She had been brought up in a

middle station in life, and her husband had never been rich enough to bestow any jewels upon her; nor had she ever seen any among her relations or neighbours: consequently it was not at all surprising that she considered them as things of no value, and only fit to please the eye by the variety of their colours. Aladdin, therefore, put them all behind one of the cushions of the sofa on which they were sitting.

He finished the recital of his adventure by telling her that when he came back and presented himself at the mouth of the cave to get out, upon refusing to give the lamp to the magician, the entrance to the cave was instantly closed, by means of the perfume thrown by the magician on the fire, which he had kept alight, and of some words that he pronounced. He could not then proceed any further without shedding tears, and representing the miserable state he found himself in, buried, as it were, alive in this fatal cave, till the moment he got out by means of the ring, of which he did not even now know the virtues. When he had finished his account, he said to his mother. "I need not tell you more; the rest is known to you. This is the whole of my adventures, and of the danger I have been in, since I left you."

Wonderful and surprising as this relation was, distressing too as it must have been for a mother, who, in spite of his defects, tenderly loved her son, she had the patience to hear it to the end, without giving him the least interruption. In the most affecting parts, however, particularly those that unfolded the wicked intentions of the African magician, she could not help showing by her actions how much she detested him, and how much he excited her indignation. But Aladdin had no sooner concluded, than she began to abuse the impostor in the strongest terms. She called him a traitor, a barbarian, a cheat, an assassin, a

magician, the enemy and destroyer of the human race. "Yes, my child," she exclaimed, "he is a magician; and magicians are public evils. They hold communication with demons by means of their sorceries and enchantments. Blessed be God, that he has not suffered the wickedness of this wretch to have its full effect upon you. You ought to return Him many thanks for his kindness to you. Your death would have been inevitable, if God had not come to your assistance, and you had not implored his aid." She added many more things of the same sort; showing, at the same time, her complete detestation of the treachery with which the magician had treated her son; but as she was proceeding in this manner, she perceived that Aladdin, who had not slept for three days, wanted rest. She made him, therefere, retire to bed, and soon afterwards went thither herself.

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

Aladdin's mother took the lamp from the place she had put it in. "Here it is," she said to her son; "but it is, I think, very dirty. If I were to clean it a little, perhaps it might sell for something more." She then took some water and a little fine sand to clean it with. But she had scarcely begun to rub the lamp, when instantly, and while her son was present, a hideous and gigantic genie rose out of the ground before her, and cried with a voice as loud as thunder: "What do you wish? I am ready to obey you

as your slave, and the slave of those who have the lamp in their hands; I and the other slaves of the lamp." The mother of Aladdin was not in a condition to answer this address. She was unable to endure the sight of a figure so hideous and alarming as that of the genie; and her fears were so great, that he had no sooner begun to speak, than she fell down in a fainting fit.

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

All this passed in so short a time, that Aladdin's mother had not recovered from fainting, before the genie had disappeared the second time. Aladdin, who had thrown some water over her without any effect, again endeavoured to bring her to herself; but, whether her scattered spirits returned of themselves, or that the smell of the dishes which the genie had brought, produced the effect, she quite recovered. "My dear mother," cried Aladdin, "there is nothing the matter. Get up and come and eat; here is what will put you in good spirits again, and at the same time satisfy my violent appetite. Come, do not let us suffer these good things to get cold before we begin."

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

During the repast, the mother of Aladdin could not help stopping frequently to look at and admire the basin and dishes; although she was not quite sure whether they were silver or any other material, so little was she accustomed to things of this sort; and, in fact, without regarding their value, of which she was ignorant, it was only the novelty of their appearance that attracted her admiration. Nor indeed was her son better informed than herself. Although they both merely intended to make a simple breakfast, yet they sat so long, that the hour of dining came, before they had risen; the dishes were so excellent, they almost increased their appetites; and as they were still hot, they thought it no bad plan to join the two meals together, and therefore they dined before they got up from breakfast. When they had made an end of their double repast, they found enough remaining, not only for supper, but even for two as good meals the next day.

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

Why did he not rather address himself to you, to whom he had before appeared in the subterraneous cavern?"

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

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

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

The Jew, who was both clever and cunning, took the plate and examined it. He had no sooner ascertained that it was good silver, than he desired to know how much he expected for it. Aladdin, who knew not its value, nor had ever had any dealings of the sort before, was satisfied with saying that he supposed the Jew knew what the plate was worth, and that he would depend upon his honour. Being uncertain whether Aladdin was acquainted with its real value or not, he took out of his purse a piece of gold equal to one seventy-second part of

the value of the plate, and offered it to Aladdin. The latter eagerly took the money, and went away so quickly, that the Jew, not satisfied with the exorbitant profit he had made by this bargain, was very sorry he had not foreseen Aladdin's ignorance of the value of the plate, and offered him much less for it. He was

upon the point of running after him, to get something back out of the piece of gold; but Aladdin himself ran very fast, and was already got so far, that he would have found it impossible to overtake him.

In his way home, Aladdin bought enough bread for his mother and himself, which he paid for out of his piece of gold. When he got back, he gave the change to his mother, who went to the market, and purchased as much provision as would last them for several days.

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

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

Wheu nothing remained of his ten pieces of gold, Aladdin had recourse to the lamp. He took it up, and looked for the particular spot that his mother had rubbed. As he easily perceived the place where the sand had touched it, he applied his hand to the same place, and the same genie, whom he had before seen, instantly appeared. But, as Aladdin had rubbed the lamp in a more gentle manner than his mother had done, the genie spoke to him also in a more softened tone. "What do you wish?" said he to him, in the same words as before: "I am ready to obey you, as your slave; and the slave of those who have the lamp in their hands; I and the other slaves of the lamp." "I am hungry," cried Aladdin; "bring me something to eat." The genie disappeared, and in a short time returned, loaded with a similar service to that he had brought before, which he placed upon the sofa, and vanished in an instant.

As Aladdin's mother was aware of the intention of her son, she had gone out on some business, that she might not be in the house when the genie again made his appearance. She soon after came in, and saw the table and sideboard well set out; nor was she less surprised at the effect of the lamp this time than she had been

the first. Aladdin and his mother immediately placed themselves at the table; and after they had finished their repast, there still remained sufficient food to last them two whole days.

When Aladdin again found that all his provisions were gone, and that he had no money to purchase any, he took one of the silver dishes, and went to look for the Jew, in order to sell it him. As he walked along, he happened to pass a goldsmith's shop, belonging to a respectable old man, whose probity and general honesty were unimpeachable. The goldsmith, who perceived him, called to him to come into the shop. "My son," said he, "I have often seen you pass, loaded as you are at present, and join such a Jew; and then, in a short time, come back empty-handed. I have thought that you sold him what you carried. But perhaps you are ignorant, that this Jew is a very great cheat; nay, that he will even deceive his own brethren, and that no one who knows him will have any dealings with him. Now what I have more to say to you, is only this—and

I wish you to act exactly as you like in the matter—if you will show me what you are now carrying, and are going to sell it, I will faithfully give you what it is worth, if it be anything in my way of business; if not, I will introduce you to other merchants, who will not deceive you."

The hope of making a little more of his silver dish, induced Aladdin to take it from under his robe and show it to the goldsmith. The old man, who knew at first sight that the dish was of the finest silver, asked him if he had sold any like it to the Jew, and how much he had received. Aladdin ingenuously told him that he had sold twelve, and that the Jew had given him a piece of gold for each. "Ah! the thief," cried the merchant; "but, my son, what is done cannot be undone, and let us, therefore, think of it no more; but, in letting you see what your dish, which is made of the finest silver we ever use in our shops, is really worth, we shall know to what extent the Jew has cheated you."

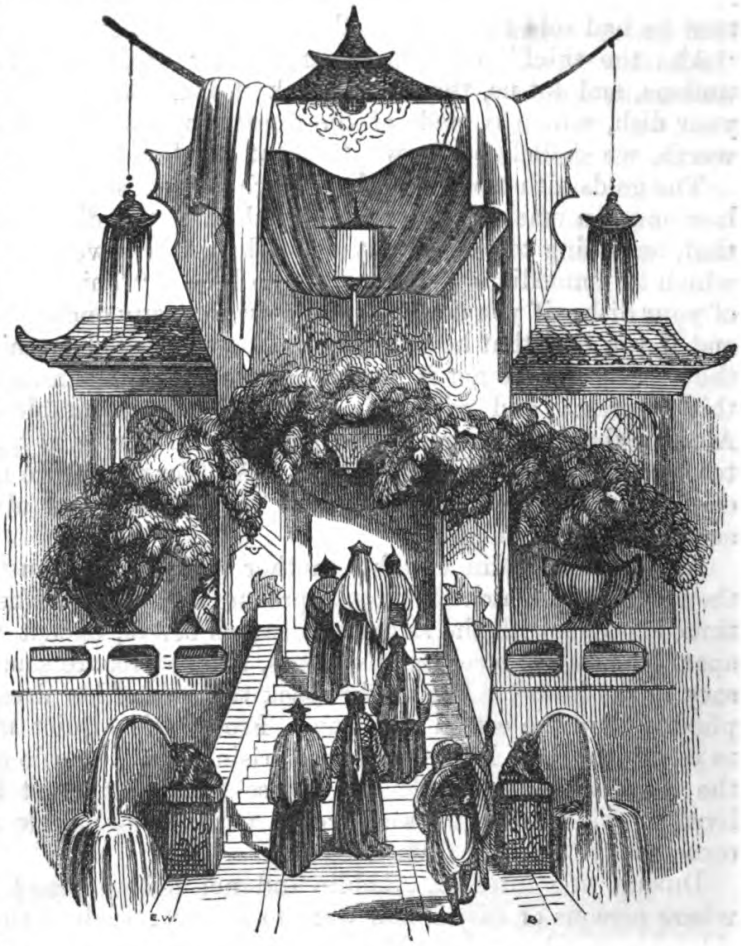
The goldsmith took his scales, weighed the dish, and after explaining to Aladdin how much a mark of silver was worth, and the different divisions of it, he said, that, according to the weight of the dish, it was worth seventy-two pieces of gold, which he immediately counted out to him. "This," said he, "is the exact value of your dish; if you doubt it, you may go to any one of our goldsmiths you please; and if you find that he will give you more for it, I promise to forfeit to you double the sum. All we get is by the fashion or workmanship of the goods we buy in this manner; and with this even the most equitable Jews are not satisfied." Aladdin thanked the goldsmith for the good advice he had given him, from which too he derived so much advantage. And for the future he carried his dishes to no one else. He took the basin also to his shop, and always received the value, according to its weight.

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

During this interval, Aladdin did not fail to resort frequently to the places where persons of distinction were to be met; such as the shops of the most considerable merchants in gold and silver, in silks, fine linens, and jewellery; and by sometimes taking a part in their conversations, he insensibly acquired the style and manners of the best company. It was at the jewellers' more particularly that he became undeceived in the idea he had formed, that the transparent fruits he had gathered in the garden which contained the lamp, were only coloured glass, and that he learnt they were jewels of inestimable price. By observing all kinds of precious stones that were bought and sold in these shops, he acquired a knowledge of their value; and as he did not see any that could be compared with those he possessed, either in brilliancy or in size, he concluded that instead of bits of common glass, which he had considered as trifles of no worth, he was in fact possessed of an invaluable treasure. He had, however, the prudence not to mention it to any one, not even to his mother; and there is no doubt that it was in consequence of his silence that he afterwards rose to the great good fortune to which we shall in the end see him elevated.

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

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



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

Till that moment Aladdin had never seen any other female without her veil, except his mother, who was rather old, and who even in her youth had not possessed any beauty; and he was, therefore, incapable, of comparing the beauty of women. He had indeed heard that there were some females who were possessed of surprising beauty: but the expressions people use in commenting upon beauty, never make the same impression which the examples themselves afford.

Aladdin had no sooner beheld the princess Badroul Boudour, than he forgot that he had ever supposed all women similar to his mother. His opinions were now very different, and he could not help surrendering his heart to the lovely being who had so charmed him. The princess was, in fact, the most beautiful brunette that ever was seen. Her eyes were large, well placed, and full of fire; yet the expression of her countenance was sweet and modest; her nose was properly proportioned, and pretty; her mouth small; her lips like vermillion, and beautifully formed; in short, every feature of her face was perfect and regular. It is, therefore, by no means wonderful that Aladdin was dazzled and almost out of his senses at beholding such a combination of charms, to which he had been hitherto a stranger. Besides all these perfections, the figure of the princess was elegant, and her air majestic; and merely the sight of her could attract the respect that was due to her rank.

Even after she had entered the bath, Aladdin stood for some time like one distracted, retracing and endeavouring to impress more strongly on his mind the image of her by whom he had been so charmed, and whose beauty had penetrated the inmost recesses of his heart. He at last came to himself, and recollecting that the princess had gone by, and that it would be perfectly useless for him to keep his station in order to see her come out, as her back would then be towards him, and she would also be veiled, he determined to quit his post and retire.

When Aladdin reached home, he was unable to conceal his disquietude and distress from his mother. She was much surprised to see him appear so melancholy, and with such an unusually confused manner; and asked him if any thing had happened to him, or if he were not well. He gave her, however, no

answer whatever, and continued sitting on the sofa in a negligent manner, retracing in his imagination the lovely image of the princess Badroul Boudour. His mother, who was employed in preparing supper, forbore to trouble him. As soon as it was ready, she served it up close to him on the sofa, and sat down to table. But as she perceived that Aladdin was too much absorbed to attend to it, she invited him to partake of the cheer; but it was with great difficulty she could get him even to change his position. He at length ate, but in a much more sparing manner than usual; casting down his eyes all the time, and keeping such a profound silence that his mother could not obtain a single word in answer to all the questions she put to him, in order to learn the cause of so extraordinary a change.

After supper, she renewed the subject, and inquired the cause of his great melancholy; but she could get no intelligible information from him; and he determined to go to bed rather than afford his mother the least satisfaction.

It is not necessary to inquire how Aladdin passed the night, struck as he was with the beauty and charms of the princess Badroul Boudour; but the next morning, as he was sitting upon the sofa opposite his mother, who was spinning

her cotton as usual, he addressed her as follows. "Mother, I will now break the silence I have kept since my return from the city yesterday morning. I have perceived that it has pained you. I was not ill, as you seemed to think, nor is anything the matter with me now; yet I can assure you, that while I at this moment feel, and what I shall ever continue to feel, is much worse than any disease. I am myself ignorant of the nature of my feelings; but doubtless, when I have explained myself, you will understand them.

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

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

"Truly, my son," replied his mother, very seriously, "I cannot help telling you, that you seem entirely to have forgotten who you are; and even if you are determined to put this resolution in practice, I do not know who will have the audacity to make this request to the sultan." "You yourself must," answered he, without the least hesitation. "I!" cried his mother, in a tone of the greatest surprise: "I go to the sultan! Not I, indeed; I will take care how I engage in such an enterprise. And pray, son, who do you suppose you are," she continued, "to have the impudence to aspire to the daughter of the sultan? Have you forgotten that you are the son of one of the poorest tailors in his capital, and that your mother's family cannot boast of anything better? Are you ignorant that sultans do not deign to bestow their daughters even upon the sons of other sultans, unless they have some chance of coming to the throne?"

"My dear mother," replied Aladdin, "I have already told you, that I perfectly foresaw everything you have said, and am aware of all that you can add more; but neither your reasons, nor your remonstrances, will in the least change my sentiments. I have told you that I would demand the princess Badroul Boudour

in marriage, and that you must make the request. It is a favour which I require of you, and ask with all the respect I owe to you; and I entreat you not to refuse me, unless you would rather see me die than, by granting it, give me life, as it were, a second time."

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

"I will omit," continued Aladdin's mother, "what will be the consequence of this business to you, who ought to reflect upon that, if you have any reason left; and I will only consider what regards myself. How such an extraordinary design as that of wishing me to go and propose to the sultan that he would bestow the princess his daughter upon you, came into your head, I cannot think. Now suppose that I have, I will not say the courage, but the impudence to go and present myself before his majesty, and to make such a mad request of him, to whom should I in the first place address myself for an introduction? Do you not suppose that the very first person I spoke to would treat me as a mad woman, and drive me back with all the indignity and abuse I should so justly merit? But even if I should overcome this difficulty, and procure an audience of the sultan—as indeed I know he readily grants it to all his subjects when they demand it of him for the purpose of obtaining justice—and that he even grants it with pleasure, when you have to ask a favour of him, if he thinks you are worthy of it—what should I do then? Are you in either of these situations? Do you think, that you deserve the favour which you wish me to ask for you? Are you worthy of it? What have you done for your prince, or for your country? How have you ever distinguished yourself? If, then, you have done nothing to deserve so great a favour, and if, moreover, you are not worthy of it, with what face can I make the demand? How can I even open my lips to propose such a thing to the sultan? His illustrious presence and the magnificence of his whole court will instantly stop my mouth. How shall I, who trembled before your poor father, my husband, even attempt such a thing. But there is also another reason, my son, which you have not yet thought of, and that is, that no one ever appears before the sultan without offering him some present, when any favour is required. Presents have at least this advantage, that if, for any reason of their own, the persons solicited refuse your request, they listen to the demand that is made without any repugnance. But what present have you to offer? And when should you ever have anything that might be at all worthy the attention of so mighty a monarch; what proportion can your present possibly have with the demand you wish to make? Recollect yourself, and think that you aspire to a thing which it is impossible to obtain."

Aladdin listened with great patience to everything his mother said, in order to dissuade him from his purpose; and having reflected for some time upon every part of her remonstrance, he addressed her as follows: "I readily acknowledge, my dear mother, that it is a great piece of rashness in me to dare to carry my pretensions so high as I do; and that it must also appear very inconsiderate to request you with so much earnestness and warmth to propose this marriage to the

sultan, without first having taken the proper means of procuring an audience and a favourable reception. I earnestly ask your pardon for doing so; but you must not wonder if the violence of the passion that possesses me has prevented me from thinking about everything that was necessary to procure me the gratification I seek. I love the princess Badroul Boudour far beyond what you can possibly conceive; or rather I adore her, and shall persevere in my wish and intention of marrying her. This is a matter on which my mind is irrevocably fixed. I am much obliged to you for the hints which you have thrown out in what you have said; and I look upon this beginning as an earnest of the complete success which I flatter myself will attend my proposals.

"You say, that it is customary for him who seeks an audience of the sultan to bear a present in his hand, and that I have nothing worthy to offer him. I agree with you about the present, and also that I never once thought of it. But with regard to what you say about my having nothing worthy of his acceptance, that is a different matter. Do you not suppose, mother, that what I brought home with me on the day that I was saved in so wonderful a manner as I have before told you, from an almost inevitable death, would be an acceptable present to the sultan? I mean what I brought home in the two purses, in my sash, and in my vest, and which we have both hitherto taken for coloured glass; but I am now undeceived, and can inform you, that they are precious stones of almost inestimable value, and exactly suitable to the state and dignity of a great sovereign. I became acquainted with their value by frequenting the shops of jewellers; and you may, I assure you, depend upon the truth of what I say. None of those which I have seen at our jewellers' are to be compared with those we have, either for size or beauty; and yet the dealers set a very high price upon them. In fact,

we are both of us ignorant of the value of ours; although that is the case, however, as far as I can judge from the little experience I have had, I am persuaded the present cannot but be very agreeable to the sultan. You have a porce ian dish sufficiently large, and of a very good shape, for holding them. Bring it here,

and let us see the effect it will produce when we have arranged them according to their different colours."

Aladdin's mother brought the dish, and he took the precious stones out of the two purses and arranged them. The effect they produced in broad day-light by the variety of their colours, by their lustre and brilliancy, was so great, that both mother and son were absolutely dazzled, and were in the greatest astonishment, they having previously seen them only by the light of a lamp. It is true, that Aladdin had seen them on the trees, hanging like fruit, where they afforded a most brilliant sight; but as he was then, as it were, a child, he looked upon these jewels only as things proper to play with.

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

Although the mother of Aladdin, notwithstanding its great beauty and brilliancy, did not think this present near so valuable as her son did, yet she nevertheless supposed it would be very acceptable; and had, therefore, nothing to answer on that point. She then recurred to the nature of the request which Aladdin wished her to make to the sultan: this was a constant source of disquietude to her. "I cannot, my son," she said, "possibly conceive that this present will produce the effect you wish, or that the sultan will look upon you with a favourable eye. And it becomes necessary for me to acquit myself with propriety in the business you wish me to undertake. I feel convinced I shall not have courage enough to carry me through, but be struck quite dumb; and thus not only lose all my labour, but the present also, which, according to what you say, is most uncommonly rich and valuable. If I should fail in this manner, how painful will it be for me to come back and inform you of the destruction of all your hopes and expectations! I have thus told you what I know will happen, and you ought to believe it. But," added she, "if I should act so contrary to my opinion as to submit to your wishes, and shall have sufficient courage to make the request you desire, be assured that the sultan will either ridicule me and send me back as a mad woman, or that he will be in such a passion, and with reason too, that both you and I shall most infallibly become the victims of his anger."

Aladdin's mother continued to give her son many other reasons, in order to prevail upon him to change his mind; but the charms of the princess Badroul Boudour had made too strong an impression upon the heart of Aladdin to suffer his intentions to be altered. He persisted in requiring his mother to perform her part of what he had resolved upon; and the regard she had for him, as well as the dread lest he should give himself up to some horrid exceess at length conquered her repugnance, and she acceded to his wishes.

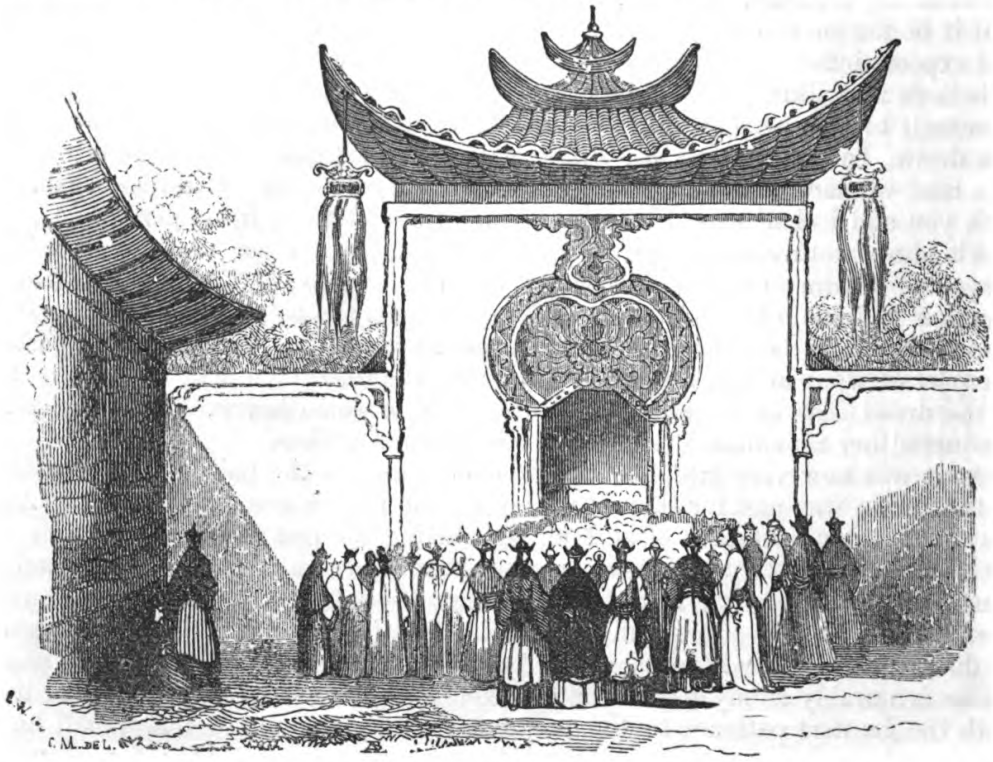
As it was now very late, and the time of going to the palace to be presented to the sultan was past for that day, they let the matter rest till the next. Aladdin and his mother talked of nothing else during the rest of the day, and he said all he could think of, to confirm her resolution of presenting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

"Do not, mother, let us distress ourselves," replied Aladdin, "about a thing

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

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

Aladdin's mother did everything as her son wished. She took the porcelain dish in which the jewels were deposited, and folded it up in a very fine and white linen cloth. She then took another cloth, which was not so fine, and tied the four corners of it together, that she might carry it with less trouble. She afterwards set out, to the great joy of Aladdin, towards the palace of the sultan.



The grand vizier, accompanied by the other viziers and the proper officers of the court, had already gone in before she arrived at the gate. The crowd of persons who had business at the divan was very great. The doors were opened, and the mother of Aladdin went into the divan with the rest. It was a beautiful saloon

very spacious, and with a magnificent entrance. She placed herself opposite to the throne of the sultan, near the grand vizier, and other officers who formed the council on both sides. The different parties who had suits to press were called up one after the other, according to the order in which their petitions had been presented; and their affairs were heard, pleaded, and determined, till the usual hour of breaking up the council. The sultan then rose, took leave of the members, and went back to his apartment, into which he was followed by the grand vizier. The other viziers and officers who formed the council then went away: as also did all those whose private business had brought them there, some being delighted at having gained their cause, while others were but ill satisfied with the decisions pronounced against them; in addition to whom was a third party, they who were anxious to have their business come on as early as possible.

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

However desperate Aladdin's passion was, he was obliged to be satisfied with this excuse, and to summon up all his patience. He had, at least, the satisfaction of knowing that his mother had got over the most difficult part of the business, which was to obtain an interview with the sultan; and therefore hoped that, like those who had spoken to him in her presence, she would not hesitate to acquit herself of the commission with which she was entrusted, when the favourable moment of addressing him should arrive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aladdin's mother, following the example that so many others, whom she had

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

The goodness of the sultan, however, did not perfectly satisfy Aladdin's mother, although he had thus prevented her from being obliged to explain her wishes before the whole assembly. She was still anxious to screen herself from the indignation which she could not but dread that the proposal she had to make to him would excite, and from which she could not otherwise defend herself. "Sire," said she, again addressing the sultan, "I once more entreat your majesty to assure me of your pardon beforehand, in case you should think my request at all injurious or offensive." "Whatever it may be," replied the sultan, "I pardon you; no harm shall happen to you from anything you may say; speak, therefore, with confidence."

When Aladdin's mother had thus taken every precaution against the possible anger of the sultan at the very delicate proposal she was about to make to him, she faithfully related by what means Aladdin had seen the princess Badroul Boudour, and with what a violent passion the fatal sight had inspired him. The declaration that he had made concerning her, and the mission with which he had charged his mother, together with all the remonstrances the latter had urged, in order to avert his thoughts from this passion.—"A passion," added she, "as injurious to your majesty as it is to the princess your daughter; but my son would not profit by anything I could say, nor would he acknowledge his temerity; he obstinately persevered and even threatened to commit some rash action in his despair, if I refused to come and demand of your majesty the princess in marriage. I have been obliged, therefore, to comply with his wishes, although this compliance was very much against my will. And once more, I entreat your majesty to pardon not only me for making such a request, but also my son Aladdin, for having conceived the rash and daring design of aspiring to so illustrious an alliance."

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

It is impossible to express the surprise and astonishment which the monarch felt when he saw such a quantity of the most precious, perfect, and brilliant jewels, the size of every one of which was greater than any he had before seen. His admiration for some time was so great, that it rendered him absolutely motionless. When, however, he began to recollect himself, he took the present from the hand of Aladdin's mother, and exclaimed in a transport of joy, "Ah! how very beautiful, how extremely rich!" And then, having admired them all

one after another, and put each again in the same place, he turned to his grand vizier, and showing him the dish, asked him if it was not also his opinion that he had never before seen any jewels so perfect and valuable. The vizier was himself delighted with them. "Well," added the sultan, "what do you say to such a present? Is not the donor worthy of the princess my daughter? and must I not give her to him who comes and demands her at such a price?"

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

The mother of Aladdin went back, and felt the greater joy because she had, in the first place, conceived even access to the sultan for a person of her condition

as absolutely impossible; and because, also, she had received so favourable an answer, when she had expected a rebuke that would have overwhelmed her with confusion. When Aladdin saw his mother enter the house, there were two cir-

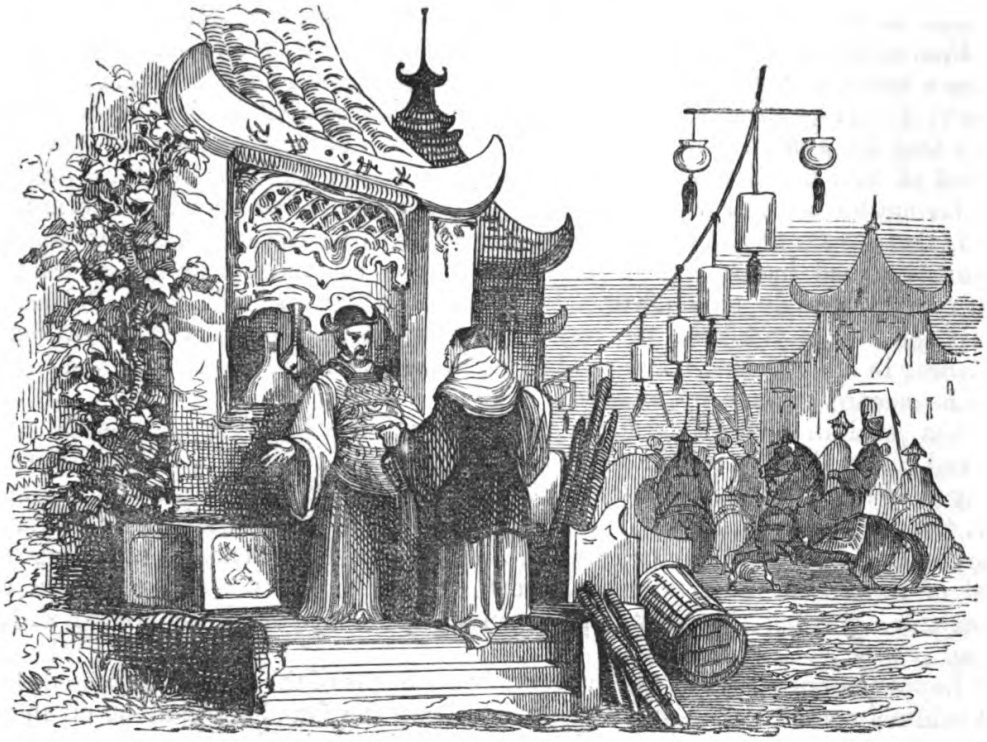
cumstances that led him to suppose she brought him good news; one was, that she had returned that morning much sooner than usual; and the other, that her countenance expressed pleasure and good humour. "Well, mother," said Aladdin, "what have I to hope? Am I doomed to die with despair?" When she had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

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

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

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

Aladdin received this intelligence like a thunder-stroke. Any person but himself would have been quite overwhelmed by it; but a sort of secret jealousy prevented him from remaining long in this state. He instantly brought the lamp to his recollection; that lamp which had hitherto been so useful to him; and then, without venting his rage in vain reproaches against the sultan, or the grand



vizier, or the son of that officer, he only said: "This minister's son, mother, shall not be so happy to-night as he expects; while I am gone for a few moments into my chamber, do you prepare supper."

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

Aladdin then went back to his mother, and supped with her in the same

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

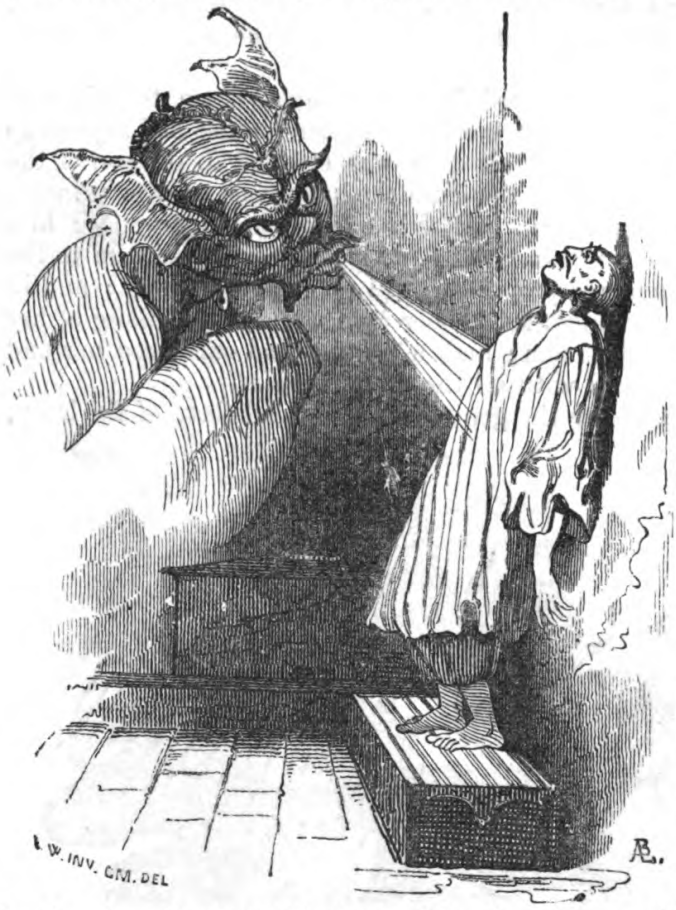
In the meantime everything was prepared in the sultan's palace to celebrate the nuptials of the princess, and the time was spent in ceremonies and rejoicings till the night was far advanced. When all this was concluded, the son of the grand vizier, at a sign that the chief of the eunuchs belonging to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

Scarcely had this taken place, before the genie, like a faithful slave of the lamp, took up the bed in which were the bride and the bridegroom, and, to the great astonishment of both, transported them in an instant to Aladdin's chamber, where he set them down.

Aladdin, who was waiting for this event with the greatest impatience, did not long suffer the son of the grand vizier to remain in bed with the princess. "Take this bridegroom," said he to the genie, "and shut him up in the closet above the sewer, and return again in the morning, just at day-break." The genie instantly took the grand vizier's son out of bed, and transported him to the place Aladdin had commanded, where he left him; having first breathed upon him in such a way that the effects of it in every limb were felt in a lassitude that prevented him from stirring from his place.

How violent soever the passion was which Aladdin felt for the princess, he did not enter into any long conversation with her, when he was with her alone. "Fear nothing, most adorable princess," he exclaimed, with an impassioned air, "you are here in safety; and however violent the love which I feel for you may

be, with whatever ardour I adore your beauty and your charms, be assured that I will never exceed the limits of the profound respect I have for you. If I have been forced," he added, "to proceed to this extremity, it has not been with the intention of offending you; but to prevent an unjust rival from possessing you, contrary to the promise which the sultan your father had made in my favour."



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

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

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

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

The genie had no sooner put the nuptial couch in its place, than the sultan entered the chamber and wished the princess a good morning. The son of the grand vizier, half dead with the cold he had suffered all night, jumped out of bed as soon as he heard some person opening the door, and went into the dressing-room where he had undressed himself in the evening.

The sultan came up to the bed-side of the princess, and kissed her between her eyes, as is the usual custom in wishing any one a good morning. He asked her, with a smile upon his face, how she had passed the night; but when he lifted up his head and looked at her with greater attention, he was extremely surprised to observe her in the most dejected and melancholy state. She cast upon him the most sorrowful looks; and showed, by her whole manner, that she laboured either under the most severe affliction or the greatest degree of discontent. The sultan again spoke to her, but as he found he was unable to get a word from her, he thought it might arise from a becoming modesty, and therefore retired. He could not, however, but suspect from her continued silence that something very extraordinary had happened. He went immediately to the apartment of the sultana, to whom he mentioned the state in which he had found the princess, and the reception she had given him. "Sire," replied the sultana, "do not let this surprise your majesty: there is not a single newly-married woman who would not act in the same way the day after her nuptials. It will be a very different thing in two or three days. She will then receive the sultan her father as becomes her. I will go and see her," added the sultana; "I am very much deceived if she will receive me in the same manner."

As soon as the sultana was dressed she went to the apartment of the princess, who was not yet risen. She approached the bed, and wishing her a good morning, embraced her; but her surprise was excessive, when she found

that the princess was not only silent but was in the greatest distress. She therefore concluded that something which she could not yet comprehend had happened to her. "My dear daughter," said the sultana to her, "what is the

reason that you so ill repay the caresses I bestow upon you? You ought not to act thus towards your mother. Something surely has occurred which I do not understand. Tell me then candidly; and do not suffer me to remain so long in an uncertainty that distresses me beyond measure."

At length, fetching a deep sigh, the princess Badroul Boudour broke silence. "Alas! my most honoured mother," she cried, "pardon me if I have failed in any respect that is due to you. My mind is so entirely absorbed by the strange and extraordinary things that have happened to me this night, that I have not yet recovered my astonishment and fears, and have some difficulty to collect myself." She then related how, the instant after she and her husband were retired, the bed had been taken up and transported into an ill-furnished and dismal chamber, where she found herself quite alone and separated from her husband, without in the least knowing what was become of him; and that she found in this apartment a young man, who after having addressed a few words to her, which her terror prevented her from understanding, lay down in her husband's place, having first put his sabre between them; and that when morning

approached, her husband was restored to her, and the bed again brought back to its place in an instant of time. The whole of this transaction," she added, "was but just completed when the sultan my father came into my chamber. I was then so absorbed in grief and distress, that I could not answer him a single word; and I am afraid that he was very angry at the manner in which I received the honour he did me. I hope, however, that he will pardon me, when he shall have become acquainted with my melancholy adventure, and the lamentable state in which I even now find myself."

The sultana listened with great attention to everything the princess had to relate; but she could not give full credit to the account. "You have done well, my child," she said to the princess, "not to inform the sultan your father of this matter. Take care that you mention it to no one, unless you wish to be taken for one who has lost her reason, which will certainly be the case, if you should talk in this way to any other person." "Madam," replied the princess, "I assure

you that I am in my right senses, and know what I say: you may ask my husband, and he will tell you the same thing." "I will take care and inform myself of it," answered the sultana; "but even if he gives me the same account you have done, I shall not be more persuaded of the truth of it; in the meantime, however, arise, and drive this phantasy from your mind. It would be indeed a curious thing to see you under such a delusion during the feasts that have been ordered on account of your nuptials, and which will last for many days, not only in the palace but all over the kingdom. Do you not already hear the trumpets, tymbals, and other instruments? All this ought to inspire you with joy and pleasure, and make you forget the fanciful dream which you have related to me." The sultana then called her women; and after she had made her get up, and seen her at her toilet, she went to the sultan's apartment, and told him that a strange fancy possessed his daughter, but that it was a mere trifle. She then ordered the son of the grand vizier to be called, in order to inquire of him about what the princess had told her. But he felt himself so highly honoured by his alliance with the sultan, that he determined to feign ignorance of everything. "Tell me, son-in-law," said the sultana, "have you got the same strange ideas in your head as your wife?" "Madam," he replied, "may I be permitted to ask you for what reason you put this question to me?" "This is sufficient," answered the sultana; "I do not wish to know more; you have more sense than she has."

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

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

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

After the extraordinary reception which the princess Badroul Boudour had given the sultan on the preceding morning, he was very anxious to learn how she passed the second night, and whether she would again receive him in the manner she had before done. He went, therefore, to her apartment early in the morning, that he might satisfy himself. The grand vizier's son, still more mortified and distressed at his bad treatment the second night than he had been on the first, no sooner heard the sultan, than he got up as fast as possible and ran into the dressing-room. The sultan came to her bed-side, and wished the princess a good morning, after having caressed her in the same manner as he had done the day before. "Well, my daughter," he said, "are you in as bad humour this morning as you were yesterday? Tell me how you have passed the night." The princess

preserved the same silence, and the sultan perceived that she was still more dejected and distressed than she had been the morning before. He could, therefore, but infer that something very extraordinary had happened to her. Irritated at the mystery she made of it to him: "Daughter," said he, in an angry tone, and at the same time drawing his sabre, "either tell me what you thus conceal, or I will instantly strike off your head."

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

The sultan entered very fully into the distressing feelings this surprising adventure must have excited in his daughter's mind. "My child," said he, "you were wrong not to explain to me yesterday the strange business which you have just related, and in which I am not less interested than yourself. I have not bestowed you in marriage with the view to render you unhappy, but, on the contrary, to increase your happiness, and to afford you every enjoyment you so well deserve, and which you might reasonably expect from a husband who seemed to be very proper for you. Drive away then from your memory the melancholy ideas of what you have been relating to me. I will take care that you shall experience no more nights so disagreeable, nay so insupportable, as those which you have now suffered."

When the sultan got back to his apartment he immediately sent for the grand

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

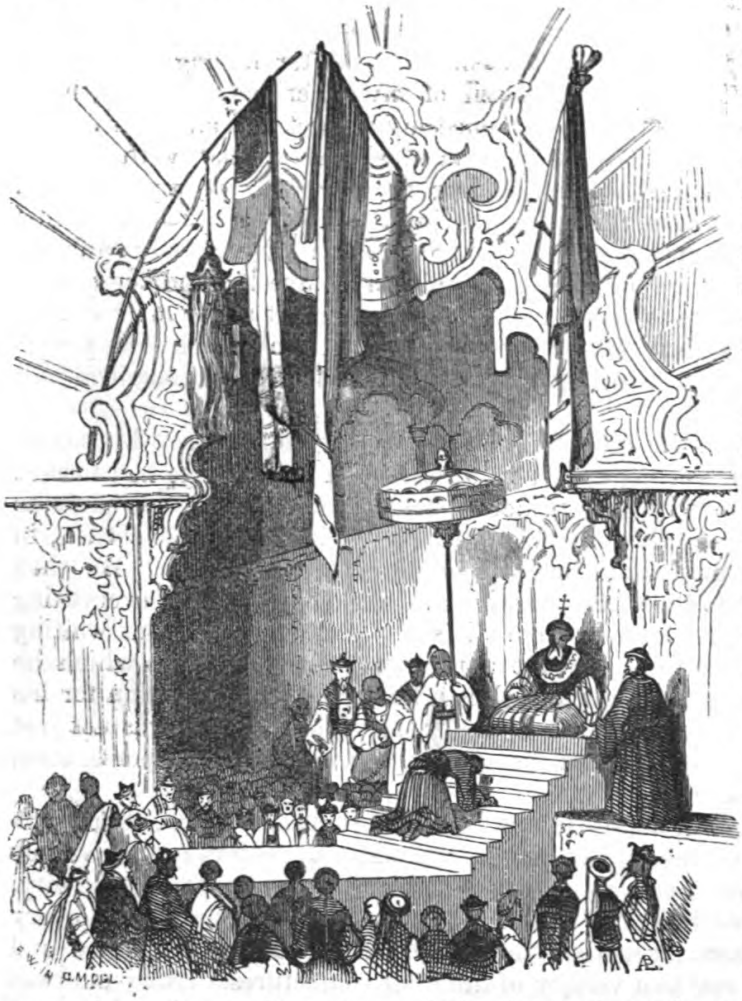
The grand vizier instantly went to his son: he informed him of what the sultan had said, and commanded him not to disguise the truth, and to tell him everything that had passed. "I will conceal nothing from you, my father," replied his son, "and everything the princess has told the sultan is true: but she was unable to give an account of the bad treatment which I in particular have experienced. Since my marriage I have spent two of the most dreadful nights you can possibly conceive; and I cannot describe to you all the various evils I have gone through. I do not mention the fright I was in at finding myself lifted up in my bed four different times, without being able to see any one; and being transported from one place to another without being able to conceive in what way it was brought about. But you can yourself judge of the dreadful state I was in, when I tell you that I passed both nights standing upright in a narrow and loathsome closet, without having the power of moving from the spot where I was placed, or making the least motion, although there seemed to be no obstacle whatever to prevent me. After having said this, I have no occasion to enter into a greater detail of my sufferings. Let me, however, add, that all this has by no means lessened my respect and affection for the princess my wife; though I confess to you most sincerely, that with all the honour and splendour that I derive from having the daughter of my sovereign for my wife, I would much sooner die than enjoy this high alliance if I must continue to undergo the severe and horrible treatment I have already suffered. I am sure the princess must be of the same opinion as myself; and there is no doubt, but that our separation is as necessary for her comfort as for my own. I entreat you, therefore, my dear father, by all the affection which led you to obtain this great honour for me, to induce the sultan to decree our marriage null and void."

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

The grand vizier had no difficulty in obtaining his request. The sultan, who had already determined on the matter in his own mind, immediately gave orders for the rejoicings to be put a stop to, not only in his own palace, but in the city, and throughout the whole extent of his dominions; and in a short time every mark of public joy and festivity within the kingdom ceased. This sudden and unexpected change gave rise to a variety of different conjectures. Every one was inquiring why these contrary orders were issued: and all affirmed that the grand vizier had been seen to come out of the palace, and go towards his own house, accompanied by his son: and that they both seemed very much dejected. Aladdin was the only person who was acquainted with the actual reason; and he rejoiced most sincerely at the happy success arising from the use of the lamp.

And having now learnt for a certainty that his rival had left the palace, and that the marriage between the princess and him was annulled, he had no further occasion to rub his lamp, and have recourse to the genie, in order to prevent his rival's happiness. What, however, was most singular, was, that neither the sultan, nor the grand vizier, who had completely forgotten Aladdin and the request he had made, entertained the least idea that he had any part in the enchantment which had been the occasion of the dissolution of the marriage of the princess.

Aladdin suffered the three months which the sultan wished to elapse before the marriage of the princess Badroul Boudour and himself, to pass without making any application. He kept, however, an exact account of every day; and when the period was expired, he sent his mother on the very next morning to the palace to remind the sultan of his promise. She went to the palace, and stood at her usual place, near the entrance of the divan. The sultan no sooner cast his eyes that way, than he recollected her, and she instantly brought to his mind the request she had made, and the exact time to which he had deferred it. As the grand vizier approached, to make some report to him, the sultan stopped him by saying: "I perceive that good woman who presented us with the beautiful collection of jewels, some time since; order her to come forward, and you can make your report, after I have heard what she has to say." The grand vizier immediately called to the chief of the ushers, and pointing her out to him, desired him to bring her forward.



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

When the sultan had desired a delay of three months before he answered the request of this good woman the first time he saw her, he thought he should hear no more of a marriage which, from the apparent poverty and low situation of Aladdin's mother, who always presented herself before him in a very coarse and

common dress, appeared so little suited to the princess, his daughter. The application, therefore, which she now made to him to keep his word, embarrassed him very much, and he did not think it prudent to give her, at the moment, a direct answer. He consulted his grand vizier, and told him the repugnance he felt at concluding a marriage between the princess and an unknown person, whom fortune, he conjectured, had not raised much above the condition of a common subject.

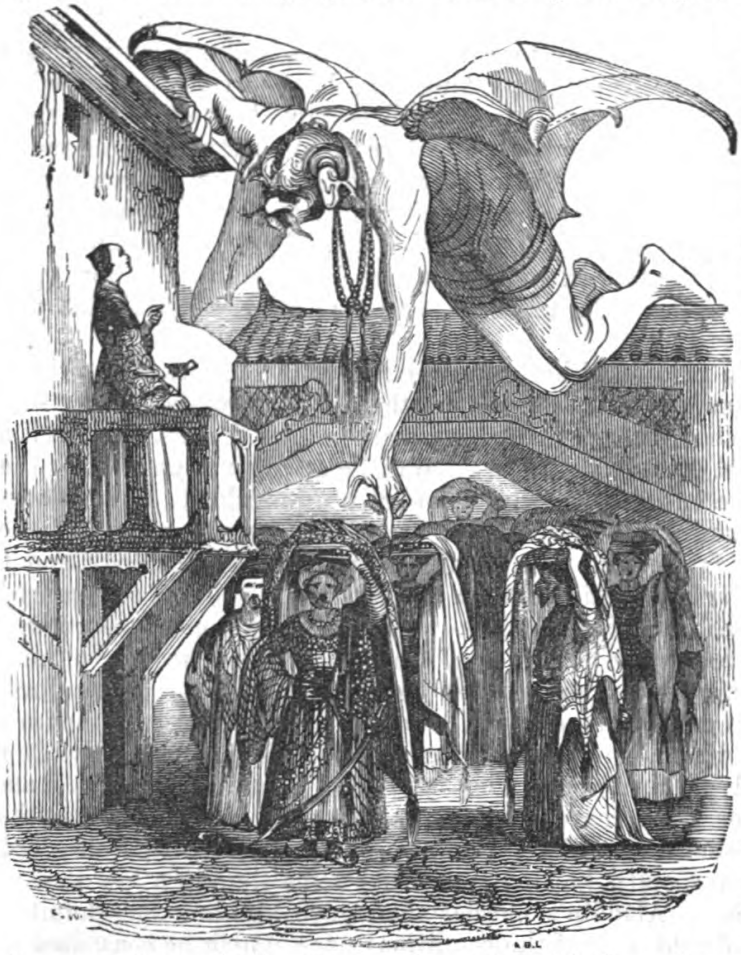
"Sire," replied the vizier, "it seems to me, that there is a very easy and yet certain method to avoid this unequal marriage; and of which this Aladdin, even if he were known to your majesty, could not complain; it is to set so high a price upon the princess, your daughter, that all his riches, however great they may be, cannot amount to the value. This will be a way to make him desist from so bold, not to say, arrogant an attempt, and which he certainly does not seem to have considered well before he engaged in it."

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

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

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

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



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

Without waiting for his mother's answer, Aladdin opened the door that led into the street, and ordered all the slaves to go out, one after the other. He then placed a white slave before each of the black ones, who carried the golden basins on their heads. When his mother, who followed the last black slave,

was gone out, he shut the door, and remained quietly in his chamber, with the full expectation, that the sultan, after receiving such a present as he had required, would now readily consent to accept him for a son-in-law.

The first white slave that went out of Aladdin's house occasioned every one who was going past to stop, and before all the eighty slaves, alternately a black and a white one, had finished going out, the street was filled with a great crowd of people; who collected from all parts, to see so grand and extraordinary a sight. The dress of each slave was made of a rich stuff, and so studded with precious stones, that persons, who thought themselves the best judges, reckoned each of them worth more than a million.* Each dress was also very appropriate, and well adapted to the wearer. The graceful manner, elegant form, and great similarity of each slave, together with their marching at regular distances from each other, and the dazzling lustre constantly shed by the different jewels that were set in their girdles of massive gold, added to the branches of precious stones, fastened to their head-dresses, which were all of a particular make produced in the multitude of spectators who were assembled such excessive admiration that they could not take their eyes from them so long as any one of them remained in sight. But all the streets were so thronged with people, that every one was obliged to remain in the spot where he happened to be.

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

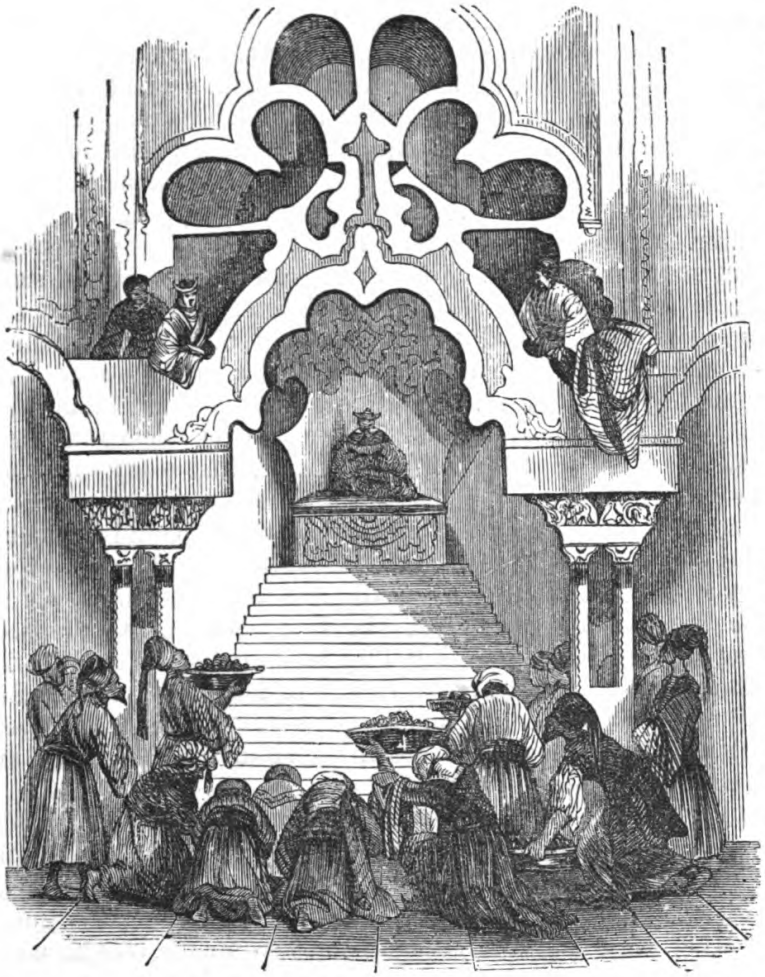
The first slave, followed by all the rest, advanced as far as the second court, which was very spacious, and contained the apartments inhabited by the sultan when the divan sat. The officers, who were at the head of the sultan's guards, were very handsomely clothed; but they were completely eclipsed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

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

The mother of Aladdin, who had in the meantime advanced to the foot of the throne, having first prostrated herself, thus addressed the sultan: "My son Aladdin, sire, is not ignorant that this present which he has sent your majesty is very much beneath the inestimable worth of the princess Badroul Boudour.

* This, from the French translation of M. Galland, alludes to francs; reduced to English currency, the value of each dress would be nearly forty-two thousand pounds.

He nevertheless hopes that your majesty will favourably accept it, and that you will endeavour to make his alliance agreeable to the princess. He has the greater reliance that his expectations will be fulfilled, because he has tried to conform himself to the conditions which it pleased you to point out."



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

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

The sultan hesitated no longer. He did not even think of informing himself whether Aladdin possessed any other qualification that would render him worthy

of aspiring to the nonour of becoming his son-in-law. The sight alone of such immense riches, and the wonderful celerity with which Aladdin had fulfilled his request, without making the least difficulty about the conditions, however exorbitant, for which he had stipulated, easily persuaded him that Aladdin would not be deficient in anything that could render him as accomplished and deserving as he could wish. That he might, therefore, send back Aladdin's mother as well satisfied as she could possibly expect, he said to her; "Go, my good woman, and tell your son that I am waiting with open arms to receive and embrace him; and that the greater diligence he makes to come and receive from my hands the gift I am ready to bestow upon him in the princess my daughter, the greater pleasure he will afford me."

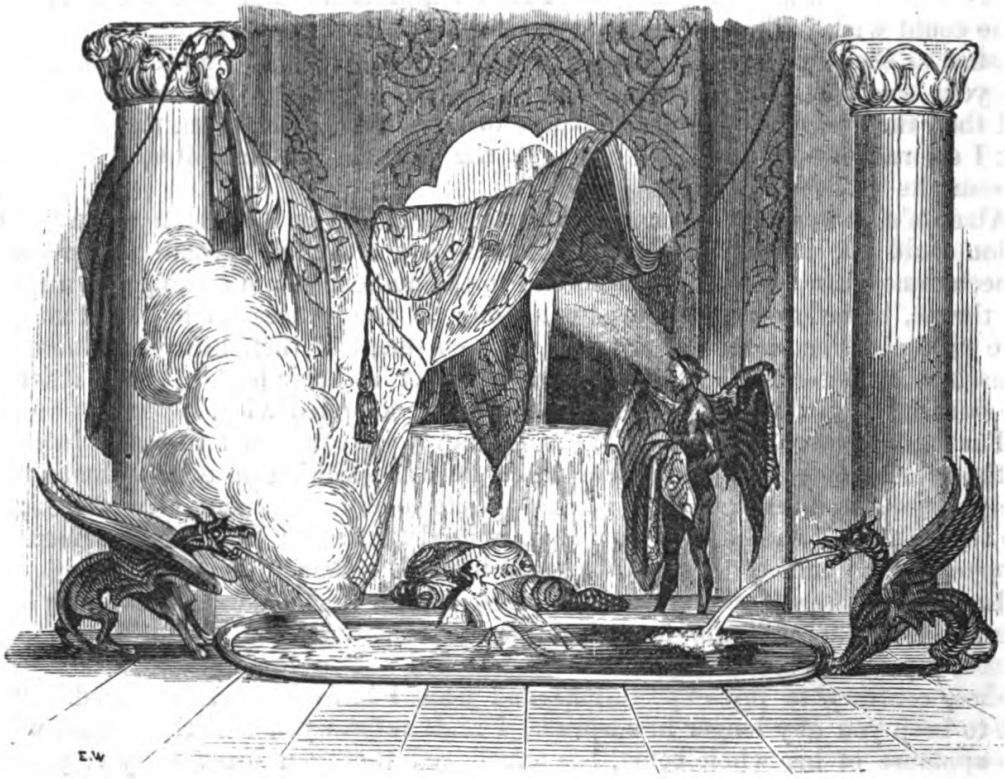
Aladdin's mother had no sooner departed, as happy as a woman of her condition could be, in seeing her son exalted to a situation beyond her greatest expectations, than the sultan put an end to the audience; and coming down from his throne, he ordered the eunuchs belonging to the princess to be called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

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

In the meantime Aladdin's mother reached home and instantly showed by her manner that she was the bearer of most excellent news. "You have every reason, my dear son," she said, "to be satisfied. You have accomplished your wishes, contrary to my expectations and what I have hitherto declared. But not to keep you any longer in suspense, I must inform you that the sultan, with the applause of his whole court, has announced that you are worthy to possess the princess Badroul Boudour; and he is now waiting to embrace you, and to conclude the marriage. It is, therefore, time for you to think of making some preparations for this interview, that you may endeavour to equal the high opinion he has formed of your person. After what I have seen of the wonders you have brought about, however, I am sure you will not fail in anything. I ought not, moreover, to forget to tell you, that the sultan waits for you with the greatest impatience; and, therefore, that you must lose no time in making your appearance before him."

Aladdin was so delighted with this intelligence, and so taken up with the thoughts of the enchanting object of his love, that he hardly answered his mother, but instantly retired to his chamber. He then took up the lamp that had thus far been so friendly to him, by supplying all his wants and fulfilling all his wishes, and had no sooner rubbed it than the genie again showed his ready obedience to its power, by instantly appearing to execute his commands. "Genie," said Aladdin to him, "I have called you to take me immediately to a bath; and when I shall have finished bathing, I wish you to have in readiness for me a richer and, if possible, more magnificent dress than was ever worn by any monarch" Aladdin had no sooner concluded his speech than the genie rendered him invisible, like himself, took him in his arms, and transported him to a bath formed of the finest marble of the most beautiful and diversified colours. Without being able to see any one who waited upon him, Aladdin was undressed in a large and handsome saloon. From thence he was conducted into the bath, moderately heated, and was here washed and rubbed with various sorts of perfumed waters. After having passed through the different chambers by which the various degrees of heat in the bath were regulated, he went out; but quite a different person, as it were, from what he was before. His skin was white and fresh, his counte-

nance blooming, and his whole body felt lighter and more active. He then went back to the saloon, where, instead of the dress he had left, he found the one he had desired the genie to procure. By his assistance he dressed himself, showing



the greatest admiration at every part of it, as he put it on; and the whole of it was far beyond what he could possibly have conceived. This business was no sooner over, than the genie transported him back into the same chamber of his own house whence he had brought him; he then inquired if he had any other commands. "Yes," replied Aladdin, "I am waiting till you bring me a horse, as quickly as possible, which shall surpass in beauty and excellence the most valuable horse in the sultan's stables; the housings, saddle, bridle, and other furniture of which shall be worth more than a million of money. I also order you to get me, at the same time, twenty slaves, as well and richly clothed as those who carried the present, to attend on each side and behind my person, and twenty more to march in two ranks before me. You must also procure six female slaves to attend upon my mother, all as well and richly clothed as those of the princess Badroul Boudour, each of whom most carry a complete dress, fit in point of splendour and magnificence for any sultana. I want also ten thousand pieces of gold, in ten separate purses. These are all my commands at present. Go, and be diligent."

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

Aladdin took only four of the purses, and presented them to his mother for any purpose, as he said, for which she might want them. He left the other six in the hands of the slaves who carried them, desiring them to thow them out by handfuls to the populace as they went along the streets in the way to the palace

of the sultan. He ordered them also to march before him with the others, three on one side and three on the other. He then presented the six female slaves to his mother; telling her that they would for the future consider her as their mistress; and that the dresses they had in their hands were for her use.

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

Aladdin instantly mounted his horse, and began his march in the order that his been mentioned. Although he had never been on horseback in his life, he

nevertheless appeared perfectly at ease, and the best judges of horsemanship would never have taken him for a novice. The streets through which he passed were in an instant filled with crowds of people, who made the air resound with their acclamations, their shouts of admiration and benedictions, particularly when the six slaves who carried the purses threw handfuls of gold on all sides. These expressions of joy and applause, however, did not only come from the crowd, who were employed in picking up the money, but also from those of a superior rank in life, who thus publicly bestowed all the praise, that such liberality as Aladdin's deserved. Not only they who remembered to have seen him playing about the streets like a vagabond, could not now recognise him;

but even those who had seen and known him very lately, had great difficulty to recollect him, so much were his features and appearance changed. This all arose from the power possessed by the wonderful lamp, of acquiring for those who had it in their keeping every perfection adapted to the situation which such persons arrived at, by making a good and proper use of its virtues. More attention was, therefore, paid by every one to the person of Aladdin than to the magnificence with which he was surrounded, and which most of them had before seen, when the slaves who carried, and those who accompanied the present, went to the palace. The horse, however, was extremely admired by those who were judges, and were able to appreciate its beauty and excellence, without being dazzled by the richness and brilliancy of the diamonds and other precious stones with which it was covered. When the roport spread about that the sultan had bestowed upon Aladdin the hand of the princess Badroul Boudour—and this was soon universally known—no one ever thought about his birth, or even envied him his good fortune, because he appeared so well to deserve it.

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

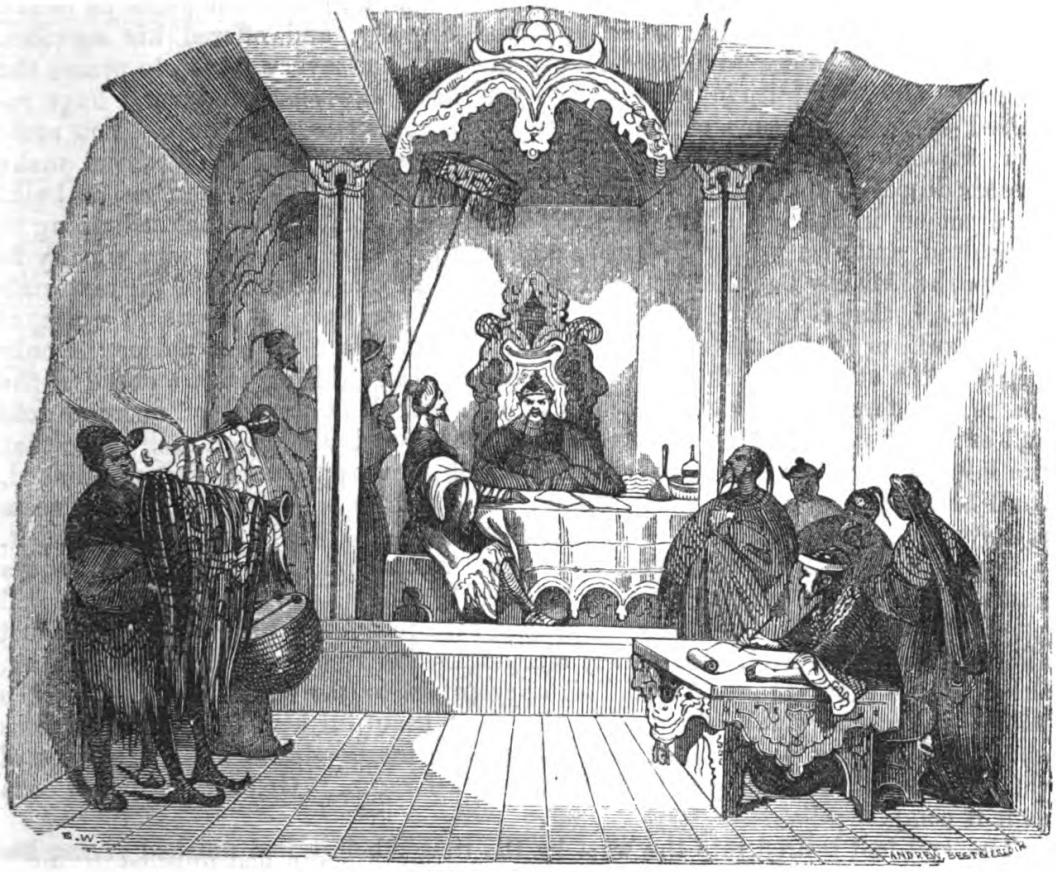
As soon as the sultan perceived Aladdin, he was not more surprised at seeing him more richly and magnificently clothed than himself, than he was astonished at the propriety of his manner, his noble figure, and a certain air of grandeur, very far removed from the degraded state in which his mother had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

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

"My son," replied the sultan, again embracing him, "you would do me injustice to doubt, even for an instant, the sincerity of my word; your life is too dear to me not to endeavour to preserve it by presenting you with the princess my daughter. I prefer the pleasure I derive from seeing and hearing you to all our united treasures."

As he concluded this speech the sultan made a sign, and the air was immediately filled with the sound of trumpets, hautbois, and tymbals; and the sultan

then conducted Aladdin into a magnificent saloon, where a great feast was served up. The sultan and Aladdin ate by themselves; the grand vizier and the nobles of the court, each according to their dignity and rank, waited upon them during their repast. The sultan fixed his eyes constantly upon Aladdin, so great was the pleasure he derived from seeing him. They entered into conversation on a variety of topics; and, whatever the subject of their discourse happened to be, Aladdin spoke with so much information and knowledge, that he completely confirmed the sultan in the good opinion which he had at first formed of him.



When the repast was over, the sultan ordered the grand judge of his capital to attend, and commanded him instantly to prepare a contract of marriage between the princess Badroul Boudour and Aladdin. While this was doing, the sultan conversed with Aladdin upon indifferent subjects, in the presence of the grand vizier and the nobles of the court, who all equally admired the solidity of his understanding, the great facility and fluency of his language, and the purity and delicacy of his metaphors.

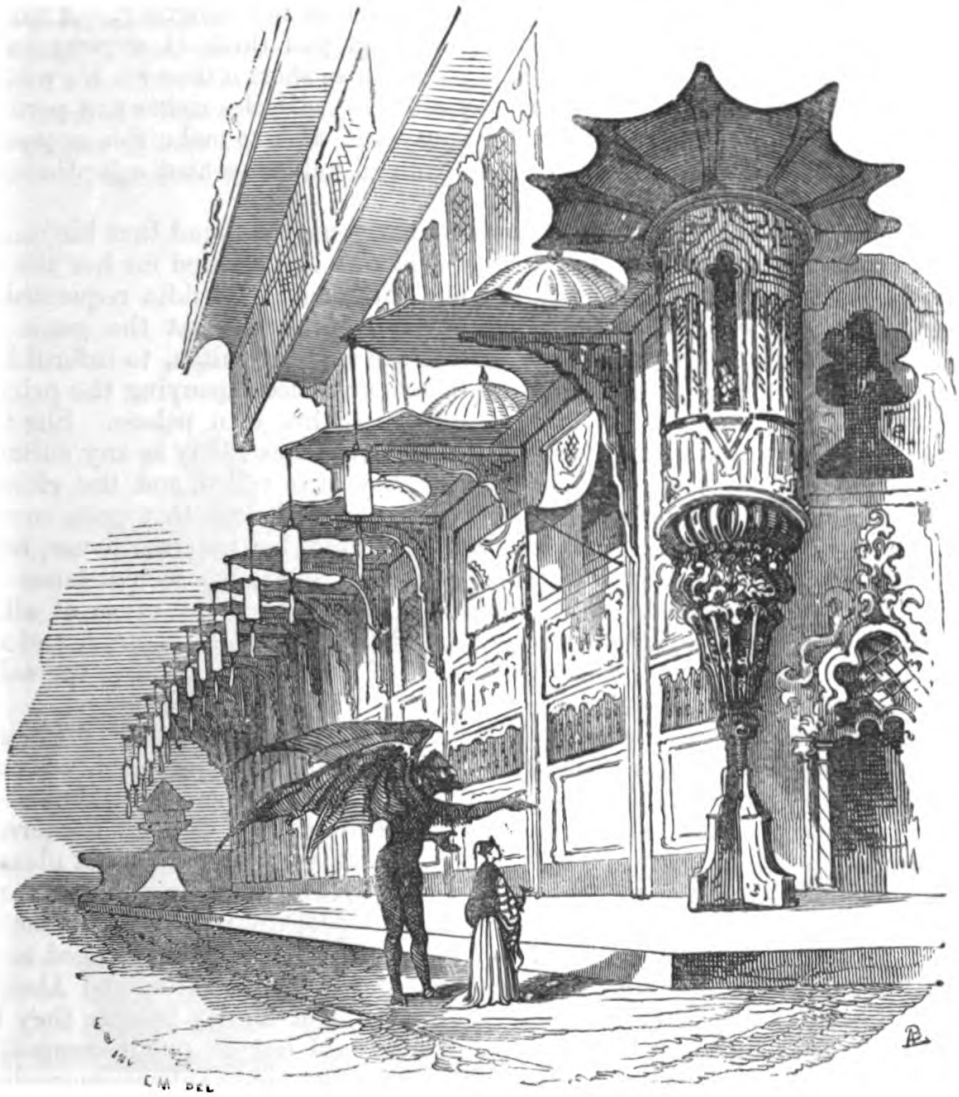
When the judge had drawn up the contract with all the requisite forms, the sultan asked Aladdin whether he wished to remain in the palace and conclude all the ceremonies that day? "Sire," he replied, "however impatient I may be to have entire possession of all your majesty's bounties, I request you to permit me to defer my happiness until I have built a palace for the reception of the princess that shall be worthy of her merit and dignity. And for this purpose, I request that you will have the goodness to point out a suitable situation near your own palace, that I may always be able to pay my court to your majesty. I will then neglect nothing to get it finished with all possible dilligence." "My son," answered the sultan, "take whatever spot you think proper. There is a large open

space before my palace, and I have thought for some time about filling it up; but remember, that to have my happiness complete, I cannot too soon see you united to my daughter." Having said this, he again embraced Aladdin, who took leave of the sultan in as polished a manner as if he had been brought up and spent all his life at court.

Aladdin then mounted his horse, and returned home with his suite in the same order in which they came, going back through the same crowd, and receiving similar acclamations from the people, who wished him all happiness and prosperity. As soon as he had entered the court and alighted from his horse, he retired to his own chamber. He instantly rubbed the lamp, and called the genie as usual. He had not to wait; the genie appeared directly, and offered his services. "Genie," said Aladdin to him, "I have hitherto had every reason to praise the precision and promptitude with which you have executed whatever I have required of you, by means of the power of your mistress, this lamp. You must now, through your regard for her, appear, if possible, more zealous, and make greater despatch than you have yet done. I command you, therefore, to build me a palace, in as short a time as you possibly can, opposite to that belonging to the sultan, and at a proper distance; and let this palace be every way worthy to receive the princess Badroul Boudour, my bride. I leave the choice of the materials to yourself, that is to say, whether it shall be of porphyry, of jaspar, of agate, of lapis lazuli, or of the finest marble; and also the form of the palace: I only expect, that at the top there shall be erected a large saloon, with a dome in the centre, and four equal sides, the walls of which shall he formed of massive gold and silver, in alternate layers, with twenty-four windows, six on each side; that the lattices of each window, except one, which is to be purposely left unfinished, shall be enriched with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, set with the greatest taste and symmetry, and in such a style that nothing in the whole world can equal it. I also wish this palace to have a large court in the front, another behind, and a garden. But, above everything else, be sure that there is a place, which you will point out to me, well supplied with money, both in gold and silver. There must also be kitchens, offices, magazines, receptacles for rich and valuable furniture, suited to the different seasons, and all appropriate to the magnificence of such a palace. And also stables filled with the most beautiful horses, with the grooms and attendants for the kitchen and offices, and female slaves for the service of the princess. In short, you understand what I mean. Go, and return as soon as it is completed."

The sun had retired into the west by the time Aladdin had finished giving his orders to the genie respecting the construction of the palace. The very next morning, when the day first broke, Aladdin, whose love for the princess prevented him from sleeping in tranquillity, had scarcely risen before the genie presented himself. "Sir," said he, "your palace is finished; come and see if it be according to your wish." Aladdin signified his assent, and the genie transported him to it in an instant. He found it to exceed his utmost expectation, and he could not sufficiently admire it. The genie conducted him through every part of it, and he everywhere found the greatest riches, applied with the utmost propriety. There were, also, the proper officers and slaves, all dressed according to their rank, and suited to their different employments. Amongst other things, he did not omit to show him the treasury, the door of which was opened by a treasurer, of whose fidelity the genie assured him. He here observed large vases, filled to the very top with purses of different sizes, according to the sums they contained, and so nicely arranged, that it was quite a pleasure to behold them. The genie then carried Aladdin to the stables, in which were the most beautiful horses in the world, with all the officers and grooms busily employed about them. He then led him into the different magazines, filled with everything necessary for them, both useful and ornamental, as well as for their support.

When Aladdin had examined the whole palace, without omitting a single part, from the top to the bottom, and more particularly the saloon with the four-and-twenty windows, and had seen all the riches and magnificence it contained, as well as every other thing even in greater abundance and with greater propriety than he had ordered; "Genie," said he, "no one can possibly be better satisfied



than I am. There is one thing only which I did not mention to you because it escaped my recollection; it is to have a carpet of the finest velvet laid from the gate of the sultan's palace to the door of the apartment in this palace which is to be appropriated to the princess, that she may walk upon it when she leaves the sultan's palace." "I will return in an instant," replied the genie; and he had not been gone a moment, before Aladdin saw his wish accomplished. The genie again made his appearance, and carried Aladdin back to his own house, just as the gates of the sultan's palace were about to be opened.

The porters who came to open the gates, and who were accustomed to see an open space where Aladdin's palace now stood, were much astonished at observing it filled up, and at seeing a velvet carpet, which came from that part directly opposite to the gate of the palace. They could not at first make out what it was; but their astonishment increased, when they beheld the superb palace of Aladdin.

The news of this wonderful event soon spread throughout the palace, and the grand vizier, who had arrived just as the gates were open, was not less astonished than the rest. He instantly went to the sultan, and wished to make the whole business pass for enchantment. "Why do you endeavour, vizier," said the sultan, "to make this appear the effect of enchantment? You know as well as I do, that this is the palace of Aladdin, which I, in your presence yesterday, gave him permission to build for the reception of the princess my daughter. After the immense display of riches which we have seen, can you think it so very extraordinary that he should be able to build a palace in so short a time? He wished, no doubt, to surprise us, and we every day see what miracles riches can perform. Confess that it is through motives of jealousy you wish to make this appear an enchantment." The hour for entering the council-hall prevented a continuation of this conversation.

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

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

Aladdin's mother met with the most honourable reception, and was introduced by the chief of the eunuchs into the apartment of the princess Badroul Boudour. As soon as the latter perceived her, she ran and embraced her, and made her take a place upon her own sofa. And while her women were dressing her, and adorning her person with the most valuable of the jewels with which Aladdin had presented her, she entertained her with a magnificent collation. The sultan, who wished to be as much as possible with the princess his daughter before she left him to go to the palace of Aladdin, paid great honour and respect to his mother. She had very often seen the sultan in public, but he had never yet seen her without her veil, as she then was. And although she was of rather an advanced age, there were still to be observed some traces from which it might be concluded she had in her youth been handsome. The sultan, too, had always

seen her very plainly, and indeed indifferently, dressed; and he was, therefore, the more struck at finding her now as magnificent as the princess his daughter.

When the evening approached, the princess took leave of the sultan her father. Their parting was tender, and accompanied by tears, and they embraced each other several times, without uttering a word. The princess at last left her apartment and proceeded towards her new residence, with Aladdin's mother on her left hand, followed by a hundred female slaves magnificently dressed. All the bands of instruments, which had been incessantly heard since the arrival of Aladdin's mother, united at once, and marched with them. These were followed by a hundred chiaous,* an equal number of black eunuchs in two rows, with their proper officers at their head; and four hundred young pages belonging to the sultan, marched in two troops on each side, with flambeaux in their hands.

The brilliancy of these, joined to the illuminations in both palaces, made the loss of day unnoticed.

In this order did the princess proceed, walking upon the carpet which was spread from Aladdin's palace to that of the sultan. And as she continued to advance, the musicians, who were at the head of the procession, went on, and

* Chiaous, so called by M. Galland, are officers attached to the magnificence of eastern courts. Their particular employments were unknown to the translators from both the Arabic and the French.

mixed with those who were placed on the terrace of Aladdin's palace; thus forming a concert, which, confused and extraordinary as it was, augmented the general joy, not only amongst those in the open square, but in the two palaces, in all the city, and even to a considerable distance around.

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

Aladdin was delighted at so satisfactory and charming an answer, and did not suffer the princess to remain long standing, after having walked so far, which she was not in the habit of doing. He took her by the hand, which he kissed with the greatest demonstrations of joy, and conducted her into a large saloon, illuminated by an immense number of tapers, where, through the attention of the genie, there was a table spread with everything that was rare and excellent. The dishes were of massive gold, and filled with the most delicious viands. The vases, the basins, and the goblets with which the sideboard was amply furnished, were also of gold, and of the most exquisite workmanship. The other ornaments, which embellished the saloon, exactly corresponded with the richness of the other parts. The princess, enchanted at the sight of such an assemblage of riches in one place, said to Aladdin, "Nothing, I thought, prince, in the whole world was more beautiful than the palace of the sultan, my father; but the sight of this saloon alone tells me I was deceived." "My princess," replied Aladdin, placing her at the table in the seat he had destined for her, "I am very sensible of your politeness, but at the same time know how to appropriate the compliment."

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

When the supper was concluded, and everything had been removed, a troop of dancers of both sexes took the place of the musicians. They performed dances of various figures, as was the custom of the country, and concluded by one executed by a male and female, who danced with the most surprising activity and agility, each of whom gave the other in turn an opportunity of showing all the grace and address they were master of. It was near midnight, when, according to the custom observed at that time in Cathay, Aladdin rose, and presented his hand to the princess Badroul Boudour, in order to dance together, and thus finish the ceremony of their nuptials. They both danced with so good a grace, that they were the admiration of all present. When it was over, Aladdin, who still held the princess by the hand, led her into the chamber, in which the nuptial bed had been prepared. The women of the princess attended to undress her, while the attendants of Aladdin did the same, and then every one retired. In this manner did the ceremonies and rejoicings, on account of the marriage of Aladdin, and the princess Badroul Boudour, conclude.

The next morning, when Aladdin awoke, his chamberlains presented themselves

to dress him. They clothed him in a different habit from that which he wore on the day of his marriage, but one equally rich and magnificent. They then brought him one of the horses that were appropriated to his use. He mounted it, and, surrounded by a large troop of slaves, rode to the palace of the sultan. The sultan received him with the same honours he had done before. He embraced

him, and, after having placed him on the throne, by his side, ordered breakfast to be served up. "Sire," said Aladdin to the sultan, "I beseech your majesty to dispense with conferring this honour upon me to-day; I come for the express purpose of entreating you to partake of a repast in the palace of the princess, together with your grand vizier, and the nobles of your court." The sultan readily granted his request. He rose immediately, and as the distance was not great, he proceeded on foot with Aladdin on his right hand, and the grand vizier on his left, followed by the nobles, the chiaous and principal officers of his palace going before them.

The nearer the sultan came to the palace of Aladdin, the more was he struck with its beauty; yet this was but little to what he felt on entering. His expressions of surprise and pleasure continued in all the apartments through which he passed; but when they came to the saloon with twenty-four windows, to which Aladdin had requested them to ascend—when the sultan had seen its ornaments, and had above all things cast his eyes on the lattices, enriched with diamonds, rubies and emeralds, all of the finest sort and most appropriate size; and when Aladdin had made him observe that the outside was equally rich and superb as the other—he was so much astonished, that he stood absolutely motionless. After remaining some time in an ecstasy of wonder, "Vizier," he at length said to that minister, who was near him, "is it possible, that there should

be in my kingdom, and so near my own, so superb a palace, and yet that I should till this moment be ignorant of it?" "Your majesty," replied the grand vizier, "may remember, that the day before yesterday you gave Aladdin, whom you then acknowledged for your son-in-law, permission to build a palace opposite to your own; on the same day when the sun went down, not the smallest part of this palace was on this spot, and yesterday I had the honour to announce to your majesty that the palace was built and finished." "I remember it," replied the sultan, "but I never imagined that this palace would be one of the wonders of the world. Where throughout the universe will you find the walls built with alternate layers of massive gold and silver, instead of stone or marble, and the windows having the lattices studded with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds? Never in the whole world has there been anything similar heard of."

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

Aladdin, who had left the sultan, to give some orders, joined them during this conversation. "My son," said the sultan, "this truly is a saloon worthy the admiration of all the world. There is, however, one thing I am astonished at; and that is to observe this lattice unfinished. Is it through forgetfulness or neglect," added he, "or because the workmen had not time to put the finishing stroke to such a beautiful specimen of architecture?" "Sire," answered Aladdin, "it is not for any of these reasons that this lattice remains in the state your majesty now sees it. It has been done on purpose: and it was by my orders that the workmen have not touched it. I wish that your majesty should have the glory of finishing this saloon and palace at the same time. And I entreat you to think well of my intention, that I

may ever remember the favour I have thus received from you." "If you have done it with that view," replied the sultan, "I take it in good part; I will this instant give the necessary orders about it." So saying, he ordered the jewellers who were best furnished with precious stones, and the most skilful goldsmiths in his capital, to be sent for.

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

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

The jewellers and goldsmiths examined all the twenty-three lattices with great attention; and after having consulted together about what they could each contribute towards its completion, they presented themselves to the sultan, and the jeweller in ordinary to the palace thus addressed him: "We are ready, sire, to employ all our care and diligence to obey your majesty, but amongst all our profession we have no jewels either sufficiently valuable or numerous to complete so great a work." "I have, then," cried the sultan, "and more than you want. Come to my palace, I will show you them, and you shall choose which you like best."

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

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

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

went out of the saloon. He entered it again in a few moments, and found the lattice as he wished, and similar to the others.

In the meantime the jewellers and goldsmiths arrived at the palace, and were introduced to the sultan in his own apartment. The first jeweller then produced the precious stones he had brought with him, and said in the name of the rest: "Your majesty, sire, knows for what length of time and how diligently we have worked in order to finish the business your majesty employed us upon. It was already very far advanced, when Aladdin obliged us not only to leave off, but even to destroy what we had already done, and to bring back these jewels as well as those that belonged to the grand vizier." The sultan then asked them whether Aladdin had given them any reason; and when they told the sultan that he had said nothing on the subject, the former ordered his horse to be brought; and, without any other attendants that those who happened to be about his person, and who accompanied him on foot, proceeded to Aladdin's palace. He dismounted at the foot of the flight of stairs that led to the saloon with twenty-four windows, and went up, without letting Aladdin know of his arrival; but the latter happened luckily to be in the saloon, and had barely time to receive the sultan at the door.

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

Aladdin dissembled the true reason, which was, that the sultan was not sufficiently rich in jewels to go to so great an expense. But to let him see how the palace itself surpassed not only his, but also every other palace in the whole world, since he was unable to finish even a very small part of it, he replied: "It is true, sire, that your majesty did behold this saloon unfinished, but I entreat you to examine if at this moment there be anything wanting?"

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

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

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

The grand vizier clearly saw that the sultan was prejudiced; he did not, there-

fore, wish to enter into any dispute with him, but suffered him to remain in his own opinion. Every morning as soon as he rose the sultan went regularly to the apartment whence he could see the palace of Aladdin: and indeed he often went during the day to contemplate and admire it.

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

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

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

No sooner had the African magician learnt by his diabolical art that Aladdin was in the enjoyment of these honours, than the blood rushed into his face.

'This miserable son of a tailor," he exclaimed, in a rage, "has discovered the secret and virtues of the lamp! I thought his death certain; and now he enjoys the fruits of my long and laborious exertions. I will either prevent his enjoying them, or perish in the attempt." He did not deliberate long as to the method he

should pursue. Early the next morning, he mounted a horse from Barbary, which he had in his stable, and began his journey. Travelling from city to city, and from province to province, without stopping anywhere longer than was necessary to rest his horse, he at last arrived in Cathay, and very soon reached the capital where the sultan lived, whose daughter Aladdin had married. He alighted at a public khan, where he ordered an apartment for himself. He remained there the rest of the day and following night, in order to recover from the fatigue of his journey.

The first thing the African magician did the next morning was to inquire what was the general opinion that was formed of Aladdin; and how the people spoke of him. In walking about the city, he went into the most frequented place where people of the greatest consequence and distinction assembled, to drink a warm liquor, of a particular kind, which he recollected to have done when he was there before. He took his seat, and they poured some out into a cup, and presented it to him. As he took it, he heard, as he was listening to what was said on every side, some person speaking of Aladdin's palace. When he had finished his cup, he approached those who were conversing on this subject; and taking his opportunity, he inquired what there was in particular about this palace of which they spoke so highly. "Where do you come from?" said one of those to whom he addressed himself. "You must surely be but lately arrived in this city, if you have not seen or heard of the palace of prince Aladdin." It was thus that Aladdin since his union with the princess Badroul Boudour was always called. "I do not say," continued the same person, "that it is one of the wonders of the world, but that it is the only wonder in the world. Nothing has ever been seen so rich, so grand, or so magnificent. You must have come from a great distance, since you seem never even to have heard of it. In fact, it ought

to be spoken of everywhere since it has been erected. But see it, and you will then know if I have said anything but the truth." "Pardon my ignorance, I beg of you," replied the African magician; "I arrived here only yesterday, and I have come from a great distance, even from the furthest part of Africa, and the fame of it had not reached that country when I left it. And, as it was a business of great importance that brought me, and required the utmost haste, I had no other view during my journey than to get to the end of it as soon as possible, without stopping anywhere, or acquiring any information, as I came along: I was, therefore, quite ignorant of what you have been telling me. I shall, however, go and see it. My impatience, indeed, is so great that I would this moment go and satisfy my curiosity if you would do me the favour to show me the way."

The person to whom the African magician addressed himself, took a pleasure in directing him the way to Aladdin's palace, and he immediately set out. When he arrived, and had accurately examined the palace on all sides, he had not the least doubt but that Aladdin had availed himself of the power of the lamp in building it; he well knew it was in the power of the genii who were the slaves of the lamp to produce such wonders. Stung to the very soul by the happiness and greatness of Aladdin, between whom and the sultan there seemed not the shadow of a difference, he returned to his khan.

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

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

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

The next morning the African magician received the twelve lamps, and paid the money asked for them. He put them into a basket which he had provided for the purpose, and went with this on his arm towards Aladdin's palace; and

when he was near it, he began to cry with a loud voice "Who will change old lamps for new?" As he went on, the children who were at play in the open square ran and collected round him, hooting and shouting at him, as they took him for a fool or a madman. Every one who passed laughed at his folly, as they thought it. "That man," said they, "must surely have lost his senses, to offer to change new lamps for old ones."

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

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

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

The lamp of which the slave spoke was the identical wonderful lamp which had been the cause of Aladdin's great success and happiness, and he had him-

self placed it upon the cornice before he went to the chase, from the fear of losing it. It was the usual precaution which he took every time he hunted. But neither the female slaves, the eunuchs, nor the princess herself had paid the least attention to it during his absence, till this moment. Except when he hunted, Aladdin always carried it about him. His precaution, it may be said, was certainly very proper, but he should at least have locked the lamp up: but every one is liable to similar neglects, and always will be liable to them.

The princess, who was ignorant of the value of this lamp, and that Aladdin, not to say herself, was so much interested in its preservation, consented to the joke, and ordered a eunuch to go and get it exchanged. The eunuch obeyed: he went down from the saloon, and close to the palace gate he perceived the African magician. He immediately called to him, and when he came, he showed him the old lamp, and said, "Give me a new lamp for this."

The magician did not doubt but that this was the lamp he was seeking; because he thought there would not, of course, be any other lamp in Aladdin's palace, where everything, that could be, was of gold or silver. He eagerly took the lamp from the eunuch, and after having thrust it into his bosom, he presented his basket, and bid him take which he liked best. The eunuch chose one, and leaving the magician, he carried the new lamp to the princess. The exchange had no sooner been effected than the children made the whole square resound with their noise, in ridiculing and mocking the folly, as they thought, of the magician.

The African magician let them shout as much as they pleased, and without staying any longer near Aladdin's palace, he quickly went to a distance, and no longer invited people to change old lamps for new. He wished for no other than the one which he had got. His silence, therefore, soon induced the children to go no further with him.

Leaving the square between the two palaces, he went along the most unfrequented streets; and as he had no further occasion either for the remainder of his lamps or his basket, he set them both dewn in the middle of a street where he thought no one would see him. He then turned down another street, and made all the haste he could to get to one of the gates of the city. As he continued his walk through the suburb, which was very extensive, he bought some provisions; and when he was in the open country, he turned down a bye-road, where there was no probability of seeing any person; and here he remained till he thought a good opportunity occurred to execute the design he had in coming there. He did not regret the horse he left at the khan where he had lodged; but thought himself well recompensed by the treasure he had acquired.

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

It is now necessary to leave the African magician, the princess Badroul Boudour, and the palace in Africa, and notice the effect of this change upon the sultan.

The sultan no sooner rose the next morning than he went, as usual, to the cabinet, that thence he might have the pleasure of contemplating and admiring

Aladdin's palace. He cast his eyes towards the side where he was accustomed to see this palace, but discovered only an open space, such as it was before the palace had been built. He thought he must be deceived; he rubbed his eyes, but still he could see nothing more than at first, though the air was so serene, the sky so clear, and the sun so near rising, that every object was distinct

and plain. He looked on both sides, and out of both windows, but could not perceive what he had been accustomed to. His astonishment was so great, that he remained for some time with his eyes turned to the spot where the palace had stood, but where he could no longer see it, endeavouring to comprehend how so large a palace as that of Aladdin, which he had seen every day, since he had given permission to have it erected, and even so lately as the day before, should so suddenly and completely vanish, that not the smallest vestige remained. "I cannot be deceived," he said to himself; "it was in this very place that I beheld it. If it had fallen down, the materials at least would appear; and if the earth had swallowed it, we would perceive some marks of it." In whatever way this had come to pass, and however satisfied he was that the palace was no longer there, he nevertheless waited some time longer, to see if in reality he was not deceived. He at at lengh retired, after looking once more behind him, as he left the place. He returned to his apartment, and ordered his grand vizier to be instantly sent for. In the meantime he sat down; his mind agitated with so many different thoughts that he knew not how to act.

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

"Sire," said the grand vizier the moment he entered, "the eagerness and haste with which your majesty has sent for me, leads me to suppose that something very extraordinary has happened, since your majesty is not ignorant that this is the day when the council meets, and that I should, therefore, of course,

have been here on my duty in a very short time." "What has happened is indeed very extraordinary, as you have said; and you will soon agree it is so. Tell me, where is Aladdin's palace?" "I have just now passed it, sire," replied the vizier, with the utmost surprise; "and it seemed to me to be in the same spot. A building so solid as that is, cannot easily change its situation." "Go into my cabinet," answered the sultan, "and come and tell me if you can see it."

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

The sultan, who could not deny the former representations of the grand vizier, was in the greater rage, because he was also unable to disavow his own incredulity. "Where is this impostor," he exclaimed, "this wretch, that I may strike off his head?" "It is some days," answered the grand vizier, "since he came to take leave of your majesty; we must send to him, to inquire about his palace: he cannot be ignorant where it is." "This would be to treat him with too great indulgence," exclaimed the monarch, "go, and order thirty of my horsemen to bring him before me in chains." The grand vizier instantly gave the orders, and instructed the officer how they might take him and prevent his escape. They set out, and met Aladdin, who was returning from the chase, about five or six leagues from the city. The officer, when he first accosted him, said that the sultan was so impatient to see him again that he had sent them to inform him of it, and to accompany him on his return.

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

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

When the guards entered the suburbs, the first person who saw Aladdin conducted in this way, like a state criminal, did not doubt but that he was going to lose his head. As he was generally beloved, some seized a sabre, others whatever arms they could, and those who had none took up stones, and in this manner followed the guards. Some of those who were in the rear wheeled about, as if they wished to disperse them; but the people increased so fast, that

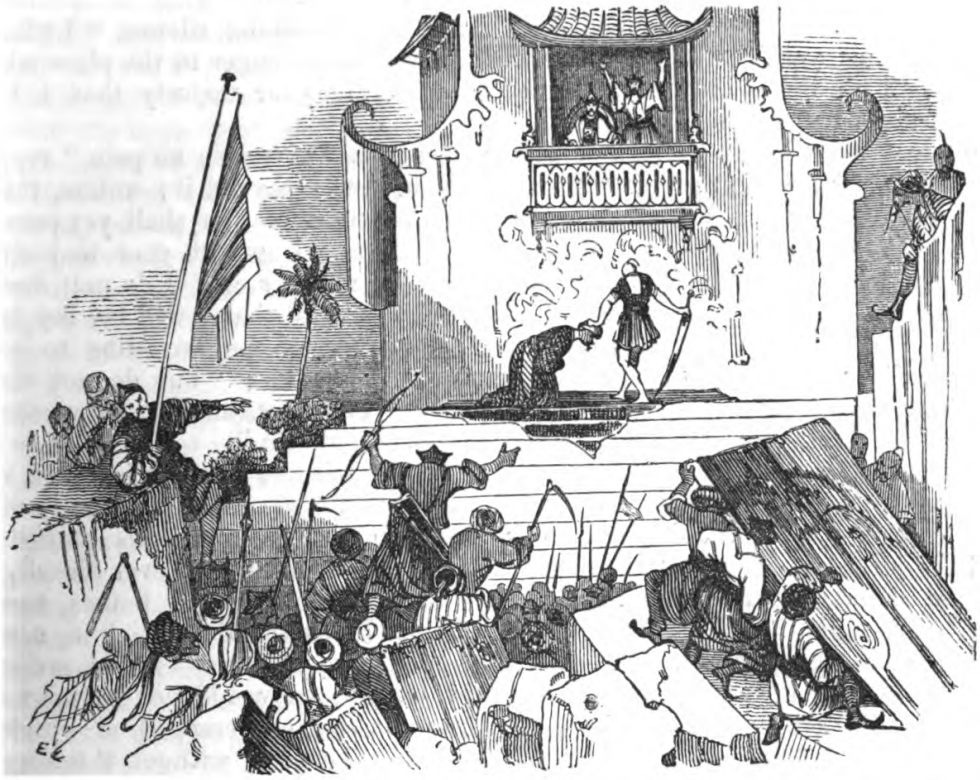
the guards thought it better to dissemble, well satisfied if they could conduct Aladdin safe to the palace without his being rescued. In order to succeed the better, they took great care, as the streets happened to be more or less wide, to occupy the whole space, sometimes extending and at others compressing them-

selves. In this manner they arrived in the open square before the palace, where they all formed into one line, and faced about towards the armed multitude, while the officer and guard who led Aladdin entered the palace, and the porters shut the gates, to prevent any one from entering.

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

The executioner seized Aladdin, took off the chain, that was round his neck and body, and after laying down on the ground a large piece of leather, stained with the blood of the many criminals he had executed, he desired him to place himself on his knees, and then tied a bandage over his eyes. Having drawn his sabre, he was about to give the fatal stroke, only making the three usual flourishes in the air, and waiting for the sultan's signal to separate Aladdin's head from his body; when at this very instant the grand vizier perceived that the populace, who had forced the guards, and filled the square, were in fact scaling the walls of the palace in many places, and even began to pull them down in order to open a passage. Before therefore, the sultan could give the signal, he said to him,

"I beseech your majesty to think maturely of what you are going to do; you will run the risk, sire, of having your palace forced; and if this misfortune should happen, the event cannot but be dreadful." "My palace forced!" replied



the sultan, "who can dare attempt it?" "If your majesty, sire, will cast your eyes towards the walls, you will acknowledge the truth of what I say."

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

As all those who had mounted on the walls of the palace were witnesses of what passed, they gave over their design, and almost directly got down: and, highly delighted at having thus been the means of saving the life of one whom they really loved, they instantly published the news to those who were near them, thence it spread through all the populace who were in the neighbourhood of the palace; officers also ascended the terraced roof and proclaimed it publicly. The justice the sultan had thus rendered Aladdin by pardoning him, disarmed the populace, quieted the tumult, and every one by degrees returned home.

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

Aladdin ascended, and when he presented himself, "Follow me," said the sultan, walking on before, without taking any other notice of him. He led the way to the cabinet that opened towards the place where Aladdin's palace stood. When they came to the door; "Go in," said the sultan, "you ought to know where your own palace is. Look on all sides, and tell me what is

become of it." Aladdin looked, but saw nothing. He perceived the space upon which his palace had stood; but as he could not conceive how it should have disappeared, this extraordinary and wonderful event so confused and astonished him, that he could not answer the sultan a single word. "Tell me," said the latter, impatient at his silence, "where is your palace, and what is become of my daughter?" "Sire," replied Aladdin, at last breaking silence, "I plainly see, and must own, that the palace which I built is no longer in the place where it was. I see it has disappeared; but I can assure your majesty that I have no concern whatever in this event."

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

Aladdin then left the sultan's presence in the deepest humiliation, and in a state truly deserving of pity. He passed through the courts of the palace with downcast eyes, not even daring to look about him, so great was his confusion; and the principal officers of the court, not one of whom he had ever disobliged, instead of coming to console him, or offer him a retreat at their houses, turned their backs upon him, both that they might not be supposed to see him, nor he be able to recognise them. But even if they had approached him in order to console him, or offer him an asylum, they themselves would not have known him: he did not even know himself. His mind seemed deranged, of which he gave evident proofs, when he was out of the palace, for without thinking of what he did, he demanded at every door, and of all he met, if they had seen his palace, or could give him any intelligence of it.

These questions made every one think that Aladdin had lost his senses. Some even laughed at him; but the more serious, and especially all those who had been on friendly terms, or ever had any business with him, most sincerely compassionated him. He remained three days in the city, walking through every part, eating only what was given him in charity, without being able to form any resolution.

At length, as he could not in his wretched state remain any longer in the city, where he had hitherto lived in such splendour, he departed towards the country. He soon turned out of the high road, and after walking over a great deal of ground in the most dreadful state of mind, he arrived towards the close of day on the bank of a river. He now gave himself up entirely to despair. "Where shall I go to seek my palace?" he exclaimed. "In what country, in what part of the world, shall I find either that, or my dear princess, whom the sultan demands of me? Never shall I be able to succeed! It is much better then, that I at once free myself from labours which must end in nothing, and from feelings that distract me." He was then going to throw himself into the river, but being a good mussulman, and faithful to his religion, he thought he ought not to do it without first repeating his prayers. In order to perform this ceremony, he went close to the bank to wash his face and hands, as was the custom of his country, but as this spot was rather steep, and the ground moist from the water that had washed against it, he slipped down, and would have fallen into the river if he had not been stopped by a piece of stone or rock that projected about two feet from the surface. Happy was it for him, too, that he still had with him the ring which the African magician had put upon his finger, when he made him go down into the

suterraneous cavern, to bring away the precious lamp. In holding against the piece of rock, he rubbed the ring so strongly, that the same genie instantly appeared whom he had before seen in the subterraneous cavern. "What do you wish?" cried the genie: "I am ready to obey you, as your slave, and as the slave of him who has that ring on his finger; I and the other slaves of the ring."

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

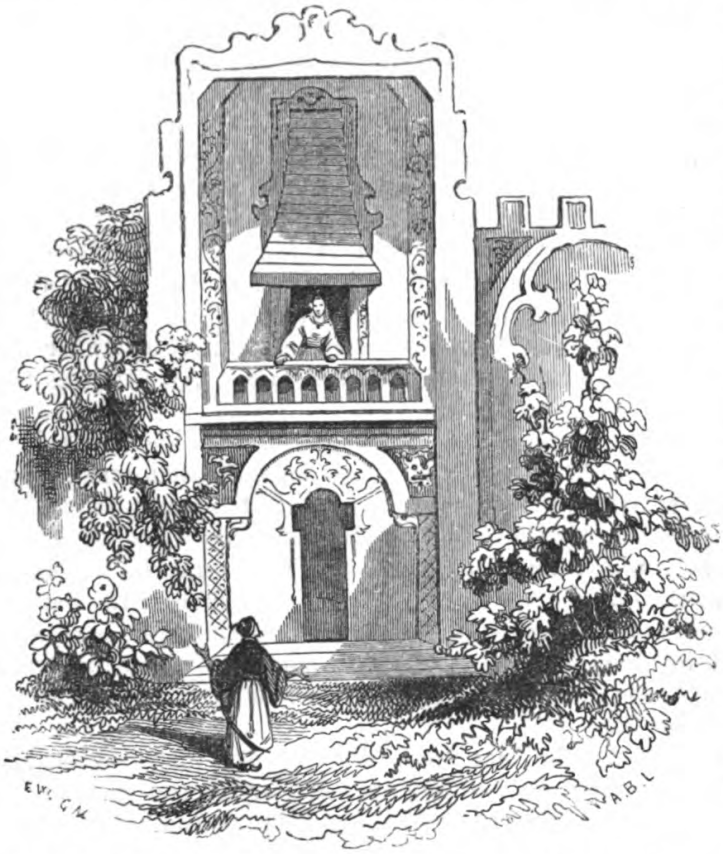
Notwithstanding the obscurity Aladdin readily recognised both his own palace and the apartment of the princess; but as the night was far advanced, and everything in the palace was quiet, he retired and seated himself at the foot of a tree. Full of hope, and reflecting on the good fortune which chance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

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

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

This secret door was directly below the apartment of the princess. It was

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



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

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

"Do not be offended, my princess," continued Aladdin, "at all the questions I put to you; they are of equal importance to us both. But to come at once to what most interests me; tell me I conjure you, how you have been treated by so infamous and perfidious a wretch." "Since I have been in this place," answered the princess, "he has presented himself before me only once during the day; and I am persuaded, that the little satisfaction he has derived from his visits, makes him repeat them less often. All that he has ever said to me has

only been for the purpose of persuading me to be faithless to you, and to take him for my husband; wishing to convince me, that I ought never to expect to see you again; that you are no longer alive, and that the sultan my father has ordered your head to be cut off. And to prove to me that you were an ungrateful wretch, he said that you owed all your good fortune to him, with a thousand other injurious expressions that I cannot repeat. And as he never had any other answer than my complaints and tears afforded him, he was obliged to retire with as little satisfaction as he came. I have, nevertheless, no doubt but that he means to suffer the more violent effects of my affliction to subside, with the hope and expectation that I shall change my mind; and if, in the end, I should persevere in my resistance, to make use of violent methods: but your presence, my dear husband, at once dissipates all my fears."

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

Aladdin left the apartment by the same door he had entered; and when outside of the palace he looked about on all sides, and at last discovered a peasant, who was going into the country. As this peasant had got to some distance beyond the palace, Aladdin hastened to overtake him; and as soon as he joined him, he proposed to change clothes, and made him such an offer, that the peasant

readily agreed to it. This was effected behind a small bush; and when the exchange was completed, they separated, and Aladdin took the road that led to the town. When he got there, he turned down a street which led from the gate, and then getting into those streets which were most frequented, he came to that

part where each street was occupied by a particular profession or trade. He went into that appropriated to druggists, and going to the shop which appeared the largest and best supplied, he asked the owner if he had a certain powder, the name of which he mentioned.

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

"If you will follow my advice," continued Aladdin, "you will this moment adorn yourself in one of your most elegant dresses, and when the African magician shall come, make no difficulty in receiving him with all the affability you can assume, without appearing affected, or under any constraint, in a kind of open manner; yet still with some remains of grief, which he may easily conceive will soon be entirely dissipated. In your conversation with him give him to understand that you are making the greatest efforts to forget me; and that he may be still more convinced of your sincerity, invite him even to sup with you, and tell him that you are desirous of tasting some of the best wine this country can produce. On this, he will not fail to leave you in order to procure some. While he is gone, do you go to the sideboard, which will of course be set out, and put this powder into one of the cups you usually drink out of; set the cup on one side, and tell one of your women to fill it, and bring it to you at a certain signal, which you must explain to her, warning her not to make any mistake. When the magician shall be returned, and you shall again have sat down to table, make them bring you the particular goblet in which the powder was put, and then do you make an exchange with him. He will find the flavour of that which you give him so excellent, that he will drink it up to the last drop. Scarcely shall he have emptied the cup, but you will see him fall backwards. If you should feel any repugnance at drinking out of his cup you need only pretend to do so; and you can very easily manage this, for the effect of the powder will be so sudden, that he will not have time to pay any attention to what you do, or notice whether you drink or not."

When Aladdin had finished his instructions, the princess answered; "I must confess that I shall violently shock my own feelings in agreeing to make these advances to the magician, although I am aware they are absolutely necessary. But what cannot I resolve to undertake against such a cruel enemy? I will then do as you direct, since your happiness depends upon it as well as mine." When these matters were all arranged with the princess, Aladdin took his leave: he passed the remainder of the day in the neighbourhood of the palace; and as the night came on, he approached the secret door.

The princess Badroul Boudour, being inconsolable not only at her separation from her dear husband Aladdin, whom from the first she loved more through inclination than duty, but also at being separated from the sultan her father, between whom and herself there was an equal degree of affection, had completely

neglected her person from the very moment of their distressful separation. She had even neglected the neatness so becoming to her sex, particularly since the first visit of the magician when she had learnt from her women that he was the person who had exchanged the old lamp for a new one; after this infamous trick, therefore, she could not look upon him without horror. The opportunity, however, of taking that vengeance upon him he so justly deserved, so much sooner than she could ever hope to have the means of accomplishing, made her resolve to satisfy Aladdin.

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

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

The magician did not fail to make his appearance at the usual hour. As soon as the princess saw him come into the saloon of the twenty-four windows, where she was waiting to receive him, she got up in all the splendour of her beauty and charms. She pointed with her hand to the most honourable seat, and remained

standing till he had reached it, that she might sit down at the same time. This distinguished civility she had never before shown him.

The African magician, more dazzled by the lustre of her eyes than the brilliancy of the jewels she wore, was greatly struck. Her majestic air, the gracious

manner she had put on, so opposite to the rebuffs he had hitherto met with from her, absolutely confused him. He at first wished to sit at the very end of the sofa; but as he saw that the princess declined taking her seat until he was seated where she wished, he at last obeyed.

The princess then, in order to free him from the embarrassment in which she saw he was, looked at him in such a manner as to make him suppose she no longer beheld him in an odious point of view, and then said to him, "You are doubtless astonished at seeing me appear to-day quite like a different person from what I have been hitherto; but you will no longer be surprised at it, when I tell you that I am naturally of a disposition so much the reverse of grief, melancholy, vexation, or distress, that I endeavour to drive them from me by every means in my power, as soon as the cause of them has been a short time over. I have reflected upon what you have said respecting the destiny of Aladdin, and from the disposition of the sultan my father, which I well know, I am persuaded, like yourself, that the former could not possiby avoid the terrible effects of his rage. I concluded, therefore, that even if I were to weep and lament all the remainder of my life, that my tears would not revive him; it is then on this account, that, after having paid him, even to the tomb, every respect and duty which my affection required, I thought I ought at length to search for the means of consoling myself. These are the motives which have produced the change you see. In order then to begin to drive away all sorrow, which I have now resolved to banish from my mind, and being persuaded that you will assist me in the endeavour, I have ordered a supper to be prepared; but as I have only some wine which is the produce of Cathay, and am now in Africa, I have a great desire to taste what is made here, and I thought if there were any, that you would be most likely to have the best."

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

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

After they had eaten for some little time, the princess asked for some wine, and drank to the magician's health. "You are right," she cried, when she had drank, "in praising your wine; I have never tasted any so delicious." "Charm-

ing princess," replied he, holding the goblet they had given him in his hand, "my wine acquires a fresh flavour by the approbation you have bestowed upon it." "Drink to my health," resumed the princess; "you must confess I understand it." He did as she requested him, and in returning the goblet, he added: "I esteem myself very happy, princess, to have reserved this wine for so good an occasion: and I confess I have never in my whole life drank any in so agreeable a manner."

They continued eating some time longer, and had taken three cups each, when the princess, who had completely fascinated the African magician by her kind and obliging manners, at length gave the signal to her woman to bring some wine; at the same time desiring her to bring a goblet full, and also to fill that of the magician, which they presented to him. When they each held their goblet in their hands, "I know not," said she to the African magician, "what is your custom, when those who are fond of each other drink together as we do. With us in Cathay each person presents his own goblet to the other, and the lovers then drink to each other's health." At the same time she presented the goblet she held, and extended her other hand to receive his. The African magician hastened to make this change, with which he was the more delighted, as he looked upon this favour as the surest mark of having made an entire conquest of the heart of the princess; and this completed his happiness. "Princess," he exclaimed before he drank, and holding the goblet in his hand, "we Africans ought to become as much refined in the art of giving a zest to love by every delightful accompaniment, as the people of Cathay; by instructing me, therefore, in a matter of which I am ignorant, I should learn how sensible I ought to be of the favour I receive. Never shall I forget, most amiable princess, that in drinking out of your goblet I have regained that life which your cruelty, had it continued, would most infallibly have destroyed."

The princess Badroul Boudour was almost worn out with this ridiculous and toublesome discourse. "Drink," she cried, interrupting him, "you may then say what you please to me." At the same time she appeared to carry the goblet she held to her mouth, but barely suffered it to touch her lips, while the African magician did not leave a single drop in his. Wishing to drain the cup, he held his head quite back, and remained so long in that position that the princess, who kept the goblet to

her lips, observed that his eyes were turned up; and he, in fact, fell upon his back, without the least struggle.

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

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

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

Since the removal of Aladdin's palace and the loss of the princess Badroul Boudour, his daughter, as he thought for ever, the sultan had been inconsolable. He slept neither night nor day; and instead of avoiding everything that could increase his affliction, he on the contrary cherished every thought that was likely to add to it. Thus, instead of going only every morning to the cabinet to satisfy himself as it were only with the recollection of what he was now unable to perceive, he went several times during the day to renew his tears, and overwhelm himself with the most painful thoughts of never again seeing what had afforded him so much delight, and for the loss of her whom he esteemed more than all the world. The sun had not yet risen when the sultan entered this cabinet as usual on the very morning after Aladdin's palace had been brought back to its place. When he first came in he was so much absorbed in his own feelings, and so penetrated with sorrow, that he threw his eyes over the accustomed spot in the most melancholy manner, with the expectation of beholding, as he thought, only the vacant space that had been occupied by the palace. But when he found the void filled up, he conjectured that it was only a mist. He then looked with greater attention, and could not at last doubt but it was the palace of Aladdin which he saw. Chagrin and sorrow were succeeded by the most delightful sensations of joy. He hastened back to his apartment, and instantly ordered them to saddle and bring him a horse. It was no sooner brought than he mounted it and set out, thinking he could not arrive soon enough at Aladdin's palace.

Aladdin, who had conjectured what might be the consequence, had risen at day-break; and as soon as he had dressed himself in one of his most magnificent

robes, he went up to the saloon of twenty-four windows, from which he perceived the sultan as he was coming along. He then descended; and was exactly in time to receive him at the bottom of the grand staircase, and assist him in dismounting. "Aladdin," cried the sultan, "I cannot speak to you, till I have seen and embraced my daughter."

He then conducted the sultan to the apartment of the princess Badroul Boudour, whom Aladdin had informed when he got up that she was no longer in Africa, but in Cathay, at the capital of the sultan, her father, and close to his palace. She had just finished dressing. The sultan eagerly embraced her, bathing her face with his tears, while the princess on her part showed the greatest marks of delight at again beholding him. For some time the sultan could not utter a syllable, so much was he affected at finding his daughter after having lamented her loss as inevitable, while the princess shed tears of joy at the sight of him. "My dear daughter," exclaimed the sultan, at length recovering his speech, "I would fain believe that the joy you feel at again seeing me makes you appear so little changed as though not even an unpleasant circumstance had happened to you. I am sure, however, that you must have suffered a great deal. No one can have been suddenly transported as you have been, and with a whole palace at the same time, without the greatest alarm and most dreadful feelings. Relate to me, I beg of you, everything as it happened, and do not conceal the least circumstance."

The princess felt a pleasure in giving the sultan all the satisfaction he wished. "Sire," said she, "if I appear so little altered, I beg your majesty to consider that my expectations were raised so long ago as yesterday morning by the presence of my dear husband and liberator Aladdin, whom I had till then regarded and lamented as for ever lost to me, and that the happiness I experienced in again embracing him restored me nearly to my former self. Strictly speaking, my whole sorrow arose from finding myself torn from your majesty and my dear husband; not only out of my affection for him but from the anxiety I suffered for fear of the dreadful effects of your majesty's rage, to which I did not doubt that he would be exposed, however innocent he might be; and no one could be more so. I have suffered less from the insolence of my ravisher, who continually held a conversation that gave me pain, but which I as often put an end to by the ascendancy I knew how to maintain over him. I was not also under more restraint than I am at present. Aladdin himself had not the least concern in my removal: I was alone the cause, although the innocent one.

In order to convince the sultan that she spoke the truth, she gave him a detailed account of how the African magician had disguised himself like a seller of lamps, and offered to change new ones for old, and of the joke she amused herself with in changing Aladdin's lamp, the important and secret qualities of which she was ignorant of; of the instant removal of the palace and herself in consequence of this exchange, and their being transported into Africa, with the magician himself, whom two of her women, and also the eunuch who had made the exchange, recollected, when he had the audacity to come and present himself before her the first time after his daring enterprise; and of the proposal he made to marry her. She then informed him of the persecution she continued to suffer until the arrival of Aladdin; of the measures which they mutually took to get the lamp, which the magician constantly carried about him; in what manner they succeeded, particularly by her having the courage to dissemble her feelings, and invite him to sup with her; with everything that passed till she presented the goblet to him in which she had privately put the powder Aladdin had given her. "With respect to what remains," added she, "I leave to Aladdin to inform you of it."

The latter had but little to add to this account. "When they opened the private door," he said, "I immediately went up to the saloon of twenty-four

windows, and saw the traitor lying dead on the sofa, from the strength of the powder. As it was not proper for the princess to remain there any longer, I requested her to go to her apartment with her women and eunuchs. When I was alone, after taking the lamp out of the magician's bosom, I made use of the same secret he had done to remove the palace, and steal away the princess. I have brought the palace back to its place, and have had the happiness of restoring the princess to your majesty, as you commanded me. I have not deceived your majesty in this account; and if you will take the trouble to go up to the saloon, you will see the magician punished as he deserved."

In order to be more fully convinced, the sultan rose and went up; and when he had seen the dead body of the magician, whose face was already become livid by the strength of the poison, he embraced Aladdin with the greatest tenderness. "Do not think ill of me, my son," cried he, "for having used you in the manner I have done; paternal affection forced me to do so, and I deserve to be pardoned for the excess to which it carried me." "Sire," replied Aladdin, "I have not the least reason to complain of your majesty's conduct: you have done only what was your duty. This magician, this infamous wretch, the most detestable of men, was the sole cause of my disgrace. When your majesty shall have leisure, I will give you an account of another piece of treachery which he was guilty of towards me, not less infamous than this, from which the peculiar providence of God has preserved me." "I will take care to find an opportunity," said the sultan, "and that very soon. But let us now only think of making ourselves happy, and having this odious object removed."

Aladdin ordered the magician's body to be thrown away, that it might serve for the beasts and birds to prey upon. In the meantime, the sultan, after having commanded the drums, trumpets, tymbals, and other instruments to announce a public rejoicing, had a festival proclaimed of ten days' continuance, in honour of the return of the princess Badroul Boudour, of Aladdin, and his palace.

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

The African magician had a younger brother, who was not inferior to him in his knowledge of magic; and it may be said that he surpassed him in wicked intentions and diabolical machinations. As they did not always live together,

nor even in the same city, one sometimes being at the eastern extremity, while the other travelled in the most western part of the world; they did not fail once every year to inform themselves, by means of their knowledge of geomancy, in what part of the world the other was, how he was going on, and whether either wanted the assistance of the other.

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

When the magician was thus apprised of the melancholy fate of his brother, he did not waste his time in useless regrets, which could not again restore him to life; but he took the instant resolution to avenge his death: he mounted his horse and directly began his journey towards Cathay. He traversed plains, rivers, mountains, and deserts; and after a long journey of almost incredible fatigue and difficulty, he at length reached Cathay, and in a short time afterwards arrived at the capital which his experiment in geomancy had pointed out. Certain of not being deceived, nor of having mistaken one kingdom for another, he took up his abode there.

The very next morning the magician went out, and in walking through the city, not so much for the purpose of seeing its beauties, which did not at all interest him, as with the intention of planning his measures in order to put his pernicious design into execution, he introduced himself into the most frequented places, and was very attentive to the conversation that passed. At a place where many people spent their time in playing a variety of games, and where, while some are playing, others entertain themselves with the news of the day, or with talking over their own private affairs, he observed that they spoke much of and highly praised the virtues and piety of a woman called Fatima, who led a retired life, and even of the miracles she performed. As he thought that this woman might perhaps be in some way useful in the business he was about, he took one of the persons aside, and begged him to give a more particular account of this holy woman, and what sort of miracles she performed.

"What," exclaimed this man, "have you never seen nor even heard of her? She is the admiration of the whole city, by her fasting and austere life, and by the good example she sets. Except on Mondays and Fridays she never leaves her hermitage; but on these days she comes into the city, and she does an infinite deal of good, for there is no one, who is afflicted even with a pain in the head, whom she does not cure by laying her hands upon them.

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

The magician having first paid the owner for what he had, which did not

amount to much, went out about midnight, and took the road to the hermitage of Fatima, the holy woman, the name by which she was distinguished throughout the city. He had no difficulty in opening the door, as it was only fastened by a latch. As soon as he entered, he shut it again without making any noise. He then perceived Fatima, by the light of the moon, lying almost in the open air, upon a couch with a ragged mat, close to the side of her cell. He approached, and after taking out a poniard he had by his side, he awoke her.

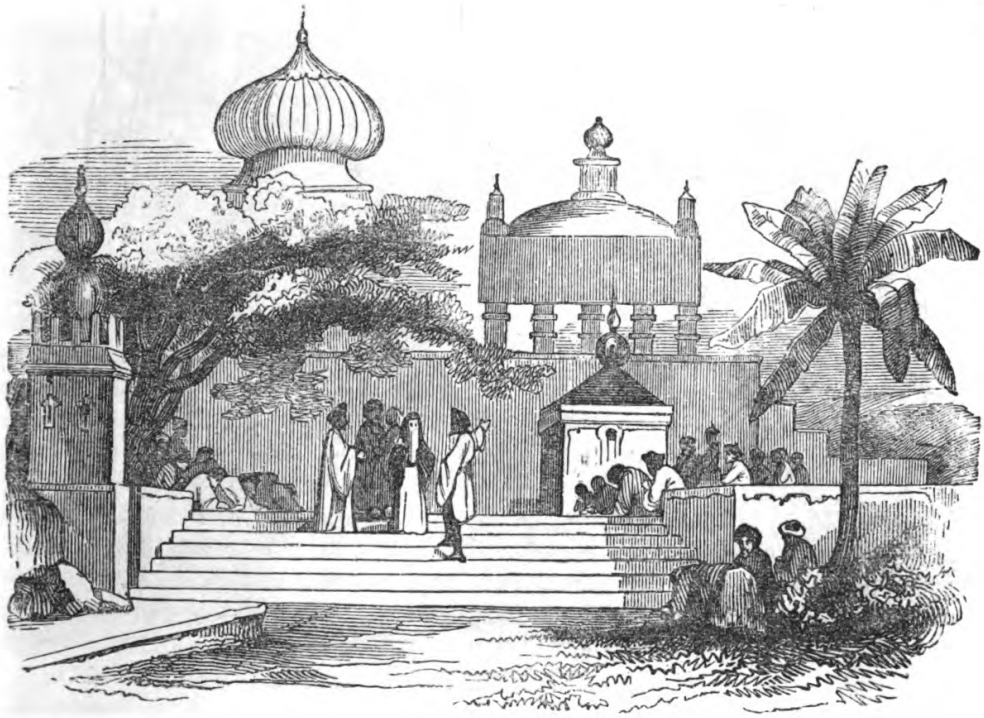
On opening her eyes, poor Fatima was very much astonished at seeing a man on the point of plunging a poniard into her. Holding the point of the dagger against her breast, ready in an instant to plunge it into her heart, "If

you cry out," said he, "or make the least noise, I will murdur you. Get up, and do what I bid you." Fatima, who always slept in her clothes, got up, trembling with fear. "Fear nothing, said the magician, "I only want your habit; "give it me, and take mine." When this was done, and the magician was dressed In Fatima's clothes, he said to her, "Paint my face like yours, so that I shall resemble you, and the colour will not come off. As he saw that she still trembled, he added, in order to give her courage, and that she might do what he wanted of her the better, "Fear nothing, I tell you again; I swear, in the name of God, that I will spare your life." Fatima then conducted him into the interior of her cell, lighted her lamp, and taking a certain liquid in a basin, with a pencil, she rubbed it over his face; assuring him it would not change, and that there was no difference between her colour and his. She then put upon him her own head-dress, with a veil, and instructed him how she concealed her face with it in walking through the city. She finished by hanging a large necklace or chaplet round his neck, which came down nearly to his waist; she then put the stick she was accustomed to walk with into his hand, and giving him a mirror: "Look," she said, "and you will find that you cannot possibly resemble me more." The magician found everything as he wished; but he did not keep

the oath he had so solemnly taken in her presence. But that no one might see the blood, which would fall if he stabbed her with his poniard, he strangled her, and when he found that she was dead, he drew the body by the feet to the cistern of the hermitage, and threw it in.

The magician, thus disguised like the holy woman, passed the remainder of the night in the hermitage, after having defiled it by so detestable a murder. Very early the next morning, although it was not the usual day for Fatima's appearance in the city, he did not hesitate to go out, because he was very well aware that no one would ask him about it, or if they did, he might easily answer the question. As the first thing he did on his arrival in the city had been to inspect the palace of Aladdin, and as it was there he meant to put his scheme in execution, he took the road towards it.

As soon as the people saw the holy woman, as every one imagined him to be, the magician was surrounded by a great crowd of people. Some recommended themselves to his prayers, others kissed his hand; some, still more respectful, kissed the hem of his robe, while others, either because they had the head-ache, or wished to be preserved from it, bent down before him, that he might lay his hands upon them; he did so, muttering at the same time a sort of prayer. In short, he so well imitated the holy woman, that every one was deceived, and took him for her. After stopping very often to satisfy these people, who, in fact received neither good nor harm from this imposition of hands, he at last arrived in the square before Aladdin's palace, where, as the crowd increased, the difficulty to get near him was also greater. The strongest and most zealous beat off the crowd to get a place for themselves, and hence several quarrels arose, the noise of which reached the ears of the princess Badroul Boudour, who was sitting in the saloon with twenty-four windows.



The princess demanded the occasion of the noise; and as no person could inform her, she ordered some one to go and see, and bring her an account. One of her women, however, looked through the lattice, and told her that it arose from

a crowd of people, who were collected round the holy woman, to be cured of their maladies by the laying of her hands upon them.

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

As soon as the eunuchs were observed to issue from the gate of the palace, and make towards the holy woman, or rather the magician disguised as such, the crowd began to disperse, and when he was thus more at liberty, and saw that they were coming towards him, he went part of the way to meet them, and with the greater glee, as he saw that his cunning scheme was in a prosperous state. One of the eunuchs addressed him in these words: "Holy woman, the princess wishes to see you; follow us." "The princess honours me very much," replied the pretended Fatima. "I am ready to obey her commands:" and he then followed the eunuchs, who immediately went back to the palace.

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

princess, who was naturally of the best disposition, was persuaded that all the world were at least as good as herself; particularly all those who professed to serve God in a retired life.

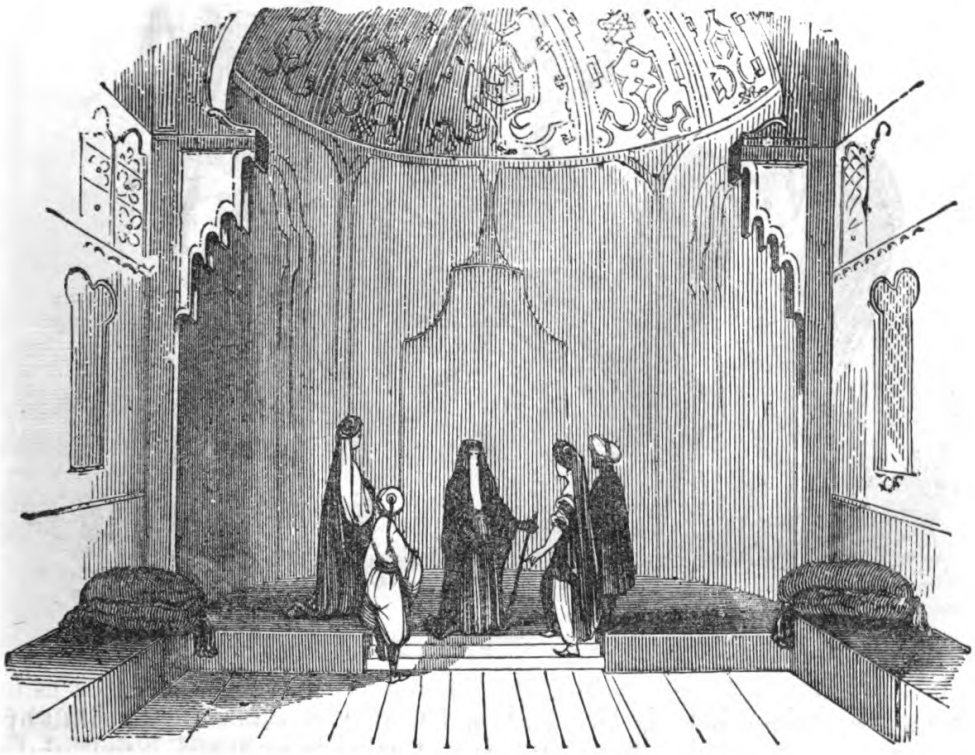
When the false Fatima had finished her long harangue, "My good mother,"

replied the princess, "I am much obliged to you for your kind prayers, I have the greatest confidence in them, and trust God will hear them. Approach, and sit down near me." The pretended Fatima sat down with the greatest appearance of modesty; and the princess continued: "My good mother, I have a request to make to you, which you must not refuse me; and that is, that you come and live with me, that I may have you constantly to converse with, and may learn from your advice and good example how I ought to serve God."

"Princess," replied the false Fatima, "I entreat you not to require my compliance in that to which I cannot agree without breaking in upon my prayers and devotions." "Do not let that give you any pain," resumed the princess: "I have many apartments which are not occupied; you shall choose that which you like best, and you may attend to your devotions with as much liberty there as if you were in your own hermitage."

The magician, who had no other object than to introduce himself into Aladdin's palace, where it would be much easier for him to execute the wicked design he meditated, by remaining under the auspices and protection of the princess, than if he were obliged to go to and fro from the palace to the hermitage, did not make much difficulty in acceding to the obliging offer of Badroul Boudour "Princess," he replied, "whatever resolution a poor and miserable woman like myself may have made to renounce the world, its pomps and vanities, I nevertheless dare not resist either the wish or the command of so pious and charitable a princess."

Upon this answer, the princess rose, and said to the magician: "Come with me, that I may show you all the apartments that are unoccupied; you may then make your choice." He followed the princess through all the apartments she showed him, which were very large, and handsomely furnished. He chose the one which



appeared to be the least so, saying at the same time that it was much too good for him, and that he only made choice of it to oblige her.

The princess wished to take this impostor back with her to the saloon with

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

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

At this inquiry, the pretended Fatima—who, in order to act her part with more appearance of truth—had till now kept her head cast down towards the ground, at length raised it, and looked at everything in the saloon, from one end to the other; and when she had thoroughly examined it, she said: "Indeed,

princess, this saloon is truly beautiful, and worthy of admiration. But as far as a recluse can judge, who knows nothing of what is reckoned beautiful by the world in general, I think only one thing is wanting." "What is that, my good mother?" inquired Badroul Boudour, "I entreat you to tell it me. For my part, I thought, and had also heard it said, that nothing was wanting; but whatever may be deficient, I will have supplied."

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

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

After having thanked the pretended Fatima for her kind information and good advice, as she deemed it, the princess Badroul Boudour continued the conversation upon various other subjects; but she by no means forgot the egg of the roc, of which she fully intended to inform Aladdin when he returned from hunting. He had already been absent six days, and the magician, who was well aware of this circumstance, wished to take every advantage of his absence. Aladdin returned on the same evening, after the false Fatima had taken leave of the princess and retired to the apartment allotted to her. As soon as he entered the palace, he went to the apartment of the princess, to which she had already retired. He saluted and embraced her; but she seemed to him to receive him with rather less affection than usual. "I do not find you, my princess," said he, "in your usual good spirits. Has anything happened during my absence, that has displeased or vexed you? Do not, in the name of God, conceal it from me, for there is nothing in my power that I will not do to endeavour to dispel it." "It is a mere trifle," replied the princess, "and it really gives me so little anxiety, that I did not suppose it would be so apparent in my face and manner, that you could have perceived it. But since you have observed some alteration in me,

which I by no means intended, I will not conceal the cause, inconsiderable as it is.

"I thought, as well as you did," the princess went on, "that our palace was the most superb, the most beautiful, and most ornamented of any in the whole world. I will tell you, however, what has come into my head, after having

thoroughly examined the saloon with twenty-four windows. Do not you think with me, that if the egg of a roc were suspended from the centre of the dome, we should have nothing to wish for?" "It is enough, princess," replied Aladdin, "that you think the want of a roc's egg is a defect. You shall find by the diligence with which I will repair it, that there is nothing I will not do for love of you."

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

Aladdin had scarcely pronounced these words, before the genie uttered so loud and dreadful a scream that the very room shook, and Aladdin trembled so violently that he was ready to fall. "What! wretch," exclaimed the genie, in a voice that would have made the most courageous man tremble, "is it not enough that I and my companions have done everything thou hast chosen to command, but that thou repayest our services by an ingratitude that is unequalled, and commandest me to bring thee my master, and hang him up in the midst of this vaulted dome? Thou art deserving, for this crime, of being instantly torn to atoms, with thy wife and palace with thee. But thou art fortunate that the request did not originate with thee, and that the command is not in any way

thine. Learn who is the true author. It is no other than the brother of thy enemy, the African magician, whom thou hast destroyed, as hedeserved. He is in thy palace, disguised under the appearance of Fatima, the holy woman, whom

he has murdered; and it is he who has suggested the idea to thy wife to make this horrible and destructive request. His design is to kill thee; therefore take care of thyself." As the genie said this, he vanished.

Aladdin lost not a syllable of the words of the genie. He had before heard of the holy woman Fatima, and was not ignorant of the manner in which she could cure a pain in the head, at least as they pretended. He then returned to the apartment of the princess, but did not mention what had happened to him. He sat down, and, holding his hand up to his forehead, complained of a violent pain that had suddenly seized his head. The princess directly ordered the holy woman to be called, and in the meantime related to Aladdin the manner in which she had induced her to come to the palace, where she had given her an apartment.

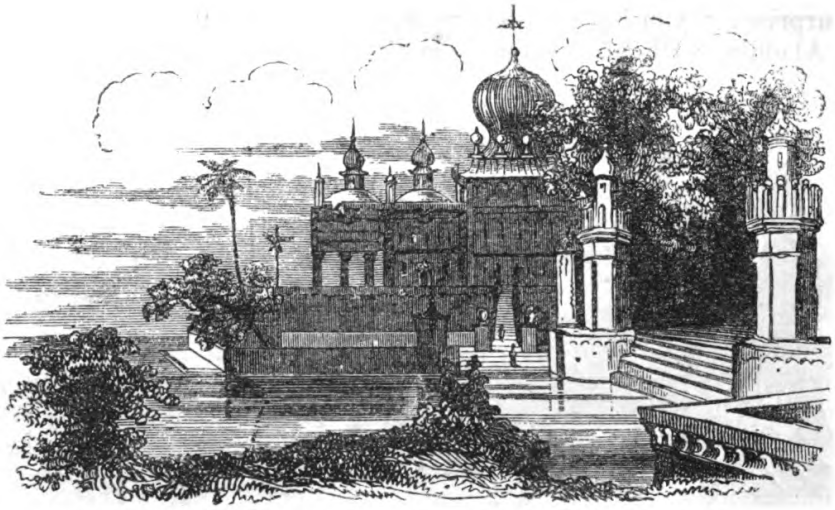
The pretended Fatima came; and as soon as she entered, Aladdin said to her, "I am very happy, my good mother, to see you, and it is for my advantage to have you here just now. I am tormented with a violent head-ache, which has suddenly attacked me. I request your assistance; and from the reliance I place on your good prayers, I hope you will not refuse me the favour which you grant to all who are thus afflicted." He then bent his head forward, and the false Fatima advanced, putting at the same time her hand upon a poniard which was concealed in her girdle under her robe. Aladdin, who watched what she did, seized her hand before she could draw it, and piercing her to the heart with her own weapon, he threw her dead upon the floor.

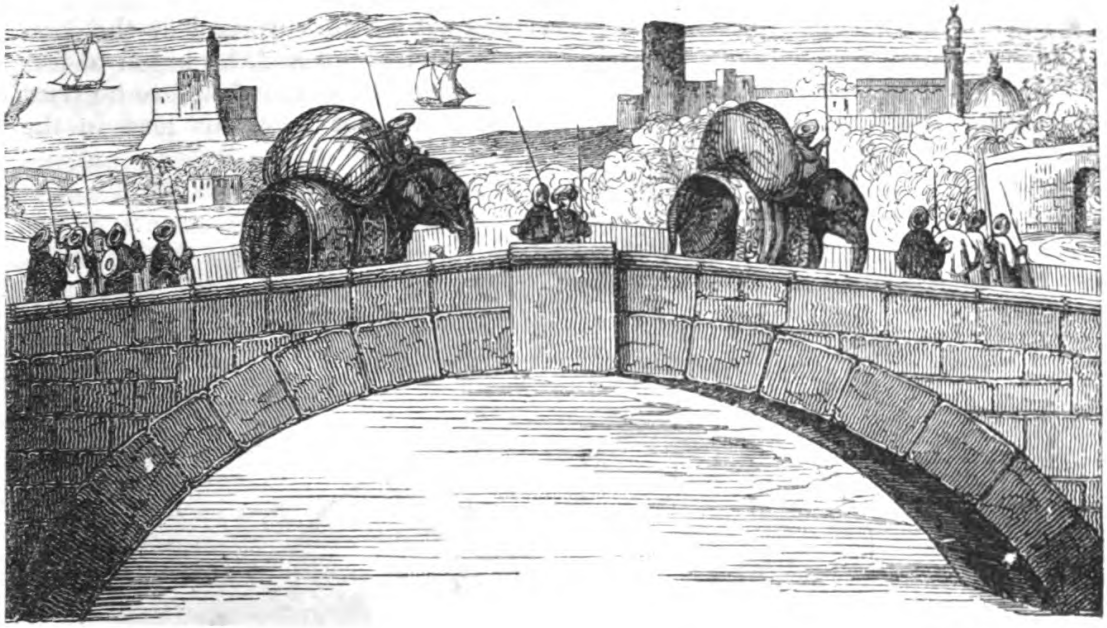
"What have you done, my dear husband!" exclaimed the princess in the greatest surprise; "you have killed the holy woman." "No, no, my princess," answered Aladdin, without the least emotion, "I have not killed Fatima, but a

villain, who was going to assassinate me, if I had not prevented him. It is this wretch, whom you behold," added he showing his face, "who has strangled Fatima, whom you thought I had destroyed, and therefore regretted; and who has disguised himself in her clothes in order to murder me. And to convince

you still further, I must inform you that he is the brother of the African magician who carried you off." Aladdin then related to her in what manner he had learnt these particulars; and he then ordered the body to be removed.

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





SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

In the reign of the caliph Haroun Alraschid there lived in Bagdad a poor porter, who was named Hindbad. One day, during the excessive heat of summer, he was carrying a heavy load from one extremity of the city to the other; and being much fatigued by the length of the way he had already come, and having still much ground to traverse, he arrived in a street where the pavement was sprinkled with rose-water, and a gentle breeze refreshed the air. Delighted with this cool and pleasant situation, he placed his load on the ground, and took his station near a large mansion. The delicious scent of aloes and frankincense issuing from the windows, and mixing with the rose-water, perfumed the air, together with a charming concert within, which was accompanied by the melody of the nightingales and other birds peculiar to the climate of Bagdad; and the smell of different sorts of viands led him to suppose that some grand feast was given there. He wished to know whose residence it was; for, not having frequent occasion to pass that way, he was unacquainted with the names of the inhabitants. To satisfy his curiosity, therefore, he approached some servants magnificently dressed, who were standing at the door, and inquired who was the master of that mansion. "What," replied the servant, "are you an inhabitant of Bagdad, and do not know that this is the residence of Sindbad the sailor, that famous voyager who has sailed over all the seas under the sun?" The porter, who had heard of the immense riches of Sindbad, could not help comparing his situation, which appeared so enviable, with his own, which was so deplorable; and, distressed by the reflection, he raised his eyes to heaven, and exclaimed in a loud voice: "Almighty Creator of all things, be pleased to consider the difference between Sindbad and myself; I daily suffer a thousand ills, and find the greatest difficulty to supply my wretched family with bad barley bread, whilst the fortunate Sindbad expends his riches with profusion, and enjoys every pleasure. What has he done to obtain so happy a destiny, or I to merit one so rigorous?" Saying this, he struck the ground with his foot, as if entirely given up to despair, when, still musing on his fate, a servant came towards him from

the house, and taking him by the arm, said: "Come, follow me; my master, Sindbad, wishes to speak with you."

It may easily be imagined that Hindbad was not a little surprised at the compliment that was paid him. After the words he had uttered, he began to fear that Sindbad had sent for him in order to reprimand him, and therefore he tried to excuse himself from going, saying that he could not leave his load in the

middle of the street; but the servant assuring him that it should be taken care of, pressed him so much to go, that the porter could no longer refuse.

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

Towards the end of the repast, Sindbad, perceiving that his guests had done eating, began to speak, and addressing Hindbad by the title of brother, according to the custom amongst the Arabians when they converse familiarly, he inquired his name and profession. "My name, sir," he replied, "is Hindbad." "I am rejoiced at your presence," replied his entertainer, "and my pleasure is shared by all who are now assembled; but I sent for you hither to learn from your own lips what it was you said just now in the street:" for Sindbad, before he went to dinner, had heard from the window the complaint of the porter, and that was the reason he sent for him. At this request, Hindbad hung down his head in confusion, and replied, "Sir, I must confess that my fatigue had put me out of humour, and caused me to utter some indiscreet words, for which I entreat your pardon." "Nay, do not imagine," resumed Sindbad, "that I am so unjust as to harbour resentment, or wish to reproach you on that account. I feel for your situation, and pity you heartily; I would undeceive you, however, on one point respecting myself, since you seem to be in error. You, no doubt, imagine that the riches and comforts I enjoy have been got without labour or trouble; this is the mistake I desire to rectify. To arrive at the state in which you see me,

I have endured, for many years, much mental as well as bodily suffering, of such a description as you can have no conception of. Yes, gentlemen," continued he, addressing himself to the whole company, "my sufferings, I assure you, have been sufficiently great and extraordinary to deprive the most avaricious miser of his love of riches. You may have heard a confused account of my adventures in the seven voyages I have made on different seas; now that an opportunity offers, I will, with your leave, relate the dangers I have encountered, which I think will not be uninteresting to you."

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

THE FIRST VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

I DISSIPATED the greatest part of my paternal inheritance in youthful debaucheries; but, seeing my folly, I at length became convinced that riches, applied to such purposes as I had employed them in, were of little avail; and I reflected, moreover, that time properly husbanded was of greater value than gold; nothing being more deplorable than an old age of poverty. I remembered the words of the wise Solomon, often repeated to me by my father, that it is better to be in the grave than poor. Feeling the truth of all these reflections, I resolved to collect the fragments of my patrimony, and publicly to dispose of all my goods. I consulted those who appeared best able to give me advice; and, in short, I determined to employ as profitably as possible the small sum I had remaining. No sooner was this resolution formed, than I put it into execution. I repaired to Balsora, where I embarked with several merchants, in a vessel equipped at our joint expense.

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

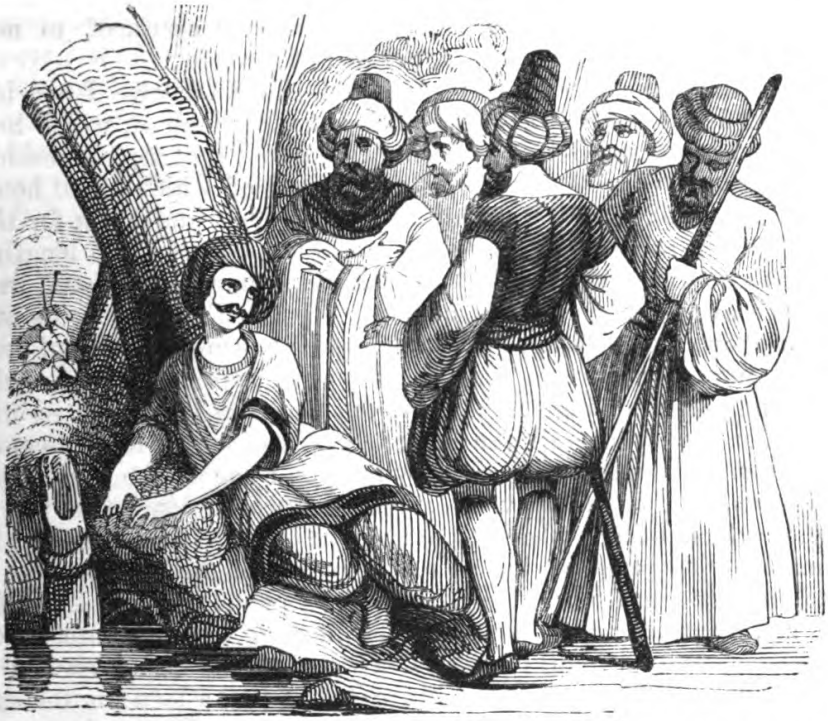
Those who were in the ship, perceiving the earthquake in the island, called to us to re-embark as speedily as possible, for that what we supposed to be an island was the back of an enormous whale, and that unless we acted upon their injunctions we should all assuredly perish. The most active of the party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

Meantime the captain, willing to avail himself of a fair breeze which had just sprung up, hoisted sail with those who had reached his vessel, and put to sea, leaving me to the mercy of the waves. In this situation I remained the whole of that day and the following night; and when daylight appeared the next morning, I had neither strength nor hope left. At length, when I was beginning to sink, a breaker happily cast me upon an unknown island. The shore was high and steep, and on recovering from the stupor into which I had been thrown by pain and exhaustion, I should have found great difficulty in landing, had not

a branch of a tree, which fortune seemed to have furnished for my preservation, assisted me. I threw myself on the ground, where I continued more than half dead, till the sun arose.

Although extremely enfeebled, I tried to creep along in search of some herbs or fruit, to satisfy my hunger; and having found some, I had next the good luck to light upon a stream of excellent water, which contributed not a little to refresh me. I soon recovered sufficient strength to enable me to explore the island; and proceeding a short distance beyond the rocky boundary of the coast, I entered a beautiful plain, where I perceived at some distance a horse grazing. I bent my steps that way, trembling between fear and joy, for I could not yet ascertain whether I was advancing to safety or about to incur further danger. As I approached the steed, I remarked that it was a mare of exceeding beauty, and tied to a stake. Whilst I was admiring her, however, I heard the voice of a man under

ground, who shortly after appeared, and coming to me, asked civilly who I was. I recounted to him my adventure, when he took me by the hand and led me into a cave in which were some other persons, who appeared to be not less astonished to see me than I was to find them there.



I ate of the food which they offered me; and having asked what they did in a place which appeared so barren, they replied that they were grooms to Mihrage, the sovereign of the isle; and that they came at the same period every year with some mares belonging to the king, for the purpose of procuring a breed between them and a sea-horse which came on shore at that spot. As soon as the mares were with foal, they carried them back, and the sea-colts thus obtained were set apart for the king's use. "To-morrow," said they, "is the day fixed for our departure, and had you been one day later, you must certainly have perished; since the city where we dwell is so far off that it would have been impossible for you to reach it without a guide."

Whilst they were talking to me the horse rose out of the sea as they had described, and immediately proceeded towards the mares. He would afterwards have torn them to pieces, but the grooms began to make such a noise that he let go his prey and again plunged into the ocean.

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

Being a merchant, I associated chiefly with persons of my own profession. I sought in particular such as were foreigners, hoping to hear some intelligence from Bagdad, and if possible to meet with a person in whose company I might return; for the capital of king Mihrage is situated on the sea-coast, and has a beautiful port, where vessels from all parts of the world daily arrive. I also

sought the society of the Indian sages, in whose conversation I found great pleasure; but that did not prevent me from attending at court very regularly, nor from conversing with governors, and even with kings, who were about the person of Mihrage, being less powerful than he, and his tributaries, each of whom asked me a thousand questions about my country, which I, being scarcely less inquisitive about the laws and customs and whatever appeared to merit my curiosity in their different states, was not slow to answer.

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

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

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

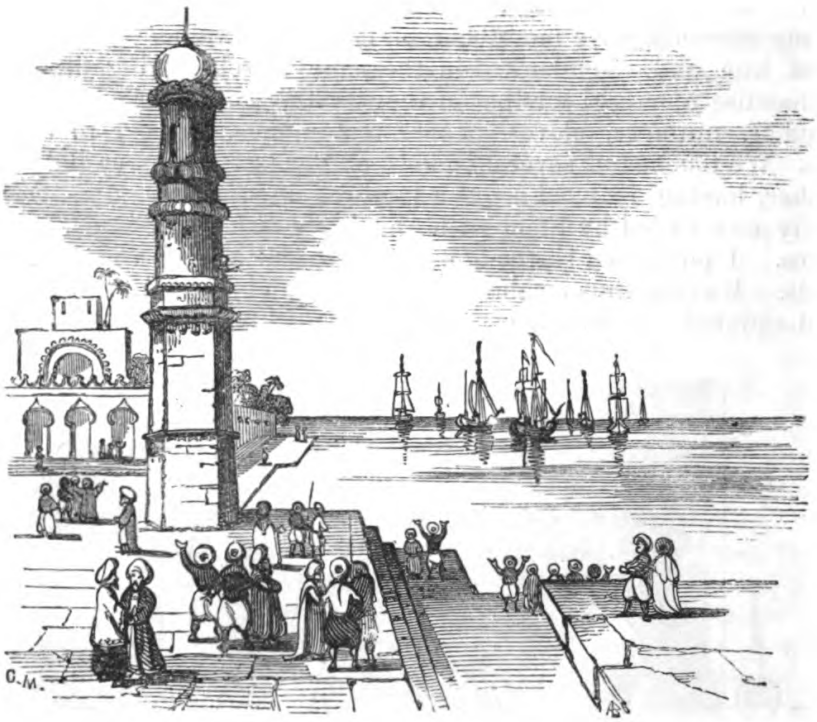
He was at first rather staggered at what I told him, but soon became convinced that I was not an impostor; for some people who just then arrived from his ship knew me, and congratulated me on my fortunate escape. At last, recollecting me himself, he embraced me, and said, "Heaven be praised that you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

I selected the most precious and valuable things in my bales, as presents for king Mihrage; who, having been informed of my misfortunes, asked me where

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

Sindbad here ceased, and ordered the musicians to go on with their concert, which he had interrupted by the recital of his history. The company continued to eat and drink till night approached; and, when it was time to retire, Sindbad ordered a purse containing a hundred sequins to be brought him, and giving it to the porter, he said, "Take this, Hindbad; return to your home, and come again to-morrow to hear the continuation of my adventures." The porter retired, quite confounded at the honour conferred on him and the present he had received. The account he gave of this occurrence to his wife and children rejoiced them very much, and they did not fail to return thanks to Providence for the bounties bestowed on them through Sindbad's means.

On the following day, Hindbad dressed himself in his best clothes and returned to the house of his patron, who again received him with smiling looks and a friendly air. As soon as all the guests were arrived, the table was served, and they sat down to eat. When the repast was finished, Sindbad thus addressed his guests: "Gentlemen, I request you to listen to me while I relate the adventures of my second voyage. They are more worthy of your attention than were those of the first." The company were silent, and Sindbad began as follows:



THE SECOND VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

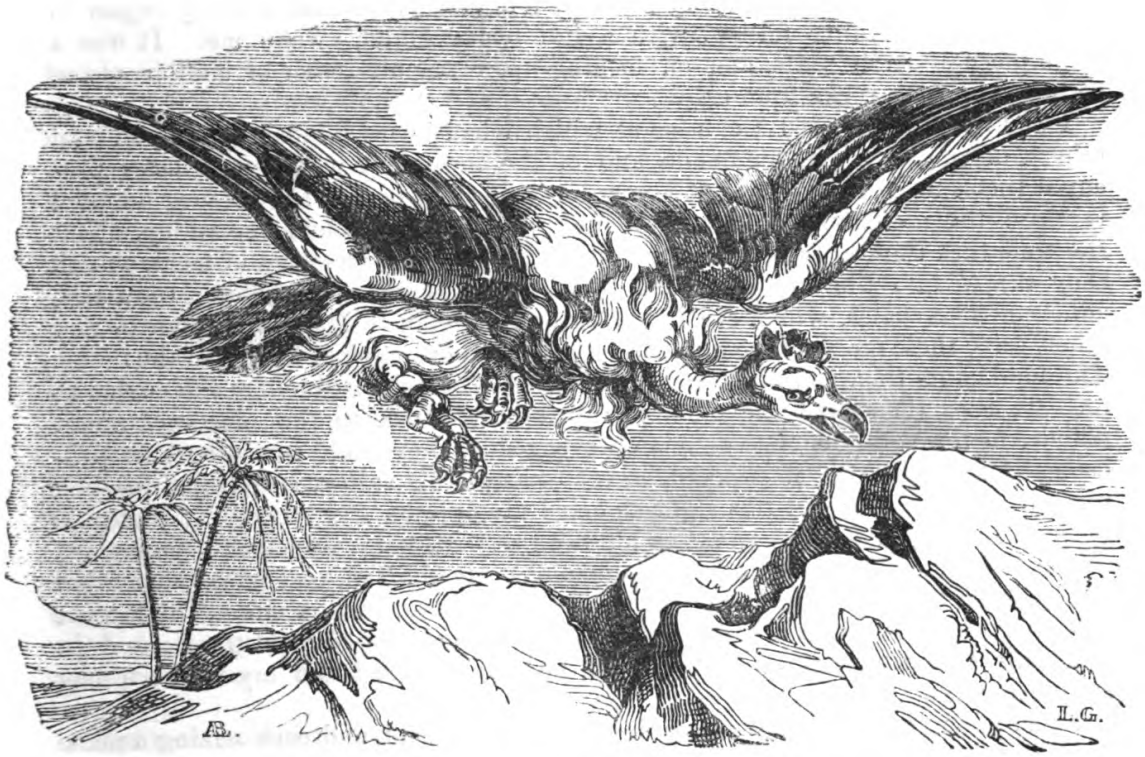
After my first voyage I had resolved, as I told you yesterday, to pass the rest of my days in tranquillity at Bagdad. But soon growing weary of an idle life, the desire of seeing foreign countries and engaging in commerce by sea, returned. I therefore bought such merchandise as I thought most likely to succeed in the traffic I meditated, and set off a second time with some merchants whose probity I could rely on. We embarked in a good vessel, and recommending ourselves to the care of the Almighty, set out on our voyage.

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

You may imagine the reflections that occurred to me in this dismal state. I thought I should have died with grief; I groaned and cried aloud, beating my head, and throwing myself on the ground, where I remained a long time, overwhelmed with conflicting thoughts, each more distressing than the other, and utterly confounded. A thousand times I reproached myself for my folly in not being contented with my first voyage, which ought to have satisfied my desire of seeking adventures; but all my regrets were unavailing, and my repentance came

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

It was then near sun-set; and the air grew suddenly dark, as if obscured by a thick cloud. I was surprised at this change, but much more so when I perceived it to be occasioned by a bird of extraordinary size, which was flying towards me. In my youth I had heard sailors speak of a bird called a roc; and I conceived that the great white ball which had drawn my attention must be the egg of this bird; nor was I mistaken; for shortly after it lighted on the spot, and assumed the attitude of a sitting-bird. When I saw it coming I drew near to the egg, so that I had one of the claws of the bird close by me; this claw was as big as the trunk of a large tree. In my despair I tied myself to the talon with the linen of my turban, in hopes that the roc when it took its flight next morning, would carry me with it out of the desert island. My pro-



ject succeeded, for at day-break the roc flew away and carried me to such a height, that I could not distinguish the earth, and after some time descended with such rapidity, that I almost lost my senses. When the roc had alighted I quickly untied the knot that confined me to its foot, and had scarcely loosed myself, when it darted on a serpent of immeasurable length, and seizing it in its beak, flew away.

The place in which the roc left me was a deep valley, surrounded on all sides

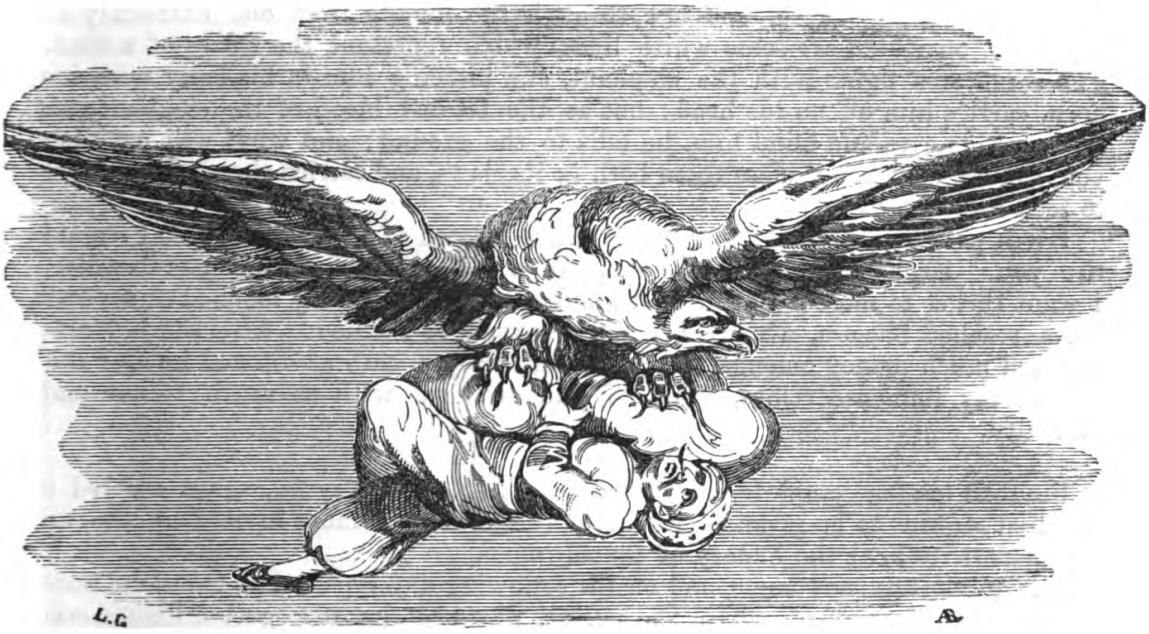
by mountains, of such a height that the tops of them were lost in the clouds, and so steep that there was no possibility of climbing them. This embarrassed me afresh: when I compared it with the island I had left, I soon found that I had no reason to be satisfied with my change of situation.

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

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

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

for I have diamonds enough for you and myself, of more value than those of all the other merchants added together; I have myself chosen a number of the finest from the bottom of the valley, and have them here in this bag." On saying this



I showed him the bag, and had scarcely finished speaking, when the other merchants perceiving me, flocked round me with great astonishment, which I augmented not a little by the recital of my history. They were all no less surprised at the stratagem I had conceived to save myself, than at my courage in putting it in execution.

Having conducted me to the place where they lived together, I showed them my diamonds, upon seeing which they all expressed their admiration, and declared they had never seen any equal to them either in size or quality. I entreated the merchant to whom the nest belonged into which I had been transported, for each merchant has his own, to choose for himself as many as he pleased. He contented himself with taking only one, and that too of the smallest size. I pressed him to take more, and not be afraid of depriving me. "No," replied he, "I am perfectly satisfied with this, which is sufficiently valuable to spare me the trouble of making any more voyages to complete my little fortune."

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

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

it is disposed of as a drug. The juice being thus extracted, the tree withers and dies.

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

I will pass over several other peculiarities related of this island, lest I should tire you. Exchanging, therefore, some of my diamonds for other merchandise, I went thence to more distant islands, and at last, after having touched at several ports, reached Balsora, whence I again returned to Bagdad. Afterwards I distributed much money amongst the poor, and enjoyed with credit and honour the rest of my immense riches, which I had acquired with so much labour and difficulty.

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

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

THE THIRD VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

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

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

THE OGRE FEASTING ON SINDBAD'S COMPANIONS.

we could not understand their language. On reaching the vessel, they clambered up the sides with so much swiftness and agility that their feet scarcely seemed to touch them ere they were upon deck.

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

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

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

At last our senses returned, and we saw him seated under the vestibule examining us with his piercing eye. When he had viewed us well, he advanced towards us, and extending his hand to me, he took me up by the hair, and turned me round all ways to examine me, as a butcher would the head of a sheep. After having well considered the matter, he released me, finding me so meagre and little more than skin and bones. He took up each of the others in their turn, and inspected them in the same manner, and the captain being the fattest of the party, was held up in one hand, as I should hold a sparrow, while the monster with the other ran a spit through his body. Then kindling a large fire, he roasted and ate him for his supper, in the apartment whither he retired. Having finished his repast, he returned to the vestibule, where he laid down to sleep, and snored louder than thunder. As may be readily conceived, we passed the night in the most agonising suspense; and when day-light returned, the ogre awoke and went abroad, leaving us in the palace.

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

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

The ogre did not fail to return to sup on one of our companions, after which

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

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

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

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

We quitted the palace immediately after the ogre, and repaired to the shore, in that part where our rafts lay. We set them afloat, and waited till day-break to board them, in case we should see the ogre approach with some guide to lead him to us; but we hoped that, if he did not make his appearance by that time, and if his cries and groans, which resounded through the air, were discontinued, we might suppose him dead; and in that case we proposed remaining in the island till some safer conveyance should offer. The sun, however, had scarcely risen above the horizon, when we perceived our cruel enemy, accompanied by two ogres of nearly his own size, who conducted him, and a great number of others, walking with quick steps before him.

At this sight we ran precipitately to our rafts, and rowed away as fast as possible. The ogres seeing this, provided themselves with large stones, hastened to the shore, and even ventured up to their middles in the sea, to throw them at us, which they did so adroitly as to sink all the rafts excepting that which I was upon, so that myself and two companions were the only persons who escaped, our unfortunate brethren being all drowned.

As we rowed with all our strength, we soon got out of reach of the stones. When we were in the open sea we became the sport of wind and wave, and, passing that day and night in the most cruel suspense, on the morrow we had the good fortune to be thrown on an island, where we landed with great joy. We found some excellent fruits, which served to re-establish our exhausted strength.

At night we slept on the sea-shore; but were awakened by the noise which

the scales of an immense serpent, long as a palm-tree, made on the ground. It was so near to us, that it devoured one of my companions, notwithstanding the efforts he made to extricate himself; for the serpent shook him several times, and then crushing him on the earth, quickly swallowed him.

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

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

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

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

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

As soon as I was on board, the merchants and seamen were eager to learn by what chance I had reached that desert island; and after I had related to them all that happened, the eldest of them told me that they had often heard of the ogres who lived there; that they were anthropophagi, and devoured their own kind. With regard to the serpents, they added that there were many in the island, hiding themselves in the day, and appearing at night.

After they had expressed their joy at my fortunate escape from so many perils, they pressed me to take something to eat: and the captain, observing that my dress was much torn, had the generosity to give me one of his.

We remained a considerable time at sea, and touched at several islands. At length we landed on that of Salahat, where the sandal wood is cultivated, which is much used in medicine, and where the merchants unloaded their goods. One day, the captain called me to him, and said:—"Brother, I have in my possession some goods which belonged to a merchant who was for some time on board my ship. As this merchant is dead, I am going to have them valued, that I may render an account of them to his heirs should I ever meet with them." The bales he was speaking of were already upon deck. He showed them to me, saying: "These

are the goods in question; I wish you to take charge of them, and negotiate them, receiving the usual commission for your trouble." I consented, and thanked him for the opportunity of employing myself.

The writer of the ship registered all the bales with the names of the merchants to whom they belonged; and when he asked the captain by what name he should register those destined for my charge, the captain replied: "By the name of Sindbad the Sailor." I could not hear my own name without emotion; and looking intently at the captain, I recognised him to be the very same person, who, in my second voyage, had left me on the island, where I had fallen asleep by the side of a brook, and who had put to sea without wait-

ing for me. I did not at first recollect him, so much was he changed from the time I had seen him. As he thought me dead, it is not to be wondered at, that he did not recognise me. "Captain," said I to him, "was the merchant to whom these things belonged, called Sindbad?" "Yes," returned he, "that was his name; he was from Bagdad, and embarked on board my vessel at Balsora. One day when we went ashore on an island for fresh water, I know not by what mistake, he was left behind; none of the crew perceived it till four hours after, when the wind blew so fresh against us that it was impossible to return." "You believe him to be dead?" resumed I. "Most assuredly," replied the captain. "Well then," said I, "open your eyes, and know that the same Sindbad whom you left in the desert island is now before you. I fell asleep on the banks of a little stream, and when I awoke I perceived that the ship was gone."

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

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

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

THE FOURTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

THE pleasures and dissipations I entered into after my third voyage had not sufficient charms to deter me from venturing on the sea again. I gave way to my love for traffic and novelty: and having settled my affairs, and furnished myself with the merchandise suited to the places I intended to visit, I set out, and travelled towards Persia, some of the provinces of which I traversed, and at last reached a port, where I embarked. We set sail and touched at several Oriental islands; but one day while tacking, we were surprised by a sudden squall of wind, which obliged the captain to lower the sails. All our precautions, however, were fruitless; the manœuvre did not succeed; the vessel becoming ungovernable, was driven on a sand-bank and went to pieces, and a great number of the crew, as well as the cargo, perished.

I had the good fortune, with some other merchants and seamen, to get hold of a plank; on which we were all carried by the strength of the current towards an island that lay before us. We found some fruits and fresh water, which re-established our strength, and we laid down to sleep without seeking any farther; the grief we felt at our misfortunes rendering us careless of our fate. When the sun was risen, we left the shore, and advancing into the island, perceived some habitations, towards which we bent our way. When we drew near a great number of blacks came out, and seizing us, allotted us between them, and then conducted us to their houses.

Five of my comrades and myself were taken to the same place. They made us sit down, and then offered us a certain herb, inviting us by signs to eat of it. My companions, without considering that they who gave it us did not eat of it, only consulted their appetites, and devoured it with avidity. I, who had a sort of presentiment that it was for no good purpose, refused even to taste it; and it was well I did, for a short time after I perceived that my companions were intoxicated, and did not know what they said. They then served us with some rice dressed with the oil of the cocoa-nut, and my comrades not being sensible of what they did, ate it ravenously. I ate some also, but very little.

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

In the meantime I was allowed a great deal of liberty, and my actions were scarcely observed. This one day afforded me an opportunity of quitting the habitation of the blacks, and escaping. An old man, who saw and guessed my intention called me to return, but I only quickened my pace, and soon got out

of his sight. This old man was the only person in the place; all the other blacks had absented themselves, and were not to return till evening, as was their frequent custom. Being therefore certain that they would be too late to come in search of me when they returned home, I continued my flight till evening, when I stopped to take a little rest, and satisfy my hunger. I soon proceeded,

and walked without intermission for seven days; taking care to avoid those places which appeared inhabited, and living on cocoa-nuts, which furnished me with drink as well as food.

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

Delighted to hear my native language once more, I readily complied with their request; and related to them the manner in which I had been shipwrecked and got to that island, where I had fallen into the hands of the blacks. "But these blacks," said they, "eat men; by what miracle then could you escape their cruelty?" I gave them the same account which you have heard, at which they were very much surprised. I remained with them until they had collected as much pepper as they chose, when they made me embark with them, and we soon reached the island from which they had come. They presented me to their king, who was a good prince. He listened to the recital of my adventures, which

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

I remarked one thing which appeared to me very singular. Every person, the king not excepted, rode on horseback without either bridle or stirrups. One day I took the liberty to ask his majesty why such things were excluded, and from his replies it was quite evident that he was entirely ignorant of what I meant.

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

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

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

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

Whilst he was relating to me this singular species of barbarity, which filled me with the greatest terror, his relations, friends, and neighbours arrived to be present at the funeral. They dressed the corpse of the woman in the richest attire, as on the day of her nuptials, and decorated her with all her jewels.

Then they placed her uncovered on a bier, and the procession set out. The husband, dressed in mourning, went immediately after the body of his wife, and the rest followed. They bent their course towards a high mountain, and when they were arrived, a large stone which covered the mouth of a cavern was raised, and

the body let down into it without any of the ornaments being taken off. After that, the husband took his leave of his relations and friends, and without offering the least resistance, suffered himself to be placed on a bier, with a jug of water and seven small loaves by his side, and let down as his wife had been. This mountain extended a great way, and served as a boundary to the ocean: and the cavern was very deep. When the ceremony was completed the stone was replaced, and the company retired. I need scarcely add, gentlemen, that I was greatly affected at this ceremony. None of the rest, however, who were present appeared to feel it, probably from being habituated to the repetition of the same kind of scene. So great was the detestation and horror with which I regarded the custom, that I could not forbear to express to the king my sentiments on it. "Sire," said I, "the strange custom which subsists in your dominions, of interring the living with the dead, inspires me with feelings both of astonishment and disgust; I have visited many nations, but in the whole course of my travels I never heard of so cruel and unjust a law." "What can I do, Sindbad?" replied the king, "it is a law common to all ranks, and even I must submit to its decree; I shall be interred alive with the queen, my consort, if I happen to survive her." "Sire," resumed I, "will your majesty allow me to ask if foreigners are obliged to observe this custom?" "Certainly," said the king, smiling, as he guessed the motive of my question; "none are exempt from its operation who marry in the island."

I returned home perplexed in thought and sorrowful at this reply. The fear that my wife might die first, and that I should be interred with her, was a reflection of the most distressing nature. Yet how was the evil to be remedied? The only suggestions that occurred to me were to have patience, and submit to the will of God. Nevertheless I trembled at the slightest indisposition of my wife, and alas! I soon had good reason to fear; she was taken dangerously ill, and died in a few days. Judge how my mind was disturbed at the prospect immediately before me. To be interred alive did not appear to be a more desirable end than that of being devoured by the anthropophagi; yet I was obliged to comply. The king, accompanied by his whole court, promised to honour the procession with his presence; and the principal inhabitants of the city also, out of respect to me, signified their intention to be present at my interment.

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

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

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

had to languish in this miserable abode of lingering death. And my accursed avarice has brought it all upon myself! Wretch that I am! I ought to have remained with my family, and enjoyed peaceably the fruits of my former labours.

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

One day when I had just put an end to an unfortunate woman, I heard sounds like those of breathing, and a footstep. I advanced to the part whence the sound proceeded; and hearing a louder breathing at my approach, fancied I saw something fleeing from me. I followed this shadow, which occasionally stopped, and then again retreated, panting as I drew near. I pursued it so long, and went so far, that at last I perceived a small speck of light, resembling a star. I continued to walk towards this light, sometimes losing it, as obstacles arose to preclude my vision, but always recovering it again, till I had arrived at an opening in the rock large enough to allow me to pass.

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

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

I returned again to collect, as well as I could, by feeling on the different biers, all the diamonds, rubies, pearls, golden bracelets, and in short everything of value that I could find, all of which I brought to the shore. I tied them up in several packets with the cords which had served to let down the biers, and of which there was a great quantity. I left them in a convenient place till a

proper opportunity should offer, without fear of their being spoiled by the rain; for it was not the season for wet weather.

At the end of two or three days, I perceived a vessel just sailing out of the harbour, and passing by the spot where I was, I made signs with the linen of my turban, and cried aloud with all my strength. They heard me on board, and

despatched a boat to fetch me. When the sailors inquired by what misfortune I had got into that place, I replied, that I had been wrecked two days since on that shore, with all my merchandise. Fortunately for me these people did not consider whether my story was probable, but, satisfied with my answer, they took me on board with my bales.

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

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

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

Sindbad here concluded the relation of his fourth voyage, which occasioned

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

THE FIFTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

THE pleasures I enjoyed soon made me forget the pains I had endured; yet they were not sufficiently attractive to prevent my forming the resolution of venturing a fifth time on the sea. I again provided myself with merchandise, packed it, and sent it by land-carriage to the nearest sea-port; where, unwilling to trust any more to a captain, and wishing to have a vessel of my own, I built and equipped one at my own expense. As soon as it was finished, I loaded it and embarked; and as I had not sufficient cargo to fill it myself, I received several merchants of different nations with their goods.

We hoisted our sails the first fair wind, and put to sea. After sailing a considerable time, the first place we stopped at was a desert island, where we found the egg of a roc, as large as that I spoke of on a former occasion; it contained a small roc, which was just ready to leave the shell, its beak having

begun to make its appearance. The merchants who were with me broke the egg with hatchets, and cut out the young roc, bit by bit, and roasted it. I had seriously advised them not to touch the egg, but they would not attend to me.

They had scarcely finished their meal, when two immense clouds appeared in the air, at a considerable distance from us. The captain, whom I had hired to

have the care of the vessel, knowing by experience what it was, cried out that it was the father and mother of the young roc, and warned us to re-embark as quickly as possible, to avoid the danger which threatened us. We took his advice, and set sail immediately.

The two rocs approached, uttering the most frightful screams, which they redoubled on finding the state of their egg, and that the young one was no more. Designing to revenge themselves, they flew away towards the part whence they came, and disappeared for some time, during which we used all diligence to sail away, and prevent what nevertheless befel us.

They returned, and we perceived that they each had an enormous piece of rock in their claws. When they were exactly over our ship, they stopped, and suspending themselves in the air, one of them let fall the piece of rock he held. By the address of the pilot, who suddenly turned the vessel, it did not tumble on us, but fell close to us into the sea, in which it made such a chasm that we could almost see the bottom. The other bird, unfortunately for us, let his piece of rock fall so immediately on the ship that it split into a thousand pieces. The sailors and passengers were all either crushed to death or drowned. I was myself under water for some time, but rising again to the surface, I had the good-fortune to seize a piece of the wreck. Thus, swimming sometimes with one hand and sometimes with the other, still holding what I had fixed myself to, and having both the wind and current in my favour, I at length reached an island, where the shore was very steep. I nevertheless overcame this difficulty and got on land.

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

Night being arrived, I lay down in a convenient spot; my sleep was continually interrupted by the fear of being alone in such a desert place, so that I employed the greater part of the night in lamenting and reproaching myself for the imprudence of venturing from home when I had everything to make me comfortable there. These reflections led me so far, that I began to form a project against my life, but day returning with its cheerful light, dissipated my gloomy ideas. I arose and walked among the trees, though not without some degree of apprehension.

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

I supposed he wished me to render him this piece of service; so taking him on my back I forded the stream. When I had reached the other side, I stooped and desired him to alight; instead of which (I cannot help laughing whenever I think of it), this old man, who appeared to me me so decrepid, nimbly threw his legs, which I then saw were covered with a skin like a cow's, over my neck, and seated himself fast on my shoulders, at the same time squeezing my throat so violently that I expected to be strangled; this alarmed me so much that I fainted away.

Notwithstanding my situation, the old man kept his place on my neck; he only loosened his hold sufficiently to allow me to breathe. When I was a little recovered, he pushed one of his feet against my stomach, and kicking my side

with the other, obliged me to get up. He then made me walk under some trees, and forced me to gather and eat the fruit we met with. He never quitted his hold during the day, and when I wished to rest at night, he placed himself on the ground with me, always fixed to my neck. He never failed to awaken me in the morning, which he effected by pushing me, and then he made me get up and walk, kicking me all the time. Conceive, gentlemen, the plague of bearing this burthen, without the possibility of getting rid of it!

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

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

Much rejoiced at having so effectually got rid of this old man, I walked towards the sea-shore, where I met some people who belonged to a vessel which had anchored there to get fresh water. They were much astonished at seeing me, and at the account of my adventure. "You had fallen," said they, "into the hands of the Old Man of the Sea, and you are the first whom he has not

strangled; he never left those he had once mastered till he had put an end to their existence; and this island is famous for the number of persons he has killed. The sailors and merchants who land here never dare approach excepting in a strong body."

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

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

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

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

The vessel in which I came had sailed with the merchants, who had loaded it with the cocoa-nuts they had purchased. I waited for the arrival of another, which shortly after came into harbour for a similar lading. I sent on board all the cocoa-nuts which belonged to me, and when it was ready to sail, I took leave of the merchant, to whom I was under so many obligations. As he had not yet been able to settle his affairs, he could not embark with me.

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

I bestowed a tenth part of my profit in charity, as I had done on my return from every former voyage, and endeavoured to recover from my fatigues by every kind of diversion.

Having concluded this narrative, Sindbad gave a hundred sequins to Hindbad,

who retired with all the other guests. The same party returned to the rich Sindbad the next day; and having regaled them in the same manner as on the preceding days, he requested silence, and began the account of his sixth voyage in the following manner:

THE SIXTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

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

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

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

The mountain at the foot of which we then were formed one side of a large and long island. The beach was covered with fragments of vessels which had been wrecked on the inhospitable coast, and by the infinity of bones which every where met the eye, we were convinced of the dreadful certainty that many lives had been lost in this spot. It is almost incredible what quantities of merchandise of every sort were strewn upon the shore; all of which served to increase our despair.

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

To complete the description of this place, which may be termed a whirlpool, as nothing that once enters it ever returns: it is impossible that a ship can avoid being dragged thither if it comes within a certain distance. If a sea-breeze blow, it assists the current, there is no remedy; and if the wind come from the

land, the high mountain impedes its effect, and causes a calm, which allows the current full force, and then it whirls the ship against the shore and dashes it to pieces, as ours was. In addition to this, the mountain is so steep, that it is impossible to reach the summit, or, in fact, to escape by any means.

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

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

But God still had compassion on me, and inspired me with the thought of

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

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

As soon as I was under the vault of the cavern I lost the light of day; and the current carried me on without my being able to discern its course. I rowed for some days in this obscurity, without ever perceiving the least ray of light. At one time the vault of the cavern was so low that it almost knocked my head, which rendered me very careful to avoid the danger again. During this time I consumed no more of my provisions than was absolutely necessary to sustain nature: but however frugal I might be, I consumed them all. I then fell into a sweet sleep. I cannot tell whether I slept long, but when I awoke I was surprised to find myself in an open country, near a bank of the river, to which my raft was fastened, and in the midst of a large concourse of blacks. I rose as soon as I perceived them and saluted them; they spoke to me, but I could not understand their language.

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

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

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

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

to conduct me, others who had hauled the raft out of the water, carried it on their shoulders with the bales of rubies, and followed me.

We went together to the city of Serendib, for this was the name of the island:

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

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

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

I could only reply to this by praying for his prosperity, and by praising his generosity.

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

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

The island of Serendib is situated exactly under the equinoctial line, so that the days and nights are of equal length. It is eighty parasangs long, and as many in breadth. The principal town is situated at the extremity of a beautiful valley formed by a mountain, which is in the middle of the island, and which is by far the highest in the world; it is discernible at sea within three days, navigation of it. Rubies and many sorts of minerals are found in it, and most of the rocks are formed of emery, which is a sort of metallic stone used in the cutting of precious stones.

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

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

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

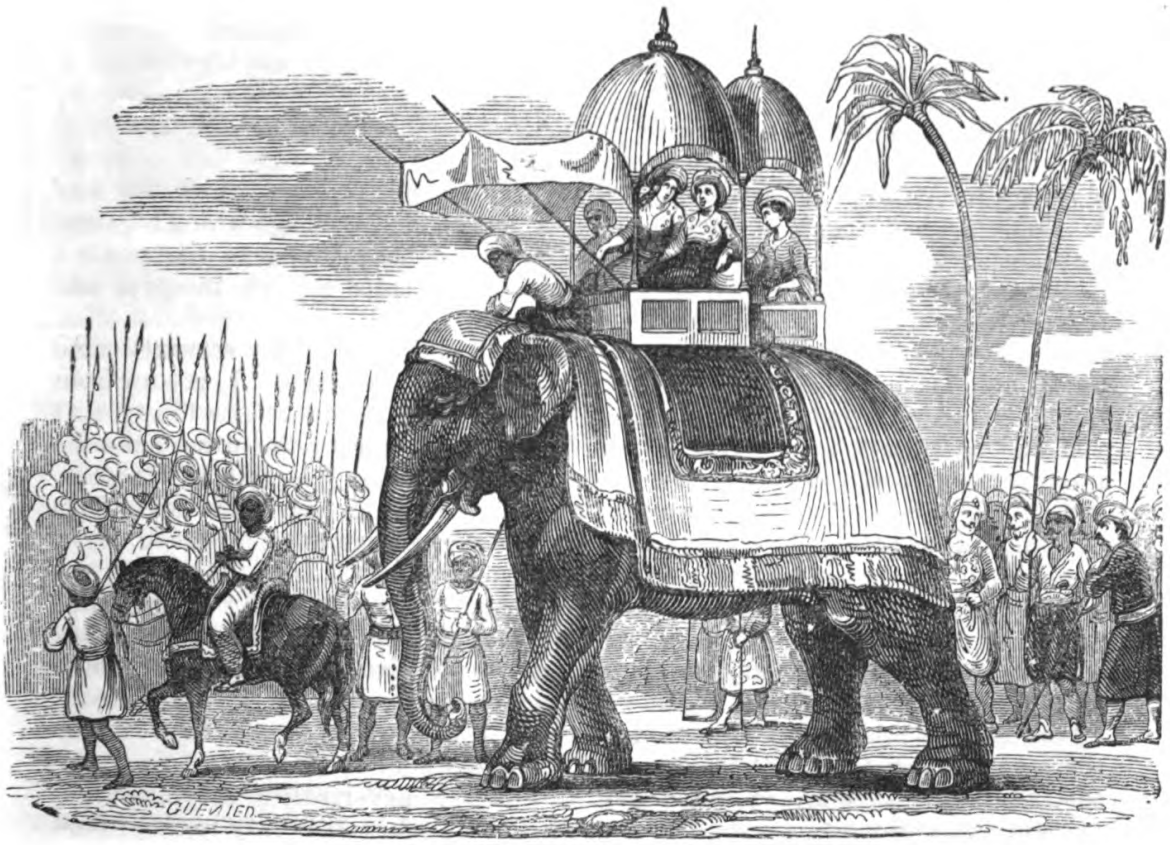
"The king of the Indies—who, in his journies, is preceded by a thousand elephants, and whose residence is a palace the roof of which glitters with the lustre of a hundred thousand rubies, and who possesses in his treasury twenty thousand crowns, enriched with diamonds—to the caliph Abdallah Haroun Alraschid:

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

The present consisted of several items;—first, a vase made of one single ruby, pierced and worked into a cup of half a foot in height and an inch thick, filled with fine round pearls, all weighing half a drachm each: second, the skin of a serpent, which had scales as large as a common piece of money, the peculiar property of which was to preserve those who lay on it from all disease: third,

fifty thousand drachms of the most exquisite aloe wood, with thirty grains of camphor as large as pistachio nuts: and lastly, a female slave of the most enchanting beauty, whose clothes were covered with jewels.

The ship set sail, and after a long though fortunate voyage we landed at Balsora, whence I returned to Bagdad. The first thing I did after my arrival was to execute the commission I had been entrusted with. I took the letter of the king of Serendib, and presented myself at the gate of the Commander of the Faithful, followed by the beautiful slave and some of my family, who carried the presents which had been committed to my care. I mentioned the reason of my appearance there, and was immediately conducted before the throne of the caliph. I prostrated myself at his feet, and after having made a short speech, gave him the letter and the present. When he had read the contents, he inquired of me whether it was true that the king of Serendib was as rich and powerful as he reported himself to be in his letter. I prostrated myself a second time, and when I arose: "Commander of the Faithful," said I, "I can assure your majesty that he does not exaggerate his riches and grandeur; I have been witness to it. Nothing can excite greater admiration than the magnificence of his palace. When this prince wishes to appear in public, a throne is prepared for him on the back of an elephant; on this he sits, and proceeds between two files, composed of



his ministers, favourites, and others belonging to the court. Before him, on the same elephant, sits an officer with a golden lance in his hand, and behind the throne another stands with a pillar of gold, on the top of which is placed an emerald about half a foot long and an inch thick. He is preceded by a guard of a thousand men, habited in silk and gold stuffs, and mounted on elephants richly caparisoned.

"While the king is on his march, the officer who sits before him on the

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

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

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

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

SEVENTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

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

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

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

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

In a few days I was prepared for my departure; and as soon as I had received

the presents of the caliph, together with a letter, written with his own hand, I set off and took the route of Balsora, from whence I embarked. After a pleasant voyage I arrived at the island of Serendib. I immediately acquainted the minis-

ters with the commission I was come upon, and begged them to procure me an audience as soon as possible. They did not fail to attend to my wishes, and conducted me to the palace. I saluted the king by prostrating myself according to the usual custom.

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

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

"Health, in the name of the sovereign who directeth in the right road, to the powerful and happy sultan, from Abdallah Haroun Alraschid, whom God has placed on the seat of honour, after his ancestors of happy memory:

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

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

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

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

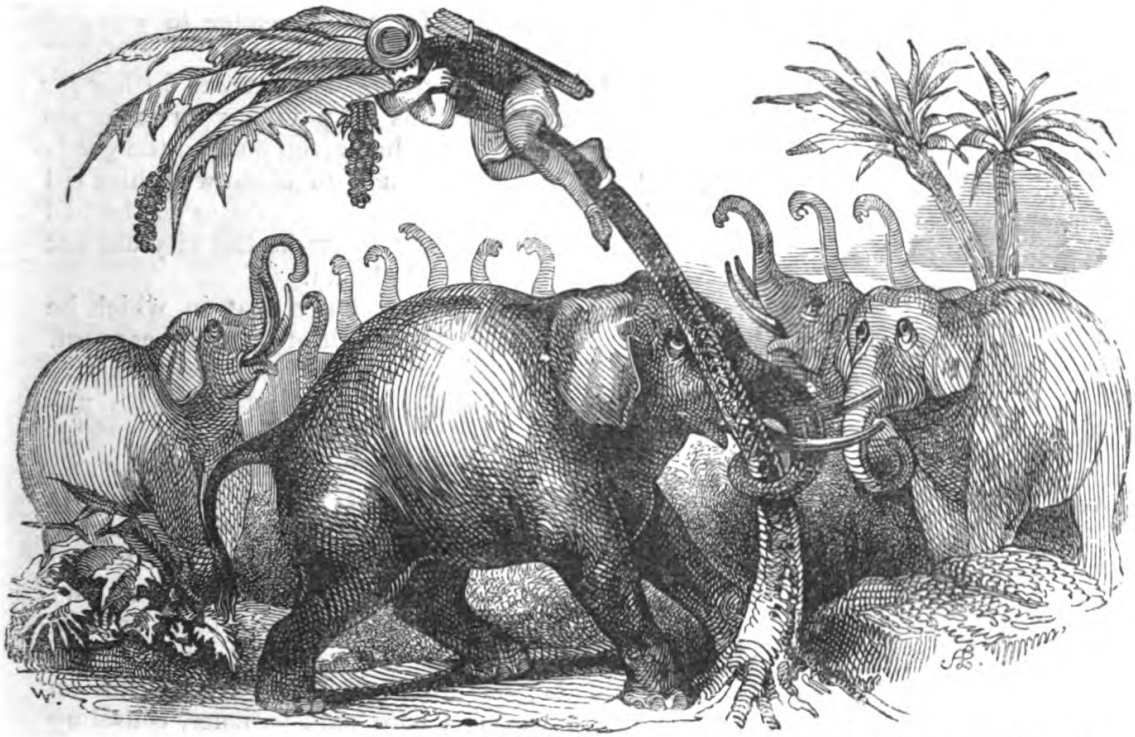
I did not perceive any during that time, but the next day, as soon as the sun had risen, a great number made their appearance. I shot many arrows at them, and at last one fell. The others immediately retired, and left me at liberty to go and inform my master of my success. To reward me for this good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

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

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

himself at the head of his companions, who followed him in a troop, and carried me to a spot whence, having set me down, he and the rest retired.

Conceive my situation! I for a time thought it a dream. At length, having been seated some time, and seeing no other elephants, I arose and perceived that



I was on a little hill of some breadth, entirely covered with the bones and teeth of elephants. This sight filled my mind with a variety of reflections. It occurred to me that I had been brought to this spot through the fine instinct and superior sagacity of these animals, to teach me that this was their cemetery, or place of burial, and that I might safely desist from destroying them merely for the sake of possessing their teeth, as here I could obtain plenty without such necessity. I did not stay long on the hill, but turned my steps towards the city, and did not meet any elephants, they having entered farther into the forest.

As soon as my master saw me, "Ah! poor Sindbad," he exclaimed, "I was in pain to know what had become of you. I have been to the forest, and found a tree newly torn up by the roots, and a bow and arrows on the ground; after having sought you everywhere in vain, I despaired of seeing you again. Pray relate to me what has happened to you, and by what good fortune you are still alive." I satisfied his curiosity, and on the following day, having accompanied me to the hill, he was with great joy convinced of the truth of my history. We loaded the elephant on which we had come with as many teeth as he could carry, and when we returned he thus addressed me: "Brother, for after the discovery you have imparted to me, and which cannot fail to enrich me, I will no longer treat you as a slave, may God pour on you all sorts of blessings and prosperity! In his presence I here give you your liberty. I have hitherto concealed from you what I am now going to relate. The elephants of our forest destroy annually an infinite number of slaves, whom we send in search of ivory. Whatever advice we give them, they are sure, sooner or later, to lose their lives by the wiles of these animals. God has delivered you from their fury, and has conferred this mercy on you alone. It is a sign that he cherishes you, and that he has ordained you to remain in the world to be of use to mankind. You have procured me a surprising advantage; we have not hitherto been able to get ivory

without risking the lives of our slaves, and now our whole city will be enriched by your means. Do not suppose that I think I have sufficiently recompensed you by giving you liberty, I intend to add to it considerable presents."

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

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

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

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

When I related the adventure of the elephants he appeared much surprised, and would have disbelieved it had not my sincerity been well known to him. He thought this, as well as the other histories I had detailed to him, so curious, that he ordered his secretary to write it in letters of gold, to be preserved in his treasury. I retired, satisfied with the presents and honours he conferred on me; and then resigned myself entirely to my family, my relations and friends.

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

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

ALI BABA, AND THE FORTY THIEVES.

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

Cassim married a woman who, very soon after her nuptials, became heiress to a very well furnished shop, a warehouse filled with good merchandise, and some considerable property in land; and he thus found himself on a sudden quite at his ease, and become one of the richest merchants in the town.

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

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

Although that part of the country was never spoken of as being infested with robbers, Ali Baba nevertheless conjectured that these men were of that denomination. Without, therefore, at all considering what might become of his asses, his

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ali Baba expected to find only a dark and obscure cave; and was much astonished at seeing a large, spacious, well-lighted, and vaulted room, dug out of the rock, and higher than a man could reach. It received its light from the top of the rock, cut out in a similar manner. He observed in it a large quantity of provisions, numerous bales of rich merchandise, piled up, silk stuffs and brocades, rich and valuable carpets, and, besides all this, great quanties of money, both

ALI BABA AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CAVE.

silver and gold, some in heaps, and some in large leathern bags, placed one on another. At the sight of all these things, it seemed to him that this cave had been used, not only for years, but for centuries, as a retreat for robbers, who had regularly succeeded each other.

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

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

His wife felt the sacks to know their contents: and when she found them to be full of money, she suspected her husband of having stolen them, so that when he brought them all before her, she could not help saying: "Ali Baba, is it possible that you should—" He immediately interrupted her: "Peace, my dear wife," exclaimed he, "do not alarm yourself; I am not a thief, unless that title be attached to those who take from thieves. You will change your bad opinion of me when I shall have told you my good fortune." He emptied the sacks, the

contents of which formed a great heap of gold, that quite dazzled his wife's eyes; and when he had done, he related his whole adventure, from beginning to end: and, as he concluded, he above all things conjured her to keep it secret.

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

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

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

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

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

Far from feeling any satisfaction at the good fortune which his brother had met with, to relieve him from poverty, Cassim conceived an implacable jealousy in consequence. He passed almost the whole night without closing his eyes. The next morning, before sunrise, he went to him. He did not treat him as a

brother; that endearing appellation had been forgotten since his marriage with the rich widow. "Ali Baba," said he, addressing him, "you are very reserved in your affairs; you pretend to be poor and miserable, and a beggar, and yet you measure your money." "Brother," replied Ali Baba, "I do not understand

your meaning; "pray explain yourself." "Do not pretend ignorance," resumed Cassim, showing him the piece of gold his wife had given him: "how many pieces," added he, "have you like this, that my wife found sticking to the bottom of the measure which yours borrowed of her yesterday?"

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

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

Ali Baba, led more by his natural goodness of heart than intimidated by the insolent menaces of a cruel brother, gave him all the information he desired, and

even told him the words he must pronounce both on entering the cave and on quitting it. Cassim made no further inquiries of Ali Baba, but left him with the determination to prevent him from deriving any further benefit from the treasure he had discovered. Full of the hope of possessing himself of the whole, he set off the next morning, before break of day, with ten mules, laden with large hampers, which he proposed to fill, still indulging the prospect of taking a much larger number in a second expedition, according to the sums he might find in the cave. He took the road which Ali Baba had pointed out, and arrived at the rock and the tree which, from description, he knew to be the same that had concealed his brother. He looked for the door, and soon discovered it; and, to cause it to open, pronounced the words, "Open, Sesame:" the door obeyed, he entered, and it immediately afterwards closed. Examining the cave, he was in the utmost astonishment to see much more riches than the description of Ali Baba had led him to expect; and his admiration increased as he examined each thing separately. Avaricious as he was, and fond of money, he could have passed the whole day in feasting his eyes with the sight of so much gold; but he reflected that he was come to take away and load his ten mules with as much as he could amass; he took up a number of sacks, and, coming to the door, his mind filled with a multitude of ideas, far removed from that which was of most consequence to him, he found that he had forgotten the important words, and instead of pronouncing "Sesame," he said, "Open, barley."* He was struck with astonishment on perceiving that the door, instead of flying open, remained closed. He named various other kinds of grain; all but the right were called upon, and the door did not move.

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

But let us leave Cassim to deplore his own fate, for he does not deserve our compassion.

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

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

* Sesame is a grain, used chiefly as food for cattle, but sometimes, also, for men. This will explain why Cassim is led to confound it with barley, &c.

The first care which occupied the robbers after this execution, was to enter the cave. They found the sacks near the door, which Cassim, after having filled them with gold, had removed there for the convenience of loading his mules. These they put in their places again, without observing the deficiency of those which Ali Baba had previously carried away. Deliberating and consulting on this event, they could easily account for Cassim's not having been able to effect his escape; but they could not in any way imagine how he had been able to enter the cave. They conceived that he might have descended from the top of the cave, but the opening, which admitted the light, was so high, and the summit of the rock was so inaccessible on the outside, besides that there were no traces of his having adopted this mode, that they all agreed it was beyond their conjecture. They could not suppose he had entered by the door, unless he had been acquainted with the secret which caused it to open; but they felt quite secure that they alone were possessed of this secret, as they were ignorant of having been overheard by Ali Baba, who was now acquainted with it.

But as the manner in which this circumstance had happened was impenetrable, and their united riches were no longer in safety, they agreed to divide the carcase of Cassim into four quarters, and place them in the cave, near the door, two quarters on one side, and two on the other, to frighten away any one who might have the boldness to hazard a similar enterprise; resolving themselves not to return to the cave for some time, until the stench from the corpse should be subsided. This determination formed, they put it in execution; and when they had nothing further to detain them, they left their place of retreat well secured, mounted their horses, and set off to scour the country in such roads as were most frequented by caravans, which afforded them favourable opportunities of exercising their accustomed dexterity in plunder.

The wife of Cassim, in the meantime, was in the greatest uneasiness when she observed night approach, and yet her husband did not return. She went, in the utmost alarm, to Ali Baba, and said to him, "Brother, you, I believe, are not ignorant that Cassim is gone to the forest, and for what purpose; he is not yet come back, and the night is already advancing; I fear that some accident may have befallen him."

Ali Baba suspected his brother's intention, after the conversation he had held with him; and for this reason he had desisted from visiting the forest on that day, that he might not offend him. However, without uttering any reproaches that could have given either her, or her husband had he been still living, the slightest offence, he replied, that she need not yet feel any uneasiness concerning him, for that Cassim most probably thought it prudent not to return to the city until the night was considerably advanced. The wife of Cassim felt satisfied with this reason, and was more easily persuaded of its truth, as she considered how important it was, that her husband should use the greatest secrecy for the accomplishment of his purpose. She returned to her house, and waited patiently till midnight; but after that hour her fears redoubled, and were attended with still greater grief, as she could not proclaim it, nor even relieve it by cries, the cause of which she saw the necessity of concealing from the neighbourhood. She then began to repent of the silly curiosity which, instigated by the most blameable envy, had induced her to endeavour to penetrate into the private affairs of her brother and sister-in-law. The night was spent in weeping, and, at break of day she ran to them, and announced the cause of her early visit, less by her words than by her tears.

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

omen. He reached the door, and on pronouncing the words it opened. He was struck with horror when he distinguished the body of his brother cut into four quarters; yet he did not hesitate on the course he was to pursue in rendering the last act of duty to his brother's remains, notwithstanding the small share of fraternal affection he had received from him during his life. He found materials in the cave to wrap up the body, and making two packets of the four quarters, he placed on them one of his asses, covering them with sticks, to conceal them. The other two asses he expeditiously loaded with sacks of gold, putting wood over them as on the preceding occasion; and having finished all he had to do, and commanded the door to close, he took the road to the city, using the precaution to wait at the entrance of the forest, until night was closed, that he might return without being observed. When he got home, he left the two asses that were laden with gold, desiring his wife to take care to unload them; and having in a few words acquainted her with what had happened to Cassim, he led the other ass to his sister-in-law.

Ali Baba knocked at the door, which was opened to him by Morgiana. This Morgiana was a female slave: crafty, cunning, and fruitful in inventions to forward the success of the most difficult enterprise, in which character Ali Baba knew her well. When he had entered the court, he took off the wood and the two packages from the ass, and taking the slave aside; "Morgiana," said he, "the first thing I have to request of you is inviolable secrecy; you will soon see how necessary it is, not only to me but to your mistress; these two packets contain the body of your master; and we must endeavour to bury him as if he had died a natural death; let me speak to your mistress, and be particularly attentive to what I shall say to her."

Morgiana went to acquaint her mistress, and Ali Baba followed her. "Well, brother," inquired his sister-in-law in an impatient tone, "what news do you bring of my husband? alas! I perceive no traces of consolation in your countenance." "Sister," replied Ali Baba, "I cannot answer you, unless you will

first promise to listen to me from the beginning to the end of my story without interruption. It is of no less importance to you than to me, under the present circumstances, to preserve the greatest secrecy; it is absolutely necessary, for your repose and security." "Ah!" cried the sister, without elevating her voice, "this preamble convinces me, that my husband is no more; but at the same time, I feel the necessity of the secrecy you recommend, whatever violence it may do my feelings: speak, I conjure you."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Baba Mustapha, known to all the world by this name, was naturally of a gay turn, and had always something laughable to say; examining the piece of money, as it was yet scarcely daylight, and seeing that it was gold, "A good hansel," said he, "what's to be done? I am ready to do what I am bid." "Baba Mus-

tapha," said Morgiana to him, "take all you want for sewing; and come directly with me; on this condition though, that you let me put a bandage over your eyes, when we have got to a certain place." At these words Baba Mustapha began to make difficulties. "Ho ho," said he, "you want me to do something against my conscience, or my honour?" then putting another piece of gold into his

hand, "God forbid," said Morgiana, "that I should require you to do anything that would stain your honour; only come with me, and fear nothing."

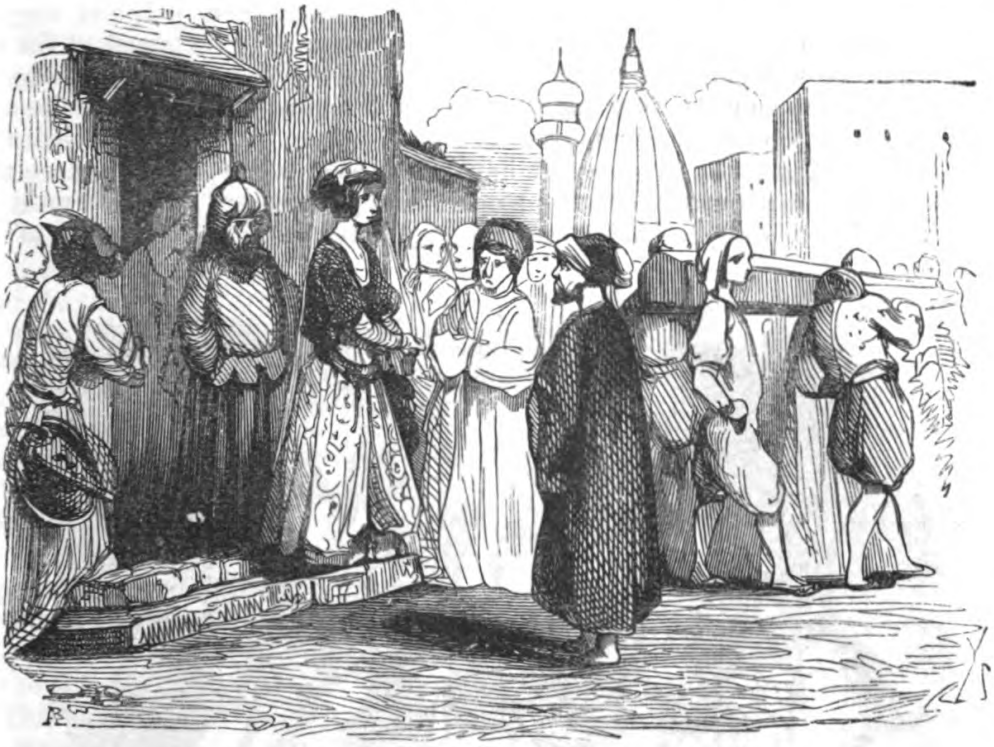
Baba Mustapha suffered himself to be led by the slave, who, when they had reached the place she had mentioned, bound a handkerchief over his eyes, and conducted him to her deceased master's, nor did she remove the bandage until he was in the chamber where the body was deposited, each quarter in its proper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

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

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

to the mosque, whose office it is to wash the bodies of the dead, offered to perform the usual function; but she told them that all was done and ready.

Morgiana was scarcely returned, when the Imaun and the other ministers of the mosque arrived. Four of the neighbours took the coffin on their shoulders,



and carried it to the cemetery, following the Imaun, who repeated prayers as he went along. Morgiana, as slave to the deceased, went next, with her head uncovered, bathed in tears, and uttering the most piteous cries, from time to time beating her breast and tearing her hair: Ali Baba closed the procession, accompanied by some of the neighbours, who occasionally relieved each other in carrying the coffin until they reached the cemetery.

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

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

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

But let us now leave Ali Baba to enjoy the first dawn of his good fortune, and return to the forty thieves. They came back to their retreat in the forest when the time they had agreed to be absent had expired; but their astonishment was

indescribable when they found the body of Cassim gone, and it was greatly increased on perceiving a visible diminution of their treasure. "We are discovered," said the captain, "and lost beyond recovery, if we are not very careful, and take immediate measures to remedy the evil; we shall by insensible degrees lose all these riches, which our predecessors as well as ourselves have amassed with so much trouble and fatigue. All that we can at present judge of the loss we have sustained is, that the thief whom we fortunately surprised at the moment when he was going to make his escape, knew the secret of opening the door. But he was not the only one who possessed it; another must have the same knowledge. His body being removed, and our treasure diminished, are incontestable proofs of the fact. And, as we have no reason to suppose that more than two people are acquainted with the secret, having destroyed one, we must not suffer the other to escape. What say you, my brave men? Are you not of my opinion?"

This proposal of the captain was thought so reasonable and proper by the whole troop, that they all approved it; and agreed, that it would be advisable to relinquish every other enterprise, and occupy themselves solely with this, which they should not abandon until they had detected the thief.

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

Without waiting for the rest to give their opinions, one of the robbers said, "I willingly submit, and glory in exposing my life for the execution of such a commission. If I fail in the attempt, you will at least remember my courage and good-will in my offer to serve the whole troop."

This robber, after having received the commendation of the captain and his companions, disguised himself in such a way that no one could have suspected him to be what he in reality was. He set off at night, and managed so well that he entered the city just as day was beginning to appear. He went towards the square, where he saw only one shop open, which was that of Baba Mustapha, a poor shoemaker.

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

"Whoever you are," replied Baba Mustapha, "you do not know much of me. Notwithstanding my age, I have excellent eyes: and so you would have said had you known that not long since I sewed up a dead body in a place where there was not more light than we have now."

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

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

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

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

To the great satisfaction of the robber, Baba Mustapha rose to go with him, and without shutting up his shop, in which there was nothing of consequence to

lose, he conducted the robber to the spot where Morgiana had put the bandage over his eyes. When they were arrived, "This is the place," said he, "where my eyes were bound, and I was turned the way you see me." The robber, who had his handkerchief ready, tied it over his eyes, and walked by his side, partly leading him, and partly being conducted by him, till he stopped.

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

Soon after the robber and Baba Mustapha had separated Morgiana had occasion to go out on some errand, and when she returned, she observed the mark which the robber had made on the door of Ali Baba's house. She stopped to consider it. "What can this mark signify?" thought she; "has any one a spite against my master, or has it been done only for diversion? Be the motive what it may, it will be well to use precautions against the worst that may happen." She therefore took some chalk, and as several of the doors both above and below her master's were alike, she marked them in the same manner, and then went in without saying anything of what she had done, either to her master or mistress.

The robber in the meantime had arrived at the forest, where he rejoined his companions at an early hour. He related the success of his journey, dwelling much on the good fortune that had befriended him in discovering so soon the very man who could give him the best information on the subject of his errand, and which no one but him could have acquainted him with. They all listened to him with great satisfaction; and the captain, after praising his diligence, thus addressed the party. "Comrades," said he, "we have no time to lose; let us arm ourselves, yet conceal our weapons, and depart; and when we have entered the city, which, not to create suspicion, we had best do separately, let us all assemble in the great square, some on one side of it, some on the other, and I will go and find out the house with our companion who has brought us this good news, by which I shall be able to judge what method will be most advantageous."

The robbers all applauded their captain's proposal, and they were soon equipped for their departure. They went in small parties of two or three; and walking a short distance from each other, they entered the city, without occasioning any suspicion. The captain, and he who had been there in the morning, were the last to enter it, and the latter conducted the captain to the street in which he had marked the house of Ali Baba. When they reached the first house that had been marked by Morgiana, he pointed it out, saying that was the one. But as they continued walking on without stopping, that they might not raise suspicion, the captain perceived that the next door was marked exactly in the same manner. which he observed to his guide, and inquired whether this was the house, or that they had passed? His guide was quite confused, and knew not what to answer; and his embarrassment increased when, on proceeding with the captain, he found that four or five doors successively had the same mark. He assured the captain, with an oath, that he had marked but one. "I cannot conceive," added he, "who can have imitated my mark with so much exactness; but I confess that I cannot now distinguish that which I had marked."

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

When the troop had re-assembled in the forest, the captain explained to them the reason of his having ordered them to return. The conductor was unanimously declared deserving of death, and he joined in his own condemnation, owning that he should have been more cautious in taking his measures; and he presented his head with firmness to him who advanced to sever it from his body.

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

The thief marked it with red, in a place where it would be less discernible, thinking that would be a sure method of distinguishing it from those that were marked with white. But, a short time after, Morgiana went out as on the preceding day, and, on her return, the red mark did not escape her piercing eye. She reasoned as before, and did not fail to make a similar red mark on the neighbouring doors.

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

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

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

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

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

Things being thus disposed, the mules were laden with the thirty-seven robbers, each concealed in a jar, and the jar that was filled with oil; when their captain, as conductor, took the road to the city at the hour that had been agreed; and arrived

about an hour after sun-set, as he proposed. He went straight to the house of Ali Baba, intending to knock, and request admission for the night for himself and his mules. He was, however, spared the trouble of knocking; he found Ali Baba at the door, enjoying the fresh air after supper. He stopped his mules, and addressing himself to Ali Baba, "Sir," said he, "I have brought the oil which you see

from a great distance, to sell it to-morrow at the market; and at this late hour I do not know where to go, to pass the night; if it would not occasion you much inconvenience, do me the favour to take me in for the night; you will confer a great obligation on me."

Although Ali Baba had seen the man, who now spoke to him in the forest, and had even heard his voice, yet he had no idea that this was the captain of the forty robbers, disguised as an oil merchant. "You are welcome; come in," said he, and immediately made room for him and his mules to go in. At the same time Ali Baba called a slave, and ordered him, when the mules were unladen, to put them under cover in the stable, and give them some hay and corn. He also took the trouble of going into the kitchen, to desire Morgiana to get a supper quickly for a guest who was just arrived, and to prepare him a chamber and bed.

Ali Baba did more, to receive his guest with all possible civility; observing, that after he had unladen his mules, and they were taken into the stables as he had commanded, that he was seeking for a place to pass the night in, he went to him to beg him to come into the room, where he received company; saying that he could not suffer him to think of passing the night in the court. The captain of the robbers endeavoured to excuse himself from accepting the invitation under the pretence of not giving trouble; but in reality, that he might have an opportunity of executing what he meditated with more ease: and it was not until Ali Baba had used the most urgent persuasions, that he complied with his civility.

Ali Baba remained with his perfidious guest, who sought his life in return for his hospitality, until Morgiana had served the supper, and he conversed with him on various subjects, which he thought might amuse him, and did

not leave him till he had finished the repast he had provided. He then said, "You are at liberty to do as you please; you have only to ask for whatever you may want, and everything I have is at your service."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Morgiana by this means discovered, that her master, who supposed he was giving a night's lodging to an oil merchant only, had afforded shelter to thirty-eight robbers, including the pretended merchant, their captain. She quickly

filled her cruse from the last jar, and returned into the kitchen; and after having put some oil in her lamp, and lighted it, she took a large kettle, and went again into the court to fill it with oil from the jar. This done, she brought it back again, put it over the fire, and made a great blaze under it with a quantity of wood; for the sooner the oil boiled, the sooner her plan, which was for the welfare of the whole family, would be executed; and it required the utmost despatch. At length the oil boiled. She took the kettle and poured into each jar, from the first to the last, sufficient boiling oil to scald the robbers and deprive them of life, which she effected to her wishes.

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

Morgiana had scarcely waited a quarter of an hour, when the captain of the robbers got up, and opening the window, looked out; all was dark, and a profound silence reigned; he gave the signal by throwing the pebbles, many of which fell on the jars, as the sound plainly proved. He listened, but heard nothing that could lead him to suppose his men obeyed the summons. He became uneasy at this delay, and threw some pebbles down a second, and even a third time. They all struck the jars, yet nothing appeared to indicate that they were attended to; he was at a loss to account for this mystery. He descended into the court in the utmost alarm, with as little noise as possible; and approaching the first jar, as he was going to ask if the robber contained in it, and whom he supposed still living, was asleep, he smelt a strong scent of hot and burning oil, issuing from the jar, by which he suspected his enterprise against Ali Baba to destroy him, pillage his house, and carry off, if possible, all the money, which he had taken from him and the community—had failed. He proceeded to the next jar, and to all in succession, and discovered that all his men had shared the same fate, and by the diminution of the oil in that which he had brought full, he guessed the means that had been used to deprive him of the assistance he expected. Mortified at having thus missed his aim, he jumped over the garden gate, which led out of the court; and going from one garden to another by getting over the walls, succeeded in making his escape.

When Morgiana perceived that all was silent, and that the captain of the thieves did not return, she concluded he had decamped, as he did, instead of attempting to escape by the house door, which was fastened with double bolts. Fully satisfied and overjoyed at having so well succeeded in securing the safety of the whole family, she at length retired to bed, and soon fell asleep.

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

When he returned from the bath, the sun being risen, Ali Baba was surprised to see the jars of oil still in their places, and that the merchant had not taken them to the market, with his mules; he enquired the reason of Morgiana, who let him in, and who had left everything in its original state, in order to show him the deceit which had been practised on him, and to convince him more sensibly of the effort she had made for his preservation.

"My good master," said Morgiana in reply to Ali Baba's question, "may God preserve you and all your family. You will be better informed of what you wish

to know, when you shall have seen what I am going to show you, if you will take the trouble to come with me." Ali Baba followed Morgiana, and when she shut the door, she took him to the first jar, and bid him look in, and see if it contained oil. He did as she desired; and perceiving a man in the jar, he hastily drew back, uttering a cry of surprise. "Do not be afraid," said she, "the man you see there will not do you any harm; he has attempted it, but he will never hurt either you or any one else again, for he is now a lifeless corpse." "Morgiana!" exclaimed Ali Baba, "what does all this mean? Explain this mystery." "I will explain it," replied Morgiana, "but moderate your astonishment, and do not awaken the curiosity of your neighbours to learn what it is of the utmost importance that you should keep secret and concealed. Look first at all the other jars."

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

"The merchant," replied Morgiana, "is just as much a merchant as I am. I can tell you who he is, and what is become of him. But you will hear the whole history more conveniently in your own chamber, for it is now time, for the sake of your health, that you should take your broth, after coming out of the bath." Whilst Ali Baba went into his room, Morgiana returned to the kitchen, to get the broth; and when she brought it, before Ali Baba would take it, he said, "Relate this wonderful history, and satisfy the extreme impatience I feel to know all its circumstances."

Morgiana, in obedience to Ali Baba's request, thus began: "Last night, sir, when you had retired to go to bed, I prepared your linen for the bath, as you had desired, and gave it in charge to Abdalla. After that, I put the pot on the fire, to make your broth; and as I was skimming it, the lamp, for want of oil,

suddenly went out, and there was not a drop in the cruse. I searched for some ends of candles, but could not find one. Abdalla, seeing me puzzled, reminded me of the jars full of oil which were in the court, for thus he, as well as I, supposed them to be, and so, no doubt, did you. I took my cruse, and went to the first jar; but as I approached it, I heard a voice within it, saying, 'Is it time?' I did not feel terrified, but instantly conceiving the treachery intended by the feigned merchant, I replied without hesitation; 'Not yet, but presently.' I passed on to the next jar, and another voice asked me the same question, to which I made the same answer. I went to all the jars, one after the other, to the same inquiry making the same reply, and did not find any oil, till I came to the last, from which I filled my cruse.

"When I reflected that there were thirty-seven robbers in your court, who only waited for the signal or order of their chief, to whom, supposing him to be a merchant, you had given so hospitable a reception, and on whose account you put the whole family in such bustle, I lost no time, but brought in the cruse, and lighted my lamp; then taking the largest kettle in the kitchen, I went to fill it with oil. I placed it on the fire, and when it boiled, I poured some into

each of the jars which contained the robbers, as much as I thought sufficient to prevent their putting in execution the pernicious design which had brought them hither.

"The affair being thus terminated in the way I had meditated, I returned.

into the kitchen, and extinguished my lamp, and placed myself at the window, to watch quietly what method the pretended oil-merchant would adopt.

After some time, I heard him throw from his window some little pebbles, as a signal, which fell on the jars. He threw some a second, and also a third time, and as he neither heard nor saw anything stirring, he came down, and I observed him go to every jar, till he came to the last; after which the darkness of the night prevented my being able to distinguish his movements. I still continued, however, to observe; but as I found he did not return, I concluded that he had escaped by way of the garden, mortified at his bad success. Persuaded, therefore, that the family were now safe, I went to bed."

As she finished this narrative, Morgiana added, "This is the detail you required of me; and I am convinced, that it is the conclusion of a scheme of which I observed the beginning two or three days ago, but of which I did not think it necessary to trouble you with an account. One morning, as I returned from the city at an early hour, I perceived the street door to be marked with white, and on the following day with red near the white mark; each time, without knowing for what purpose these marks were made, I made the same kind of mark, and in the same part, on the doors of three or four of our neighbours, both above and below this house. If you connect that with what has happened, you will find that the whole is a machination contrived by the robbers of the forest; whose troop, I know not wherefore, seems to be diminished by two. But be that as it may, it is now reduced to three at most. This proves that they had determined on your death, and you will do right to be on your guard against them, so long as you are certain that one still remains. On my part, I will do all in my power towards your preservation, which indeed I consider my duty."

When Morgiana ceased speaking, Ali Baba, penetrated with gratitude for the great obligation he owed her, replied, "I will recompense you as you deserve before I die. I owe my life to you, and to give you an immediate proof of my feelings on the occasion, I from this moment give you your liberty, and will soon reward you in a more ample manner. I am persuaded, as well as yourself, that the forty robbers laid this snare for me; God, through your means, has delivered me from the danger; I hope he will continue to protect me from their malice, and that by averting destruction from my head, he will make it recoil with greater certainty on them, and thus deliver the world from so cursed a persecution. What we have now to do, is to use the utmost despatch in burying the bodies of the robbers, yet with so much secrecy, that no one can entertain the slightest suspicion of their fate; and for this purpose I will instantly go to work with Abdalla."

Ali Baba's garden was of considerable length, and terminated by large trees. He went without delay, with his slave, to dig a ditch or grave under these trees, of sufficient length and breadth to contain the bodies. The ground was soft and easy to remove, so that they were not long in completing their work. They took the bodies out of the jars, and set apart the arms with which the robbers had furnished themselves. They then carried the bodies to the bottom of the garden, and placed them in the grave, and after having covered them with the earth they had previously removed, they spread about what remained, to make the surface of the ground appear even as it was before. Ali Baba carefully concealed the oil jars and the arms; and as for the mules, which he was not then in want of, he sent them to the market at different times, where he disposed of them by means of his slave.

Whilst Ali Baba was taking these precautions to prevent its being publicly known by what means he had become so rich in so short a space of time, the captain of the forty robbers had returned to the forest, mortified beyond measure: and in the agitation, or rather confusion, which he experienced at having met

with such bad success, so contrary to what he had promised himself, he had reached the cavern without coming to any resolution as to what he should or should not do respecting Ali Baba.

The dismal solitude of this gloomy habitation appeared to him insupportable.

"Brave companions," cried he, "partners of my labours and my pains, where are ye? What can I accomplish without your assistance? Did I select and assemble you only to see you perish all at one moment by a destiny so fatal and so unworthy of your courage? My regret for your loss would not have been so strong had you died with your sabres in your hands, like valiant men. When shall I be able to collect together another troop of intrepid men like you? and even should I wish it, how could I undertake it, without exposing so much specie, in gold and silver, to the mercy of him who has already enriched himself with a part of this treasure? I cannot, I must not, think of such an enterprise until I have put a period to his existence. What I have not been able to accomplish with such powerful assistance, I will perform alone; and when I shall have secured this immense property from being exposed to pillage, I will endeavour to provide a master and successors for it after my decease, that it may be not only preserved, but augmented to the latest posterity." Having formed this resolution, he felt no embarrassment as to the execution of it; and then, his mind tranquil and filled with the most pleasing hopes, he fell asleep, and passed the rest of the night very quietly.

The next morning the captain of the robbers awoke at an early hour, as he had proposed, and put on a dress suitable to the design he meditated, and repaired to the city, where he took a lodging in a khan. As he supposed that what had happened in the house of Ali Baba might have become generally known, he asked the host if there were any news stirring; in reply to which the host talked on a variety of subjects, but none relating to what the captain wished to be informed of. By this he concluded that the reason why Ali Baba kept the transaction so

profoundly secret, was, that he did not wish it to be divulged that he had access to so immense a treasure; and also that he was apprehensive of his life being in danger on this account. This idea excited him to neglect nothing that could hasten his destruction, which he intended to accomplish by means as secret as Ali Baba had adopted towards the robbers.

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

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

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

Ali Baba very willingly took the charge of the entertainment. "My son," said he, "to-morrow is Friday; and as it is a day on which the most considerable merchants, such as Cogia Houssain and yourself, keep their shops shut, invite him to take a walk with you after dinner, and as you return direct your course so that you may pass my house, and then beg him to come in. It will be better to manage thus, than to invite him in a formal way. I will give orders to Morgiana to prepare a supper and have it ready by the time you come."

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

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

Ali Baba received Cogia Houssain in a friendly manner, and gave him as hearty a welcome as he could desire. He thanked him for his kindness to his

son. "The obligation he is under to you," added he, "as well as myself, is so much the more considerable as he is a young man who has not yet been much in the world, and you have the goodness to condescend to form his manners."

Cogia Houssain did not spare his compliments in return for Ali Baba's assurance

that, although his son had not acquired the experience of older men, yet that he was possessed of a portion of good sense, which was of more service to him than experience was to many others.

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

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

"What can this reason be, sir," resumed Ali Baba, "may I take the liberty of asking?" "I do not refuse to tell it," said Cogia Houssain. "It is this; I

never eat of any dish that has salt in it;* judge then of the figure I should make at your table." "If this be your only reason," replied Ali Baba, "it need not deprive me of the honour of your company at supper unless you have absolutely determined otherwise. In the first place, the bread which is eaten in my house does not contain any salt; and as for the meat and other dishes, I promise you there shall be none in those which are served before you; I will now go to give orders to that effect; you will, therefore, do me the favour to remain, and I will be with you in an instant."

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

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

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

Morgiana obeyed, but much against her will, and she felt some curiosity to see this man who did not eat salt. When she had finished, and Abdalla had prepared the table, she assisted him in carrying in the dishes. On looking at Cogia Houssain, she instantly recollected him to be the captain of the robbers, notwithstanding his disguise; and examining him with attention, she perceived that he had a dagger concealed under his dress. "I am no longer surprised," said she to herself, "that this villain will not eat salt with my master; he is his bitterest enemy, and means to murder him: but I will prevent him from accomplishing his purpose."

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

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

Instead, however, of going to supper, Morgiana, who had penetrated into the views of the pretended Cogia Houssain, did not allow him time to put his wicked intentions in execution. She dressed herself like a dancer, put on a head-dress suitable to that character, and wore a girdle round her waist of silver gilt, to which she fastened a dagger made of the same metal. Her face was covered by

* Salt, among Mohammedans, is held sacred. To eat salt with a person is a token of amity no less binding than if ratified by an oath. The robbers of the Arabian Deserts will protect him with whom they have eaten salt, even though a known enemy to their race. And though it is a general maxim among Moslems that faith is not to be kept with infidels, the having partaken salt with one constitutes an indispensable obligation to deal honestly with him. Lord Byron in his poem of the "Giaour" alludes to the sacred "bread and salt" of the East. To evade the obligation of eating salt with his intended victim, the captain of the robbers feigns a distaste for food flavoured with the sacred ingredient.

a very handsome mask. When she had thus disguised herself, she said to Abdalla, "Take your tabor, and let us go and entertain our master's guest, who is the friend of his son, as we do sometimes, by our performances."

Abdalla took his tabor, and began to play as he walked before; Morgiana followed him, and made a low courtesy with a deliberate air, to attract notice, as if to request permission to perform what she could to amuse the company. Abdalla perceiving that Ali Baba was going to speak, ceased striking his tabor. "Come in, Morgiana," cried Ali Baba: "Cogia Houssain will judge of your skill, and

tell us his opinion: do not, however, suppose, sir," continued he, addressing Cogia Houssain, "that I have been at any expense to procure you this entertainment; for it is only my slave and my cook and house-keeper whom you see. I hope you will find it amusing."

Cogia Houssain did not expect Ali Baba to add this entertainment to the supper he had given him. This made him apprehensive that he should not be able to avail himself of the opportunity he thought now presented itself. But, should that be the case, he still consoled himself with the hopes of meeting with another if he continued the acquaintance with Ali Baba and his son. Therefore, although he would gladly have dispensed with this addition to the entertainment, he nevertheless pretended to be obliged to him, and added, that whatever gave Ali Baba pleasure, could not fail of being agreeable to him.

When Abdalla perceived that Ali Baba and Cogia Houssain had ceased speaking, he again began to play on his tabor, singing to it an air for Morgiana to dance to; she, who was equal to any one who practised dancing for their profession, performed her part so admirably, that every spectator, who had seen her,

must have been delighted, independent of the present company, of which perhaps Cogia Houssain was the least attentive to her excellence.

After having performed several dances, with equal grace and agility, she at length drew out the dagger, and dancing with it in her hand, she surpassed all she had yet done, by her light movements and high leaps and by the wonderful efforts which she interspersed in the figure; sometimes presenting the dagger as if to strike, and at others holding it to her own bosom, pretending to stab herself.

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

Ali Baba threw a piece of gold into the tabor; Morgiana then presented it to his son, who followed his father's example. Cogia Houssain, who saw that she was advancing towards him for the same purpose, had already taken his purse from his bosom, to contribute his present, and was putting his hand into it, when Morgiana, with a courage and fortitude equal to the resolution she had taken,

plunged the dagger into his heart, so deep that the life-blood streamed from the wound when she withdrew it.

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

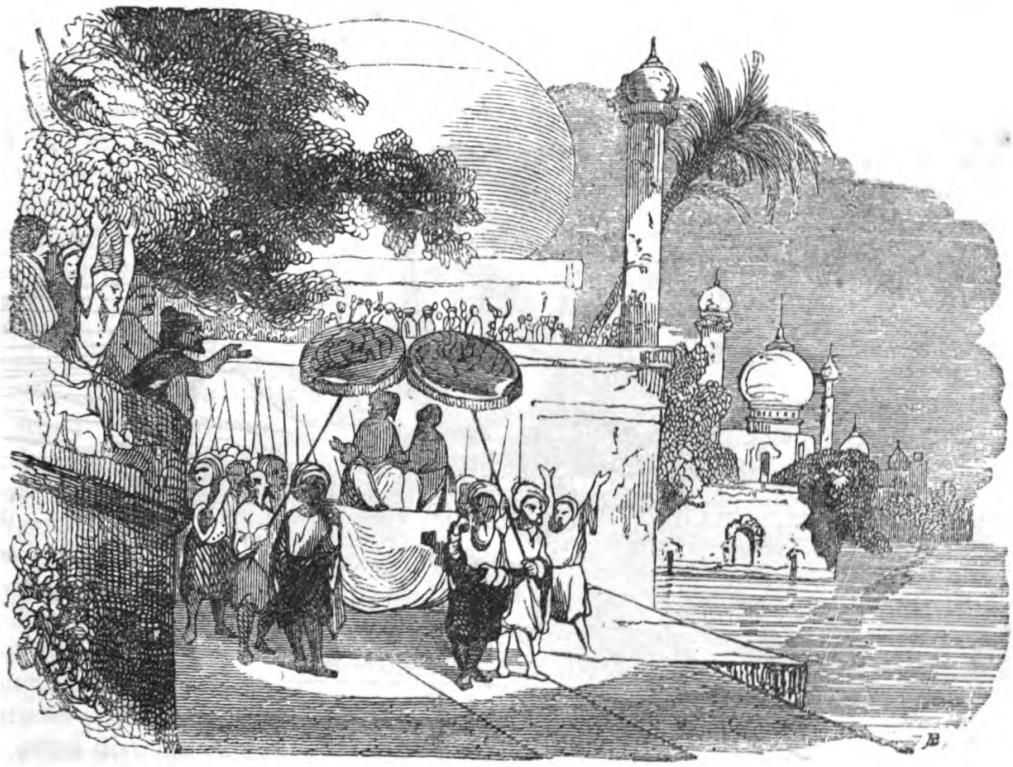
"What I have done," replied Morgiana, "is not for your ruin, but for your preservation." Then opening Cogia Houssain's robe, to show Ali Baba the poniard which was concealed under it, "See," continued she, "the cruel enemy you had to deal with; examine his countenance attentively, and you will recognise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

you told me of this peculiarity in your guest, I suspected his design, and you now are convinced that my suspicions were not ill-founded."

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

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

A few days after, Ali Baba had the nuptials of his son and Morgiana celebrated

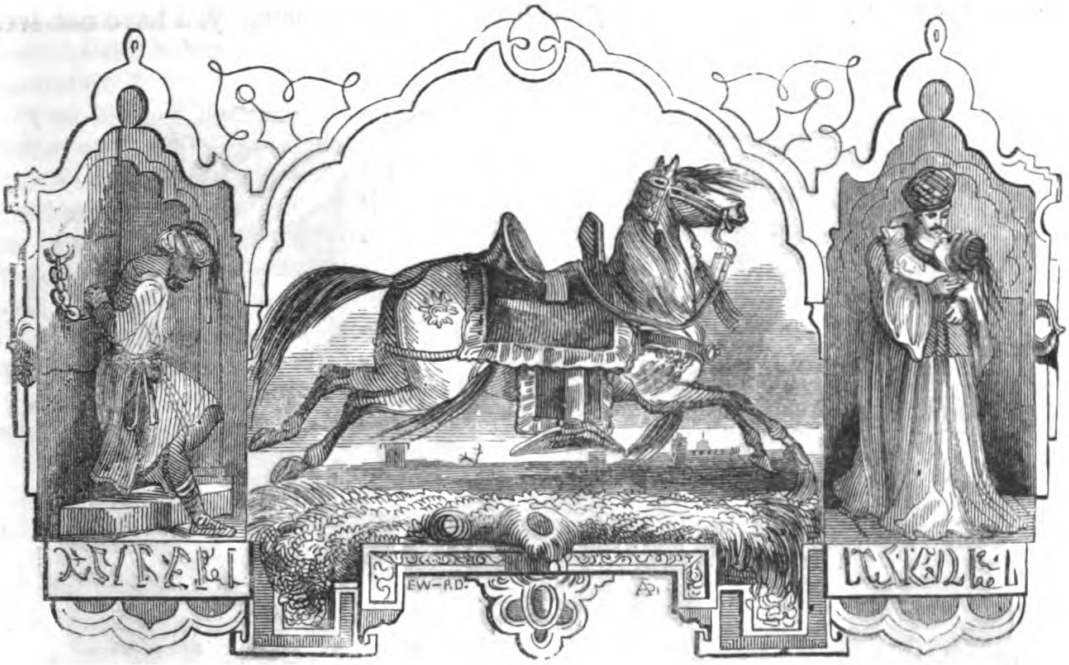


with great solemnity, by a sumptuous feast accompanied by dancers, exhibitions, and other customary diversions, and he had the satisfaction to observe that the friends and neighbours he had invited, who did not know the true reason of the marriage, but were not unacquainted with the good qualities of Morgiana, admired his generosity and discrimination.

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

At the expiration of a year, however, finding that no scheme had been attempted to disturb his quiet, he had the curiosity to make a journey to the cave, taking the necessary precautions for his safety. He mounted his horse, and when he had nearly reached the cave, seeing no traces of either men or horses, he conceived it to be a favourable omen; he dismounted, and fastening his horse, that he might not go astray, he went up to the door and repeated the words, "Open Sesame," which he had not forgotten. The door opened, and he entered. The state in which everything appeared in the cave, led him to judge that no one had been in it from the time that the pretended Cogia Houssain had opened his shop in the city; and he therefore concluded that the whole troop of robbers was totally dispersed or exterminated, and that he was the only person in the whole world who was acquainted with the secret for entering the cave; and consequently that the immense treasure it contained was entirely at his disposal. He had provided himself with a portmanteau, and he filled it with as much gold as his horse could carry, after which he returned to the city.

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



THE ENCHANTED HORSE.

The Nevrouz, or new day, which is the first of the year and of spring, and thus called by way of superior distinction, is a festival so solemn and so ancient throughout the whole extent of Persia, taking its origin even from the earliest periods of idolatry, that the holy religon of the Prophet, pure and unsullied as it is, and esteemed by those who profess it, as the only true one, has nevertheless been hitherto unable to abolish ; although it must be confessed that it is a custom completely pagan, and that the ceremonies observed on its solemnisation, are of the most superstitious nature. Not to mention the large cities, there is no town, borough, village, or hamlet, however small, where the festival is not celebrated with extraordinary rejoicings.

But those that take place at court surpass all others by the variety of new and surprising spectacles which are exhibited on the occasion : many foreigners also, from the neighbouring as well as more distant nations, are attracted by the liberality of the monarch towards those who excel in industry, or produce new inventions ; so that nothing that is attempted in other parts of the world can approach or be compared with this sumptuous magnificence.

At one of these festivals, after the most skilful and ingenious persons of the country, together with the foreigners who had repaired to Schiraz, where the court was then assembled, had presented the king and his nobles with all the various spectacles intended for their entertainment—and when the monarch had as usual distributed his gifts, according to the merit each had displayed in producing either extraordinary, wonderful, or pleasing specimens of his genius, with an equality which satisfied all to the summit of their expectations—at the very moment when he was going to withdraw, the assembly to disperse, and each to retire to his respective home, an Indian presented himself at the foot of the throne, leading a horse saddled and bridled, and most richly caparisoned, and so skilfully represented that at first sight every one supposed it to be a real horse.

The Indian prostrated himself before the throne; when he had risen, he showed the horse to the king, and thus addressed him: "Sire, although I am the last to present myself before your majesty as a candidate for your favour, I can nevertheless assure you that in this day of feasting and rejoicing you have not seen

anything so wonderful and astonishing as this horse, which I entreat you to condescend to look at." "I see nothing in this horse," replied the king, "but the strong resemblance to nature which the workman, by means of art and industry, has given it. Another workman might have made one like it, and have wrought it to still greater perfection."

"Sire," resumed the Indian, "it is not by its construction nor by its exterior appearance, that I wish to attract your majesty's attention to my horse. It is only by the use I make of it, and in which every one besides myself can employ it, by means of a secret which I am enabled to communicate. When I mount him, in whatever region of the earth I may be, and at whatever distance, if I wish to transport myself through the air to any particular spot, I can accomplish it in a very short space of time. In short, sire, it is in this peculiar property that the wonders of my horse consist; wonders which no one ever heard of, and of which I am ready to give your majesty any proof that you may require."

The king of Persia, who was extremely curious in everything relating to the wonderful, and who in all the different things of this nature, which he had seen, inquired about, and desired to see, had never met with nor heard of anything at all resembling this horse, told the Indian that nothing except the proof he had proposed to show him could convince him of the superiority of his horse; and that, therefore, he was ready to witness the proof of his assertion.

The Indian instantly set his foot in the stirrup, and lightly threw himself on the horse; when he had got the other foot in the opposite stirrup, and was seated firm in his saddle, he asked the king of Persia where he was pleased to send him.

At the distance of about three leagues from Schiraz there was a high mountain, which was easily discernible from the large square before the royal palace, where the king and all his court and people were assembled. "Do you see that moun-

tain?', said the king, showing it to the Indian: "it is there that I wish you to go; the distance is not very great, but it is sufficient to judge by it of your diligence in going thither and returning. And as it is not possible for my sight to extend thus far, as a certain proof of your having been there, I propose that you should bring me a branch from a palm tree which grows at the foot of the mountain."

The king of Persia had scarcely declared his wishes, when the Indian turned a little peg, which was placed a little above the pommel of the saddle on the horse's neck. At the same instant the horse rose from the ground, bearing the Indian through the air as quick as lightning, to such an immense height, that in a few minutes even those who had the longest and clearest sight could no longer discern him; this excited the astonishment of the king and his courtiers, and shouts of admiration were heard from all the spectators.

A quarter of an hour had scarcely elapsed since the departure of the Indian, before they perceived him high in the air, returning with a palm branch in his hand. He soon arrived over the square, where he performed several feats amidst the acclamations of the admiring multitude, and then came down immediately

before the throne on which the king was sitting, at the same spot from which he had taken his aërial excursion, and without experiencing any inconvenience from the horse alighting too suddenly. He got off, and approaching the throne, prostrated himself, and laid the branch at the feet of the king.

The king, who had witnessed with no less admiration than astonishment the

unheard-of exploit which the Indian had just exhibited, immediately conceived a strong desire to become the possessor of this wonderful horse. And as he was persuaded he should find no difficulty in treating with the Indian, being resolved to give him whatever sum he might require for it, he already regarded it as his own, and as the most valuable addition to his treasures, amongst which he intended to place it. "Judging of your horse by its exterior appearance," said he to the Indian, "I did not conceive that it could deserve the high commendation which, as you have just shown me, it so justly merits. I am obliged to you for having undeceived me; and to show you how much I esteem and value it, I am ready to purchase it, if it is to be disposed of."

"Sire," replied the Indian, "I had no doubt that your majesty, who is said to excel all the kings who now reign over the earth in knowledge and judgment, would bestow on my horse that commendation with which you have honoured it, when you were acquainted with those properties which deserve your attention. I had also foreseen that you would not be satisfied with admiring and praising it, but that you would immediately wish to have it in your own possession, as you have now informed me. For my part, sire, although I am as much aware of the value of it as and one can be, and know that the possession of it is alone sufficient to render my name immortal, yet I am nevertheless not so much attached to it as to refuse to deprive myself of it to gratify the noble desire of your majesty. But although I make this declaration, I have another to propose, relating to the conditions which must be fulfilled before I can consent to let it pass into other hands; and these, perhaps, you may not be pleased with.

"Your majesty will allow me," continued the Indian, "to remark, that I did not purcase this horse; I obtained it of the inventor and maker, on condition of giving him my only daughter in marriage as a recompense, and he at the same time exacted from me a promise that I should never sell it; and that, if I parted with it to another person, it should only be in exchange for what I might think proper."

The Indian was going to continue, but the king interrupted him, when he mentioned the word exchange. "I am ready," said he, "to grant you anything in exchange that you will ask of me. You know that my dominions are extensive, that they are richly overspread with powerful, wealthy, and populous cities; I leave you to choose any one that you like, to be yours in full sovereignty and power for the rest of your days."

This exchange appeared to all the court of Persia an offer truly royal and worthy of a king, but it was far below the recompense the Indian had proposed to himself. He had extended his views to far higher prospects. He replied to the king: "Sire, I am infinitely obliged to your majesty for the offer you have made me, and I cannot sufficiently thank you for your generosity. I entreat you, however, not to be displeased at my temerity, in venturing to tell you that I cannot deliver my horse into your possession except on receiving the hand of the princess your daughter as my wife. I have resolved not to part with it on any other terms."

The courtiers who surrounded the king of Persia could not avoid bursting into a violent fit of laughter at this extravagant request of the Indian. But prince Firouz Schah, the eldest son of the king, and heir to the crown, heard it with the utmost indignation. The king was of a different opinion, and did not feel much hesitation in sacrificing the princess of Persia to the Indian, that he might gratify his curiosity. He, however, balanced for some time what mode to pursue.

Prince Firouz Schah, who saw the king his father meditating on the answer he should give the Indian, was fearful lest he should grant him his demand, a circumstance which would in his eyes have been equally injurious to the royal

dignity, to the princess his sister, and to himself. He therefore determined to interfere, and addressing the king, "Sire, said he, "your majesty will pardon me if I take the liberty of asking you if it be possible that you can hesitate a moment on the absolute refusal you ought to make to so insolent a request from a man whom no one knows from an infamous mountebank; and that you can allow him the slightest encouragement to flatter himself that he is going to be allied to one of the greatest and most powerful monarchs of the earth? I entreat you to consider not only what you owe to yourself, but what is due to your rank, and to the high blood of your ancestors."

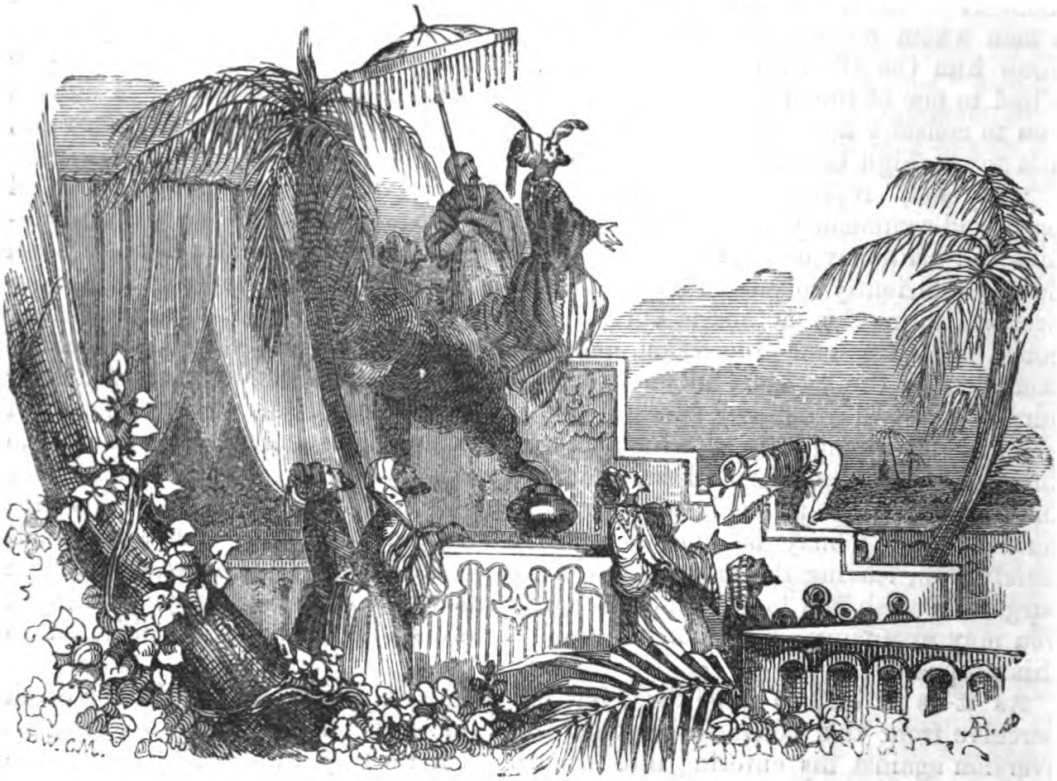
"My son," replied the king of Persia, "I receive your remonstrance in good part, and commend you for the zeal you evince in wishing to preserve the nobleness and brilliancy of your birth unsullied and pure as you received it; but you do not sufficiently consider the excellence of this horse, and that the Indian, who proposes to me this method of obtaining it, may, if I refuse him, go to some other court, make the same proposition, and have it accepted; and I confess I should be mortified to the greatest degree if any other monarch should boast of having surpassed me in generosity; and of having thus deprived me of the honour and glory of possessing a horse which I esteem as the most singular and admirable thing the world contains. I will not, however, say that I consent to grant him his demand: perhaps he is not perfectly aware of the exorbitance of his pretensions, and I may be able to make some agreement with him which shall satisfy him, leaving the princess out of the question. But before we conclude a bargain, I wish you to examine the horse, and make a trial of him yourself, that you may give me your opinion of him. I dare say he will have no objection to this proposal."

As it is natural to hope for what one wishes, the Indian thought he could perceive from this conversation that the king of Persia had not so strong an aversion against his entering into alliance with the royal family, by taking the horse on these terms; and he thought it not impossible that, although the prince now appeared so entirely to oppose his views, he might in time become favourable to them. Instead, therefore, of refusing the wish mentioned by the king, he on the contrary seemed rejoiced at; and, as a further proof that he consented to it with pleasure, he went towards the prince with the horse, assisted him to mount, and afterwards instructed him in what he was to do to govern it properly.

The prince, with surprising agility, mounted the horse immediately, without the assistance of the Indian; he secured each foot in the stirrup, and without waiting for any further directions, he turned the peg which he had observed the Indian do just before when he mounted. The very instant he had turned it, the horse rose with him with the swiftness of an arrow shot by the strongest archer; and in a few moments the king, as well as all the numerous assemblage of people who were present, entirely lost sight of him.

Neither the horse nor prince Firouz Schah appeared again, and the king of Persia strained his eyes to descry him in the air, but all in vain: when the Indian, alarmed at the consequences that might ensue, prostrated himself at the foot of the throne, and entreated the king to deign to look on him, and pay attention to what he wished to say: he then proceeded in these words: "Your majesty, sire, must have observed that the prince in his impatience did not allow me time to give him the necessary instructions for the management of my horse. He conceived it needless to receive any further advice after having seen what I did to elevate myself in the air; but he is ignorant of the measures that are to be taken to turn the horse and make it come back to the place from whence it set off. Therefore, sire, the favour I have to request of your majesty is, that you will not consider me as responsible for what may befal his person. I am convinced you are too equitable to impute to me any accident that he may encounter."

The Indian's speech gave the king of Persia infinite concern; he was now aware of the inevitable danger his son must be in, if what the Indian said were true, that the secret of making the horse return was different from that which



made it set out and rise in the air. He asked him why he did not call him back at the moment he saw him depart.

"Sire," replied the Indian, "your majesty observed the extreme swiftness with which the horse and prince were elevated. The surprise I experienced at the moment took from me all power of utterance, and when I was able to speak, he was already so distant that he could not have heard my voice; and even if he had heard it, he could not have managed the horse to make it return, as he was unacquainted with the secret for that purpose, which he would not have the patience to learn from me. But, sire," added he, "there is still some reason to hope that the prince, in the embarrassment he must feel, before he has proceeded far may remark another peg, by turning which the horse will cease to ascend, and will come towards the earth, where he may alight in whatever spot he pleases, by guiding the horse by the bridle."

Notwithstanding this reasoning of the Indian, which had all the appearance of plausibility, the king of Persia was extremely alarmed for the imminent peril in which his son was placed. "I will suppose," said he, "that the prince perceives the other peg you mention, which, nevertheless, is scarcely probable, and that he uses it as you say, the horse, perhaps, instead of descending gradually to the earth, may fall on rocks, or dash headlong with him into the middle of the sea." "Sire," resumed the Indian, "I can dispel this apprehension by assuring your majesty, that the horse passes over any extent of sea without any danger of falling into it, and that he always carries his rider whither he intends to go; and you may be satisfied that if the prince does but perceive the peg I speak of, the horse will carry him only to the place where he wishes to alight; and it is not likely that he should attempt to alight in any but a convenient situation, where he can obtain assistance and make himself known."

To these consoling assurances of the Indian the king replieo, "Be that as it may; as I cannot rely on the promises you make me, I now declare to you that your head shall be the forfeit, if, in three months, the prince my son does not return in safety, or I do not, at least, hear satisfactory accounts of his welfare." He immediately ordered the Indian to be seized and closely imprisoned; after which he returned to his palace, in the greatest affliction that the feast of the Nevrouz, which was so solemnly observed throughout Persia, should have terminated so fatally for him and his court.

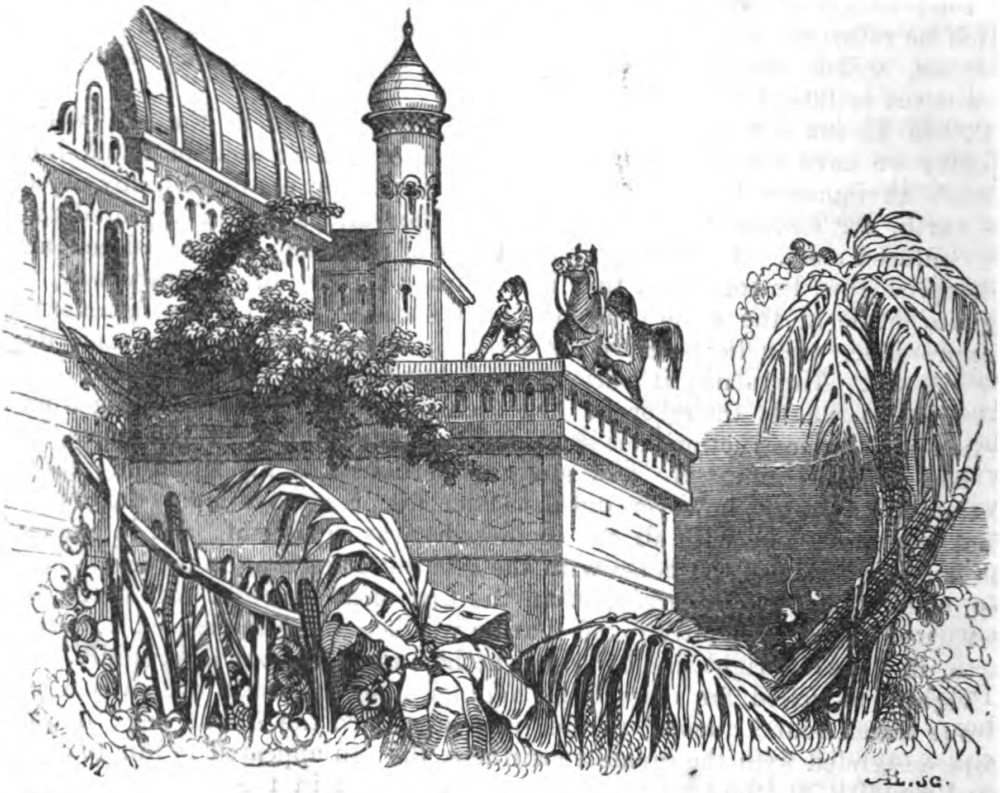
Prince Firouz Schah, in the meantime, was elevated in the air, with the rapidity we have already described; and in less than an hour he found himself at such an immense height, that he could no longer distinguish any object on the earth, nor discern the mountains from the valleys, which appeared to him one confused mass. He then began to think of returning to the palace: and to accomplish this, he concluded that if he turned the peg the contrary way, turning the bridle at the same time, he should succeed; but his astonishment was inexpressible, when he perceived that the horse still rose with the same degree of swiftness. He turned it various ways, but found it had no effect; he now felt most poignantly the error he had been guilty of, in not procuring from the Indian all the instructions necessary for the management of the horse, before he had mounted him. He now saw how perilous was his situation; the conviction of his danger, however, did not lessen his presence of mind; he considered what was to be done with all the coolness he was capable of; and in examining the head and neck of the horse with the greatest attention, he perceived another peg, smaller and less discernible than the first, near the right ear of the horse; he turned it, and instantly found that he was beginning to descend towards the earth, in the same right line by which he had ascended, but less rapidly.

Night had veiled for more than half an hour the spot over which prince Firouz Schah found himself at the time he turned the second peg: but as the horse descended with the greatest swiftness, the sun appeared to him to set with equal rapidity, and he soon found himself enveloped in the duskiness of night; so that far from being able to make choice of a commodious situation on which to alight, he was under the necessity of letting the reins fall on the horse's neck, and waiting with patience till he had reached the earth; not without feeling some uneasiness about the place where he should stop, whether it would be inhabited or deserted, a river or the sea.

It was past midnight when the horse stopped and prince Firouz Schah dismounted; he felt himself much fatigued and weakened, owing to want of food, not having tasted any since the morning, before he left the palace, to be present at the various spectacles exhibited at the festival. The first thing he did, notwithstanding the obscurity that prevailed, was to endeavour to discover what place he was in, and he found himself on the terraced roof of a magnificent palace, which had a marble balustrade running round it, breast high. While examining the terrace, he discovered the staircase, which led to the interior of the palace, the door of which was half open.

A less enterprising person than Firouz Schah might not, perhaps, have felt inclined to go down the stairs in such profound darkness, ignorant also whether he might meet with friends or enemies; but this consideration had no weight with him, and did not damp his courage. "I do not come here to injure any one," thought he, "and most probably the first I meet with, as they will see me without any weapon in my hands, will have the humanity to listen to me before they attempt to deprive me of life." He therefore opened the door a little farther, without making any noise, and went down with the utmost caution, lest he should make a false step, the sound of which might wake some of the inhabitants. He succeeded, and having reached a landing place on the stairs, found a door open, which led into a large room, where there was a light.

Prince Firouz Schah stopped some time at the door to listen, but he heard no sound, except that of people in deep sleep, who snored in different tones. He advanced a few steps into the room, and, by the light of a lantern, perceived that those who were sleeping were black eunuchs, each lying with a drawn



sabre near him; and this led him to suppose that they were guarding the apartment of some queen or princess. In fact, it was that of a princess.

The chamber in which she slept was next to the room where the eunuchs were placed, and was easily descernible by the great light which shone through a slight silk hanging that concealed the door. The prince advanced towards this hanging with light steps, and reached it without waking the eunuchs: he drew it aside, and entered the chamber. The royal magnificence of the decorations was no object to him in his present situation, and did not attract his attention, which was wholly engaged on what was to him of greater consequence. He observed several beds, only one of which was raised on a sofa, the others being below it. The women belonging to the princess were lying on the lower ones, to bear her company and attend on her, and the princess herself was in the more elevated one.

Guided by this distinction, Firouz Schah could not be mistaken in choosing whom he should address. He approached the princess's bed, without disturbing either her or her women. When he was sufficiently near to observe her distinctly, his eyes beheld such enchanting and wonderful beauty, that he was quite charmed, and instantly felt the flame of love in his heart. "Heavens!" exclaimed he to himself, "has my wayward fate led me hither, to deprive me of that liberty I have till now so uniformly maintained! Am I not to expect inevitable enthralment, when those eyes are unclosed, which must add so much lustre and brilliancy to that assemblage of charms? Yet I must be content to submit, since I cannot quit this spot without destroying my existence; and necessity compels me to await the decree of my destiny."

Occupied by reflections of this nature, which the beauty of the princess and

the situation he found himself in inspired, he placed himself on his knees, and taking hold of the princess's sleeve, which but partly concealed an arm of exquisite form and incomparable whiteness, he gently pulled it. The princess awoke, and was in the utmost astonishment at beholding near her a man of a handsome countenance, well-formed, and elegantly dressed; the surprise she felt did not, however, betray her into any evident emotions of fear or alarm.

The prince took advantage of this favourable moment; he bowed his head to the floor, and when he raised it, "Illustrious princess," said he, "in consequence of an adventure of the most astonishing and surprising nature you can possibly conceive, you now see at your feet a supplicating prince, the son of the king of Persia, who yesterday morning was assisting with his father at the celebration of a solemn festival, and who now finds himself in an unknown country, where he is in the most imminent danger of perishing, if you will not have the goodness and generosity to bestow upon him your assistance and protection. This protection, most adorable princess, I implore, in the full confidence that you will not refuse it me. I venture to flatter myself that my hopes are not fallacious, from the conviction that inhumanity cannot take up its abode with such exquisite beauty, such incomparable charms, and such majestic superiority."

The lady to whom prince Firouz Schah had thus passionately addressed himself, was the princess of Bengal, eldest daughter of the king who reigned over the kingdom of that name, and who had built this palace for her at a short distance from the capital, whither she frequently resorted, to enter into the diversions of the country. Having listened to the prince with all the complaisance he could possibly desire, she replied to him with equal affability. "Prince," said she, "take courage; you are not in a country of barbarians; hospitality, humanity, and politeness, hold their reign in the kingdom of Bengal with equal sway as in that of Persia. It is not I who grant you the protection you demand; you are entitled to it, and will experience it, not only in my palace, but also in every part of these dominions. You may believe me, and confide in my word."

The prince of Persia was going to express his acknowledgments to the princess of Bengal for her politeness, and the favour she had granted him in so obliging a manner, and had already bowed his head very low in order to speak, but she prevented him: "I feel the greatest curiosity," said she, to be informed from your own lips, by what wonderful adventure you could have travelled hither, in so short a space of time, from the capital of Persia, and by what enchantment you could have penetrated into my apartment and presented yourself before me, so secretly that you have evaded the vigilance of my guards. But as I am certain you must be in want of some refreshment, and I wish to treat you as a guest who deserves a good welcome, I will restrain my curiosity until to-morrow morning, and at present only give orders to my women to prepare a chamber for your reception, and provide you with everything necessary; you will there refresh and repose yourself, until you feel sufficiently recovered to be able to satisfy my wishes, by which time I shall be prepared to listen to you."

The princess's women awoke at the first words which prince Firouz Schah addressed to their royal mistress; and their astonishment at seeing him on his knees before the bed of the princess, was increased by being unable to account for his introduction into her chamber, without having disturbed either them or the eunuchs. These women had no sooner understood the princess's intentions, than they arose and quickly dressed themselves, and were ready to execute any orders they might receive from her. They each took one of the numerous lighted tapers which illuminated the princess's apartment, and when the prince retired, they walked before him, and conducted him into a very beautiful chamber, where one part of them prepared him a bed, while the others went into the kitchen to procure him some refreshment. And although the hour was so unreasonable for such occupations, they nevertheless were so diligent, that he had not long to wait

for his repast. They brought him great abundance of various dishes; he partook of what he liked, and having satisfied his hunger, they cleared all away, and left him at liberty to go to bed, having first pointed out to him where he might find everything he could require.

The princess of Bengal was so struck with the understanding, politeness, and other amiable qualities of the prince of Persia, in the short conversation she had held with him, that her mind was wholly occupied by him; and she had not yet been able to close her eyes when her women returned into the chamber, to go to bed. She inquired if they had taken care to provide him with everything he wanted; if he appeared satisfied; and, above all, what they thought of his person.

The women having given satisfactory answers to the former questions, thus replied to the latter: "We know not, princess, what opinion you have yourself formed of him; but on our parts, we should esteem you very fortunate, if the king your father would bestow you on so amiable a prince in marriage. There is no one at the court of Bengal who can be compared to him, and we have not heard, that any of the neighbouring states can produce a prince worthy of you."

This flattering speech did not displease the princess of Bengal, but as she did not choose to reveal her own sentiments, she commanded them to be silent, "You are idle chatterers," said she, "get to bed, and let me go to sleep again."

The next morning, the first care that engaged the princess after she arose, was to perform the duties of the toilet. She had never before taken such pains to adorn herself as on that day, and she passed more time than usual in consulting her

mirror. Her women had never before been obliged to exercise so much patience in doing and undoing the same thing several times, till she was contented.

"I could plainly discern," said she to herself, "that I was not displeasing to the prince of Persia in my undress; but he shall see a far different object when I am decorated in all my splendour." She ornamented her head with the largest and most brilliant diamonds, and wore a necklace, bracelets, and girdle, formed of the same precious materials, all of inestimable value; and the dress she put on was composed of the richest silk that India could produce, which was wrought only for kings, princes, or princesses of the highest rank, and was of a colour that displayed her beauty to the highest advantage. When she had again repeatedly consulted her mirror, and asked her women separately if anything was wanting to complete the magnificence of her appearance, she sent to inquire if the prince of Persia was awake, and dressed; and concluding that he would ask permission to present himself before her, she desired him to be informed that she was coming to him, and that she had particular reasons for acting thus.

The prince of Persia, having made up in the day the quantity of rest he had lost in the night, and being now perfectly recovered from his fatiguing journey, had just finished dressing himself when he received a message from the princess of Bengal, by one of her women, to inquire how he had passed the night.

The prince, without waiting for the princess's woman to deliver her message, immediately inquired if her mistress was ready to receive his respects. But when the woman had performed the order she had received, "The princess," said he, "is mistress here, and I am in her house only to obey her commands."

The princess was no sooner informed that the prince of Persia was ready to receive her, than she went to his apartment. Many compliments were exchanged on each side, the prince apologising for having awakened the princess out of her sleep, for which he entreated her pardon, and she inquiring how he had passed the night, and whether he now found himself recovered. The princess then

seated herself on the sofa, and Firouz Schah followed her example, placing himself, however, at some distance, to show his respect.

The princess then began the conversation: "Prince," said she, "I might have received you in the chamber where you found me in bed last night; but as the chief of my eunuchs has the liberty of going there, and as he never enters this place without my express permission, I prefer this, as being less likely to suffer from interruption. I feel the utmost impatience to become acquainted with the cirumstances attending the extraordinary adventure which procures me the happiness of seeing you; I therefore entreat you to oblige me with the detail of what I am so anxious to know."

In order to give the princess full satisfaction on every point relating to himself, Firouz Schah began by giving her an account of the annual festival of Nevrouz, which was so solemnly celebrated throughout the dominions of Persia, together with a description of all the exhibitions deserving notice which had formed the amusement of the court of Persia, as well as of the whole city of Schiraz. He then mentioned the enchanted horse, the description of which, with all the feats performed on it by the Indian before so respectable an assemblage of people, convinced the princess that nothing in the world could exceed its wonderful mechanism. "You may easily imagine, princess," continued Firouz Schah, "that the king my father, who spares no expence to increase his collection of the most rare and curious productions that can be obtained, would feel an anxious desire to add to it a horse of such extraordinary powers: he in fact did so, and did not long hesitate to ask the Indian at what sum he estimated its value.

"The Indian's reply was the most extravagant you can conceive. He said, that he had not purchased the horse, but had acquired it in exchange for his only daughter, and that, as he could not consent to deprive himself of it but on similar terms, he would not resign it to him except on condition of his consent-estiing to give him the princess my sister in marriage.

"The crowd of courtiers who surrounded my father's throne and heard this extravagant proposition, openly laughed at the absurdity of it; for my part, I felt such violent indignation, that I could not dissemble my emotion, and the less so, because I found the king wavering as to the answer he should make. In fact, I firmly believe that he was on the point of granting his request, if I had not represented to him, in the most forcible terms, the stain by which he was going to tarnish his glory. My remonstrances, however, were not sufficiently effectual to make him abandon entirely all intention of sacrificing the princess my sister to so despicable a wretch. He supposed I might accede to his wishes, if I could but entertain the same opinion of the inestimable value of the horse which he had conceived. With this view he desired me to examine, and mount it, and make trial of it myself.

"To please the king my father I complied, and mounted the horse; and, as soon as I was on it, having seen the Indian turn a peg, which occasioned the horse to rise with him, I did the same thing, without waiting for any further instructions from him, and in an instant I rose in the air with a swiftness far surpassing that of an arrow shot by the most experienced archer.

"In a short time I was at such a distance from the earth, that I could no longer distinguish any object, and I appeared to be approaching so near the vault of heaven, that I began to be apprehensive I should hit against it. The rapidity of the motion by which I ascended for some time deprived me of my recollection, and rendered me insensible of the danger to which I was on all sides exposed. At length I attempted to turn the peg in a contrary direction, supposing I should by that means descend, but the effect did not answer my expectation. The horse continued to bear me still higher and further from the earth. After some time I discovered another peg; I turned it, and soon perceived,

that the horse instead of rising began to descend; and as I soon found myself in the shades of night, and that it was not possible to guide the horse to any place of safety, I loosened the reins, and resigned myself to the will of God, to dispose of me as he thought best.

"The horse at last reached the ground, and I dismounted. I examined the place where I was, and discovered it to be the terrace of this palace. I found the door of the staircase half open, and I went down without making any noise; I came to an open door, from which a faint light glimmered. I looked in, and saw the eunuchs asleep, and beyond a considerable light, which shone through a hanging. Notwithstanding the hazard I ran if the eunuchs awoke, the pressing necessity of my situation inspired me with courage, not to say temerity, and I advanced towards the second door as lightly as possible.

"There is no occasion, princess, to describe what followed; you know it already. Nothing remains but to thank you for your kindness and generosity, and to entreat you to tell me by what means I can evince my gratitude for so great an obligation in a way that will be acceptable to you. As, according to the rights of mankind, I am now your slave, and cannot, therefore, offer you my person, I have nothing left except my heart. But what do I say, lovely princess? This heart is no longer mine; you have ravished it from me by your charms; and far from asking you to return it me, I resign it entirely to you. Permit me, therefore, to declare that in you I acknowledge the mistress both of my heart and of my wishes."

These last words were pronounced by prince Firouz Schah with a tone and air which fully convinced the princess of Bengal of the successful effect she had endeavoured to accomplish. She was not displeased with this sudden declaration of the prince of Persia, and the blushes which overspread her cheeks heightened her beauty, and rendered her still more interesting in his eyes.

When he had finished speaking, "Prince," replied she, "the pleasure you afforded me by your account of all the wonderful and surprising things you first described, was much lessened by the terror I felt when I conceived you in the highest regions of the air; and although I had the happiness of seeing you before me in perfect safety, yet my fears did not cease till you told me that the Indian's horse had alighted on the terrace of my palace. The same thing might have happened in a thousand other places; and I am delighted that chance should have given me the preference, and, at the same time, the opportunity of telling you, that although you might have been guided to some other spot, you would nowhere have been received with more pleasure or more heartfelt welcome.

"I should, therefore, feel hurt and offended, prince, did I believe that you seriously considered yourself in the light of my slave, as you just now represented yourself. I attribute that expression to your politeness rather than to your sincerity; and the reception you met with on your arrival ought to convince you that you are not at less liberty here than in the midst of the Persian court.

"As for your heart," added the princess, in a tone which little denoted a refusal, "as I am fully persuaded that you have not reserved the disposal of it till the present time, and that you have, doubtless, made choice of a princess who deserves your affection, I should be sorry to be the cause of your inconstancy to her."

Prince Firouz Schah was going to make the most solemn protestations to the princess of Bengal that no object had yet occupied his heart; but at the instant he was beginning to speak, one of the princess's attendants came to acquaint them that dinner was served. This interruption relieved the prince and princess from the necessity of an explanation which would have been equally embarrassing to both. The princess was perfectly convinced of the sincerity of the prince; and although she had not explained herself, he nevertheless judged, from the nature of her answer, and the favourable manner in which she had listened to him, that he had every reason to be satisfied with his prospect of success.

As the woman who had announced the dinner, held the door open, the princess, as she arose from her seat, said to Firouz Schah, who followed her example, that she did not usually dine at so early an hour, but as she feared he had made but a bad supper, she had ordered it to be served sooner than was customary; having said this, she conducted him into a magnificent saloon, where a table was prepared, and covered with great abundance of excellent dishes. They took their places, and had scarcely seated themselves, when a number of the female slaves belonging to the princess, most richly dressed, and of great beauty, began a delightful concert of instrumental and vocal music, which continued during the whole of the repast.

The instruments were kept very soft, and managed so as not to interrupt the conversation between the prince and princess, who passed a great part of the repast, the latter in helping the prince, and inviting him to eat, and he, on his part, serving the princess to whatever he thought the best; and endeavouring to ingratiate himself by words and actions which only drew fresh civilities and compliments from the princess; and in this mutual exchange of attentions and civilities love made much greater progress than if the interview had been premeditated.

At length they arose from table, and she led him into a grand and magnificent room, superbly embellished with gold and azure, and furnished in the richest style of elegance. They sat on a sofa, which faced the garden of the palace, the beauty of which struck prince Firouz Schah, from the uncommon variety of the flowers, shrubs, and trees, all different from those that grow in Persia, yet not inferior to them. Availing himself of the opportunity which this subject afforded him of beginning a conversation with the princess, he said, "Till now I supposed that there was no country in the world, except Persia, that could boast of superb palaces and beautiful gardens, worthy of the majesty of kings. But I now perceive, that wherever there are great and powerful monarchs, they build themselves habitations in character with their grandeur and power; and

although they may differ in the construction and decorations, they are alike in splendour and magnificence."

"Prince," replied the princess of Bengal, "as I have no idea of the palaces in Persia, I can form no judgment of the comparison you make between those and mine, and cannot, therefore, deliver my opinion: but, however sincere you may be, I can scarcely persuade myself that it is just; you must allow me to suppose that complaisance has some share in what you say. I will not lessen my palace in your estimation; you have too much taste and discernment not to judge of it as it deserves; but I assure you I find it very indifferent, when I compare it with that of the king my father, which infinitely surpasses it in beauty, richness, and grandeur. You will tell me your opinion of it when you shall have seen it. As chance has brought you so far as the capital of this kingdom, I doubt not you will wish to see, and pay your compliments to, the king my father, that he may have an opportunity of showing you those attentions which are due to a prince of your rank and merit."

By exciting in the prince of Persia a degree of curiosity to see the palace of Bengal, and be introduced to the king her father, the princess flattered herself that, should she succeed, her father might, when he saw a prince of so elegant an appearance, so clever and so accomplished in every estimable quality, be induced to propose an alliance, by offering her to him in marriage; and as she was well persuaded that she was not indifferent to the prince, and that he would not refuse such an alliance, she hoped by these means to attain her wishes, still preserving that decorum of conduct necessary in a princess who was desirous of appearing submissive to the commands of her father. But the prince of Persia did not reply to her proposal as she had expected.

"Princess," resumed he, "the preference you have just given to the palace of the king of Bengal over your own, and the manner in which you deliver your opinion, is sufficient to convince me of the sincerity of it. With regard to the proposal you make me of paying my respects to the king your father, I must reply, that it would be not only a great pleasure to me, but an honour also, to acquit myself of what I should conceive my duty. But," added he, "I leave you, princess, to judge, whether it would be advisable for me to present myself before the throne of so great a monarch as a mere adventurer, without attendants and equipage suitable to my rank."

"Let not that circumstance occasion you a moment's uneasiness," replied the princess. "You have only to say what you wish, and money shall not be wanting to procure you whatever train of attendants you may desire; I will furnish you with any sum you may want. There are many merchants here of your nation; you may, therefore, procure anything that you judge necessary to complete a house that will do you credit and be in character with your situation in life."

Prince Firouz easily penetrated the intention of the princess in his favour; and the undoubted proof of her affection which she by these means evinced, augmented the love he felt for her; but notwithstanding the increasing violence of his passion, he did not give way to it, so as to forget the conduct he ought to observe. He replied without the least hesitation, "Princess, I should most willingly accept the obliging offer you have made me, and for which I cannot sufficently express my gratitude, were I not sensible that the uneasiness the king my father must feel at my absence, requires my immediate return. I should be unworthy of the tenderness and affection he has always shown me, if I did not go back to him immediately, to remove the apprehensions he must naturally feel for my safety. I know his character well; and while I have the happiness of enjoying the society of a princess so amiable as yourself, I am persuaded that he is plunged in the deepest affliction, hopeless of ever seeing me more. I trust you will do me the justice to allow that I cannot, without being guilty of the

blackest ingratitude, delay returning to him, to restore him to happiness, and perhaps to life, which a protracted absence might deprive him of. After that, too lovely princess," continued he, "if you should esteem me worthy of becoming your husband, as the king my father has always declared that he would not bias my choice of a wife, I should have no difficulty in obtaining his consent to come back again, not as an unknown wanderer, but as the prince of Persia, bearing a proposal from him to contract an alliance with the king of Bengal, by means of our union. I am convinced he will readily accede, when I shall have informed him of the generous manner in which you received me after my misfortune."

The prince having thus explained his sentiments, the princess of Bengal was too fully satisfied with the justice of them to insist any further on his agreeing to the introduction to her father, or to propose anything that might not be consistent with his duty and honour: she was, nevertheless, alarmed at the idea of the sudden departure which he seemed to meditate, and she feared that, if he left her so soon, absence might efface her from his memory, instead of inducing him to return and fulfil his promise.

To avert this intention, therefore, she said to him: "By making you a proposal, prince, to contribute whatever might be necessary to place you in a situation suited to your rank, preparatory to your introduction to my father, I did not mean to oppose so reasonable an excuse as that you have just alleged, and which I had not foreseen. I should indeed be an accomplice in the error you would commit, could I entertain such a wish; yet I cannot give my approbation to your intention of returning to your own country so soon as you propose. At least grant one favour to my earnest entreaties; allow yourself time to acquire some knowledge of this country, and since my good fortune decreed that you should have alighted in the kingdom of Bengal, in preference to a desert, or the summit of some lonely rock, far from the inhabited world, I request you to remain here a sufficient time to enable you to take to the court of Persia an accurate impression of the country."

The princess of Bengal gave this turn to her discourse, that the prince might be persuaded to continue with her for some time; when she hoped that, becoming more passionately attached to her, the strong desire he entertained of returning to Persia might decrease, and that then he would determine to appear in public, and be presented to the king of Bengal. He could not refuse the favour she requested, after the kind reception he had met with from her. He acceded; and the princess had now no object but to render his residence with her as agreeable as possible, by all the variety of amusements she could devise.

For several days nothing was thought of but entertainments, balls, concerts, magnificent collations, parties of pleasure in the gardens, and hunting expeditions in the park belonging to the palace, where there were all sorts of animals for their diversion; stags, hinds, deer, roe-bucks, and other kinds peculiar to the country of Bengal, which were not savage enough to render the chase a dangerous or improper sport for the princess to join in.

When the hunt was over, the prince and princess met in some beautiful spot in the park, where a large carpet was spread for them, and cushions placed upon it, that they might sit more commodiously. There, recovering from their fatigue, and reposing after the violent exercise they had taken, they conversed on various subjects. The princess of Bengal always endeavoured to lead the topic to the greatness, the power, the riches, and the government of Persia, that she might in reply to what prince Firouz Schah advanced, enlarge on the advantages possessed by the kingdom of Bengal, and thus gain on his inclinations to remain; but the event turned out contrary both to her wishes and expectations.

The prince of Persia, in fact, and without the least exaggeration, gave her such an advantageous account of the power, the magnificence, and opulence, that reigned in his father's dominions; of its military force, of its commerce, exten-

ding both by sea and land to the most distant countries; of the multitude of its large cities, all nearly as populous as that in which he had fixed his residence, containing palaces, richly furnished, and ready for his immediate reception, according to the different seasons of the year, so that he might enjoy a perpetual spring; in short, he related so many wonders of his native country that before he had concluded the princess began to consider the kingdom of Bengal as infinitely inferior to that of Persia in almost every point. And when he requested her in return to recount the advantages of her father's kingdom, she could not for a considerable time be prevailed on to comply.

At length, however, she consented to give this gratification to prince Firouz Schah, but not without diminishing much of the superiority which Bengal in some instances possessed over Persia. She so plainly evinced by her conversation that she should have no difficulty to accompany him, that he concluded she would consent to the first proposal of that nature which he should make to her; he did not, however, think it proper to mention such a thing, until he had remained with her long enough for the blame to be on her side, if she expressed a wish of detaining him still longer, and preventing his fulfilling the indispensible duty of returning to the king his father.

For two whole months, prince Firouz Schah entirely devoted himself to the wishes of the princess: he joined in all the amusements she so amply provided for him, with as much avidity as if he had been destined to pass his whole life with her in the same round of diversion. But when this period had elapsed, he took an opportunity of declaring to her in the most serious terms, that he had too long neglected his duty, and begged her to grant him permission to attend to the dictates of filial affection; at the same time repeating his promise of returning immediately with a retinue worthy of himself as well as of her, to demand her in marriage, according to the usual forms of the kingdom of Bengal.

"Princess," added he, "perhaps you are inclined to suspect my promises, from the request I have made, and already place me in the list of those false lovers who dismiss the object of their affection from their hearts as well as minds when no longer present; but as a certain proof of the strong and sincere love I feel for you, and which will render my life miserable, when I am absent from so amiable a princess as yourself, who returns it with equal warmth, I would fain ask the favour of conducting you with me, did I not fear that such a proposal might offend you, and meet with a refusal."

Prince Firouz Schah perceived that the princess blushed at the last words he uttered, and that, without discovering any symptoms of anger, she hesitated what answer to make; he therefore continued addressing her: "Princess," said he, "if you have any doubts of my father's consent to our union, and of the satisfaction with which he will receive your alliance, allow me to dispel them. As for the king of Bengal, after all the proofs of affection, tenderness, and esteem he has always shown, and still continues to show towards you, he would be far bifferent from what you have described him to me, or rather he would be the enemy of your happiness and peace, if he did not receive with kindness and goodwill the embassy my father would send him, to obtain his approbation and consent to our marriage."

The princess of Bengal made no reply to the prince of Persia; but her silence and downcast eyes convinced him more than the most formal declaration that she felt no repugnance to his proposal, and consented to accompany him into Persia. The only difficulty which presented itself to her imagination, was, that the prince was not sufficiently experienced in the management of his horse, and she was apprehensive of meeting with the same embarrassments which had happened to him when he made his first trial. But prince Firouz soon dissipated all her fears by assuring her that she might safely trust to him, and that, after what had happened, he defied even the Indian himself to manage it with more

skill and address. She now, therefore, thought only of taking proper measures for her departure; which she effected with so much secrecy, that no one in the palace had the slightest suspicion of her design.

The next morning a little before break of day, while all the inhabitants of the palace were enjoying the most profound repose, she repaired to the terrace with the prince; he turned the horse towards Persia, and placed it so that the princess could easily mount behind. He mounted first, and when she had seated herself conveniently, and, taking his hand for greater safety, had given the signal for departure, he instantly turned the peg he had made use of when in the capital of Persia, and the horse rose with them into the air.

The horse went with his usual swiftness, and prince Firouz Schah managed it with so much skill, that at the expiration of two hours and a half he discovered the capital of Persia. He did not descend in the great square from whence he had departed, nor even in the palace of the king, but in a sort of country-house, at a little distance from the city. He led the princess into the most beautiful apartment, and told her that in order to secure to her those honours and that respect which were due to her rank, he should immediately go to the king his father, and acquaint him of her arrival, and that she would see him again presently; in the meantime he gave orders to the steward of the palace, who was present, to provide everything that the princess could possibly require.

Having left her in this apartment, prince Firouz Schah desired the steward to get a horse saddled for him; and having mounted it, and sent the steward to attend on the princess, with an express order to prepare a breakfast of the greatest delicacies he could procure, he set off. As he passed along the road and the streets which led to the palace, he was received by the people with every demonstration of joy, for they had despaired of ever seeing him again, and had mourned his loss. The king his father was giving an audience and was surrounded by his council, all the members of which, as well as the king himself, were

in mourning dresses, which they had worn from the time of the prince's disappearance, when he presented himself before them. His father received him with the most tender embraces, shedding tears of joy and surprise; and immediately inquired, with visible anxiety, what was become of the Indian's horse.

This question afforded the prince an opportunity of relating to the king all the dangers and perils he had encountered after the horse rose with him in the air. He told him how he had escaped by alighting on the palace of the princess of Bengal, and the friendly reception he had met with from her; he did not conceal the motives which had induced him to prolong his residence with her for a longer period than was proper, had he consulted his duty alone; and enlarged on the desire she had shown in every instance to oblige him so far as even to consent to accompany him into Persia, after he had given her his solemn promise to marry her. "And, sire," continued the prince, as he finished this account, "I, at the same time, assured her of your consent to our union, and I have brought her with me on the Indian's horse; I left her in one of the country palaces belonging to your majesty, where she is anxiously waiting my return, to announce to her that I have not made a promise unworthy of myself or you."

At these words the prince was about to prostrate himself at the feet of the king his father, to prevail on him to grant his request; but the king prevented him, and embracing him a second time: "My son," said he, "I not only give my consent to your marrying the princess of Bengal, but I will go to her myself, and thank her in person for the obligations I am under to her, and conduct her to my palace, where your nuptials shall be celebrated this very day." The king then gave orders to prepare for the arrival of the princess of Bengal, commanded the mourning to be discontinued, that public rejoicings should immediately commence, by the sound of drums, trumpets, and other warlike instruments; and desired that the Indian should be released from prison and conducted before him.

His orders were instantly obeyed; and when the Indian was presented to him, he said to him, "I have secured your person, that your life, which would scarcely have appeased either my grief or my rage, might have atoned for that of the prince my son. Return thanks to heaven for having restored him to me. Go, take your horse, and never appear again before my sight."

When the Indian had left the presence of the king of Persia, he learnt of those who had released him from prison that prince Firouz Schah was returned with a princess, whom he had brought with him on the enchanted horse; he was also told where he had alighted and left the princess, and that the sultan was preparing to go to her, and conduct her to his palace. The Indian did not hesitate to take advantage of this intelligence, and without losing a moment's time, he repaired to the country palace with such diligence, that he reached it before the king and the prince of Persia; and addressing himself to the steward of the palace, he told him that he was come by order of the king and the prince of Persia to conduct the princess of Bengal on the enchanted horse through the air to the king, who, he said, was waiting to receive her in the great square before his palace, that his whole court and the people of Schiraz might witness the spectacle.

The steward knew the Indian, and was also acquainted with his arrest and imprisonment; seeing him, therefore, at liberty, he readily believed him. He presented him to the princess, who was no sooner told that he came by order of the prince of Persia than she consented to do what, she was persuaded, was his wish. The Indian, delighted with the success of his wicked scheme, mounted the horse, and took the princess behind him by the assistance of the steward; he turned the peg, and instantly the horse rose with him and the princess to an immense height in the air.

At this instant the king of Persia, accompanied by his whole court, was going

out of his palace, to repair to that in which the princess had been left, prince Firouz preceding him, that he might arrive first, and prepare the princess for his reception. The Indian, in order to brave the anger of the king and the prince, and revenge himself for what he conceived the unjust treatment he had experienced, passed over the city with his victim, in full view of those who were assembled on the occasion.

When the king perceived the ravisher, whom he could not mistake, he immediately stopped at a sight which created in his breast the most poignant and afflicting sensations, and which were still heightened by the reflection, that it would not be possible to make him repent of the flagrant affront he thus publicly offered to his dignity. He uttered a thousand imprecations on him to his courtiers, and all who were spectators of this signal insult and unparalleled wickedness. The Indian was not much affected by all these maledictions, which he distinctly heard, as he pursued his course through the air; and the king was obliged to return to his palace, extremely mortified at the injury he had sustained, and at the utter impossibility he felt of punishing the author of it.

But the grief of prince Firouz Schah cannot be described, when he beheld the Indian ravishing from him his adored princess, who was the only hope of his life, without being able to rescue her from his power. At this unexpected sight he became motionless. And whilst he was deliberating whether he should vent his despair in reproaches on the perfidy of the Indian, or pity the deplorable state of the princess, and ask her forgiveness for the little precaution he had used towards her, who had so fully proved the sincerity of her love, by resigning herself entirely to his care, the horse continued its progress with inconceivable rapidity, and soon bore them both far out of his view. He knew not what course to adopt. Should he return to the palace of his father, shut himself up in his apartment to give loose to his affliction, and resign all intention of pursuing the ravisher, to deliver the princess from his hands, and punish him as he deserved? His generosity, his courage, his love forbad it. Immersed in thought, he bent his way towards the country palace where the princess had been left.

On the appearance of the prince, the steward, who was by this time aware of his unseasonable credulity, and that he had been deceived by the Indian, presented himself before him, with tears in his eyes; and, throwing himself at his feet, began his own accusation of the crime he confessed he had committed, and condemned himself to death, which he awaited from the prince's hand.

"Rise," said the prince to him. "I do not impute the loss of my princess to you; I impute it alone to my own thoughtless imprudence. Lose no time, but go instantly and procure me the dress of a dervise, and be careful not to let it be suspected that it is for me."

At a little distance from the country palace there was a convent belonging to some dervises, the scheik or superior of which was a friend of the steward's. He therefore went to him, and, pretending to entrust him with a profound secret, acquainted him that an officer of considerable distinction at court, to whom he was under great obligations, had incurred the displeasure of the king, and that he wished to give him an opportunity of escaping his sovereign's revenge; the steward easily obtained what he required, and returned to the prince with the complete dress of a dervise. Firouz having taken off his own, put it on, and, being thus disguised, he took with him a box of pearls and diamonds, which he had previously provided as a present to the princess of Bengal, to defray the expenses of the journey he was going to undertake, and left the country palace at the approach of night, uncertain what road to travel; yet fully resolved not to return until he had found and again obtained possession of his princess.

We will now return to the Indian, who directed the course of the enchanted horse so successfully, that he arrived at the same day at an early hour in a wood adjoining the capital of the kingdom of Cashmire. As he began to feel the

THE INDIAN CARRYING OFF THE PRINCESS.

impulse of hunger, and supposed, that the princess might also be in the same situation, he dismounted in this wood, on a lawn, where he left the princess near a little stream of cool, transparent water.

During the absence of the Indian, the princess of Bengal, who now found herself in the possession of a worthless ravisher, whose brutal violence she justly dreaded, conceived the project of making her escape, and seeking some asylum from his power; but as she had eaten a very slight meal that morning, on her arrival at the country palace of the king of Persia, she found herself so weak that she was obliged to relinquish her design of concealing herself, and had, therefore, no other resource but courage and fortitude, resolving to suffer death rather than be faithless to prince Firouz Schah. She did not, therefore, wait for the Indian to give her a second invitation to partake of what he placed before her; she ate, and soon recovered her strength sufficiently to be able to answer with courage and firmness the insolent speeches which he addressed to her towards the end of the repast. After uttering several menaces, as she perceived the Indian was preparing to offer violence to her person, she rose to resist him, uttering at the same time loud and repeated cries. Her shrieks immediately drew to the spot a troop of horsemen, who surrounded both her and the Indian.

These were the sultan of Cashmire and his attendants, who were returning from hunting, and, fortunately for the princess of Bengal, passed that way, and were attracted by the sounds they had heard. The sultan addressed himself to the Indian, demanded his name, and what he was doing to the lady who was with him. The Indian boldly replied that she was his wife,* and no one had any right to interfere in the difference that existed between them.

The princess, who was ignorant of the rank and quality of the person who so opportunely presented himself for her deliverance, contradicted the Indian's assertion. "Sir," said she, "whoever you may be, whom heaven sends to my relief, have pity on a princess, and do not give credit to the words of an impostor. God preserve me from ever being the wife of so worthless and contemptible a wretch. He is a wicked magician, who has this day forcibly carried me away from the prince of Persia, to whom I was betrothed, and has brought me hither on this enchanted horse."

The princess of Bengal had no occasion to use any further arguments to convince the sultan of Cashmire that she spoke truth. Her beauty, her majestic demeanour, and her tears, were powerful advocates in her favour; she was going to proceed, but instead of listening to her, the sultan, justly irritated by the insolence of the Indian, ordered his attendants to surround him, and to cut off his head without delay. This order was executed with less difficulty, as the Indian had carried off the princess immediately after his release from prison, and had therefore no arms about him for defence.

The princess being thus delivered from the persecution of her cruel enemy, was destined to undergo another, not less afflicting to her feelings. The sultan, having ordered her a horse, conducted her to his palace, where he allotted for her use the most magnificent apartment it contained, excepting that which he himself inhabited; and gave her a number of female slaves to attend upon and serve her, and some eunuchs as her guard. He led her himself to this apartment; and, without allowing her time to thank him for the obligation he had conferred on her, in the terms she had meditated, he said to her, "Princess, I doubt not that

* Every father of a family in the East possesses absolute power over his wife, children and slaves, which public authority cannot modify. Being himself a political slave, he exercises at home the despotism to which he is subjected abroad: and there is no instance recorded of any officer having attempted to interrupt a person in the exercise of his domestic authority. Such a thing would do violence to the national customs, manners and character, and would be deemed greater despotism than any stretch of political power, however arbitrary.—*See notes on Egypt, by Denon.*

you must be in want of rest, I therefore leave you to repose; to-morrow you will be better able to relate to me the circumstances of the singular adventure that has befallen you." As he spoke these words he retired.

The princess of Bengal felt inexpressible satisfaction at finding herself delivered

from the hateful persecutions of a man whom she could not but regard with horror and disgust; and she flattered herself that the sultan of Cashmire would complete the generous action he had begun, by sending her back to the prince of Persia, after she had informed him in what manner she was affianced to him, and had requested him to confer this favour on her. But she was very far from experiencing the accomplishment of that which her delusive hopes had held in view.

In fact, the sultan of Cashmire had determined to marry her on the following day; and he had ordered the usual rejoicings to be announced at the break of day, by trumpets, kettle-drums, and other instruments, calculated to inspire mirth and joy, which resounded not only in the palace, but throughout the city. The princess was awakened by these tumultuous sounds, and little suspected the true cause of the noise that disturbed her rest. But when the sultan, who had desired to be informed when she should be ready to receive his visit, had paid his compliments, and inquired after her health, and began to acquaint her that the trumpets were flourishing in honour of the nuptials which were to be solemnised, and to which he hoped she would not object, she was in such embarrassment and consternation that she fainted away.

The women whom the sultan had appointed to attend on her were present, and ran to her assistance, and the sultan also exerted himself to restore her to life, but she remained a considerable time in this state. At length she began to recover, but being determined to perish rather than be faithless to prince Firouz Schah, by consenting to the marriage which the sultan had intended, without even consulting her, she pretended that her senses were fled with the fainting fit. She immediately began to say the most extravagant things to the sultan, and even got up to attack his person: this sudden change surprised and afflicted

him beyond expression. As he found she continued in the same state of insanity, he left her with her attendants, whom he desired to pay her every attention, and take the greatest care of her. During the course of the day he sent frequently to inquire after her health, and every time was told either that she continued in the same way, or that the disease increased rather than diminished. Towards evening she grew much worse, so that the sultan of Cashmire did not pass that night so happily as he had expected.

Not only on the following day, but every succeeding one, the princess of Bengal continued to show strong symptoms, both by her conversation and actions, of a disordered mind; the sultan, therefore, was at last reduced to the necessity of assembling the physicians belonging to the court, to inform them of this unfortunate malady, and ask them if they knew of any remedies that would effect a cure.

The physicians, after having had a consultation among themselves, agreed in one common reply, that there were several kinds and degrees of this malady, some of which, according to their nature, might be overcome, and that others were incurable: and that they could not judge of what class the disorder of the princess of Bengal might be if they did not see her. The sultan then ordered the eunuchs to conduct the physicians into the chamber of the princess, one at a time, according to their rank.

The princess, who had foreseen this consequence, and was apprehensive that if she suffered the physicians to approach her and feel her pulse, the most inexperienced of them would soon discover that she was in perfect health, and that her insanity was only feigned, as soon as they made their appearance began to show such violent marks of aversion, endeavouring to tear their faces if they came near, that not one had the courage to expose himself to her fury.

Some, who assumed more profound skill in their profession than the rest, and boasted of being able to judge of diseases by only seeing the patient, ordered her certain potions, which she had the less difficulty in swallowing, as she well knew that it was in her own power to continue her dissembled madness as long as she pleased and should find it answer her purpose, and that these remedies could not do her any material injury.

When the sultan of Cashmire found that the physicians belonging to the palace did not effect a cure, he employed those who practised in the city, and were most celebrated for their skill and experience, but they were not more successful. He then sent for such as were renowned for a perfect knowledge of their profession in the different cities and towns in his kingdom; but the princess did not give them a better reception than she had done to the first who presented themselves, and all their prescriptions failed of their effect. At length, the sultan despatched messengers to all the neighbouring courts and states, with formal consultations to be distributed to the most famous physicians in each, and a promise of paying the expenses of the journey to such as would repair to the capital of Cashmire, and of a princely recompense to him who should complete the cure of the princess. Several physicians undertook the journey, but not one could boast of being more successful than those who had first applied in effecting the recovery of the princess; a result which did not depend either on them or their skill, but which was entirely in the power of the princess herself.

During this interval, prince Firouz Schah, disguised under the habit of a dervise, had traversed several provinces, and visited the principal cities in each province, in search of his beloved princess. The bodily fatigue he endured was increased by the affliction of his mind, as he was uncertain whether he might not be travelling in a course directly opposite to that which he ought to have taken to obtain the information he sought.

Attending earnestly to the passing news of the day in each place he visited,

he at length arrived at a large city in the Indies, where the general conversation seemed to turn on a princess of Bengal who had lost her senses on the very day which the sultan of Cashmire had appointed for the celebration of his nuptials with her. The name of the princess of Bengal attracted his notice, and concluding she must be the person he was in search of, which was in his idea the more probable from his not having heard of there being any other princess at the court of Bengal, except the one who was betrothed to him, he determined, on the slight information he could obtain concerning her, to bend his way immediately to the capital of the kingdom of Cashmire. On his arrival in this city he took up his abode in a khan, where he learnt on that very day the whole history of the princess of Bengal, and of the deservedly tragical end of the criminal Indian who had brought her on the enchanted horse; the latter circumstance fully convinced him that this was the princess he so anxiously endeavoured to find, and that the sums the sultan expended for her recovery were useless, as he did not doubt her madness to be feigned.

The prince of Persia having obtained all the necessary information, ordered a physician's dress to be made for him on the next day; and thus disguised, with the long beard he had suffered to grow during his journey, he was supposed to be of that profession, as he walked along the streets. The impatience he felt to see his princess, would not allow him to defer his appearance at the palace of the sultan, where he asked to speak to one of the officers; he was conducted to the chief of the ushers, and addressing himself to him, he said that it might possibly be considered as great temerity in him to present himself as a physician who wished to attempt the cure of the princess, after so many had tried without success; but that he flattered himself, by means of certain specific remedies, the efficacy of which he had experienced, to complete what had hitherto been attempted in vain. The chief of the officers told him he was welcome, and that the sultan would receive him with pleasure; and if he could succeed in procuring him the satisfaction of seeing the princess in perfect health, he might rely on receiving a recompense suitable to the liberality of the sultan, his lord and sovereign. "Wait for me here," added he, "I will be with you in a moment."

Some time had elapsed without any physician presenting himself; and the sultan of Cashmire, with inexpressible sorrow, found himself deprived of all hopes of seeing the princess in the same state as when he first beheld her, and of proving to her the excess of his love, by the nuptials he was so desirous to solemnise. When the officer, therefore, announced to him the arrival of another physician, he ordered him to be immediately conducted before him.

The prince of Persia was presented to the sultan of Cashmire, under the disguise and appearance of a physician; and the sultan, without wasting any time in superfluous conversation, acquainted him with the disorder of the princess of Bengal, and that she could not endure the sight of a physician without a return of such violent fits of insanity as seemed to augment her disease. He then took the prince into a little closet, or balcony, which looked into her apartment, from whence he could see through the lattice, without being perceived.

When prince Firouz Schah was in the closet, he beheld his beloved princess, seated in a negligent posture, and singing, with tears in her eyes, a song in which she deplored her unhappy destiny, which, perhaps, would deprive her for ever of the object she so tenderly loved. The prince, moved with compassion at the unhappy situation in which he found his princess, wanted no other proof to convince him that her derangement was only feigned, and that she endured this afflicting restraint solely on his account. He went down from the closet, and after having told the sultan the nature of the princess's disorder, and that it was not incurable, he added, that to perform a cure it would be necessary for him to converse with her alone, and without any witness; and that so far from showing the violent symptoms she had hitherto given of her insanity, when any

medical person approached her, he flattered himself that she would receive and listen to him with calmness.

The sultan ordered the door of the princess's chamber to be opened, and prince Firouz Schah entered it. No sooner had the princess perceived him than, taking him for a physician, from the dress he wore, she rose from her seat in a rage, using the most threatening and abusive language. This did not prevent him from approaching her, and when he was advanced near enough to be heard, as he wished what he uttered to be for her ear alone, he said to her in a low tone of voice, and with a respectful air, to render his assertion more credible, "Princess, I am not a physician: recognise in me the prince of Persia, who is come to restore you to liberty."

At the sound of his voice, and on looking in his face, which, notwithstanding the long beard the prince had suffered to grow, she recollected instantly, the princess of Bengal became calm, and immediately her countenance was brightened by the joy which is felt when what one most desires, yet least expects, suddenly presents itself. The agreeable surprise she experienced for some time deprived her of utterance, and allowed Firouz Schah an opportunity of telling her the despair in which he was plunged when he saw the Indian ravish her from him, even before his eyes; of the resolution he had immediately formed to abandon every other care, to wander in search of her to every quarter of the globe, and not to cease from his inquiries until he had found and wrested her from the power of so perfidious a wretch; he then told her by what a fortunate accident he had at length, after a painful and fatiguing journey, obtained the satisfaction of finding her in the palace of the sultan of Cashmire. When he had concluded his narration, in as concise a manner as he could express himself, he begged the princess to acquaint him of what had passed from the time of her ravishment to the period when he was enjoying the happiness of speaking to her, saying, that it was necessary he should be fully informed of the whole, that he might take proper measures for releasing her from the tyrannous power of the sultan.

The princess of Bengal did not use many words in her account of herself to the prince of Persia, since she had only to relate in what manner she had been delivered from the violence of the Indian by the sultan of Cashmire, as he was returning from the chase; but that she had been cruelly treated on the following day, by the unexpected declaration he made her of his solemn intention to marry her on that very day, without having previously shown her any attention that could incline her heart towards him; a conduct so violent and tyrannical, that it instantly caused her to faint away; on her recovery from which she saw no mode to adopt excepting that which she had hitherto pursued, as the most likely to preserve her affections unmolested for a prince to whom she had pledged her heart and her faith; and that, had this scheme failed, she had resolved to die rather than resign herself to the sultan.

The princess had nothing more to add, and Firouz Schah inquired if she knew what became of the enchanted horse after the death of the Indian. "I am ignorant," replied she, "of what orders the sultan may have given concerning it; but after the wonders I related of it, it is probable that he has appropriated it to himself."

As prince Firouz Schah did not doubt that the sultan of Cashmire had carefully preserved the horse, he communicated to the princess his design of using it to convey her back again to Persia; and then, consulting her on the measures proper to be pursued for the execution of their design, that nothing might impede its success, they agreed that on the following day the princess should dress herself in a more elegant attire than she then wore, to receive the sultan with greater marks of distinction, when Firouz Schah should conduct him to her apartment, nevertheless still preserving her usual silence before him.

The sultan expressed great pleasure when the prince of Persia related to him how far his first visit to the princess had operated towards her recovery; and when, on the succeeding day, the princess received him in a manner which convinced him that the cure was rapidly advancing, he considered him as the

first physician in the universe. Seeing her in this state, he told her how delighted he was at observing such indications of returning health, and after having exhorted her to attend implicitly to the directions of so able a physician, that what he had so well begun might terminate successfully, he retired, without waiting for any answer from her.

As the prince of Persia had accompanied the sultan to the princess's apartment, he left it also when he did; and as he went along with him, he asked him if he might, without being deficient in the respect due to him, inquire by what adventure a princess of Bengal happened to be in the kingdom of Cashmire, so far distant from her own dominions, without any of her family or attendants; he asked this question as if he had been totally ignorant of the whole, that he might lead the conversation to the subject of the enchanted horse, and learn from the sultan's lips what was become of it.

The sultan, who could not penetrate into the motive that induced the prince to make this inquiry, did not make any mystery of the affair; he repeated to him nearly the same facts with which the princess of Bengal had previously made him acquainted, adding that he had ordered the enchanted horse to be conveyed into his treasury, as a rare curiosity, although he was ignorant of the secret by which it could be used.

"Sire," replied the pretended physician, "the information which your majesty has now imparted to me will furnish me with a method of completing the recovery of the princess. As she was brought here on this horse, which you say is enchanted, she has contracted something of that enchantment, which can only

be dissipated by certain perfumes that I am acquainted with. If your majesty chooses to enjoy, and present to your court and the inhabitants of your capital, one of the most surprising spectacles that can be exhibited, you have only to order the horse to be brought into the middle of the square before your palace, and depend upon me for the rest; I promise to show you, and the whole assembly, in a few moments, the princess of Bengal in as perfect health, both mental and corporeal, as she ever enjoyed in her life; and that this may be effected with all the pomp such an event requires, it is advisable that the princess should be dressed as magnificently as possible, and decorated with all the most precious jewels your majesty is possessed of." The sultan made no difficulty in consenting to do everything the prince proposed, and would have agreed to comply even with more extravagant demands, to obtain the gratification of his desires, which he now considered as so near completion.

On the following day the enchanted horse was by his orders taken out of the treasury, and at an early hour placed in the great square of the palace. The report was soon circulated throughout the city that preparations were making for something extraordinary that was to be exhibited there, and a crowd of spectators assembled from all quarters. The guards belonging to the sultan were

ranged round the square, to prevent any disorder, and to keep an open space near the horse.

The sultan of Cashmire made his appearance, and when he had taken his place, on a building erected for that purpose, surrounded by all the principal nobles,

and officers of his court, the princess of Bengal, accompanied by the whole train of females whom the sultan had assigned to her, approached the enchanted horse, and, with the assistance of her attendants, mounted it. When she was on the saddle, her feet in the stirrups, and the bridle in her hand, the pretended physician placed round the horse several little vessels full of fire, which he had ordered to be brought, and, going to each, he threw in a perfume composed of a variety of the most exquisite odours. After this, assuming a thoughtful air, with his eyes fixed on the ground, and his hands placed on his breast, he went three times round the horse, pretending to pronounce certain words: and, at the instant that all the vessels emitted a thick smoke, of a delicious fragrance, and that the princess was so enveloped in the fumes as, with the horse, to be scarcely discernible, Firouz Schah availed himself of that opportunity, and lightly bounding on it, behind the princess, he bent forward to turn the peg, which was to make the horse depart; and while ascending with the princess in the air he pronounced the following words, in a loud voice, and so distinctly that the sultan himself heard them: "Sultan of Cashmire, when you wish to espouse princesses who implore your protection, learn first to obtain their consent."

It was by this stratagem that the prince of Persia delivered the princess of Bengal from her confinement, and conducted her, on the same day, in a very short space of time, to the capital of Persia; but, instead of alighting at the country palace, as he had previously done, he went into the middle of the palace, opposite to the king's apartment, where he dismounted. The king of Persia did not defer the solemnisation of the nuptials longer than was requisite to make the necessary preparations for the ceremony to be performed with the utmost pomp and magnificence, and thus proved his entire concurrence to the marriage.

When the number of days allotted for the rejoicings and festivities was elapsed, the king's first care was to despatch a sumptuous embassy to the king of Bengal, to inform him of what had taken place, and to request his approbation and ratification of the alliance that he had formed with him by the nuptials; which the king of Bengal, when informed of all the circumstances, was proud and happy to agree to.

HISTORY OF

ALI COGIA, A MERCHANT OF BAGDAD.

In the reign of the caliph Haroun Alrasehid there lived at Bagdad a merchant named Ali Cogia, who was neither of the richest nor yet of the lowest order, and who dwelt in his paternal house, without either wife or children. He lived contented with what his business produced, and was free in his actions as in his will. During this period, he had for three successive nights a dream, in which an old man with a venerable aspect, but a severe countenance, appeared to him, and reprimanded him for not having yet performed a pilgrimage to Mecca.

This dream very much troubled Ali Cogia, and occasioned him great embarrassment. As a good mussulman, he was aware of the necessity of performing this pilgrimage; but as he was encumbered with a house and furniture, and a shop, he had always considered these as excuses sufficiently weighty to dispense with the obligation: and he endeavoured to compensate for the neglect by charitable and other meritorious actions. But since he had these dreams, his conscience so much disturbed him, and he was so fearful lest some misfortune should happen in consequence, that he resolved no longer to defer this act of duty.

To enable him to perform this in the following year, Ali Cogia began to sell his furniture; he then disposed of his shop, together with the greatest part of the merchandise with which it was stocked, reserving only such as might be saleable at Mecca; and he found a tenant for his house, to whom he let it on lease.

Having thus arranged everything, he was ready to set out by the time that the caravan for Mecca was to take its departure. The only thing which remained to be done, was to find some secure place in which he could leave the sum of a thousand pieces of gold, which remained above the money he had set apart for his pilgrimage, and which would have encumbered him during the journey.

Ali Cogia made choice of a jar of a proper size, and put the thousand pieces

of gold into it, and then filled it up with olives. After having closed the jar tightly, he took it to a merchant, who was his friend. "Brother," said he to him, "you are not unacquainted with my intention of setting out on a pilgrimage to Mecca with the caravan, which goes in a few days; I beg the favour of you to take charge of this jar of olives till my return." The merchant instantly replied, "Here, this is the key of my warehouse, take the jar there yourself, and place it where you think fit; I promise you that you shall find it in the same place when you come for it again."

The day for the departure of the caravan from Bagdad being arrived, Ali Cogia joined it with a camel laden with the merchandise he had made choice of, which also served him as a sort of saddle to ride on, and he arrived in perfect safety at Mecca. He, together with the other pilgrims, visited the temple; that edifice so celebrated, and so frequented every year by all the mussulman nations who repair thither from all parts of the globe to observe the religious ceremonies which are required of them. When he had acquitted himself of the duties of his pilgrimage, he exposed the merchandise he had brought with him for sale.

Two merchants, who were passing that way and saw the goods of Ali Cogia, found them so beautiful, that they stopped to look at them, although they did not want to purchase them. When they had satisfied their curiosity, one said to the other as he was walking away, "If this merchant knew the profit he could make of his goods at Cairo, he would take them there in preference to selling them here, where they are not of so much value."

This speech did not escape Ali Cogia: and as he had often heard of the beauty of Egypt, he instantly resolved to avail himself of the opportunity, and to travel to that country. He therefore packed up his bales, and joined the caravan that was going to Cairo. When he arrived there, he had no reason to repent of the journey he had taken; for in a few days he disposed of all his merchandise with much greater profit than he could possibly have expected. He then purchased other goods, intending to go to Damascus; and whilst he was waiting for the caravan, which was to go in six weeks, he visited everything that was worthy

of his curiosity in Cairo, and also went to view the pyramids, extended his journey to some distance up the Nile, and inspected the most celebrated cities that are situated on its banks.

On his way to Damascus, as the caravan was to pass through Jerusalem, Ali Cogia took the opportunity of visiting the temple, which is considered by all mussulmen as the most sacred after that of Mecca, and from which the place itself has obtained the epithet of the holy city. Ali Cogia found the city of Damascus so delicious a spot, from the abundance of its streams, its meadows, and its enchanting gardens, that everything he had read of its delights appeared to be very far below the truth; and he was tempted to prolong his residence there for a considerable time. As, however, he did not forget that he had to return to Bagdad, he at length took his departure, and went to Aleppo, where he also passed some time; and from thence, after having crossed the Euphrates, he took the road to Moussoul, intending to shorten his journey by going down the Tigris.

But when Ali Cogia had reached Moussoul, the Persian merchants with whom he had travelled from Aleppo and had formed an intimacy, gained so great an ascendancy over his mind, by their obliging manners and agreeable conversation, that they had no difficulty in persuading him to accompany them to Shiraz, from whence it would be easy for him to return to Bagdad with considerable profit. They took him through the cities of Sultania, Rei, Coam, Caschan, Ispahan, and then to Schiraz, from whence he had the further complaisance to go with them to India, and then return again to Schiraz.

In this way, reckoning also the time Ali Cogia resided in each city, it was now nearly seven years since he had quitted Bagdad, and he determined to return. Till this period the friend to whom he had entrusted the jar of olives before he left that city, had given no thought either to him or his jar. At the very time that Ali Cogia was on his return with a caravan from Schiraz, one evening as his friend the merchant was at supper with his family, the conversation by accident turned upon olives, and his wife expressed a desire of eating some, adding that it was a long time since any had been produced in her house.

"Now you speak of olives," said the merchant, "you remind me that Ali Cogia, when he went to Mecca seven years since, left me a jar of them, which he placed himself in my warehouse, that he might find them there on his return. But I know not what is become of Ali Cogia. Some one, it is true, on the return of the caravan, told me that he was gone into Egypt. He must have died there, as he has not returned in the course of so many years; we may surely eat the olives, if they are still good. Give me a dish and a light, and I will go and get some, that we may taste them."

"In the name of God," replied the wife, "do not, my dear husband, commit so disgraceful an action; you well know that nothing is so sacred as a trust of this kind. You say that it is seven years since Ali Cogia went to Mecca, and he has not returned; but you were informed he was gone into Egypt, and how can you ascertain that he is not gone still further? It is enough that you have received no intelligence of his death; he may return to-morrow, or the day after to-morrow. Consider how infamous it would be for you, as well as your family, if he were to return, and you could not restore the jar into his hands in the same state as when he entrusted it to your care. For my part, I declare that I neither wish for any of these olives, nor will I eat any of them. What I said was merely by way of conversation. Besides, do you suppose that after so long a time the olives can be good? They must be putrid and spoiled. And if Ali Cogia returns, as I have a sort of foreboding that he will, and perceives that you have opened the jar, what opinion will he form of your friendship and integrity? I conjure you to abandon your design."

The good woman thus protracted her arguments only because she saw by her husband's countenance that he was bent on his design. In fact, he paid no

attention to her good advice, but got up, and taking a light and a dish, went to his warehouse. "Remember, at least," said the wife, "that I have no share in what you are going to do; so do not attribute any fault to me, if you have hereafter to repent of the action."

The merchant still turned a deaf ear to all she said, and persisted in his purpose. When he got into the warehouse, he opened the jar, and found the olives all spoiled; but to be convinced whether those that were under were as bad as the upper ones, he poured some out into the dish; and as he shook the jar to make them fall out the easier, some of the pieces of gold fell out also. At the sight of

this money the merchant, who was naturally of a sordid and avaricious disposition, looked into the jar, and perceived that he had emptied almost all the olives into the dish, and that what remained was money, in pieces of gold. He put the olives again into the jar, and covering it, left the warehouse.

"You spoke the truth, wife," said he, when he returned. "The olives are all spoiled, and I have stopped up the jar again, so that if Ali Cogia ever comes back, he will not discover that I have touched it." "You would have done better to take my advice," returned the wife, "not to have meddled with it. God grant that no evil may come of it." The merchant paid as little attention to these last words of his wife as he had done to her former remonstrance. He passed almost the whole night in devising means to take possession of Ali Cogia's money in such a way that he might enjoy it in security should he ever return and claim the jar. The next morning very early he went out to buy some olives of that year's growth. He threw away those which had been in Ali Cogia's jar, and taking out the gold, he had it put in a place of safety; then

filling the jar with the fresh olives he had just bought, he put on the same cover, and placed it in the same spot where Ali Cogia had left it.

About a month after the merchant had committed this treacherous act, and which was to cost him very dear in the end, Ali Cogia arrived at Bagdad after his long absence from that city. As he had let his house before his departure, he alighted at a khan, where he took a lodging, until he had informed his tenant of his return, that he might procure another residence.

The next day, Ali Cogia went to see his friend the merchant, who received him with open arms, testifying the utmost joy at seeing him again, after an absence of so many years, which he said almost made him despair of ever beholding him again.

After the usual compliments had been exchanged on their meeting, Ali Cogia begged the merchant to return him the jar of olives which he had left in his care, at the same time apologising for the liberty he had taken for having troubled him. "My dear friend," replied the merchant, "do not think of making excuses; your jar has been no incumbrance to me, and I should have done the same with you had I been situated as you were. Here is the key of my warehouse, go and take it; you will find it where you put it yourself."

Ali Cogia went to the warehouse and took out the jar, and having given the key to the merchant, he thanked him for the favour he had done him, and returned to the khan where he lodged. He opened the jar, and thrusting his hand to the depth where he supposed the thousand pieces of gold, which he had concealed there, might be, he was extremely surprised at not feeling them. He thought he must be deceived; and to unravel the mystery as soon as possible, and relieve his doubts, he took some of the dishes and other utensils of his travelling kitchen, and emptied out all the olives, without finding one single piece of money. He was motionless with astonishment; and raising his hands and eyes towards heaven, "Is it possible," he at length exclaimed, "that a man whom I considered my friend could be capable of so flagrant a breach of trust?"

Ali Cogia, exceedingly alarmed at the idea of having sustained so considerable a loss, returned to the merchant. "My good friend," said he, "do not be surprised that I should return to you so quickly: I confess, that I knew the jar of olives, which I just now took out of your warehouse, to be mine; but I had put a thousand pieces of gold in it with the olives, and these I cannot find; perhaps you have wanted them in your trade, and you have made use of them? If that be the case, they are much at your service; I only beg of you to relieve my fears, and give me some acknowledgment for them; you can return them to me whenever it may be most convenient to you."

The merchant, who expected Ali Cogia would return to him, had prepared an answer. "My friend," replied he, "when you brought me the jar of olives, did I touch it? Did I not give you the key of my ware-room? Did you not deposit it there yourself, and did you not find it in the same place where you put it, exactly in the same state, and covered in the same manner? If you put money in it, there you must find it. You told me it contained olives, and I believed you. This is all I know about the matter; you may believe me or not, as you please; but I assure you I have not touched it."

Ali Cogia used the gentlest means to enable the merchant to justify himself. "I love peaceful measures," said he, "and I should be sorry to proceed to extremities, which would not be very creditable to you in the eyes of the world, and which I should not have recourse to without the utmost reluctance. Consider, that merchants like us should abandon all private interest to preserve their reputation. Once more I tell you that I should be sorry if your obstinacy compels me to apply to the forms allowed by justice, for I have always preferred losing something of my right to having recourse to these means."

"Ali Cogia," resumed the merchant, "you confess that you have deposited a

jar of olives with me, that you took possession of it again, and that you carried it away; and now you come to demand of me a thousand pieces of gold. Did you tell me that they were contained in the jar? I am even ignorant if there were olives in it; you did not show them to me! I am surprised that you do

not require pearls and diamonds, rather than money. Take my advice; go home, and do not assemble a crowd about my door."

Some people had already stopped before his shop, and these last words, pronounced in a tone of voice which denoted that he was trespassing the bounds of moderation, not only collected a larger number, but also made the neighbouring merchants come out of their shops, to inquire the reason of the dispute between him and Ali Cogia, and to try to reconcile them. When Ali Cogia had explained to them the subject, the most earnest in the cause asked the merchant what reply he had to make.

The merchant owned that he had kept the jar belonging to Ali Cogia in his warehouse, but he denied having touched it, and made oath that he only knew that it contained olives, because Ali Cogia had told him so, and that he considered them all as witnesses of the affront which had been offered to him in his own house.

"You have drawn the affront on yourself," said Ali Cogia, taking him by the arm; "but since you have behaved so wickedly, I cite you by the law of God. Let us see if you will have the face to say the same thing before the caliph."

At this summons, which every true mussulman must obey, unless he rebels against his religion, the merchant had not the courage to offer any resistance. "Come," said he, "that is the very thing I wish; we shall see who is wrong; you or I."

Ali Cogia conducted the merchant before the tribunal of the cadi, where he accused him of having stolen a thousand pieces of gold which were deposited in his care, relating the fact in the same way as it took place. The cadi inquired if he had any witnesses. He replied, that he had not taken this precaution, because he supposed the person with whom he had entrusted his money to be his friend, and that till now he had had every reason to think him an honest man.

The merchant urged nothing more in his defence than what he had already said to Ali Cogia in the presence of his neighbours; and he concluded by offering to take his oath, not only that it was false that he had taken the thousand pieces of gold, but even that he had any knowledge of their being in his possession. The cadi accepted the oath, after which he was dismissed as innocent.

Ali Cogia, extremely mortified to find himself condemned to suffer so considerable a loss, protested against the sentence, and declared to the cadi that he would lay his complaint before the caliph Haroun Alraschid, who would do him justice; but the cadi did not regard this threat: he considered it merely as the effect of the resentment natural to all who lose their cause; and he thought he had performed his duty by acquitting one who was accused without any witnesses to prove the fact.

While the merchant was triumphing in his success over Ali Cogia, and indulging his joy at having made so good a bargain of the thousand pieces of gold, Ali Cogia went to draw up a petition; and the next day, having chosen the time when the caliph should return from mid-day prayers, he placed himself in a street which led to the mosque; and when he passed, held out his hand with the petition; an officer to whom this function belongs, who was walking before the caliph, instantly left his place, and came to take it, that he might present it to his master.

As Ali Cogia knew that it was the usual custom of the caliph Haroun Alraschid when he returned to his palace to read with his own eyes all the petitions that were presented to him in this way, he followed the procession, went into the palace, and waited till the officer who had taken the petition should come out of the apartment of the caliph. When he made his appearance, he told Ali Cogia that the caliph had read his petition, and appointed the following day to give him an audience; and having inquired of him where the merchant lived, he sent to give him notice to attend on the next day at the same time.

On the evening of the same day, the caliph, with the grand vizier Giafar, and Mesrour, the chief the eunuchs, all three disguised in the same manner, went to make his usual excursion into the city, as it was his custom frequently to do. In passing through a street, the caliph heard a noise; he quickened his pace, and came to a door which opened into a court where ten or twelve children, who had not yet gone to rest, were playing by moonlight, as he perceived by looking through a crevice.

The caliph feeling some curiosity to know what these children were playing at, sat down on a stone bench which was placed very conveniently near the door, and as he was looking at them through the crevice, he heard one of the most lively and intelligent amongst them say to the others, "Let us play at the cadi; I am the cadi: bring before me Ali Cogia and the merchant who stole the thousand pieces of gold from him."

These words of the child reminded the caliph of the petition which had been presented to him that day, and which he had read; he therefore redoubled his attention, to hear what would be the event of the trial.

As the affair between Ali Cogia and the merchant was a new thing, and much talked of in the city of Bagdad, even amongst children, the rest of this youthful party joyfully agreed to the proposal, and each chose the character he would perform. No one disputed the part of cadi with him who had made choice of it, and when he had taken his seat with all the pomp and gravity of a cadi, another personating the officer who attends the tribunal, presented two others to him, one of whom he called Ali Cogia, and the next the merchant against whom Ali Cogia preferred his complaint.

The pretended cadi then addressed them, and gravely interrogated the feigned Ali Cogia. "Ali Cogia," said he, "what do you require of this merchant?" He who personated this character then made a profound obeisance, and informed

the cadi of the fact in every point, and concluded by beseeching him to be pleased to interpose his authority, to prevent his sustaining so considerable a loss. The feigned cadi after having listened to Ali Cogia turned to the merchant, and

asked him why he did not return to Ali Cogia the sum he demanded of him. This young merchant made use of the same arguments which the real one had alleged before the cadi of Bagdad, and also in the same manner asked him to suffer him to swear that what he said was the truth.

"Not so fast," replied the pretended cadi, "before we come to swearing I should like to see the jar of olives. Ali Cogia," said he, addressing the boy who acted this part, "have you brought the jar with you?" As the latter replied that he had not, he desired him to go and fetch it.

Ali Cogia disappeared for a few moments, and then returned, pretending to bring the jar to the cadi, which he said was the same that had been deposited with the merchant, and was now returned to him. Not to omit any of the usual forms, the cadi asked the merchant if he owned it to be the same jar, and the merchant, proving by his silence that he could not deny it, he ordered it to be opened. The feigned Ali Cogia then made the action of taking off the cover, and the cadi that of looking into the jar. "These are fine olives, let me taste them," said he; then pretending to take one to taste, he added, "they are excellent."

"But," continued he, "I think that olives which have been kept seven years would not be so good. Order some olive merchants to be called, and let them give their opinion." Two boys were then presented to him: "Are you olive merchants?" he inquired, to which they having replied in the affirmative, he added, "Tell me then if you know how long olives, that are prepared by people who make it their business, can be preserved good to eat?"

"Sir," replied the feigned merchants, "whatever care may be taken to preserve them, they are worth nothing after the third year; they lose both their flavour and colour, and are only fit to be thrown away." "If that be the case," resumed the young cadi, "look at this jar, and tell me how long the olives have been kept that are in it."

The feigned merchants then pretended to examine and taste the olives, and told the cadi that they were fresh and good. "You are mistaken," replied the cadi, "here is Ali Cogia, who says that he put them into the jar seven years ago." "Sir," said the merchants, who were reckoned experienced in their business, "we can assure you that these olives are of this year's growth, and we will maintain that there is not a single merchant in Bagdad who will not be of the

same way of thinking." The accused merchant was going to protest against this testimony of the others, but the cadi did not allow him time. "Silence," said he, "thou art a thief and shalt be hanged." The children then clapped their hands, showed great marks of joy, and finished their game by seizing the supposed criminal, and carrying him off as if to execution.

It is impossible to express how much the caliph Haroun Alraschid admired the wisdom and acuteness of the boy, who had pronounced so just a sentence on the very case which was to be pleaded before him on the morrow. Taking his eyes from the crevice, he rose, and asked the grand vizier, who had been attending to all that passed, if he had heard the sentence given by the boy, and what he thought of it. "Commander of the faithful," replied Giafar, "I am astonished at the wisdom evinced by this boy at so early an age."

"But," resumed the caliph, "do you know that to-morrow I am to give my decision on this affair, and that the true Ali Cogia has this morning presented a petition to me on the subject?" "So I understand from your majesty," replied the grand vizier. "Do you think," said the caliph, "that I can give a juster sentence than that we have now heard?" "If the affair is the same," returned the grand vizier, "it appears to me that your majesty cannot proceed in a better manner, nor give any other judgment." "Notice well this house then," said the caliph, "and bring the boy to-morrow, that he may judge the same cause in my presence. Order the cadi also who acquitted the merchant to be at the palace, that he may learn his duty from this child, and correct his deficiencies. I desire too that you will tell Ali Cogia to bring with him his jar of olives, and do you

procure two olive merchants to be present at the audience." The caliph gave this order as he continued his walk, which he finished without meeting with anything else that deserved his attention.

On the morrow the grand vizier repaired to the house where the caliph had been witness to the game the children had played at, and he asked to speak with the master of it; but he being gone out, he was introduced to the mistress. He asked her if she had any children; she replied that she had three, whom she brought to him. "My children," said he to them, "which of you acted the cadi last night, as you were playing together?" The eldest replied, that it was he; and as he was ignorant of the reason for this question, he changed colour. "My child," said the grand vizier, "come with me; the Commander of the faithful wishes to see you."

The mother was extremely alarmed when she saw that the vizier was going to take away her son: "Sir," said she, "is it to take away my son entirely that the Commander of the Faithful has sent for him?" The grand vizier quieted her fears by promising her that her son should be sent back again in less than an hour, and that when he returned she would learn the reason of his being sent for, which would give her great pleasure. "If that be the case, sir," replied she, "permit me first to change his dress, that he may be more fit to appear before the Commander of the Faithful," and she immediately put on him a clean one.

The grand vizier conducted the boy to the caliph, and presented him at the time appointed for hearing Ali Cogia and the merchant.

The caliph, seeing the child rather terrified, and wishing to prepare him for

what he expected him to do, said to him, "Come here, my boy, draw near: was it you who yesterday passed sentence on the case of Ali Cogia and the merchant who robbed him of his gold? I both saw and heard you, and am very well satisfied with you." The child began to gain confidence, and modestly replied that it was he. "My child," resumed the caliph, "you shall see the true Ali Cogia and the merchant to-day; come and sit down next to me."

The caliph then took the boy by the hand, and seated himself on his throne; and having placed him next to him, he inquired for the parties; they advanced, and the name of each was pronounced as he touched with his forehead the carpet that covered the throne. When they had risen, the caliph said to them, "Let each of you plead your cause; this child will hear and administer justice to you, and if anything be deficient I will remedy it."

Ali Cogia and the merchant each spoke in his turn; and when the merchant requested to be allowed to take the same oath he had taken on his first examination, the boy answered that it was not yet time, for it was first necessary to inspect the jar of olives. At these words Ali Cogia produced the jar, placed it at the feet of the caliph and uncovered it. The caliph looked at the olives, and took one, which he tasted. The jar was then handed to some skilful merchants, who had been ordered to appear, and they reported it as their opinion that the olives were good, and of that year's growth. The boy told them that Ali Cogia assured him they had been in the jar seven years; to which the real

merchants returned the same answer, which the children as feigned merchants had made on the preceding evening.

Although the accused merchant plainly saw that the two olive merchants had thus pronounced his condemnation, he nevertheless attempted to allege

reasons in his justification; the boy, however, did not venture to pronounce sentence on him, and send him to execution. "Commander of the Faithful," said he, "this is not a game; it is your majesty alone who can condemn to death seriously, and not me; I did it yesterday only in play."

The caliph, fully persuaded of the treachery of the merchant, gave him up to the ministers of justice to have him hung: and this sentence was executed, after he had confessed where the thousand pieces of gold were concealed, which were then returned to Ali Cogia. This monarch, in short, so celebrated for his justice and equity, after having advised the cadi, who had passed the first sentence, and who was present, to learn from a child to be more exact in the performance of his office, embraced the boy, and sent him home again, with a purse containing a hundred pieces of gold, which he ordered to be given him as a proof of his liberality.

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